

National parliaments in the aftermath of the Lisbon Treaty : adaptation to the 'New Opportunity Structure'

Citation for published version (APA):

Strelkov, A. (2015). National parliaments in the aftermath of the Lisbon Treaty : adaptation to the 'New Opportunity Structure'. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Datawyse / Universitaire Pers Maastricht. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20150212as>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2015

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20150212as](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20150212as)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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STELLINGEN
behorend bij het proefschrift

*National parliaments in the aftermath of the Lisbon Treaty
Adaptation to the new 'opportunity structure'*

door Alexander Strelkov

1. The Lisbon Treaty has created a new 'opportunity structure', a new political environment for national parliaments, which allows them to play a greater role in the EU political system.
2. Systematic cooperation between European Affairs Committees and sectoral committees is essential for national parliaments if they want to make use of the new 'opportunity structure'.
3. A consensual mode of inter-party relations allows for a more comprehensive assessment of EU proposals.
4. Political parties have been able to marginalize other types of parliamentary actors in the scrutiny of EU affairs.
5. Parliamentary staff have to be considered as a distinct political actor.
6. Political parties tend to focus on the division of competences and not on the content of proposals during parliamentary scrutiny of EU affairs.
7. The 'neglect' of the actual content of EU proposals during parliamentary scrutiny can be explained by the absence of a comprehensive 'EU political cleavage'.
8. By disregarding the actual content of EU policy proposals national parliaments run a long term risk of becoming less relevant for discussing EU issues at the national political arena.
9. The scientific method, a careful analysis based on empirical evidence, transcends cultural, ethnic and religious boundaries.
10. After reading my thesis you would not be able to agree with the head of the State Duma, the lower chamber of the Russian parliament, who in late 2003 said that a parliament is not a place for discussion.

Maastricht, February 2015