

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777090903321
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Titolo	The European Parliament and Supranational Party System : a study in institutional development / / Amie Kreppel [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2002
ISBN	1-107-12396-8 1-280-43351-5 0-511-17538-8 0-511-04174-8 0-511-15569-7 0-511-30395-5 0-511-60608-7 0-511-04412-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 263 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in comparative politics
Disciplina	341.24/24
Soggetti	Political parties - European Union countries Coalitions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 241-254) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: the European Parliament and the institutional evolution of legislatures -- Theories of legislative development and the European Parliament -- The development of the party group system and the party groups -- The history of the European Parliament -- The internal development of the European Parliament: from collegiality to conflict -- The development of the supranational party group system: conflict and cooperation in the coalition formation process -- Cooperation and co-decision: the role of ideology and rules -- The internal development of the supranational party groups: an elusive goal -- Conclusions: understanding the developmental process.
Sommario/riassunto	This book examines the impact of increased legislative power and political authority on the internal development of the European Parliament and the supranational party group system. This is done through an analysis of changes in the hierarchical structures that regulate the internal organization of both the EP as a whole and the

individual party groups. In addition, the changing pattern of coalition formation between party groups across time and legislative procedure is analyzed. The trends of internal development examined suggest that the increases in EP power that have occurred since the creation of the cooperation procedure by the Single European Act in 1987 have caused a fundamental shift in the character of the European Parliament as a legislative institution. Prior to 1987 the European Parliament, despite direct election and several small attempts to increase its powers, served primarily as a chamber of debate where much more was discussed than accomplished.
