

# The politics of advice in the European Parliament

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# **PROPOSITIONS**

to the dissertation

## **THE POLITICS OF ADVICE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

by Emmy Ruiter

1. To appropriately advise and support legislators, non-elected actors inevitably enter the political sphere of activity.
2. For the majority of activities carried out by EP group advisors, they operate without explicit instructions or input from the elected representatives.
3. A large part of EU legislative negotiations take place at the level of officials rather than elected representatives.
4. Advisors are guided by the political agenda of their group and can only behave proactively if they act in pursuit of the interests of their group.
5. Group advisors' involvement in the EP intra- and inter-group negotiations clearly sets them apart from other types of advisors.
6. In legislative decision-making, the interaction between the political and technical spheres of activities is a complementary rather than an antagonistic process.
7. Evidence as to how group advisors operate in EP negotiations shows how the functioning of the institution works in everyday practice.
8. Insight into the intra-parliamentary, backstage arena is necessary to fully grasp the functioning of legislative negotiations and the making of compromises.
9. Insight into how political decisions are prepared provides a valuable contribution to the wider public debate and opinion-formation on EU politics and democracy.
10. More scholarly attention for and efforts to connect theory and practice is necessary.