

## **Lobbying Activities in the EU Decision-Making Process: Structure, Process and Influence**

*Chin-Peng Chu*

Department of Public Administration, National Dong Hwa University

E-mail: cpchu@ndhu.edu.tw

### **Abstract**

The European Union is an organization with a democratic tradition, not only with an independent legal personality, but also with a sui generis legal order that makes its democratic character which derived from the traditions of the Member States on the one hand and with a political system of democratic decision-making that is different from the usual international organization on the other hand. Lobbying is an indicator of democracy, transparency and accountability in the EU legislative process. The aim of this paper is to use a literature and content analysis approach to explore the influencing factors of lobbying under the multi-level governance structure of the Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of Ministers, the three main decision-making bodies in the EU. The research topics include: 1) The process, problems and theories of lobbying in the EU; 2) The decision-making system of the EU multi-level governance structure, and the procedures, forms and norms of lobbying activities in the decision-making system; 3) The analysis of practical experience related to lobbying activities. This study found that lobbying in the EU is heavily influenced by the dual design of a supranational system compatible with national interests, and that the decision-making model of the Council of Ministers and the inter-governmental cooperation model remain a tangible barrier to full transparency in lobbying.

**Key Words:** EU decision-making, lobbying theory, multi-level governance, code of conduct, transparency register