

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

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.

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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 Ośniecka-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 **Běla 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**

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19.00-21.00 **Dinner**

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: Běla 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 Źyczkowski, *Scientific Coordinator of the workshop*
Marek A. Cichocki, *Programme Director, Natolin European Centre*
- 19.00-21.00** **Dinner**

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- 1 Bilbao Mario, *University of Seville, Spain*
- 2 Bosoi Oana, *Center for Security and International Studies Mediapro Foundation for Education and Development Bucharest, Romania*
- 3 Burkiewicz Wojciech, *Office of the Committee for European Integration, Poland*
- 4 Cichocki Marek, *Natolin European Centre, Poland*
- 5 Czerwińska Karolina, *Natolin European Centre, Poland*
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- 7 Fedeli Silvia, *Universita' di Roma "La Sapienza", Italy*
- 8 Gambarelli Gianfranco, *University of Bergamo, Italy*
- 9 Golański Robert, *Warsaw School of Economics, Poland*
- 10 Grosse Tomasz, *The Institute of Public Affairs, Poland*
- 11 Haman Jacek, *University of Warsaw, Poland*
- 12 Hanf Dominik, *College of Europe, Natolin*
- 13 Herma Cezary, *Office of the Committee for European Integration, Poland*
- 14 Hosli Madeleine O., *Leiden University, The Netherlands*
- 15 Jasiński Mikołaj, *University of Warsaw, Poland*
- 16 Kaniovski Serguei, *Austrian Institute of Economic Research, Vienna*
- 17 Karolewski Paweł, *Universität Potsdam, Germany*
- 18 Kirsch Werner, *Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany*
- 19 Leech Dennis, *University of Warwick, United Kingdom*
- 20 Lindner Ines, *Free University Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
- 21 Machover Moshe, *London School of Economics, United Kingdom*
- 22 Malacek Klaus, *College of Europe, Natolin*
- 23 Malawski Marcin, *Polish Academy of Sciences and Leon Koźmiński Academy of Management and Entrepreneurship, Poland*
- 24 Martinez-Aroza José, *University of Granada, Spain*
- 25 Merlin Vincent, *CNRS and University of Caen, France*

- 26 Miąskiewicz Michał, *College of Europe, Natolin*
- 27 Moberg Axel, *Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs*
- 28 Napel Stefan, *University of Bayreuth, Germany*
- 29 Nurmi Hannu, *Academy of Finland and University of Turku, Finland*
- 30 Osica Olaf, *Natolin European Centre, Poland*
- 31 Ośniecka-Tamecka Ewa, *former Office of the Committee for European Integration, Poland*
- 32 Pajala Antti, *University of Turku, Finland*
- 33 Plechanovova Bela, *Charles University Prague, Czech Republic*
- 34 Pukelsheim Friedrich, *Universität Augsburg, Germany*
- 35 Ramirez-Gonzalez Victoriano, *University of Granada, Spain*
- 36 Ruff Olga, *Universität Augsburg, Germany*
- 37 Saryusz-Wolski Jacek, *European Parliament*
- 38 Słomczyński Wojciech, *Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland*
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- 41 Sozański Tadeusz, *Pedagogical University, Krakow, Poland*
- 42 Trzaskowski Rafał, *Natolin European Centre, Poland*
- 43 Turczek-Rosiak Monika, *College of Europe, Natolin*
- 44 Widgrén Mika, *Turku School of Economics, Finland*
- 45 Zahradil Jan, *European Parliament*
- 46 Życzkowski Karol, *Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland*
- 47 Zalewski Piotr, *European Parliament*