

Glass half empty, glass half full?

Evaluating national parliamentary control of EU decision making after the Lisbon Treaty



What's ahead?

- Framework
- 'Insights'
 - ▣ **Instruments** and procedures
 - ▣ **Use** of reasoned opinion and political dialogue
 - ▣ **Conditions** for the use of the EWM
- Concluding remarks



- Insights *inter alia* based on study commissioned by the Tweede Kamer (see: Mastenbroek et.al. 2014)
- Plus: project funded under Open Research Area Observatory of Parliaments after Lisbon (OPAL)

Insights

1. Instruments and procedures

*For control over the **national** government*

- Different types of instruments:
 - ▣ Information rights
 - ▣ “Mandating” respective Council representation, and follow-up after Council negotiations
 - ▣ “Rapporteurs” or “Europromoters”
 - ▣ Other parliamentary instruments, such as question time

- Key **differences** between parliaments:
 - ▣ Timing
 - ▣ “Mainstreaming”



Insights

1. Instruments and procedures

*For direct involvement at the **European** level*

- Different national procedures for **reasoned opinions**:
 - ▣ Role of the sectoral committees
 - ▣ Role of the plenary
 - ▣ Staff support

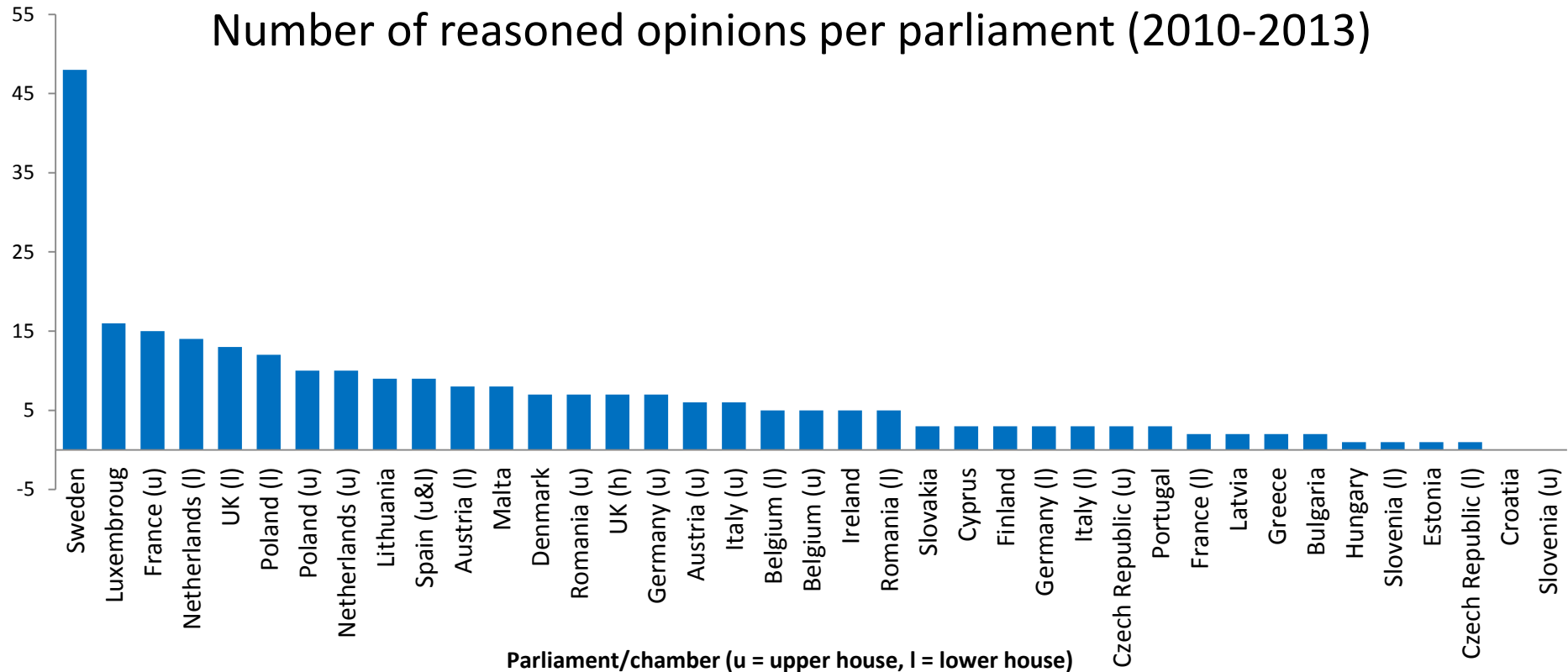
- **Political dialogue**



Insights

2. Use of reasoned opinions

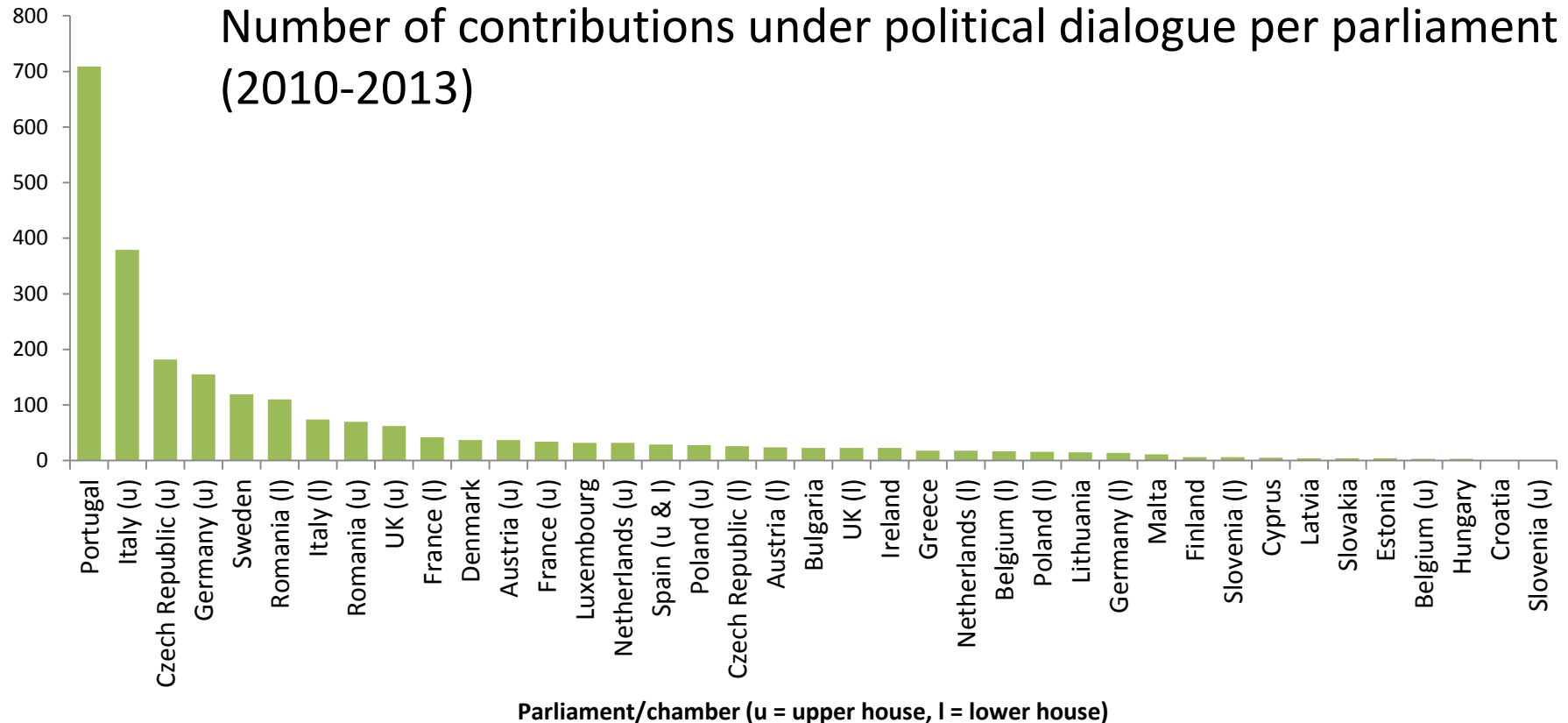
Number of reasoned opinions per parliament (2010-2013)



Insights

2. Use of political dialogue

Number of contributions under political dialogue per parliament (2010-2013)



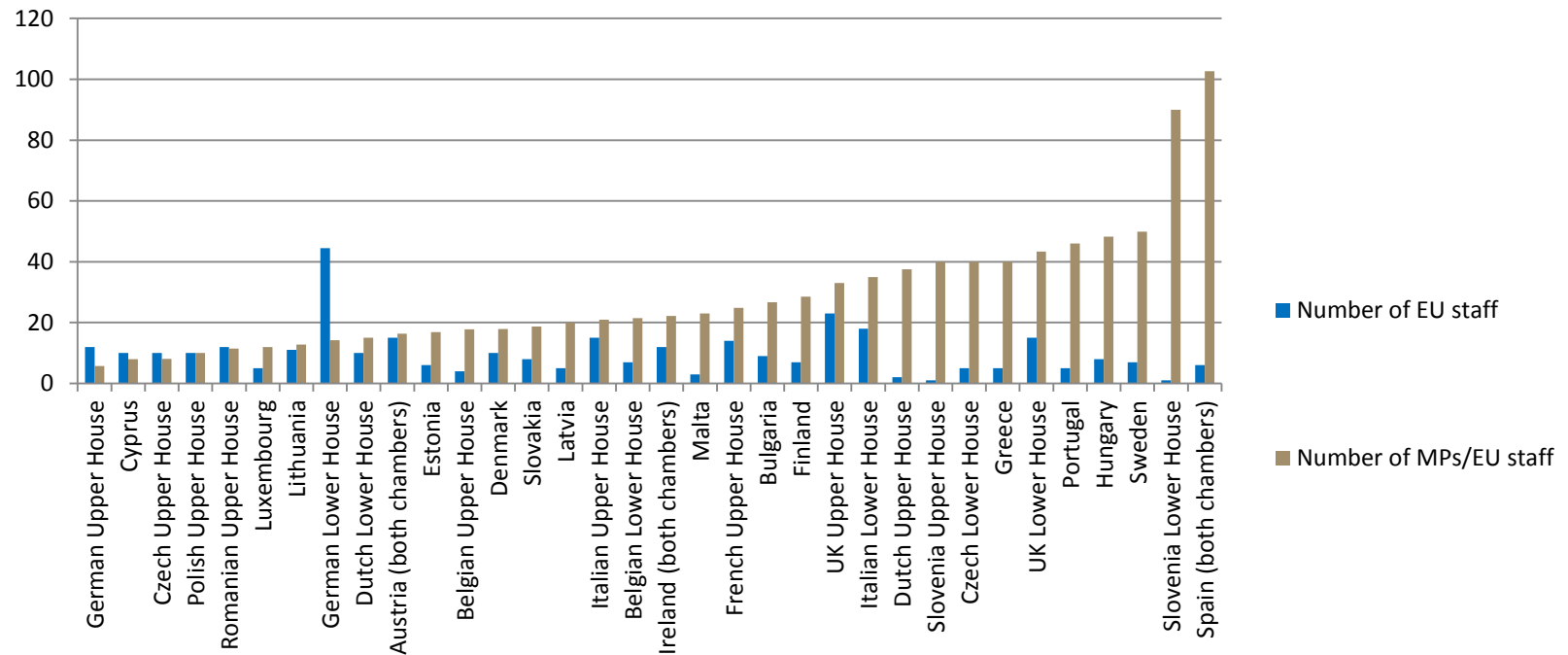
Insights

3. Conditions for the use of the EWM

*At the **national** level*

- Very country-specific
- A mix of:
 - ▣ “Role perception”
 - ▣ “Cost-benefit analysis”
 - Political salience
 - MP who plays role of a “pusher”
 - ▣ Administrative capacity
 - Role and number of staff

Staff numbers in parliaments



Roles staff play...

	(Admin.) Assistant	'Analysts'	Advisor	Coordinator
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathers and forwards info • Filters information • Summaries • Organization of committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of arguments: • Pros and cons • Various alternatives • Drafts after debates • Proced. advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-selection • Concrete solutions • Drafts (laws/ resolutions/ reports) also before debates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination i.a. with: • other chambers/ parliaments • EU institutions

Insights

3. Conditions for the use of the EWM

*At the **European** level*

- Inter-parliamentary cooperation
 - ▣ Role(s) of the liaisons
 - ▣ IPEX
 - ▣ COSAC
- Cooperation with EU institutions
 - ▣ European Commission: early involvement of national parliaments
 - ▣ European Parliament: trend towards more inter-parliamentary meetings on specific topics/areas, such as CFSP



Conclusion/effects

- Effects:
 - ▣ More inter-parliamentary cooperation and coordination
 - ▣ More information exchange between parliaments
 - ▣ Increased role of staff
- Use of the “**multi-parliamentary field**”

