

Legislative activity of South
European parliaments: Have
they some common trends in the
21st century?

By

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Goal of the work

- Compare the legislative output of parliaments of France, Italy, Spain and Portugal
 - Number of laws, type of laws and procedures, origin of legislative proposals, etc.
- Hypothesis: there are regional influences

Some questions

- Is there any common trend among South European parliaments in legislation?
- What are the main institutional structures?
- Does the party government change the use of institutions?
- Which is the role of the executive?
- What is the relevance of Senates in France, Italy and Spain?

(Neo) Institutional analysis (1)

- Institutions matter:
 - they are the rules of the game, they give structure to the system and organize the decision-making process
- Institutions shape the behavior of actors:
 - they determine what actors can or cannot do and the consequences of various possible actions

(Neo) Institutional analysis (2)

- Institutions can be considered as equilibria:
 - they are the outcomes of the interactions between actors determined by their preferences
- Have a functional nature:
 - they are deliberately created by actors
- Actors change institutions in case it is necessary:
 - it can be a big reform or a gradual change

Empirical aspect

- Four countries of South Europe
- Three legislatures of the XXI century (10-15 years)
- Different situations of party government
 - France: XI (1997-2002); XII (2002-7); XIII (2007-12)
 - Italy: XIV (2001-6); XV (2006-8); XVI (2008-13)
 - Spain: VIII (2004-8); IX (2008-11); X (2011-15)
 - Portugal: X (2005-9), XI (2009-11); XII (2011-15)

	Years	1st	2nd	3rd
France	15	Coalition Alternation	Majority Alternation	Coalition
Italy	12	Coalition Alternation 2 Cabinets	Coalition Alternation	Coalition Alternation 2 Cabinets
Spain	12	Minority Alternation	Minority	Majority Alternation
Portugal	10	Majority Alternation	Minority	Coalition Alternation

France

Legislative production :	FRANCE (1)		
	XI 1997-2002	XII 2002-7	XIII 2007-12
Total number of laws	227	209	291
Constitutional laws	5	10	
Organic laws	11	13	26
Ordinary laws	211	186	265
Delegation laws	6	3	
International treaties	210	235	210

Bills tabled and passed in the chambers (France)

	XI	XII	XII
Total number of proposals	5806	2092	2461
MPs bills proposed	5103	1592	1964
MPs bills passed in Assembly	118	60	90
Government Bills passed in Assembly	141	175	207
Simplified procedure	216	221	181
Urgent procedure	40	59	126
Guillotine	14	8	64
Art. 49.3 C		3	

SENATE (France)

	XI	XII	XII
Legislative proposals	792	2092	2461
Bills passed	90	219	207
CMT	104	86	111

Italy

Legislative production :	ITALY		
	XIV 2001-6	XV- 2006-8	XVI- 2008-13
Total number of laws	687	112	391
Constitutional laws	2	1	4
Ordinary laws	484	79	281
Decree laws	200	32	106
Delegation laws	49	14	33
Legislative decrees	288	114	244
International treaties	229	41	141

Bills tabled and passed in the chambers (Italy)			
	XIV	XV	XVI
Total number of proposals	6365	3443	5714
MPs bills proposed	5717	3227	5320
MPs bills passed in Assembly	147	13	29
Government bills proposed	636	188	436
Government Bills passed in Assembly	539	99	346
Special procedures			
Laws passed in committee	108	9	79
Laws with Confidence vote	17 (3DL)	22 (14DL)	97 (63DL)

SENATE Italy)			
	XIV	XV	XVI
Legislative proposals	3975	2057	3748
Tabled by MPs	3206	1845	3271
MPs bills passed	90	8	62
Tabled by the Government	738	198	443

SPAIN

Legislative production :	SPAIN		
	VIII 2004-8	IX 2008-11	X 2011-15
Total number of laws	230	203	255
Constitutional laws		1	
Organic laws	33	26	41
Ordinary laws	134	115	128
Decree laws	52	56	76
Legislative decrees	11	5	9
International treaties	277	298	185

Bills tabled and passed in the low chambers (SPAIN)			
	VIII	IX	X
Total number of proposals	501	554	452
MPs bills proposed	235	330	237
MPs bills passed in Assembly	18	18	6
Government Bills proposed	152	147	163
Government Bills passed in Assembly	140	120	160
Special procedures			
Passed in committee	79	101	112
Urgent	31	21	60
One Reading	10	6	13

SENATE (SPAIN)			
	VIII	IX	X
MPs proposals	26	10	
Bills modified	110	85	97
Veto	4	2	

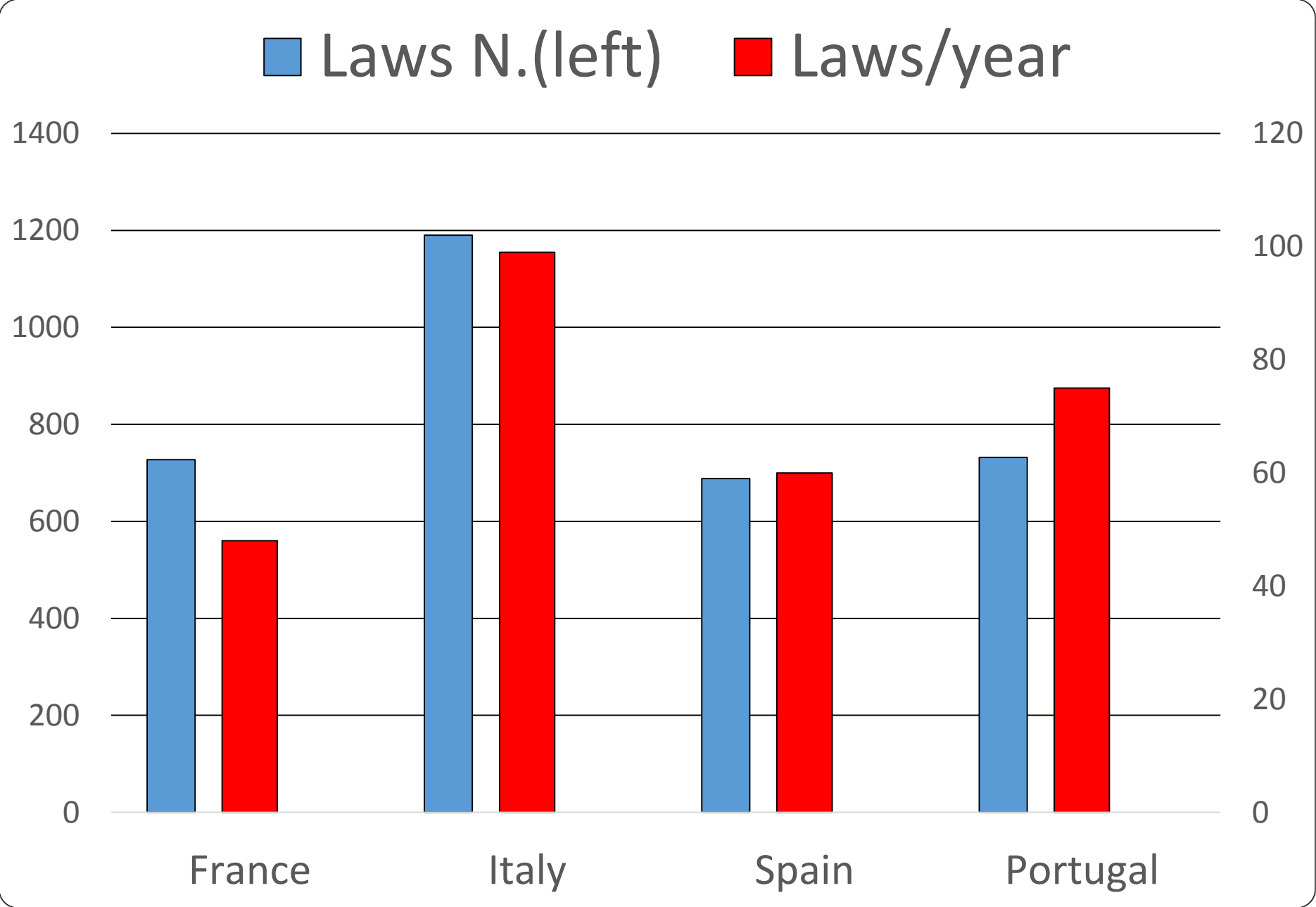
Portugal

Legislative production :		PORTUGAL		
	X 2005-9	XI 2009-11	XII 2011-15	
Total number of laws	365	102	265	
Constitutional laws	1			
Organic laws	17	3	23	
Ordinary laws	346	99	242	
Delegation laws	42	7	20	
International treaties	137	37	77	

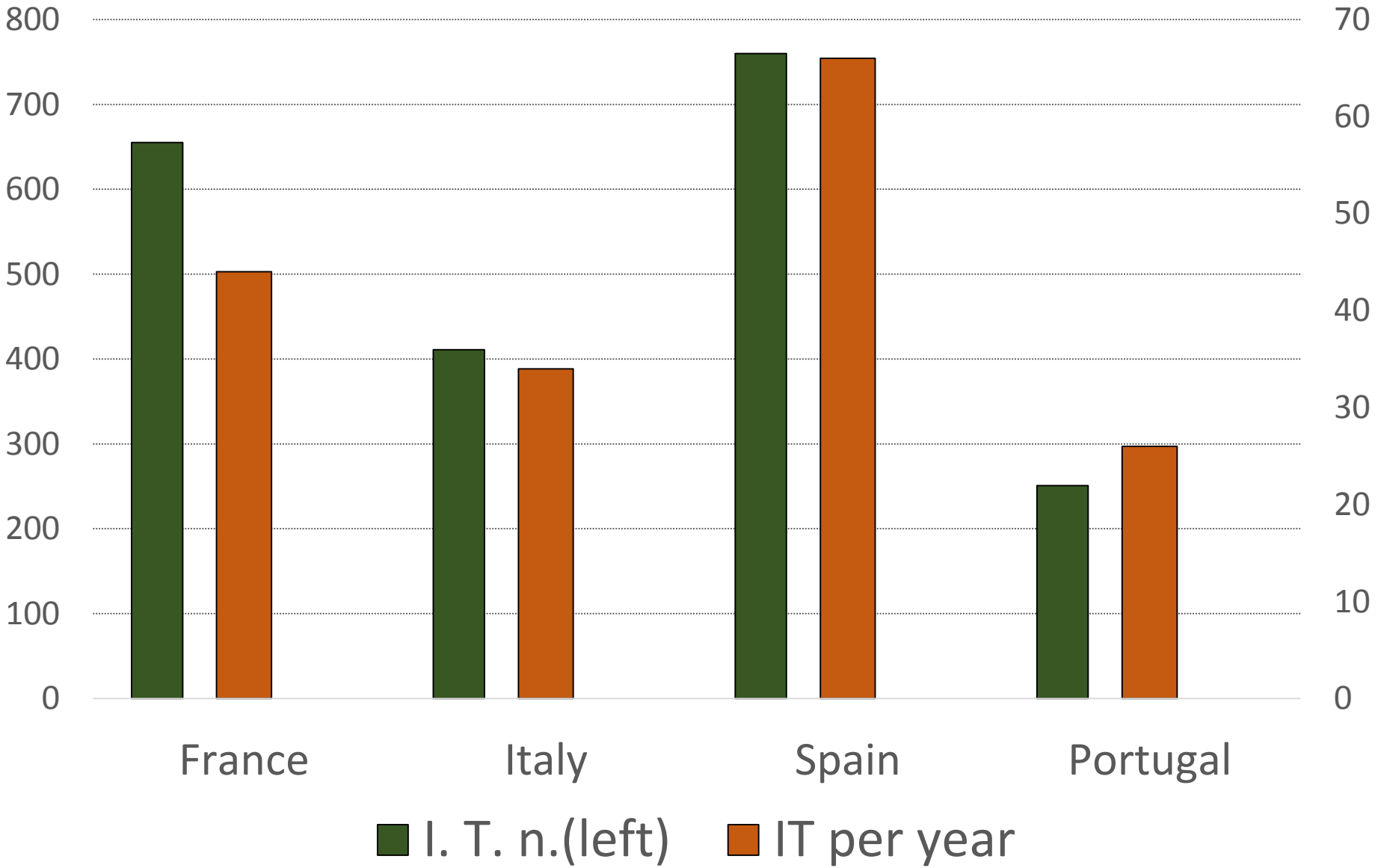
Bills tabled and passed in the chamber (Portugal)

	X	XI	XII
Total number of proposals	1210	680	1397
MPs bills proposed	911	624	1050
MPs bills passed in Assembly	218	122	140
Government Bills proposed	259	52	311
Government Bills passed in Assembly	249	37	260
Presidential veto	13	8	15

Comparison



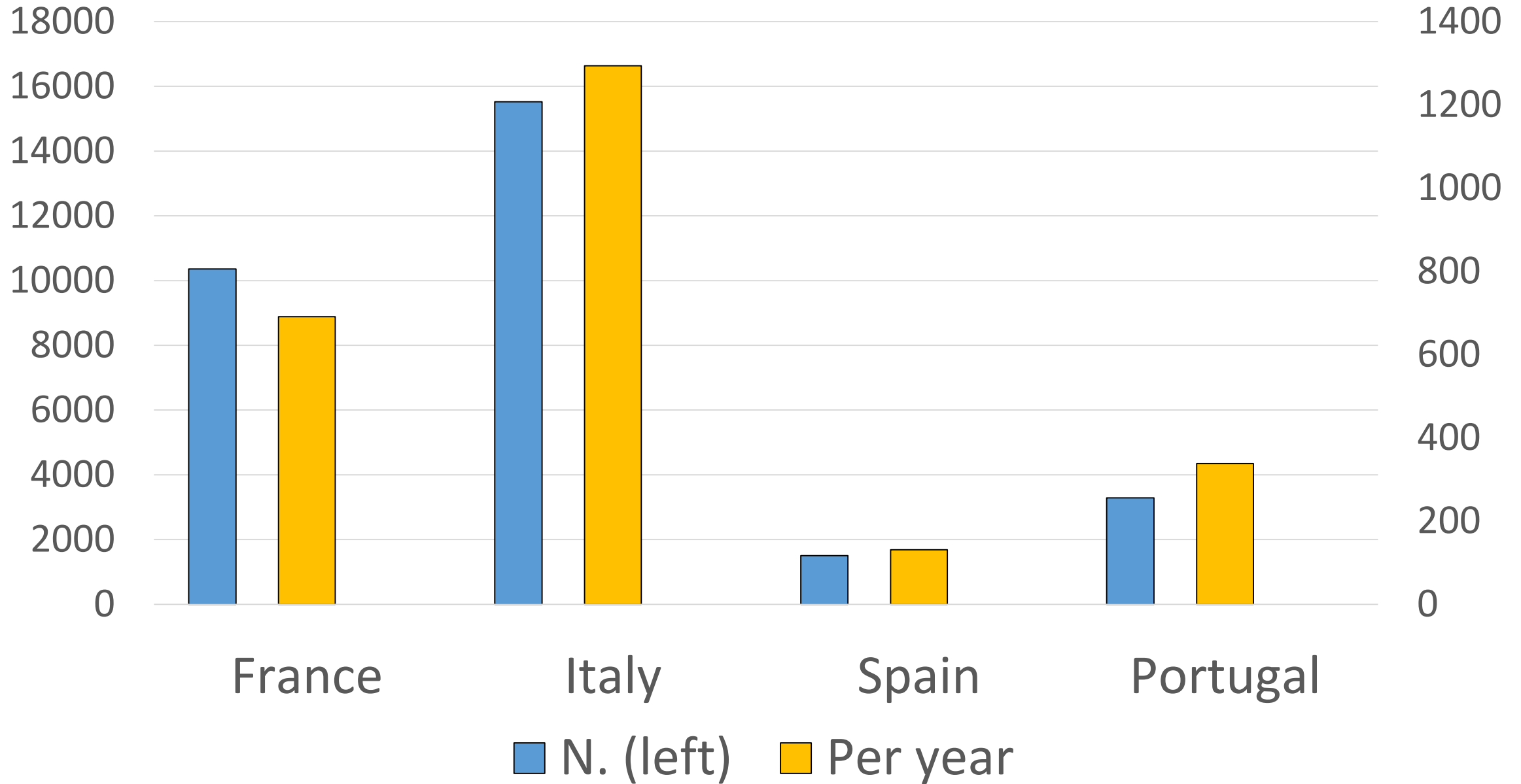
International treaties



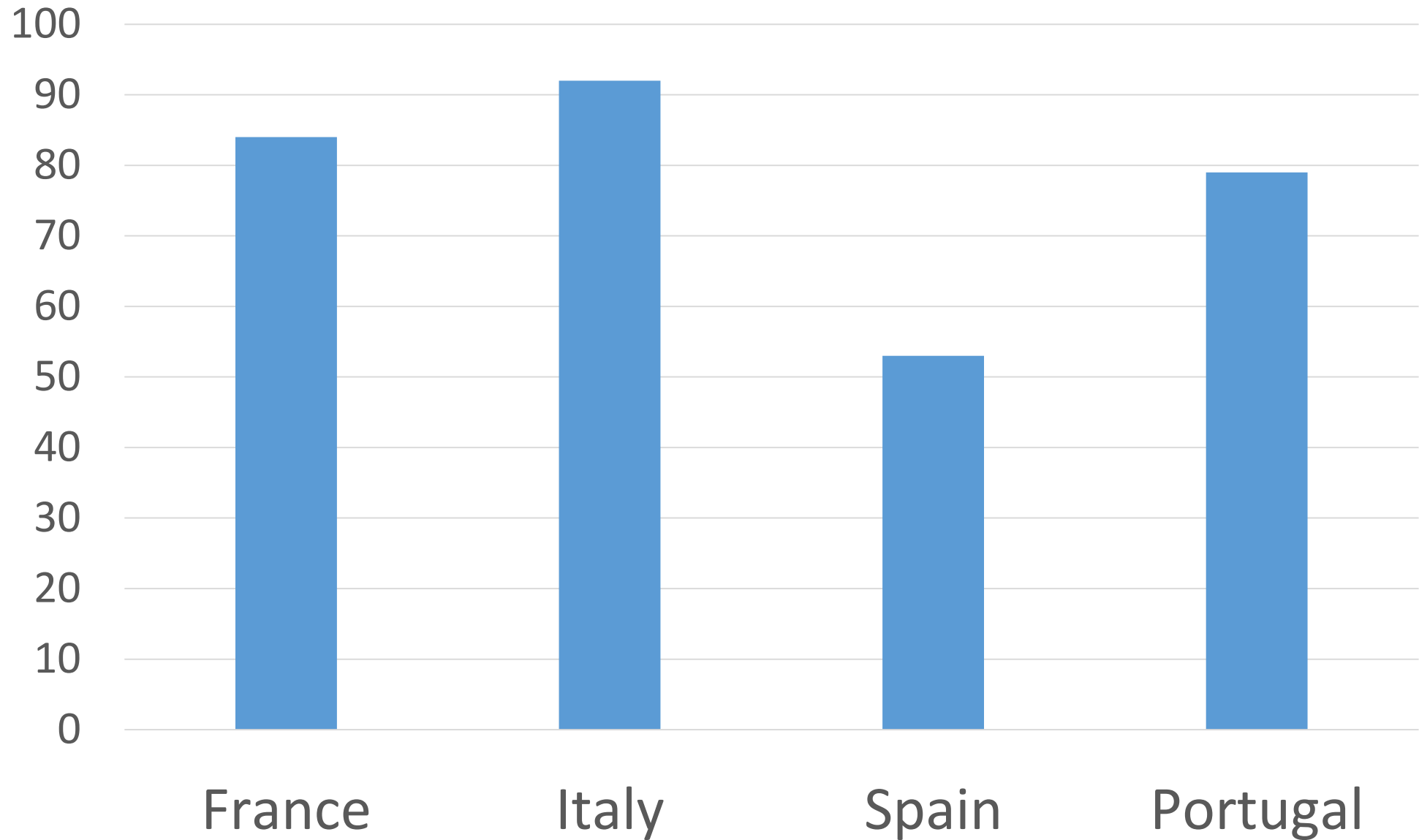
Laws by type

	France	Italy	Spain	Portugal
Constitutional n.	15	7	1	1
Organic	7%	--	15%	6%
Decree-Law	--	28%	27%	--
Delegation	1%	8%	4%	9%

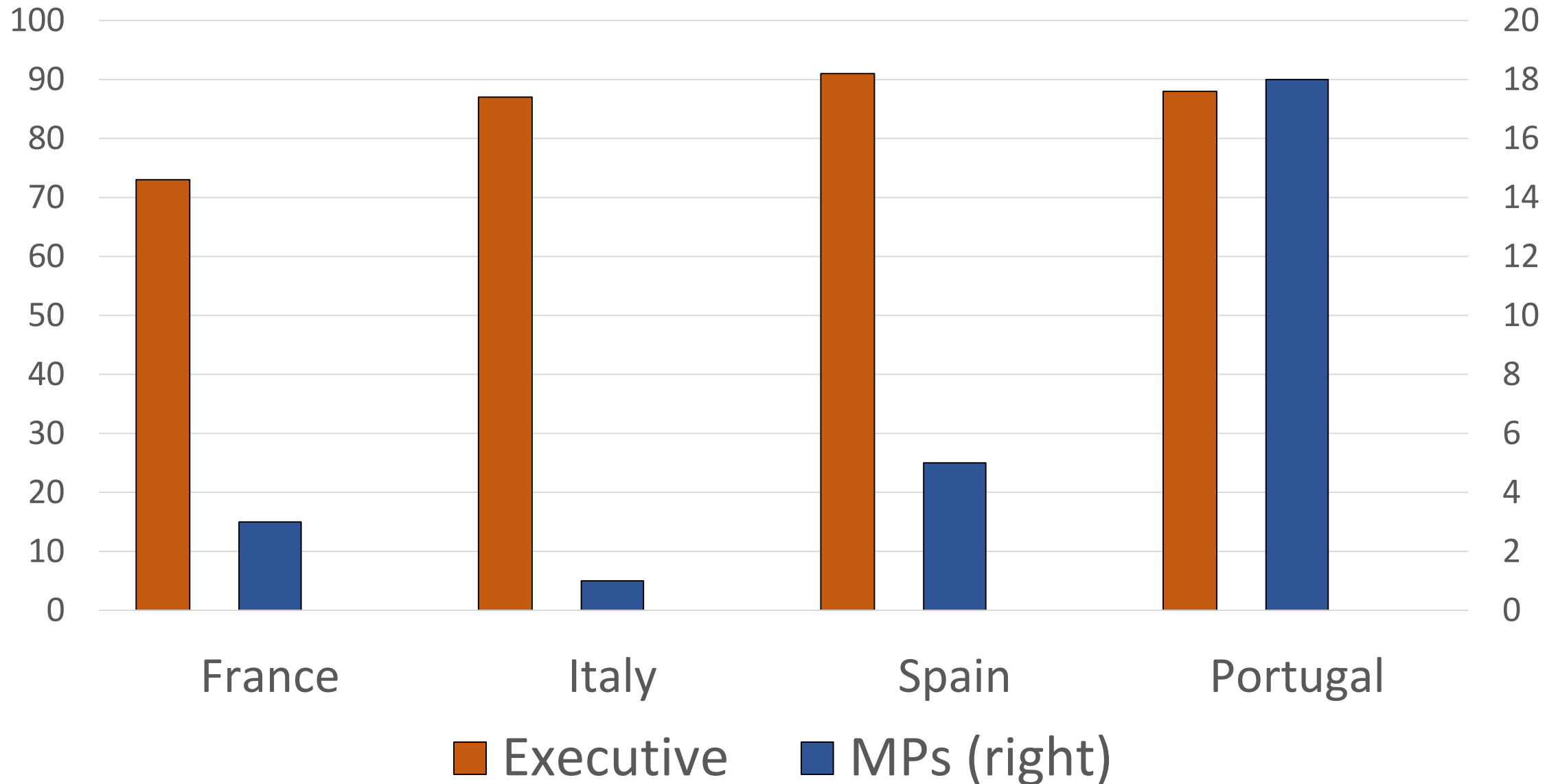
Legislative proposals



MPs bill proposed as %



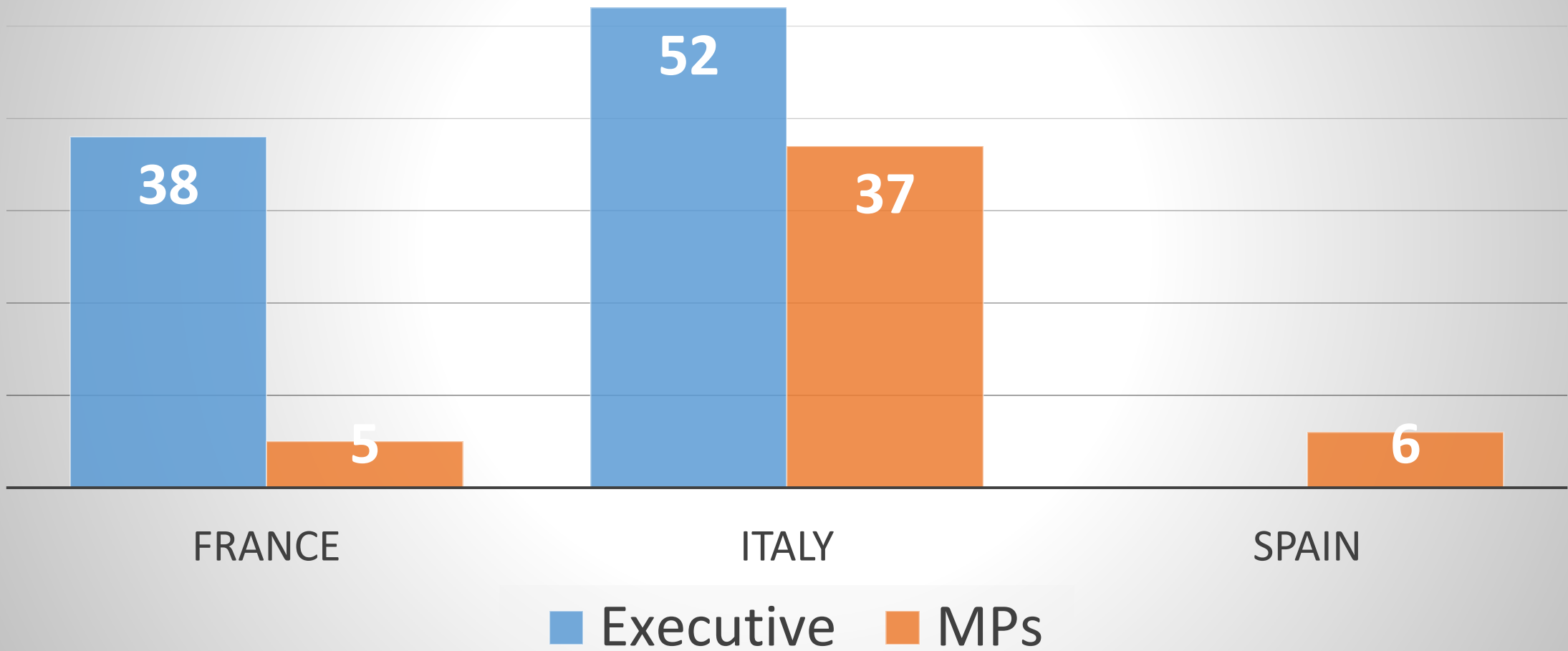
Proposals presented/aproved as %



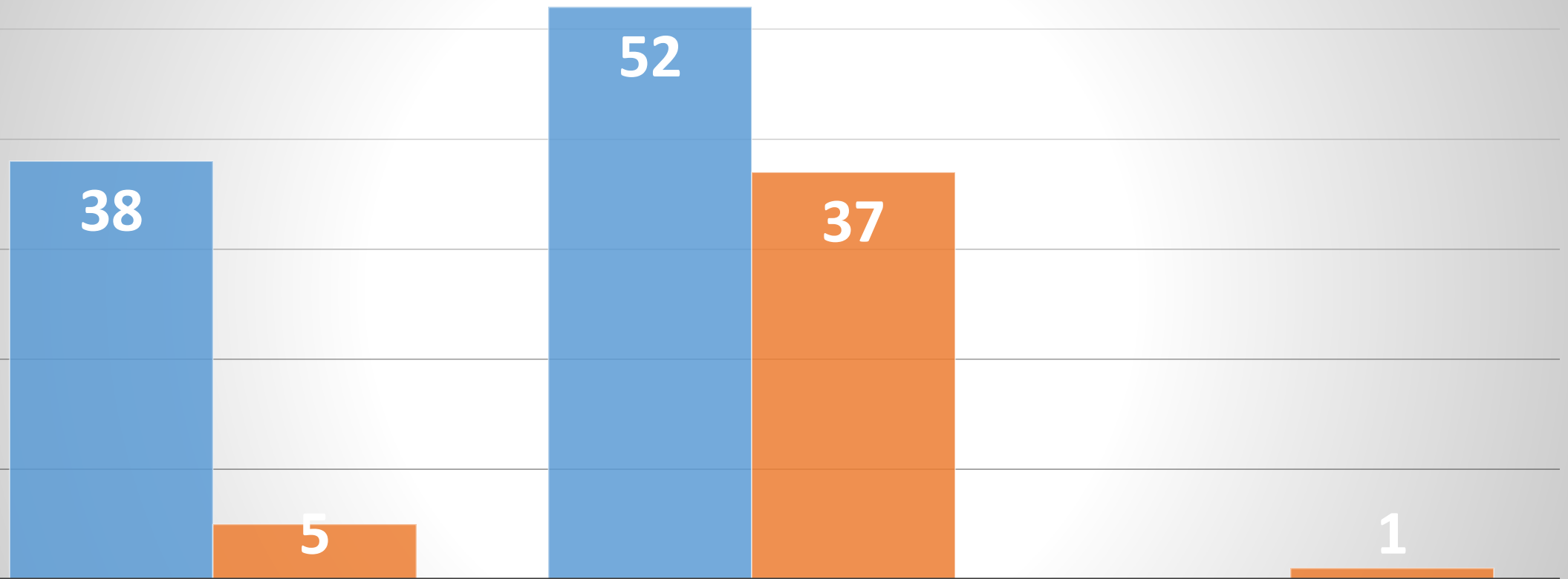
Special procedures

	France	Italy	Spain	Portugal
Approved in Committee	---	23%	77%	---
Confidence	0.4%	12%	---	---
Urgency	30%	---	16%	----
Guillotine	12%	---	4%	----

Senate: proposals in %



% of laws approved in Senate by origin



FRANCE

ITALY

SPAIN (VETO)

■ Executive ■ MPs

Conclusions: about every country

- There is no homogeneity :
 - the legislative activity depends on the situation of party government
- TRENDS:
 - France: more organic laws, less urgent procedures, less amendments and delegation laws
 - Italy: Less law number and decree- laws and less laws originated by the executive
 - Spain: increase of decree laws, reduction of the Senate role
 - Portugal: more legislative proposals, specially from MPs

Conclusions: similarities and differences

- There are many differences and some similarities
- Common features: variety of laws, MPs proposals
- Similarities:
 - France and Italy: constitutional reform, the number of legislative proposals, the role of the Senate
 - France, Spain and Portugal: Organic Laws
 - Spain and Italy: Decree laws, legislative committees
 - Spain and Portugal: small number of proposals
 - Spain and France: especial procedures

Conclusions: final

- There is not a distinctive model of parliament in South Europe
- Parliaments of South Europe are “moderately active”
- The use of the different type of laws depends on party strategies
- Party- actors adapt institutions to their needs