About the conference

On the 12 and 13 October a conference entitled “Distribution of power and voting procedures in the European Union” was held at the Natolin European Center. The idea of the conference was to bring together mathematicians and political scientists who deal with the assessment of the decision-making process in the European Union in order to juxtapose empirical evaluation with theoretical modeling. The participants of the conference analyzed the practical implications of the decision-making rules, looked deeper into the nature and distribution of power within the EU, assessed the most equitable ways to represent the preoccupations of European citizens both in the Council and the European Parliament.

The idea of the workshop was not only provide an insight into the internal workings of the EU or reflect on how decisions are actually taken but also ask a question how these processes can be evaluated. The participants posed many fundamental problems for the research concerning decision-making and distribution of power as such. What does the strategic power in the Council really depend on? What are the properties of QMV provisions in the reformed treaty under different enlargement scenarios? What is the relevance of voting rules? What are the implications of new power sharing rules for the coalition formation? Can we really talk about equality in multi-cameral voting? The conference succeeded in bringing together practitioners and theoreticians, proving beyond any doubt the usefulness of theory guided research.
PROGRAMME

Friday 12 October

9.10-9.30 Registration

9.30-9.40 Welcoming remarks
Marek A. Cichocki, Programme Director, Natolin European Centre

9.40-9.50 Opening address
Ewa Ośniewska-Tamecka, former Secretary of State for European Integration, Poland

9.50-11.30 Session I
Chairman: Karol Życzkowski

9.50-10.15 Jesús-Mario Bilbao, The distribution of power in the European cluster game

10.15-10.40 Mika Widgrén, Strategic power in the EU Council in consultation and co-decision procedures

10.40-11.05 Dennis Leech, Some properties of the qualified majority voting provisions of the EU constitutional treaty under various enlargement scenarios

11.05-11.30 Discussion

11.30-11.50 Coffee break

11.50-14.00 Session II
Chairman: Werner Kirsch

11.50-12.15 Axel Moberg, Is the double majority really double? The second round in the debate of the voting rules in the EU Constitutional Treaty

12.15-12.40 Rafał Trzaskowski, The patterns of voting in the Council of Ministers of the European Union. The impact of 2004 enlargement

12.40-13.05 Béla Plechanovová, The Relevance of the voting rules in the EU Council: what can we learn about the decision-making in the Council after the first eastern enlargement from the empirical data?

13.05-13.30 Tadeusz Sozański, Blocking minorities and the distribution of blocking power in voting systems used by or designed for the EU Council

13.30-14.00 Discussion

14.00-16.00 Lunch break

16.00-18.15 Session III
Chairman: Gianfranco Gambarelli

16.00-16.25 Vincent Merlin, Majority efficient representation of the citizens in a federal Union

16.25-16.50 Wojciech Słomczyński, From a toy model to the double square-root voting system

16.50-17.15 Ines Lindner, Power measures in large weighted voting games: some implications for the EU Council of Ministers

17.15-17.40 Antti Pajala, The computation of voting power

17.40-18.15 Discussion
International workshop
"Distribution of power and voting procedures in the European Union"
Natolin European Centre, Warsaw
October 12-13, 2007

Saturday 13 October

9.30-11.10  Session IV
Chairman: Hannu Nurmi
9.30-9.55  Moshé Machover, Penrose's square-root rule and the EU Council of Ministers - significance of the quota
9.55-10.20  Werner Kirsch, On the square-root law by Penrose and beyond
10.20-10.45  Stefan Napel, Equal representation in a median voter world
10.45-11.10  Discussion

11.10-11.40  Coffee break

11.40-14.00  Session V
Chairman: Moshé Machover
11.40-12.05  Hannu Nurmi, Observations on agenda-based voting procedures
12.05-12.30  Gianfranco Gambarelli, Electoral systems, multicameral cohesion majorities and Europe
12.30-12.55  Madeleine O. Hosli, Explaining voting behavior in the Council of the European Union
12.55-13.20  Marcin Malawski, Equality in multicameral voting
13.20-14.00  Discussion

14.00-16.00  Lunch break

16.00-17.50  Session VI
Chairman: Bélá Plechanovová
16.00-16.25  Friedrich Pukelsheim, A parliament of degressive representativeness?
16.25-16.50  Silvia Fedeli, The constitutional power of the voting owners in the European Parliament
16.50-17.15  Victoriano Ramirez-González, Allotment the seats of the European Parliament: the parabolic method
17.15-17.50  Discussion

17.50-18.10  Closing remarks
Karol Zyczkowski, Scientific Coordinator of the workshop
Marek A. Cichocki, Programme Director, Natolin European Centre

19.00-21.00  Dinner
"Distribution of power and voting procedures in the EU"
Natolin European Centre
October 12-13, 2007

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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2 Bosoi Oana, Center for Security and International Studies Mediapro Foundation for Education and Development Bucharest, Romania
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