

Future of the EU

INRL 360

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EU as a regional integration model

- The supranational "community method" rather than the traditional balance-of-power model
- Political will for cooperation-historical reconciliation
- Leadership generated by the Franco-German axis
- The political will---- to share sovereignty and construct strong, legally based, common institutions to oversee the integration project.
- A consensus approach combined with solidarity and tolerance.

Other regional integration models

- Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)- inter-governmental body
- African Union (AU)
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- Mercosur in South America

Crisis...

- French President Charles de Gaulle's "empty chair"
- Failed referendums on new treaties
- Eurozone crisis
- Brexit
- Rising nationalism
- Migration Crisis



Different models of integration

Multi-speed Europe

- Common objectives are pursued by a group of EU countries(They are able and willing to) while the others will follow later.
- “Different speeds of integration”
- New forms of cooperation to allow some member states to push ahead quickly such as in the area of defense and the Eurozone, deepening of economic and monetary union, harmonising social policy and tax policy.

EU'Big Four-Multi Speed Europe



Europe 'à la carte'

- A non-uniform method of European integration which allows EU countries to select policies, as if from a menu, and involve themselves fully in those policies.
- The EU would still have a minimum number of common objectives. However, different countries would integrate at different levels (variable geometry) or at different speeds (multi-speed). Europe 'à la carte' is already a reality with some countries being part of the Eurozone and others not.

Ref: EUR-Lex Glossary of summaries

'Variable-geometry' Europe

- The term used to describe the idea of a method of differentiated integration in the European Union. It acknowledges that, particularly since the EU's membership almost doubled in under a decade, there may be irreconcilable differences among countries and that there should be a means to resolve such stalemates.
- It would enable groups of countries wishing to pursue a given goal to do so, while allowing those opposed to hold back.

Ref: EUR-Lex Glossary of summaries

Enhanced cooperation

- It is a procedure
- A minimum of 9 EU countries are allowed to establish advanced integration or cooperation in an area within EU structures
- The procedure is designed to overcome paralysis, where a proposal is blocked by an individual country or a small group of countries who do not wish to be part of the initiative. The other EU countries being involved

Enhanced cooperation

- Authorisation to proceed with the enhanced cooperation is granted by the Council, on a proposal from the Commission and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament.
- As of February 2013, this procedure was being used in the fields of divorce law, and patents, and is approved for the field of a financial transaction tax.

Reform of the CU between EU and Turkey

- Turkey is the sixth largest trading partner of the EU
- EU is Turkey's largest trading partner.
- The foreign trade volume between Turkey and the EU was approximately \$140 billion last year. Half of Turkey's \$150 billion exports are made with the EU, while 70 percent of the 17,000 foreign companies in Turkey are European.

What will be updated?

1. The Customs Union right now contains only industrial products

Expand CU into agriculture, services, electronics and public procurement, possible to easily double the trade volume between the two partners in the next decade. Turkey to export agricultural, dairy and industrial products to the EU without customs restrictions.

2. Including Turkey in the EU's Customs Union decision-making mechanisms Turkey would be part of all free trade agreements signed between the EU and third countries.

- Update could be completed by 2018.