

'This is a theory driven and empirically rich contribution advancing our knowledge on the two operational cornerstones of ERAs - expertise and autonomy. It identifies their complex relationship and, moreover, examines the key determinants for the policy influence of ERAs, enlightening the general debate on the role of science in democracy.'

— Professor Beate Kohler-Koch, *University of Mannheim, and Research Director, MZES, Germany*

'In this volume, Dr Ossege provides formidable insights into the organizational world of three EU agencies. He measures the impact of expertise and scientific evidence on the internal decision-making process of these agencies, and the implications for their autonomy and influence in regulatory policy. A fundamental contribution to the fields of knowledge utilization, regulation, and European Union public policy.'

— Professor Claudio Radaelli, *Jean Monnet Chair in European Public Policy, and Director, Centre for European Governance, University of Exeter, UK*

'In this rich study of three EU agencies, Christoph Ossege makes a real contribution to the agency literature. In particular, our knowledge on agency autonomy is significantly enhanced and nuanced by the author's distinction between agencies' autonomy concerning scientific outputs on the one hand, and rule-making on the other.'

— Professor Morten Egeberg, *Department of Political Science and ARENA, University of Oslo, Norway*

European Regulatory Agencies (ERAs) are important features in EU decision-making. They aim to provide expert advice independent of political or economic considerations. This book explains whether and under what conditions ERAs comply with this scientific mandate. Expanding on rational institutionalism, Ossege provides novel insights into the behaviour of ERAs, their autonomy from 'undue' external influence, and their impact on EU policy-making. The empirical comparison of three major ERAs - the European Medicines Agency, the European Food Safety Authority, and the European Chemicals Agency - not only shows that agencies capitalise on their expertise and rule-making competences to protect their autonomy. By acting strategically, ERAs also guard their autonomy in politically salient areas, though their policy influence is partially reduced. Based on these insights, *European Regulatory Agencies* in EU Decision-Making locates its subject in the wider system of EU Governance and considers the perennial question of how to reconcile the need for expert advice with democratic decision-making.

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