

Voting Behavior in the Council of the European Union after the 2004 Enlargement

Madeleine O. Hosli (Leiden University)
Mikko Mattila (University of Helsinki)
Marc Uriot (Leiden University)



Research design

- We analyze voting in the Council of Ministers in the enlarged Union (EU25)
- Which factors best explain variation in EU states' voting behaviour?
- Is there a difference between older member states and the ten new member states that joined the EU in 2004?



Research design

- Potential explanatory factors:
 - Governments' left/right position (Benoit/Laver data)
 - Absolute
 - Relative (distance from average government)
 - Governments' less/more integration position (not included!)
 - National public support for membership (Eurobarometer)
 - Financial gains/losses from EU membership
 - Member state size (nr. of Council votes)
 - Presidency

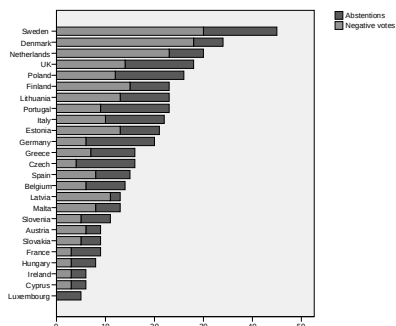


Data

- Time period EU25: 1 May 2004 to 31 December 2006
- Data: Council's roll call records
- 1358 decisions
- Vote options: 'yes', 'abstain', 'no'
- Number of observations: $1358 \times 25 = 33950$
- Method: ordinal logistic regression



Dissenting member states



Results

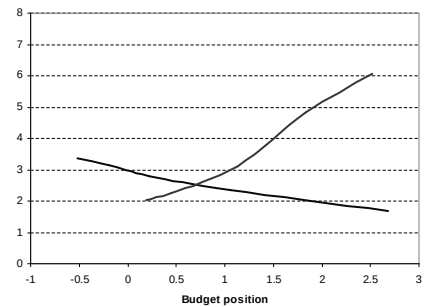
	All member states	Old member states	New member states
New member state	-0.513***	-	-
Vote weight	-0.000296	-0.0141*	0.0414***
Budget balance	-0.0294	-0.241*	0.473***
Presidency	-0.500*	-0.555*	-
EU support	-0.00934***	-0.0144***	0.0191**
Left-right position	-0.0465**	-0.111***	0.0168
Distance from average l/r position	0.0425	0.185***	-0.0810
Definitive legislative act	0.560***	-0.563***	0.548**
Other dissenting votes	0.535***	0.527***	0.558***
Cut 1	3.115***	2.254***	6.092***
Cut 2	3.794***	2.912***	6.840***



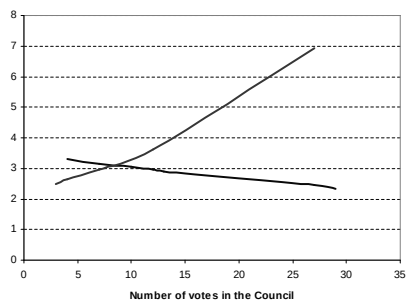
Results



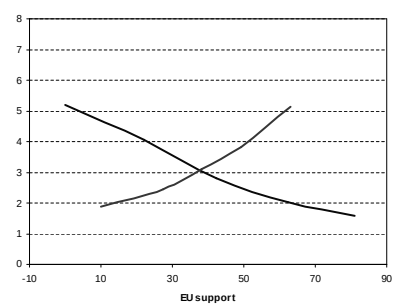
Results



Results



Results



In sum

- Older member states' voting choices affected largely by same factors than before the 2004 enlargement
 - Politics matter: Left-of-centre governments more likely to vote 'no'
 - Governments in countries with low EU-support more likely to vote 'no'
 - Net contributors more likely to vote 'no'
- New member states:
 - Left/right position does not matter
 - Reversed relationship in
 - Public EU support
 - Budget balance
 - WHY?