Figure 1: Causal Diagram

(1) a modern political economic approach

X¹: sectoral interest → Y: sectoral conditions for joining the EU

(2) a state centred approach

X²: states and strategies → Y: sectoral conditions for joining the EU

(3) a combined approach: partial mediated model

X¹: sectoral interest → Y: sectoral conditions for joining the EU

X²: states and strategies → Y: sectoral conditions for joining the EU

Y = dependent variable
X¹, X² = independent variables whereby X² under a partial mediated model (3) is assumed to be a mediating cause, i.e. X² mediates the effect of X¹ on Y whereby Y ≠ 0 when X² is controlled

c¹, c² = direct effect
ab = indirect effect (c¹ - c¹'), the reduction of the effect of the initial variable on the outcome