

Exploring the Party Caucus Negotiation System in the Legislative Yuan

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The party caucus negotiation system is a key feature of the legislative process in Taiwan's Legislative Yuan. Following the passage of the fourth constitutional amendment in 1997, in order to ensure that the legislature could operate effectively after the increase in the number of legislators, a new operating mechanism based on inter-party negotiations was established. On January 12, 1999, the "Five Legislative Reforms Act" passed on the third reading. The most significant reform was the creation of a party caucus negotiation system, providing formal legal status for party caucuses and party negotiating positions.

However, the operation of this mechanism has been fraught with controversy. Although the mechanism has to a certain extent strengthened procedural efficiency and the role of parties, it has also been frequently criticized for providing a "protective umbrella" for backroom secret negotiations, undermining the functions of standing committees, and allowing small parties to hold large parties to ransom. In discussions on reform of the legislature over many years, the party caucus negotiation system has typically been the first target for reform.

The aim of this project is to present an overview and discussion of the controversial party caucus negotiation system. It was hoped that by gathering relevant literature, we can understand how party caucuses interact in the legislative bodies of major democratic countries, as well as investigating the past operation of the party

caucus negotiation system in Taiwan. In addition, we use in-depth interviews to gather views on the party caucus negotiation system and suggestions for reform from legislators, legislative staff, assistants to legislators, administrators, and journalists with actual experience of the system to provide the basis for a more comprehensive and in-depth examination of the party caucus negotiation system and produce practical and feasible policy recommendations for future reform of the legislature.