

## EU Decision making bibliography

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All handbooks of European Union law are dealing with the legislative procedures and the procedures of judicial review by the Court of Justice of the European Union. However, they are of limited use for the understanding of how the EU institutions work and interact in practice with the governments of the member states. As far as political science literature is concerned a number of books are dedicated to a clear description of the practice in decision making and some are further exploring theoretical issues. This selected bibliography therefore gives a non-exhaustive list of recent handbooks and documents that focus especially on EU decision making as a topic of P-Cube gaming. Two specific papers by Fritz W. Scharpf have to be added because they are a 'must' in the political science analysis of the EU; a paper by J. Ziller, which will be published in 2024 is also indicated, which draws amongst other on Scharpf's analyses.

- Erik Akse, *How the EU Institutions Work: Your handbook and guide to EU decision-making*, 2020 John Harper Publishing

The book explains systematically and comprehensively how this decision-making works. Successive chapters deal with the role of each of the EU institutions in the legislative process, clearly describing each step in sequence. The book then moves on to showing how the interplay of the institutions, and the engagement of stakeholders, works in practical terms to shape legislation from start to finish. The book includes timelines for how legislation is adopted, checklists of key points and actions, flowcharts and explanatory diagrams – this is a highly accessible resource for study, reference and planning.

- Edward Best, *Understanding EU Decision-Making*. Springer International Publishing, 2016, 136 pages.

The book presents in a concise and accessible way why the EU institutional system exists in its present form, how the EU fits into the world as a system of governance, and who is involved in EU policy processes. It outlines the historical context which has shaped the EU system, gives a summary of the system's basic principles and structures, and describes its actors, procedures and instruments. The main theme is to show that EU decision-making involves different forms of cooperation between European, national and regional authorities, as well as interaction between public and private actors. Numerous short case studies illustrate how people's day-to-day activities are affected by EU decisions, and how individuals' concerns are represented in the decision-making process. The book is designed for students of European integration. It will also be a valuable resource for European citizens wishing to understand the basic realities and rationales, as well as some of the

dilemmas, behind EU policy-making. Of particular interest in the perspective of the P-Cube game are

Chapters 1 *EU Decision-Making: An Overview of the System*; 2 *Why Do We Have the EU Institutions?*; 3 *Legislative Procedures*; and 4 *Delegated and Implementing Acts*.

- Olivier Costa, Nathalie Brack, *How the EU Really Works*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Routledge, 2018, 344 pages.

The book provides a concise analysis of the EU and its dynamics by paying particular attention to its day-to-day operation. It aims to help students and scholars understand its evolution, its institutions, its decision-making and the interactions between the EU and various actors. Of particular interest in the perspective of the P-Cube games are explanations of developments in EU decision-making such as the trilogues, and an in-depth discussion of the role of interest groups in EU policy-making.

- Fritz. W. Scharpf: "The Joint-Decision Trap. Lessons From German Federalism and European Integration.", *Public Administration*, Vol. 66, No 2, 1988, pp. 239–78.  
As indicated by the author " the process of European integration has resulted in a paradox: frustration without disintegration and resilience without progress. The article attempts to develop an institutional explanation for this paradox by exploring the similarities between joint decision making ('Politikverflechtung') in German federalism and decision making in the European Community. In both cases, it is argued, the fact that member governments are directly participating in central decisions, and that there is a de facto requirement of unanimous decisions, will systematically generate sub-optimal policy outcomes unless a 'problem-solving' (as opposed to a 'bargaining') style of decision making can be maintained. In fact, the 'bargaining' style has prevailed in both cases."
- Fritz. W. Scharpf: "The Joint-Decision Trap Revisited", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 2006, vol. 44, No 4, pp. 845–64.  
According to the author himself, "The original analysis appears as a basically valid – if simplified – account of the institutional conditions of political policy choices in the EU and their consequences. It needs to be complemented, however, by a similar account of non-political policymaking in the supranational-hierarchical mode of governance by the ECB or ECJ."
- Amy Verdun, Achim Hurrelmann and Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (eds), *European Union Governance and Policy-Making*, 2nd Edition: A Canadian Perspective, University of Toronto Press, 2023, 536 pages.

The book is explicitly written for students enrolled in universities in Canada, or other non-EU countries, but is also very useful for students from EU member states and builds on their academic background. Chapters cover the political and legal system of the EU, theories of European integration, core EU policies such as the Single Market, its single currency, migration policy, EU enlargement, as well as pressing issues facing the further development of European integration. Of particular interest in the perspective of the P-Cube game are Chapters 3 *The Political Institutions of the European Union*, by Finn Laursen, Achim Hurrelmann, and Amy Verdun; 4 *Legal Integration and the Court of Justice*

*of the European Union*, by Martha O'Brien and Eszter Bodnár; and 5 *Policy Making and Governance in the European Union's Multilevel System*, by Ingeborg Tömmel.

- Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack, Christilla Roederer-Rynning, and Alasdair R. Young (eds.) *Policy-Making in the European Union*, Oxford University Press, New European Union Series, 2020, 8th edition, 624 pages.

The edited book is particularly adapted for students in policy analysis and political science but also in law. It is also a very useful guide for practitioners who want to have a broader view than their sector specific working approach. It gives a solid grounding in theories and empirics of EU policy-making, details the processes and institutions central to EU policy-making and analyses a wide range of policy areas. in greater detail than any competing text, considering substantive material in both a practical and theoretical context. Also, available as an e-book with functionality, navigation features, and links that offer extra learning support. Of particular interest in the perspective of the P-Cube game are the chapters of the first part *Institutions, Process, and Analytical Approaches*: 1 *An Overview*, by the editors, 2 *Theorizing EU Policy-Making*, by Mark A. Pollack, 3 *The European Policy Process in Comparative Perspective*, by Alasdair R. Young and Christilla Roederer-Rynning and 4 *An Institutional Anatomy and Five Policy Modes*, by Christine Reh and Helen Wallace.

- Jacques Ziller, *Advanced Introduction to European Union Law*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2020, second edition forthcoming 2024.

The book has been conceived for both students in law and in social sciences. It explains how member states of the EU confer powers to the Union through the founding treaties and the legal frame applicable to the Union's institutions, and the rules that apply to their functioning and the legal review of their action. It reviews the main fields of action of the EU – the internal market, area of freedom, security and justice, external action – and how law is shaping them. The interaction between the EU and its member states is also explained.

- Jacques Ziller, *Political accountability and Role Splitting of the Executive in the EU Member States* in M. Morabito and G. Tusseau (eds.), *Accountability and Executive Power in Europe* London, Routledge, Forthcoming, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4241037>. The decision-making procedures of the European Union and many of its institutions, bodies and agencies operate in a mode of functional duplication (according to Georges Scelle's concept) of the holders and agents of the executive power of the Member States, who act as organs of the States and, at the same time, of the Union. The EU functions as a form of executive federalism similar to that of Germany, with all the problems of an interlocking political system (Fritz W. Scharpf's *Politikverflechtung*). The development of European integration has strengthened the national executive in relation to the parliament and local and regional authorities. But this strengthening has been accompanied by a blurring of lines of accountability which complicates the implementation of executive responsibility.

- European Union, *How EU policy is decided*:

[https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/law/how-eu-policy-decided\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/law/how-eu-policy-decided_en)

This website of the EU, prepared by the European Commission, tries to present the EU decision making in a short and accessible way. Of particular interest are the different links provided to other institutional pages.