

Parliamentary Questions in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives (1995-2019)

Codebook (v1)

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Description

Dataset of all written and oral (plenary and committee) parliamentary questions (PQs) posed in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives between 1995 and 2019 (N=180,783). The data were scraped directly from the Chambers' online repository (www.lachambre.be) and mostly contains information at the level of the individual PQ. Additional variables and background data at the MP level (socio-demographic and political characteristics) and party group level can be retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7801559>.

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Variables

id: unique identifier at the level of the individual PQ.

idchamber: identifier as determined by the Chamber's administration.

type: the type of parliamentary question: either (1) a written question, (2) an oral question posed during a committee meeting or (3) an oral question posed during a plenary meeting.

author: name of the MP that authored the parliamentary question.

mpid: unique identifier at the level of the individual MP.

mpidterm: unique identifier at the level of the individual MP per legislative term.

ppg: name of the party group of the MP.

gov: government in office at the time of the PQ.

govparty: MP belongs to a (1) governing party or (0) opposition party.

min: the targeted minister (full title in Dutch).

minname: the name of the targeted minister.

minparty: the party the targeted ministers belong to.

title: full title of the parliamentary question (in Dutch).

meeting: parliamentary meeting where the PQ was tabled: either a standing committee meeting or a plenary meeting. Blank for written PQs.

currentaffairs: variable that indicates whether the PQ was tabled during a period of current affairs (1) during which a resigning caretaker cabinet was active.

date: date when the PQ was submitted (written PQs) or posed during a parliamentary meeting (oral PQs).

term: legislative term during which the PQ was tabled.

ev1-10: Dutch EuroVoc-descriptors (see: <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies>) assigned by the Chamber's administration. Each PQ has between 1 and 10 descriptors.

cap1-10: recoding of the EuroVoc-descriptors into one of the 21 policy areas as outlined by the Comparative Agendas Project (CAP; see <https://www.comparativeagendas.net/>). More information can be found in 'de Vet, B., & Devroe, R. (2023). Party Control, Intraparty Competition, and the Substantive Focus of Women's Parliamentary Questions: Evidence from Belgium. *Politics & Gender*, 19(1), 247-271. doi:10.1017/S1743923X2100049.