

The European Parliament : a giant with feet of clay?

Citation for published version (APA):

Dobbels, M. J. (2013). *The European Parliament : a giant with feet of clay?* [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20131204md>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2013

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20131204md](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20131204md)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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Stellingen
Bijhorend bij het proefschrift
The European Parliament – A giant with feet of clay?
van Mathias Dobbels

1. After the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the debate on the European Parliament (EP) is not on its institutional powers and competences, but rather on its capacity and on its expertise within each of the policy areas.
2. In order to assess an institution's influence, one needs to look at capabilities as much as at power.
3. Process tracing is a “catch all” method that forces the researcher to leave no stone unturned and investigate all possible explanations. It is perfectly suited to develop new areas of research.
4. Qualitative case study research delivers an empiric accuracy quantitative methods can not reach.
5. The EP has plenty of resources at its disposal, it is not a question of getting more of them, but rather of using the existing ones better.
6. Expertise should be a key criterion when recruiting new staff in the EP.
7. Member States are responsible for the quality of members in the EP. Members of European Parliament with specific policy experience who are allowed to stay on for more than one term rank among the best.
8. The EP’s internal coordination procedures not only raise questions in terms of transparency and inclusiveness, but also in terms of the EP’s ability to influence the outcome of negotiations.
9. PhD research projects should be allowed to be more tailor-made so that they have their relevance for the future professional career of the candidate.
10. The impact factor of teaching is in most cases higher than that of publishing an article in a top journal and should be valued as such by Universities.