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The Future of the European Union after the European Elections

Since 2008, the EU has faced a number of crises. They created new policy challenges and disclosed the need for institutional reforms. The crisis in the Euro zone revived the debate on completing the monetary union; increasing numbers of refugees showed that decision-making procedures in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice are insufficient; the looming Brexit stimulates proposals to deepen integration through the means of differentiation; and anti-democratic reforms of the Hungarian and Polish governments call for new instruments to enforce European values. There is agreement that the required institutional reforms have to be targeted at delivering concrete policy outputs in the short-term to face Europesceptics who question the legitimacy of the Union.

However, before the European elections in May 2019 the reform progress slowed down. Fearing that European voters could turn to Europesceptic parties, few politicians publicly supported deeper integration or EU level reforms. In the new legislative term, it will be most likely even more complicated to find broad support for necessary reforms.

Against this backdrop, the course will take stock of the current challenges which the EU faces in selected policy areas and review the reform progress since the Commission published its five scenarios. Finally, the course will discuss which reforms or scenario might find support among member states and the EU institutions of the new institutional cycle.

Literature:


