

With a little help from our friends

Citation for published version (APA):

Groen, G. A. M. (2020). *With a little help from our friends: Exploring the transnational party activities of the German SPD, Die Linke and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen in the European Union*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. ProefschriftMaken Maastricht. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20200424gg>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2020

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20200424gg](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20200424gg)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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With a little help from our friends

Exploring the transnational party activities of the German SPD, *Die Linke* and *Bündnis 90/Die Grünen* in the European Union

door Afke Groen

1. There is a transnational dimension to party politics in the European Union.
2. Opposition parties and parties facing electoral turmoil domestically can strengthen their position through cooperation with their 'friends' in the European Union.
3. Domestic demands are a crucial condition for the relevance that national political parties ascribe to transnational party activities.
4. The mere existence of European political parties and inter-parliamentary conferences is not sufficient for them to become centres of national parties' transnational activities.
5. National political parties provide the most important link between the citizens and the policies of the European Union.
6. To better understand the nature of democracy in the European Union, scholars have to pay more attention to how national parties engage with EU affairs.
7. There is much to gain from engaging with theories originally developed in disciplines other than one's own, particularly in European Studies.
8. High turnover of parliamentarians or staff make the existence of all-important informal networks for transnational cooperation fragile.
9. In the debate about the future of Europe, it is vital that those with a seat at the table think through the practical implementations of proposals for democratic reform.
10. Den som är väldigt stark måste också vara väldigt snäll (If you are very strong, you must also be very kind). (*A. Lindgren, 1947, in 'Do you know Pippi Longstocking?'*)
11. It is high time for a woman to become prime minister of the Netherlands. (*A. Groen, 1999*)