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Abstract

This study aims to compare the performance of two unique legislatures: the European Parliament and the House of Representatives. It creates a theoretical framework to define ‘legislative performance’ by looking at three distinct functions: the formulation of policies, their deliberation and oversight. By applying a set of eight questions to both legislatures, this study examines the main differences in how they perform within their respective political systems. The comparison presents a nuanced picture regarding legal authority and actual performance. While the House of Representatives has more legal authority than the European Parliament, the latter has performed comparatively better within its political system. The House’s inability over the past decade to exercise its powers because of partisan polarization and procedural rules stands in contrast to the EP’s ability to use its less legal powers to greater efficiency.