The Future of Europe

The tone of the debate on the Future of Europe and possible institutional reforms of the European Union has shifted from gloomy to more optimistic, thanks to a developing economic recovery, the easing of the migration crisis, the failure of anti-EU forces to make decisive gains in some recent elections, and the general progress of the Brexit talks. Still, many analysts and politicians warn against complacency, as anti-establishment political parties continue to gain traction with some voters, as concerns grow over the rule of law in some EU countries, and as the policies of, and relations between, the United States and Russia have become less predictable. There is also no agreement on how to overhaul the euro area to minimise the risk of a repeat of the 2008 crisis and to strengthen economic growth.

This debate on the Future of Europe is set to intensify ahead of the 2019 European elections, the installation of the new Presidents of the European Commission and European Council, and the end of the EU’s current long-term budget in 2021.

This note offers links to commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on the state of the EU and possible reforms. Brexit-related publications can be found in a previous edition of ‘What Think Tanks are thinking.’ Earlier papers on the general state of the EU are available in another edition in this series, published in September 2017. More reports on euro zone reforms are also gathered in another in the series, from December 2017.

-European momentum-
Fondation Robert Schuman, April 2018

-The EU remains unprepared for the next migration crisis-
Carnegie Europe, April 2018

-Keeping it real: Building a realistic and inclusive euro zone-
Wilfried Martens Centre, April 2018

-The bigger EU problems hidden by Brexit-
Friends of Europe, April 2018

-Deepening EU integration and the Netherlands’ EU narrative-
Clingendael, March 2018

-Europe and the identity challenge: Who are “we”?
Fondation Robert Schuman, March 2018

-There is life for the EU after Brexit-
Carnegie Europe, March 2018
L'Europe face au défi de l'identité : qui sommes "nous"?
Fondation Robert Schuman, March 2018

What the EU must do to be loved and admired
Friends of Europe, March 2018

How to campaign for European elections in 2019
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, March 2017

Brexit and beyond: The future of Europe
Dahrendorf Forum, February 2018

Reforming the European Union: A political and democratic imperative
Fondation Robert Schuman, February 2018

Reforming the European Parliament
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, February 2018

How to govern Europe better: Reflections on reform of the European Parliament, Commission and Council
European Policy Centre, February 2018

Is there an escape from ‘Ever Closer Union’?
Egmont, February 2018

Clingendael State of the Union 2018
Clingendael, February 2018

Transnational lists: A political opportunity for Europe with obstacles to overcome
Notre Europe, February 2018

A more democratic European Union: Propositions and scope for political action
Jacques Delors Institute, Berlin, January 2018

Europe is back: Economic, financial, social and technological trends in a changing world
European Political Strategy Centre, January 2018

En Marche l'Europe? A strategy to implement democratic conventions
European Policy Centre, January 2018

Berlin’s European agenda
European Council on Foreign Relations, January 2018

Reformar la Unión Europea en 2018: Cinco propuestas, cinco voluntades políticas
Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, January 2018

Conference report: How to save the EU
Centre for European Reform, January 2018

Europe's political tribes: Exploring the diversity of views across the EU
Chatham House, December 2017

Partizipation als Mehrwert der Makroregionen
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, December 2018

Looking for the silver bullet: A comprehensive guide to the debate on ESM Reform
Notre Europe, December 2017
Reforming the euro zone without a "grand bargain"
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, December 2017

A European Monetary Fund: Why and how?
Centre for European Policy Studies, December 2017

Eine demokratischere Europäische Union: Positionen und Handlungsspielräume
Jacques Delors Institute, Berlin, December 2017

Rebels with a cause? Parliaments and EU trade policy after the Treaty of Lisbon
Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, December 2017

"Das Dach reparieren, solange die Sonne scheint"
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, December 2017

In 2018, Europe’s populist challenges will continue
Chatham House, December 2017

Re-energising Europe: A package deal for the EU27
European Policy Centre, King Baudouin Foundation, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Open Society Initiative for Europe, November 2017

Relaunching the EU
Centre for European Reform, November 2017

The European project in crisis: Myths and realities
Carnegie Europe, November 2017

"Exit, voice or loyalty?" Young people on Europe and democracy
Bertelsmann Stiftung, Institute for Human Sciences, Political Capital, Institute for Public Affairs, November 2017

EU-indikator: EU-gesetzgebung, subsidiarität und demokratische Kontrolle
Centrum für Europäische Politik, November 2017

Can the big idea of EU integration become reality?
Carnegie Europe, November 2017

The future of Europe and the future of climate action: reflections and scenarios for the EU27
E3G, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Institute for European Environmental Policy, November 2017

European integration via flexibility tools: The cases of EPPO and PESCO
Notre Europe, November 2017

The EMU does not have any flaws: a critique of the European Commission's reflection paper on the deepening of the EMU
Clingendael, November 2017

A 'twin peaks' vision for Europe
Bruegel, November 2017

EU expansion receives an unlikely boost
German Marshall Fund, November 2017

Possible future European Union party-political systems
College of Europe, October 2017
Les modèles d'intégration en Europe
Fondation Robert Schuman, October 2017

New impetus for a strong and sustainable European Union
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, October 2017

Remettre l'Europe sur la bonne voie
Institut Thomas More, October 2017

Politicizing Europe, Europeanizing politics
La Vie des Idées, October 2017

The Juncker Commission past midterm: Does the new setup work?
European Policy Centre, October 2017

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