

**July 2018**

*How, and to what extent, the European Union (EU) needs to be reformed is a topic that has increasingly come onto the agenda of the EU polity. While discussions on the future of the EU pre-date the UK's decision to leave the EU (Brexit), the latter has highlighted their relevance and hastened the debate. This topical digest highlights a number of recent EPRS publications mapping the contributions of the main institutional actors involved in the current debate.*

**Future of Europe debates – Parliament hosts Heads of State or Government**

*Briefing by Suzana Anghel, Izabela Bacian, Angelos Delivorias, Ralf Drachenberg, Silvia Kotanidis, Elena Lazarou, Nora Milotay, Silvia Polidori, Anja Radjenovic and Magdalena Sapala, June 2018*

Against the background of the many challenges which the European Union has faced in recent years, the European Parliament has taken the lead in launching and hosting a series of high-profile debates on the Future of Europe, intended to run for the whole of 2018.

**The Future of Europe – Contours of the current debate**

*Briefing by Silvia Kotanidis, Angelos Delivorias, Nora Milotay, Anja Radjenovic, Joanna Apap, Elena Lazarou and Magdalena Sapala, April 2018*

This Briefing gives an overview of where the current debate stands in a number of key policy areas, such as the future of economic and monetary union (EMU) and the EU's social dimension, as well as recent developments in EU migration policy, and security and defence. It also includes some preliminary analysis about the future, post-2020, Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and discussions on broader institutional matters.

**From Rome to Sibiu**

*Study by Suzana Anghel, Desmond Dinan and Ralf Drachenberg, April 2018*

The purpose of this paper is to assess the follow-up and delivery by the European Council on the priorities that were set in the declaration adopted in Rome on 25 March 2017 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome.

**The European Council and the 2017 State of the Union proposals**

*Briefing by Ralf Drachenberg, October 2017*

In his 2017 State of the Union address to the European Parliament, the European Commission's President, Jean-Claude Juncker, took stock of EU developments over the past year and outlined his vision for the future of the EU, which would lead to a 'more united, stronger and more democratic Europe'

**The 2017 State of the Union debate in the European Parliament**

*Briefing by Eva-Maria Poptcheva, September 2017*

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union address to the European Parliament, and the subsequent debate, on 13 September come in the context of the ongoing broader reflection on the future path of the European Union.

**Mapping the 'Future of the EU' debate**

*'At a glance' note by Silvia Kotanidis, June 2017*

Although calls for reform of the EU have increased in recent years, in particular as a consequence of the various challenges the EU has faced, the UK's vote in June 2016 on its EU membership has accelerated this process. In this context, the main EU institutions have all contributed to the debate, while individual Member States or groups of Member States have also brought forward initiatives. The main positions are outlined in this 'at a glance' note.

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## **Possible adjustments to the EU institutional set-up**

*'At a glance' note by Laura Tilindyte, February 2017*

With the EU facing multiple challenges since then, the European Parliament's own-initiative report, discussed in plenary in February, on possible evolutions of and adjustments to the EU institutional set-up invites a broad reflection on the future of the Union.

## **Improving the functioning of the EU – Making fuller use of the Lisbon Treaty's provisions**

*'At a glance' note by Laura Tilindyte, February 2017*

A number of provisions of the EU Treaties are not (yet) being exploited to the fullest. The own-initiative report, debated in plenary in February, on improving the functioning of the EU building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty aims to identify this potential and ways to better exploit it.

## **Further reading**

### **Ten issues to watch in 2018**

*In-depth analysis by Etienne Bassot, January 2018*

### **Reflection paper on harnessing Globalisation**

*Briefing by Christian Scheinert, September 2017*

### **The future of EU finances**

*'At a glance' note by Alessandro D'Alfonso, September 2017*

### **Deepening EMU and fiscal union Risk sharing versus risk reduction**

*Briefing by Andrej Stuchlik July 2017*

### **European defence – A year on from the global strategy**

*Briefing by Elena Lazarou with Georgios Barzoukas, July 2017*

### **Reflection paper on the social dimension of the EU**

*Briefing by Nora Milotay, June 2017*

### **From Bratislava to Rome - The European Council's role in shaping a common future for EU-27**

*In-depth analysis by Ralf Drachenberg, Suzana Anghel, Conor McGlynn, April 2017*

### **Future of Europe: Remember we have a choice!**

*'At a glance' note by Gianluca Sgueo, April 2016*

### **A fiscal capacity for the euro area?**

*In-depth analysis by Alessandro D'Alfonso, Andrej Stuchlik, September 2016*

### **Permanent structured cooperation (PESCO): From notification to establishment**

*'At a glance' note by Elena Lazarou, December 2017*

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