

## The future of EU political architecture after 2023

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The political architecture of the European Union has undergone a profound evolution since its inception, reflecting the complex interplay of historical events, geopolitical shifts, and the ever-changing dynamics of European integration.

The EU project was initially founded as an opportunity for participating countries to expand their political influence in the international arena, which was positively assessed by the European community. However, the disagreement between the states appeared regarding the need for an even closer union through the integration of member states into the EU, since the states still wanted to rely on their national sovereignty more than on the collective one. In this regard, there is a need to study the current principles and priorities of the EU both within the Union and in the international arena, as well as cooperation between other organizations on the example of such ideological partner as NATO.

The scientific novelty of the work lies in the development of a new research hypothesis, as well as in the study of new materials that have not been used by researchers before.

In this case, the following directions of analysis have been brought to a paper. First, the analysis of multilateral cooperation allows to understand the current vision of the EU in international relations, as an international entity, in such a way that it both maintains the classical forms of cooperation and develops a more integrated and complex level of cooperation on multidimensional levels. This vision has been reflected on the example of inter-organizational cooperation, namely EU and NATO, since it is NATO that includes all EU members and supports both ideologically and economically the actions of the organization (sanction packages against Russia).

Secondly, the analysis of the EU sanction policy applied in this paper reflects the picture of the united but yet changing behavior of the EU member states towards modern challenges, examining both the drawn cooperative threat response system (that was undergone after the Ukrainian crisis in 2023), and some transformations in the ideological basis of the EU as a single international entity. It is necessary to analyze the political relations between the Union and NATO, the reasons for the non-entry of some NATO countries into the EU (such as Turkey, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro), as well as the likelihood of changes in the vectors of development of the EU and NATO in connection with new trends and values of the organizations.

Finally, the overall study of the EU's political architecture brings to the vision of a modern and transformational trends and impulses set by the Union during the ongoing challenges on the international arena.

Since the international arena is experiencing a period of turbulence and change of the hegemon (that was the United States of America so far), the political map, as well as the architecture of many international associations, including the European Union, is undergoing significant changes. The result of this transformation is the EU's desire not only to adhere to collective values, but also to protect its own economic well-being and sovereignty (non-acceptance of such ideologically close countries as Turkey, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro).

It can be also stated that Brussels acknowledges the need to develop its own policy, separate from the United States, and seek to refocus on its own interests and decisions, as well as the search for other major allies and reliance on them.

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