EU HEADLINES

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF EUROPEAN DEBATES

Wake-up call

In the face of myriad global crises, Europe is exploring the possibilities and consequences of Donald Trump's potential return to the White House next January, and the need for stronger European cohesion to safeguard the rules-based world order.

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USAchtung

Ahead of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's key meeting with US President Joe Biden on Friday afternoon, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* provides a deep dive into the hopes and fears of the German leader and his country when it comes to US-German relations, especially in the context of the upcoming US elections. The topics covered during the one-hour discussion between the two leaders will focus on the Middle East conflict, the NATO summit in Washington in the summer and the continued military support for Ukraine. This last point is a key concern for the EU and Germany: in case of a Republican election victory, "Europe's security would no longer be guaranteed from one day to the next", according to the German chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Michael Roth. Scholz is uncomfortable with the idea that Germany could find itself at the forefront of military aid if the USA withdraws, even though he also does not want to push for more European security sovereignty, which is something that his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron has been advocating for. On the ground, the German population is in jitters when it comes to a potential Trump presidency 2.0: only 10 percent believe the government's preparations for Trump's return to the White House are sufficient.

Read the full article



Orange scare

Index reports on an analysis from five experts on the spectre of another Donald Trump presidency and how he could affect the course of Europe's future. Taking stock of his brash, unpredictable, and largely uncooperative approach to foreign policy during his term as US president, the article posits that in a second term, Trump would fully separate himself from the political establishment, after continually failing to compromise with it in the past. This also means that his staff would be made up of even more hard-line loyalists than before. While his desire to cut off aid to Ukraine has been clear, the threat goes beyond this conflict – as the authors write, Europe has limited military capability to defend itself compared to the US, not just in troops but primarily in strategic, intelligence, and supply concerns, not to mention nuclear deterrence. Aside from security concerns, European companies may find themselves caught economically in between the US and China should relations deteriorate further, and regardless, Trump's protectionist trade policies are sure to take a toll on the European economy. Lastly, the article notes Europe's digital dependence on US services and how those may be disrupted. In short: the risk he poses is not to be taken lightly.

Read the full article



United in adversity

In light of tumultuous global events, including November's US presidential election, *The Irish Times* editorial board shares its views on European security in an opinion piece. The paper welcomes the initiatives of Europe's leaders to work more closely together in the face of multiple crises, not least the potential for a return of Donald Trump to the White House. The unreliability and "America-first" line of the former president, along with the Republican party which largely falls in line behind him, force Europe's hand to get ahead of the potential transatlantic erosion. Lauding the EU's ability to secure support for Ukraine, the authors note that reactions to the situation in Gaza reveal the cracks in the EU's unity. As such, the board calls for transitioning from unanimity to majority voting for foreign policy and security and defence – the upcoming elections being an opportunity to debate the required treaty change with more attention from European citizens. The board finishes by pointing out that the public discourse on these issues fell by the wayside in Ireland until recently, and emphasises that European-level debates must also take these issues very seriously.

Read the full article



Minding the Støre

In Norway, MP Mathilde Tybring-Gjedde argues that the risk of Norway remaining outside the EU has reached unprecedented levels, according to an opinion piece in *VG*. The MP criticizes the Norwegian prime minister for declining to initiate a new debate on EU membership. Tybring-Gjedde writes that Norway's position outside the European community is currently more precarious than ever before. The background for this development is diverse — Norway's failure to participate, and adapt to, the development of EU climate plans risk the country lagging behind its neighbours, and without committing to the EU's climate agenda, Norway also loses influence in EU policy. Furthermore, the potential consequences of a Trump victory for Norway's security guarantee in NATO is a major source of uncertainty, adding to some of the main reasons for the general concern in the country.

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