
National Parties in the EU

An International Workshop on Impacts of EU Involvement on National Political Parties

August 6-7, 2004, at Texas A&M University*

An Initiative of the EU Center and the Program in the Cross-National Study of Politics at Texas A&M University

The workshop on “National Parties in the EU” will be an intensive, two-day, international workshop involving presentation and discussion of research papers presented by scholars from both Europe and the United States. For more than a decade, explanation of “why parties change” has been a central focus of research by parties’ scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. And yet, effects of one of the most obvious independent variables for parties in EU member/candidate countries – involvement in/with the EU – has been insufficiently studied.

The Political Science Department at Texas A&M University and its Program in the Cross-National Study of Politics will host the workshop, in cooperation with the European Union Center at Texas A&M University. Funding is provided jointly by the European Union through the EU Center and by the Political Science Department through its Cross-National Program. The workshop will be organized and directed by Professor Robert Harmel, Director of the Program in the Cross-National Study of Politics.

The format for the workshop will follow that of the annual workshop sessions of the European Consortium for Political Research. Each session will consist of presentation and discussion of two to three papers, with discussion responsibilities shared by a lead discussant (a presenter of one of the other papers) supplemented by all other participants in the workshop. The primary purposes of the discussion are (1) to contribute to an enhanced, collective understanding of the subject matter and (2) to advise the author/presenter on how to strengthen the research paper. The ultimate research product from the workshop is intended to be an edited volume based on revised versions of the workshop papers.

All papers for the workshop will deal with effects of Europeanization on either organization or issue profiles (or both) of national political parties. While the majority of the workshop will be devoted to parties in established member states, one session – to be directed by Alex Pacek of the Cross-National Program at Texas A&M – will be devoted exclusively to effects of *anticipated* EU membership on parties of newly entering states.

*On both days, the workshop will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The workshop will conclude with a special dinner event for invited participants on the evening of August 7. Visiting presenters will arrive on August 5 and depart on August 8.