

Reporting on the EU: Case Studies

EU Elections | EU as a Global Actor | EU Reform and Enlargement |

Ice-breaking question

♣ What do you know about the EU Elections?

EU Elections: democratic rendez-vous with citizens

Key Points:

- Held every 5 years since 1979;
- Electoral system based on proportional representation system, and own national electoral rules;
- Campaigning;
- European political parties (families);
- Role of the European Parliament;
- Outcome and Impact;

EU Elections: Media coverage

Styles of reporting:

- National vs. European perspective;
- Political parties and candidates;
- Public Opinion, polls, trends;
- European Issues and Policies (wishful thinking?);
- Results and Analysis;
- EU Institutions and Leadership;

EU Elections: Examples of media coverage

The New York Times

***Russia Is Targeting Europe's Elections.
So Are Far-Right Copycats.***

Wer entscheidet künftig über Europas Politik?

Aktualisiert am 24.05.2019

Am 26. Mai wählt Deutschland seine neuen Abgeordneten für das Europaparlament. FAZ.NET beantwortet die wichtigsten Fragen zur Wahl.

BBC

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Travel Earth Video Live

European elections 2019: Political climate may boost Greens

19 May 2019

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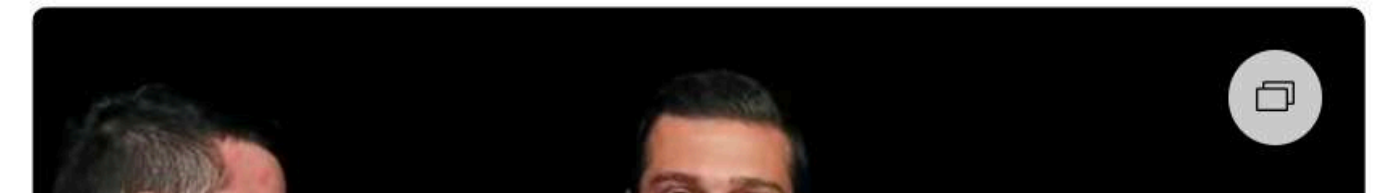
Accueil > Elections > Européennes

Européennes 2019. Résultats, réactions, nombre de députés au Parlement... Revivez la soirée électorale

Les élections européennes se sont déroulées ce dimanche 26 mai 2019 avec, en France, un taux de participation en nette hausse (51,3 %). Selon les dernières estimations Ipsos-Sopra-Steria, le Rassemblement national arrive en tête en France avec 23,4 %. Il devance la République en marche avec 22,4 %. Les Verts se positionnent comme la troisième force politique avec 13,2 %.

Ouest-France
Solange ESTEVES.

Modifié le 27/05/2019 à 01h06
Publié le 26/05/2019 à 18h40



EU Elections: Think tank coverages



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● European Power

The 2019 European election: How anti-Europeans plan to wreck Europe and what can be done to stop it



[Susi Dennison](#) ✕

Senior Director for Strategy and Transformation
Senior Policy Fellow



[Pawel Zerka](#) ✕

Senior Policy Fellow

Flash Scorecard · 11 February 2019



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2019 European Parliament Elections Will Change the EU's Political Dynamics

STEFAN LEHNE, HEATHER GRABBE

DECEMBER 11, 2018
ARTICLE

The next EP elections will likely end big party dominance and create genuine democratic space. But, ultimately, the functioning of the EU hinges on the success of the populist radical right.



EU Elections: Institutional Communication



Ice-breaking questions

- ❖ What is the Spitzenkandidaten System?
- ❖ It has been successful or is it a dead process?

EU Elections: Spitzenkandidaten Process

Key Points:

- Origin;
- Lead Candidates;
- Selection and Campaigning within European political parties (families);
- European Council and European Parliament approval;
- Democratic legitimacy or at least addressing the democratic deficit;

EU Elections: Spitzenkandidaten Process 2014 vs. 2019



EU Elections: Spitzenkandidaten Process 2014 vs. 2019



EU Elections: Spitzenkandidaten Outcome

2014:

With **422 votes in favour**, the European Parliament elected Jean-Claude Juncker as President of the new European Commission to take office on 1 November 2014 for a five year term. The **minimum number of votes required was 376**. **For the first time in the history of the EU**, the European Parliament elected - and not merely approved - the President of the European Commission following a proposal by the European Council, according to the rules laid down in the Lisbon Treaty (December 2009).

2019:

With **383 votes in favour**, the European Parliament elected Ursula von der Leyen President of the next European Commission to take office on 1 November 2019 for a five-year term as **the first female in this position**. 383 members voted in favour, 327 against, and 22 abstained. Parliament was comprised by 747 MEPs, so the **threshold needed to be elected was 374 votes (50%+1)**.

EU Elections: Media and Institutional headlines after the first Spitzenkandidaten

POLITICOEurope

@POLITICOEurope

Juncker at the #EUCO summit: “The liberals have killed the 'Spitzenkandidat' system”

LIVE BLOG



EU summit: As it happened

From politico.eu

Jean-Claude Juncker devoted his political life to EU integration only to see it dominated by Brexit at the last

James Crisp, BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT
29 November 2019 • 6:44am

European Commission

about 4 years ago



"I will remain proud until the end of my life to have served Europe."— said President **Jean-Claude Juncker** at the last European Council meeting of his career.

EU leaders paid him tribute for his work and thanked him for leading the European Commission during 5 challenging years. 🇪🇺

#EUCO

2.2K


149

161

European Commission

@EU_Commission · Follow

Time to say goodbye!
President @JunckerEU is in the press room today, for the very last time as the head of the European Commission. #TeamJunckerEU bids farewell to all of you. Thank you, Mr President. 🇪🇺



European Commission
Commission européenne

pscp.tv
Last Press Briefing of the Juncker Commission

1:39 PM · Nov 29, 2019

991

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He noted in this context that he would not offer any public advice on how to manage the issues.

"Europe is and will remain the love of my life. Europe is the best place in the world to live. To be born in Europe after the war and after the fall of the Iron Curtain means to have won the lottery of life", declared Jean-Claude Juncker in a eulogy to the old continent.

Ice-breaking question

- ✦ Based on US and EU media information, how would you describe the EU as a global player?

The EU as a global player in the media

❖ Several layers of coverage:

- Political & diplomatic engagement: G7, G20, UN, Asia, Africa, US;
- Foreign Policy actions, with a focus on trade and economic relations, development cooperation, climate action and sustainability, global health and pandemic response;
- Security and Defence;
- International Partnerships;
- Promotion of values and soft power abilities;
- Strong focus now: Russia-Ukraine war;

The EU as a global player in the media

❖ Several EU proposals, actions and tools:

- A global treaty on preventing pandemics;
- COVAX Facility;
- The Strategic Compass;
- Sanctions against Russia & European Peace Facility support for Ukraine
- EU Global Gateway;
- EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime;
- EU CSDP Missions: Iraq, Ukraine, Moldova, Libya, Kosovo, Bosnia, Armenia, Georgia, Mali;

The EU as a global player seen through the eyes of European leaders

- ❖ Strategic autonomy/ sovereignty;
- ❖ Economic security;
- ❖ Learning the language of power;
- ❖ Geopolitical Europe/ Geopolitical Union;
- ❖ A stronger Europe in partnership with the US;
- ❖ A real Defence Union;
- ❖ A technological, climate, digital leader;

The EU as a global player: Some media samples

NEWS > FINANCIAL SERVICES

5 takeaways from Macron's big speech on Europe's future

The French president tripled down on his long-standing Europhile commitments.

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French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech on the European Union in the amphitheater of the Sorbonne University in Paris on September 26, 2017 | Pool photo by Ludovic Marin/AFP via Getty Images

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 9:02 PM CET
BY PIERRE BRIANÇON

EUROPE

Merkel, Macron vow to make EU a global player

German Chancellor says Europe can no longer rely on US to protect it, must take its fate into its own hands

10.05.2018 - Update : 10.05.2018



World

'It's time to start conversation' on using profits of frozen Russian assets to arm Ukraine: EU chief

UN refugee agency unable to safely deliver aid to northern Gaza amid Israeli fire

NEWS > FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Borrell urges EU to be foreign policy 'player, not the playground'

In letter to ministers, new chief diplomat sets out his plans.

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the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep borrell | Pablo Blazquez Dominguez/Getty Images

DECEMBER 9, 2019 3:41 PM CET
BY JACOPO BARIGAZZI

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Bloomberg

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Inside the Secret Rifts and Rows Consuming EU's Top Corridors

- Mixed messages stop the bloc from presenting a united front
- Critics say Ursula von der Leyen overstepped with Israel

CHINADAILY 中国日报网 Global Edition Feb 28, 2024

HOME OPINION VIDEO WORLD CHINA TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CULTURE TRAVEL

• Europe

EU struggles to give itself independence

By CHEN YINGQUN | China Daily | Updated: 2023-11-27 10:14

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Ukraine Has Not Transformed EU Foreign Policy




JUDY DEMPSEY

The EU has not changed enough in response to Russia's war on Ukraine. To be effective, the bloc needs a strategic foreign and security policy.*

July 20, 2023

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European Power

The geopolitics of technology: How the EU can become a global player



Julian Ringhof
ECFR Alumni · Policy Fellow



José Ignacio Torreblanca
Head, ECFR Madrid
Senior Policy Fellow

Policy Brief · 17 May 2022




Photo collage with European Commission vice-president Margrethe Vestager, Russian president Vladimir Putin and Chinese president Xi Jinping · European Parliament / Kremlin.ru / Alan Santos/PR/Palácio do Planalto (CC BY) ©

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Introduction

A digital vision

The EU: a geo-technology player in the making

Promoting human rights and a rules-based global technological order

Securing the EU and its partners

Promoting open, competitive and inclusive digital markets

The path to an EU digital diplomacy strategy

The toolbox for EU digital diplomacy

Deploying the strategy

The EU as a global player: Some institutional samples

Making the EU a global player

🕒 04.02.2021 👤 Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

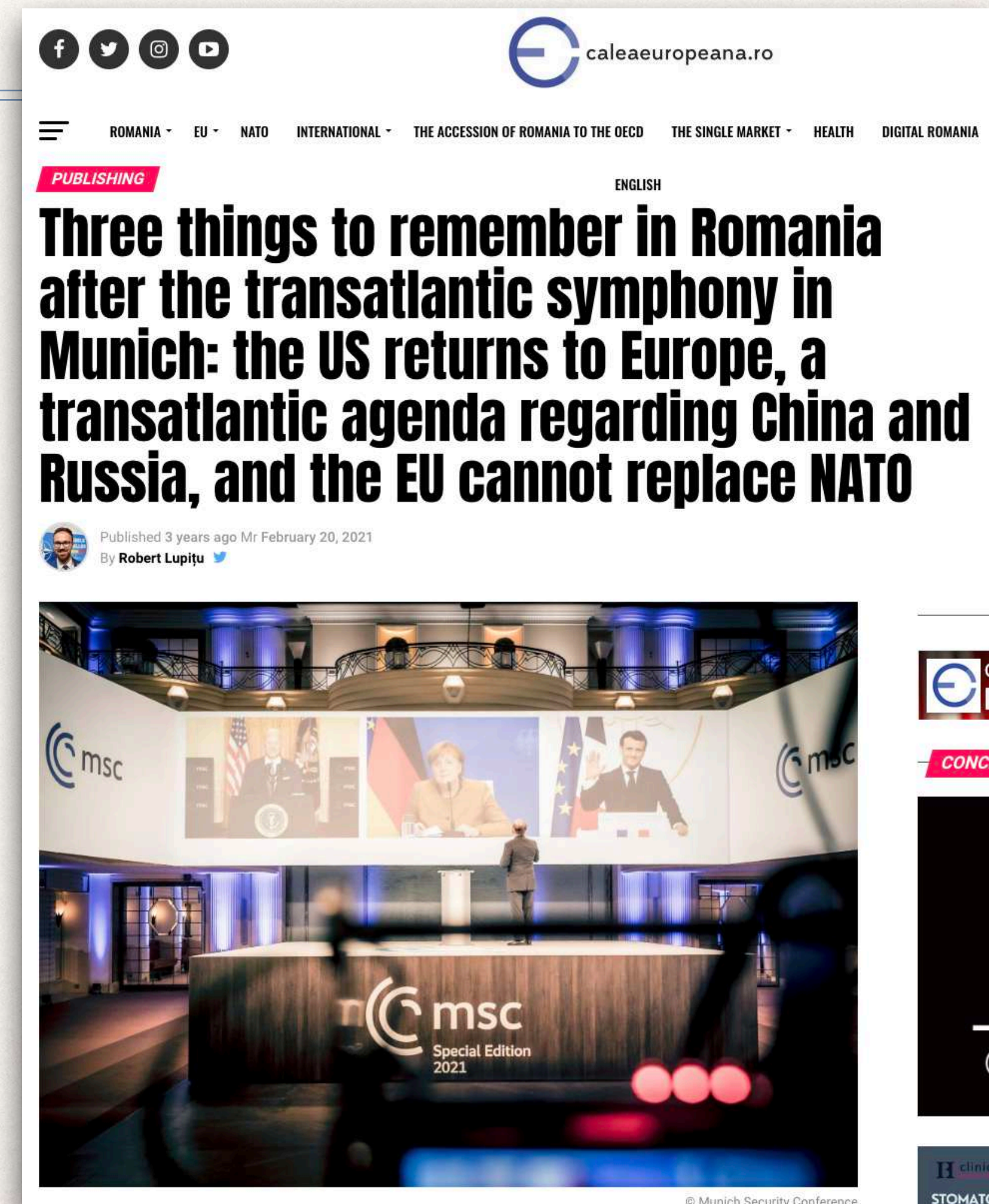
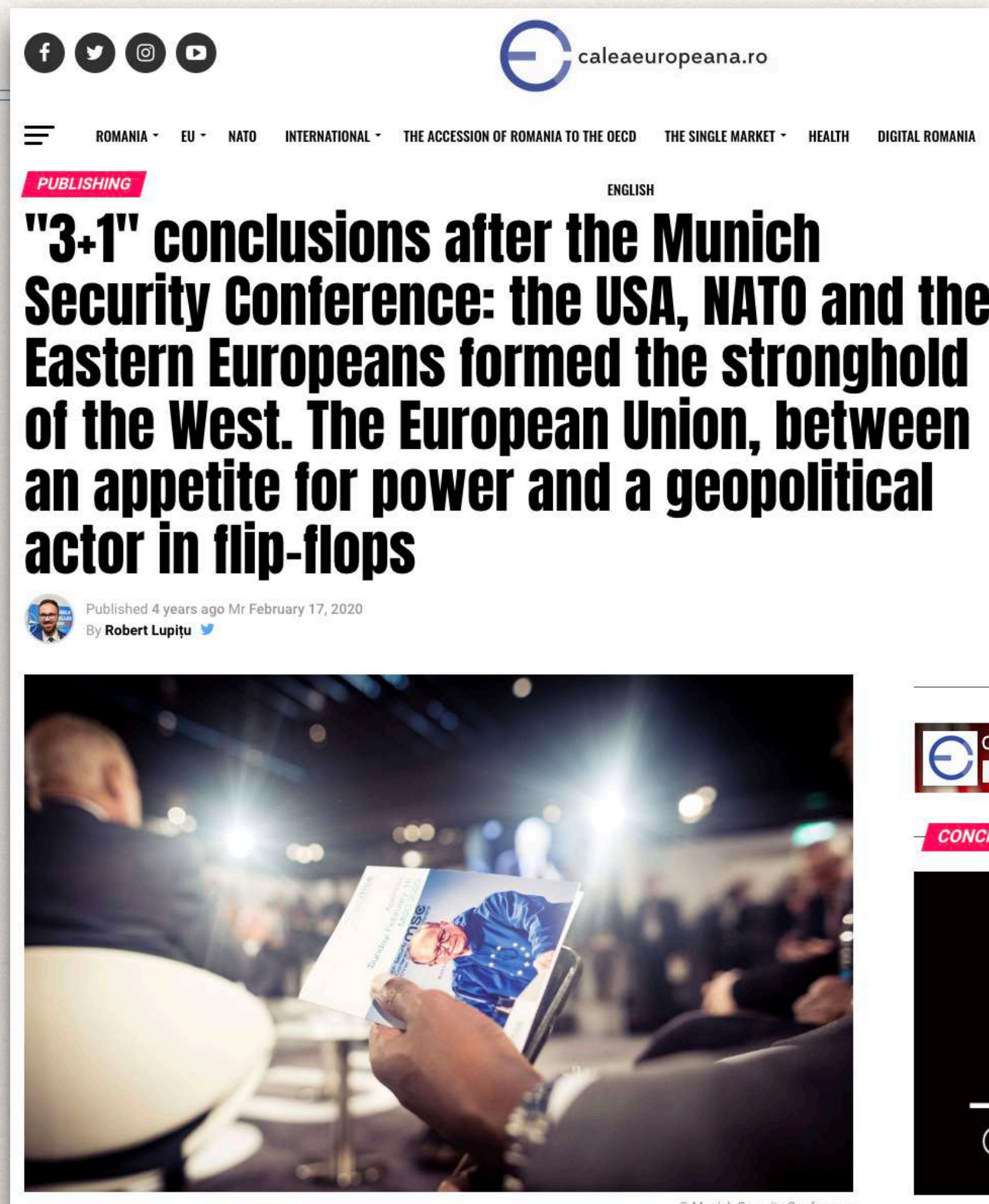
HR/VP Blog – On Monday, I spoke to the Robert Schuman Foundation about our priorities for this year: easing tensions in our neighbourhood, opening a new chapter in our relationship with the United States, rebalancing our relations with China, putting European strategic autonomy into practice and reviving multilateralism.

Munich Security Conference: the four tasks on the EU's geopolitical agenda

🕒 25.02.2024 👤 Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

HR/VP Blog – Last week, at the Munich Security Conference (MSC), I presented the four main tasks on EU's geopolitical agenda: supporting Ukraine more and quicker; putting an end to the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and implementing the two-state solution; improving our relations with the “Global South” and strengthening our defence and security. I also had a large number of bilateral meetings with our partners from all over the world.

The EU as a global player: Some Romanian samples



Ice-breaking questions

- ❖ When you hear the word “SOTEU” what comes in your mind?
- ❖ What do you know so far about EU’s enlargement and reform process?

SOTEU: The State of the European Union address

- ❖ An annual speech delivered by the President of the European Commission to the European Parliament.

- ❖ **Key points:**

- Democratic accountability & legitimacy, achievements, priorities, symbolic moment of reflection, renewal and communicating vision for the future of the EU;



SOTEU: How does the media approach it

- ❖ Key points priorities;
- ❖ Political and policies priorities;
- ❖ Political reactions from MEPs and EU leaders;
- ❖ Analysis and commentaries on progress, achievements, failures, future outlook etc.;

SOTEU: Answering the call of history

SPEECH | 13 September 2023 | Strasbourg

2023 State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen

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"Check against delivery"



The original version of the speech is available [here](#).

ANSWERING THE CALL OF HISTORY

When I stood in front of you in 2019 with my programme for a **green, digital and geopolitical Europe** I know that **some had doubts**.

And that was **before** the world turned upside down with a global pandemic and a brutal war on European soil.

But look at where Europe is today.

We have seen the birth of a **geopolitical Union** – supporting Ukraine, standing up to Russia's aggression, responding to an assertive China and investing in partnerships.

Honourable Members,

I started by speaking of Europe responding to the **call of history**.

And history is now calling us to work on completing our Union.

In a world where some are trying to pick off countries one by one, we cannot afford to leave our fellow Europeans behind.

In a world where size and weight matters, it is clearly in Europe's strategic and security interests to complete our Union.

But beyond the politics and geopolitics of it, we need to picture what is at stake.

We need to set out a vision for a successful enlargement.

We need to move past old, binary debates about enlargement.

This is not a question of deepening integration **or** widening the Union.

We can and we must do both.

To give us the geopolitical weight and the capacity to act.

This is what our Union has always done.

Each wave of enlargement came with a political deepening.

We went from coal and steel towards full economic integration.

And after the fall of the Iron Curtain, we turned an economic project into a true Union of people and states.

I believe that the next enlargement must also be a catalyst for progress.

And the European Parliament has always been one of the main drivers of European integration.

It has been so throughout the decades.

And it is once again today.

And I will always support this House – and all of those who want to reform the EU to make it work better for citizens.

And, yes, that means including through a European Convention and Treaty change if and where it is needed!

But we cannot – **and we should not – wait for Treaty change** to move ahead with enlargement.

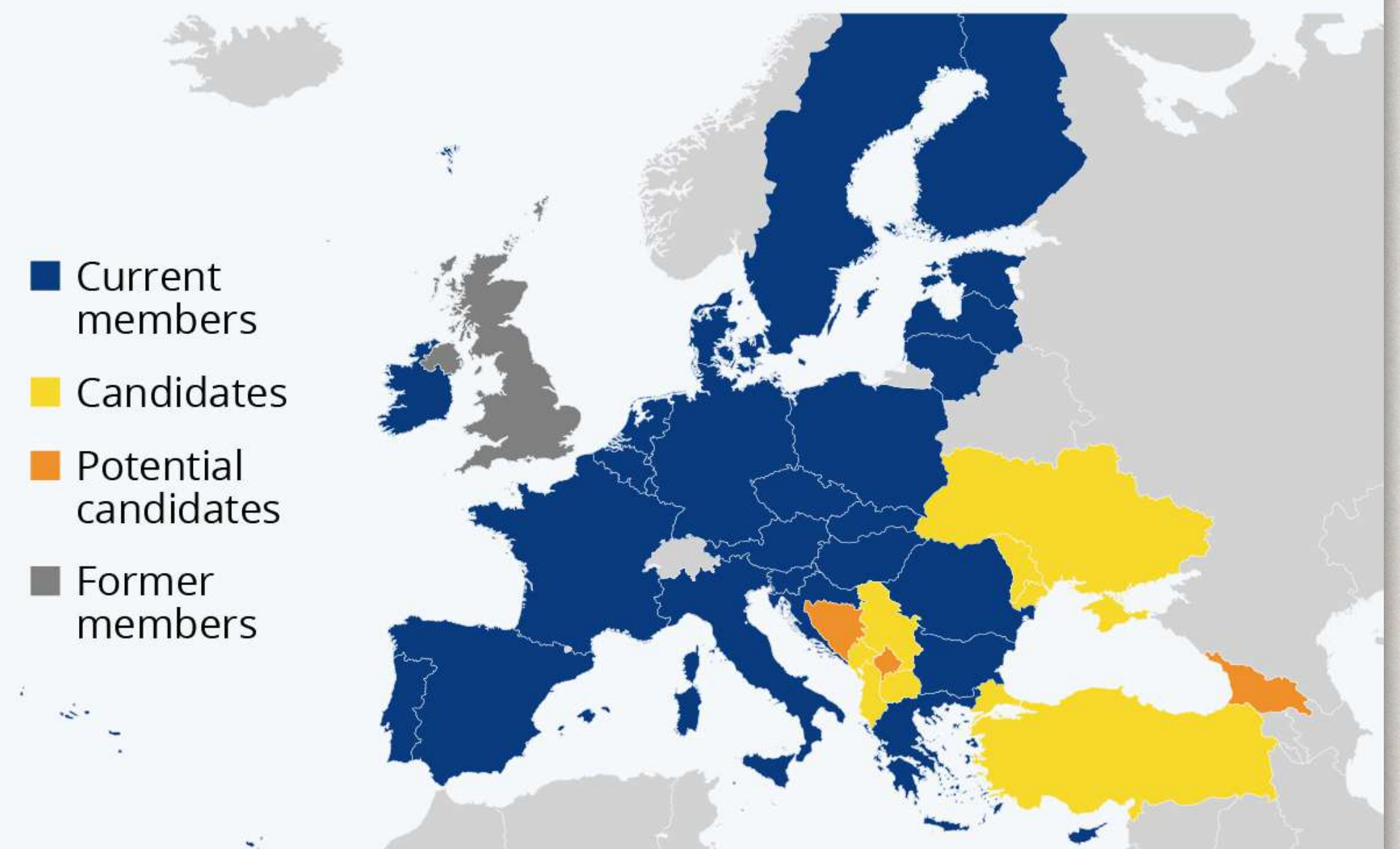
A Union fit for enlargement can be achieved faster.

EU Enlargement & Reform: How does the media approach it

- ❖ **Enlargement:** Focus on progress, milestones, chapters of negotiations, backslides, challenges, political dynamic and public opinion;
- ❖ **Reform:** Focus on political proposals, impact, leaders reactions, power play games, sides & weights, links between enlargement and reform;

Ukraine Becomes Official EU Membership Candidate

European Union members and membership candidates



Sources: European Union, Statista Research



statista

EU Enlargement and Reform: Some media samples

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One last push

The EU is finally rebooting the enlargement machine

Going from 27 to 36 members will require reform of the bloc



IMAGE: REUTERS

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France and Germany back four-speed Europe

Reform proposals are intended to prepare the EU for enlargement.

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Some diplomats involved in the Council negotiations, which have stalled over the patent concerns, also expressed doubts over the proposal's viability | Kenzo Tribouillard/AFP via Getty Images

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 3:07 PM CET

BY JAKOB HANKE VELA AND GREGORIO SORGI

BRUSSELS — Franco-German experts unveiled a proposal for sweeping structural reforms to the European Union as pressure builds to bring in new member countries by the end of the decade.

The report, commissioned by the EU's two biggest countries, aims to overhaul rules and prepare to govern in a union of 30 or more nations.

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This article is more than 4 months old

The EU's 'set menu' membership model is failing. It's time for an 'à la carte' approach

Alberto Alemanno



Tue 10 Oct 2023 08:00 CEST

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EU leaders are pondering the union's future expansion in the east - and realising that only a radical rethink can make it work

EU Enlargement and Reform: Some Romanian samples



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EUROPEAN COUNCIL ENGLISH

Granada Declaration: European leaders state that "EU enlargement is a geostrategic investment" and that "both the EU and future member states must be prepared"

 Published 5 months ago Mr October 6, 2023
By Robert Lupițu 



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"Future member states and the EU must be ready at the time of accession": European leaders have decided that the process of enlargement and reform of the Union will "progress in parallel"

 Published 3 months ago Mr December 15, 2023
By Robert Lupițu 

Check-out

❖ What is my key conclusion after today's class?