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Agenda dynamics in the European Union : the interaction between the European Council and the European Commission in the policy domain of organized crime

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Propositions to the doctoral dissertation

1. In order to better understand the inter-agenda dynamics of the European Council and the Commission, we need to look at their intra-agenda dynamics.
2. While the European Council and the Commission have a similar agenda-setting role, their intra-agenda dynamics are different because their institutional designs are different.
3. In the long run their inter-agenda dynamics display a unidirectional pattern. The European Council sets the agenda of the Commission over time, but not the other way around.
4. The European Council is a serial processor and a high politics venue, while the Commission is a parallel-processor type of organization and a low politics venue. The 'twin features' of each institution shall be recognized and integrated in a single approach to study their policy dynamics.
5. Policy inheritance highly matters in agenda setting in the European Union. Due to previous policy commitments, the Commission responds with delay to the new impulses from the European Council.
6. Understanding the intra- and inter-agenda dynamics of the European Council and the Commission is an important basis for understanding policy change in the EU political system.
7. The Disproportionate Information-Processing Model of Jones & Baumgartner (2005) and the Agenda-Setting Routes Framework of Princen & Rhinard (2006) have common assumptions and complementary postulates that together help in better explaining EU agenda setting.

8. More research on organized crime that applies theories of agenda setting and policymaking is needed to promote new perspectives to analyze the way organized crime is addressed in the European Union.
9. Doing a PhD requires to make choices in sequence and simultaneously. Learning to deal with serial and parallel processing is one of the most difficult tasks not only in a PhD, but also in life.
10. Writing a dissertation is more enjoyable and manageable when combining it with music. Especially in times of frustration.