

In the spring of 2014 we will hold the most important general elections in the history of Europe. The next five years can determine the future of our continent for many decades to come. Can there be a more appropriate moment to listen to European issues and to reflect on the impact of „Brussels and Strasbourg” on the lives of citizens of Białystok, Parma or Lahti?

– from *Foreword* by Prof. Jerzy Buzek MEP

The main motivation for this book came from a long-term debate – yet recently spirited, due to the forthcoming 2014 elections – on the place of the European Parliament in the democratic life of the European Union. [...] The 18 chapters of this volume analyse a wide range of challenges for democracy posed by the EP elections. If we were to make a „word cloud”, it would be dominated by keywords such as democratic deficit, legitimacy crisis, low turnout, second-order elections, alternative voting methods, lack of European public space, non-existence of European parties as well as the need for a uniform electoral procedure.

– from *Preface* by the Editors

The weighty book is written in the crucial field and defines the area where countless amount of European scholars have been trying to find a new political perspective for the European Union that would, at the same time, be legitimization of a modus operandi for new Europe. [...] I sincerely hope that this book helps scholars, politicians and European citizens to understand the necessity to research and analyse political advantages of empowering European Parliament as the medium of European vox populi.

– from a review by Prof. Tanel Kerikmäe
Tallinn Law School, Tallinn University of Technology

[...] the book designs and reflects an interpretative framework that wisely combines a longitudinal perspective on the European parliamentary dimension with the specificity of the EU's geo-territorial complexity. The well-timed publication of this book constitutes a good opportunity to develop a fertile conceptual and analytical ground for a better and more in-depth understanding of the upcoming 2014 elections to the EP. It is therefore particularly recommended to both EU scholars and practitioners.

– from a review by Dr Caterina Carta, Vesalius College, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
and Dr Stefano Braghiroli, Institute of Government and Politics, University of Tartu



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Vol 2



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