

Prague, 6th June 2007

Supervisor's report on the master thesis "Dutch EU Policy" by Christopher J. Svorcik

The thesis focuses on recent changes in the Dutch EU policy in the 1990s which led the Dutch government from an almost unconditional support to a deeper integration to a more pragmatic approach.

Both the overall argument of the thesis as well as individual chapters are well-structured. The author draws on a broad literature including both analytical and empirical materials. On the basis of his research, he formulates a series of recommendations for Dutch policy-makers. All in all, the thesis provides an accurate description of the researched problem. The chapter 5 which looks into the Dutch perspectives on enlargement is especially valuable in this respect.

However, the work is often too descriptive and one would appreciate more of summarizing conclusions which would streamline the rich empirical material presented here. Sometimes, these conclusions are replaced by recommendations (e.g. p. 27-28, 66-67) but these are formulated as subjective opinions of the author and often lack the connection with his research. Therefore, the explanation why the Dutch changed their position on the EU is not clear nor convincing. The terminology should be handled with a greater care, it is "communitarian" and not "communal" (e.g. p. 30), it is "GreenLeft" and not "Green party" (p.45) (in this respect the parties should be better introduced and presented).

On the other hand, the thesis represents a valid attempt at an empirical research and at formulating political recommendations on its bases. I think it is definitely worthy of defending and I would like to encourage Mr. Svorcik to continue in his research within a PhD program.

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