

NEWSLETTER

January 2025/1

New blogs and publications - ETS2, the phenomenon of illiberalism, the impact of Ukraine's accession on the EU | Key takeaways from the Resilient Europe conference

Welcome to the first January newsletter!

The year 2025 will bring many challenges for the European Union. The Polish presidency of the Council of the EU is about to begin, **with EU security a top priority**, including in response to the ongoing war in Ukraine and Donald Trump's ascension to the White House. This year also marks the **40th anniversary of the signing of the Schengen Agreement and the creation of the Schengen area**.

In the first half of January, our experts focused on the start of **the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU** and the current political situation in the European Union. They also addressed **financing of the implications of the new ETS2** emissions trading system.

We also published several texts by our researchers and blogs by interns from our Prague and Brussels offices. **Marek Jankovský**, an intern at EUROPEUM's Brussels office, summarises in his blog why **Article 7 of the EU Treaty needs to be reformed** to maintain the EU's operational capacity. In her blog, EUROPEUM Institute intern **Šárka Soukupová** discusses the **effectiveness and credibility of the current accession process**. **Henry Barret**, a Fulbright-Schuman grantee, analyses the **evolution of V4 cooperation** since EU accession in his Policy Paper. **Alejandro Esteso Pérez**, visiting fellow at the EUROPEUM Institute, describes the **phenomenon of illiberalism**, which is gaining ground in the global political debate. Researcher **Rebeka Hengalová** presents ways in which **ETS2 revenues and Social Climate Fund** financing can **support decarbonisation** in her Policy Paper. In his Policy Brief, **Anton Bendarzsevszkij**, Director of the Oeconomus Economic Research Institute, writes about the **impact of Ukraine's accession on the EU** and its Member States. **Jonáš Syrovátka** of EUROPEUM Institute, **Veronika Víchová** of the Centre for Informed Society and **Nikoleta Nemečková** of the Association for International Affairs summarise the **main findings of the Resilient Europe conference** held in Prague in October 2024. Read more in the newsletter **below**.

We wish you much success in the new year,

EUROPEUM Institute team



From the Polish and Danish presidencies of the Council of the EU to major anniversaries and political changes in the world that will affect Europe, **European politics faces a year of challenges, growth and transformation.**

On behalf of the whole EUROPEUM team, we wish you happiness, health, success and strength of mind in 2025!

Newest publications

Policy Paper | **Democratic Participation, Integration, and Trust within the Visegrád Group: Twenty Years Since European Union Integration**

This paper contextualizes and analyzes data pertaining to **democratic participation, institutional trust, and integration of the Visegrád Group—Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia—into the European Union twenty years since accession.** This paper explores the history and functionality of the Visegrád Group as a political collective both before and during EU membership. A representative survey across the four countries provides **substantive insights into the current state of EU cohesion** during a critical period for the community. Writes **Henry Barrett** in his Policy Paper. Read more [here](#).



Policy Paper | Illiberalising EU enlargement to the Western Balkans



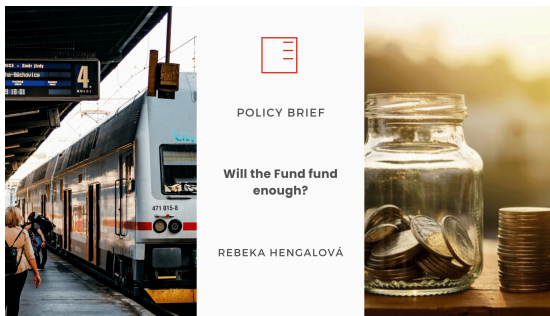
The phenomenon of illiberalism, cornerstone to the increasingly popular concept of illiberal democracy, has steadily gained all the more traction in the global policy discussion. In the European Union (EU), the consolidation of majoritarian, nativist leaderships is leading to many Member States' **backtracking on progressive agendas** and openly pursuing policies that undermine the rights of minorities and the liberal-democratic system of checks and balances. Writes **Alejandro Esteso Pérez**, visiting fellow at EUROPEUM Institute. Read the full article [here](#).

Policy Paper | Resilient Europe: Best Practices from Across the Continent in Building Resilient Societies



The "Resilient Europe" conference, held in Prague in October 2024, brought together leading experts from across Europe to share their experiences and best practices in dealing with threats such as Russian disinformation, hybrid warfare tactics that seek to destabilize democratic institutions and undermine public trust. This policy paper summarises the main findings of the conference into three main categories: **hybrid threats, information manipulation** in digital space and **strategic communications**. These categories encompass the wide range of measures taken by European states and institutions to ensure democratic resilience, and the paper further identifies the most pressing challenges and opportunities for future efforts. Summarised by **Jonáš Srovátka** of the EUROPEUM Institute, **Veronika Vichová** of the Centre for an Informed Society and **Nikoleta Nemečková** of the Association for International Affairs. Read more [here](#).

Policy Brief | Will the Fund fund enough?



There is a plethora of ways in which the ETS2 revenues and Social Climate Fund financing can support decarbonisation among lower-income strata, accounting for differing needs of communities, regions and countries. When addressed in a timely manner, these initiatives can both serve the green and just transition. How exactly can the Fund be allocated and what are its capacities are the guiding questions of this policy brief, written by **Rebeka Hengalová** as part of the Think Visegrad research fellowship. Read more [here](#).

Policy Brief | Impacts of Ukraine's accession on the EU and its member states



Ukraine has been trying to become part of the European Union since the Orange Revolution in 2004, while European decision-makers lacked the political will to continue the enlargement, and the process has been stagnating for many years. All this changed suddenly after the Russian aggression in 2022, after which the accession process accelerated, but now it turned to another extreme: the statements on Ukraine's quick EU accession became too unrealistic, creating **false hopes**. Writes **Anton Bendarzsevszkij**, Director of Oeconomus Economic Research Institute, in his Policy Brief. Read more [here](#).

Blog | Reviving 'the dead provision': Could QMV save the procedure under Article 7 TEU?



With the ongoing debate on EU enlargement, the question of Treaty revision to ensure the EU's actionability in the future is on the table. While some member states believe that the current state of the Treaties is fitting for a Union of 35+ members, **others call for Treaty revision before enlargement**. In 2022, the European Parliament took the discussion a step further by passing a resolution suggesting far-reaching revisions to the Treaties. Writes **Marek Jankovský**, an intern at EUROPEUM's Brussels office. Read the full blog article [here](#).

Blog | Introducing Qualified Majority Voting in the Intermediate Steps of EU Enlargement



Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, European Union (EU) enlargement has gained new momentum, bringing the topic to the forefront of political discussions. This renewed focus highlights the need to strengthen the EU's geopolitical position and security through enlargement. However, significant challenges remain, particularly regarding the **effectiveness and credibility of the current accession process**. EUROPEUM Institute intern **Šárka Soukupová** writes in her blog. Read more [here](#).

Blog | Fishing for Influence: The EU's Role in Shaping the Faroese Fishing Economy



The Faroe Islands, located in the North Atlantic, have long relied on fishing as the corner-stone of their economy, shaping their economic and social identity. However, **the decline in employment in this sector in recent decades**, coupled with the global problems of overfishing, underlines the fragility of this dependence. Writes intern **Bára Auerová** in her blog. Read more [here](#).

In the media

- ČT24 | First foreign trip of the Czech Commissioner ([Zuzana Krulichová](#))
- Ekonomický deník | Location of charging stations and availability of alternative fuels. EU tunes data on infrastructure ([Filip Křenek](#))
- Právo | European elections reveal Europe's cluelessness ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- TN.cz | Poland begins its EU Presidency ([Martin Vokálek](#))
- Horizont ČT24 | Elon Musk intervenes in European politics ([Viktor Daněk](#))
- ČRo Dvojka | The EU is like a homeowners' association. Poland now has a chance to set the tone for the debate ([Viktor Daněk](#))