

GREAT DECISIONS

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I. The future of Europe: coping with crisis

Acronyms and abbreviations

ECB—European Central Bank
EU—European Union
GDP—Gross domestic product
GNP—Gross national product
IMF—International Monetary Fund
NATO—North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Glossary

2014 Ukrainian revolution (Euromaidan Revolution): A series of protests and clashes in Ukraine that led to the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich, and ultimately to Russia's annexation of the Crimea and the ongoing war with pro-Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine. The revolution was centered in Maidan Square in the capital, Kiev.

Angela Merkel: Chancellor of Germany since 2005. Merkel also leads the Christian Democratic Party (CDU).

Brexit: A term for the UK's referendum on EU membership, held on June 23, 2016. The British public voted 52% to 48% to leave the union. The UK will remain in the union until it invokes Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, after which point the terms of Britain's exit must be agreed upon within a period of two years.

Cold War: The political and military tensions between the U.S., the Soviet Union and their respective allies that occurred between 1947 and 1991. Although no direct fighting ensued, the U.S. and Soviet Union armed themselves in case of a possible nuclear war.

Democratic deficit: In reference to the European Union, the idea that EU governance lacks democratic accountability and legitimacy.

Dimitris Avramopoulos: A Greek politician and former diplomat. He has served as EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship since 2014.

Dublin system: The system for determining which EU member state is responsible for processing asylum applications, established by the Dublin Regulation. The country of first entry into the EU is almost always responsible for processing claims.

European Central Bank (ECB): The central bank of the Eurozone countries, and one of the EU's seven institutions. The ECB defines and implements monetary policy, and performs banking supervision, among other tasks.

European Commission: The executive body of the EU. The Commission proposes legislation; has powers to enforce European law; sets objectives for the EU; implements EU policies and the EU budget; and represents the EU on the international stage.

European Council: One of the EU's seven institutions, comprised of the heads of state of the member states. The European Council has no legislative power, but sets the EU's broad agenda and strategy.

European Parliament: One half of the EU's legislative branch, alongside the Council of Ministers. The European Parliament is the only directly elected body of the EU, and consists of 751 members.

Euroskepticism (Eurosepticism): The position of being opposed to the European Union. Euroskepticism is traditionally rooted in the belief that European integration weakens national sovereignty.

Eurozone: (Euro area). The monetary union of EU member states that have adopted the euro as their currency. All EU member states fall within the Eurozone, except for the UK and Denmark who “opted out,” and Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Sweden, who are obligated by treaty to adopt the currency upon meeting certain economic and legal criteria.

Frontex: The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex: from the French, *frontières extérieures*, meaning “external borders”). An autonomous EU agency, Frontex was established in its first iteration in 2007, and has its current legal basis in EU Regulation 2016/1624.

International Monetary Fund (IMF): An institution in the United Nations system. The IMF was established in 1945 in the wake of the Great Depression and the Second World War, and tasked with ensuring the stability of the international monetary system. Today, this includes regulating the system of exchange rates and international payments, as well as relevant macroeconomic and financial sector issues.

Jean-Claude Juncker: President of the European Commission since 2014. Juncker previously served as prime minister of Luxembourg (1995–2013).

Marine Le Pen: Leader of France’s far-right National Front Party since 2011.

National Front: A far-right French political party, established in 1972. The National Front is socially conservative and nationalist, holding economic protectionist, anti-EU and anti-immigration policy positions.

Nicolas Sarkozy: President of France (2007–12). Sarkozy also led the center-right Union for a Popular Movement party.

Schengen zone: The area consisting of 26 European Union member states that have abolished internal borders to allow for the free movement of people, goods, services and capital.

Soviet Union: A former single-party state composed of multiple Soviet republics and controlled by the Communist Party. The Soviet Union existed between 1922 and 1991.

Viktor Orbán: Prime minister of Hungary (1998–2002; 2010–present). Orbán has been a vocal opponent of the EU and of immigration, and advocates instead for a system he calls “illiberal democracy,” with an emphasis on national sovereignty, family and cultural heritage.

Yanis Varoufakis: A Greek economist who served as finance minister from January to July 2015, when he resigned after a national referendum rejected a bailout deal from European creditors.

