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Between politics and administration : compliance with EU Law in Central and Eastern Europe

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**Between Politics and Administration:
Compliance with EU Law in Central and Eastern Europe**

van Dimitër D. Toshkov

1. The EU enforcement efforts are very influential for the timing and extent of compliance in Central and Eastern Europe.
2. Low administrative capacity does not always lead to implementation delays: often, it only leads to less ambition in interpreting the European directive.
3. Increasing domestic policy-making capacity can delay transposition as more time is spent on adapting the EU directive to the national context.
4. Despite the overwhelming pressure of EU conditionality, government preferences in the new member states *have* been translated into the implementation outcomes.
5. Implementation problems in the 'new' member states are not of a different type and scale compared to the 'old' member states.
6. Mixed-method research designs are not a panacea.
7. Transposition within the deadline is only a necessary, but not a sufficient condition for compliance with EU law.
8. It is impossible to identify one best way to co-ordinate EU affairs at the national level.
9. Normative considerations drive the choice of a research topic but should be kept at bay from the analysis.
10. One learns most by teaching.