

## **SMALL STATES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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## **ALL MEMBER STATES EQUAL JURIDICALLY**

At the European Union we have a seat at the table with big countries and we also have a microphone.

**BUT** we must be careful about how others around the table will react before we speak.

A small country ambassador to the EU

## **MOST EU MEMBER STATES ARE NOT BIG IN POPULATION**

\*One-third have populations of 5mn or less

\*Median third of states: population between 5mn and 11mn  
Ergo: Austria and Portugal are average EU member state

\*The most populous state has only 16% of EU population

**AND GDP *PER CAPITA* IS NOT RELATED TO POPULATION**

## **EU DECISION RULES FAVOUR CONSENSUS**

\*In EUROPEAN COUNCIL with 345 votes, the most votes a state gets, 29, is medium-sized, not big.

\*Super-majorities of votes and population required in Council..

\*Votes rarely taken: consensus preferred with some things for (almost) everybody.

\*In EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, degressive proportionality gives small states extra MEPS.

\*EP majority requires a Black-Red People coalition representing parties in all member states.

## **CONSENSUS INVOLVES BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

Large number of small states limits attention any one can get

BUT also makes broad coalitions the norm

Both medium and smaller states tend to get similar degree of satisfaction on the everyday issues that are the stuff of EU Politics

## **RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN**

Within EU

Germany and Greece

Eurozone and Britain

Internationally

EU and USA in guns and money

## INTERDEPENDENCIES OF EUROPEAN STATES

	<i>Number of members</i>		
	EU countries	Non-EU	EU as % total
<b>ORGANIZATIONS STRETCHING EUROPE'S BOUNDARIES</b>			
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	21	6	78
European Central Bank	17	n.a.	100
Council of Europe	27	20	57
OSCE	27	29	48
EBRD	27	36	43
<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
World Trade Organisation	27	129	17
International Monetary Fund	27	161	14
World Bank	27	161	14
Interpol	27	163	14
United Nations	27	166	14

Source: Richard Rose, REPRESENTING EUROPEANS, Oxford UP, 2013.