

THE (BRIGHT) FUTURE OF EUROPE: IF ANY

Europe and its institutional incarnation, the European Union is not in a good shape. Crisis after crisis challenges its ability to act effectively, internal divisions are growing, extremists are making headway in many member states challenging some basic values and rules of the European Union, external challenges are growing as well. Some even suggest Europe is becoming a “beautiful museum” reflecting the most wonderful period of history that is becoming the past with no real promising future. Others suggest the European Union has always progressed through crises.

It is very difficult to predict, which of the two will become true. Or will it be some kind of a mix: the European Union surviving, but going through unprecedented changes?

Subjects to be looked at:

1. The history of the European Union – crisis after crisis
2. Structural problems
 - inter-governmental vs supra-national
 - Brussels vs nation state
 - The Euro
 - Schengen
 - the East-West and the North-South divide
3. External actors
 - the US (TTIP, NATO)
 - Russia
 - Political Islam
 - China
4. Common foreign policy and defense ?
5. Current issues:
 - Greece
 - Migration
6. Democracy deficit?
 - the “crisis” of liberal democracy
 - democracy and the EU