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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

# *Assessing Social Accountability in the EU Multilevel Governance System. The Case of EU Energy Policy-Making*

*Radostina Primova  
Institute for European Studies, Vrije  
Universiteit Brussel*

# **To what extent does the EU multilevel system of policy coordination comply with social accountability criteria?**

# reSocial accountability criteria

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	Transparency	Forum involvement	Government Responsiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Institutional arrangements for public participation and public scrutiny at national level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Openness of all EU-relevant and government documents to the general public</li> <li>· Public reports and visibility of the policy-making process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Involvement of relevant stakeholders (NGOs, interest groups or citizens) in through consultations, stakeholders fora or inquiries at national level.</li> <li>· Balanced representation of all relevant stakeholders or citizens in the debate</li> <li>· Questions, comments and critical concerns raised by stakeholders</li> <li>· Judgment is posed, if necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reply, explanation and justification by the actor</li> <li>· Policy output (consideration of stakeholders' input, concerns and recommendations into the government's position)</li> </ul>

# Case study selection

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## Third liberalisation package on energy

- Energy policy – an area of shared competences; subsidiarity issues concerned
- The increased use of the package approach during the 6th legislature period
- Sensitive issues of national sovereignty at stake
- Energy market liberalisation vs. protectionism
- A policy area of conflict and transformation
- How to coordinate a three-pillar energy policy?

# Negotiating the third energy package

- .The Commission as a main driver of the energy market integration
- .The sector inquiry 2005** – vertical foreclosure, high market concentration, transparency deficits, price issues
- .Pro-active role of DG Competition as a co-drafter of the proposal
- .The bone of contention – the ‘ownership unbundling’ issue”
- .Agreement on adding a third option of unbundling (ITO)

		<b>EU level</b>	<b>Stakeholders – German government</b>	<b>Stakeholders – Italian Government</b>	<b>Stakeholders – UK government</b>
<b>Inst. Provisions</b>	Policy Preparation	++	+	+	++
	Decision - making	+	+	+	++
<b>Transparency</b>	Policy Preparation	+++	++	+	+++
	Decision - making	+	++	+	+++
<b>Forum Involvement</b>	Policy Preparation	++	++	0	++
	Decision - making	+	++	+	++
<b>Government Responsiveness</b>	Policy Preparation	+++	+	0	++
	Decision - making	+	+	+	++



**Thank you for your attention!**