International Treaty Ratification Votes Database (ITRVD): Codebook

The International Treaty Ratification Votes Database (ITRVD) includes data on 6,010 parliamentary votes on the ratification of international treaties for the period between 1990 and 2019 in Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

Citation

In papers or publications using this database, we ask users to refer to the database as the International Treaty Ratification Votes Database and cite documentation as follows:

> **Falk Ostermann, Florian Böller, Anna Herranz-Surrallés, Juliet Kaarbo, Philippe Lagassé, Benjamin Martill, Michal Onderco, Tapio Raunio, Özlem Terzi, Valerio Vignoli, and Wolfgang Wagner. 2022. *International Treaty Ratification Votes Database*. www.treatyratificationvotes.eu.**

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Database Content

The database comes in two datasets:

1) *ITRVD_v1_votes* provides information on the each of the treaty ratification votes.
2) *ITRVD_v1_party-votes* provides data on how political parties voted in particular treaty ratification votes.

ITRVD_v1_votes

The ITRVD_v1_votes dataset includes data on the following variables for each of the treaty ratification votes.

country	3-letter country abbreviation (based on *Correlates of War* project): CAN = Canada FIN = Finland FRN = France GMY = Germany ITA = Italy SLO = Slovakia SPN = Spain TUR = Turkey UKG = United Kingdom USA = United States of America
cabinet	Name of the governing cabinet in office, e.g. *Dzurinda I* (Slovakia) exception USA: presidential terms source: ParlGov
year_vote	Year of the vote
date_vote	Date of the vote
chamber	Chamber of parliament in which the vote took place, including country code for disambiguation
treaty_name_EN_short	Shortened version of the treaty or motion's name
vote_name_long_EN	Full name of the treaty or motion as voted in parliament
vote_name_long_original_vote	Full name of the treaty or motion as voted in parliament, in native language
vote_parl_document_ID	ID of the motion in parliamentary documents register
vote_parl_URL	URL of document_ID
date_treaty_signature	Date of the treaty's signature
multilateral_treaty	Dummy variable, coded 1 if vote was held on a multilateral treaty and 0 otherwise
multilat_treaty_via_intl_org	Dummy variable, coded 1 if vote was held on a treaty that an international organization of which the country is a member concluded with one or more other countries, and 0 otherwise
bilat_treaty	Dummy variable, coded 1 if vote was held on a bilateral treaty and 0 otherwise
treaty_issue_area_1	Main issue area that the treaty covers: agriculture, fishery, food arms control and disarmament citizenship civil and family law communication and post/mail culture development diplomacy

	EC/EU economics and finance energy environment general cooperation health human and civil rights labor migration, asylum, refugees NATO nuclear (civilian) policing and criminal law cooperation science, research, education security and defense social security space sports taxation tourism trade and investment transportation
treaty_issue_area_2	Additional issue area coded if appropriate; same list as in treaty_issue_area_1
treaty_issue_area_meta	Additional meta-level issue area variable: coded ***diplomacy*** if treaty_issue_area_1 is one of the following: citizenship civil and family law communication and post/mail culture diplomacy EC/EU environment general cooperation health human and civil rights migration, asylum, refugees nuclear (civilian) science, research, education space sports coded ***economy*** if treaty_issue_area_1 is one of the following: agriculture, fishery, food development economics and finance energy

	labor social security taxation tourism trade and investment transportation coded ***security*** if treaty_issue_area_1 is one of the following: arms control and disarmament NATO policing and criminal law cooperation security and defense
mandatory_vote	Dummy variable, coded 1 if vote in parliament is considered mandatory under constitutional procedures and 0 if otherwise
RCV	Dummy variable, coded 1 if number of votes were recorded and 0 if vote was taken otherwise, such as by acclamation
yes_votes_parl	Total number of MPs voting in favour of ratification NB: coded "ACC" (accepted) or "unACC" (unanimously accepted) if RCV = 0
no_votes_parl	Total number of MPs voting against ratification, the motion NB: coded "ACC" (accepted) or "unACC" (unanimously accepted) if RCV = 0
abstentions_parl	Total number of MPs abstaining (including technical abstentions in the British House of Commons) NB: coded "ACC" (accepted) or "unACC" (unanimously accepted) if RCV = 0
votes_cast_parl	Sum of yes-votes, no-votes, and abstentions
Share_yes_votes_parl	No-votes divided by votes cast
Share_no_votes_parl	Yes-votes divided by votes cast
AI	Agreement Index: developed by Simon Hix, Abdul Noury and Gérard Roland („Power to the Parties: Cohesion and Competition in the European Parliament, 1979–2001", *British Journal of Political Science* **35**:2, 209–234). The precise formula is $AI_i = \frac{\max\{Y_i, N_i, A_i\} - \frac{1}{2}[(Y_i + N_i + A_i) - \max\{Y_i, N_i, A_i\}}{(Y_i + N_i + A_i)}$ where Y = number of yes votes; N = number of no-votes and A = number of abstentions. The AI equals 1 when all MPs vote together and it equals 0 when they are equally divided between the voting options.

ITRVD_party-votes

The ITRVD_v1_party-votes dataset includes data on 11,523 party votes and the following variables for each instance of a political party voting on a treaty ratification.

A full list of parties included in the dataset can be found in the separate file *ITRVD_v1_list of parties*.

country	3-letter country abbreviation (based on *Correlates of War* project): CAN = Canada FIN = Finland GMY = Germany ITA = Italy SLK = Slovakia TUR= Turkey UKG = United Kingdom USA = United States of America
year_vote	Year of the vote
date_vote	Date of the vote
chamber	Chamber of parliament in which the vote took place, including country code
treaty_name_EN_short	Shortened version of the treaty or motion's name
party_abbreviation_native	Commonly used abbreviation of political party in original language (plus country code for disambiguation, if necessary). If the party changed its name in the period covered by the dataset but retains the identity assigned by MARPOR, we use abbreviations as of the time of the vote.
party_name_full_EN	Full name of political party at the time of the vote in English, if available taken from MARPOR
party_name_full_native	Full name of political party at the time of the vote in original language
CMP_ID	Party identifier assigned by MARPOR
party_family_code_CMP	Party family code assigned by MARPOR
party_family_CMP	Party family as assigned by MARPOR
CHES_ID	Party identifier assigned by Chapel Hill Expert Survey
party_family_CHES	Party family assigned by Chapel Hill Expert Survey
party_family_ITRVD	Party family coding, based on MARPOR and expert decision radical-left green social-democratic liberal chriscon radical-right no family
regional_party	Dummy variable, coded 1 if party is a regional party and 0 otherwise
yes-votes	Number of MPs from the party who voted "yes"
no-votes	Number of MPs from the party who voted "no"
abstentions	Number of MPs from the party who abstained
votes_cast	Total number of MPs who participated in the vote
share_yes_votes	No-votes divided by votes cast

share_no_votes	Yes-votes divided by votes cast
gov_opp	opp = party is in opposition gov = party is in government Party families during caretaker governments supporting the government are coded as "gov". (Source: ParlGov, with deviations introduced by country experts)
gov_opp_num	0 = party is in opposition 1 = party is in government -99 = unknown

Background to coding

Detailed coding info for specific coder decisions in each country can be found in the separate file *ITRVD_v1_background to coding*.