

Name of the student:	Ana ICHQITIDZE
Title of the thesis:	Domestic scrutiny of European affairs and parliamentary activity in inter-parliamentary conference on CFSP/CFDT
Reviewer:	Yannis Karagiannis

1. KNOWLEDGE AND CONNECTION TO THE FIELD

(relevance of the research question, research objective, literature review):

The thesis deals with an interesting and largely under-researched question, namely the observed variation in different national parliaments' involvement in the EU's foreign policy. To answer that question the candidate reviews almost all the relevant literature, and certainly all the important relevant literature.

2. ANALYSIS

(methodology, argument, theoretical backing, appropriate work with sources):

The thesis adopts a qualitative methodology, and more specifically a Most Similar Systems research design; that leads to an intelligent pairwise comparison of different cases. However, much of the methodology is still kept very implicit, and this reviewer strongly advises the candidate to try to be more informative about her measurement instruments, the validity and the reliability of her measurements, and the logical basis of her inferences. Similarly, he would kindly remind her that, in principle, scientific research aims at falsifying, not proving, theoretical hypotheses.

As it currently stands, the thesis is a lot stronger in its theoretical component (literature review and hypotheses) than on its empirical one (methodology and case studies).

3. CONCLUSIONS

(persuasiveness, link between data and conclusions, achievement of research objectives):

The link between the methodology and the actual case studies is relatively weak, because the author (a) does not offer a clear definition of her unit of analysis; (b) does not reveal the data on which she bases her descriptive and causal statements in the case studies; and (c) does not give an estimate of uncertainty in her findings (a sort of qualitative equivalent of the standard error). In this reviewer's opinion, this is an unfinished aspect of the thesis.

4. FORMAL ASPECTS AND LANGUAGE

(appropriate language, adherence to academic standards, citation style, layout):

The language is appropriate throughout the thesis (no use of inappropriate adjectives or unsubstantiated accusations). However, the grammar needs an in-depth revision, as there are still too many English mistakes and typos – to the point of making this a hard and tedious read.

The structure of the thesis (introduction – literature review – theory and hypotheses – methodology – empirical cases – conclusion) is impeccable, and so is the citation style, too.

5. SUMMARY ASSESSMENT (strong and weak point of the dissertation, other issues)

The two strongest points of the thesis are (a) the identification and the explanations of a very interesting research question; and (b) the candidate's willingness to delve into real social-science theory and to adapt it to her topic.

The two weakest points of the thesis are (a) the lack of detailed explanations in the methodology section, where the candidate does not show she has fully grasped the lessons learned in her methodology classes; and (b) the superficiality of the case studies, which often seem rather unsubstantiated/undocumented.

GRADE (A – F): D (62%)

DATE: 09/07/2020

SIGNATURE:



classification scheme

Percentile	Prague		Krakow		Leiden		Barcelona	
	Score Range	Percentage	Score	Percentage	Score Range	Percentage	Score Range	Percentage
A (91-100)	91-100 %	8,5%	5	6,7%	8,5-10	5,3%	9-10	5,5 %
B (81-90)	81-90 %	16,3%	4,5	11,7%	7,5-8,4	16,4%	8-8,9	11,0 %
C (71-80)	71-80 %	16,3%	4	20%	6,5-7,4	36,2%	7-7,9	18,4 %
D (61-70)	61-70 %	24%	3,5	28,3%			6-6,9	35,2 %
E (51-60)	51-60 %	34,9%	3	33,4 %	6-6,4	42,1 %	5-5,9	30,1 %

Assessment criteria:

Excellent (A): 'Outstanding performance with only minor errors';

Very good (B): 'Above the average standard but with some errors';

Good (C): 'Generally sound work but with a number of notable errors';

Satisfactory (D): 'Fair but with significant shortcomings';

Sufficient (E): 'Performance meets the minimum criteria';

Fail: 'Some/considerable more work required before the credit can be awarded'.