Editorial

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As you might expect from an international journal of political science, this issue of *Acta Politica* again addresses a variety of topics by authors from five different countries. David Sinardet and Peter Bursens investigate to which extent the ‘democratic deficit’ diagnosis of the European Union can be applied to the case of Belgium too. In a qualitative case study of Norway, Kristoffer Kolltveit shows how the power balance between the cabinet as a collective and the prime minister can be explained by characteristics of the cabinet. Tom Louwerse and Martin Rosema demonstrate how the ‘advice’ of Voting Advice Applications overwhelmingly depends on the computational formula by which these programs process individual policy preferences. And Isa Camyar shows, using an elite survey, that institutions of democratic accountability enhance the agreement between elites and the public on the issue of European integration.

Political participation has been one of the core concepts in theories of democratic politics since the very first days. But what exactly is meant, and what not, by political participation has equally occupied generations of researchers. In this issue, Jan van Deth courageously proposes a new look at, and a new definition of, political participation. Marc Hooghe and Bengü Hosch-Dayican comment on Van Deth’s contribution and voice some hesitations and objections, which are followed by a rejoinder by Van Deth.

This issue also marks a change in our Editorial Team. In the past two years Seeta Autar has done a remarkable job as Editors’ Secretary, in addition to her regular work at the University of Twente. Seeta has now transferred her tasks for *Acta Politica* to Veerle van Doeveren at Leiden University. This transfer implies that as from now the postal and email addresses of *Acta Politica* have changed as well. The Editors can be reached at acta.politica@fsw.leidenuniv.nl. We thank Seeta for her contributions to *Acta Politica*, and we welcome Veerle on board!

Finally, we would like to announce a new feature: online special issues. With the help of our publisher, Palgrave, we have started to compile recent contributions to our journal that share a common topic or approach into an online special issues. Such issues will be marketed through websites and mailings, and we expect them to be attractive for scholars as well as for classroom use. A first online special issue will contain the recent contributions on the topic of Voting Advice Applications.

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