

# An uneven balance?

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## PROPOSITIONS

1. National parliaments in the European Union are accorded formal powers to participate in EU affairs by both EU primary law and their respective national constitutional law. While all national parliaments have the same rights and obligations under EU law, the powers attributed to them under their respective domestic legal framework can vary greatly.
2. The strength of national parliaments does not only depend on the formal powers attributed to them by EU law and their own domestic constitutional law, but also on the ability and willingness of parliaments to put these powers into practice.
3. The power asymmetries between national parliaments have been further exacerbated by the European sovereign debt crisis and by the measures adopted as a response thereto by the Member States of the European Union.
4. Such power asymmetries between national parliaments in the EU also have implications for the state of representative democracy in the European Union.
5. The European constitutional legal order cannot be looked at as an isolated legal sphere but rather must be considered as an interactive and intertwining system that also includes the 28 (soon 27) national constitutional legal orders of its Member States.
6. Revisions to the European Union Treaties require a lengthy and arduous process as well as the unanimous consent of all 28 (soon 27) Member States. Therefore, any proposals to change the present workings of the European Union should – where possible – be aimed at being implemented within the remit of the current EU Treaties.
7. The European Union's image in the eyes of the general EU population must be improved and the benefits that EU membership offers must be better communicated to the public by both European and national politicians.
8. The valorization opportunities of the topic of this dissertation can primarily be found in its contribution to the debate on the state of democracy in the European Union so that policy-makers in Europe can examine and reflect on the results of this analysis and on that basis implement the necessary policy changes to avoid the further surge of populism, the roots of which can be, amongst others, found in Euroskepticism.
9. The period spent writing a PhD might not be the time of your life but it certainly takes over all the time in your life.