Representing Interests in the EU

I. An Emerging European Identity?
II. Groups/Parties within the European Parliament
III. European Interest Groups
   A. Types of Eurogroups
   B. Factors Determining Influence
IV. Interests and Democracy in the EU
I. An Emerging European Identity?

- Nature of Identity
- Citizenship and Identity
- European Public Opinion and Identity
  - National v. European Identity, Common Culture, Democracy
- European Identity and the Outside World

“Who will die for ‘Europe’?”
Graph 7: There is a European cultural identity shared by all Europeans

Source: Eurobarometer 52.0 – Fieldwork: October-November 1999.

Percentage 'don't know' not shown.
Graph 8: Satisfaction with the way democracy works in the European Union

Source: Eurobarometer 52.0 – Fieldwork: October-November 1999.
Percentage 'don't know' not shown.
4.1.1 Overall evaluation of the adoption of the euro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Advantageous overall</th>
<th>Disadvantageous overall</th>
<th>No change</th>
<th>DK/NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2002</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2002</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2003</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2004</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2005</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2006</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall perception of the adoption of the euro, 2006

Q44a. In your opinion, for [COUNTRY], is the adoption of the euro advantageous overall and will strengthen us for the future, or rather the opposite, disadvantageous overall and will weaken us?  
% by country
II. Groups/Parties within the EP

- **Limited Role of Parties in EP**
- **Largest Parties**
  - European People’s Party-European Democrats (EPP-ED)
  - Party of European Socialists (PES)
- **Smaller Parties**
  - European United Left-Nordic Green Left (EUL-NGL)
  - The Greens-European Free Alliance (Greens-EFA)
  - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)
  - Union for Europe of the Nations (UEN)
  - Independence and Democracy (IND/DEM)
  - **NEW** -- Identity, Tradition, Sovereignty group (ITS)
Seats in the Current European Parliament

**NEW PARLIAMENT**

Seats held by parliamentary groups

- **Greens/EFA** 42
- **PES** 200
- **ALDE** 88
- **EPP-ED** 268
- **UEN** 27
- **IND/DEM** 37
- **EUL/NGL** 41
- **NA** 29

Total seats: 732

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPP-ED</td>
<td>European People’s Party-European Democrats (Centre-Right)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES</td>
<td>Party of European Socialists (Socialists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALDE</td>
<td>Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (Liberal/Centrists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUL/NGL</td>
<td>European United Left/Nordic Green Left (Far Left)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greens/EFA</td>
<td>Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens and regionalists/nationalists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>MEPs not attached to any group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEN</td>
<td>Union for Europe of the Nations (Right wing/Gaullists)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IND/DEM</td>
<td>Independence and Democracy (Eurosceptics)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** European Parliament
III. European Interest Groups

- 700 or so active “Eurogroups” in Brussels, 2/3 of which represent business and industry

- Many umbrella groups for national organizations
  - **UNICE**: Union of Industrial and Employers Confederation of Europe
  - **ETUC**: European Trade Union Confederation

- Difficulties of Lobbying the EU
Factors Determining the Influence of Groups on the EU

- Control of Key Information
  - Symbiotic relationship with Commission
- Economic Weight
- Political Weight
  - EX: Farmers
- Genuine Representational Claims
  - Multiple states with broad membership
- Cohesion