PUBLIC LECTURE

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Voting, Statements and Coalition Building in the Council From 1999 to 2006

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Based on a data set covering all legislation adopted by the Council from January 1999 to December 2006, this paper analyses the recorded level of contest and the Member States’ voting behaviour before and after the 2004 enlargement. The data includes information on not only final stage voting outcomes, but also prior decision stages and formal statements recorded in the Council minutes. Formal statements are made following the adoption of a decision and often consist of a number of governments’ serious concerns or direct disagreement with a proposal, although such opposition may not be voiced through voting. Thus analysing both the voting behaviour and the formal statements from all stages of the legislative processes, this paper finds that much has changed in the internal decision-making of the Council since the enlargement: both the use of formal rules for adopting laws, the voting behaviour and coalition configurations are different when looking into the descriptive statistics as well as when analysing findings from more advanced statistical models and geometrical scaling techniques.

Sara Hagemann is a Policy Analyst at the European Policy Centre (EPC) where she has been responsible for one of three main research programmes, the European Integration and Citizenship programme, since April 2007. Prior to this position, she worked as a researcher at Centre for European Policy Studies and has held positions as an affiliated researcher and external consultant at a number of think-tanks in Brussels and London. She holds a PhD in Political Science (EU Politics) from London School of Economics, from where she has also obtained her master degree in Comparative Politics. She has conducted and published a number of in-depth studies of EU legislative procedures with a main focus on voting behaviour and decision-making in the EU’s Council of Ministers. She is an active analyst in Bruxelles and commentator on EU politics in the international media but continues also to publish and co-author academic work.