PART III: Policy-making in Migration
Chapter 5: Policy-Making in Migration (Part I): The Role of Different Actors

Introduction

Developments regarding Europe’s nascent migration law cannot be fully understood unless the role of different policy actors is examined. Accordingly this chapter provides an analysis of the day-to-day institutional practice in the area of migration and draws upon elements of “political sociology”.1

A general analysis of the role of different EU policy actors is beyond the scope of this book. There have already been various excellent pieces of work in that respect.2 The aim of the present work is rather to provide a comprehensive examination of the impact of the position of the various actors with respect to policy-making in migration. The analysis herein will adopt a two-prong approach. Firstly, on the basis of the general institutional features of the relevant actors it will evaluate and analyse their interaction with regard to migration issues. Secondly, it will endeavour to highlight any eventual specific interests, goals and weaknesses as well as their negotiating weight in the said area. The approach taken is pragmatic and practice oriented. The analysis is based on Treaty provisions and official documents, emphasis is however placed on the everyday practice as well as on certain factors and practices that are rather informal and in principle intentionally un-codified.3


3 It has been correctly highlighted with regard to the role and functions of the Council that there is an intentional effort to not formalise key aspects of the Council's