The politician and the journalist are involved in a daily struggle, the one for a favourable public opinion and the other for a wide audience. They rely on each other to achieve these objectives. Agenda building, the research object of this book, refers to the basic process underlying this power struggle: irrespective of who decides how issues are discussed, the first conquest is gained by deciding which issues are discussed. The study zooms in on the reciprocal agenda-building influences between the two watchdogs of democracy: MPs and journalists, in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France. Who leads whom? Has the balance of power changed in favour of the media in recent decades? Does the balance of power change when issues are no longer exclusive to the national political domain as a result of European integration? These and related questions are tackled in this book with an extensive data set comprising cross-national comparative, cross-sectional and longitudinal data, as well as a detailed instrument for automated content analysis, and a comprehensive statistical framework of time-series analysis. The results suggest that the Dutch parliamentary agenda has retained some authority as a news source in the eyes of the Dutch press, whereas the British and French parliaments appear to hardly have a say in the contents of tomorrow’s headlines. Quite the contrary. Moreover, the more the news conveys a European flavour, the more media’s hold over the parliamentary agenda grows tighter.