The Political Influence of Business in the European Union

From REACH to the EU’s data protection regulation, critics of business lobbying have warned that corporate interests have disproportionate influence in EU politics. But do business interests really pull the strings in Brussels?

Contrary to what is widely expected, business interests are not more influential than other interests in shaping contemporary EU policies. The reason for this is that in the current phase of EU legislative decision-making business interests often seek to protect the regulatory status quo – a goal for which they frequently lack a sufficiently powerful and motivated institutional ally. In the mature European polity, proposals that aim at protecting consumers or the environment tend to dominate the legislative agenda. On these proposals, business actors typically defend a low regulation status quo – and lose.

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Alle sind herzlich eingeladen!