

## State of the Union: Spring 2019

The run-up to the European Parliament elections on 23-26 May has intensified debate about the state of the European Union, the challenges it faces and the reforms needed, both to strengthen its resilience and to enhance its international role. Many analysts focus on the rise of anti-establishment movements and a perceived divide between the east and west of the Union regarding adherence to EU values and the rule of law. Some others discuss whether the EU should have more competence in areas such as defence, international relations, migration and taxation.

This note offers links **to reports and commentaries from some major international think-tanks and research institutes** on the state of the Union, proposed reforms and other issues being discussed ahead of the European elections.

Studies and commentaries on Brexit can be found in a [previous item](#) in the series. Papers on economic challenges faced by the EU and the euro area are available in still [another](#). Some further analyses on the European elections can be found in a '[What think tanks are thinking](#)' published in January.

### [The state of Europe](#)

Friends of Europe, March 2019

### [The EU Global Strategy 2020](#)

Egmont, March 2019

### [The changing global order and its implications for the EU](#)

Finnish Institute of International Affairs, March 2019

### [L'Union européenne, grande absente des journaux télévisés](#)

Fondation Jean Jaurès, March 2019

### [Germany's options for European policy reform: Instruments for progressive EU economic and social policy](#)

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, March 2019

### [No end in sight for the EU's democracy and rule of law crisis](#)

German Marshall Fund, March 2019

### [Hungary's systematic threat to the EU core values](#)

Clingendael, March 2019

### [Is Europe doing enough to protect its democracy?](#)

Carnegie Europe, March 2019

### [La triste dérive de la France et de l'Allemagne](#)

Institute Montaigne, March 2019

### [What comes after the last chance Commission? Policy priorities for 2019-2024](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, February 2019

[Élections européennes 2019: Les grands débats](#)

Institut français des relations internationales, January 2019

[The 2019 European election: How anti-Europeans plan to wreck Europe and what can be done to stop it](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2019

[Shaking up the 2019 European election: Macron, Salvini, Orbán, and the fate of the European party system](#)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, February 2019

[The European Council's strategic agenda](#)

Clingendael, February 2019

[Joining forces: The way towards the European Defence Union](#)

European Political Strategy Centre, February 2019

[The European Court of Justice: Do all roads lead to Luxembourg?](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, February 2019

[Shaping power: A strategic imperative for Europe](#)

European Policy Centre, February 2019

[Sleeping with the enemy: The dangers for Europe of accommodating nationalists](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2019

[Consultations citoyennes: Transformer l'essai](#)

Confrontations Europe, February 2019

[Italy in the EU: Shared priorities, provocative politics](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2019

[Austria's toughest EU presidency](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2019

[Europa: Brauchen wir das noch oder kann das weg? Wie schauen junge Deutsche vor der Europawahl 2019 auf Europa und die EU?](#)

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, January 2019

[The resurgence of bilateral diplomacy in Europe](#)

Egmont, January 2019

[Is the EU a Union of values?](#)

Clingendael, January 2019

[A European Security Council: Added value for EU Foreign and Security Policy?](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, January 2019

[What political role for the EU's fundamental rights agency?](#)

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, January 2019

[The Treaty of Aachen: New impetus for Franco-German defense cooperation?](#)

Institut français des relations internationales, January 2019

[Vers une intégration des économies française et allemande? Les ambitions du traité franco-allemand d'Aix-la-Chapelle](#)

Institut français des relations internationales, January 2019

[Non-euro countries in the EU after Brexit](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, January 2019

[Euros for oil: A first step, but towards what?](#)

European Policy Centre, January 2019

[The German-French Treaty: Sign of strength or of weakness?](#)

LUISS School of European Political Economy, January 2019

[Voting methods and issues at stake in the European elections of May 2019](#)

Fondation Robert Schuman, Centre Kantar, December 2018

[Taking stock on future of the EU according to Macron: Perspective from the V4](#)

EUROPEUM, February 2019

[An EU New Year's resolution: Keep boosting the Single Market](#)

European Policy Centre, December 2018

[When populism meets nationalism: Reflections on parties in power](#)

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, December 2018

[EU agencies after 25 years](#)

Clingendael, December 2018

[Reconnecting European political parties with European Union citizens](#)

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, December, 2018

[Europe in disarray](#)

Council on Foreign Relations, December 2018

[Populism in Central Europe 2018](#)

Austrian Society for European Politics, December 2018

[The future of EU science diplomacy: Conceptual and strategic reflections](#)

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, December 2018

[Security and defence policy: An agenda for 2019-2024](#)

Wilfried Martens Centre, November 2018

[Direct democracy in the EU: The myth of a citizens' union](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, November 2019

[Getting Europe's direct democracy right](#)

Carnegie Europe, November 2018

[The European citizens' consultations: Evaluation report](#)

European Policy Centre, November 2018

[Millennial dialogue on Europe: Shaping the new EU agenda](#)

Foundation for European Progressive Studies, November 2018

[Was 2018 der Demokratie in der EU gebracht hat : Und worauf es jetzt ankommt](#)

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, November 2018

[Shadows over the European elections: Three scenarios for EU-sceptical parties after the 2019 elections](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, November 2018

[Angela Merkel's gradual retreat: What does it mean for Europe?](#)

European Policy Centre, November 2018

[Reconciling core state power integration with market regulation? The potential of the Macron-Rutte alliance](#)

Center for European Neighborhood Studies, November 2018

[EU scenarios for 2027](#)

Real Instituto Elcano, October 2018

[The power of the past: How nostalgia shapes European public opinion](#)

Bertelsmann Stiftung, October 2018

[Strengthening cohesion in the EU: How can structural reforms contribute?](#)

European Policy Centre, October 2018

[The four 'classical federalisms'](#)

Wilfried Martens Centre, October 2018

[Attentes et ressentis, l'état des opinions publiques avant les élections européennes](#)

Notre Europe, October 2018

[The Nordic-Baltic region in the EU: A loose club of friends](#)

Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies, October 2018

[Spitzenkandidaten and shifting electorates: towards the 2019 EP elections](#)

Institute for Development and International Relations, September 2018

[State of the Union 2018: Our destiny in our hands](#)

European Political Strategy Centre, September 2018

[One size does not fit all: European integration by differentiation](#)

Bruegel, September 2018

## DISCLAIMER AND COPYRIGHT

This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament.

Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy.

© European Union, 2019.

[eprs@ep.europa.eu](mailto:eprs@ep.europa.eu) (contact)

[www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu](http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu) (intranet)

[www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank) (internet)

<http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)

