

Univerza v Ljubljani
Fakulteta za družbene vede
Inštitut za družbene vede
Center za politološke raziskave

CRP: Civilna družba v procesu oblikovanja politik

Nosilka: doc. dr. Alenka Krašovec

**DELOVNA TELESNA DRŽAVNEGA ZBORA KOT OSREDNJE
MESTO SODELOVANJA MED ZAKONODAJNO VEJO
OBLASTI IN CIVILNO DRUŽBO V PROCESIH
OBLIKOVANJA JAVNIH POLITIK**

Končno poročilo (2. del)

Ljubljana, maj 2004

**PRILOGA 4: PISMA IZBRANIM PARLAMENTARNIM STROKOVNJAKOM V TUJINI
IN NJIHOVI (NE)ODGOVORI**

1. Are committees *formally* present as a central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups? If no, where is formally central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups?
2. Are committees (also) *de facto* central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups? If no, where is de facto central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups?
3. In your opinion, how important is co-operation between committees and interest groups for policy-making processes in legislature?
4. Why in your opinion this co-operation is important for policy-making processes in legislature?
5. Do you see any differences between committees in co-operation with interest groups?
6. If yes, can you please tell us why there are differences between committees in their co-operation with interest groups? Is this first of all
 - a) due to leaders/presidents of committees (personal component)
 - b) due to committees's working fields – committees are responsible for policies of different »importanc« (policy component)
 - c) due to different activity of interest groups (interest groups component)
 - d) other reason; please state a reason
7. Have standing orders of your parliament been changed in last two decades, especially in the view of co-operation between committees and interest groups?
8. If yes, what kind of change has occurred (change of legislative procedure, change in competences of committees...)?
9. Can you, please describe and evaluate consequences of above mentioned change of standing orders for co-operation between committees and interest groups?
10. Can you, please describe and evaluate any change in co-operation between committees and interest groups which is not a (direct) consequence of change in standing orders?
11. According to your knowledge, do any idea or wish for changes of standing orders which can (also) change (improve) co-operation between committees and interest groups exist?
12. If yes, according to these ideas or wishes what should be changed (improved) and why?
13. According to your opinion what should be changed in co-operation between committees and interest groups?

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:55
To: kstrom@weber.ucsd.edu
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Strom,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 04. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:50
To: T.K.Saalfeld@kent.ac.uk
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Saalfeld,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

28.04.04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:57
To: d.judge@strath.ac.uk
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Judge,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 04. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:56
To: copeland@ou.edu
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Copeland,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 04. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:53
To: dewinter@spri.ucl.ac.be
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. De Winter,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

18. 04. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:48
To: eileen.connolly@dcu.ie
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Connolly,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 04. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:46
To: P.Norton@hull.ac.uk
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Norton,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 04. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:16
To: P.Norton@hull.ac.uk
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Norton,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:15
To: eileen.connolly@dcu.ie
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Connolly,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:14
To: dewinter@spri.ucl.ac.be
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. De Winter,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:13
To: copeiland@ou.edu
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Copeland,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:13
To: d.judge@strath.ac.uk
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Judge,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:15
To: T.K.Saalfeld@kent.ac.uk
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Saalfeld,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Thomas Saalfeld [T.K.Saalfeld@kent.ac.uk]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:08
To: Alenka Krasovec
Subject: Re: committees and interest groups

Dear Professor Krasovec,

Thanks for your email/reminder. The project seems extremely interesting. However, I do have to say that I am very busy at the moment. Since I am a comparativist and have worked on Germany as well as the UK, could you please indicate which Parliament you wish me to speak about?

Best,
Thomas Saalfeld.

----- Original Message -----

From: Alenka Krasovec
To: T.K.Saalfeld@kent.ac.uk
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 12:14 PM
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Saalfeld,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krašovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krašovec, on behalf of the research team

03. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sent: 28. april 2004 13:12
To: kstrom@weber.ucsd.edu
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Strom,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Danjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 05. 04

Alenka Krasovec

From: Kaare Strom [KAST@adm.ku.dk]
Sent: 28. april 2004 16:12
To: Alenka Krasovec
Subject: SV: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Krasovec,

Thank you for your mail
For clarification: do you want me to provide these assessments on the **Norwegian** Parliament?

Best,

Kaare Strom

-----Oprindeligt meddelelse-----

Fra: Alenka Krasovec [mailto:alenka.krasovec@fdv.uni-lj.si]
Sendt: 28. april 2004 13:12
Til: kstrom@weber.ucsd.edu
Emne: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Strom,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

03. 05. 04

1. Are committees *formally* present as a central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups? If no, where is formally central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups?

Formally meaning mentioned in some type of document like standing orders or alike – no. Formally meaning used by IGs to contact MPs – yes, but not as a central place. Generally, IGs use informal meetings with important MPs like leaders of committees and subcommittees and so on. But still – this is the last resort. More formalized are relations between IGs and government departments where most policy is discussed and decided.

2. Are committees (also) *de facto* central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups? If no, where is de facto central place of co-operation between legislature and interest groups?

See Q 1.

3. In your opinion, how important is co-operation between committees and interest groups for policy-making processes in legislature?

It is important for opposition parties to make pressure on governing parties – they use arguments of IGs to support the criticism of government. For changing of draft bills it used to be important in previous periods when activism of parliament was higher, mainly during the period of minority cabinet when almost half of government bills were rewritten. Nobody did the analysis of how much really was rewritten, so I can rely only on information of opposition parties which say – we had to rewrite all the draft bill. I checked it only for several drafts and this was not true – they were changed slightly even though the draft bill looked differently.

Cooperation might have also different form – pressure from legislature on departments for policy changes. It happens because some MPs are involved in the preparation of draft bills in departments.

4. Why in your opinion this co-operation is important for policy-making processes in legislature?

It has the capacity to change the policy included in draft bills.

5. Do you see any differences between committees in co-operation with interest groups?

Yes. There are some committees which have special relations with several IGs – committee for public administration and environment has special relations with Association of

towns and cities and Association of regions (and there some other examples). Special relation means that these groups are invited to discuss draft bills in committees and subcommittees and they are allowed to talk during these discussions, which is formally not allowed by standing orders.

6. If yes, can you please tell us why there are differences between committees in their co-operation with interest groups? Is this first of all

- a) due to leaders/presidents of committees (personal component)
- b) due to committees's working fields – committees are responsible for policies of different »importance« (policy component)
- c) due to different activity of interest groups (interest groups component)
- d) other reason; please state a reason

B and C together – policy component and insider features of IGs.

7. Have standing orders of your parliament been changed in last two decades, especially in the view of co-operation between committees and interest groups?

There has been major change in legislative process to make it more stable and forecastable (I attach description of change).

8. If yes, what kind of change has occurred (change of legislative procedure, change in competences of committees...)?

Change of legislative procedure.

9. Can you, please describe and evaluate consequences of above mentioned change of standing orders for co-operation between committees and interest groups?

The change of legislative procedure indirectly strengthen the role of committees. Which means that what is approved in the committee has a very good position for being approved by the whole chamber. Thus, committees are the focus point of IGs.

10. Can you, please describe and evaluate any change in co-operation between committees and interest groups which is not a (direct) consequence of change in standing orders?

Changes occur according to cabinet majorities/minorities. Now there is one-vote majority cabinets which means that all important changes must be decided by coalition leaders and experts. It makes lobbying very transaction costly – there is a lot of people who have to be

Alenka Krasovec

From: Alenka Krasovec [alenka.krasovec@uni-lj.si]
Sent: 26. marec 2004 8:55
To: kstrom@weber.ucsd.edu
Subject: committees and interest groups

Dear Prof. Strom,

I am writing to you on behalf of the research team at the Centre for Political Research in Ljubljana, Slovenia. We are currently involved in a project concerning the "Committees of the Slovene Parliament as a Central Place of Co-Operation between Legislature and Interest Groups", which is being funded by the Slovenian National Assembly and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Our research team is composed of Alenka Krasovec, Danica Fink-Hafner and Damjan Lajh and the research team has (on the basis of analysed articles) identified you as a valuable expert with whom to talk. Accordingly, we would like to ask you to co-operate in our project.

For the last phase of the project, we have decided to undertake a comparative analysis of standing orders and empirical data on co-operation between committees and interests groups.

We hope you can find some time to answer the attached set of short questions to help us make our research internationally comparable. Should you prefer to answer the questions by telephone, please provide your telephone number so that we can make contact with you.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to co-operate in our research. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Assistant Professor Alenka Krasovec, on behalf of the research team

28. 04. 04