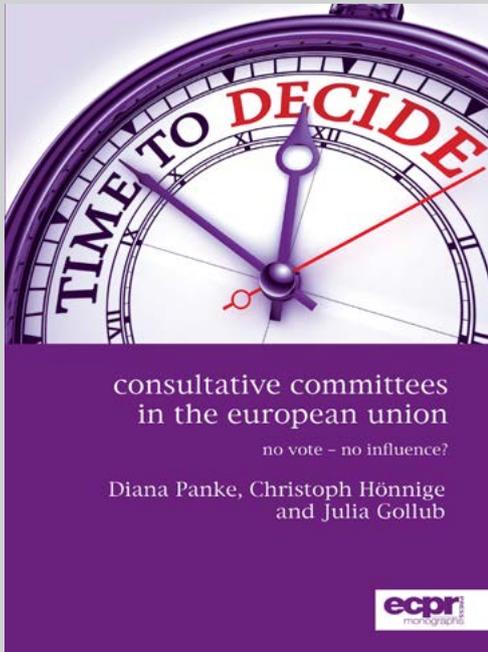


How can consultative committees in the EU exert influence if they have a voice, but no vote?



Consultative Committees in the European Union

No Vote – No Influence?

Diana Panke, Christoph Hönnige and Julia Gollub

How, and under which conditions, can consultative committees exert influence if they have access to legislators (voice) but no formal veto power (vote)?

Using the EU's Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee as case studies, the authors show that, despite facing several challenges to their ability to influence policy, consultative committees do sometimes succeed in getting their opinions heard.

The book develops a sender-receiver model and puts it to a comprehensive empirical test. A quantitative analysis and three studies on the European citizens' initiative, the European grouping of territorial cooperation and the Liberalisation of Community Postal Services show how capacities, incentives, preferences and legislative decision-makers should be configured to allow for the influence of the CoR and the EESC.

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'Do actors without vote have influence in the European Union? This book is the definitive study of the EU's two standing consultative bodies. They must be heard, though not necessarily listened to, on most EU legislation. The study shows convincingly that CoR and EESC influence is possible, though it is conditional on whether they can bring expertise to the table. Guided by an elegant sender-receiver model, the authors develop a series of hypotheses that specify these conditions, and test them with surveys, interviews, and case studies. A first-rate scholarly book, rich with factual nuggets and clear analysis.'

Liesbet Hooghe, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

'The authors' in-depth research into the working methods and deliberative processes of the EU's two main consultative committees provides valuable accounts of the opportunities, and limitations, of these bodies. Required reading not only for students and scholars of European integration, but also for practitioners involved in the work of policy consultation in the EU and beyond.'

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