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978-1-107-01376-6 - Resolving Controversy in the European Union: Legislative Decision-Making Before and After Enlargement

Robert Thomson

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Resolving Controversy in the European Union

How does the European Union (EU) resolve controversy when making laws that affect citizens? How has the EU been affected by the recent enlargements that brought its membership to a diverse group of twenty-seven countries? This book answers these questions with analyses of the EU's legislative system that include the roles played by the European Commission, European Parliament, and member states' national governments in the Council of Ministers. Robert Thomson examines more than three hundred controversial issues in the EU from the past decade and describes many cases of controversial decision-making as well as rigorous comparative analyses. The analyses test competing expectations regarding key aspects of the political system, including the policy demands made by different institutions and member states, the distributions of power among the institutions and member states, and the contents of decision outcomes. These analyses are also highly relevant to the EU's democratic deficit and various reform proposals.

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This book is broader in scope than *The European Union Decides* in that it asks a wider range of research questions than the previous study. Moreover, while the present book includes information on the controversies examined in the EU-15 study, it also adds new information on decision-making in the enlarged EU. This allows a comparison of decision-making before and after the historic enlargements of the EU in 2004 and 2007. During the second phase of the research (2005–10), I worked with Javier Arregui, Rory Costello, James Cross, Robin Hertz, Thomas Jensen and Dirk Leuffen.

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