

**Abstract - Small, but powerful? Unpacking small niche parties' strategies of power in the European Parliament (2019-2024)**

Over the last thirty years, small niche parties (SNP) have been establishing roots and increasing their vote share in almost every party system in Europe (Spoon, 2011). Yet their role at the European Parliament (EP) remains an open question, namely on how they cope with their limited size in order to shape the European policy-making process.

Located at the intersection of the literature on European institutionalism and dynamics of European policy-making, this research aims at identifying patterns of power strategies deployed by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) pertaining to SNP in a specific piece of legislation – the Report on the European Climate Law. Drawing on a Rational Choice Institutional approach (Shepsle, 2005; Schneider and Ershova, 2018) in articulation with the organizational model of power from French and Raven (1959), more clarity on the EP decision-making process is also sought by going beyond its formal rules and procedures and shed light on the informality that is normally inherent to negotiations at the EU level (Reh *et al.*, 2011).

This research represents an effort of building upon previous theory from niche parties' success at national level, political groups' behavior and decision-making process in the EP, and the informal politics of legislation in the EU to look at how MEPs from SNP use their resources of power – either formal or informal - to overcome their *smallness*, that is, their limited size and ideology, to reach a common goal: shaping the decision-making process in the EP.