The integration of political parties into the political groups of the European Parliament (2004-2009)

Political groups in the European Parliament are the bodies resembling the groupings of Eurodeputies from different countries but similar ideologies. The Polish MEPs joined them in 2004, without really knowing them. The choice began with national parties which had maintained contact with the European federations of the parties for several years and which subsequently had to be approved by these groups. Nevertheless, it might or might not have suited the Polish MEPs, bearing in mind that not all of them were politicians and/or members of a party active nationally. What is thus interesting is to analyse how cohesive the Polish parties are in these groups. The years 2004-2009 are taken into consideration for two reasons. First, this was the period when the Polish MEPs took their seats in the European Parliament for the first time. Second, at that time, Poland sent a ‘staggering’ eight parties or, to be precise, seven parties and one coalition, which, on top of that, then joined different groups. Although the parties melted into those groups soon after the election, this cohesion did not last long... The article is based in full on fifty interviews conducted with the Polish Eurodeputies at the European Parliament in 2007-2008.

Tags: European Parliament, parliamentary group, national parties, Polish Eurodeputies, Polish MEPs, political integration