

Abstracts

The European Parliament as a Legislator

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The legislative empowerment of the European Parliament (EP) is one of the most remarkable constitutional developments in the EU. This article explores the nature and implications of this empowerment, referred to as the »parliamentarization of EU politics«. The political system of the EU displays a unique combination of integrative and disintegrative logics, which distinguishes it from familiar domestic political systems. The article shows how the European system of balanced supranational and intergovernmental powers shaped EP empowerment. It also documents how Member States, faced with the recent expansion of EP powers in sensitive political domains, have reconfigured their power in the phase of implementation of the Lisbon Treaty.

When ministers turn to the MEPs

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The article focuses on the coordination that takes place between the EU member states' governments and the Members of the European Parliament, in connection with the legislative negotiations of the EU. Coordination has arisen following the increased power of the European Parliament, and the informal institutional consequences this has caused, as the actors involved seek to further their interests, and establish bilateral inter-institutional connections to the extent that it promotes their interests. The article thus illustrates some of the challenges that constructing a system of political institutions may generate, given that formal institutional structures do not necessarily reflect the actual activities of the parties involved. The article then raises the question: What consequences does this coordination have for the EU's legislative process? Two particularly problematic aspects are discussed: the transparency of the EU's legislative procedures, and the risk of unequal conditions occurring for the member states in the legislative negotiations.

The European Parliament: an NGO stronghold?

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The European Parliament is often seen as a champion of diffuse interests. For a long time, it has also been seen as a lobbying sideshow only targeted by interest groups unsuccessful with furthering their demands elsewhere. There are, however, good reasons to doubt this reputation. As the power of the European Parliament has increased, so has the interest it receives from both NGOs and business groups. Recent research shows that the Parliament is no longer a champion of diffuse interests as its members often give in to industry demands. This article shows, however, that diffuse interests have not completely lost ground in the European Parliament. The Parliament still acts as a champion of diffuse interests but it does so under certain conditions. NGOs are successful when they are faced with parliamentary committees sympathetic to their views, as well as a divided lobbying opponent.

Political Career Patterns among Danish Members of the European Parliament

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The article presents a typology and analyses political career paths among Danish Members of the European Parliament since the introduction of direct elections in 1979. Barely half of them have neither previously nor afterwards combined an EP seat with a national political career as a Member of Parliament or a government minister. Strengthening of the powers of the European Parliament has not

led more members to seek a sole career in Strasbourg. On the contrary, there is a weak tendency towards that more MEP's have had a previous career in the Danish Parliament. That applies especially to leading candidates and indicates how political parties also influence the nomination process. The share of MEP's with a national career afterwards is largely unchanged. The article makes the assessment that the impact of the mixed career patterns for democratic representation in Denmark generally should be perceived as positive, but that future development could alter this balance.

The European Parliament and Representation of the Nordic Citizens

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The European Parliament (EP) has been steadily gaining power over recent decades and now acts as a co-legislator within most policy areas in the European Union (EU). Such developments make it increasingly important to better understand how the EP as an actor is constituted, and who it seeks to represent. This article investigates representational aspects of the EP. In order to nuance the question of representation of the Nordic populations in the EP, the analysis draws on Hanna Pitkins (1967) four classical conceptualizations of representation: *formalistic*, *symbolic*, *descriptive* and *substantial*. The analysis is limited to the Nordic countries in the EU – Denmark, Finland and Sweden – allowing for a stringent comparison of the potential sources of variation while maintaining several background variables constant. The article is unable at finding evidence for the widely held belief about the Nordic MEPs that elderly men occupy a significant, disproportional share of the seats in the European

Parliament, when it comes to the. Instead this article suggests challenges in the symbolic representation as the Nordic populations feel decoupled from their MEPs.

Voters and the European Parliament: The Importance of National Politics and Strong Candidates

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Danish European Parliament Elections are interesting for electoral researchers since the party system and the electoral rules differ from other Danish elections. This article examines the overall distribution of votes, changes in voting behavior across elections, and voting for a specific candidate to European Parliament Elections. Historically, the distribution of votes has differed substantially from Danish national elections though this difference has diminished in the last two elections due to the weakening support for the anti-EU movements and a normalization of the Social Democrats' support. The volatility between elections is larger than for national elections, and changes in party support are to a large extent explained by changes in national level party support and the strength of the leading party candidate. Finally, the analysis of preferential voting shows that female candidates more often performs better at elections than their placement on the list would suggest when we compare them to male candidates.

Globalization and the International Integration of Production – The Danish Economy in a Value-Chain Perspective

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Today, only few goods and services are made exclusively within a single country and production chains often span several countries and continents, leaving much statistics as well as analytical approaches to economic globalisation locked in outdated understandings of global production and trade. International production is increasingly functionally integrated and spread across borders, with trade also integrating. To provide an analytical approach to the global economy that captures some of the major ongoing changes especially within modes of production, offshoring, outsourcing and intra-firm activities this article presents a Global Value Chain (GVC) approach to the broader developments in the modern economy. The changing international division of labour has profound impact on the foundations of the nation states, e.g. through competitiveness, industrial structure and job creation. The first part of the article discusses these ongoing changes in the global economy from a GVC-approach, whereas the second discusses the position of the Danish economy in an increasingly integrated and yet fragmented global economy.