CabCon Dataset
General Codebook

Coding disagreements and conflicts within cabinets using EJPR Political Data Yearbooks

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0. GENERAL RULES OF THUMB

Avoid context-blind rule fetishism

Always keep the specific context in consideration and always opt for the code that best grasps the situation at hand – even if this implied exceptional or deviant coding choices. For validity's sake, case-specific deviations are always accepted (as long as they are systematically reported in a logbook).

Code according to the 'core' of the conflict

Code choices always needed to apply to the 'core' of the conflict (even when they don't apply to all aspects or phases of a conflict). For instance, when a fierce clash on immigration triggers a harsh remark of one coalition party about another coalition party's economic track record, the conflict still needs to be coded as a clash on immigration.

Deciding is key

- Always use 1 code; do not use combinations (the choices made can always be legitimized in the logbook).
- Avoid the code used to identify cases of doubt ("D"). Always try to decide and opt for a substantive code.
- Doubt/peculiar cases? → Use logbook to be transparent & consistent with decisions

Prudence is preferred over trigger happiness

When doubting between two codes, coders should opt for the least heavy one. E.g. intensity 0 rather than intensity 1 in case of ambiguity.

Because of this rule, the resulting data might underestimate the harshness of real-life politics. But this is preferred over the alternative: the risk of systematic exaggeration.

Conflicts and disagreements are SITUATION specific

The level of analysis is a 'situation', that is a certain **debate, discussion, negotiation or similar event** in politics. We follow the authors of the year report. If disagreements or conflicts are being described as distinct situations, we code them as separate cases. If disagreements or conflicts are being described as being part of the same situation, we code them as one single case. The latter includes cases whereby a general description of a clash is further specified (see examples below).

Examples of distinct situations:

- 'Tensions arose on X. Another clash occurred on Y'.
- 'The coalition faced tensions. On the one hand, migration policy triggered a harsh debate that burdened policy-making in spring. On the other, parties firmly disagreed on pension reform.'
- 'The pension reform triggered harsh debates that highlighted the differences between parties. Tensions also arose on defence policy.'
- Next to X, issue Y also raised debate
- As the debate in commission A continued, negotiations in commission B turned ugly too

Examples of single cases (same situation/negotiation, including specifications)

- E.g. 'Finding an agreement on the budget was difficult. While the socialists advocated a tax for the rich, the liberals continued to fight for lower corporate taxes.'
- E.g. 'The negotiations on the position the Belgium should take during the UN meeting proved to be difficult. Coalition partners had a hard time deciding on the installation of new rocket launchers in Europe, the idea of a new sanction package for Russia, and the need for a cease-fire in Ukraine.'
- E.g. 'Clash on socio-eco policy, in particular taxation, challenged the survival of the cabinet' (reference to taxation is a specification)
- E.g. 'Parties remained divided on the institutional reform. Specifically, fiscal autonomy, Y, and Z proved to be difficult issues.' (= specification of clash)
- 'The budgetary negotiation was difficult. Tensions on corporate taxes and pension reform made it hard to find a compromise. (= specification of clash)

Conflicts and disagreements are cabinet specific

If the cabinet changes, the conflict/disagreement ends. If the same issue continues to trigger disagreement/tensions in the next cabinet, these situations should be coded as distinct, new cases.
To know when a cabinet changed, **use the tables provided in the year reports** (not your own definitions nor lists of other sources).

Code as if you wouldn't have any country-specific background knowledge

To strengthen intercoder reliability and ensure the reproducibility of the data, please do not use your personal knowledge of certain situations into account when coding. Code 'blindly' and only use the information presented by the authors when making decisions.

1. STEP ONE: IDENTIFYING DISAGREEMENTS AND CONFLICTS

Read the yearbook. Search for all situations of disagreements and/or conflict between coalition partners.

What is disagreement?

Any situation in which coalition partners have different views. This includes:

- References to discussions and debates: e.g. 'Party A was in favour of tax cuts **while party** B wanted a tax raise', 'the Socialist party had to **swallow** a decision that is **at odds** with its ideological principles, but avoided decisions on tax cuts (a claim of the liberals)', 'In summer, the **difficult search for an agreement** on migration resulted in a compromise', 'During the talks, it became clear that the socialists would **not agree** with idea X', '**Discussions** evolved slowly', 'After **some debates**, the coalition decided X', 'In parliament, coalition **parties debated** continued debating about migration', 'the **debate** about pension reforms was salient' …

- Whatever the subject: Disagreement can be about cabinet policies, but it can also be about procedural matters, the distribution of competences and positions within the cabinet, … E.g. 'The coalition parties had different views on the successor of minister A, after the latter resigned'.

When is disagreement also a conflict?

Not all disagreements are conflicts! Disagreement is only a conflict if it is **antagonistic**. This is the case if one or more of the following indicators are met:

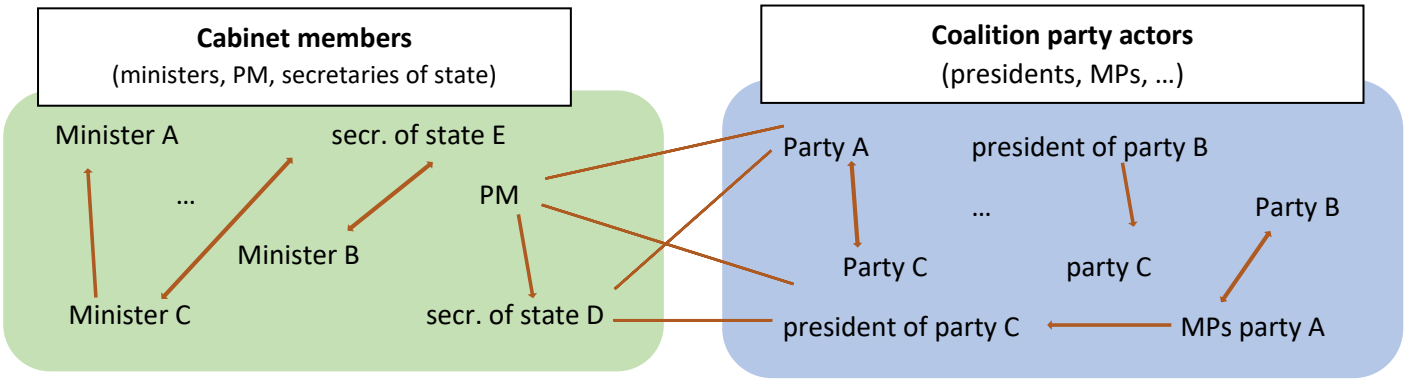
Indicator	Description
Branding	Disagreement that is *described* as a conflict (or the like) by the authors of the yearbook or by the actors involved.
Verbal	Disagreement whereby coalition partners are disrespectfully blaming or criticizing one another (attacks). Must clearly be confrontational rather than respectful.
Threathening	Disagreement whereby coalition partners threaten one another, whatever the threat (e.g. to leave the cabinet, to veto a decision, to launch future counterattacks, …).
Blocking	Disagreement whereby coalition partners firmly (try to) block a decision or procedure against the will of a partner. E.g. empty chair politics or strong veto in a situation of evident urgency (e.g. when a legal deadline approaches).

Imposition	Disagreement whereby coalition partners (try to) impose their will upon one another, against the will of a partner. E.g. vote legislation despite clear veto or strong disproval of a coalition partner.
Survival	Disagreement whereby there is any reference to the (potential) resignation of a coalition partner.

What are coalition partners?

The focus is on disagreement/conflict between coalition partners. These are all cabinet members and coalition party actors. Specifically, **only code disagreement/conflict between CENTRAL-level…**

- Cabinet members → Even if they belong to the same party
  E.g. clash between two ministers
- Coalition parties & cabinet members → Even if they belong to the same party
  E.g. clash between a minister and the liberal coalition party
- Coalition parties as such → If they belong to different parties OR if a clash between actors of the same party is clearly related to the government. E.g. clash between the president and MPs of party A on the course of the government.



REMARK 1: focus on central-level actors

Please ignore clashes or disagreements between sub-state and central-level actors, e.g. a sub-state minister vs. a central level minister. Or e.g. criticism of central parties against the actions or proposal of MPs in the Flemish or Catalan parliament.

REMARK 2: check the capacity of actors

When checking whether or not clashes occur *between coalition partners*, always keep this question in mind: **in which capacity do actors act?** Only code situations as clashes between coalition partners if the actor involved acts in his/her capacity as coalition partner. Ignore situations if actors act in their capacity as mayor, local politician, president of a commission, etc.

Examples of situations that are (not) cabinet conflicts:

- YES: *On behalf of the conservative coalition party*, the MP (who is also the mayor of city X) clearly attacked the proposal of the liberal party.
- NO: The *mayor of city X* attacked the proposal of the liberal party.
- YES: The *two liberal ministers* got in a fierce fight on pension reform.
- NO: During the campaign for the liberal presidency elections, the *two candidates for the presidency* got in a fierce fight on pension reform.

REMARK 3: ignore disagreements/clashes that are surely NOT between coalition partners
If you are *sure* that a disagreement/conflict did not occur between coalition partners/cabinet members but e.g. between local politicians and unions, between president of the chamber (in that capacity) and a coalition party: ignore situation. These situations should not be included in the dataset.

If there is doubt on whether the situation is actually between coalition partners (e.g. 'The minister was attacked *in parliament'*, 'the proposal received *criticism*'): **include the situation in the dataset and indicate** that there is doubt using the appropriate variables (see below).

SPECIFIC SITUATIONS IN IDENTIFYING DISAGREEMENTS/CONFLICTS

Attacks against previous cabinets

Please ignore all attacks vis-à-vis past cabinets, even if current coalition parties were in it. E.g. the social democrats strongly attacked "the dramatic budgetary situation in which the previous coalition left the country"

Such situations are attacks against previous policies or against parties *in their capacity as coalition parties 'in a previous cabinet'*. Not attacks against coalition partners in their capacity as present coalition partners.

Conflict in the past

If the source (e.g. the 2003 year report) describes conflicts that occurred in a previous year (e.g. 2001), while the conflict was NOT noted in the year report covering that year, still include them.

Speculation and references to oncoming conflicts

Speculation and references to conflicts that did not clearly or fully materialize (yet) = sufficient to code as conflict. E.g. references to clashes *that are bound to happen*, *are in the air*, …

If the authors refer to such situations like that, the situation was likely to be explosive enough and perceived as such.

Scandals and legal inquiries

Do not code as conflicts: the decision to establish an investigative committee in parliament to investigate the actions of a cabinet (member), press coverage on corruption cases, statements by coalition partners that are standard in handling scandals or legal inquiries (e.g. "if the investigation shows that the minister made mistakes, he will have to draw his conclusions and resign"), criticism against the cabinet described in a report of an investigative committee, …

Cabinet formation periods

Do not code: If the cabinet formation negotiation *itself* triggers conflicts

Only code: conflicts occuring *within* the caretaker government

Examples:

- NOT: During the formation negotiations, the liberals attacked the conservative party (both are part of the caretaker government) for trying to establish a new coalition with the social democrats.
- YES: After the establishment of a new cabinet of liberals, conservatives and social democrats, the liberals fiercly attacked the conservative party for being 'responsible for the cabinet participation of the social democrats'.

- NOT: During the formation negotiations, the negotiating parties clashed on the issue of immigration.
- YES: Within the caretaker government, the coalition parties clashed on the immigration issue.

- NOT: Debates on the budgettary ambitions of the future cabinet triggered a fierce clash between the negotiating parties.
- YES: The caretaker government was strongly divided on the budget, triggering a fierce clash.

Criticism against a cabinet bound to start

- Do not code: It's a quite typical phenomenon that a cabinet that is bound to be formed (during cabinet formation negotiations) is already attacked by the future opposition parties. Even if the latter are attacking parties that are currently still their coalition partners, these situations should not be coded as cabinet conflicts.

- Only code: In these situations, only code conflicts between coalition parties that are actually about decisions of the caretaker cabinet.

WHEN TO CODE SITUATIONS AS ONE ONGOING CONFLICT AND WHEN TO CODE THEM AS DISTINCT CONFLICTS (SAME APPLIES TO DISAGREEMENTS)

Rule 1: Follow description of the authors of the year report where possible

- Code as one clash: if a clash is presented as one continued clash. E.g. 'Tensions on the pension reform erupted in January. By the end of the year, the dispute *still wasn't settled*.' = one clash
- Code as separate clashes: if a clash is presented as being distinct from a previous one. E.g. 'Tensions on the pension reform burdened the cabinet in January. At the end of the year, the dispute *resurfaced*.' = two clashes

Rule 2: If description of the authors is too unclear (if rule 1 cannot be applied)

Code as one clash: if there is no clear end of a clash in previous times, e.g. a reference to a compromise or decision that clearly ended the dispute.

Rule 3: always code as different conflicts (even if authors present it differently)

- If the cabinet changes. E.g. 'The coalition parties clashed on pension reform – a tense topic that also challenged the stability of the subsequent cabinet.'

What about very ambiguous references to 'multiple' conflicts or disagreements?

Sometimes, year report authors are not really clear about the exact number of clashes. They often refer to e.g. 'numerous tensions on socio-economic policy' or 'the whole year being characterized by socio-economic tensions'. Often, such references are included at the beginning of yearbooks or yearbook sections in which more specific info is then provided.

Always code as specifically as possible:

(1) If these vague references are **followed by a more specific description** of the situation(s) → code the specific description(s) (like all other conflicts) and consider the vague reference to be an introduction of the conflict(s)

(2) If these vague references are **not followed by a more specific description** of the situation(s) and if no other information is given on the tensions that are vaguely described →
   - Code such situations as 2 distinct clashes (e.g. 2 clashes socio-eco policy).
   - Never code such situations as more than two clashes!
   - Do not consider 'tensions' as a reference to multiple conflicts (only one)

2. STEP TWO: CODING FEATURES OF DISAGREEMENTS AND CONFLICTS

2.1. GENERAL VARIABLES

[ID] ID number of case

[Country] Country name

[Cabinet] Cabinet name (following EJPR reports)

[Year start] Year in which situation started

[Description] Key topic followed by ":" and a copy-pasted text from the year report. Example: "Justice: Albanian maffia: Laurette Onkelinx (PS), the Minister of Justice, stood centre stage in a crisis that shook the Belgian government for a week."

Note: What if the situation is referred to in multiple year reports? For example, when a clash continues in different years and as such, is covered by multiple yearbooks? In this case: simply go back to initial case in the dataset and simply add the new description to the text. Indicate the fact that descriptions of multiple year reports are added together by starting the new information with a reference to the year report. Use this format for e.g. a clash that is discussed in the yearbook on 1994 and 1995: "YR1994: *description* || YR1997: *description*". In these cases: always check whether the coding of the variables is still ok.

Note: any relevant background information can be added by the coder to the description. These additional notes should be put between [brackets] to clearly indicate that the text is not written by the year report author(s). examples include notes on the position of actors, notes to identify the sentence that was coded as a case (to ensure transparency and avoid confusion), etc.

[YR] Year report in which situation is described. Note as year (e.g. 2010). If the situation is discussed in multiple yearbooks, note as: "2010; 2011"

2.2. DISAGREEMENT

Value	Description
D	Doubt. In this case: make sure the background of the excel cell is coloured in orange. Includes: - "controversy" (major controversy, huge controversy, …) - "forced to resign" (without any additional information)
1	Situation is a disagreement

2.3. CONFLICT

Value	Description
0	Situation is not a conflict
1	Situation is a conflict Includes indicators above and specific mentions of situations that are clearly confrontational: - Attacks/attacked - Disappointed/disappointment - Despise - Actor 'objected … and gave in' - Blaming

D	Doubt. In this case: make sure the background of the excel cell is coloured in orange.
	
	Includes:
	- "controversy" (major controversy, huge controversy, …)
	- "forced to resign" (without any additional information)
	- Disagreements '**with additional elements**'… Disagreements that do not meet any indicator, but that might have been constructive rather than confrontational in nature. Examples include:
	  ○ "contested"
	  ○ "Criticism" (severe criticism, …)
	  ○ "disputed", "dispute"
	  ○ "intense debate", "heated debate", "heavy debate", "emotional debate", "highly emotional debate", "hotly debated", "vocal opposition", …

2.4. MERELY DISAGREEMENT (MD)

Value	Description
0	Situation is NOT merely disagreement. It is a conflict or there is doubt about its conflictual nature. → Specifically, this code is given if the "Conflict" variable has value 1 or D.
1	Situation is purely a disagreement. → Specifically, this code is given if the "Conflict" variable has value 0.

2.5. INTENSITY

Value	Description
0	All other situations. Including clashes that end in the resignation of actors that are not coalition members (ministers, PM, …) or parties as a whole. For example a clash leading to the resignation of a party leader or secretary.

1	Resignation of cabinet (member/party) is possible, being discussed, on the table, issued as a threat, subject to speculation, … **but no resignation occurred.** Also: when conflict is described and authors mention that the cabinet **'did not topple'** (this implies that the conflict was severe enough to result in resignation, although it didn't)
2	Resignation of a cabinet member or coalition party
3	Resignation of the cabinet as a whole Or references to '**regime crisis'/speculation** on end of the pollical system/country as such
D	Doubt. In this case: make sure the background of the excel cell is coloured in orange.

IMPORTANT NOTE: if multiple clashes together explode and accumulate in the resignation → only code one of the clashes as intensity 2/3 and the other cases as intensity 1.

2.6. ACTORS DOUBT

Value	Description
1	Situation is described as a disagreement/conflict between coalition partners/cabinet members
D	Doubt: Situation is not clearly described/it is unclear whether the disagreement/conflict is actually between coalition partners/cabinet members. In this case: make sure the background of the excel cell is coloured in orange. E.g. 'The minister was strongly attacked after his statements on taxation' → In this case, the attack might have come from the opposition, unions, …

Note 1: ignore cases that are clearly NOT between coalition partners

As noted under step one: If you are *sure* that a disagreement/conflict did not occur between coalition partners/cabinet members but e.g. between local politicians and unions, between president of the chamber (in that capacity) and a coalition party: ignore situation. These situations should not be included in the dataset.

Dynamics between parliament and cabinet

The focus is on dynamics between coalition partners/cabinet members. **Not on dynamics between institutions.**

- Include: situations in which parties clash with coalition partners or the cabinet (through their MPs). Example: the liberal fraction attacked the proposal of the socialist minister.

- Ignore: clashes between institutions or against specific institutions

    - E.g. dynamics of parliament vs. cabinet. When it is clear that the essential dispute or disagreement is one between the legislative and executive branches. Example: when MPs are frustrated about the way the cabinet treats parliament (e.g. lack of information, transparancy, …).
    - E.g. attacks against parliamentary institutions as such (e.g. criticism against a certain commission in parliament)
    - E.g. attacks against an EU top as such ('The EU top was attacked for its lack of results by the liberal party'), concertation committees in Belgium ('The decisions of the CC were denounced by many parties'), …

Only include situations when it is clear that **there is disagreement/conflict between a coalition party/cabinet member**. E.g. 'The PM was attacked for his lack of leadership during the EU top', 'The social democrats were attacked for failing to keep their word during the concertation committee', …

2.7. ETHNO-TERRITORIAL

Is the case in any way related to ethno-territorial politics? Code situations as 1 if:

- **Ethno-territorial issue** is at stake. These issues are all issues about:
    - State reform and constitution: all issues of center-periphery relations, the positions of the sub-states, attempts to change the federal/unitary nature of states through constitutional reform, ...
    - Intergovernmental Relations: (between sub-states and between the federal and sub-state level): administrative relations, finance of various levels of government, financial transfers, tensions between levels of government, powers and finances, (de)centralization, implementing a law or directive of another level of government, money transfers from one level to another, issues of coordination and/or the distribution of efforts, assets or liabilities (e.g. the distribution of efforts in implementing a climate agreement; the balance between Flanders and Wallonia when it comes to investments, etc.).
    - Language/culture issues: promotion and defense of national culture: defense of the state-wide or regional culture and identity, all issues concerning language policy in multilingual states (e.g. language border in Belgium, usage of Catalan in Spain, …), …
    - All issues that are somehow linked to any of the abovementioned issues. Even if the issues themselves are not ethno-territorial. E.g. a dispute about the establishment of a new army base (issue is not ethno-territorial in itself) and whether it should be put in Flanders or Wallonia (dispute becomes

ethno-territorial). Other example: clash about the nomination of a new minister, which is controversial because of his/her lack of knowledge of a certain language.

- Also in combination with other issues: e.g. when debates about the budgetary deficit are linked to state reform by certain parties.

- **Ethno-territorial groups** stand oppose: e.g. Flemish vs. Francophone parties in Belgium, Catalans vs. others in Spain, … Notably, any reference to the presence of such group dynamics suffices, even if it is rather vague. Examples: 'Flemish and Francophone parties continued to clash about taxation', 'The proposal was met with frustration *in Scotland'*, 'The proposal was criticised by the *Catalan* MPs', '*English and Welsh* MPs clashed on the tax proposal', …

Value	Description
0	No ethno-territorial link
1	Ethno-territorial link
D	Doubt. In this case: make sure the background of the excel cell is coloured in orange.

2.8. SAME PARTY

Value	Description
0	Situation is not described as a disagreement/conflict between political actors belonging to the same party. Includes attacks of one party against 'the cabinet' as a whole
1	Situation is described as a disagreement/conflict between political actors belonging to the same party
D	Doubt: Situation is not clearly described/it is unclear whether the situation is a disagreement/conflict between political actors belonging to the same party. In this case: make sure the background of the excel cell is coloured in orange.

2.9. POLICY DOMAIN (PDOM)

What is the main policy domain on which coalition partners/cabinet members disagree? Here, the typology of the master codebook of the Comparative Agendas Project is used. The coding instructions of the CAP need not be applied. The most important thing here is the **typology**

they use to distinguish domains. Please use **one of the main codes**. Not the lower-level codes (e.g. clash about unemployment rates: code 1 rather than 103).[1]

Important notes:

- Clashes on state reforms/decentralization to sub-states/federalism = domain 21 (not 20)
- Scandals: code as specific as possible. E.g. scandal of education minister guiding funds to befriended educational institutions: domain 6 (education).

D. Doubt/not specified

E.g. 'There was a dispute between the liberals and socialists' (no specification of policy domain). → Please highlight in orange in dataset.

1. Macroeconomics

100: General Description: Includes issues related to general domestic macroeconomic policy.

101: Interest Rates Description: Includes issues related to inflation, cost of living, prices, and interest rates

103: Unemployment Rate Description: Includes issues related to the unemployment rate, impact of unemployment See also: 502 training and retraining; 503 unemployment benefits.

104: Monetary Policy Description: Includes issues related to the monetary policy, central bank, and the treasury

105: National Budget Description: Issues related to public debt, budgeting, and efforts to reduce deficits

107: Tax Code Description: Includes issues related to tax policy, the impact of taxes, and tax enforcement

Note: Specific tax changes should be coded based upon the substantive area. For instance, airfare taxes should go in Air Travel (1003). General tax issues including changes to multiple substantive areas should be coded as 107.

108: Industrial Policy Description: Includes issues related to manufacturing policy, industrial revitalization and growth

110: Price Control Description: Includes issues related to wage or price control, emergency price controls

199: Other Description: Includes issues related to other macroeconomics subtopics

2. Civil Rights

200: General Description: Includes issues related generally to civil rights and minority rights

201: Minority Discrimination Description: Includes issues related to minority, ethnic, and racial group discrimination

202: Gender Discrimination Description: Includes issues related to sex, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination

[1] Sources: Master Topics Codebook Version 1.1 (August 9, 2022). Available online through: https://www.comparativeagendas.net/pages/master-codebook

204: Age Discrimination Description: Includes issues related to age discrimination, including mandatory retirement age policies

205: Handicap Discrimination Description: Includes issues related to handicap and disease discrimination

206: Voting Rights Description: Includes issues related to voting rights, expanding or contracting the franchise, participation and related issues

207: Freedom of Speech Description: Issues related to freedom of speech, religious freedoms, and other types of freedom of expression

208: Right to Privacy Description: Includes issues related to privacy rights, including privacy of records, access to government information, and abortion rights

209: Anti-Government Description: Includes issues related to anti-government activity groups, such as the communist party and local insurgency groups

299: Other Description: Includes issues related to other civil rights subtopics

3. Health

300: General Description: Includes issues related generally to health care, including appropriations for general health care government agencies

301: Health Care Reform Description: Includes issues related to broad, comprehensive changes in the health care system

302: Insurance Description: Includes issues related to health insurance reform, regulation, availability, and cost

321: Drug Industry Description: Includes issues related to the regulation and promotion of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and clinical labs

322: Medical Facilities Description: Issues related to facilities construction, regulation and payments, including waitlists and ambulance services

323: Insurance Providers Description: Includes issues related to provider and insurer payments and regulation, including other types of benefits or multiple benefits

324: Medical Liability Description: Includes issues related to medical liability, malpractice issues, medical fraud and abuse, and unfair practices

325: Manpower Description: Issues related to the supply and quantity of labor in the health care industry, training and licensing

331: Disease Prevention Description: Issues related to disease prevention, treatment, and health promotion, including specific diseases not covered in other subtopics

332: Infants and Children Description: Includes issues related to infants and children, including coverage and quality of care, health promotion, and school health programs

333: Mental Health Description: Includes issues related to mental health care and mental health disease

334: Long-term Care Description: Includes issues related to long term care, home health care, the terminally ill, and rehabilitation services See also: 1303 elderly assistance; 1304 disability assistance

335: Drug Coverage and Cost Description: Includes issues related to prescription drug coverage, programs to pay for prescription drugs, and policy to reduce the cost of prescription drugs

341: Tobacco Abuse Description: Includes issues related to tobacco abuse, treatment, education, and health effects

342: Drug and Alcohol Abuse Description: Includes issues related to alcohol and illegal drug abuse, treatment, education, and health effects

398: R&D Description: Includes issues related to health care research and development

399: Other Description: Includes issues related to other health care topics

4. Agriculture

400: General Description: Includes issues related to general agriculture policy, including appropriations for general agriculture government agencies

401: Trade Description: Includes issues related to the regulation and impact of agricultural foreign trade

402: Subsidies to Farmers Description: Includes issues related to government subsidies to farmers and ranchers, including agricultural disaster insurance

403: Food Inspection & Safety Description: Includes issues related to food inspection and safety, including seafood, and labeling requirements

404: Food Marketing & Promotion Description: Includes issues related to the regulation of agricultural marketing and providing information to consumers regarding a healthy diet

405: Animal and Crop Disease Description: Includes issues related to animal and crop disease, pest control and pesticide regulation, and welfare for domesticated animals

408: Fisheries & Fishing Description: Includes issues related to fishing, commercial fishery regulation and conservation

498: R&D Description: Includes issues related to agricultural research and development

499: Other Description: Includes issues related to other agricultural subtopics

5. Labor

500: General Description: Includes issues generally related to labor, employment, and pensions, including appropriations for government agencies regulating labor policy

501: Worker Safety Description: Includes issues related to worker safety and protection and compensation for work-related injury and disease

502: Employment Training Description: Includes issues related to job training for adult workers, workforce development, and efforts to retrain displaced workers

503: Employee Benefits Description: Includes issues related to all employee benefits, pensions, and retirement accounts, including government-provided unemployment insurance

504: Labor Unions Description: Includes issues related to labor unions, collective bargaining, and employer-employee relations

505: Fair Labor Standards Description: Includes issues related to fair labor standards such as the minimum wage and overtime compensation, and labor law

506: Youth Employment Description: Includes issues related to youth employment, child labor and job training for youths

529: Migrant and Seasonal Description: Includes issues related to migrant, guest and seasonal workers

599: Other Description: Issues related to other labor policy

6. Education

600: General Description: Includes issues related to general education policy, including appropriations for government agencies regulating education policy

601: Higher Description: Includes issues related to higher education, student loans and education finance, and the regulation of colleges and universities

602: Elementary & Secondary Description: Includes issues related to elementary and primary schools, school reform, safety in schools, and efforts to generally improve educational standards and outcomes

603: Underprivileged Description: Includes issues related to education of underprivileged students, including adult literacy programs, bilingual education needs, and rural education initiatives

604: Vocational Description: Includes issues related to vocational education for children and adults and their impact

606: Special Description: Includes issues related to special education and education for the physically or mentally handicapped

607: Excellence Description: Includes issues related to education excellence, including efforts to increase the quality of specific areas, such as math, science or foreign language skills

698: R&D Description: Includes issues related to research and development in education

699: Other Description: Includes issues related to other subtopics in education policy

7. Environment

700: General Description: Includes issues related to general environmental policy, including appropriations for government agencies regulating environmental policy

701: Drinking Water Description: Includes issues related to domestic drinking water safety, supply, pollution, and additives (e.g., fluoridation)

703: Waste Disposal Description: Includes issues related to the disposal and treatment of wastewater, solid waste and runoff.

704: Hazardous Waste Description: Includes issues related to hazardous waste and toxic chemical regulation, treatment, and disposal

705: Air Pollution Description: Includes issues related to air pollution, climate change, and noise pollution

707: Recycling Description: Includes issues related to recycling, reuse, and resource conservation

708: Indoor Hazards Description: Includes issues related to indoor environmental hazards, indoor air contamination (including on airlines), and indoor hazardous substances such as asbestos

709: Species & Forest Description: Includes issues related to species and forest protection, endangered species, control of the domestic illicit trade in wildlife products, and regulation of laboratory or performance animals

711: Land and Water Conservation Description: Includes issues related to land and water resource conservation

798: R&D Description: Includes issues related to research and development in environmental technology, not including alternative energy

799: Other Description: Includes issues related to other environmental subtopics

8. Energy

800: General Description: Includes issues generally related to energy policy, including appropriations for government agencies regulating energy policy

801: Nuclear Description: Includes issues related to nuclear energy, safety and security, and disposal of nuclear waste

802: Electricity Description: Includes issues related to general electricity, hydropower, and regulation of electrical utilities

803: Natural Gas & Oil Description: Includes issues related to natural gas and oil, drilling, oil spills and flaring, oil and gas prices, shortages and gasoline regulation

805: Coal Description: Includes issues related to coal production, use, trade, and regulation, including coal gasification and clean coal technologies

806: Alternative & Renewable Description: Includes issues related to alternative and renewable energy, biofuels, hydrogen and geothermal power

807: Conservation Description: Includes issues related to energy conservation and energy efficiency, including vehicles, homes, commercial use and government

898: R&D Description: Includes issues related to energy research and development

899: Other Description: Includes issues related to other energy subtopics

9. Immigration

900: Immigration Description: Includes issues related to immigration, refugees, and citizenship

10. Transportation

1000: General Description: Includes issues related generally to transportation, including appropriations for government agencies regulating transportation policy

1001: Mass Description: Includes issues related to mass transportation construction, regulation, safety, and availability

1002: Highways Description: Includes issues related to public highway construction, maintenance, and safety

1003: Air Travel Description: Includes issues related to air travel, regulation and safety of aviation, airports, air traffic control, pilot training, and aviation technology

1005: Railroad Travel Description: Includes issues related to railroads, rail travel, rail freight, and the development and deployment of new rail technologies

1007: Maritime Description: Includes issues related to maritime transportation, including maritime freight and shipping, safety and security, and inland waterways and channels

1010: Infrastructure Description: Includes issues related to infrastructure and public works, including employment initiatives

1098: R&D Description: Includes issues related to transportation research and development

1099: Other Description: Includes issues related to other transportation subtopics

12. Law and Crime

1200: General Description: Includes issues related to general law, crime, and family issues

1201: Agencies Description: Includes issues related to all law enforcement agencies, including border, customs, and other specialized enforcement agencies and their appropriations

1202: White Collar Crime Description: Includes issues related to white collar crime, organized crime, counterfeiting and fraud, cyber-crime, and money laundering

1203: Illegal Drugs Description: Issues related to illegal drug crime and enforcement, criminal penalties for drug crimes, including international efforts to combat drug trafficking

1204: Court Administration Description: Includes issues related to court administration, judiciary appropriations, guidelines for bail, pre-release, fines and legal representation

1205: Prisons Description: Includes issues related to prisons and jails, parole systems, and appropriations

1206: Juvenile Crime Description: Includes issues related to juvenile crime and justice, juvenile prisons and jails, and efforts to reduce juvenile crime and recidivism

1207: Child Abuse Description: Includes issues related to child abuse, child pornography, sexual exploitation of children and parental kidnapping

1208: Family Issues Description: Includes issues related to family issues, domestic violence, child welfare, family law

1210: Criminal & Civil Code Description: Includes issues related to domestic criminal and civil codes, including crimes not mentioned in other subtopics

1211: Crime Control Description: Includes issues related to the control, prevention, and impact of crime

1227: Police Description: Includes issues related to Police and other general domestic security responses to terrorism, such as special police

1299: Other Description: Includes issues related to other law, crime, and family subtopics

13. Social Welfare

1300: General Description: Includes issues generally related to social welfare policy

1302: Low-Income Assistance Description: Includes issues related to poverty assistance for low-income families, including food assistance programs, programs to assess or alleviate welfare dependency and tax credits directed at low-income families

1303: Elderly Assistance Description: Includes issues related to elderly issues and elderly assistance, including government pensions

1304: Disabled Assistance Description: Includes issues related to aid for people with physical or mental disabilities

1305: Volunteer Associations Description: Includes issues related to domestic volunteer associations, charities, and youth organizations

1308: Child Care Description: Includes issues related to parental leave and child care

1399: Other Description: Includes issues related to other social welfare policy subtopics

14. Housing

1400: General Description: Includes issues related generally to housing and urban affairs

1401: Community Development Description: Includes issues related to housing and community development, neighborhood development, and national housing policy

1403: Urban Development Description: Includes issues related to urban development and general urban issues

1404: Rural Housing Description: Includes issues related to rural housing

1405: Rural Development Description: Includes non-housing issues focused on economic, infrastructure, and other developments in non-urban areas

1406: Low-Income Assistance Description: Includes issues related to housing for low-income individuals and families, including public housing projects and housing affordability programs

1407: Veterans Description: Includes issues related to housing for military veterans and their families, including subsidies for veterans

1408: Elderly Description: Includes issues related to housing for the elderly, including housing facilities for the handicapped elderly

1409: Homeless Description: Includes issues related to housing for the homeless and efforts to reduce homelessness

1498: R&D Description: Includes issues related to housing and community development research and development

1499: Other Description: Other issues related to housing and community development

15. Domestic Commerce

1500: General Description: Includes issues generally related to domestic commerce, including appropriations for government agencies regulating domestic commerce

1501: Banking Description: Includes issues related to the regulation of national banking systems and other non-bank financial institutions

1502: Securities & Commodities Description: Includes issues related to the regulation and facilitation of securities and commodities trading, regulation of investments and related industries, and exchanges

1504: Consumer Finance Description: Includes issues related to consumer finance, mortgages, credit cards, access to credit records, and consumer credit fraud

1505: Insurance Regulation Description: Includes issues related to insurance regulation, fraud and abuse in the insurance industry, the financial health of the insurance industry, and insurance availability and cost

1507: Bankruptcy Description: Includes issues related to personal, commercial, and municipal bankruptcies

1520: Corporate Management Description: Includes issues related to corporate mergers, antitrust regulation, corporate accounting and governance, and corporate management

1521: Small Businesses Description: Includes issues related to small businesses, including programs to promote and subsidize small businesses

1522: Copyrights and Patents Description: Includes issues related to copyrights and patents, patent reform, and intellectual property

1523: Disaster Relief Description: Includes issues related to domestic natural disaster relief, disaster or flood insurance, and natural disaster preparedness

1524: Tourism Description: Issues related to tourism regulation, promotion, and impact

1525: Consumer Safety Description: Includes issues related to consumer fraud and safety in domestic commerce

1526: Sports Regulation Description: Includes issues related to the regulation and promotion of sports, gambling, and personal fitness

1598: R&D Description: Includes issues related to domestic commerce research and development

1599: Other Description: Includes issues related to other domestic commerce policy subtopics

16. Defense

1600: General Description: Includes issues related generally to defense policy, and appropriations for agencies that oversee general defense policy

1602: Alliances Description: Includes issues related to defense alliance and agreement, security assistance, and UN peacekeeping activities

1603: Intelligence Description: Includes issues related to military intelligence, espionage, and covert operations

1604: Readiness Description: Includes issues related to military readiness, coordination of armed services air support and sealift capabilities, and national stockpiles of strategic materials.

1605: Nuclear Arms Description: Includes issues related to nuclear weapons, nuclear proliferation, modernization of nuclear equipment

1606: Military Aid Description: Includes issues related to military aid to other countries and the control of arms sales to other countries

1608: Personnel Issues Description: Includes issues related to military manpower, military personel and their dependents, military courts, and general veterans' issues

1610: Procurement Description: Includes issues related to military procurement, conversion of old equipment, and weapons systems evaluation

1611: Installations & Land Description: Includes issues related to military installations, construction, and land transfers

1612: Reserve Forces Description; Issues related to military reserves and reserve affairs

1614: Hazardous Waste Description: Includes issues related to military nuclear and hazardous waste disposal and military environmental compliance

1615: Civil Description: Includes issues related to domestic civil defense, national security responses to terrorism, and other issues related to homeland security

1616: Civilian Personnel Description: Includes issues related to non-contractor civilian personnel, civilian employment in the defense industry, and military base closings

1617: Contractors Description: Includes issues related to military contractors and contracting, oversight of military contrators and fraud by military contractors

1619: Foreign Operations Description: Includes issues related to direct war-related foreign military operations, prisoners of war and collateral damage to civilian populations

1620: Claims against Military Description: Includes issues related to claims against the military, settlements for military dependents, and compensation for civilians injured in military operations

1698: R&D Description: Includes issues related to defense research and development

1699: Other Description: Includes issues related to other defense policy subtopics

17. Technology

1700: General Description: Includes issues related to general space, science, technology, and communications

1701: Space Description: Includes issues related to the government use of space and space resource exploitation agreements, government space programs and space exploration, military use of space

1704: Commercial Use of Space Description: Includes issues related to the regulation and promotion of commercial use of space, commercial satellite technology, and government efforts to encourage commercial space development

1705: Science Transfer Description: Includes issues related to science and technology transfer and international science cooperation

1706: Telecommunications Description: Includes issues related to telephones and telecommunication regulation, infrastructure for high-speed internet, and other forms of telecommunication (e.g., mobile phones)

1707: Broadcast Description: Includes issues related to the broadcast industry, published media, and control of the electromagnetic spectrum

1708: Weather Forecasting Description: Includes issues related to weather forecasting, oceanography, geological surveys, and weather forecasting research and technology

1709: Computers Description: Includes issues relating to the computer industry, regulation of the internet, and cyber security

1798: R&D Description: Includes issues related to space, science, technology, and communication research and development not mentioned in other subtopics.

1799: Other Description: Includes issues related to other space, science, technology, and communication research and development

18. Foreign Trade

1800: General Description: Includes issues generally related to foreign trade and appropriations for government agencies generally regulating foreign trade

1802: Trade Agreements Description: Includes issues related to trade negotiations, disputes, and agreements, including tax treaties

1803: Exports Description: Includes issues related to export regulation, subsidies, promotion, and control

1804: Private Investments Description: Includes issues related to international private business investment and corporate development

1806: Competitiveness Description: Includes issues related to productivity of competitiveness of domestic businesses and balance of payments issues

1807: Tariff & Imports Description: Includes issues related to tariffs and other barriers to imports, import regulation and impact of imports on domestic industries

1808: Exchange Rates Description: Includes issues related to exchange rate and related issues

1899: Other Description: Includes issues related to other foreign trade policy subtopics

19. International Affairs

1900: General Description: Includes issues related to general international affairs and foreign aid, including appropriations for general government foreign affairs agencies

1901: Foreign Aid Description: Includes issues related to foreign aid not directly targeting at increasing international development

1902: Resources Exploitation Description: Includes issues related to international resources exploitation and resources agreements, law of the sea and international ocean conservation efforts

1905: Developing Countries Description: Includes issues related specifically to developing countries (for Financial Issues see 1906)

1906: International Finance Description: Includes issues related to international finance and economic development, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, regional development banks, sovereign debt and implications for international lending institutions

1910: Western Europe Description: Includes issues related to Western Europe and the European Union

1921: Specific Country Description: Includes issues related specifically to a foreign country or region not codable using other codes, assessment of political issues in other countries, relations between individual countries

1925: Human Rights Description: Includes issues related to human rights, human rights violations, human rights treaties and conventions, UN reports on human rights, crimes associated with genocide or crimes against humanity

1926: Organizations Description: International organizations, NGOs, the United Nations, International Red Cross, UNESCO, International Olympic Committee, International Criminal Court

1927: Terrorism Description: Includes issues related to international terrorism, hijacking, and acts of piracy in other countries, efforts to fight international terrorism, international legal mechanisms to combat terrorism

1929: Diplomats; Description: Includes issues related to diplomats, diplomacy, embassies, citizens abroad, foreign diplomats in the country, visas and passports

1999: Other; Description: Includes issues related to other international affairs policy subtopics

20. Government Operations

2000: General; Description: Includes issues related to general government operations, including appropriations for multiple government agencies

2001: Intergovernmental Relations; Description: Includes issues related to intergovernmental relations, local government issues

2002: Bureaucracy; Description: Includes issues related to general government efficiencies and bureaucratic oversight

2003: Postal Service; Description: Includes issues related to postal services, regulation of mail, and post-civil service

2004: Employees; Description: Includes issues related to civil employees not mentioned in other subtopics, government pensions and general civil service issues

2005: Appointments; Description: Includes issues related to nominations and appointments not mentioned elsewhere

2006: Currency; Description: Includes issues related the currency, national mints, medals, and commemorative coins

2007: Procurement & Contractors; Description: Includes issues related to government procurement, government contractors, contractor and procurement fraud, and procurement processes and systems

2008: Property Management; Description: Includes issues related to government property management, construction, and regulation

2009: Tax Administration; Description: Includes issues related to tax administration, enforcement, and auditing for both individuals and corporations

2010: Scandals; Description: Includes issues related to public scandal and impeachment

2011: Branch Relations: Description: Includes issues related to government branch relations, administrative issues, and constitutional reforms

2012: Political Campaigns: Description: Includes issues related to the regulation of political campaigns, campaign finance, political advertising and voter registration

2013: Census & Statistics: Description: Includes issues related to census and statistics collection by government

2014: Capital City: Description: Includes issues related to the capital city

2015: Claims against the government: Description: Includes issues related to claims against the government, compensation for the victims of terrorist attacks, compensation policies without other substantive provisions

2030: National Holidays: Description: Includes issues related to national holidays and their observation

2099: Other; Description: Includes issues related to other government operations subtopics

21. Public Lands

2100: General; Description: Includes issues related to general public lands, water management, and territorial issues

2101: National Parks; Description: Includes issues related to national parks, memorials, historic sites, and recreation, including the management and staffing of cultural sites

2102: Indigenous Affairs; Description: Includes issues related to indigenous affairs, indigenous lands, and assistance to indigenous people

2103: Public Lands; Description: Includes issues related to natural resources, public lands, and forest management, including forest fires, livestock grazing

2104: Water Resources; Description: Includes issues related to water resources, water resource development and civil works, flood control, and research

2105: Dependencies & Territories; Description: Includes issues related to territorial and dependency issues and devolution

2199: Other; Description: Includes issues related to other public lands policy subtopics

23. Culture

2300: General; Description: Includes issues related to general cultural policy issues