



Meeting of the European Legislative Politics Research Group:

The Role of Parties in EU Decision-making

**European University Institute, Florence, 9-10 March 2006
Seminar Room, 2nd Floor, Villa La Fonte**

Organized by Björn Lindberg from the University of Uppsala
and Anne Rasmussen, Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute

Funded by the European Consortium for Political Research

The newly formed European Legislative Politics Research Group is meeting to discuss its first joint project, which concerns the role of parties in EU decision-making. Parties play an important role in representative democracies. They help to aggregate preferences and link decision-making between different legislative bodies. In the European Union, however, the electoral connection is weak, casting doubts on the impact of partisan politics. So far, the role of parties has mainly been scrutinized for the European Parliament. Recent research by members of our group has demonstrated the importance of national parties in the Council, the Commission, and in the inter-institutional decision-making process. Building on this work, we intend to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the role of national parties in EU legislative decision-making, covering all institutions and all stages of the process. In particular, we will study how national party interests affect different aspects of EU legislative politics such as coalition formation in the institutions, the role of committees in the European Parliament, and when conclusion takes place in the legislative process.

For further information,
please contact Anne Rasmussen (anne.rasmussen@eui.eu)

More information about the European Legislative Politics
Research Group can be found at www.elprg.eu

Programme:

Friday

9.00-9.15 Welcome

9.15-10.15 Talk by Stefano Bartolini about the role of party interests in the European Union

10.15-10.30 Break

10.30-11.15 Arndt Wonka, MZES, University of Mannheim and Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna:

Executive Politics in the European Commission: Masters, Puppets, Strings?
Discussants: Anne Rasmussen and Giacomo Benedetto

11.15-12.00 Bjorn Lindberg, Department of Political Science, Uppsala University:

Squaring the circle in the European Parliament? An examination of party group position formation in the case of the services directive
Discussants: Giacomo Benedetto and Bjørn Hoyland

12.00-14.00 Lunch at Badia Fiesolana, EUI

14.00-14.45 Daniel Naurin, Department of Political Science, Gothenburg University:

Coalitions and conflict dimensions of Member States in the EU
Discussants: Thomas Larue and Anne Rasmussen

14.45-15.15 Andreas Warntjen, Department of Government, London School of Economics:

Parties in Power. The Role of Parties in the Council of the European Union
Discussants: Arndt Wonka and Thomas Larue

15.15-15.45 Coffee

15.45-16.15 Thomas Larue, Department of Political Science, University of Umeå:

Political Parties and the Council of Ministers: Introducing Inter-institutional analysis of EU legislative politics
Discussants: Andreas Warntjen and Björn Lindberg

16.15-17.00 Bjorn Hoyland, Department of Political Science, University of Oslo:

National Parties and Committee Assignments in the European Parliament (Co-author Indraneel Sircar)
Discussants: Arndt Wonka and Daniel Naurin

Saturday

09.00-09.45 Giacomo Benedetto, Royal Holloway, University of London:

Market Access to Port Services
Discussants: Björn Lindberg and Daniel Naurin

09.45-10.30 Anne Rasmussen, European University Institute and Copenhagen Business School:

Party soldiers in a non-partisan Community? The role of party interests in Parliament's conciliation delegations and standing committees
Discussants: Andreas Warntjen and Bjorn Hoyland