

CS Semester 2
INTEREST GROUPS AND COLLECTIVE ACTION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The aim of this class is to study the organisation and the functioning of public and private interest groups (such as trade unions, NGOs, business organisations, firms and social movements) in the European Union. We will look both at the establishment of groups as well as their internal and external working methods.

Public and private interests contribute to the generation, definition and in particular the perception of issues in the European Union policy making processes. This class will attempt to answer the following questions: Who is represented by interest groups at the EU level? Who intervenes in EU agenda-setting processes? How do problems emerge, and are framed by interest groups in the European Union realm? And finally, are interest groups a danger or a force for the European democratic system?

Starting from a conceptual and theoretical approach, analysing interest groups both as a notion and as actors in comparative political systems, we will look in a second part of the class at a number of case studies.

Evaluation:

1. **Group Work (max 3 students/paper): Presentation of one case study of successful or failed interest representation (50%) and a collective 5000-word essay (50%)** on the influence (or absence) of interest groups in one public policy/ directive/ regulation/ decision/judicial politics etc. of your choice. TNR 12, Harvard citation style. To be handed in **electronically on May 5th 2025, 23h59**. Participation in the presentation discussions is compulsory.

REFERENCES

General references:

- Baumgartner Frank and Leech Beth, *Basic Interests: the importance of groups in politics and political science*, Princeton, Princeton University Press 1998
- Courty, Guillaume and Milet, Marc (2022) (eds), *Les Groupes d'intérêt en France*, Paris, Classiques Garnier
- De Bruycker, Iskander and Hanegraaf Marcel (2023), The People vs the Money: What drives interest Group influence in the European Union? *European Journal of Political Research*, 19
- Dür, Andreas & Mateo, Gemma. *Insiders versus outsiders: Interest group politics in multilevel Europe*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Greenwood Justin, *Representing Interests in the European Union*, London, Macmillan 2011, 3d edition
- Grossman Emiliano et Sabine Saurugger, *Les groupes d'intérêt. Action collective et stratégies de représentation*, Paris, Armand Colin, Collection U, 2012, 2nd edition
- Klüver Heike, *Lobbying in the European Union : interest groups, lobbying conditions, and policy change*, Oxford, Oxford University Press 2013
- Pitoni Andrea and Vincentini Guilia (2022), Something New on the Western Front: Twenty Years of Interest Group Research (1999-2018), *Political Studies Review*, 20(1), 36-46
- Richardson Jeremy and Coen David, (dir), *Lobbying the European Union*, Oxford University Press, 2009
- Saurugger, Sabine & Terpan, Fabien (2016), *The Court of Justice of the European Union and the Politics of Law*, Basingstoke: Palgrave **Chapter 6**
- West European Politics*, 2008, 31(6), Special issue on interest groups
- Journal of European Public Policy*, 2015, 22(4), special issue on interest groups
- Journal of European Public Policy*, 2007 special issues on interest groups
- All issues of *Interest Groups & Advocacy*

Secondary references

- Courty Guillaume, *Les groupes d'intérêts*, Paris, La découverte, 2006
- Balme R., Chabanet D., Wright V.(ed.), *L'action collective en Europe. Collective Action In Europe*. Presses de Sciences Po, 2002.
- Kollman, Ken, *Outside Lobbying: Public Opinion and Interest Group Strategies*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1998
- Neveu Eric, *Sociologie des mouvements sociaux*, Paris, La découverte, 2000
- Offerlé Michel, *Sociologie des groupes d'intérêt*, Paris, Montchrestien 1998

Main Journals

Politique européenne

Interest Groups & Advocacy (IG&A)

Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS)

Journal of European Public Policy (JEPP)

Journal of European Integration (JEI)

European Integration Online Papers (<http://eiop.or.at/eiop>)

European Union Politics (EUP)

West European Politics (WEP)

Journal of European Political Research (EJPR)

Public Administration

Euractiv : <http://www.euractiv.com>

European Parliamentary Research Service: <https://epthinktank.eu/>

Activist blog (careful when using it): <https://corporateeurope.org/>

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction

- The notion of interest groups
- Interest groups and the EU: the puzzle

References :

Baumgartner Frank and Leech Beth, *Basic Interests: the importance of groups in politics and political science*, Princeton, Princeton University Press 1998, Chapter 2

Bernhagen, P., Dür, A., & Marshall, D. (2015). Information or context: what accounts for positional proximity between the European Commission and lobbyists?. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(4), 570-587.

Beyers, J., Eising, R., & Maloney, W. (2008). Researching interest group politics in Europe and elsewhere: much we study, little we know?. *West European Politics*, 31(6), 1103-1128.

Dür, A., Bernhagen, P., & Marshall, D. (2015). Interest Group Success in the European Union When (and Why) Does Business Lose?. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(8), 951-983.

Greenwood Justin, *Representing Interests in the European Union*, London, Palgrave 2011, Chapter 1

Grossman Emiliano and Sabine Saurugger, *Les groupes d'intérêt. Action collective et stratégies de représentation*, Paris, Armand Colin, Collection U, 2012, Introduction

Klüver, H., Braun, C., & Beyers, J. (2015). Legislative lobbying in context: towards a conceptual framework of interest group lobbying in the European Union. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(4), 447-461.

Richardson Jeremy and Coen David, (dir), *Lobbying the European Union*, Oxford University Press, 2009 (Chapter 1)

2. Interest groups and the State

- How do interest groups emerge?
- The diversity of State-group relations

References :

- Grossman Emiliano and Sabine Saurugger, *Les groupes d'intérêt. Action collective et stratégies de représentation*, Paris, Armand Colin, Collection U, 2012, Chapters 1 and 2
- Molina Oscar and Martin Rhodes, « Corporatism: the Past, Present and Future of a Concept », *Annual Review of Political Science*, vol. 5, juin 2002, p. 305-331
- Olson Mancur (1965), *The Logic of Collective Action. Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press

3. European Institutions and Interest Groups

- Access
- Institutionalized Representation
- Control

References :

- Bouwen Pieter, McCown Margaret, "Lobbying vs. Litigation: political and legal strategies of interest representation in the European Union", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 2007, 14(3), 422-443
- Eising Rainer, "The access of business interests to EU institutions: towards elite pluralism?", *Journal of European Public Policy*, 14(3), 2007, 384-403
- Eising, R., Rasch, D., & Rozbicka, P. (2015). Institutions, policies, and arguments: context and strategy in EU policy framing. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 22(4), 516-533.
- Roederer-Rynning, C., & Greenwood, J. (2016). The European Parliament as a developing legislature: coming of age in trilogues?. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 1-20.

4. Think tanks as interest groups

References

- Abelson, D. E. (2014). Old world, new world: the evolution and influence of foreign affairs think-tanks. *International Affairs*, 90(1), 125-142.
- Denham, A. & Stone, D. (2004) (eds), *Think tank traditions: policy research and the politics of ideas*, Manchester, Manchester University Press

- Fraussen, B., & Halpin, D. (2017). Think tanks and strategic policy-making: the contribution of think tanks to policy advisory systems. *Policy Sciences*, 50(1), 105-124.
- Missiroli A. & Ioannides. (2012) *European Think Tanks and the EU*, Berleymont Paper Issue 2
- Rich, A. (2004), *Think Tanks, Public Policy, and the Politics of Expertise*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press 2004
- Shaw, S. E., Russell, J., Parsons, W., & Greenhalgh, T. (2015). The view from nowhere? How think tanks work to shape health policy. *Critical Policy Studies*, 9(1), 58-77.

5. Democracy, Governance and Interest Groups

- Political representation
- Participatory democracy
- Empirics

References :

- Courty, G., & Milet, M. (2018). Moraliser au nom de la transparence. Genèse et usages de l'encadrement institutionnel du lobbying en France (2004-2017). *Revue française d'administration publique*, (1), 17-31.
- Greenwood, J (2011) 'The lobby regulation element of the European Transparency Initiative: between liberal and deliberative models of democracy', *Comparative European Politics*, 9, 3, 317-343
- Greenwood, J., & Dreger, J. (2013). The Transparency Register: A European vanguard of strong lobby regulation ?. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 2(2), 139-162.
- Heidbreder, E. G. (2012). Civil society participation in EU governance. *Living Reviews in European Governance*, 7(2), 1-42.: <http://www.livingreviews.org>
- Saurugger Sabine, "Interest Groups and Democracy in the EU.", *West European Politics*, 31(6), 2008, 1272-1289
- Smismans Stijn (ed), *Civil Society and Legitimate European Governance*, Edward Elgar 2006
- Steffek, Jens; Kissling, Claudia; Nanz, Patrizia (2007), *Civil Society Participation in European and Global Governance: A Cure for the Democratic Deficit?* Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

6. Environmental Interests

- Environmental Interests
- The effects of European Integration

Références :

- Berny Nathalie, « Le lobbying des ONG internationales d'environnement à Bruxelles », *Revue française de science politique*, 2008, 58(1)
- Golub Jonathan, *New Instruments for Environmental Policy in the European Union*, London Routledge, 1998.
- Jordan, A.J., D. Huitema, D., H. van Asselt, T. Rayner and F. Berkhout (eds) (2010) *Climate Change Policy in the European Union: Confronting the Dilemmas of Mitigation and Adaptation*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Wahlström, M., Wennerhag, M., & Rootes, C. (2013). Framing “the climate issue”: patterns of participation and prognostic frames among climate summit protesters. *Global Environmental Politics*, 13(4), 101-122.
- Warleigh Alex, « The hustle: citizenship practice, NGOs and ‘policy coalitions’ in the European Union – the cases of auto-oil, drinking water and unit pricing”, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 6, 2000
- Wurzel Rüdiger, A. Jordan and A. Zito, “New Environmental Policy Instruments (NEPIs) in the European Union. From Government to Governance?”, *Political Studies* 2005, 53(3), 477-96.

7. Case Study 1

Theme(s) & Presenters :

8. Case Study 2

Theme(s) & Presenters :

9. Case Study 3

Theme(s) & Presenters :