

Cambridge University Press

0521652960 - Policy-Making and Diversity in Europe: Escaping Deadlock

Adrienne Héritier

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POLICY-MAKING AND DIVERSITY IN EUROPE

Policy-Making and Diversity in Europe examines the European polity and its policy-making processes. In particular, it asks how an institution which is so riddled with veto points manages to be such an active and aggressive policy-maker. Héritier argues that the diversity of actors' interests and the consensus-forcing nature of European institutions would almost inevitably stall the decision-making process, were it not for the existence of creative informal strategies and policy-making patterns. Termed by the author 'subterfuge', these strategies prevent political impasses and 'make Europe work'. The book examines the presence of subterfuge in the policy domains of market-making, the provision of collective goods, redistribution and distribution. Subterfuge is seen to reinforce the primary functions of the European polity: the accommodation of diversity, policy innovation and democratic legitimation. Professor Héritier concludes that the use of subterfuge to reconcile unity with diversity and competition with co-operation is the greatest challenge facing European policy-making.

ADRIENNE HÉRITIER is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Max Planck Project Group 'Common Goods: Law, Politics and Economics'. She teaches at the European University Institute, Florence.

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ADRIENNE HÉRITIER