

Restoring Member State Sovereignty

▶ The EU today: a crisis of democracy and identity

The growing power of EU institutions over Member States leads to a gradual erosion of national sovereignty, representative democracy, pluralism of views, economic freedom and development, as well as increasing interference in the spheres of family life and internal security.



★ Why the Great Reset?

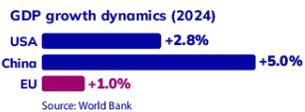
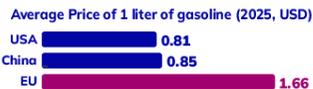
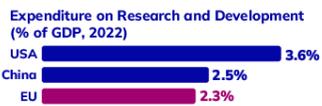
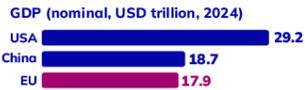
The EU is widely said to be facing an existential crisis. Supporters of federalization or centralization argue that the answer lies in accelerating integration. However, this process has been underway for decades and has itself contributed to the current problems. Solutions should be sought in a return to fundamentals: national sovereignty, democratic rule of law, representative democracy, subsidiarity, the free market, and freedom of speech.

Read the Report

A proposal outlining two institutional reform scenarios for a new European Union, presented by the Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC) and the Ordo Iuris Institute. This report is intended to serve as a decision-making tool—not a manifesto without alternatives—and as an invitation to public debate and active civic participation in shaping the future of Europe.



EU Competitiveness



The Court of Justice of the EU is increasingly intervening in areas where Member States have never relinquished their sovereignty—ordering, among other things, the recognition of so-called “same-sex marriages” and the registration of a self-declared gender instead of biological sex in civil registry records. Meanwhile, through the conditionality mechanism for EU fund disbursements and the so-called “milestones,” the European Commission is becoming increasingly involved in the adoption of Member States’ national budgets.

▶ Two alternative scenarios — a comparison

A new model of European cooperation can be built on one of two scenarios: “Back to the Roots” or “A New Beginning.” The “Back to the Roots” scenario envisions reforming the existing legal framework of the EU through decentralization, deregulation, and democratization. Instead of striving for an “ever closer

union between the peoples of Europe,” the focus should be placed on promoting “close cooperation between the nations and states of Europe.” EU regulations that foster shared economic development should be retained, while those that hinder it should be discarded. According to the “New Beginning” scenario, the

European Union would have to be rebuilt from the ground up on the basis of a new treaty, new institutions, and a new common legal order. The choice between these two scenarios ultimately depends on whether the European Union can be reformed.

SCENARIO I — “Back to the Roots”	Quo vadis UE?	SCENARIO II — “A New Beginning”
Preserving the EU while limiting it to its core functions: economic cooperation and coordination. Member States regain control over key policy areas, and centralization is halted. Beyond the single market, cooperation is voluntary.	Objective	Replacing the current EU with a new organization based on sovereign states, without federal elements—designed to facilitate cooperation only where it is beneficial, without imposing solutions.
A gradual reform of the existing EU treaties through the restoration of the principle of subsidiarity and genuine control by Member States over the scope of integration. A key element is making opt-outs from selected policies the rule rather than the exception, as well as limiting the powers of the European Commission and the EP. The changes are evolutionary in nature.		Complete dissolution of the existing structures and the negotiation of a new treaty.
The EU is transformed into a European Community of Nations, based on sovereign states. Decisive authority rests with national governments, while common institutions play a purely auxiliary role. Cooperation is based on consensus, and EU law does not take precedence over national constitutions.	Method	The new organization would have a purely intergovernmental character, without supranational structures. It would not be a federation, but a traditional international organization. Institutions would perform only consultative and coordination functions, with no real authority over states.
Unanimity applies in key matters, and each state retains the right of veto. This prevents domination by the largest countries and ensures balance among members, regardless of their economic or demographic potential.		States joining the organization accept a non-negotiable set of rules related to the functioning of the common market. Participation in other areas of cooperation is voluntary and depends solely on the decisions of the Member States.
The role of the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Parliament is clearly limited. The CJEU does not rule on disputes that fall outside the competencies of the EU, while the Parliament performs primarily an advisory function. The main decision-making centers become the European Council and the Council of the EU, representing the democratically elected governments of the Member States.	System	Completely new, smaller and flexible institutions of an intergovernmental nature are established. Their sole purpose is to facilitate cooperation, without interfering in the internal affairs of states. They operate exclusively within mandates granted by national governments, without any independent supranational competencies.
Both scenarios reject the vision of a “superstate” and the federal model based on centralization and an expanded bureaucracy. A key assumption is the primacy of national sovereignty over supranational structures, as well as a move away from the ideological framing of EU policies. The future of European cooperation is to be based on voluntarism and practical cooperation.		Both scenarios oppose federalization, ideological pressure and excessive centralization in Europe. Their common denominator is the recognition of national sovereignty as the foundation of cooperation, along with the conviction that integration should serve the real interests of states rather than the objectives of supranational structures.
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How the EU is undermining its own advantages over the USA and China

★ **Ideological regulations vs. common sens**
Instead of creating conditions for growth, Brussels multiplies bans and regulations that stifle entrepreneurship and drive up production costs.

★ **The Green Deal without a cost-benefit assessment**
Under the banner of environmental protection, the EU introduces draconian taxes and limits that undermine production and increasingly make Europe dependent on imports of raw materials and industrial goods.

★ **Bureaucracy instead of strategy**
Instead of a coherent industrial policy, there are thousands of forms, reports, and certificates. As a result, Europe is losing momentum in its economic development.

A Democratic deficit in the EU
The EU’s key institutions (such as the European Commission or the Court of Justice of the European Union) operate without a direct mandate from citizens, while the decision-making process lacks transparency. The European Parliament does not represent a cohesive political community, which undermines its legitimacy.

B Undermining national sovereignty
The Union is expanding its competences beyond the treaties, undermining the principle of subsidiarity. Member States are losing control over key areas, which weakens their sovereignty.

C Restriction of freedoms
Under the banner of combating discrimination, hate speech, and “disinformation,” freedom of speech and freedom of conscience are being restricted. As a result, the Union is becoming a powerful instrument for imposing ideologies on European societies that marginalize traditional values.



D Abuse of the concept of “European Values”
The EU relies on broad slogans such as diversity and pluralism while distancing itself from national and Christian heritage. This leads to the erosion of Europe’s cultural diversity.

E The Union weakens Europe’s security
The Union’s asylum policy and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union have opened the door to mass immigration from Asia and Africa, generating social tensions and posing threats to internal security. Instead of integration, separate and closed communities are emerging, which not infrequently challenge the laws and customs of the host states.