



REPRESENTING INTERESTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Justin Greenwood

The
European
Union Series

General Editors:

Neill Nugent

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General Editors: Neill Nugent, William E. Paterson, Vincent Wright

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Representing Interests in the European Union

Justin Greenwood



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First published 1997 by

MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London

Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 0-333-61177-2 hardcover

ISBN 0-333-61178-0 paperback

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00 | 99 | 98 | 97 |

Copy-edited and typeset by Povey-Edmondson
Tavistock and Rochdale, England

Printed in Hong Kong



Published in the United States of America 1997 by

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,

Scholarly and Reference Division

175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 0-312-17288-5

To my mother, and father

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REPRESENTING INTERESTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Justin Greenwood

The complex character of the political system of the European Union, the limited resources of its institutions, and their need for political support, have given interest groups and networks a distinctive and important role in the policy process.

Representing Interests in the European Union is the first comprehensive assessment of the operation and significance of the entire spectrum of national- and European-level organised interests in the EU. Drawing together a wide range of up-to-date information, including much recent original research by the author, the book provides systematic coverage of all the main types of interests, from business and labour to the professions, consumers, and social, territorial and environmental groups. Particular attention is given to the different character and resources of different types of groups, the ways in which interests seek to exert influence, the regulation of 'lobbying' by the European institutions, and to substantive issues of governance and collective action. The book concludes with an assessment of the role of interest representation in the process of European integration.

Packed with information and presenting a clearly-argued and distinctive assessment of a crucial and often-neglected aspect of politics and policy in the EU, Justin Greenwood's book will be essential reading for students, researchers and practitioners alike.

Justin Greenwood is Jean Monnet and University Professor of European Public Policy, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. His publications include *Organized Interests and the European Community* (1992; contributing co-editor), *European Casebook on Business Alliances* (1995; contributing editor), and *Collective Action in the European Union: Interests and the New Politics of Associability* (1997, contributing co-editor). He is the founder/Chair of the European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on European Level Interest Representation.

ISBN 0-333-61178-0



9 780333 611784

9 0 1 0 1



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