

# THE GREAT RESET

## An Urgent Need for Drastic EU Reform

### *Understanding the State of the Union: The Need for Reform*

Over the past 70 years, the European Union has evolved from a simple economic cooperation project into a powerful supranational entity with its own currency, court, and ability to impose financial sanctions on Member States. What began as a vision of free trade and peaceful coexistence has morphed into an institution shaping nearly all aspects of governance in Europe, **centralizing power at the expense of national sovereignty.**

Today the EU faces an existential crisis. Some argue for deeper integration, accelerating the trend toward federalization. However, decades of increased centralization have not solved Europe's challenges but rather exacerbated them. The solution lies in a return to the EU's founding principles:

- **National Sovereignty over EU primacy**
- **National constitutions over judicial activism**
- **Representative democracy over technocratic governance**
- **Subsidiarity and respect for national competences over centralization**
- **National interests over self-proclaimed EU values**
- **Free speech over ideological control**

### *Breaking the Gridlock: Fundamental Flaws of the European Union*

#### **Democratic Deficit**

The EU's democratic deficit stems from unelected key institutions, opaque decision-making, and the EP's struggle to unite 27 diverse Member States. A national demos, by contrast, grounds governance in the democratic will of individual nations rather than supranational centralization.

#### **Centralization of Power**

EU institutions, particularly the European Parliament (EP) and European Commission (EC), have expanded their authority beyond their original mandate, forcing EU laws to override national legislation, weakening Member States' ability to govern independently.

#### **Erosion of National Sovereignty:**

The EU is evolving into a quasi-federal state, limiting national decision-making power. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) continues to extend its jurisdiction, reducing Member States' autonomy.

#### **Expansion of Ideology and Bureaucratization in EU Institutions**

EU bodies increasingly impose ideologically motivated policies on Member States, without any mandate.

### *Two Scenarios for Reform*

**1.**

#### **Back to the Roots**

This scenario envisions a reformed EU with 20 proposals, bringing it closer to its 1957 model. It emphasizes decentralization, national interests, flexibility, deregulation, and a stronger role for Member States. The goal is to restore sovereignty while maintaining structured cooperation, ensuring national governments retain control over key policy areas.

## A Stronger EU Rooted in National Sovereignty

National sovereignty must take precedence with Member States as the EU's true center of gravity. Power must shift back to national governments, curbing the influence of supranational institutions like the EP, EC, and ECJ. The European Council, as the voice of national leaders, should hold the highest authority, ensuring decision-making remains rooted in national interests. A structured set of reforms would reinforce this balance, safeguarding sovereignty while promoting more balanced and cooperative governance within the Union.

### Key Proposals for Reform

▮ **Flexibility based on national interests** (*à la carte* model of integration) with an opt-out clause allowing Member States to exempt themselves from policies that conflict with their priorities.

▮ **Member States as the Center of Gravity** ensuring national sovereignty remains the foundation of the EU.

▮ **European Council as the political core of the Union** above all other institutions.

▮ **Reduced Legislative weight** of the European Parliament and a modification to its composition to include national delegations to strengthen democratic legitimacy.

▮ **Limiting the primacy of EU law** to EU competences and ensuring it never overrides national constitutions.

▮ **Expanding Unanimity in Decision-Making** to protect national sovereignty.

▮ **Reforming the European Commission** into a more technical body, transforming it into a General Secretariat and eliminate its monopoly on infringements and legislative initiatives.

▮ **Overhaul of the ECJ** to limit its authority over national legal systems and prevent judicial activism.

▮ **Establish a 'National Competence Shield'** in the TEU, protecting a list of competences from EU interference, ensuring no legislative or judicial impact from the EU.

▮ **Proper enforcement of the Principle of Subsidiarity** allowing Member States to reclaim competences if the EU fails to act within its mandates.

▮ **Rename the EU to the European Community of Nations (ECN)** to reflect a union of sovereign states, rather than a supranational entity.

## 2.

### A New Beginning

This scenario proposes a complete institutional overhaul, replacing the current EU framework with a flexible, intergovernmental system. It allows states to determine the extent and nature of their cooperation, free from overarching supranational governance.

#### Intergovernmental Union

Primacy of intergovernmental bodies, with decision-making based on unanimity and an Executive Secretariat overseeing implementation. A European Court of Arbitration would resolve disputes between Member States.

#### Voluntariness & Flexibility

Introduction of an *à la carte* model of integration, allowing Member States to participate in core areas of cooperation and opt-in/out of additional projects like border protection, energy security, and scientific research.

#### Conferral & Subsidiarity

Strengthening the principle of conferral, ensuring clear distinctions between EU and Member State competences, with guarantees for subsidiarity and opt-out options in deeper cooperation.

#### Primacy of National Constitutions

Upholding national sovereignty by prioritizing national constitutions over EU obligations, allowing adjustments based on domestic legal frameworks while ensuring cooperation within agreed limits.

#### Transition to a New Union

A gradual transition plan to dissolve the EU and establish a new Union based on the outlined principles, including addressing assets, liabilities, and financing during the transition period.