



**Vives – Research Centre
for Regional Economics**

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Registration Fee: 15 euro

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**SYMPOSIUM
ELECTION TIMING &
VERTICAL SIMULTANEITY
IN MULTI-LEVEL
POLITIES**

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Huis Bethlehem,
Schapenstraat 34, 3000 Leuven
Friday 27 March 2009



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SYMPOSIUM ELECTION TIMING & VERTICAL SIMULTANEITY IN MULTI-LEVEL POLITIES

The succession of federal and regional elections in Belgium and the recent political instability in a context of upcoming regional elections stress again the issue of election timing in Belgium.

Hardly a year goes by without an election taking place. Some argue that this leads to instability and policy inefficiency and defend the vertical simultaneity of elections, while others consider that non-concurrence is the guarantee of democratic accountability.

This symposium will address issues relating to election timing and vertical simultaneity. The debate will be broadened by contributions on elections in Germany and Spain. The main questions will be: what are the main characteristics of the election cycle?

Are there differences in terms of voting patterns between concurrent and non-concurrent elections? How do parties adapt to the electoral cycle? What are the consequences of concurrence and non-concurrence on the institutional make-up of the country.

PROGRAMME

Chair: **Koen Algoed**
(HUBrussel and Vives)

9.15-9.30

Welcome

9.30-10.15

Presentation of electoral cycles in federal and regionalised states and of the general terms of the debate on multi-level electoral cycles
Klaus Detterbeck (Otto von Guericke-University of Magdeburg) and/or **Elodie Fabre** (Vives, KULeuven) (t.b.c.)

9.15-11.00

Electoral cycle in Germany
Charlie Jeffery (University of Edinburgh) and
Dan Hough (University of Sussex)

11.00-11.30

Coffee Break

11.30-12.15

Electoral cycle in Spain
Robert Liñeira (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona)

12.15-13.30

Lunch

Chair: **Jef Vuchelen**

(Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Vives)

13.30-14.15

Electoral cycle in Belgium
Kris Deschouwer (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

14.15-15.00

Legal considerations on vertical simultaneity in Belgium
Jeroen van Nieuwenhove (Raad van State)

15.00-15.30

Coffee Break

15.30-16.15

The financial consequences of the electoral cycle on Belgian parties
Bart Maddens and **Karolien Weekers** (KU-Leuven)

16.15 Conclusion