

# Sleeping Beauties or European Players? Contesting the Roles of National Parliaments in the EU

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## Abstract

The discussion about the EU's democratic deficit quite often relates to the question of national parliamentary engagement in EU affairs. In the opinion of some national politicians one of the ways to increase the EU legitimacy is to strengthen national parliaments (NPs) in the European policy-making process (i.e. it was *inter alia* the postulate of the British ex-Prime Minister David Cameron). To these claims, EU institutions respond that NPs should indeed play a more meaningful role in the EU affairs (i.e. European Parliament P8\_TA(2017)0048). It might be therefore all the more confusing to acknowledge that many NPs appear unable or reluctant to make use of the existing windows of opportunity. One of the proofs is the latest report by the EP on the role of national parliaments in the European Semester (Hagelstam et. al 2018), or the fading appeal of the "green card" initiative.

This panel takes a broader perspective on this puzzle by addressing the questions of what institutional, administrative or political obstacles refrain NPs from performing their authoritative roles. By shedding light on the new developments with regard to capacity, performance and ambition of legislatures in the field of EU affairs the panel will also seek to account whether the latest dynamics have had any impact on the existing conceptualizations of parliamentary roles in the EU. The panel invites papers of interdisciplinary nature (representing political science and law) that probe into the various EU-oriented activities of national parliaments. They might include policy-oriented and arena-oriented studies ranging from 1-N cases to comparative research. It will also welcome more theoretical contributions that look at the inter-parliamentary dynamics in the EU as well as the relations with the European Parliament.

Possible Sections in which the proposed panel could fit:

- S63: The European Union in Times of Crisis: Internal Challenges and a Changing Global Order
- S41: Parliaments and the Quality of Representative Democracy
- S45: Political Institutions and Democratic Anxieties

To submit a proposal, you will need to create a MyECPR account and submit the following information by **14 February**:

- Your name, academic affiliation and email address
- The title of your paper
- An abstract of up to 500 words.

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