



EuroMemo 2017:

The European Union: The Threat of Disintegration

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What is the EuroMemo?

- Annual report on the EU economy of the European Economists for an Alternative Economic Policy in Europe (EuroMemo Group), a network of progressive European economists/social scientists founded in 1995. First report appeared in 1997.
 - Aim of group is to contribute to a model of European integration, that is promoting full employment with good work, social justice with an eradication of poverty and social exclusion, ecological sustainability, and international solidarity.
 - Activities of group: (i) annual conference in September, (ii) annual report.
 - Report consists of three parts:
 1. Survey of the current economic, social and ecological situation of the European Union.
 2. Empirically and analytically substantiated criticism of the orientation of politics on the European level.
 3. Alternative policy proposals are developed
- ➔ Report is regularly endorsed by 300+ economists and social scientists

Contents of EuroMemo 2017

1. Macroeconomic & development policies to challenge austerity and uneven development
2. EU monetary and financial policies: easy money reaching the limit?
3. Migration and EU solidarity
4. Right wing and economic nationalism in the EU: origins, programmes and responses
5. EU external relations

The threat of disintegration



Economic dimension:

- Notwithstanding some modest reforms (Juncker Plan), austerity policies *cum* competitiveness agenda persist as predominant policy response to economic crisis, has reinforced economic stagnation and decline, exacted a heavy social toll from EU citizens
- ➔ BUT: public protests over trade agreements (CETA, TTIP) have become emblematic for the dissatisfaction of citizens with the prevailing economic policy doctrine

Political dimension:

- UK referendum on EU membership and looming BREXIT have accentuated disintegration tendencies;
- Refugee crisis has exhibited incapacity of EU to implement effective common policies; has led to severe abuses of human rights and has shifted political discourse in favor of nationalist/populist right;
- ➔ Response of EU governments hints at further curtailment of civil rights, a securitization/militarization of the EU and to disguised restrictions to the free movement of people within the EU.
- ➔ Upcoming elections in 2017, in particular in France, Italy and the Netherlands may further strengthen forces of disintegration

The threat of disintegration (cont'd)



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The threat of disintegration (cont'd)



Strategic responses:

- (1) muddling-through* (majority of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats and Liberals)
- (2) Core Europe* (Lega Nord, FPÖ)
- (3) Europe of Nations* (Fidesz, PiS)
- (4) Democratic European Federalism* (e.g. parts of *Die Linke*) vs. *abandoning Euro* (e.g. Plan B proponents)

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