

The State of the Union, 2020

In what has now become a tradition, every year in September, the President of the European Commission delivers a State of the Union address before the European Parliament, taking stock of achievements over the past year and presenting priorities for the year ahead. Ursula von der Leyen will deliver her first State of the Union address on 16 September 2020, followed by a debate in plenary. In essence, the Commission's position is that the [priorities](#) that it set out at the beginning of its current mandate remain valid, but with both major challenges and opportunities arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

After some initial criticism of 'too little action, too late', EU institutions are now working flat out to help to address various aspects of the crisis. Notably, the European Council has agreed on a major financial boost to fight the economic effects of the pandemic, including a measure of common debt. The Commission is also actively pursuing, in parallel, the European Green Deal, the digital agenda, making Europe stronger in the world, a new push for European democracy and efforts to make the economy work for people.

This note offers links to recent **commentaries and reports from international think tanks** on the state of the union and related issues.

[EU law in the time of Covid-19](#)

European Policy Centre, September 2020

[E3 cooperation beyond Brexit: Challenging but necessary](#)

Chatham House, September 2020

[These are the EU's 'best of times, and worst of times'](#)

Friends of Europe, September 2020

[The European Green Deal: Saving the planet or protecting the markets?](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, September 2020

[The Sinatra Doctrine: How the EU should deal with the US–China competition](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, September 2020

[How Brussels sees the future of Europe after Covid-19](#)

European Policy Centre, August 2020

[Five reasons why even a basic EU-UK trade deal is better than nothing](#)

Centre for European Reform, August 2020

[EU communication: What are the biggest challenges and what can the institutions do to address them?](#)

Friends of Europe, August 2020

[Empowering the European Parliament: Toward more accountability on security and defense](#)

Carnegie Europe, July 2020

[ECB policy spurred economic reforms in euro area countries](#)

Bertelsmann Stiftung, July 2020

[Un accord historique à améliorer et à réaliser](#)

Institut Jacques Delors, July 2020

[Member States' expectations towards the German Council Presidency](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, July 2020

[Reading between the lines of Council agreement on the MFF and Next Generation EU](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, July 2020

[Crisis decision-making: How Covid-19 has changed the working methods of the EU institutions](#)

Centre for European Policy Studies, July 2020

[Rethinking EU institutions' rules of procedure after Covid-19](#)

Egmont, July 2020

[Having the cake, but slicing it differently: How is the grand EU recovery fund allocated?](#)

Bruegel, July 2020

[How to spend it: A proposal for a European Covid-19 recovery programme](#)

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, July 2020

[Europe's digital sovereignty: From rule-maker to superpower in the age of US-China rivalry](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, July 2020

[How Europe's populists lost EU game of thrones](#)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, July 2020

[How the EU managed its coronavirus comeback](#)

Carnegie Europe, July 2020

[Rethinking EU institutions' rules of procedure after Covid-19](#)

Egmont, July 2020

[Raising Europe's global role starts at home](#)

Carnegie Europe, July 2020

[Clearer role for business regulators needed in monitoring trade agreements](#)

Chatham House, July 2020

[An opportunity to improve the MFF permanently](#)

European Policy Centre, June 2020

[Un budget de relance ambitieux, mais de dures négociations à prévoir](#)

Jacques Delors Centre, June 2020

[How to spend it right: A more democratic governance for the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

Hertie School - Jacques Delors Centre, Bertelsmann Stiftung, June 2020

[Crisis notebook European recovery: How to convert the try? Something is happening in Europe](#)

Jacques Delors Institute, June 2020

[Europe after coronavirus: The EU and a new political economy](#)

Chatham House, June 2020

[The latest crisis of the European Union: The political, economic, and social consequences of the new coronavirus](#)

Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, June 2020

[Together in trauma: Europeans and the world after Covid-19](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, June 2020

[‘Coronationalism’ vs a geopolitical Europe? EU external solidarity at the time of Covid-19](#)

European Policy Institutes Network, CIDOB, June 2020

[The EU’s external action on counter-terrorism: Development, structures and actions](#)

Finnish Institute of International Affairs, June 2020

[Geopolitical shifts and the post-Covid world: Europe and the multipolar system](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, June 2020

[Restoring free movement in the Union](#)

Fondation Robert Schuman, June 2020

[A new policy toolkit is needed as countries exit Covid-19 lockdowns](#)

Bruegel, 2020

[Health sovereignty: How to build a resilient European response to pandemics](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, June 2020

[Transatlantic opinion on global challenges before and after Covid-19](#)

German Marshall Fund, June 2020

[Next generation EU: An interpretative guide](#)

LUISS School of European Political Economy, June 2020

[Recovery instrument: An epochal change in political economy](#)

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[The EU budget: A Hamilton moment?](#)

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[Europe’s pandemic politics: How the virus has changed the public’s world view](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, June 2020

[The multilateral order post-Covid: Expert voices](#)

Institute of International European Affairs, June 2020

[Three-quarters of Next Generation EU payments will have to wait until 2023](#)

Bruegel, June 2020

[Covid-19 strengthens the case for EU defence](#)

Chatham House, June 2020

[Three ways Covid-19 will cause economic divergence in Europe](#)

Centre for European Reform, May 2020

[Rebooting Europe: A framework for a post Covid-19 economic recovery](#)

Bruegel, May 2020

[European elections: A year in review](#)

Europeum, May 2020

[The European Parliament: One year after the European elections](#)

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik, May 2020

[Claiming back civic space: Towards approaches fit for the 2020s?](#)

European Centre for Development Policy Management, May 2020

[Making flexible Europe work? European governance and the potential of differentiated cooperation](#)

GlobSec, May 2020

[‘Responsive vs responsible? Party-democracy in times of crisis’](#)

European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, May 2020

[Le mystère d’un geste](#)

Institut Jacques Delors, May 2020

[Differentiated EU integration: Maps and modes](#)

Europe University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, April 2020

[Localising Europe](#)

Friends of Europe, March 2020

[Représentation et participation: Réinventer la démocratie européenne](#)

Institut Jacques Delors, March 2020

[The future of democracy in Europe: Technology and the evolution of representation](#)

Chatham House, March 2020

[Five years with Juncker](#)

Foundation for European Progressive Studies, March 2020

[Futures\(s\) of Europe](#)

Foundation for European Progressive Studies, March 2020

[The propaganda virus: It is not the EU lacking solidarity, but the Member States](#)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, March 2020

[Juncker’s curse? Identity, interest, and public support for the integration of core state powers](#)

Hertie School, Jacques Delors Centre, March 2020

[Resisting de-globalisation: The case of Europe](#)

Bruegel, February 2020

[Rethinking global governance](#)

Friends of Europe, February 2020

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