Project Group 10: Future Sovereignty of the European Union

Comment

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The future and sovereignty of the European Union

The European Union stands for democracy and freedom. The EU serves as an example for modern society's social structures. Due to that there are similar models such as ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) which was originally established for more efficient trading in Southeast Asia. Later, it was expanded to topics of security, culture and environmental issues. This is at least one example where the EU was a role model for other political alliances.

Precisely for that reason it is interesting to think about the EU as a strong sovereign global player. But in case of becoming more sovereign, the question of challenges the EU would be facing is arising.

When considering which countries are leading in terms of economic and political influence, it turns out that the European Union as a collective of states does not receive the same amount of international recognition as other big players, such as the USA, Russia or China. In regards to improving in those aspects, there are many challenges the EU has to overcome. These being a lack of unity due to inner disagreements over rule of law, having to balance international relationships with the big players while also creating new ones, creating means of better communication between the member states and a lack of transparency for the citizens. Solving all of these issues should ultimately lead to the EU achieving independence and sovereignty on a global scale.

One of the major challenges the EU is facing, is the issue of unity and most states being satisfied with important decisions while also arriving at these decisions in a reasonable time. This is currently being hindered by the voting process being a unanimity vote. To solve this issue, the EU should consider changing the process to a majority vote. This would make decision-making more efficient as there is no general consent required. Therefore, implementing majority voting to the EU leads to faster and easier politics but the states need to give up on some of their power as their voices will not always be heard. In addition to that, the EU is also experiencing struggles with certain members in regards to rule of law. This also results in less unity between member states because rule of law is supposed to be a given under European law.

The main difference between the European Union and other global players is its diversity. Diversity of opinions for example, which play a role in decision making processes and which have to be taken into account. 27 Member States which need to be heard. But at the same time, it is the strength of the European Union. Making those processes more transparent and at the same time working constantly on their improvement, showing how values such as democracy come to life, can lead as an example for others. Emphasizing how decisions have been made, instead of focussing how long they might take, might help to increase the weight

of those decisions on the international level and, in the long run, help the European Union to become a stronger global player. It might help to gain more independence from other global players, which is, in this context often referred to as "more sovereignty" of the European Union. (That is the aim of "TP", standing for "Transparent Politics": Europe, leading by example!).