

Section 12 – Politica e politiche dell'Unione europea (Politics and policies of the European Union)

Chairs: Roberto di Quirico, Mattia Guidi

Panel 12.1 Rethinking, Rebuilding, or Dismantling? Evaluating the Future of the European Union

Chairs: Roberto di Quirico

During the last two decades, the European Union faced crises, tensions, and some epochal defeats. The international crises generated in the EU an economic crisis that put in danger the existence of the euro. Economic and fiscal policies adopted to face the euro crisis generated a legitimacy crisis that facilitated the rise and consolidation of Euroscepticism and populism. This process hindered almost irremediably further integration. Also, the widespread of anti-European parties and their conquest of the power in some EU members states made more difficult coordinating EU policies and economic governance. So, continuous tensions rose that make uncertain the stay at work, solidity, and stability of the whole European construction. On the other hand, two epochal failures, the rejection of the European Constitutional Treaty in the early 2000 and the fiasco of the immigration fluxes management since the mid-2010s, raised many other doubts about the real capability of the EU to boost integration with the actual EU institutional structure. Crisis and failures resulted in many reform proposals for the EU. Some of these proposals focused on rethinking the EU paying more attention to economic growth, job creation, and the reduction of inequality. Other proposals aim to rebuild the EU reorganising its complex structure to make it more efficient and manageable, possibly converging toward a more structured supranational governance as granted by some forms of federalisation. Finally, many proposals arrived for dismantling the EU, in part or at all, for returning member states their sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the Brexit and other exogenous challenges created new problems and new opportunities to restart integration. American isolationism and protectionism under Trump require an EU economic and industrial policy to boost growth or at least to contrast trade destruction. Meantime, the reduction of US military involvement in the World system and the resurgent power of Russia and China make a European defence system an unavoidable need. Finally, the common currency management and the fragility of the EU financial system require combining the empowerment of the EU economic governance with a new and growth-oriented approach. This panel aims to identify the most critical challenges the EU has to face today, discussing them and proposing solutions. Among these challenges a particular interest will be appreciated for the new constitutional architecture of the future EU, the new strategies of the EU foreign policy, the EU defence issue and the role of the EU in the post-liberal international order, the effectiveness of differentiated integration to solve the contrasts among the EU members, the economic policy solutions to sustain economic growth and solving economic unbalances between member states. The organiser of this panel is planning to edit a book on topics discussed in this panel. So, papers will be selected considering their complementarity.