Abstract

This diploma thesis has several objetcs. The main objective is to answer the research question and seven hypotheses including elections to the European Parliament and MEPs behaviour from individual europarties. Some hypotheses include the participation of the electorate of the member states in elections to the EP, while others relate to participation of MEPs in voting, cohesion and coalitions that are formed in the parliament. Data on voting are obtained thanks to a project created by the London School of Economics. These data are already clearly adjusted, because official data on voting the European Parliament show in a form that could not be analyzed without software support.

After the introduction follow two chapters, in which there is described theoretical framework involving the search of relevant sources on the European Parliament, describing his position within key institutions of the EU, its function, history, and empowerment to the election of MEPs to the europarties.

The results show some characteristic patterns in the European Parliament. MEPs in most cases hold the party line rather than national. However, there are some cases, where individual nations across europarties vote uniformly, even though this behavior in some of them oppose to the attitude of a majority of the party. Large europarties controlling power over Parliament through coalitions with other large parties. The tendency of the electorate to participate in elections is declining throughout history, mainly because of the growing euroscepticism. Composition of the European Parliament regarding the europarties, in the course of history, since the first direct elections in 1979, changed. But still, according to number of members, dominate Christian Democrats and Social Democrats and Liberals.

To capture macro-geography of the European Parliament, the graphic outputs where possible, are shown for all Member States.

**Key words:** European Parliament, europarty, voting, elections, behaviour of MEPs