

Politik-ugen, Spring 2012

Monday 30 January – Friday 3 February

Department of Political Science and Public Management

University of Southern Denmark, Odense

U 100

**The European Union: institutional changes, policy challenges, and
democracy**

What role for the Danish EU presidency?

Organizers: Caroline de la Porte and Christilla Roederer-Rynning

Introduction

Welcome to the mind-blowing world of EU politics!

Once a small club of six western European countries, the EU has grown to encompass the bulk of the European continent. Today, the EU deeply affects the policies and politics of its member states. At the same time, it challenges us political scientists to rethink focal concepts of political science such as “the state” and “democracy,” and to understand the mechanisms underpinning policy-making in such a complex and composite polity. The Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union is an invitation for you to step back from the traditional world of nation-state politics and enter the multi-cultural, multi-linguistic, and multi-level world of EU politics.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union is the “creature” of the member states. It is an institutional device giving them, on paper at least, a “chance to influence the EU agenda, provide impetus to the EU system, and strengthen support for the EU in the Member States” (<http://eu2012.dk/en>). In practice, however, this task is truly formidable as: the EU is now a very large and diverse community of 27 members; presiding the Council is institutionally and politically very demanding; and six months is very little time to accomplish anything. Responding to growing criticisms of inefficiency and lack of democratic accountability, member states agreed in Lisbon in 2007 to reform the leadership of the EU by creating two new institutional figures alongside the traditional Presidency of the Council: the President of the European Council (currently President Van Rompuy) and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (currently Lady Catherine Ashton). At the same time, they confirmed the spectacular rise of the European Parliament by making it a truly co-legislator of EU policy-making, on an equal footing with the Council of Ministers.

How have these changes affected the Presidency of the Council? How can member-states through the Presidency of the Council continue to exert leadership in increasingly globalized politics while creating more meaningful participation from ordinary Europeans?

Over five days, we will examine these issues in a broad range of settings, focusing on the political, economic, and institutional challenges facing the Danish presidency. We will focus in particular on the role of the Danish presidency in managing the euro crisis, preparing a compromise on budget issues in Brussels while engaging in the public debate on European integration at home. We have invited distinguished speakers—practitioners as well as scholars—to explain and witness how ordinary Europeans, as well as European politicians and civil servants make the EU work.

We will let you work out the implications of this amazing world of politics.

For any questions, please contact Caroline de la Porte (cpo@sam.sdu.dk) or Christilla Roederer-Rynning (crr@sam.sdu.dk).

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What role for the Danish EU Presidency?

Your participation will be assessed through one assignment composed of two parts. Part I will be distributed on Wednesday 1 February 2012, 12:15. Part II will be distributed on Friday 3 February, 11:45. You must hand the assignment (including Parts I and II) on Monday 6 February 13.00 at Studiekontakten. More information follows.

MONDAY 30 JANUARY: THE 7TH DANISH PRESIDENCY IN CONTEXT

9.00 – 9.30

Introduction, Caroline de la Porte and Christilla Roederer-Rynning, University of Southern Denmark

9.30 – 10.30

The Rotating Presidency and Its Dense Institutional Environment: Before and After the Lisbon Treaty, Caroline de la Porte, University of Southern Denmark

Break

10:45 – 11:30

President for 6 Months: What are the Objectives? How are They to be Achieved? Tue Westhof, University of Southern Denmark

Lunch

TUESDAY 31 JANUARY: THE ROTATING PRESIDENCY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

9:00 – 10:00

Ordering Europe: Political and Intellectual Lineages, Casper Sylvest, University of Southern Denmark

10:15 – 11:15

What place for EU in the global order? Ian Manners, Roskilde University Center

11:30 - 12:30

The Parliamentarization of EU Politics: Consequences for the Danish Presidency, Christilla Roederer-Rynning, University of Southern Denmark

Lunch

13:15 – 14:30

Beyond presidency: Denmark's implementation and compliance record? Dorte Sindbjerg Martinsen, University of Copenhagen

14:45 – 15:45

What are the Consequences of the Danish EU-Presidency for Danish EU Politics?, Johannes Michelsen, University of Southern Denmark

WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY: HOW DO DANISH INSTITUTIONS AFFECT THE PRESIDENCY?

11:00 – 12:15 **The Danish Method of EU-Coordination: What Impact on the Danish Presidency?** Jens Blom-Hansen, Aarhus University

12:15-12:30 **Presentation of exam question I**

Lunch

13:15 – 14:30 **EU and Danish Boundaries: which type of citizenship regime?**
Marlene Wind, Copenhagen University

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY: “HOT POTATOES” ON THE TABLE OF THE PRESIDENCY: THE CONTESTED ISSUES

9:45 – 11:00 **The EU Budget**, Henning Christophersen, Former Minister and EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs and Vice-President of the European Commission

11:15 – 12:30 **The political dimension of the Euro-financial crisis**, Rebecca Adler-Nissen, Copenhagen University

Lunch

13:00 – 14:15 **The Euro-Financial Crisis: Solved and Unsolved Issues**,
Svend-Erik Hougaard-Jensen, Copenhagen Business School

14:30 – 16:00 **Det danske formandskab og EUs nuværende udfordringer**,
Poul Skytte Christoffersen, Danmarks Ambassador i Belgien and former EU Chief Negotiator in the enlargement negotiations in 2002

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY: THE ROTATING PRESIDENCY AND THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE EU

9:00 – 10:00 **Covering the EU Presidency—A Journalist’s Perspective**, Kåre Pedersen, Politiken

10:15 – 11:45 **Roundtable: Can a Democratic European Public Sphere Develop in a Multi-National, Multi-Level, and Multi-Linguistic Polity?**

- Claes de Vreese, University of Amsterdam and University of Southern Denmark
- Erik Boel, Europa Bevægelse
- Hjalte Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen
- Søren Riishøj, University of Southern Denmark

Moderators: Morten Skovsgaard and Rasmus Scheelke

11:45 – 12:00 **Presentation of exam question II**

Lunch

13:00 – 14.30 **Making the Presidency A Success: Lessons from the 2002 Presidency**, Per Stig Møller, Former Foreign Minister of Denmark, 2001 – 2010