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# How Voters Hold the European People's Party Accountable in European Parliament Elections

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# How Voters Hold the European People's Party Accountable in European Parliament Elections

## **Abstract**

The established consensus is that voters do not hold European Union leaders accountable for their management of the economy in European Parliament elections, which contributes to the EU's democratic deficit. However, the existing research misses a comparison between those who feel that the national government is responsible for their economic situation and those who feel the EU is responsible. The analysis is based on surveys of the 28 EU members. I find that when one assigns more responsibility to the EU than the national government for national economic conditions, satisfaction with the economy increases the likelihood of voting for the European People's Party, the dominant party group in the EU. This study presents the first evidence of individuals' accountability-holding behaviour towards the EPP.

## **Keywords**

European People's Party, voting behaviour, public opinion, European Parliament, elections

## **Disciplines**

Comparative Politics



**How voters hold the European People's Party accountable in European Parliament elections**

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3 TITLE: How voters hold the European People's Party accountable in European Parliament  
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13 ABSTRACT  
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15 The established consensus is that voters do not hold European Union leaders accountable for  
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17 their management of the economy in European Parliament elections, which contributes to the  
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19 EU's democratic deficit. However, the existing research misses a comparison between those who  
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21 feel that the national government is responsible for their economic situation and those who feel  
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23 the EU is responsible. The analysis is based on surveys of the twenty-eight EU members. I find  
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25 that when one assigns more responsibility to the EU than the national government for national  
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27 economic conditions, satisfaction with the economy increases the likelihood of voting for the  
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29 European People's Party, the dominant party group in the EU. This study presents the first  
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31 evidence of individuals' accountability-holding behavior towards the EPP.  
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39 Key words: European People's Party, Voting Behavior, Public Opinion, European Parliament,  
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3 A growing body of scholarly research points to European Parliamentary elections as a  
4 sign that the European Union (EU) possesses a democratic deficit, where citizens cannot hold  
5 EU leaders accountable. The role of the European Parliament (EP) is to serve as an electoral  
6 connection, but existing research shows that EP elections reflect domestic political conflicts  
7 involving the national government, and the performance of EU leaders do not shape voters'  
8 choices (Hix and Marsh 2007; Hix and Marsh 2011; Hobolt and Tilley 2014a; Weber 2011; de  
9 Vreese et al. 2006). These findings have major implications for democratic accountability,  
10 because they suggest that the role of elections has diminished in policy-making in Europe. This  
11 study presents evidence to the contrary by showing that citizens evaluate the EU's management  
12 of economies and vote in EP elections based on its performance.  
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27 Do voters reward EU leaders for their performance, and under what conditions does this  
28 behavior occur? The established consensus is that voters do not reward EU leaders. In other  
29 words, Europeans do not engage in 'economic voting' based on the EU level of governance in  
30 the EP elections. While the existing research addresses the responsibility one assigns to the EU,  
31 what it misses is a comparison between those who feel that the national government is  
32 responsible for their economic situation and those who feel the EU is responsible. In a context  
33 where national governments and the EU share authority, the responsibility one assigns to both  
34 the EU *and* one's government for the economy needs to be used when explaining vote choice.  
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46 Following the competency model of economic voting, voters condition their choice on  
47 the incumbents' record of economic performance "because this is the optimal way to identify and  
48 elect competent economic managers under conditions of uncertainty" (Duch and Stevenson 2008,  
49 2). I argue that voters recognize the center-right parties of the European People's Party (EPP) as  
50 the most powerful party group in EU politics. **The European People's Party is a party group**  
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3 **in the European Parliament comprised of center-right parties throughout the EU's**  
4 **members. They won 36 percent of EP seats in 2009 and 29 percent of EP seats in 2014,**  
5 **making the EPP the largest party group in the parliament. Politicians from the EPP not**  
6 **only have the most votes in the parliament, but they also have led the European**  
7 **Commission in recent years (the Barroso Commission and the Juncker Commission).**  
8 **Moreover, the first two elected Presidents of the European Council have been members of**  
9 **the EPP (Herman Van Rompuy and Donald Tusk). The EPP held the most representation**  
10 **in the European Councils with thirteen heads of government at the time of the 2009 EP**  
11 **election and eleven heads of government at the time of the 2014 EP election, which include**  
12 **German Chancellor Angela Merkel who arguably is the most influential politician in**  
13 **Europe. If the voters hold the EPP accountable, the EU signals competence in economic**  
14 **management to voters, alongside the signals they receive from the national government. Voters**  
15 **recognize the EU's influence over national economies, discern whether the EPP's leadership**  
16 **subjectively acts in their economic interest, and vote accordingly. I expect that the positive**  
17 **effect of satisfaction with the national economy on one's likelihood to vote for the EPP increases**  
18 **as one views the EU as more responsible for the economy *in comparison to* one's government.**

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41 In this study I gauge the conditions under which economic voting affects votes for the  
42 European People's Party (EPP), the dominant, incumbent political group at the EU level, which  
43 includes the largest number of European Parliament members (MEPs), the European  
44 Commission Presidency, and the European Council Presidency. The analysis is based on the  
45 European Election Studies' surveys of 28 European states, representing the 2009 and 2014  
46 European Parliament elections. In order to operationalize the responsibility one assigns to the  
47 EU, I construct a measure that separates those who attribute more responsibility to the national  
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3 government for the economy and those who attribute more responsibility to the EU for the  
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5 economy.  
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8 I find that the positive effect of economic satisfaction on the likelihood of voting for the  
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10 EPP increases, as voters assign greater responsibility to the EU for national economic conditions.  
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12 Hence, Europeans exhibit key behaviors that are necessary for an accountable EU democracy, a  
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14 political system where people make their political decisions based on the performance of the  
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16 EU's leadership (desiring more competent managers of the economy). I show that these results  
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18 do not hold when I exclude respondents' considerations of the responsibility of the national  
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20 government. The analysis shows that these effects are stronger in the Eurozone, where the stakes  
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22 in the EU's economic management are high.  
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### 27 **Holding the European Union Accountable in European Parliament Elections**

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29 While the European Union has acquired more powers over the years, existing research  
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31 suggests that the people do not pay attention to the European Union level governance, they are  
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33 not excited by EP elections (reflected in low voter turn-out), and they make their vote choice in  
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35 EP elections based on national issues (Hix and Marsh 2007; Hix and March 2011; Schmitt 2005).  
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37 Hence, elections arguably are functioning less as mechanisms to influence policy-making, and  
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39 the EU institutions shape more policies in an environment that is insulated from electoral  
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41 outcomes (Nanou and Dorussen 2013). This phenomenon is called the 'democratic deficit' and  
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43 it presents a puzzle for researchers: if the EU has power over important policies, why have we  
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45 not observed an economic vote in EP elections? If the EU's performance as managers of the  
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47 economy shaped vote choice, a higher quality electoral connection between citizens and the EP  
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49 would exist; thereby alleviating the democratic deficit. Do voters hold EU leaders to account for  
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51 their governance?  
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3 The existing research suggests that EU elections are second-order elections where the  
4 national context dominate the voters' considerations. Hix and Marsh (2007) examine changes in  
5 the vote shares received by parties between a European Parliament election and the last national  
6 election. They show that losses in the EP elections are function of the government size. They  
7 suggest that European Parliamentary elections provide voters serve as an opportunity to punish  
8 the national incumbents, more so than a protest against the EU. They further argue that "Europe  
9 remains at best a minor element in these elections in most cases... these general findings were as  
10 true in 2004 and they were in 1979" (Hix and March 2007: 506). In their follow up article, Hix  
11 and Marsh (2011) include data from the 2009 election, and once again they find that second-  
12 order election model holds across all the EP elections. The parties in government and parties  
13 with large vote shares tend to be punished by the voters in the European Parliament elections.  
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29 On the other hand, Hobolt and Spoon's (2012) suggest that economic voting influences  
30 EP elections (see also Bartkowska and Tiemann 2015; Clarke and Rohrschneider 2009; Tilley et  
31 al. 2008). When modeling citizens' choices to vote or abstain, and citizens' choices to switch  
32 parties between the EP election and the last national election, they find that concerns about  
33 European integration had a statistically significant effect. They attribute these effects to the  
34 politicization of the EU in one's country, which increases the salience and controversy of the  
35 issue of integration. However, they do not examine whether party groups benefit in terms of  
36 popular support, which would indicate that voters can hold EU party groups accountable.  
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48 Hobolt and Tilley (2014a) provide a comprehensive analyses in terms of opinions on  
49 responsibility assignment towards the EU and accountability-holding in the EP elections.  
50 Alongside Hobolt and Tilley (2014b), they show that dissatisfaction with economic conditions  
51 influences the responsibility assigned to the EU. They show that when one supports the EU and  
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3 has a positive economic evaluation, one is more likely to assign responsibility to the EU for the  
4 economy. They refer to this responsibility-assignment as group serving attribution bias (people  
5 who like the EU assign it credit for subjectively good things). They elaborate on the economic  
6 vote and how voters evaluate the performance of the incumbent EU leadership. They define  
7 incumbency by membership in the European People's Party, the dominant political group at the  
8 EU level. Voters recognize the center-right parties as the most powerful forces in EU politics. It  
9 follows that a positive evaluation of the national economy would be expressed in a vote for the  
10 EPP (an economic vote). They find null results, which suggest that we cannot be confident that  
11 voters make their EPP vote choice based on their economic situations. They interpret this result  
12 to mean that voters do not hold EU leadership to account for its past performance. Voters  
13 ostensibly were not able to discern who to blame at the EU level for the management of the  
14 economy.

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What Hobolt and Tilley's approach misses are the different targets of voters' blame in Europe's multi-level system of governance: both the EU and the national government. In a study of national elections in Southern European countries, Lobo and Lewis-Beck (2012) show that voters are less likely to reward governments for good economic performance when they assign more responsibility to the EU for the economy. They also show that those who assign more responsibility to the EU than the national government are less likely reward governments with their votes. However, voters may be able to find new targets of blame in their economic voting. EP elections provide a context where voters can vote directly for politicians who help make regional policies that constrain the national governments.

I incorporate the competency model of economic voting into the study of EP elections (Duch and Stevenson 2008). In this model, the signals received by voters about their economic

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3 context are altered by institutions. This suggests that the European Union's perceived role in  
4 economic affairs affect who one rewards for one's economic satisfaction, which one expresses  
5 with one's vote choice. A subjective signal is picked up by individuals about the EU's role in  
6 economic affairs which leads them to discern the EU leadership's responsibility, and makes the  
7 EU's leadership an object of judgement for one's economic evaluations. Voters then make their  
8 choice based on who performs best in terms of their economic interest.  
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18 Furthermore, citizens can receive signals from the multiple levels of governance (Duch  
19 and Stevenson 2008). Europeans live in a context where national governments and the European  
20 Union share sovereignty over economic matters. Citizens can assign more responsibility to the  
21 national government, more responsibility to the EU, or similar levels of responsibility to both  
22 (Hobolt and Tilley 2014b). The EU's signals regarding competence in economic management  
23 become clearer as one views the EU as more responsible in comparison to the national  
24 government, which produces a stronger economic vote in favor of or against the EPP. Those  
25 who assign similar levels of responsibility to both levels, or more responsibility to the national  
26 government, receive a murkier, less clear signal from the EU which is less likely to compel votes  
27 for or against the EPP.  
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41 It follows that as one assigns more responsibility to the European Union for one's  
42 national economic situation in comparison to the national government, the effect of economic  
43 satisfaction on votes for the EPP intensifies, because voters perceive whether or not the EPP acts  
44 in their economic interest.<sup>1</sup> The strength of the economic vote is defined by the difference in the  
45 probability of an EPP vote between those who are satisfied and dissatisfied with the economy  
46 (the effect of economic satisfaction).  
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3 Hypothesis: The effect of economic satisfaction on the probability of an EPP vote  
4 is greater among those who assign responsibility to the EU for the national  
5 economy in comparison to those who assign responsibility to the national  
6 government for the national economy.  
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## 10 **Research design**

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12 In order to test the hypothesis, I estimate statistical models using data from the European  
13 Election Study (EES). The theory posits that Europeans' attitudes about the economy and the  
14 EU's policy competences influence their vote choices in European Parliamentary elections, and  
15 the EES provides survey data on these topics that is collected from nationally representative  
16 samples of populations in European states. These data include two years of EES surveys: 2009  
17 and 2014, representing the European Parliamentary elections from those years. I select these  
18 years due to the availability of the variables for the statistical models, described below. These  
19 data include the 28 EU member states (Croatia is represented in the 2014 data, after it became an  
20 EU member).  
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### 33 *Variable measurements*

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36 In order to operationalize votes in favor of the EPP, the dependent variable, I use the EES  
37 variable based on the party the respondent chose in the elections. I created a variable where "1"  
38 represents respondents who voted for an EPP member party in the European Parliament  
39 elections, and where "0" represents respondents who voted for a non-EPP member party.  
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41 Center-right Christian democratic and conservative parties make up the EPP. Voters supporting  
42 the EPP represent 26 percent of the data in the following statistical models, the largest share of  
43 the vote (the socialist S&D group represents 23 percent of the votes, the second largest share).  
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53 The EPP provides a target for voters' blame since it represents the most powerful group  
54 throughout the EU's institutions (Hobolt and Tilley 2014a).  
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3 I expect that voters base their choice in favor of or against the EPP on their evaluation of  
4 the economy. In order to operationalize evaluations of the economy, I use the EES variable  
5 based on the question:  
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10 What do you think about the economy? Compared to 12 months ago, do you think  
11 that the general economic situation in [country] is... A lot better (1), A little better  
12 (2), Stayed the same (3), A little worse (4), A lot worse (5) (EES 2014, 13).  
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15 Around 56 percent of respondents believed that the economy got a little worse or a lot worse, 24  
16 percent believed that the economy stayed the same, and 20 percent believed the economy got a  
17 little better or a lot better.  
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22 In order to operationalize the responsibility assigned to the national government, I use the  
23 EES variable based on the question:  
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27 First, thinking about the economy, how responsible is the [country] government  
28 for economic conditions in [country]? Please indicate your views using any  
29 number on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means "no responsibility" and 10 means  
30 "full responsibility". (EES 2014, 9-10)  
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33 Around 78 percent of the respondents believe that the national government is largely responsible  
34 for the economy (a score above "5"), which indicates that most people attribute responsibility for  
35 the national economy to the national government. However, this measure is only part of puzzle.  
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39 In order to operationalize the responsibility assigned to the EU, I use the EES variable based on  
40 the question:  
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45 [Following the question above] And what about the European Union, how  
46 responsible is the EU for economic conditions in [country]? Please indicate your  
47 views using any number on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means "no  
48 responsibility" and 10 means "full responsibility". (EES 2014, 9-10)  
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51 Around 58 percent of the respondents believe that the EU is largely responsible for the economy  
52 (a score above "5"), which indicates that most people also attribute the national economy to the  
53 EU's governance to some extent. When respondents answer these two questions, they tend to  
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3 ascribe responsibility to the institutions. I use information from both of these items to construct  
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5 the measure of responsibility assignment.  
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8         If the scores respondents provided for these two items are different, then I know whether  
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10 they feel the EU or national government is more responsible. For instance, one could provide an  
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12 “8” for the national government item and a “6” for the EU item, and I conclude that they assign  
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14 more responsibility to the national government. I subtract the national government scores from  
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16 the EU scores, which produces a scale (-10 through 10) where positive values represent those  
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18 who feel the EU is more responsible and negative values represents those who feel the national  
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20 government is more responsible (in the statistical models below, the variable is rescaled to 0  
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22 through 20).  
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27         Around 27 percent of respondents provided the same score for EU responsibility and  
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29 national government responsibility (the modal category), while 55 percent of the respondents  
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31 assigned more responsibility to the national government and 18 percent assigned more  
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33 responsibility to the EU. These data suggest that while most respondents feel the national  
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35 government is more responsible, a sizeable portion believe that responsibility is either balanced  
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37 or that the EU is more responsible. The inclusion of this measure as an independent variable is  
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39 important, because Hobolt and Tilley (2014a, 132) use only the EU responsibility scale, and they  
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41 claim that any potential “accountability effects” in their statistical models would be an  
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43 incumbency phenomenon. By including a measure that distinguishes national government and  
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45 EU responsibility, the statistical model can represent the social process of citizens relating their  
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47 economic situations to the responsibility of the national government (whether or not it is member  
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49 of the EPP). Hobolt and Tilley (2014b) deploy this type of measure as a dependent variable, but  
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51 Hobolt and Tilley (2014a) do not use it as an explanatory variable.  
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[Table 1 Around Here]

**In Table 1, I present cross-tabulations of the percentage of votes for the EPP across the groups of theoretical interest.** Those who feel that economy was doing well and assign responsibility to the EU exhibit a higher percentage of votes (27.7 percent) for the EPP in comparison to those who feel that the economy was doing well and assign responsibility to the national government (24.6 percent). The three percentage points may seem small, but it is substantively meaningful in EP elections. For instance, the EPP's loss of around eight percent in the 2014 election yielded a 49 seat loss, while the right-wing's eight percent boost yielded a gain of 89 seats. Among those who feel that the economy was doing badly, the percentage of EPP votes was similar between those who assign responsibility to the EU (25.9 percent) and the national government (26.5 percent).

Other factors may confound the theoretical links between these variables. The EPP may benefit from group-serving attribution bias among those who feel that the economy is doing well (see also Hobolt and Tilley 2014a; 2014b). In other words, people who like the EU attribute a good economy to the EPP more readily than those who dislike the EU (Hobolt and Tilley 2014a: 21; Tilley and Hobolt 2011). Hence, I include a control variable for support for the EU so I can be more confident that I am estimating a performance-evaluation effect as opposed to a group-bias effect. Similarly, I introduce a control for left-right ideology (11 point scale) because conservatives may be more likely to reward the EPP with their vote if they perceive a good economic management, while socialists may be less likely to reward the EPP for successes.

**Hobolt and Tilley (2014) introduce a control variable for affiliation with the EPP in their statistical model explaining vote choices for EPP. These data suggest that EPP affiliation predicts 86 percent of EPP vote choices, suggesting they measure the same**

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3 **phenomenon. Including EPP affiliation does reduce statistical significance in the EPP vote**  
4 **model, but the hypothesized directions of the effects hold when I hold this variable at EPP**  
5 **supporters and non-supporters in the statistical models. I also include a variable for age in**  
6 **order to account for the pro-EU stances among young people, as well as favorability to**  
7 **conservative parties among older voters (Gabel and Palmer 1995). Socioeconomic**  
8 **variables did not have comparable scales across the 2009 and 2014 surveys, but their**  
9 **inclusion within models representing each year did not change the substantive findings. A**  
10 **variable representing subjective social class (10 point scale: (1) the lowest level in society –**  
11 **(10) the highest level in society) is included in the models containing only 2014 data.**

#### 24 *Model estimation*

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27 To test the hypotheses, I estimate statistical models which allow me to compare changes  
28 in one's likelihood to vote for the EPP among the groups of theoretical interest, with respect to  
29 important control variables. I create an interaction term between one's economic evaluation and  
30 one's responsibility assignment. This interaction allows me to test for the effect of economic  
31 evaluation conditional upon the institutions to which one assigns responsibility for the economy.  
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34 I estimate a logit model due to the binary dependent variable (1 = EPP vote, 0 = non-EPP  
35 vote), where 26 percent of the observations are EPP votes. I estimate a mixed effects logit  
36 model, where I let the intercepts vary by country-years, which represents the 55 European  
37 Parliament elections that occurred across the nations in the two years of data. The mixed effects  
38 model is appropriate because these data include individuals within the member-states across two  
39 election cycles. In order to avoid biased parameter estimates, I model the context of the 55  
40 elections, where individuals may have distinctive experiences (Luke 2008). The intra-class  
41 correlation coefficient (ICC) for the null model with no independent variables shows that the  
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3 election-level accounts for around 47 percent of the variation of the dependent variable, which  
4 demonstrates the necessity of including the random effects. The results hold if I estimate the  
5 models with fixed effects dummy variables for country-years. I also conducted a cross-  
6 validation of the results where I split the data randomly into two groups estimated the statistical  
7 models, and calculated the mean squared error (Brier scores) for each group: 0.272 and 0.268,  
8 respectively. The similar mean squared errors between the groups suggest the statistical model  
9 accurately represents the theoretical social process of interest.

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20 As a robustness check, I substituted the subjective economic evaluation with GDP growth  
21 (for country-year), which yielded statistically significant results in the expected direction. The  
22 results also hold if I include a control for political knowledge (correct answers to political  
23 questions). In order to check for temporal effects (years are a component of the random effect),  
24 including a dummy variable representing the year 2014 yielded a statistically significant,  
25 negative effect on EPP votes (the EPP lost votes that year), but did not affect the findings.

## 33 34 **Results**

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37 **Table 2** presents the results of the mixed effects logit model with random intercepts for  
38 country-years. In the model in the middle, I did not include interaction terms. In the model on  
39 the right, I did not include control variables. The coefficient for the *EU responsibility scale* is  
40 positive statistically significant in the interaction-less model, which suggests that finding the EU  
41 responsible for the economy increases the likelihood of an EPP vote. *Feeling the economy got*  
42 *worse* was negative and statistically significant in the interaction-less model which suggests that  
43 negative economic evaluations reduce the likelihood of an EPP vote.

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53 **[Table 2 Around Here]**



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Moving to the model on the left with interaction terms, *EU responsibility scale* is positive and statistically significant which suggests that finding the EU responsible for the economy increases the likelihood of an EPP vote, when one thinks that the economy is doing well (when *Feeling the economy got worse* equals zero). Assigning responsibility to the EU helps the EPP when someone feels the economy got better over the past twelve months. *Feeling the economy got worse* was positive and statistically insignificant, suggesting that I cannot be confident about the direction of the effect on EPP voting from economic evaluation when someone feels that the national government is completely responsible for the economy. The interaction term *EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse* is negative and statistically significant, suggesting that as one assigns responsibility to the EU for the economy, the effect from a bad economic evaluations increases. These results also hold among those who did not vote for the EPP's constituent parties in last national election, although they have a lower level of statistical significance.

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When considering the control variables, the results for the interaction model that contained the controls and the model that did not contain the controls yield the same substantive results, although the model with controls had a better model fit (a lower BIC). The coefficients for the controls yielded the assumed signs and possessed statistical significance, suggesting the older, more conservative, pro-EU people are more likely to vote for the European People's Party. Moreover, including a squared term for ideology in order to take the anti-EPP views of the radical left and radical right into account did not affect the substantive results (although it was statistically significant).

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**For the hypothesis**, I graph the predicted probabilities of an EPP vote among those who feel the economy got worse and those who feel the economy got better, across the different

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3 levels of responsibility assignment. I represent those with good economic evaluations with  
4 respondents who said “a lot better”, and I present those with bad economic evaluations with  
5 respondents who said “a lot worse”. When I use the “A little better” and “A little worse”  
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8 categories, the substantive findings remain the same with smaller effect sizes.  
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12 [Figure 1 Around Here]  
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15 The results were calculated using statistical simulations, holding the control variables at  
16 their mean values. Figure 1 suggests that the difference between who think the economic did  
17 well and poorly is greater among those who feel the EU responsible in comparison to those who  
18 feel that the national government is responsible, at a 95 percent confidence level. This result is  
19 further suggested by the difference in predicted probabilities (**the bottom panel of Figure 1**),  
20 which are greater (**in terms of positive values**) among those who feel the EU is responsible in  
21 comparison to those who feel that the national government is responsible.  
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32 The aforementioned results follow my expectations. If voters can hold EU leaders  
33 accountable, those who feel the EU is responsible for good economic conditions should be more  
34 likely to support the EPP, the dominant political group at the EU level. The results support this  
35 line of argumentation. Those who feel the economy is doing well reward the EPP as they feel  
36 the EU is more responsible for the economy. On the other hand, those who feel the economy is  
37 doing worse sustained a similar probability of voting for the EPP across different levels of  
38 responsibility assignment. However, when looking across the available two years of data, only  
39 2009 had substantive results. In 2009, the EU’s average GDP growth across the 27 members (-  
40 5.8, in these data) was considerable lower than the growth in 2014 (0.4). The findings hold with  
41 respect to control variables for GDP growth. The average *Feeling the economy got worse score*  
42 was 3.2 in 2009 and 2.2 in 2014, suggesting that European’s felt better about the economy in  
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3 2014. **More data collection in upcoming elections is necessary, but this initial trend**  
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5 **suggests that worse economic conditions produces a stronger economic vote in European**  
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7 **Parliament elections.**  
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10 [Table 3 Around Here]  
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13 These results are counterintuitive in the context of the aforementioned literature which  
14 suggests that Europeans do not consider the EU's leadership when making their vote choice in  
15 European Parliament elections. Hobolt and Tilley (2014a) estimate models concerning vote  
16 choice for the EPP, and they use an EU responsibility scale which does not incorporate opinions  
17 about the national government. Their approach does not distinguish between those who assign  
18 more responsibility to the EU and national levels. Hence, I estimated models using their  
19 measure (EU responsibility assignment alone) and this study's measure, which include EU and  
20 national responsibility assignment (**see Table 3**). The Hobolt and Tilley models yield the weak  
21 effects on EPP voting from their study, while this study's model yields the hypothesized effects.  
22  
23 The smaller and statistically insignificant *EU responsibility scale* in the Hobolt and Tilley model  
24 indicates that responsibility assignment do not substantively influence one's probability of voting  
25 for the EPP when one feels satisfied with the economy (a key posit from the competency theory  
26 of economic voting). Moreover, the larger and statistically significant *Feeling the economy got*  
27 *worse* indicates that economic evaluations affect voting for the EPP when voters assign no  
28 responsibility to the EU for the economy. But voters should not reward the EPP if the EU has no  
29 responsibility for the economy. Their measure does not take one's responsibility assignment for  
30 the national government into account. In this study's model, those who assign full responsibility  
31 to the national government (and no responsibility to the EU) do not reward the EPP based on  
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3 their economic evaluations (a small and statistically insignificant *Feeling the economy got worse*  
4 in this study's model).  
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8 These results as well as the worse model fit (higher BICs in the Hobolt and Tilley models  
9 in comparison to this study's model) suggest that the inclusion of responsibility assignment for  
10 the national government matters. When I split the data by year, Hobolt and Tilley's approach  
11 also did not yield statistically significant findings. These results suggest that EU considerations  
12 were stronger in the 2009. The findings from these comparisons further suggest the presence of  
13 an accountability vote among Europeans in EP elections, although this voting may be qualified  
14 by the context of the election year.  
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24 [Table 4]

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26 Overall, the models above suggest that voters reward the EPP for a good economic  
27 performance. But where is this economic voting occurring? The results suggest that places  
28 where people do not hold the EU responsible for the economy (but hold the national government  
29 responsible instead), there will not be an economic vote. Following Hobolt and Tilley (2014b),  
30 the EU's influence over national economies vary systematically, with nineteen EU members  
31 being part of Economic and Monetary Union (the Eurozone). In these countries, the European  
32 Central Bank has power over monetary policy and the Councils set fiscal obligations for the  
33 member governments. Therefore, I expect that citizen considerations of the EU's economic  
34 management has a stronger effect on voting for the EPP in the Eurozone in comparison to  
35 citizens outside of the Eurozone.  
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50 For the measure of responsibility, the mean score was "9" for Eurozone countries and "8"  
51 for non-Eurozone countries, which indicates that Eurozone citizens assign more responsibility to  
52 the EU in comparison to non-Eurozone citizens but this difference is small. When I subset the  
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3 data by Eurozone status, the statistical models suggest the economic vote occurs in the Eurozone  
4 countries where the citizens arguably have a higher stake in the economic policies of the EU (see  
5  
6 **Table 4**). In the Eurozone countries, the interaction term *EU responsibility scale x Feeling the*  
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8 *economy got worse* is negative and statistically significant, suggesting that as one assigns  
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10 responsibility to the EU for the economy, the effect from economic evaluations increases.  
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12 Meanwhile, the effects in the non-Eurozone countries are smaller and statistically insignificant. I  
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14 estimated the non-Eurozone countries with and without the UK (which does not have an EPP  
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16 member, so in the logit models the UK has no “1” observations), and the results of the non-  
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18 Eurozone model in Table 4 hold with and without the UK. This difference between the  
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20 Eurozone and non-Eurozone held in 2009, but in 2014 statistical models representing Eurozone  
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22 and non-Eurozone states did not yield statistically significant results.  
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29 **I also need to estimate effects with respect to the national government leadership**  
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31 **under EPP parties. In several cases, the national EPP party leads the national government.**  
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33 **The EPP had thirteen heads of government at the time of the 2009 EP election and eleven**  
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35 **heads of government at the time of the 2014 EP election. When an EPP leader is head of**  
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37 **government, then voters’ likelihood of voting for the EPP may be positively correlated with**  
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39 **voters’ economic satisfaction regardless of whether the voter believes the EU is responsible**  
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41 **for the economy or the national government. Hence, I estimate models for when the head**  
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43 **of government is an EPP member and when the head of government is not an EPP member**  
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45 **(see Table 5).**  
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50 **The main finding holds across these two models. As one assigns more responsibility**  
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52 **to the EU for the economy, satisfaction with the economy increases one’s likelihood of**  
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54 **voting for the EPP, whether the EPP parties are in or out of power in the national**  
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3 government. In the “EPP in Power” model, economic satisfaction had a greater positive  
4 effect among those who assigned more responsibility to the EU, in comparison to those who  
5 assigned more responsibility to the national government. In the “EPP Not in Power”  
6 model, those who feel the national government is responsible for the economy are less likely  
7 to vote for EPP parties when they think the economy is doing better. This lower likelihood  
8 of voting for the EPP suggests a greater willingness to support the incumbent leadership,  
9 which is rewarded for better economic conditions. Among those who feel the EU is  
10 responsible for the economy, this ‘economic vote’ towards the national incumbent goes  
11 away. In the “EPP Not in Power” model, those who feel the EU is responsible for the  
12 economy are more likely to vote for EPP parties when they think the economy is doing  
13 better (although the difference between those who think the economy is doing better and  
14 those who think the economy is doing worse is not statistically significant).  
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16 Overall, those who feel that the EU is responsible for the economy treat the EPP parties as  
17 the incumbent when voting in European Parliament elections, in comparison to those who  
18 feel the national government is responsible. This comparison holds when the EPP parties  
19 are in power or out of power.

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22 I also need to estimate effects with respect to one’s partisanship in elections for the  
23 national governments. Around 6.5 percent of citizens voted against the EPP parties in the  
24 most recent national elections, while they did vote for the EPP parties in the next European  
25 Parliament elections. What explains their change of heart between the national election  
26 and the EP election? This questions poses a more robust test of the hypothesis, because  
27 these voters turned away from the center-right parties in elections for the national  
28 government. If responsibility assignment to the EU for economic conditions drives voting,  
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3 **then they should drive votes for the EPP, even among those that did not support the EPP's**  
4 **constituent parties in the member states (see the non-EPP partisan models in Tables 2 and**  
5 **3). The findings hold in the non-EPP partisan models.**  
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### 10 11 12 13 **Conclusions**

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15 Do voters reward EU leaders, and under what conditions does this behavior occur? I  
16 show that the economic performance matters when voters choose to vote for the European  
17 People's Party. This study presents the first empirical evidence in favor of individuals'  
18 accountability-holding behavior towards the EU's leadership. This study builds on the research  
19 on voting behavior in EP elections by taking considerations of the national government and EU  
20 responsibility into account.  
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29 The findings indicate that existing evidence and arguments in favor of a 'democratic  
30 deficit' may be overstated. This study suggests that voters who recognize the EU's powers over  
31 national economies, discern whether the EPP subjectively acts in their economic interest, and  
32 vote accordingly. Hence, Europeans exhibit key behaviors necessary for a competitive EU  
33 democracy, where voters choose which the EU's direction through their evaluations of the EPP's  
34 performance. The findings also indicate that countries which arguably have the biggest stakes in  
35 EU economic policies (the Eurozone) exhibit economic voting in EP elections; suggesting that  
36 voters recognize the influence of the economic management of the EU on their national  
37 economic conditions. The findings point scholarly research towards questions about the factors  
38 that lead to this recognition in the Eurozone (such as political messages from the EU and national  
39 governments). However, the findings are qualified by the lack of statistically significant results  
40 in 2014, when responsibility assignment did not affect voting. The year 2009 experienced a  
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3 worse economic condition in comparison to 2014, which may have contributed to the urgency of  
4 economic voting. This project points to future research which can substantiate the argument that  
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6 the economic crises increases economic voting with regards to the EU's leadership (as more data  
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8 is collected in EP elections).  
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13 These findings not only have implications for the EU but also worldwide, where  
14 globalization arguably constrains national governments (Duch and Stevenson 2008; 2010;  
15 Hellwig 2008). Globalization, stronger international agreements, and more international  
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17 organizations do not necessarily have to limit voters' say in politics (Hix and Marsh 2007; Hix  
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19 and Marsh 2011). Legislative bodies at the regional and international level could provide  
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21 opportunities for voting based on the politicians' management of economies. On the other hand,  
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23 Hobolt and Tilley (2014a, 136) point out that there is no parliamentary government in the  
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25 European Parliament, where the number of MEPs in each party group would determine who  
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27 governs the EU. The influence of economic voting is constrained in EP elections in comparison  
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29 to the national context, where members of parliament select the government. Voters have the  
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31 capacity to evaluate the EU's economic management in EP elections, and institutional reforms  
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33 could allow these votes to directly inform who rules Europe.  
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Table 1: Percentage of European People's Party votes by one's feeling the economy is getting worse and one's assignment of responsibility for economic conditions.

	The European Union more responsible	The national government more responsible
Feeling the economy got better	27.7% (990)	24.6% (2,822)
Feeling the economy got worse	25.9% (2,420)	26.5% (8,060)

EU responsibility scale: national government responsible (0) – EU responsibility (20). “The EU more responsible” represents values above 10 on the scale. “The national government more responsible” represents values below 10 on the scale. Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). “Feeling the economy got better” represents values below 2 in the variable. “Feeling the economy got worse” represents values above 2 in the variable. Number of survey responses in parentheses. Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014.

Table 2: Effects on one’s likelihood of voting for the European People’s Party.

	Full Model	No Interaction	No Controls	Non-EPP Partisans	2009 Only	2014 Only
EU responsibility scale	0.062*** (0.02)	0.016*** (0.006)	0.056*** (0.01)	0.058* (0.03)	0.089*** (0.03)	0.031 (0.02)
Feeling the economy got worse	0.0031 (0.05)	-0.14*** (0.02)	0.0020 (0.04)	0.11 (0.1)	0.12 (0.07)	-0.21** (0.08)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.017*** (0.005)		-0.016*** (0.004)	-0.019* (0.01)	-0.026*** (0.008)	0.0009 (0.009)
Age	0.0064*** (0.001)	0.0063*** (0.001)		-0.0058*** (0.002)	0.0012 (0.001)	0.013*** (0.002)
Left-Right Ideology	0.39*** (0.007)	0.39*** (0.007)		0.28*** (0.01)	0.38*** (0.01)	0.41*** (0.01)
EU Support	0.042*** (0.006)	0.042*** (0.006)		0.030** (0.01)	0.029*** (0.007)	0.061*** (0.009)
Constant	-4.24*** (0.2)	-3.83*** (0.2)	-1.34*** (0.2)	-4.72*** (0.4)	-3.93*** (0.3)	-4.65*** (0.3)
Random Effect						
Country-Year Variance	1.43 (0.3)	1.43 (0.3)	1.27 (0.3)	1.15 (0.3)	1.26 (0.4)	1.52 (0.5)
Survey Responses	25,519	25,519	25,519	16,469	13,227	12,292
Bayesian Information Criterion	21,749	22,798	26,711	6,715	12,744	10,065

Dependent variable: EPP vote (1), non-EPP vote (0). EU responsibility: national government responsible (0) – EU responsibility (20). Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). “Non-EPP Partisans” represents respondents who did not vote for EPP parties in the last national elections. Results calculated using mixed effects logit models. Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014. Standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

Table 3: Effects on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party, comparing this study's approach with Hobolt and Tilley's approach.

	This study's EU resp. scale	Effects using Hobolt and Tilley's EU resp. scale: No EU responsibility (0) – Full EU responsibility (10)			
	Full Model	Full Model	2009 Only	2014 Only	Non-EPP Partisans
EU responsibility scale	0.062*** (0.02)	0.026 (0.02)	0.0011 (0.03)	0.039* (0.02)	0.018 (0.04)
Feeling the economy got worse	0.0031 (0.05)	-0.078* (0.04)	-0.098* (0.05)	-0.085 (0.0740)	0.018 (0.08)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.017*** (0.005)	-0.011* (0.006)	-0.0034 (0.009)	-0.016 (0.01)	-0.013 (0.01)
Age	0.0064*** (0.001)	0.0063*** (0.001)	0.0011 (0.001)	0.013*** (0.002)	-0.0061*** (0.002)
Left-Right Ideology	0.39*** (0.007)	0.39*** (0.007)	0.38*** (0.009)	0.41*** (0.01)	0.28*** (0.01)
EU Support	0.042*** (0.006)	0.042*** (0.006)	0.029*** (0.007)	0.059*** (0.009)	0.030*** (0.01)
Constant	-4.24*** (0.2)	-3.84*** (0.2)	-3.13*** (0.3)	-4.62*** (0.3)	-4.31*** (0.3)
Random Effects					
Country-Year Variance	1.43 (0.3)	1.43 (0.3)	1.27 (0.4)	1.51 (0.5)	1.14 (0.3)
Survey Responses	25,519	25,519	13,286	12,313	16,514
Bayesian Information Criterion	21,749	22,812	12,820	10,097	6,728

Dependent variable: EPP vote (1), non-EPP vote (0). This study's EU responsibility scale: national government responsible (0) – EU responsibility (20). Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). Results calculated using mixed effects logit models. Data source: European Election Studies 2009 and 2014. Standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

Table 4: Effects on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party, by status as a Eurozone member.

	Eurozone	Non-Eurozone	Together
EU responsibility scale	0.091*** (0.02)	0.020 (0.02)	0.062*** (0.02)
Feeling the economy got worse	0.071 (0.07)	-0.077 (0.07)	0.0031 (0.05)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.025*** (0.007)	-0.0048 (0.008)	-0.017*** (0.005)
Age	0.0086*** (0.001)	0.0018 (0.002)	0.0064*** (0.001)
Left-Right Ideology	0.42*** (0.01)	0.34*** (0.01)	0.39*** (0.007)
EU Support	0.035*** (0.008)	0.059*** (0.01)	0.042*** (0.006)
Constant	-4.47*** (0.3)	-3.93*** (0.4)	-4.24*** (0.2)
Random Effect			
Country-Year Variance	0.67 (0.18)	2.68 (1.0)	1.43 (0.3)
Survey Responses	15,556	9,953	25,519
Bayesian Information Criterion	14,779	8,020	21,749
Dependent variable: EPP vote (1), non-EPP vote (0). EU responsibility: national government responsible (0) – EU responsibility (20). Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). Results calculated using mixed effects logit models. Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014. Standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1			

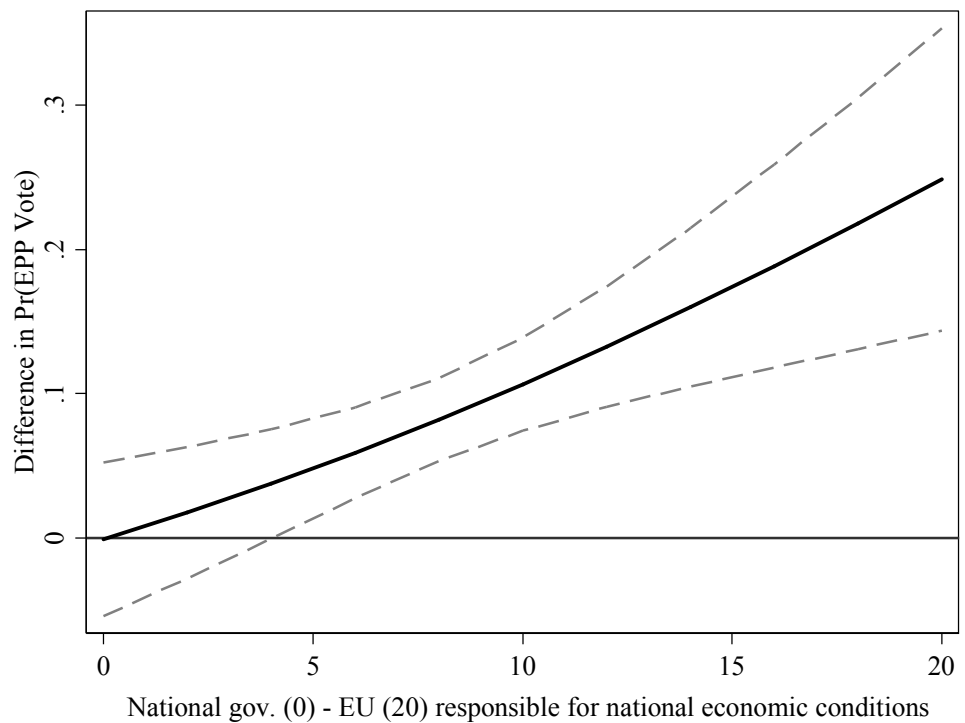
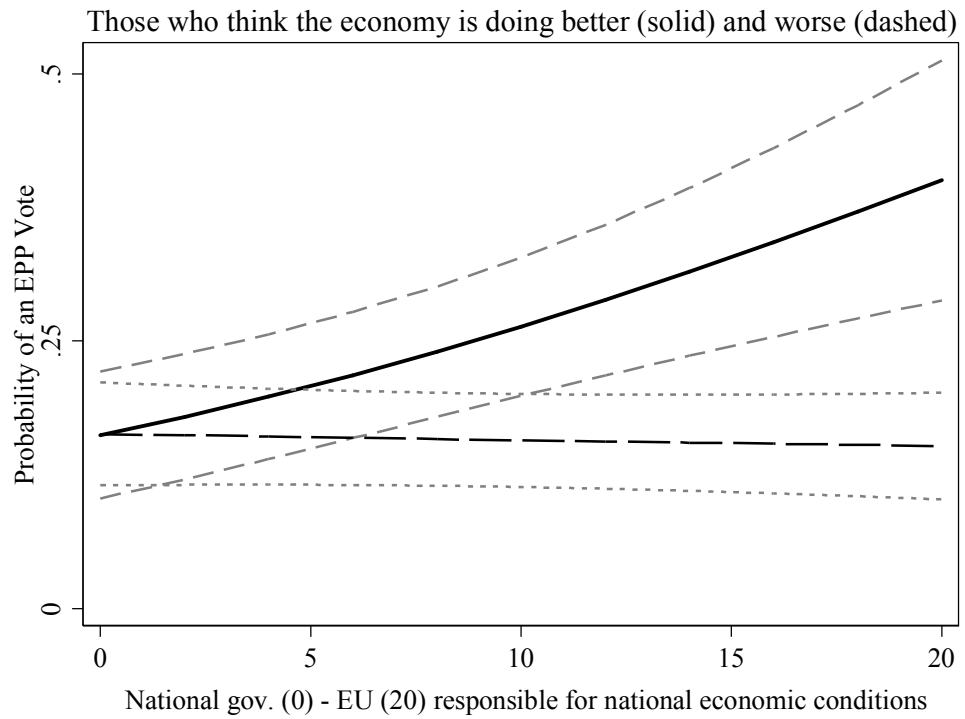
**Table 5: Effects on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party.**

	Full Model	EPP in Power	EPP Not in Power
EU responsibility scale	0.062*** (0.02)	0.085*** (0.02)	0.023 (0.02)
Feeling the economy got worse	0.0031 (0.05)	-0.25*** (0.07)	0.23*** (0.07)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.017*** (0.005)	-0.013* (0.008)	-0.014* (0.008)
Age	0.0064*** (0.001)	0.0092*** (0.001)	0.0034** (0.001)
Left-Right Ideology	0.39*** (0.007)	0.41*** (0.01)	0.35*** (0.01)
EU Support	0.042*** (0.006)	0.037*** (0.008)	0.047*** (0.008)
Constant	-4.24*** (0.2)	-3.60*** (0.3)	-4.64*** (0.4)
Random Effect			
Country-Year Variance	1.43 (0.3)	0.29 (0.09)	2.02 (0.60)
Survey Responses	25,519	11,583	13,936
Bayesian Information Criterion	21,749	11,521	11,102

Dependent variable: EPP vote (1), non-EPP vote (0). EU responsibility: national government responsible (0) – EU responsibility (20). Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). “EPP in Power” represents respondents in a country where an EPP member is head of government. “EPP Not in Power” represents respondents in a country where an EPP member is not head of government. Results calculated using mixed effects logit models. Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014. Standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

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Figure 1: The effects of economic evaluations on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party by the responsibility one assigns to the EU with 95% CIs



Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014



## ONLINE APPENDIX

Satisfaction with the economy and trust in EU institutions

The competency theory raises questions not only with regards to holding the incumbent responsible. One's competence has implications for the ability to assess the institutions which are governed by the incumbent. An economic vote in EP elections suggests that the EU signals serve as a perceptual screen that makes itself an object of judgement (Hobolt and Tilley 2014b). I assume that EU signals regarding competent economic management alter perceptions of responsible institutions as well as the EPP's leadership. Hobolt and Tilley (2014a) examine the influence of EU responsibility and economic evaluations on trust in the European Union, and they show that economic evaluations influence trust in the European Union under the condition of assigning responsibility to the EU for the economy. They argue that since the EU lacks the institutional clarity to structure voters' choices, "institutions themselves... are on trial" in terms of assessments of economic performance (Hobolt and Tilley 2014, 133). In their study, trust in the EU serves as a sign of its legitimacy, and they posit that the trust/legitimacy of the European Union "hinges almost exclusively on its performance" (Hobolt and Tilley 2014, 134). They show that performance matters for trust in the EU, suggesting that the EU receives credit for good and bad performances.

It follows that if the EPP is held to account for its performance, then economic evaluations should influence the trust in the institutions this party group controls (further evidence of assigned blame). If the EPP is doing a subjectively good job, trust in these institutions would increase.

**Hypothesis:** The effect of economic satisfaction on trust in the European Union is greater among those who assign responsibility to the EU for the

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3 national economy in comparison to those who assign responsibility to the  
4 national government for the national economy.  
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7 People who feel that the EPP is responsible for good economic conditions also  
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9 should exhibit higher levels of trust in the EU. In order to operationalize trust in the EU, I  
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11 use the EES variable based on the question:  
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14 For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it  
15 corresponds or not to your attitude or opinion. Your trust the institutions of  
16 the EU: Yes, definitely (1) Yes, to some extent (2) No, not really (3) No, not  
17 at all (4). (EES 2014, 9).  
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20 Around 65 percent of the respondents trust the EU institutions at least to some  
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22 extent, which demonstrates Europeans' general support for EU institutions.  
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25 In order to estimate the statistical models regarding trust in the EU, I use mixed  
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27 effects ordinal probit models for the four-point ordinal dependent variable (with random  
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29 intercepts for country-years). I estimate models from 2014 because the two years do not  
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31 have equivalent measures of trust, but models from both years yield the same substantive  
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33 finding (although the effects on trust in 2009 were smaller and held at the 90 percent  
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35 confidence level). I estimated the predicted probabilities for those who at least trusted the  
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37 EU to some extent (whether one was in the "Yes, definitely" or "Yes, to some extent"  
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39 categories). I include control variables for age, social class, and EPP affiliation, but these  
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41 control variables do not change the substantive findings. In the online appendix, I graph  
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43 the results from the trust model in Table 1, including predicted probabilities and  
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45 differences in predicted probabilities (Appendix Figure 1). These results were calculated  
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47 while holding the control variables at their mean values except *EPP affiliation* (a dummy  
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49 variable) which I held at its modal value, zero (the results hold when I hold *EPP affiliation*  
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51 at one). The predicted probabilities show that as one assigns more responsibility to the EU,  
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3 **trust in the EU decreases among those who feel that the economy is getting worse; while**  
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5 **trust in the EU increases among those who feel that the economy is getting better. The**  
6  
7 **differences in predicted probabilities further substantiate this finding by showing that**  
8  
9 **one's belief the economy is getting better has a larger positive effect on trust among those**  
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11 **who feel the EU is responsible in comparison to those who feel the national government is**  
12  
13 **responsible. The evidence from this statistical model back up Hobolt and Tilley's (2014)**  
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15 **claim that "the legitimacy of EU institutions is dependent on performance and on the**  
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17 **extent to which people credit or blame those institutions for good and bad performance"**  
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19 **(125).**

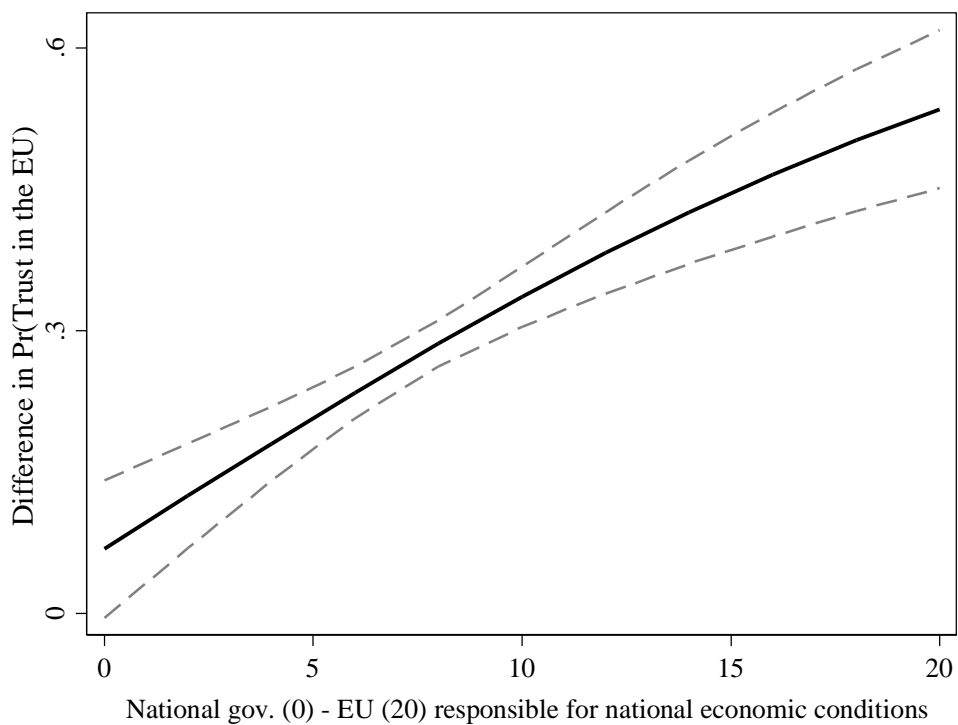
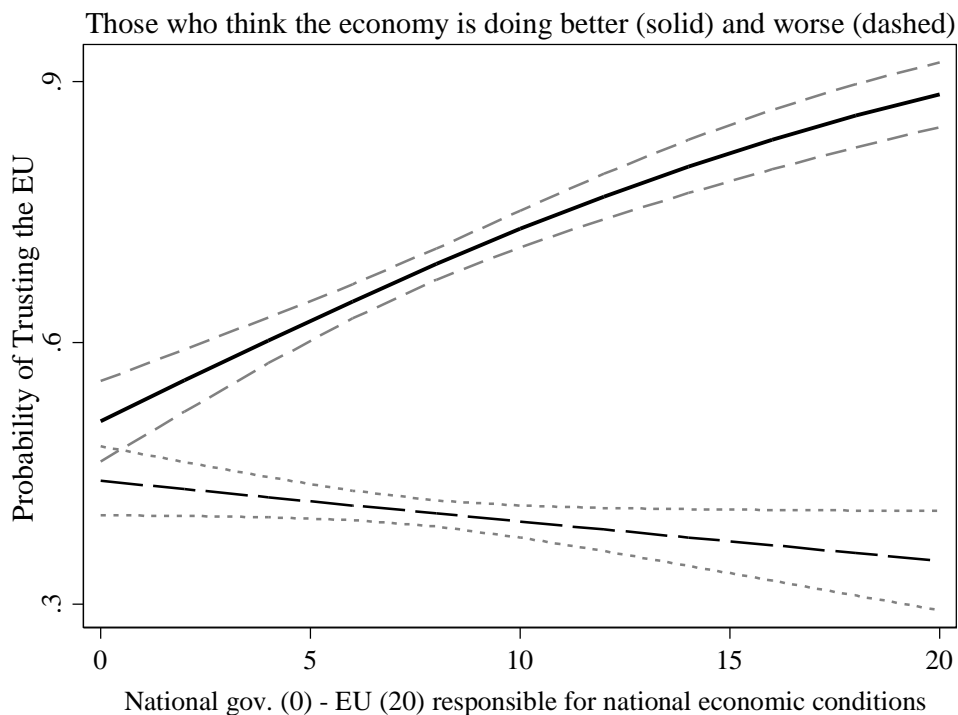
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Table 1: Effects on one's likelihood of trusting the European Union.

	Full Model	No Interaction	No Controls
EU responsibility scale	0.059*** (0.007)	0.019*** (0.003)	0.073*** (0.007)
Feeling the economy got worse	-0.042** (0.02)	-0.18*** (0.008)	-0.065*** (0.02)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.018*** (0.003)		-0.022*** (0.003)
Age	0.0007 (0.0005)	0.0008* (0.0004)	
Social Class	0.071*** (0.005)	0.072*** (0.005)	
Left-Right Ideology	0.0093*** (0.003)	0.0079*** (0.003)	
EU Support	0.11*** (0.002)	0.011*** (0.002)	
EPP affiliation	0.35*** (0.02)	0.36*** (0.02)	
Cut Point One	0.037 (0.07)	-0.25 (0.06)	-1.02 (0.06)
Cut Point Two	1.08 (0.07)	0.79 (0.06)	-0.048 (0.06)
Cut Point Three	2.69 (0.08)	2.40 (0.06)	1.47 (0.06)
Country-Year Variance	0.061 (0.005)	0.065 (0.005)	0.084 (0.005)
Survey Responses	19,524	19,524	19,524
Bayesian Information Criterion	43,938	43,964	46,020

Dependent variables: Trust in EU institutions: No, not at all (0) – Yes, definitely (3); Agreeing with the bailouts: Totally disagree (0) – Totally agree (3). EU responsibility: national government responsible (0) – EU responsible (20). Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). Results calculated using mixed effects ordinal probit models. Data source: European Election Study surveys 2014. Standard errors in parentheses.\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

Figure 1: The effects of economic evaluations on one's likelihood of trusting the European Union by the responsibility one assigns to the EU with 95% CIs



Data source: European Election Study surveys 2014

Effects from non-voters

Table 2: Effects on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party, while accounting for the selection bias of voting in European Parliament elections.

EU responsibility scale	0.037*** (0.009)
Feeling the economy got worse	-0.00012 (0.03)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.0096*** (0.003)
Age	0.0029** (0.001)
Left-Right Ideology	0.22*** (0.005)
EU Support	0.033*** (0.005)
<u>Whether One Voted in EP Elections</u>	
EU responsibility scale	0.001 (0.006)
Feeling the economy got worse	-0.059*** (0.02)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.0009 (0.002)
Age	0.014*** (0.0004)
Left-Right Ideology	0.012*** (0.003)
EU Support	0.034*** (0.002)

Dependent variable: EPP vote (1), non-EPP vote (0). Dependent variable (for the selection model): Voted in the EP election (1), Did not vote in the EP election (0). EU responsibility: national government responsible (0) – EU responsibility (20). Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). Results calculated using a Heckman probit models with fixed effects of country-years. Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014. Standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

Controlling for partisanship towards EPP parties in EU countries.

Hobolt and Tilley (2014) introduce a control variable for affiliation with the EPP in their statistical model explaining vote choices for EPP. These data suggest that EPP affiliation predicts 86 percent of EPP vote choices, suggesting they measure the same phenomenon. Including EPP affiliation does reduce statistical significance in the EPP vote model, but the hypothesized directions of the effects hold when I hold this variable at EPP supporters and non-supporters in the statistical models.

Table 3: Number of survey responses by whether one voted for the European People's Party in European Parliament elections and whether one affiliates with the European People's Party.

	Not Affiliating with the EPP	Affiliating with the EPP
Did not vote for the EPP	17,595	571
Voted for the EPP	1,913	4,536

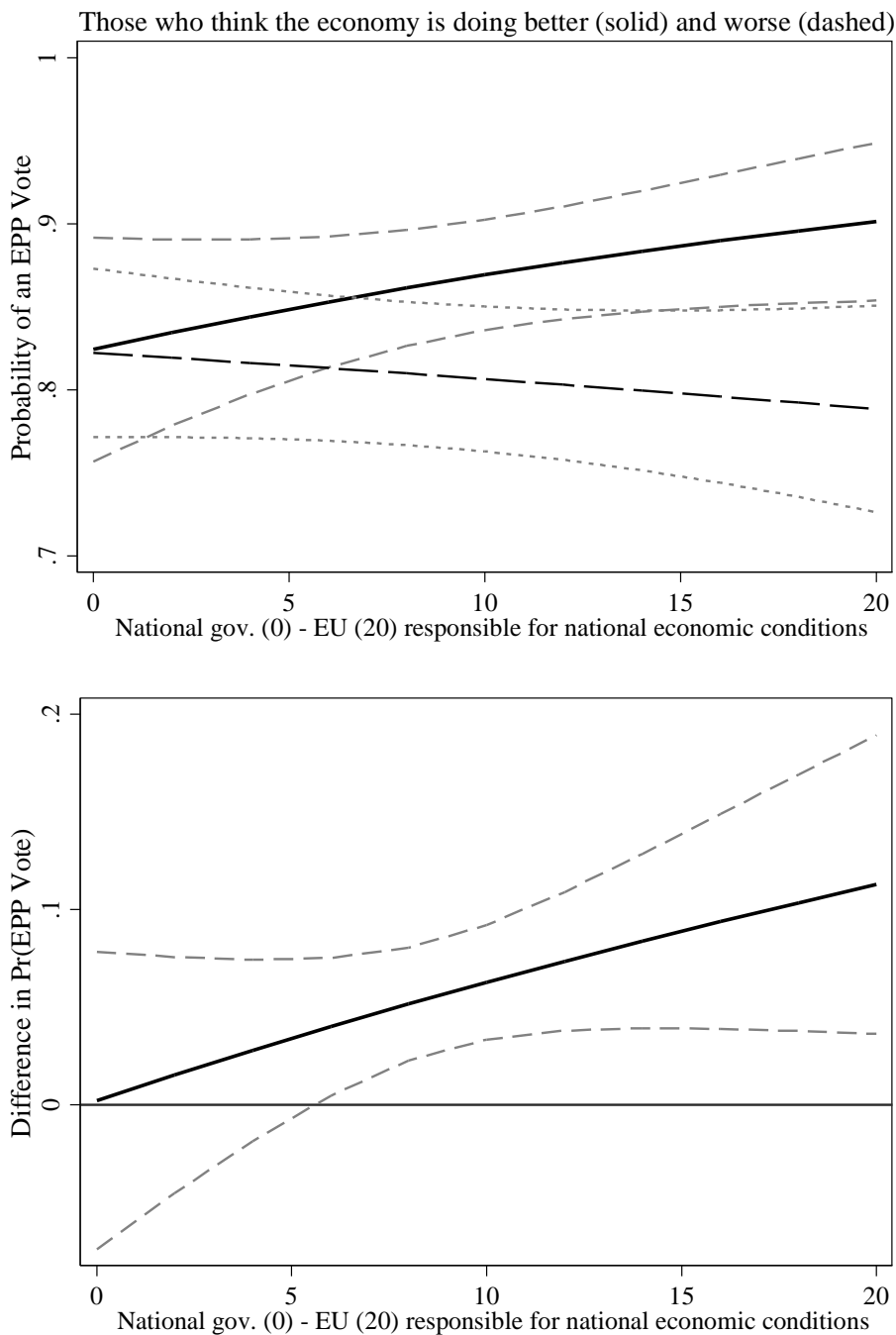
Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014. Affiliating with the EPP (or not) predicts 22,131 observations and does not predict 2,484 observations, so Affiliating with the EPP predicts 86% of Voting for the EPP.

Table 4: Effects on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party.

EU responsibility scale	0.062*** (0.02)	0.033 (0.02)
Feeling the economy got worse	0.0031 (0.05)	-0.0067 (0.07)
EU responsibility scale x Feeling the economy got worse	-0.017*** (0.005)	-0.011 (0.007)
Age	0.0064*** (0.001)	-0.00034 (0.001)
Left-Right Ideology	0.39*** (0.007)	0.24*** (0.009)
EU Support	0.042*** (0.006)	0.032*** (0.008)
Affiliating with the EPP		4.0*** (0.06)
Constant	-4.24*** (0.2)	-3.85*** (0.3)
Random Effect		
Country-Year Variance	1.43 (0.3)	0.86 (0.2)
Survey Responses	25,519	24,615
Bayesian Information Criterion	21,749	14,289
Dependent variable: EPP vote (1), non-EPP vote (0). EU responsibility: national government responsible (0) – EU responsibility (20). Feeling the economy got worse: A lot better (0) – A lot worse (4). Affiliating with the EPP: Affiliating (1), Not affiliating (0). Results calculated using mixed effects logit models. Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014. Standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1		



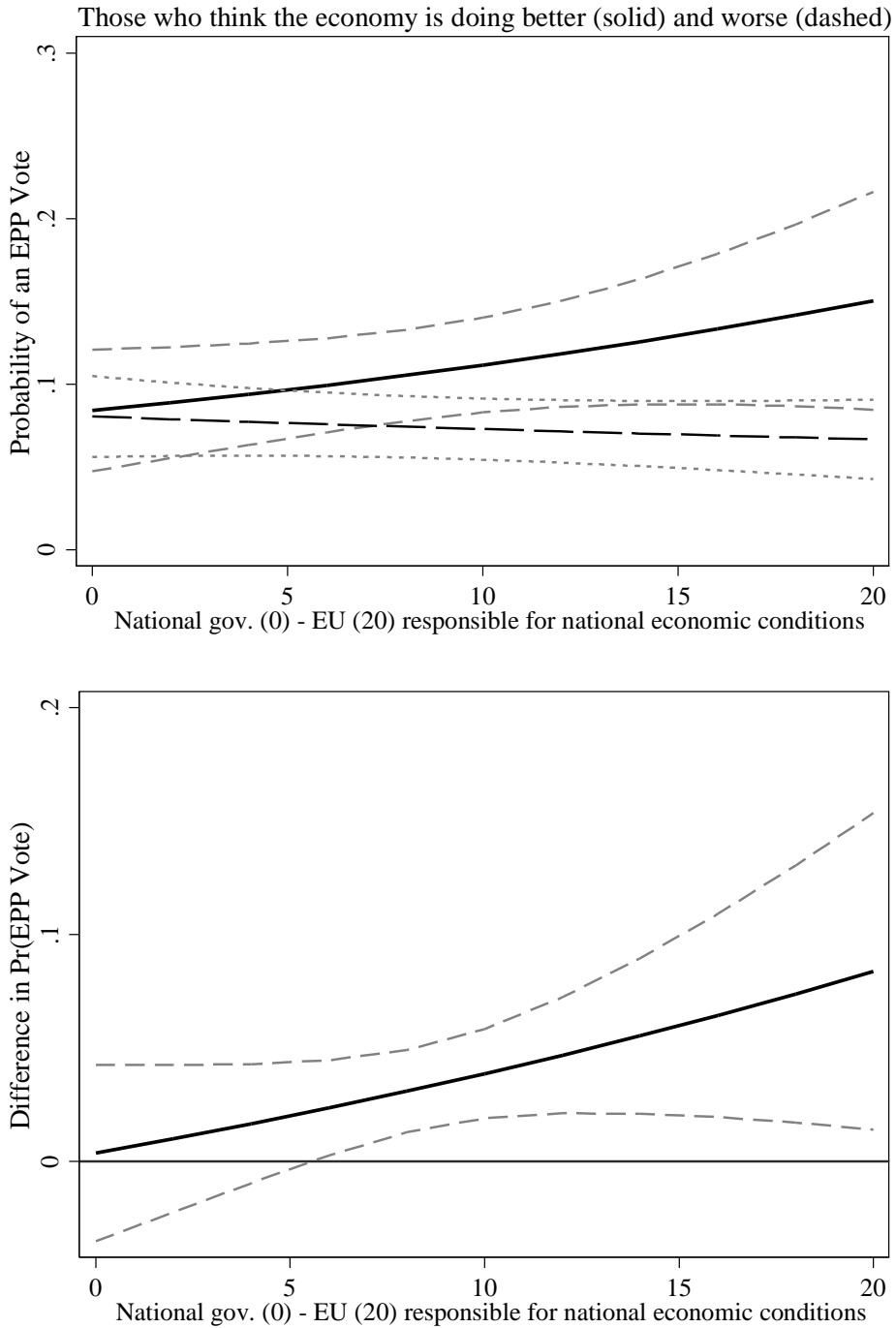
Figure 2: The effects of economic evaluations on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party by the responsibility one assigns to the EU with 95% CIs



Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014  
 Results calculated while holding Affiliating with the EPP at one, an affiliate

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Figure 3: The effects of economic evaluations on one's likelihood of voting for the European People's Party by the responsibility one assigns to the EU with 95% CIs



Data source: European Election Study surveys 2009 and 2014  
Results calculated while holding Affiliating with the EPP at zero, or not affiliating