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# ALERTA HEMEROGRÁFICA

No. 359  
JUNIO 2023



**Título:** *Parliament as a steppingstone? Patterns of post-parliamentary careers in The Netherlands between 1967 and 2017.*

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**Revista:** Acta Polit. International Journal of Political Science ( March 2023).

**Editorial:** PalgraveMcmillan.

**ISSNe:** 1741-1416

**Versión electrónica:** <https://bit.ly/3JUruEf>

**Nota:** Disponible para consulta en los servicios las Bases de Datos Institucionales para la Cámara de Diputados.

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Página web: <https://www.springernature.com/gp>

### RESUMEN:

Not much is known about Members of Parliament (MPs) after they leave parliament. This study addresses this empirical gap by analysing post-parliamentary employment in The Netherlands between 1967 and 2017. With 970 post-parliamentary careers included, it ranks among the most extensive studies into post-parliamentary career attractiveness up to date and a first inquiry into the development over time. By employing two different measures of attractiveness, this study provides two main findings: first, MPs are increasingly transferring towards a more attractive post-parliamentary career in the 50 years under study, indicating changing patterns in post-parliamentary employment opportunities. Second, by comparing the development in patterns between private and political sector post-parliamentary careers, this study finds that the increase can mainly be attributed to an increase in private sector post-parliamentary careers. Not only are MPs increasingly moving towards the private sector, but they are also increasingly able to gain a more or similar attractive private sector function as of an MP. As a result, the findings indicate substantially different career opportunities, which, in turn, could have significant implications for parliamentary democracy.

### SUMMARY:

Abstract  
Development of the MP position  
Political ambition: MP as the first career  
Who gains?  
Research design  
Career attractiveness as a variable  
Robustness check of attractiveness

### Results

#### Development of post-parliamentary careers

Fig. 1 Percentage of MPs that acquires a more attractive post-parliamentary career or an equally attractive post-parliamentary career based on the measures of salary and top functions

Fig. 2 Percentage of MPs that leave parliament coming from a more attractive background career or an equally attractive background career based on the measures of salary and top functions

Fig. 3 Percentage of background and post-parliamentary careers in the political and private sector of the total percentage of careers  
Sectoral differences: who gains?

Fig. 4 Percentage, for both the measure of salary as top functions, of similarly and more attractive postparliamentary career per sector

Career attractiveness measurements

Career attractiveness measurements

Table 1 Logistic regression analysis of leaving voluntarily and more or equally attractive post-parliamentary careers

Discussion and conclusion

References