©heidi-sandstrom

en

News | 08.05.2017

Greens/EFA call on Juncker and Commission to rethink direction of Europe

An alternative scenario...

Jean-Claude Juncker released 5 possible scenarios for the short-term direction of Europe. We believe that there was a scenario missing, one that presents a vision for Europe that embraces sustainability, transparency and human rights. The European Commission must have left such a scenario option in their drawer, so here's what we imagine it must have looked like.



Scenario 6: A Space of Freedom, Security, Democracy and Human Rights

THE EUROPEAN UNION BECOMES A CONTINENTAL SPACE OF FREEDOM, SECURITY, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Why and how?

Neither the EU27 as it is, nor European countries on their own, are well-equipped enough to face the challenges of the day. Member States decide to share more power, resources and decision-making across the board.

Realising that peace is still an issue and solidarity an absolute necessity, they regard the UK-EU exit negotiations as a wake-up call. Seeking to address the EU's crisis of legitimacy, and the rise of anti-European movements, Member States respond to the mounting pressure of the demand for more democracy and transparency.

As a result they decide to rise above the paralysis emanating from unanimity requirements, and governance of the Eurozone is made more transparent and democratic, while social and fiscal convergence becomes a priority. National elections are increasingly fought on European issues, fostering convergence within the political families. Europeans feel more and more included and their trust in Europe and the future grows.

By 2025, this means:

On the international scene, Europe has again become a model for conflict resolution, cooperation and solidarity; its defence policy and its foreign and security policy are more integrated and peace-oriented, and it helps preventing conflicts in the world. Its voice counts in international organisations where it speaks up for a more strongly regulated globalization.

On the domestic scene, more and more European citizens use their freedom of movement and establishment with attractive options everywhere in the EU with the European Solidarity Corps, Erasmus for All and other programmes offering enhanced European experience.

The European institutions are more democratic and transparent: Lobbying activities and corporate interests are strictly regulated and conflicts of interest are prevented. Citizens have access to documents. The European Citizen's Initiative has been deeply reformed and it gives citizens a real say in EU legislation. Fundamental rights and freedoms are enforced and the EU has adequate means to ensure they are respected. All citizens can find out how their member state voted in Council.

Within the euro area, the Eurogroup is chaired by a Comenisioner. Democratic control over economic governance has led to the renouncement of austerity programmes. A reformed Stability and Growth Pact now includes binding criteria regarding employment, education, environmental quality, and welfare.

The EU budget has increased, e.g. thanks to common environmental taxes. The EU comes closer to ensuring shared prosperity for all. Social policies now include a minimum income and an unemployment scheme. Massive investments are made in a future-oriented economy and renewable energies are rapidly developed.

Economic inequalities, social exclusion and poverty decrease, and solidarity prevails regarding refugee policy inside the Union.

Pros and cons:

Enhanced subsidiarity, with clarified relations between local, national and EU levels, combined with increased participation from citizens make decisions more efficient and legitimate. Europeans feel more empowered and included, while the EU is strengthened. However, resistance still stems from national governements feeling their grip has diminished and nationalistic forces get comforted in their opposition.

27

Impact on policies

Single market & trade	Economic & Monetary Union	Schengen, migration & security	Foreign policy & defence	EU budget	Capacity to deliver
Trade deals are negotiated in full transparency; lobbyists are registered and their influence on policymaking is fully visible and can be opposed.	The Eurogroup is chaired by a Commissioner; decisions are fought at EP and national parliament level as well; binding targets exist to reduce inequalities and poverty.	A common asylum policy is put in place, safeguarding the right to asylum. Every year, the EU resettles its' share of the UNHCR scheme; the Dublin regulation is replaced by a fair distribution scheme.	The EU is a champion of human rights-based foreign policy; funds, staff and instruments for civilian conflict prevention are readily available; effective defence cooperation between Member States is supervised by a strong Parliament.	Enhanced subsidiarity in spending; EU money is closer to citizens; EU's own resources finally agreed; European stabilisers integrated into the budget.	Enhanced subsidiarity and legitimacy leads to more efficient law making and greater acceptance of EU decisions.

Illustrative snapshots

- European election turnout is increasing: in 2024 a third of MEPs are elected on transnational lists, the Commission has a reduced college with political priorities voted by both Parliament and Council, and the European Council offers political leadership.
- In 2019 pan-European trade unions manage to oppose the last merger in the chemical industry and impose a plan on the Commission to strengthen public services across the whole of the EU.
- Whistle-blowers are protected, Snowden receives asylum, and data protection is enhanced.
- From 2020 onwards, all young Europeans who want can undertake, before their 25th birthday, a 6-month European voluntary service in another Member State.
- In 2021, an ECI supported by 2.5 million citizens leads to the adoption of a comprehensive ban on pesticides, glyphosate and dangerous substances in the food chain.

28

Scenario 6

With pro-European Emmanuel Macron winning the French Presidential Election, the time is now for the European Union to become more ambitious as we move towards 2025. If we want to contend with the problems facing the EU, we need a bold vision for our union. As Philippe Lamberts said at the time of the scenario's announcements: "We need the EU institutions and the Member States to change. As long as EU policy continues to benefit big conglomerates and not citizens, we will not regain their confidence."

Recommended

Press release

©jonathan-marchal



Tilly METZ elected European Parliament Vice-President

12.11.2026

Press release



Ukrainian children in Russia: Parliament to call for u…

11.11.2026

Press release

Tim Hurst (CC BY-SA 2.0)



[Methane Regulation: European Parliament capitulates to…]

22.10.2026

Press release

European Council



Meet Nicolae Ștefănuță at the Summit of Heads of State…

15.10.2026

Attached documents

Missing scenario - A Space of Freedom, Security, Democracy and Human Rights

Please share

E-Mail