

Political advisers in Latvia: a political start-up or a reserve bench

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Abstract: Latvian ministers have their bureaus consisting of the office manager and several political advisers appointed. Roles, functions, and selection criteria for advisers are solely left at discretion of the ministers and political parties they do represent. The mass media, experts and opponents have raised question on role of political advisers from time to time. As, the issue is not regulated by the law, political advisers are still in the shadow. They do participate in policy making and coordination; however, their true power is not outlined. Public perception of political advisers is mainly negative. There is a public assumption that advisers are either failed politicians at the last elections or the ones who are supposed to be prepared to stand for the next elections. There is also such a radical public opinion that political advisers are an access point for bureaucratic resources.

The paper intends to analyse role of ministerial advisers (partisan appointees, political advisers, policy adviser) in CEE and their institutional arrangements. Thus, the will cover the selection and recruitment of political advisers as well as their actions performed in the policy cycle.