

## **Section 12 – Politica e politiche dell'Unione europea (Politics and policies of the European Union)**

***Chairs: Roberto di Quirico, Mattia Guidi***

### **Panel 12.4 Beyond integration: the European Parliament and emerging EU policy challenges**

*Chairs: Marta Migliorati, Valerio Vignoli*

Since the Lisbon Treaty the European Parliament has been entrusted with more powers and has expanded its competences on a wider range of issues such as energy security, immigration, justice and EU funds, international trade. Moreover, this institution has eventually emerged as being particularly responsive to civil society movements about salient and politicised issues, such as the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and the pesticide Glyphosate renewal process. There is, however, a scant amount of literature focusing on the drivers of the European Parliament's preferences and positioning beyond the traditional pro-anti integration and left-right dimensions. The panel addresses this gap from two perspectives. On the one hand, it seeks to investigate under what conditions the European Parliament acts as a cohesive supranational institution vis-à-vis the others. For instance, how do politicisation and issue visibility interact with the Parliament's behaviour? On the other, it highlights the importance of unpacking the drivers of the preferences of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) over salient policy issues. For example, do MEPs follow their national party's affiliation, their group membership or their national interest when it comes to express their opinion?

The panel invites papers that contribute to the understanding of the role of the European Parliament on policy-specific issues and emerging policy challenges. Papers should aim to enrich the theoretical framework and/or our empirical knowledge of these dynamics through the use of either qualitative or quantitative methodologies.

This panel particularly welcomes papers focusing on

- The role and powers of European Parliament in shaping policy outcomes
- Conditions empowering the European Parliament vis-à-vis the other EU institutions
- The interaction between the European Parliament and interest groups/civil society
- Drivers of party and/or group positioning within the European Parliament
- Cleavages within the European Parliament
- How affiliation to the European Parliament affects individual MEPs behaviour