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Play by the rules? : coordination of EU sustainable development policies and the importance of the politico-legal context

Kamphof, R.

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Author: Kamphof, R.

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

“Play by the Rules? Coordination of EU Sustainable Development Policies and the Importance of the Politico-Legal Context”

Ries Kamphof

1. The legal and political theories on EU coordination of sustainable development policies are hardly confronted, while legal and political contemplations often interact in practice. Bridging these disciplines in empirical studies adds value to the analysis of EU decision-making.
2. The cohesiveness of EU and Member States on specific policies cannot be inferred from whether competences are exclusive, shared or complimentary. Political variables in particular are underestimated
3. Degrees of supranationalism or intergovernmentalism have no strong explanatory power in the analysis of coordinated EU sustainable development policies, as the mixed, and often shared, competence agreements prescribe coordination and balance instead of conflict and autonomy.
4. While the ‘category’ of shared competences sounds cohesive, there is a wide divergence of policy areas and coordination arrangements within this category.
5. EU scholars tend to focus on studying the negotiation of large international agreements, while the implementation of these agreements is equally as important.
6. Since the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, internal and external ‘dimensions’ of EU policies are increasingly connected. This affects the now separated studies of EU external relations and EU internal implementation. These fields of study should be increasingly connected.
7. Many scholars search for technical-economic solutions to drive sustainable development, while legal and political considerations in decision-making often tend to slow-down transformation in the EU.
8. While many focus on the ‘creeping’ competences of the European Commission, the reflex of ‘keeping’ competences within the discretionary autonomy of Member States is much more apparent in hindering coordination of sustainable development policies.
9. Brexit and the urge to pre-reflect on its effects make the study of EU affairs more speculation than science.
10. It keeps you emotionally healthy to combine the last months of your PhD with the birth of your first child.

