



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University

Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname: David Masselter
Student's ID: 20946598

Type of the study programme: Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme: International Relations
Study ID: 759338

Title of the thesis: Political bargaining power of the Benelux region in the EU
Thesis department: Department of International Relations (23-KMV)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: Mgr. Viera Martinková, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s): PhDr. Martin Jeřábek, Ph.D.
Date of defence: 11.09.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of the examination: Student presented thesis, analysed voting power of different states, high degree of cooperation, analysis of voting records. Student mentioned use of most popular power indexes. Student found that Benelux had high degree of voting cohesion. Supervisor gave thesis A, had clear goal, clear research design, clearly answers questions, two critiques, more argumentation would be helpful, sometimes text not very precise in explanation of figures, that presentation is sometimes abit confusing. Committee mentioned that second reader finds that thesis is above average, that thesis demonstrates author's strong understanding of Benelux influence in EU council. Student mentioned high degree of centralisation that is unprecedented in EU. Student mentioned draw from historical institutionalism, how consensus building almost replace voting system. Student answered questions from second reader, about how power indexes don't really work, that for power indexes votes are considered random, but aren't in real life, suggest emphasise population of different states. Committee asked if findings from thesis consistent with findings of author.

Result of defence: excellent (A)

Chair of the board: Karlas Jan, doc. PhDr., Ph.D., M.A. (present)

Committee members: Kazharski Aliaksei, Ph.D. (present)

Martinková Viera, Mgr., Ph.D. (present)