**Online Appendix**

*Controlling Uncertainty in Coalition Governments*

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**Table 1A. Matching Ministries and Policy dimensions**

We calculate the ideological distance and the policy saliency on the following areas of jurisdiction (first column). Table A1 provides detailed information on MARPOR categories adopted to construct the different policy dimensions. Categories for each policy area are adapted from Klüver and Bäck (2019) and Hömann and Sieberer (2019). The last column in Table A1 presents the correspondence of ministries and policy dimensions.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Policy Area*** | ***MARPOR policy categories*** | ***Ministry*** |
| Agriculture | 406;407;703;501 | Agricultural, food and forestry policies |
| Cultural Heritage | 503;504;505;506;507;701;702;704;705 | Cultural Heritage and activities |
| Defence | 101;104;105;106;107;108;109;110 | Defence |
| Economic Affairs | 401;402;403;404;406;407;409;412;413;414;415 | Economy and Finance; Economic Development; Economic Development, infrastructures and transports |
| Environment | 416;501;410 | Environment and Sea Protection |
| European Union | 108;110 | European Affairs |
| Foreign Affairs | 101;102;104;105;106;107;108;109;110 | Foreign Affairs |
| Interior and Justice | 201;202;203;204;305;411;601;602;603;604;605;607;608 | Interior; Justice; Public Administration Reforms and Innovation; Infrastructures; Transports; Constitutional Reforms; Communications; Law Simplification; Public Administration and simplification |
| Decentralization | 301;302 | Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies; Regional relationship and territorial cohesion; Federalist reforms; Subsidiarity and decentralization; Regional affairs tourism and sports; |
| Traditional Left-Right | standard rile items | Prime Minister; Programme implementation; Relations with the Parliament and Institutional reforms; Realization of the Government Programme |
| Social Affairs and Education | 411;503;504;505;506;507;603;604;606;607;608;701;702;704;705;5061;5021 | Rights and Equal Opportunities; Family policies; Youth policies and sports; University and Research; Education; Job and Social Assurance; Social Solidarity; Health; Job and Social policies; Education, University and Research; Equal Opportunities; Social Integration; Sports |
| Trade | 101;102;104;105;106;107;108;109;110;406;407 | International Trade; International Cooperation and Integration |

**Table 2A. Matching professionals and educational backgrounds of technical ministers with ministerial departments**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Policy Area*** | ***Professional backgrounds*** |
| Agriculture | Former worker in agriculture as farmer or as farm owner; Researcher or policy specialist in agricultural policies |
| Cultural Heritage | Professor at University, Manager of Museum, archaeological sites or cultural events at national, regional, local or international level |
| Defence | Manager in arms industry; Researcher or policy specialist in defence and strategic studies |
| Economic Affairs | Researcher or policy specialist in economics; Past experience in International or national economic, financial or monetary organizations (e.g. Central Bank, IMF, Private Banks) |
| Environment | Researcher or policy specialist in environmental studies (social sciences, engineer or economics); Past experience in International or national environmental organizations (e.g. Greenpeace, EU Commission, ONU, national agencies) |
| European Union | Researcher or policy specialist in European Union Affairs (social sciences, law or economics); Past experience in the EU institutions as civil servant |
| Foreign Affairs | Past experiences in the diplomatic corps (e.g. Ambassador or Consul); Researcher or policy specialist in international studies |
| Interior and Justice | Former public prosecutor or judge; Past experience in the police or judicial administrations |
| Social Affairs and Education | Researcher or policy specialist in welfare or social policies; Degree or graduate in medicine; teacher or professor in secondary school or at university level |
| Trade | Manager in a multinational company |
| Other | Not applicable |

Note: for university professors we also control for the topics of their main research activities. For example: we consider as a technocrat in the Health Ministry a professor of Political Economy expert in Health Economics.

**Table 3A. Negative binomial analyses of PQs including Technical Cabinet (Monti I)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Model 1 | Model 2 | Model 3 | Model 4 | Model 5 | Model 6 |
| *Independent variables* | *Total PQs* | *Total PQs* | *Oral PQs* | *Oral PQs* | *Written PQs* | *Written PQs* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New party in government | 0.421\*\*\* | 0.367 | 0.512\*\* | 0.996\*\*\* | 0.388\*\*\* | 0.258 |
|  | (0.140) | (0.314) | (0.210) | (0.276) | (0.127) | (0.326) |
| Technocrat | 0.308 | 0.314 | 0.0687 | 0.0371 | 0.377\* | 0.393 |
|  | (0.194) | (0.229) | (0.162) | (0.145) | (0.206) | (0.251) |
| First experience as minister | 0.147 | 0.211 | 0.685\*\*\* | 0.181 | 0.0217 | 0.174 |
|  | (0.217) | (0.249) | (0.171) | (0.336) | (0.225) | (0.251) |
| Same coalition | 0.300\*\* | 0.297\*\* | -0.231 | -0.239 | 0.429\*\*\* | 0.420\*\* |
|  | (0.135) | (0.148) | (0.250) | (0.255) | (0.158) | (0.176) |
| Coalition party size(ln) | 0.589\*\*\* | 0.589\*\*\* | 0.225 | 0.230 | 0.656\*\*\* | 0.655\*\*\* |
|  | (0.120) | (0.119) | (0.226) | (0.219) | (0.156) | (0.153) |
| Share coalition party ministries | -0.827 | -0.810\* | -0.901 | -1.053 | -0.694 | -0.655 |
|  | (0.519) | (0.439) | (0.818) | (0.727) | (0.637) | (0.571) |
| Government party size (ln) | -0.003 | -0.003 | 0.002 | 0.002 | -0.004 | -0.004 |
|  | (0.003) | (0.003) | (0.002) | (0.002) | (0.003) | (0.003) |
| Share of coalition party ministries | 1.197 | 1.179 | -2.011\*\*\* | -1.960\*\*\* | 2.192\*\* | 2.143\*\* |
|  | (0.868) | (0.975) | (0.734) | (0.713) | (0.947) | (1.075) |
| Surplus majority | 0.226 | 0.232 | 0.608\*\*\* | 0.539\*\*\* | 0.123 | 0.138 |
|  | (0.221) | (0.228) | (0.180) | (0.176) | (0.314) | (0.321) |
| Tenure (minister – in days) | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* |
|  | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) |
| Junior minister | 0.254\*\* | 0.249\*\* | 0.392\* | 0.431\*\* | 0.244\* | 0.234 |
|  | (0.102) | (0.119) | (0.214) | (0.215) | (0.141) | (0.151) |
| Ministerial relevance | 1.215\*\*\* | 1.216\*\*\* | 0.857\*\*\* | 0.859\*\*\* | 1.265\*\*\* | 1.268\*\*\* |
|  | (0.228) | (0.233) | (0.110) | (0.106) | (0.265) | (0.271) |
| Policy distance | 0.189\*\*\* | 0.190\*\*\* | 0.160\* | 0.152 | 0.188\*\*\* | 0.191\*\*\* |
|  | (0.069) | (0.069) | (0.088) | (0.095) | (0.065) | (0.064) |
| Issue relevance | -0.00273 | -0.004 | -0.226\*\* | -0.210\*\* | 0.0630 | 0.060 |
|  | (0.062) | (0.062) | (0.094) | (0.088) | (0.051) | (0.052) |
| First experience as minister\* new party in government |  | -0.089\*  (0.596) |  | 0.772\*  (0.479) |  | -0.213\*  (0.615) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Constant | -2.463\*\*\* | -2.446\*\*\* | -1.387 | -1.602 | -3.242\*\*\* | -3.202\*\*\* |
|  | (0.575) | (0.557) | (1.243) | (1.187) | (0.761) | (0.735) |
| lnalpha | -0.058 | -0.058 | -0.077 | -0.105 | 0.107\*\*\* | 0.107\*\*\* |
|  | (0.036) | (0.036) | (0.193) | (0.195) | (0.018) | (0.017) |
| Observations | 451 | 451 | 451 | 451 | 451 | 451 |

Notes: negative binomial regression; dependent variable: number of PQs; robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered by governments; significance level: \*\*\* p<0.01; \*\* p<0.05; \* p<0.1

**Table 4A. OLS with logged dependent variables**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Model 1 | Model 2 | Model 3 | Model 4 | Model 5 | Model 6 |
| *Independent variables* | *Total PQs* | *Total PQs* | *Oral PQs* | *Oral PQs* | *Written PQs* | *Written PQs* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New party in government | 0.523\*\* | 0.623\* | 0.350\*\* | 0.600\* | 0.326\* | 0.395\* |
|  | (0.201) | (0.390) | (0.094) | (0.290) | (0.198) | (0.386) |
| Technocrat | 0.563\*\* | 0.542\*\* | -0.050 | -0.096 | 0.530\*\* | 0.517\*\* |
|  | (0.137) | (0.168) | (0.200) | (0.198) | (0.145) | (0.148) |
| First experience as minister | 0.245 | 0.105 | 0.485\*\* | 0.166 | 0.066 | -0.029 |
|  | (0.255) | (0.318) | (0.113) | (0.389) | (0.171) | (0.384) |
| Same coalition | -0.202\*\* | -0.197\*\* | -0.226\* | -0.241\* | 0.338\*\* | 0.334\*\* |
|  | (0.061) | (0.058) | (0.129) | (0.114) | (0.121) | (0.112) |
| Coalition party size (ln) | 0.482\*\*\* | 0.480\*\*\* | 0.179\*\* | 0.172\* | 0.503\*\*\* | 0.502\*\*\* |
|  | (0.060) | (0.066) | (0.062) | (0.067) | (0.054) | (0.056) |
| Share of coalition party ministries | -1.074  (0.680) | -1.083  (0.657) | -0.694  (0.616) | -0.710  (0.639) | -0.969  (0.661) | -0.975  (0.632) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Government party size (ln) | -0.002 | -0.002 | 0.001 | 0.002 | -0.004 | -0.004 |
|  | (0.002) | (0.003) | (0.001) | (0.000) | (0.003) | (0.002) |
| Share of government party ministries | 0.985  (0.831) | 0.998  (0.892) | -1.678\*\*\*  (0.211) | -1.673\*\*\*  (0.120) | 1.562  (0.949) | 1.573  (1.003) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Surplus majority | -0.115 | -0.105 | 0.440\* | 0.397\* | -0.051 | -0.057 |
|  | (0.218) | (0.190) | (0.200) | (0.161) | (0.198) | (0.170) |
| Tenure (minister) | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.001\*\* | 0.001\*\* | 0.001\*\*\* | 0.001\*\*\* |
|  | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) |
| Junior minister | 0.330\* | 0.340\* | 0.273\* | 0.290\* | 0.258\* | 0.264\* |
|  | (0.137) | (0.167) | (0.176) | (0.181) | (0.179) | (0.205) |
| Ministerial relevance | 0.984\*\* | 0.988\*\* | 0.465\*\*\* | 0.472\*\*\* | 0.874\*\* | 0.877\*\* |
|  | (0.281) | (0.268) | (0.100) | (0.079) | (0.280) | (0.269) |
| Policy distance | 0.174\*\* | 0.175\*\* | 0.205\*\* | 0.203\*\* | 0.166\*\* | 0.166\*\* |
|  | (0.038) | (0.042) | (0.050) | (0.051) | (0.0387) | (0.041) |
| Issue relevance | 0.006 | 0.009 | -0.144 | -0.136\*\* | 0.0583 | 0.061 |
|  | (0.055) | (0.042) | (0.041) | (0.038) | (0.039) | (0.030) |
| First experience as minister \* new party in government |  | 0.191  (0.729) |  | 0.465  (0.504) |  | 0.132  (0.719) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Constant | -1.972\*\*\* | -2.000\*\*\* | -0.472 | -0.507 | -2.020\*\*\* | -2.041\*\*\* |
|  | (0.371) | (0.348) | (0.488) | (0.546) | (0.243) | (0.302) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Observations | 377 | 377 | 377 | 377 | 377 | 377 |
| R-squared | 0.435 | 0.436 | 0.426 | 0.432 | 0.386 | 0.386 |

Robust standard errors in parentheses; significance level: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table 5A. Descriptive statistics**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Independent variables* | *N* | *mean* | *sd* | *min* | *max* |
| New party in government | 453 | 0.161 | 0.368 | 0 | 1 |
| Technocratic minister | 453 | 0.300 | 0.459 | 0 | 1 |
| First experience as minister | 453 | 0.779 | 0.415 | 0 | 1 |
| Same coalition | 453 | 0.706 | 0.456 | 0 | 1 |
| Coalition party size (ln) | 452 | 3.520 | 1.111 | 2.079 | 5.694 |
| Share of coalition party ministries | 453 | 0.110 | 0.175 | 0 | 0.842 |
| Government party size (ln) | 453 | 139.3 | 128.6 | 0 | 297 |
| Share of government party ministries | 453 | 0.352 | 0.326 | 0 | 0.842 |
| Surplus majority | 453 | 0.764 | 0.425 | 0 | 1 |
| Tenure (minister) | 453 | 617.0 | 265.3 | 18 | 1,287 |
| Junior minister | 453 | 0.196 | 0.398 | 0 | 1 |
| Ministerial relevance | 453 | 1.026 | 0.530 | 0.460 | 2.480 |
| Policy distance | 453 | 0.722 | 0.924 | 0 | 5.286 |
| Issue relevance | 452 | 4.021 | 1.570 | 1.376 | 6.820 |

Note: figures show descriptive statistics include Monti’s cabinet

**Table 6A. Parliamentary questions in the Italian governments (2006-2018)**

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies there are three different types of questions: written questions (*interrogazioni scritte*), oral questions (*interrogazioni a risposta orale*) and oral questions for question time (*interrogazioni a risposta immediata*). Written questions are totally free from any type of external influence because every MP has the right to request a written response from the government at any time. Conversely, oral questions have the limit of two questions for each MPs in each working session of the Chamber. Moreover, oral questions for question time are organized once a week, usually on Wednesday and only one question for each parliamentary group can be asked to the cabinet. These limits impose the need for an intra-party coordination.

In the following table we show the number of oral and written questions for each cabinet analysed in our research.

Prodi II

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Legislature | Ministry | Total PQs | % | Oral PQs | % | Written PQs | % |
| XV | Prime Minister | 177 | 4.94% | 60 | 11.79% | 117 | 3.81% |
| XV | Agricultural. food and forestry policies | 121 | 3.38% | 12 | 2.36% | 109 | 3.55% |
| XV | Communications | 87 | 2.43% | 13 | 2.55% | 74 | 2.41% |
| XV | Cultural heritages and activities | 118 | 3.29% | 6 | 1.18% | 112 | 3.64% |
| XV | Defence | 187 | 5.22% | 22 | 4.32% | 165 | 5.37% |
| XV | Economic Development | 176 | 4.91% | 28 | 5.50% | 148 | 4.81% |
| XV | Economy and Finance | 271 | 7.56% | 21 | 4.13% | 250 | 8.13% |
| XV | Education | 91 | 2.54% | 11 | 2.16% | 80 | 2.60% |
| XV | Environment and Sea Protection | 189 | 5.27% | 18 | 3.54% | 171 | 5.56% |
| XV | European Policies | 4 | 0.11% | 3 | 0.59% | 1 | 0.03% |
| XV | Family policies | 28 | 0.78% | 7 | 1.38% | 21 | 0.68% |
| XV | Foreign Affairs | 223 | 6.22% | 14 | 2.75% | 209 | 6.80% |
| XV | Health | 245 | 6.84% | 17 | 3.34% | 228 | 7.42% |
| XV | Infrastructures | 153 | 4.27% | 27 | 5.30% | 126 | 4.10% |
| XV | Interior | 495 | 13.82% | 56 | 11.00% | 439 | 14.28% |
| XV | International Trade | 5 | 0.14% | 2 | 0.39% | 3 | 0.10% |
| XV | Job and Social Assurance | 285 | 7.95% | 42 | 8.25% | 243 | 7.91% |
| XV | Justice | 295 | 8.23% | 71 | 13.95% | 224 | 7.29% |
| XV | Programme implementation | 11 | 0.31% | 9 | 1.77% | 2 | 0.07% |
| XV | Public Administrative Reforms and Innovation | 19 | 0.53% | 2 | 0.39% | 17 | 0.55% |
| XV | Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies | 14 | 0.39% | 2 | 0.39% | 12 | 0.39% |
| XV | Relations with the Parliament and Institutional reforms | 28 | 0.78% | 7 | 1.38% | 21 | 0.68% |
| XV | Rights and equal opportunities | 10 | 0.28% | 3 | 0.59% | 7 | 0.23% |
| XV | Social Solidarity | 39 | 1.09% | 18 | 3.54% | 21 | 0.68% |
| XV | Transport | 226 | 6.31% | 29 | 5.70% | 197 | 6.41% |
| XV | University and Research | 77 | 2.15% | 8 | 1.57% | 69 | 2.24% |
| XV | Youth policies and sports | 9 | 0.25% | 1 | 0.20% | 8 | 0.26% |
|  | *Total* | *3583* |  | *509* | *14.21%* | *3074* | *85.79%* |

Berlusconi IV

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Legislature | Ministry | Total PQs | % | Oral PQs | % | Written PQs | % |
| XVI | Prime Minister | 89 | 4.11% | 3 | 1.63% | 86 | 4.34% |
| XVI | Agricultural. food and forestry policies | 118 | 5.45% | 30 | 16.30% | 88 | 4.44% |
| XVI | Cultural heritages and activities | 69 | 3.18% | 4 | 2.17% | 65 | 3.28% |
| XVI | Defence | 32 | 1.48% | 4 | 2.17% | 28 | 1.41% |
| XVI | Economic Development | 281 | 12.97% | 15 | 8.15% | 266 | 13.41% |
| XVI | Economy and Finance | 165 | 7.61% | 14 | 7.61% | 151 | 7.61% |
| XVI | Environment and Sea Protection | 67 | 3.09% | 4 | 2.17% | 63 | 3.18% |
| XVI | Equal opportunities | 7 | 0.32% | 0 | 0.00% | 7 | 0.35% |
| XVI | European Policies | 4 | 0.18% | 0 | 0.00% | 4 | 0.20% |
| XVI | Federalism reforms | 1 | 0.05% | 0 | 0.00% | 1 | 0.05% |
| XVI | Foreign Affairs | 51 | 2.35% | 3 | 1.63% | 48 | 2.42% |
| XVI | Government programme actuation | 8 | 0.37% | 0 | 0.00% | 8 | 0.40% |
| XVI | Health | 207 | 9.55% | 33 | 17.93% | 174 | 8.77% |
| XVI | Interior | 552 | 25.47% | 38 | 20.65% | 514 | 25.92% |
| XVI | Infrastructures and transport | 244 | 11.26% | 11 | 5.98% | 233 | 11.75% |
| XVI | Job and social policies | 66 | 3.05% | 11 | 5.98% | 55 | 2.77% |
| XVI | Justice | 125 | 5.77% | 3 | 1.63% | 122 | 6.15% |
| XVI | Regional relationship and territorial cohesion | 6 | 0.28% | 0 | 0.00% | 6 | 0.30% |
| XVI | Public Administrative Reforms and Innovation | 28 | 1.29% | 4 | 2.17% | 24 | 1.21% |
| XVI | Relations with Parliament | 14 | 0.65% | 4 | 2.17% | 10 | 0.50% |
| XVI | Youth | 4 | 0.18% | 1 | 0.54% | 3 | 0.15% |
| XVI | Law simplification | 4 | 0.18% | 2 | 1.09% | 2 | 0.10% |
| XVI | Subsidiarity and decentralization | 8 | 0.37% | 0 | 0.00% | 8 | 0.40% |
| XVI | Tourism | 17 | 0.78% | 0 | 0.00% | 17 | 0.86% |
|  | *Total* | *2167* |  | *184* | *8.49%* | *1983* | *91.51%* |

Monti I

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Legislature | Ministry | Total PQs | % | Oral PQs | % | Written PQs | % |
| XVI | Prime Minister | 161 | 4.05% | 14 | 3.01% | 147 | 4.19% |
| XVI | Agricultural. food and forestry policies | 132 | 3.32% | 16 | 3.44% | 116 | 3.31% |
| XVI | Cultural heritages and activities | 118 | 2.97% | 23 | 4.95% | 95 | 2.71% |
| XVI | Defence | 202 | 5.09% | 12 | 2.58% | 190 | 5.42% |
| XVI | Economic development. infrastructures and transports | 605 | 15.23% | 68 | 14.62% | 537 | 15.31% |
| XVI | Economy and Finance | 344 | 8.66% | 49 | 10.54% | 295 | 8.41% |
| XVI | Education. university and research | 234 | 5.89% | 35 | 7.53% | 199 | 5.67% |
| XVI | Environment and Sea Protection | 233 | 5.87% | 18 | 3.87% | 215 | 6.13% |
| XVI | European Affairs | 13 | 0.33% | 1 | 0.22% | 12 | 0.34% |
| XVI | Foreign Affairs | 150 | 3.78% | 10 | 2.15% | 140 | 3.99% |
| XVI | Health | 352 | 8.86% | 47 | 10.11% | 305 | 8.70% |
| XVI | Interior | 451 | 11.35% | 69 | 14.84% | 382 | 10.89% |
| XVI | International cooperation and integration | 32 | 0.81% | 5 | 1.08% | 27 | 0.77% |
| XVI | Job and social policies | 309 | 7.78% | 49 | 10.54% | 260 | 7.41% |
| XVI | Justice | 551 | 13.87% | 34 | 7.31% | 517 | 14.74% |
| XVI | Public administration and simplification | 34 | 0.86% | 3 | 0.65% | 31 | 0.88% |
| XVI | Regional affairs. tourism and sports | 30 | 0.76% | 5 | 1.08% | 25 | 0.71% |
| XVI | Relations with Parliament | 10 | 0.25% | 5 | 1.08% | 5 | 0.14% |
| XVI | Territorial cohesion | 11 | 0.28% | 2 | 0.43% | 9 | 0.26% |
|  | *Total* | *3972* |  | *465* | *11.71%* | *3507* | *88.29%* |

Letta I

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Legislature | Ministry | Total PQs | % | Oral PQs | % | Written PQs | % |
| XVII | Prime Minister | 34 | 2.89% | 15 | 6.02% | 19 | 2.05% |
| XVII | Agricultural. food and forestry policies | 71 | 6.04% | 10 | 4.02% | 61 | 6.58% |
| XVII | Constitutional reforms | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| XVII | Cultural heritages and activities | 15 | 1.28% | 7 | 2.81% | 8 | 0.86% |
| XVII | Defence | 30 | 2.55% | 3 | 1.20% | 27 | 2.91% |
| XVII | Economic Development | 49 | 4.17% | 18 | 7.23% | 31 | 3.34% |
| XVII | Economy and Finance | 145 | 12.33% | 16 | 6.43% | 129 | 13.92% |
| XVII | Education. University and Research | 58 | 4.93% | 21 | 8.43% | 37 | 3.99% |
| XVII | Environment and Sea Protection | 50 | 4.25% | 13 | 5.22% | 37 | 3.99% |
| XVII | Equal opportunities. sport and youth policies | 1 | 0.09% | 1 | 0.40% | 0 | 0.00% |
| XVII | European Affairs | 3 | 0.26% | 2 | 0.80% | 1 | 0.11% |
| XVII | Foreign Affairs | 54 | 4.59% | 9 | 3.61% | 45 | 4.85% |
| XVII | Health | 97 | 8.25% | 29 | 11.65% | 68 | 7.34% |
| XVII | Infrastructures and transport | 129 | 10.97% | 19 | 7.63% | 110 | 11.87% |
| XVII | Integration | 8 | 0.68% | 4 | 1.61% | 4 | 0.43% |
| XVII | Interior | 131 | 11.14% | 24 | 9.64% | 107 | 11.54% |
| XVII | Job and social policies | 142 | 12.07% | 31 | 12.45% | 111 | 11.97% |
| XVII | Justice | 125 | 10.63% | 20 | 8.03% | 105 | 11.33% |
| XVII | Public Administration and simplification | 27 | 2.30% | 4 | 1.61% | 23 | 2.48% |
| XVII | Regional affairs and sports | 3 | 0.26% | 1 | 0.40% | 2 | 0.22% |
| XVII | Relations with the Parliament and government activities coordination | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| XVII | Territorial cohesion | 4 | 0.34% | 2 | 0.80% | 2 | 0.22% |
|  | *Total* | *1176* |  | *249* | *21.17%* | *927* | *78.83%* |

Renzi I

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Legislature | Ministry | Total PQs | % | Oral PQs | % | Written PQs | % |
| XVII | Prime Minister | 38 | 1.68% | 16 | 2.38% | 22 | 1.39% |
| XVII | Agricultural. food and forestry policies | 59 | 2.61% | 17 | 2.53% | 42 | 2.65% |
| XVII | Cultural heritages and activities | 73 | 3.23% | 31 | 4.61% | 42 | 2.65% |
| XVII | Defence | 12 | 0.53% | 7 | 1.04% | 5 | 0.32% |
| XVII | Economic Development | 264 | 11.69% | 63 | 9.38% | 201 | 12.67% |
| XVII | Economy and Finance | 138 | 6.11% | 57 | 8.48% | 81 | 5.10% |
| XVII | Education. University and Research | 184 | 8.15% | 67 | 9.97% | 117 | 7.37% |
| XVII | Environment and Sea Protection | 231 | 10.23% | 54 | 8.04% | 177 | 11.15% |
| XVII | Foreign Affairs | 28 | 1.24% | 9 | 1.34% | 19 | 1.20% |
| XVII | Health | 301 | 13.32% | 82 | 12.20% | 219 | 13.80% |
| XVII | Infrastructures and transport | 220 | 9.74% | 86 | 12.80% | 134 | 8.44% |
| XVII | Institutional reforms and relations with Parliament | 24 | 1.06% | 3 | 0.45% | 21 | 1.32% |
| XVII | Interior | 501 | 22.18% | 108 | 16.07% | 393 | 24.76% |
| XVII | Job and social policies | 82 | 3.63% | 33 | 4.91% | 49 | 3.09% |
| XVII | Justice | 62 | 2.74% | 30 | 4.46% | 32 | 2.02% |
| XVII | Public Administration and simplification | 30 | 1.33% | 5 | 0.74% | 25 | 1.58% |
| XVII | Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies | 12 | 0.53% | 4 | 0.60% | 8 | 0.50% |
|  | *Total* | *2259* |  | *672* | *29.75%* | *1587* | *70.25%* |

Gentiloni I

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Legislature | Ministry | Total PQs | % | Oral PQs | % | Written PQs | % |
| XVII | Prime Minister | 8 | 2.27% | 0 | 0.00% | 8 | 2.63% |
| XVII | Agricultural. food and forestry policies | 20 | 5.67% | 0 | 0.00% | 20 | 6.58% |
| XVII | Cultural heritages and activities | 1 | 0.28% | 0 | 0.00% | 1 | 0.33% |
| XVII | Defence | 6 | 1.70% | 1 | 2.04% | 5 | 1.64% |
| XVII | Economic Development | 30 | 8.50% | 4 | 8.16% | 26 | 8.55% |
| XVII | Economy and Finance | 6 | 1.70% | 2 | 4.08% | 4 | 1.32% |
| XVII | Education. University and Research | 25 | 7.08% | 2 | 4.08% | 23 | 7.57% |
| XVII | Environment and Sea Protection | 43 | 12.18% | 10 | 20.41% | 33 | 10.86% |
| XVII | Foreign Affairs | 50 | 14.16% | 12 | 24.49% | 38 | 12.50% |
| XVII | Health | 44 | 12.46% | 1 | 2.04% | 43 | 14.14% |
| XVII | Infrastructures and transport | 34 | 9.63% | 4 | 8.16% | 30 | 9.87% |
| XVII | Interior | 31 | 8.78% | 2 | 4.08% | 29 | 9.54% |
| XVII | Job and social policies | 22 | 6.23% | 3 | 6.12% | 19 | 6.25% |
| XVII | Justice | 20 | 5.67% | 2 | 4.08% | 18 | 5.92% |
| XVII | Public Administration and simplification | 2 | 0.57% | 1 | 2.04% | 1 | 0.33% |
| XVII | Regional affairs | 7 | 1.98% | 4 | 8.16% | 3 | 0.99% |
| XVII | Relations with parliament | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| XVII | Sport | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| XVII | Territorial cohesion | 4 | 1.13% | 1 | 2.04% | 3 | 0.99% |
|  | *Total* | *353* |  | *49* | *13.88%* | *304* | *86.12%* |

**Table 7A. The role of uncertainty in explaining the number of PQs**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Model 1 | Model 2 | Model 3 | Model 4 | Model 5 | Model 6 |
| *Independent variables* | *Total PQs* | *Total PQs* | *Oral PQs* | *Oral PQs* | *Written PQs* | *Written PQs* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New party in government | 0.387\*\*\* | 0.343 | 0.704\*\*\* | 1.055\*\*\* | 0.316\*\*\* | 0.227 |
|  | (0.083) | (0.324) | (0.125) | (0.337) | (0.0861) | (0.318) |
| Non-partisan minister | -0.413 | -0.417 | 0.0115 | 0.0374 | -0.511 | -0.519 |
|  | (1.019) | (1.039) | (0.606) | (0.605) | (1.090) | (1.113) |
| First experience as minister | 0.252 | 0.312 | 0.782\*\*\* | 0.349 | 0.158 | 0.279 |
|  | (0.172) | (0.388) | (0.136) | (0.382) | (0.164) | (0.417) |
| Same coalition | 0.323 | 0.320 | -0.460\* | -0.462\* | 0.500\*\* | 0.492\*\* |
|  | (0.232) | (0.230) | (0.249) | (0.242) | (0.222) | (0.219) |
| Coalition party size (ln) | 0.498\*\*\* | 0.499\*\*\* | 0.481 | 0.474 | 0.495\*\*\* | 0.498\*\*\* |
|  | (0.140) | (0.141) | (0.298) | (0.299) | (0.089) | (0.0887) |
| Share of coalition party ministries | -0.916 | -0.916 | -1.644 | -1.689 | -0.663 | -0.666 |
|  | (0.732) | (0.729) | (1.144) | (1.138) | (0.689) | (0.697) |
| Government party size (ln) | -0.003 | -0.003 | 0.003\* | 0.003\*\* | -0.005\*\* | -0.005\* |
|  | (0.002) | (0.002) | (0.00167) | (0.00139) | (0.003) | (0.003) |
| Share of government party ministries | 0.869 | 0.846 | -2.307\*\*\* | -2.262\*\*\* | 1.907\*\* | 1.851\* |
|  | (0.788) | (0.945) | (0.713) | (0.671) | (0.863) | (1.051) |
| Surplus majority | -0.159 | -0.157 | 1.006\*\*\* | 0.940\*\*\* | -0.394\*\* | -0.392\*\* |
|  | (0.216) | (0.202) | (0.267) | (0.239) | (0.192) | (0.184) |
| Tenure (minister) | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* | 0.002\*\*\* |
|  | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000475) | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.000) |
| Junior minister | 0.372\*\*\* | 0.370\*\*\* | 0.330 | 0.355 | 0.402\*\*\* | 0.397\*\*\* |
|  | (0.083) | (0.098) | (0.252) | (0.256) | (0.113) | (0.125) |
| Ministerial relevance | 1.198\*\*\* | 1.201\*\*\* | 0.789\*\*\* | 0.783\*\*\* | 1.247\*\*\* | 1.252\*\*\* |
|  | (0.294) | (0.312) | (0.138) | (0.119) | (0.334) | (0.353) |
| Policy distance | 0.187\*\* | 0.187\*\* | 0.267\*\*\* | 0.263\*\* | 0.164\* | 0.164\*\* |
|  | (0.086) | (0.084) | (0.103) | (0.108) | (0.086) | (0.083) |
| Issue relevance | -0.000 | -0.002 | -0.094 | -0.0813 | 0.0378 | 0.0344 |
|  | (0.113) | (0.119) | (0.079) | (0.076) | (0.120) | (0.127) |
| First experience as minister \* new party in government |  | -0.0805  (0.665) |  | 0.626  (0.541) |  | -0.163  (0.689) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Constant | -1.535\* | -1.518 | -3.074\*\* | -3.194\*\* | -1.809\*\* | -1.767\*\* |
|  | (0.927) | (0.974) | (1.333) | (1.390) | (0.829) | (0.890) |
| lnalpha | -0.053 | -0.053 | -0.0977 | -0.122 | 0.101 | 0.101 |
|  | (0.058) | (0.058) | (0.228) | (0.229) | (0.0323) | (0.0323) |
| Observations | 375 | 375 | 375 | 375 | 375 | 375 |

Notes: (a) non-partisan ministers are defined in this table as minister that have never been elected in a public office at all levels (national, sub-national or supranational) even if they are not expert in the specific jurisdiction; statistical model: negative binomial regression; dependent variable: number of PQs; robust standard errors in parentheses are clustered by governments; significance level: \*\*\* p<0.01; \*\* p<0.05; \* p<0.1

**Table 8A. Expected numbers of PQs for different levels of independent variables**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Model 1 | Expected value 1 | Expected value 2 | var% |
| New party government | 26 | 41 | 58% |
| Technocrat | 25 | 37 | 48% |
| Same coalition | 33 | 24 | -27% |
| Coalition party size | 14 | 44 | 214% |
| Junior minister | 24 | 33 | 38% |
| Ministerial relevance | 5 | 10 | 100% |
| Policy distance | 26 | 34 | 31% |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Model 3 | Expected value 1 | Expected value 2 | var% |
| New party government | 4 | 8 | 100% |
| Same coalition | 5 | 3 | -40% |
| Coalition party size | 2 | 8 | 300% |
| Share government party ministries | 10 | 3 | -70% |
| Surplus majority | 2 | 6 | 200% |
| Junior minister | 4 | 6 | 50% |
| Ministerial relevance | 2 | 7 | 250% |
| Policy distance | 4 | 6 | 50% |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Model 5 | Expected value 1 | Expected value 2 | var% |
| New party government | 21 | 32 | 52% |
| Technocrat | 20 | 33 | 65% |
| Same coalition | 38 | 18 | -53% |
| Coalition party size | 11 | 36 | 227% |
| Share government party ministries | 21 | 55 | 162% |
| Surplus majority | 29 | 21 | -28% |
| Junior minister | 20 | 28 | 40% |
| Ministerial relevance | 10 | 33 | 230% |
| Policy distance | 20 | 27 | 35% |

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