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The Commission’s White Paper Process and the Future of European Integration

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.

Therefore, the European Commission has published a white paper and five reflexion papers on the future of European integration to stimulate a debate on which course to take. By proposing five scenarios for the Union’s future development the Commission initiated a debate among politicians, decision-makers, stakeholders and civil society. In its December meeting, the European Council will draw its first conclusions from this debate.

The course will take stock of the current challenges which the EU faces in selected policy fields. Against this backdrop, the Commission’s five scenarios will be analysed considering their potential to tackle the current challenges as well as the concepts of European integration enclosed. Finally, the course will discuss for which scenario support among member states and EU institutions is most likely.

Literature:


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