Mevr. Sigrid Winkler verdedigt haar doctoraat op maandag 4 juli 2011

De openbare verdediging tot het behalen van de academische graad van Doctor in de Politieke Wetenschappen van mevrouw Sigrid Winkler vindt plaats op maandag 4 juli 2011 om 11.00 uur in de Promotiezaal, gebouw D, 2de verdieping, lokaal D2.01, VUB-Campus Etterbeek.

De titel van het proefschrift luidt:"A Question of Sovereignty? The EU's Policy on Taiwan's Participation in International Organizations."

Promotor: Prof. dr. Bruno Coppieters

Na de openbare verdediging volgt een receptie.

Gelieve uw aanwezigheid te bevestigen aan Hilde.Vanderheyden@vub.ac.be

Abstract:
Taiwan’s path into international organizations has been a stony one. Only some of the states that have diplomatic relations with Taipei have given their full support to its membership: other countries, while they may have an interest in seeing Taiwan integrated in certain ways into specific international organizations, have to balance this stance with their “one China” policy. This is the case, for example, with the European Union (EU). From an EU perspective, Taiwan’s problematic sovereignty is the overarching problem when trying to formulate support for Taipei’s participation in international organizations.

This research introduces an innovative tripartite conceptualization of sovereignty within which to frame the problem: international legal sovereignty based on the recognition of statehood; domestic sovereignty, understood as a domestic government’s authority and control over its own territory and population; and functional sovereignty, meaning the ability of a non-recognized state to conduct international relations, but usually only on specific issues. Viewing sovereignty from this perspective not only helps to explain the EU’s stance on Taiwan’s quest for greater participation in international organizations – it is also used here to analyze the factors most likely to shape EU policy on Taiwan’s participation in international organizations.

In three case-studies – of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) – this doctoral dissertation studies six factors that shape European policy on Taiwan’s participation in international organizations. Two of these factors are internal to the EU: its own decision-making processes and its interest in Taiwan’s participation in particular international organizations. Four external factors also influence EU policy: the membership criteria of the international organizations in question; changes in the Taiwanese campaign in relation to these organizations; the Chinese position, and the role of the United States.