



An external view on the RSB

Jens Blom-Hansen

Department of Political Science

Aarhus University

Denmark

Contact: jbh@ps.au.dk



Agenda

- An outside perspective
 - Draw on research on the RSB and broader research
- How to organize a body like the RSB?
 - Independence
 - Power
- What do we still need to know about the RSB?



How to organize a body like the RSB?

- Challenge: Several legitimate, but competing concerns --> balance?
- How much independence?
 - Concerns that speak in favor: Legitimacy, impartiality, credibility, and commitment
 - But (I): Independence from what? New types of dependencies?
 - Relevant concern for the RSB?
 - But (II): More than post-hoc control? Also control of policy in-the-making?
 - Would a national government let an independent actor monitor its making of policy?
- So: A balance needs to be found

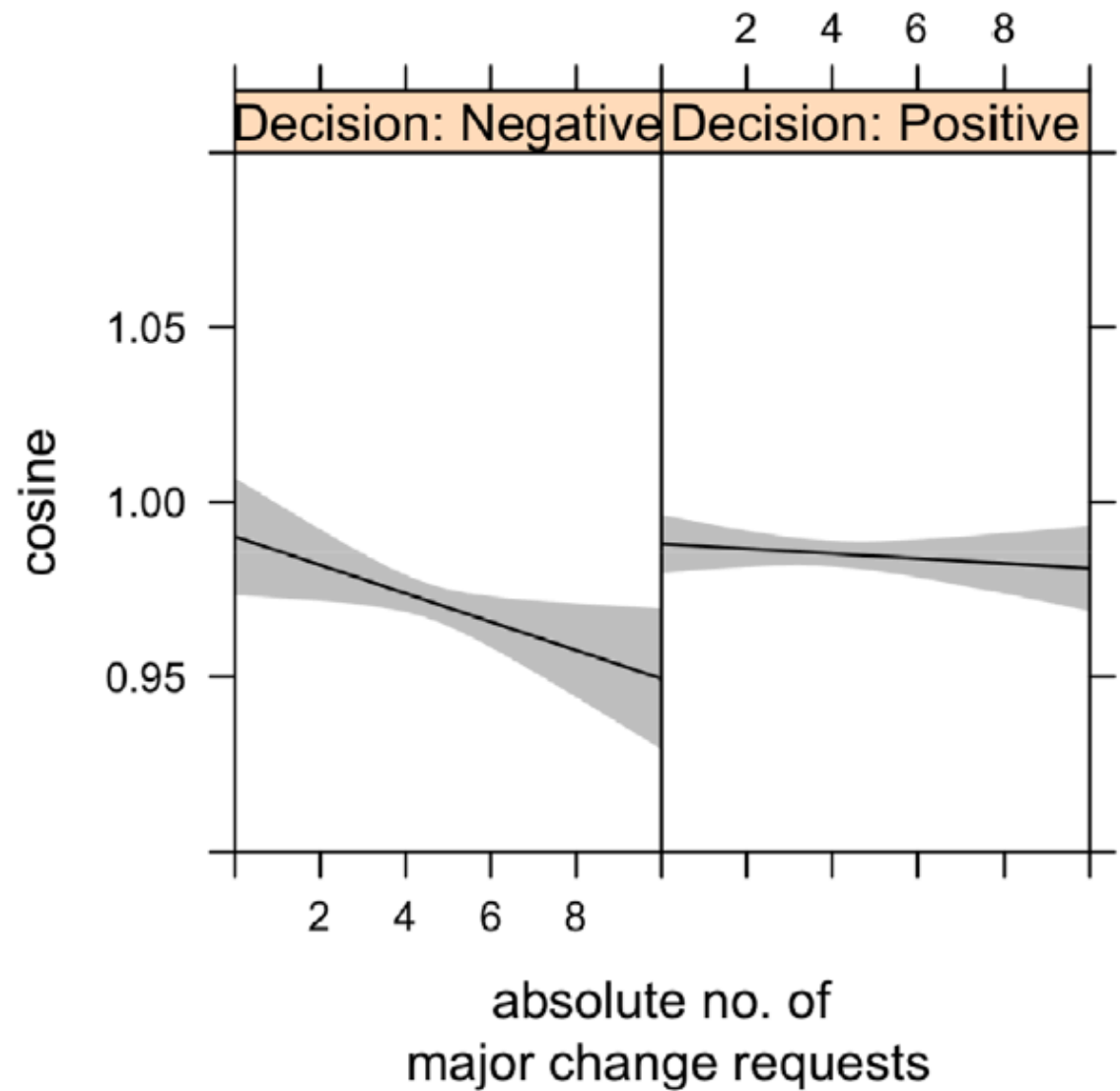


How much power should the RSB have?

- Power - veto rights?
- Does this matter?
- Should veto rights be ultimate?
 - Should technical experts be allowed to stop the political process?
- So, again: A balance needs to be found



- Does veto power matter?



Source: Senninger, R. and Blom-Hansen, J. (2021), "Meet the critics: Analyzing the EU Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board through quantitative text analysis", *Regulation & Governance* 15: 1436-1453.

What do we still need to know about the RSB?

- Overruling the RSB: What really goes on?
- How much do the DGs really listen to the RSB?
- How much pressure from the outside does the RSB experience?
- Do impact assessments make a difference for the subsequent legislative negotiations?





Thank you for your attention!

