

THE POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF BUSINESS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



**PUBLIC LECTURE BY
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ABSTRACT | Many citizens, politicians, and political activists voice concern about the political influence of business in the European Union (EU). But do business interests really pull the strings in Brussels? Contrary to what is widely expected, we argue that business interests today are no more influential than other organized groups in shaping EU policies. We present an original argument that stresses the role of public actors in facilitating or impeding interest groups' lobbying success. Novel data on a large number of legislative proposals on the EU' s agenda and three case studies present strong support for this argument.

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