



SUNY Model EU 2016

European Council

European Growth Agenda

The President of the European Council and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Presidency of the European Council advance these agenda items.

Our goal is to adapt the smart approach of the Europe 2020 growth strategy and give practical recommendations in the application of this approach in Member States and European institutions following the impetus of the European Council. The Heads of Government will discuss three main topics within this context, economic expansion, digital society and infrastructure, and education, at this summit in order to find lasting solutions to Europe's woes today and tomorrow.

Background

The current European Growth strategy, Europe 2020, was launched in 2010 in the devastation wake of the 2008 crisis which saw unemployment and national debt soar with growth dropped nearly across the board. In many southern member states (MS), such as Greece, Spain, Portugal, and Italy, as well as elsewhere, most notably Ireland, this crisis hit with an unparalleled brutal ferocity that saw the EU wide employment rate drop to 70.3%. Young people represented a disproportionate amount of this new unemployment in the labor as they discovered that opportunities were no longer available once leaving secondary and tertiary education. Five years later this has created a class of inexperienced younger workers which is paralyzing future growth in key sectors of innovation which will play bigger roles in the future world economy. There are several southern economies that still have employment rates under 60% (Spain, Italy, Greece, etc.) which need to return to a competitive state if the EU is to thrive and continue to play a major role in the world economy.

One of the key features of the Europe 2020 agenda is its so-called smart growth approach to dealing with growth. This means that the EU is trying to find cost effective measures to find long term solutions to growth issues that will not only boost the European economy today but keep it flexible and ready for the challenges of tomorrow. So far, the EU is attempting to support smart growth by playing a bigger role in new digital sectors, which dominate emerging sectors today, through the Digital Agenda (established as a Europe 2020 initiative) among other things. There are currently seven pillars defined within the Digital Agenda as part of the Europe 2020 strategy. The first, and maybe most ambitious is the creation of a single digital market in Europe in order to protect the four freedoms of the European Single Market and incentivize suppliers and consumers to engage cross border interaction. The next two pillars, Interoperability & Standards and Trust & Security, focus on making sure MSs have the capability to interact properly and in a safe way. The next three, Fast/Ultra-fast internet access, Research and innovation, and enhancing digital literacy, skills and inclusion, aim to develop MS capabilities through the support of infrastructure development, skills fostering, improving accessibility, supporting even further development in the digital sphere, etc. The final pillar aims at being able to harness Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in a way to solve the issues that plague the EU today on issues as diverse as energy consumption to health care services and societal issues.

Another major driver of smart growth is supporting education across the EU. It is well known that a well-educated society is required for any sort of sustainable and long term growth. Target four, out of the five Europe 2020 target, is purely dedicated to education and does so at the secondary level, with the aim of reducing early school leaving below 10%, and the tertiary level, with the aim of having at least 40% of 30-34 year olds completing third level education. It

is clear that MSs with bigger economic woes and higher unemployment see a much higher rate of early school leaving (again largely visible in southern economies, as these youths have difficulty entering the competitive job market without necessary qualifications. Tertiary education in Europe is generally of a high level, though only 2 European universities rank amongst the top 20 which shows there is an issue with developing very high level education institutions. This being said it is important that tertiary education be accessible to all European citizens as professions in emerging and even established high revenue sectors, such as the STEM fields and the aforementioned digital sector, require a high level of education. This is even more supported by the fact that a vast majority of the work done for research and development (R&D) and innovation can only be practiced by individuals with tertiary education backgrounds.

Perhaps the most crucial factor of the European Union's unprecedented success is its ability to continuously evolve and innovate, despite increasingly complex market influences and extraordinarily precarious international affairs, some of which threaten to destabilize both the European economy as well as its security. With the worst of the Euro-crisis in the past, the EU must now look to expansion, streamlining, and continued innovation and development to help turn the dial on common initiatives. It is crucial that the Union focus upon the bare essentials, expanding our freedoms as citizens and ensuring our security. Furthermore, it has never been more vital to devote a substantive amount of time, energy, and capital towards improving our economies, with particular emphasis on a comprehensive digital agenda and tackling the all too prevalent issue of unemployment among European youth.

Policy Recommendations

On behalf of the President of the European Council and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we recommend to the European Council the following:

1. Promoting lasting economic expansion within the EU with both short term objectives and long term solutions in order to avoid future crises through:
 - a. Increasing direct EU investment and incentivize unilateral member state investment in quantum technologies,
 - b. Revising spectrum auction practices to favor European based telecommunication companies and enact simultaneous finance reform to help maintain an apolitical marketplace,
 - c. Ensuring that at least 15% of all investments resulting from the European Fund for Strategic Investment will be used to alleviate youth unemployment including the establishment of apprenticeships and investment in trade and technical schools,
 - d. Creating European Regional Economic Development Councils (EREDC's) that can encourage European cooperation and report to the commission about the best economic policy proposals for their region;

2. Recommitting to the development of a digital society as a priority of the Europe 2020 growth agenda while providing practical approaches to this end and the investment in digital infrastructure by:
 - a. Supporting the development of MS ICT infrastructure, with an emphasis on widening fiber optic networks and expanding the capabilities of data centers, in partnership with private sector companies when possible, and when appropriate, in order to improve accessibility to high/ultra-high speed connections,
 - b. Harmonizing technological interoperability between states by adopting common standards and formats, supplemented by continued dialogue and open information sharing about MS national standards and practices,
 - c. Continued commitment to developing the Digital Single market(DSM) as outlined by the European Commission and notes the importance of the involvement of key EU commissioners and reaffirms the leading role of the Commissioner of Digital Single Market,
 - d. Establishing a comprehensive cyber security network with data privacy measures based on established benchmarks and practices, with partnership of private sector actors when appropriate, in order to protect the new DSM by the end of 2016;

3. Deepening the European Union's commitment to the education of its citizens, at all levels, in order to find long-term solutions to current issues and foster a population with the capabilities to deal with future issues by:
 - a. Reducing tuition for 1st cycle (undergraduate/bachelor's) tertiary education in public universities to the lowest sustainable level, with added economic incentives (such as through further reduced tuition, monthly stipends, subsidized programs, etc.) for fields that relate to Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics among other high revenue, high potential fields,
 - b. Increasing programs between member states as part of education programs, whether through physical exchanges, dual certification programs, online programs, inter-school dialogue, etc. at both secondary and tertiary education levels,
 - c. Creating an advisory board or function within DG Education and Culture (EAC) to study public primary and secondary education practices in MSs, provide regular lessons learned reports on the results of these, and advise MS on how to change unsuccessful practices and effectively spend public education budgets,
 - d. Protect openly accessible post-secondary school training for specialization and skills development of youths unable to enter the labor market and trade oriented secondary schools,
 - e. Encourage smart specialization of public tertiary schools in order to provide high quality education at low spending levels to the universities,
 - f. Advance Open Access to scientific publications and the use of research results in entrepreneurial endeavors;



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Foreign Affairs Council

European Security Strategy

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Presidency of the European Council advance these agenda items.

Our goal is to draft a new common, comprehensive and consistent EU global strategy which defines the Union's strategic priorities promotes its universal values of freedom, security and solidarity on a global stage and will guide Member States through an increasingly connected, contested and complex world. The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss and prioritize the most important conventional and non-conventional threats to its vital interests and practical solutions to streamlining the EU's response to these threats.

Background

The last European Security Strategy (ESS) was adopted in 2003 and since then, global threats and challenges have evolved significantly. The EU is facing a security environment that is more volatile and unpredictable than it has ever been since the end of the Cold War. Globalization and technological progress have shaped our world to be more interconnected, interdependent and complex. This changing global environment poses a new set of challenges and opportunities the EU must face to ensure the safety of its citizens and to promote its interests and universal values.

Today, the EU is surrounded by an arc of instability, causing the Union to face both conventional and unconventional threats. Conflicts, both in Africa and the Middle East, as well as the Ukraine, threaten the European security environment. The Union's eastern neighbors are facing economic, political and energy supply insecurities. The spreading of ungoverned spaces to the south has enabled criminal and terrorist networks to thrive. An enormous surge in human migration has caused a refugee crisis that is forcing the EU to rethink its approach to migration and asylum, as well as posing grave humanitarian concerns, which need to be addressed. Furthermore, the EU must develop a reactive and effective response to the threat of hybrid warfare, which must be streamlined and coordinated with NATO. Climate change and the scarcity of resources in a more contested environment have further increased security tensions around the world. At the same time, global growth, interdependence and technological progress have allowed people to escape poverty and live longer, healthier and freer lives.

To address this changing environment and tackle the challenges it poses, the EU must develop a new common, comprehensive and consistent EU global strategy. Without a coherent and updated overarching framework, European foreign policy action is bound to be fragmented and driven by ad-hoc responses to events. This agenda must define the EU's strategic priorities and identify the most important threats and challenges to its vital interests, using the preventive, comprehensive and multilateral method deployed by CFSP. Furthermore, it must guide the EU through an increasingly connected, contested and complex world, while promoting its interests and universal values of security, freedom and prosperity on a global scale.

Policy Recommendations

On behalf of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we recommend to the European Council the following:

1. Identifying and prioritizing the greatest threats, both conventional and nonconventional, to the EU's vital interests and setting clear, common and comprehensive security objectives, which the EU is willing and able to tackle. These include:
 - a. Stabilizing the European Neighborhood by continuing to support reform in the Western Balkans, Turkey and the Eastern partners through integration and association policies. In addition, the EU must strongly condemn and firmly respond to destabilizing actions on the EU's borders, while at the same time mending rifts with Russia and collaborating on restoring sustainable European security architecture and addressing global challenges.,
 - b. Developing a comprehensive and effective strategy to countering hybrid threats by deploying existing EU capabilities in a more coherent and coordinated way. This strategy must also be streamlined with NATO's response to hybrid warfare to maximize its effectiveness,
 - c. Developing broad, yet tailored, responses to address the root causes of conflicts and immediate humanitarian threats in the Middle East and North Africa in close cooperation with other stakeholders,
 - d. Making use of the full range of CFSP and CSDP tools at the EU's disposal to tackle the security tensions that arise from the refugee crisis. This includes developing a comprehensive strategy to strengthen external borders and assist in the rescue of migrants perishing in their attempt to cross the Mediterranean;
2. Modifying and streamlining the manner in which the EU responds to threats to be more flexible, coordinated and effective and preventing foreign and security policy competences from being scattered amongst Member States. This includes:
 - a. Reworking information gathering and sharing by strengthening and improving the COREU/CORTESY Network to be able to withstand cyber security threats, gathering and disseminating best practices and designing a common roadmap for responding to security threats,
 - b. Establishing a 24/7 coordination center responsible for coordinating and smoothing the CFSP process between institutions and Member States, as a result making the development of foreign policy more rapidly responsive, flexible and effective,

- c. Streamlining multilateral cooperation and coordination with other stakeholders and institutions, especially NATO, in deploying CSDP assets to cope with both conventional and unconventional security threats;



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Committee of Permanent Representatives II

Refugee Alleviation Program

The Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Presidency of the Council of the European Union advance these agenda items.

Our goal is to alleviate the burden of the refugee crisis for all EU Member States, by means of gaining a larger control over the refugee crisis in the European Union (especially in Southern Member States) and offering a more even relocation of the refugees within the European Union. COREPER II will negotiate the assertion of recommendations regarding coherence and effectiveness of EU action in this field, the refugee relocation scheme, and cooperation with the Gulf countries.

Background

The Syrian Civil War of 2011 started one of the largest Refugee Crisis' in modern history. This incident disrupted the lives of countless Syrians, and due to this, millions have left their home to find asylum elsewhere. Other civil wars, conflict situations and poor living conditions in countries of the Balkans, North Africa, East Africa and West Asia and are also generating large flows of refugees (including from Kosovo, Albania, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Eritrea). This has led to the influx of refugees into Europe, mainly through the southern countries such as Italy and Greece.

432,761 Refugees have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to land in Europe in 2015. Italy and Greece, however, saw the largest impact as 98% of the people landed on their beaches. Due to the massive influx of refugees that appear on the beaches of the 'hotspots'¹, the EU must alleviate the burden of the crisis for countries particularly concerned by primary influx of refugees. The situation is a huge talking point amongst the European Union (EU), because the agreement found in the *European Agenda on Migration* still needs improvement, especially in respect of the refugee relocation scheme².

A key aspect for world leaders when identifying a solution to an internal problem is to look outwards for assistance. In this instance, an overlooked potential ally is the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The GCC was founded in 1981 and currently has six members (Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates). The EU and the GCC have been successful trade partners since the 1988 Cooperation Agreement that promoted political and economic relations on top of energy and technology cooperation. This proposal will rely on this trusted relationship to find a possible solution to the current Refugee Crisis.

The EU principally intends to alleviate the burden of the refugee crisis for countries concerned by the 'hotspot approach' by means of strengthening the departments dealing with migration and asylum and offering a more coherent approach to the issue. Furthermore, the EU aims to tackle the remaining issues concerning migration and asylum in the region by means of improving the relocation scheme in place as established by the *European Agenda on Migration*, in order to meet higher humanitarian standards and all Member States' interests, in accordance with UN High Commissioner for Refugees' recommendations (AFP, 2015). Further cooperation

¹ A 'hotspot' is a section of the EU external border or a region with extraordinary migratory pressure which calls for reinforced and concerted support by EU Agencies (European Commission, 2015b)

² For more information, consult "A European Agenda on Migration" (European Commission, 2015a).

with third countries such as Turkey is highly desirable to share information and build a more coherent EU on this issue.

The GCC Member States, due to their proximity to the majority of countries of origin of the refugees, are important potential recipients. The GCC countries have so far shared the burden of the crisis by means of financial assistance, but have contributed to humanitarian admissions to a limited extent. The EU intends to promote the development of legal systems to process refugees in such countries by means of pressing the GCC to act in accordance with UN High Commissioner for Refugees' recommendations (Fenton, 2015). The possibility of reviving the negotiations of an EU-GCC Free Trade Agreement appears to be the most powerful diplomatic tool in that sense.

In cooperation with the EEAS and the HR/VP with regards to the security aspects of these challenges, COREPER II is competent to deal with these agenda items, as the EU's external action and the external dimension of internal policies (including trade agreements) are comprised in its portfolio. In consultation with the European Commission, the decisions made in COREPER II according to the present agenda could be presented to the Council of the European Union, in the relevant formation(s).

Policy Recommendations

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we recommend to the Committee of Permanent Representatives II the following:

1. Reviving the negotiation of a trade deals with the GCC, with the objective of the GCC's commitment to accept the relocation of refugees who entered the EU in Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates:
 - a. The trade deal will revolve around lessening the cost of tariffs charged to the GCC and all of its bodies that do business in the EU with the hopes of this leading to a Free Trade Agreement between the two bodies,
 - b. The European Union will fully fund the costs of transporting the Refugees from the EU to the GCC provinces that are best able to accommodate the Refugees;
2. Establishing the position of EU Special Representative for Refugees, able to represents a coherent single voice in its regards (including the related aspects of relocation and return), encompassing all regions concerned with migration to the Union:
 - a. The position will supervise and implement the comprehensive approach to migration management mentioned by the European Commission (European Commission, 2015b), including: operational measures (the 'Hotspot' Approach, the relocation scheme, resettlement, and return and readmission), budgetary support, implementation of EU Law, and the External Dimension,

- b. The position will embody in one person the need for the EU to be more consistent, proactive and effective with regards to migration, and will promote permanent discussion groups with third countries and international organizations,

- 3. Adapting the relocation scheme of the European Agenda on Migration, including more legal opportunities and a more humane approach that takes into account the refugees' individual characteristics, and to discuss issues of discrimination, in accordance with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres' recommendations (AFP, 2015):
 - a. The revised relocation scheme will include more legal possibilities to obtain the refugee status in Europe, in accordance with the Member States' will to increase their labor force and other specific interests,
 - b. The revised relocation scheme will take into account refugees' individual characteristics, such as family links, language, skills and avoiding ethnic or religious discrimination,
 - c. The revised relocation scheme will particularly emphasize destinations in rural areas and in countries that are not perceived as a 'first choice' from refugees, which will then receive a higher financial assistance per refugee relocated, in order to contribute to the alleviation of 'first choice' countries and of 'hotspot' areas,

Recommended Readings

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<http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>
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SUNY Model EU 2016

Economics and Finance Council

Revitalizing the European Economy

The Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Presidency of the European Council advance these agenda items.

Our goal is to find ways to deepen economic ties between member states in a way that allows the economies within the Union to work together on a deeper level but also create enough safe guards to avoid the repetition of recent crises and with the innovative capabilities to remain competitive globally. The Economics and Finance Ministers will discuss the direction and depth of future economic integration as well as measures to foster the competitive market necessary

Background

As Europe emerges from the worst fiscal crisis of the last few decades, governments across the continent have been forced to take drastic and often reactionary steps to affect any sort of economic recovery. The need to stabilize has been gradual and incredibly difficult and the need to maintain the European integration achieved made this all the more arduous. Despite this hardship the integrity of the Eurozone has stayed strong and the internal markets of the European Union have remained preserved. The push for real change in the post fiscal crisis area has made it apparent that the ships of state must be guide away from patchwork quick fixes and towards goals that have long standing prosperity and growth in mind. To that end, in order to continue this project that is the Euro an effort on four fronts must be taken with the final goal of a true European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in mind.

Digital agenda for Europe involved many steps and sophisticated planning. The projects may consists of research collaboration between universities in Europe and abroad; four major goals of Digital Agenda for Europe- data, strategy and priorities, digital agenda for international, Digital Agenda community and funding. Large hadron collider will be a good example of collaborative project between EU member states and great achievement. The project has massive impact R&D development within Europe. Therefore, innovating Europe will be our biggest agenda in order to face the future challenges of social, economic and political issues that EU will be dealing in the near future.

Policy Recommendations

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we recommend to the European Council the following:

1. Establishing a True Economic Union to put in place the architecture to operate prosperously within the monetary union by:
 - a. Blending of best performances and practices to build upon the current economic governance framework in the short term. With similarly robust structures throughout the euro area to increase jobs, with an emphasis on social cohesion and competition,
 - b. Making this convergence process binding and formal, based on a set of commonly agreed standards within a legal character, this latest being regularly monitored and a condition for members to benefit from further applications of the economic union, including a shock absorption mechanism to be set up for the Euro area;

2. Finishing of a Banking Union and a speeding up of the Capital Markets Union by:
 - a. Committing to the full transposition into national law of the Bank Resolution and Recovery Directive by all Member States at the earliest possibility,

- b. Agreeing to an adequate bridge financing mechanism as a way of ensuring sufficient funds if a bank needs to be unwound even if the financing in the Single Resolution Fund is not enough at that time for the Fund by 1 January 2016,
 - c. Setting up a common backstop to the Single Resolution Fund, potentially through a credit line from the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) to the Single Resolution Fund, which should be fiscally neutral over the medium term by ensuring that public assistance is recouped by means of *ex post* levies on the financial industry,
 - d. Launching a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS) - the third pillar of a fully-fledged Banking Union alongside bank supervision and resolution in order to solve current vulnerabilities to the current national deposit guarantee schemes remains vulnerable to large local shocks,
 - e. Launching the Capital Markets Union in order to ensure more diversified sources of finance so companies can access capital markets and other sources of non-bank finance in addition to bank credit;
3. Building a Fiscal Union, which will be held accountable through the democratic process, in order to create and oversee fiscal policies at the national and Euro level by 2017 by:
 - a. Bolstering the first stage of a fiscal union by creating an advisory European Fiscal Board which will coordinate and complement the national fiscal councils that have been set up in the context of the EU Directive on budgetary frameworks and will provide an assessment of budgets and their execution perform against the economic objectives and recommendations set out in the EU fiscal governance framework. The composition of the Board should be pluralistic and draw from a wide range of expertise,
 - b. Later implementing a common macroeconomic stability function that will better to deal with shocks that cannot be managed at the national level alone;
4. Committing to a Political Union to provide a foundation through accountability, legitimacy, and strengthened institutions:
 - a. A further strengthening of practices, such as existing Economic Dialogues, which could include the European Commission and the Parliament engaging in a plenary debate before the Annual Growth Survey is presented,
 - b. Reinforcing the presidency and disposable means of the Eurogroup and supporting an eventual full-time presidency;
5. Strengthening the European Monetary Union by:
 - a. Building of a Fiscal Union, which shall be held accountable through the democratic process, in order to create and oversee fiscal policies at the national and Euro level is paramount to this. Hopeful achievement of this goal by 2017 is optimal,
 - b. Helping EU companies with proper subsidy package and tax breaks for the emerging European technology firms, including a subsidy package policy for innovative and tech companies in general,
 - c. Developing the common EU regulation for European SMEs on tech industry in order to refocus economic objectives;

6. Collaborating STEMs research between EU universities and prestigious institutions and universities outside of EU to bring mutual benefits for both parties, by, among other measures setting up for funding for Erasmus Mundus research programs;
7. Continuing to fund and increasing funds for large scale innovation and research collaborative projects such the Large Hydrogen Collider, and supporting new such projects through EU mandate;
8. Designing innovation policies to be implemented through institutional collaboration with a focus on encouraging STEM fields and continuing to integrate women and vulnerable persons through affirmative action.