

**Lobbying and tax regulation:**

the influence of interest groups on Finnish dividend taxes 2004-2014

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Finnish dividend tax legislation has been referred to as exceptional in an international comparison as it treats wealthy taxpayers favorable. The article examines how lobbying affected the evolution of dividend tax legislation in Finland between 2004 and 2014. The article asks which business actors have influenced the regulation and by which means. A policy subsystems framework is applied to the analysis. The primary source of information is an analysis of 23 interviews with Finnish tax experts. During the reviewed period, lobbying influenced the content of dividend tax regulations, despite criticisms from both social justice and economic competitiveness. We conclude that the dividend tax regulation has the characteristics of the regulatory capture, where a private stakeholder has acquired ownership of regulation.

**Keywords:** tax law, lobbying, tax planning, regulatory capture, dividend tax

## **Excessive democracy?**

Democracy and politics in the justification  
for the Economic Policy Council of Finland and fiscal councils

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This article examines the theoretical justification for the establishment of the Economic Policy Council of Finland (EPC). The justification is similar to the justification for fiscal councils and is thus analyzed as part of the international discussion regarding fiscal councils. The article asks, what is the justification for the establishment of EPC and what kind of relation to democratic politics does this justification have. The article argues that the justification has problematic properties from the point of view of democracy. The need for a fiscal council is justified with an alleged tendency in the democratic political process to accumulate excessive public deficits and debt. Thus, the objective of the council is to promote fiscal discipline, which itself is a political objective. This objective is pursued with the authority of independence granted to the council. Thus, this article argues that the objective as laid out in the justification is to narrow democratic discussion by imposing the need for more fiscal discipline as a purely scientific goal. However, the operation of the EPC should not be reduced entirely to its theoretical justification.

**Keywords:** economic policy, democracy, expertise

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## Security politics is politics – but in what sense?

EERIK KIVILAHTI

This paper asks in what sense security is political. The aim is to create an analytical framework that describes the political process in which security becomes defined as a part of reality that needs to be acted upon. This is done by applying political theory of Kari Palonen (e.g. 2003b) to the concept of security politics and to the previous research on it. The result is a security policy typology that provides a fruitful conceptual tool to analyse security politics both as political action and as struggle about the direction and form of security policy. It reinterprets security politics as a much broader political phenomenon and concept than previous research has done. Concurrently, the typology strives to apply and synthesize the earlier conceptualisations. The typology also has a wider applicability in foreign- and security policy research and security studies.

**Keywords:** security politics, political theory, conceptual development, conceptual analysis