

2019: A year of challenges and choices

The European Parliament elections and formation of a new European Commission with new priorities, together with a general economic slowdown against the backdrop of the US-China trade conflict, to say nothing of Brexit, defined 2019 as a year of tough choices in the context of old and new challenges. Those include efforts to fight climate change, the defence of the rules-based international order, the advance of the digital revolution, the emerging debate over the EU's strategic sovereignty, and the need to re-define relations with the United Kingdom post-Brexit.

This note offers links to recent selected **commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks** on the state of the EU in 2019 and its outlook in several important areas.

Commission, elections, dilemmas

[The future of the European Union: Scenarios for the start of the new legislature](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, November 2019

[The new EU leadership: The von der Leyen Commission focuses on Europe's geoeconomic power](#)

Finnish Institute for International Affairs, November 2019

[Can Europe learn to play power politics?](#)

Centre for European Reform, November 2019

[Moving beyond the 'crisis': Recommendations for the European Commission's communication on migration](#)

European Policy Centre, September 2019

[Spitzenkandidaten poker](#)

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[Comparative trends in EU governance](#)

Clingendael, July 2019

[How to govern a fragmented EU: What Europeans said at the ballot box](#)

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

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

German Marshall Fund, March 2019

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

European Political Strategy Centre, February 2019

Climate

[Four pillars to make or break the European Green Deal](#)

Bruegel, November 2019

[4 priorities for the COP25 climate conference in Madrid](#)

World Resources Institute, November 2019

[Financing climate change and sustainable growth](#)

LSE, Grantham Institute on Climate Change, November 2019

[Coming soon: A massive laboratory for 'Green New Deals'](#)

Bruegel, October 2019

[Cities, climate change and chronic heat exposure](#)

LSE, Grantham Institute on Climate Change, September 2019

[The ambition call: European Union](#)

New Climate Institute, August 2019

[Planning for 2050: Shifting the focus towards long-term climate objectives](#)

Ecologic Institute, August 2019

[Europe's clean energy transition: An economic opportunity, an environmental imperative](#)

Friends of Europe, July 2019

[Paris-proofing the next Multiannual Financial Framework](#)

European Policy Centre, June 2019

[A 100 percent renewable energy system in Europe is technically possible and economically rational](#)

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, May 2019

[What is climate resilience and why does it matter?](#)

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, April 2019

Defence and foreign policy

[Towards a European Security Council?](#)

Centre for European Reform, November 2019

[The militarization of US foreign policy: Engagement with Europe increasingly about defense](#)

Finnish Institute of International Affairs, November 2019

[The changing global order: Which role for the European Union?](#)

Stiftung Genshagen, October 2019

[Sub-surface competition in the EuroAtlantic area: The challenge to Western dominance](#)

Institut français des relations internationales, October 2019

[Mission possible? The geopolitical Commission and the partnership with Africa](#)

European Centre for Development Policy Management, October 2019

[Defend, engage, maximise: A progressive agenda for EU-China relations](#)

Foundation for European Progressive Studies, October 2019

[Democratization first: The community method in CFSP as a precondition for a European defence policy](#)

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[The multilateral system under stress: Charting Europe's path forward](#)

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[From plaything to player: How Europe can stand up for itself in the next five years](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, July 2019

[Strategic autonomy for European choices: The key to Europe's shaping power](#)

European Policy Centre, July 2019

Trade

[A trade war ceasefire is just what America's economy needs](#)

Peterson Institute for International Economics, December 2019

[EU trade policy: Global enforcer for the European Green Deal](#)

European Policy Centre, December 2019

[The rise of economic nationalism threatens global cooperation](#)

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[La politique de sanctions de l'Union européenne: Ambition multilatérale contre ambition de puissance](#)

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[Shaping a new international trade order: Competition and co-operation among the European Union, the United States, and China](#)

Dahrendorf Institute, October 2019

[The real cost of Trump's trade wars](#)

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[The unravelling of the Shanghai 'Deal': US-China trade-cum-currency conflict comes to Europe](#)

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Economy and euro

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[Mapping the conflict between EU member states over reform of the euro zone](#)

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Digital revolution

[An industry action plan for a more competitive, sustainable and strategic European Union](#)

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[The case for platform governance](#)

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[How to strengthen Europe's agenda on digital connectivity](#)

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[Digitalisation and European welfare states](#)

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[Harnessing artificial intelligence](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, June 2019

Brexit

[Path to a softer Brexit? UK PM's win gives him leeway](#)

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[Getting the UK ready for the next phase of Brexit negotiations](#)

Institute for Government, December 2019

[The EU should prepare for all UK post-election scenarios](#)

European Policy Centre, December 2019

[Brexit, transition and Northern Ireland](#)

The UK in a Changing Europe, December 2019

[Brexit, the democratic question in Europe, and the future of the EU](#)

German Marshall Fund, December 2019

[What does the Conservative election victory mean for Brexit?](#)

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[How economically damaging will Brexit be?](#)

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[Just a little Brexit?](#)

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