The European Commission: Composition, powers and relationship to member states

Course Description
The European Commission plays a crucial role in the European Union. It initiates policy-making, it has important executive powers and it functions as the guardian of the treaties. In this seminar, students will get a detailed overview over the structure, the composition and the powers of this important supranational decision-making body. After a short introduction into the history of European integration and the political system of the EU, students will be exposed to theoretical approaches explaining the emergence and the institutional design of the European Commission. We will then discuss its composition at the political and the administrative level as well as its committee and expert group system. Afterwards, we will turn to the legislative, executive and control powers of the European Commission in order to shed light on its role in the institutional setting of the European Union and its member states. Finally, on the basis of principal agent theory we will discuss the relationship between the European Commission and member state governments. Students will get an insight into theoretical approaches, learn about methodological challenges and will get an overview of latest empirical studies analyzing the European Commission.

Bachelor course: Vertiefungsseminar internationale und europäische Politik
Date and venue: Tuesday, 14:00 - 16:00, Room FMA/00.07 (Starting: 08.04.2014)
Registration: FlexNow, 01.03.2014 - 13.04.2014 (Deregistration until 20.04.2014)
Requirements: Basismodul Internationale und europäische Politik (BA)
Grading: Term Paper (75%), Presentation (25%)
ECTS: 8

Introductory Readings