**Abstract**

<ab>Studies expressing concern over the continued underparticipation of women in politics rest on the assumption that increasing the number of female representatives in democracies leads to greater substantive representation of women’s policy interests. This article advances the discussion by conducting a comparative analysis of men’s and women’s attitudes across 27 countries in the European Union. Using the European Election and Candidate Studies 2009,I find that differences between the policy preferences of men and women in the EU do exist and that these differences are replicated between male and female candidates in European elections. The findings provide empirical support for the argument in favor of a greater gender balance in European policy-making institutions.</ab>