



With, Without or Against You?

The Interest Representation of States and their Sub-State Entities in the European Union

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Abstract

Much research has highlighted that sub-state entities (SSEs) – such as the German Länder, Spanish autonomous communities or French regions – mobilise at the European level. This literature, however, suffers from a research gap on the question of how this sub-state activity interacts with that of its own member state. In other words, while it is clear that SSEs do represent their interests in Brussels, it is not so clear whether this activity is carried out with their member state (cooperation), without their member state (non-interaction) or against their member state (conflict). This thesis fills such a research gap by 1) identifying what the pattern of interaction between state and sub-state EU interest representation corresponds to and by 2) identifying what the determinants of such a pattern are. To achieve this double task, quantitative and qualitative methods are employed. The quantitative section consists of regression analysis on data collected through a survey addressed to the Heads of regional offices in Brussels (n=104). It highlights that cooperation is the most frequent outcome, followed by non-interaction. Conflicting interest representation is the least frequent outcome. It also indicates that, contrary to expectations, devolution levels do not affect conflict but increase the frequency of cooperation and decrease that of non-interaction. Meanwhile, party political incongruence fails to affect conflict, decreases cooperation and increases non-interaction. Finally, preference intensity configurations affect all three outcomes. This quantitative work was complemented by a series of in-depth case study analyses of Scotland (UK), Salzburg (Austria), Rhône-Alpes and Alsace (both France). Based on over a hundred semi-structured interviews with state, sub-state and supra-state officials and politicians, these case studies confirmed the overall findings reached through quantitative means and further suggested that the effect of devolution overrides that of party political incongruence. Additional statistical testing confirmed this inductive finding. The concluding sections of the thesis highlight this research's overall theoretical and policy implications.



Jury: Adrienne Héritier (EUI/RSCAS) Co-Supervisor, Michael Keating (Univ. Aberdeen/formerly EUI) (Supervisor), Gary Marks (Vrije Univ. Amsterdam) (v8a skype), Andy Smith (Sciences Po, Bordeaux) (in absentia)

Bio

Michaël Tatham defended his PhD thesis in October 2010 and holds degrees from the European University Institute (MRes, 2007), the University of Oxford (MPhil, 2006), the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble (*Diplôme*, 2004) and the Stendhal University-Grenoble 3 (*Maîtrise*, 2004; *Licence*, 2002; *DEUG*, 2001). He has also been a visiting student at the *Politik- und Verwaltungswissenschaft* department of the University of Konstanz and has conducted extensive fieldwork in the UK, Austria, France and Belgium, interviewing over a hundred regional, national and EU civil servants and politicians.

In September 2010, Michaël took up an Assistant Professor position (*Wissenschaftlicher Assistent*) at the Institute of Social Sciences, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. As a member of the “Public Administration” Chair, he teaches a variety of courses related to public policy analysis and governance issues while conducting his own independent research and participating in a number of collaborative projects among which the “Governance-Präferenzen im europäischen Mehrebenensystem” and “The European Commission in Question” projects.

Michaël’s research interests include territorial politics, EU politics, interest representation and policy making, as well as qualitative and quantitative research methods. Some of his work has appeared in the *Journal of European Public Policy*, the *European Political Science Review*, *Regional and Federal Studies*, as well as in a number of book chapters and national journals.