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The current members of the European Round Table: A transnational club of economic elites

Symposium Article | Published: 30 September 2010

Volume 8, pages 275–293, (2010) [Cite this article](#)

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elites therefore intends to give some clues to reinterpret the power of economic elites in a more socially informed way.

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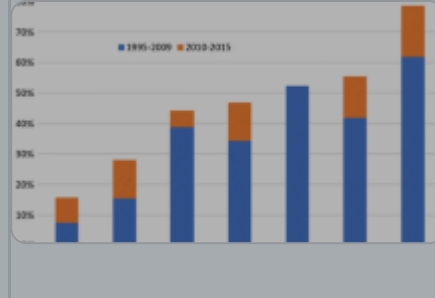
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Seeking solutions for cross-border problems: intuitive functionalists and support for the European Union

Notes

1. For a synthesis of the debate, see [Puchala \(1999\)](#).
2. Without opening here this specific debate, it can be underlined that the main problem of the research about a transnational capitalist class (see, for instance, [Sklair, 2001](#)) is that it delivers little evidence about the relations

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5. Among the 18 countries, 15 are member states of the European Union (the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Finland, Hungary, Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria and Denmark) and three are not (Turkey, Norway and Switzerland).
6. Since the second half of 2008, there is a woman in the ERT group: Güler Sabançi, from Turkey.
7. We use the ranking of the 2000 biggest companies worldwide, established by the magazine *Forbes* and titled 'Forbes Global 2000' for 2007. It takes into account the sales, the benefits, the resources of the firms and the value on the markets.

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available on the websites of the different firms. The construction of these databases relies on self-declaration. This means that some information can be voluntary hidden and some might be 'massaged' by the people studied here.

12. The 'Bilderberg Club' or the 'Bilderberg conferences' is a space of sociability that gathers, unofficially, more than a hundred members selected among political and economic elites from Europe and North America. It has held annual meetings since the 1950s.
13. For Boltanski, the analysis of the positions of power can be used to measure the social surface area of the members - that is to say to assess the extent and the nature of their social capital - and, at least in part, the extent and

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18. Interview with a French ERT member, Paris, April 2009.

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Pageaut, A. The current members of the European Round Table: A transnational club of economic elites. *Fr Polit* 8, 275–293 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1057/fp.2010.14>

Published

Issue Date

30 September 2010

01 September 2010

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.1057/fp.2010.14>

Keywords

[economic elites](#)

[interest groups](#)

[European Union](#)

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