

PREPARATION KIT

TURKU 2018 – National Session of EYP Finland
5–8 January 2018

EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT
SUOMI FINLAND



Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the whole Chairs' Team of Turku 2018, I welcome you to share our excitement by presenting to you this Academic Preparation Kit, which includes the Topic Overviews for Turku 2018 – National Session of EYP Finland.

The Chairs' Team has been working hard over the past weeks in order to give you a good introduction to the topics, to important discussions that touch upon the most recent events taking place in Europe under the theme “Towards a Better European Community with Nordic Collaboration”. I want to extend my gratitude for the Vice-Presidents Kārlis Krēsliņš and Mariann Jūriorg for creating great foundations for the academic concept. Additionally, there are two external scrutinisers Henri Haapanala and Viktor M. Salenius, who have to be thanked for their academic prowess and immense help they provided with this Preparation Kit.

We encourage you to look into all of the Committees' Topic Overviews, in order for you to have a coherent picture of all the debates in which you will be participating at the General Assembly.

In addition to your Committee's Topic Overview, make sure you read the explanations on how the European Union works. It is essential for fruitful conversation that you know how the structure and institutional framework of the EU functions.

I hope to see you all in person very soon!

Yours truly,

Tim Backhaus

President of Turku 2018 – National Session of EYP Finland



Committee Topics of Turku 2018 - National Session of EYP Finland

1. Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO), page 7

In light of the Old Continent's biggest political event in 2016 that forever ruffled the political and economic scene of the EU, increased the number of the calls for EU referendums and campaigns to leave EU or redefine several Member States' membership in the 'ever closer Union', how can the EU put under control and efficiently respond to growing scepticism among the European citizens concerning its functioning and democratic legitimacy after Brexit?

Chairperson: Aleksanteri Kekonen (FI), aleksanteri.kekonen@gmail.com

2. Committee on Foreign Affairs I (AFET I), page 12

Cooperation between the continents: With recent political developments causing concern over the future of EU-US relations, how can the EU strengthen its ties with one of its most important bilateral partners whilst upholding the Union's own values and ideals?

Chairperson: Kārlis Logins (LV), karlis.logins@tellus.lv

3. Committee on Foreign Affairs II (AFET II), page 18

Global warming's effect on the Arctic Region: through increasing global temperature, new resources are being exposed across the Arctic Region. Considering the unprecedented situation unfolding, how could the EU work in order to contribute to a fair distribution of natural resources with the other countries in the region, while ensuring security of actors involved and the environment?

Chairperson: Gustav Dahlquist (SE), gustav.dahlquist@eup.se

4. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), page 25

The European Commission estimates that one third of food in the EU is constantly being thrown away and is never consumed. Taking into account the growing urban population and worldwide consumption, what actions should the EU undertake to ensure sustainability in the production and consumption of food and reduce food waste in Member States?

Chairperson: Maria Hirvelä (FI), maria.hirvela@gmail.com

5. Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), page 30

United in diversity: While free movement of persons increase the cultural diversity of the EU, yet Nordic indigenous languages are still in danger, how should the EU ensure that these languages are protected and saved from extinction taking into account the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages?

Chairperson: Davit Manukyan (AM), dmanukyan@eyparmenia.org

6. Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I (EMPL I), page 34

Welcome to the future: While youth unemployment has been decreasing constantly it still has not reached pre-crisis levels, how should the EU foster youth's participation in startups most importantly in the area of robotics and artificial intelligence?

Chairperson: Oliver van der Weij (FI), oliver.vdweij@gmail.com

7. Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II (EMPL II), page 38

With ever growing and developing Digital Market challenging the EU and putting it in the race with time, how can the EU accompany its Member States in order to ensure that citizens develop the necessary skills for new job opportunities created by the global digital transformation?

Chairperson: Anneliis Saarend (EE), anneliissaarend@gmail.com

8. Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), page 43

Standing together for the world: with the effects of global warming becoming more and more apparent, how should the EU act and position itself locally and globally in order to unite all Member States to achieve the low-carbon vision 2050 and start using more sustainable and pro-green practices?

Chairperson: Saskia Kiiski (FI), kiiski.saskia@gmail.com

9. Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs I (LIBE I), page 47

Hindering the split of the European society: With recent attacks on European cities, xenophobia and radicalisation of certain groups on the rise, how should the EU react to tackle these matters swiftly and effectively?

Chairperson: Ioana Diac (UK), ioana.diac@live.co.uk

10. Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs II (LIBE II), page 53

EU at the crossroad: the balance between the freedom of expression and high media standards. Bearing in mind the recent events regarding “fake news” and “alternative facts”, how should the EU proceed to ensure effective media checks and strict fact checking whilst respecting the freedom of expression?

Chairperson: Nikita Sokolov (RU), nikita31198@gmail.com

European Youth Parliament (EYP)

The European Youth Parliament represents a non-partisan and independent educational project which is organised across Europe by young people, for young people. European Youth Parliament Finland, established in 2001, is the National Committee of EYP in Finland.

EYP encourages independent thinking and initiative in young people and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills. Since its inauguration in 1987, tens of thousands of young people have taken part in Regional, National and International Sessions, formed friendships and made international contacts across and beyond borders. EYP has thus made a vital contribution towards uniting Europe.

Today, EYP is one of the largest pan-European platforms for political debate, intercultural encounters, non-formal educational work and the exchange of ideas between young Europeans. The EYP network is represented in 41 European countries and has thousands of active young volunteers.

EYP is a programme of the Schwarzkopf Foundation.

European Union (EU)

The European Union is an economic and political union of 28 Member States. The EU was established by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992 upon the foundations of the European Communities.

The EU has developed a single market through a standardised system of laws which apply in all Member States. It ensures the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, including the partial abolition of passport controls within the Schengen Area. It provides legislation in justice and home affairs, and maintains common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries and regional development. 19 Member States have adopted a common currency, the euro.

Regarding its relations to the wider world, the EU has a limited role in foreign and defence policy through the Common Foreign and Security Policy. The level and speed of integration in foreign policy, just like in all other policy areas, has been widely debated with different Member States having different opinions, and has become a major topic since 2016 in the wake of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the EU. The EU has permanent diplomatic missions around the world

and it is represented at the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the G8 and the G20.

The EU operates as a hybrid system of supranationalism and intergovernmentalism. This means that in certain areas, decisions are taken independently by EU institutions whereas in others, they are made through negotiations between Member States.

The EU traces its origins from the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community formed by six countries in the 1950s. Since then it has grown in size through enlargement, and in power through the addition of policy areas to its authority. The latest amendment to the fundamental treaties of the EU, the Treaty of Lisbon, came into force in 2009.

The Institutions of the European Union

The **European Council** is responsible for defining the general political direction and priorities of the EU. It comprises of the heads of state or government of EU Member States, the President of the European Council (currently Donald Tusk from Poland) and the President of the Commission.

The **Council of the European Union** (commonly referred to as the Council of Ministers) is the legislative institution of the EU that represents the governments of Member States. The other legislative body is the European Parliament. Who exactly are members of the Council of the EU depends on the topic: for instance, when discussing agricultural policy, the Council is formed by the 28 national ministers whose portfolio includes this policy agenda.

The **European Parliament** is the directly elected, parliamentary institution of the EU. The Parliament directly represents the citizens of the EU. Together with the Council, it forms the bicameral legislative branch of the EU. Parliament is composed of 751 MEPs. The current President is Antonio Tajani from Italy.

The **European Commission** is the executive body of the EU. It is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the treaties of the Union, and the general day-to-day running of the Union. The Commission operates as a cabinet government with 28 commissioners, one from each Member State. The current President is Jean-Claude Juncker from Luxembourg.

Other important institutions of the EU include the **Court of Justice of the European Union** and the **European Central Bank**. The EU also has several agencies and other institutions.

Position Paper

As soon as you have got a clear picture of the core points related to your Committee Topic and have formed your personal opinion on it, you can start writing your Position Paper.

The purpose of the Position Paper is to generate support on an issue. It describes a personal position on a topic and the rationale behind it. The Position Paper is based on facts that provide a solid foundation for your argument and should be adequately presented by:

- Examining the strengths and weaknesses of your position.
- Evaluating possible solutions and suggesting courses of action.

A good Position Paper is usually from half to one page long, and can be structured as follows:

Introduction

It should clearly identify the issue and state the author's position. It should be written in a way that catches the reader's attention.

Body

It may contain several paragraphs; each of them presenting an idea or main concept that clarifies a portion of the position statement and is supported by evidence or facts. Evidence should lead, through inductive reasoning, to the main concept or idea presented in the paragraph. The body may begin with some background information and should incorporate a discussion on both sides of the issue.

Conclusion

It should summarise the main concepts and ideas and reinforce, without repeating, the introduction or body of the paper. It could include suggested courses of action and possible solutions.

You can find the template for writing your Position Paper with the e-mail you have received the Preparation Kit. Once you have written your Position Paper, please save...

... the file (.pdf) should be renamed as follows:

PP_Committee_Name_Surname (e.g., PP_AFCA_John_Doe)

... and send it to your chairs' e-mail **by Sunday, December 31st, 2017**.

Good luck with your work!

Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

Future of Europe: In light of the Old Continent's biggest political event in 2016 that forever ruffled the political and economic scene of the EU, increased the number of the calls for EU referendums and campaigns to leave EU or redefine several Member States' membership in the 'ever closer Union', how can the EU put under control and efficiently respond to growing scepticism among the European citizens concerning its functioning and democratic legitimacy after Brexit?

By Aleksanteri Kekonen (Chairperson, FI)

1. The topic at a glance

The EU is facing the biggest challenges of its history. The EU needs to address the concerns of its functioning and further prevent the spreading of Euroscepticism. In 2018 the Union needs to find effective solutions to many long-lasting crisis, such as the lack of democratic legitimacy, the struggling of Eurozone, the influx of immigrants and Brexit negotiations to name few. The rise of populist and nationalist parties in Member States like Hungary and Poland have led to increased tensions with Brussels.

In all of these crises, the EU has to remember to focus on the future the youth of the Union. The youth are the most vulnerable group of people to be influenced on with radical thoughts. Therefore, it is vital for the Union to take measures that increase the awareness of civic participation among youth.

This European peace project has to take a path that keeps the objectives that were set in the [Treaty of Rome](#) in 1957 – peace, stability and prosperity. A growing number of Europeans are not satisfied with the work done by the Union, does the ongoing situation enable the EU to allow its [fundamental values](#) of human rights, freedom, equality and rule of law to be upheld.

2. Key Terms

- **Brexit:** The process of UK's withdrawal from the EU. On 29th March 2017, the UK Government officially 'triggered' the [Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union \(TEU\)](#) to withdraw from the EU according to the turnout of the referendum in June 2016.
- **Democratic deficit:** The lack of representation of an ordinary citizen and accountability of the EU institutions.
- **European migrant crisis:** Since 2015, rising amounts of people have come to Europe over the Mediterranean Sea seeking for safety from Europe.

- **Euroscepticism:** A social phenomenon based on the criticism of the EU, its policies and ideals.
- **Eurocrisis:** A debt crisis started in the 2009 due the inability of some Member States to repay their government debts. Greece, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Cyprus were the crisis hotspots.
- **Populism:** A political approach that seeks to disrupt the existing social order by offering simple solutions that do not necessarily work in reality to large scale problems.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **European Parliament:** The only directly elected legislative institution in EU, which aims to represent 500 million EU citizens and their views on the future of Europe through its resolutions and declarations. The Parliament is the only public forum within the EU institutions for both pro-European and Eurosceptic views.
- **European Council:** Consists of the Heads of State and Government that define the EU's overall priorities and political directions forming the major political decisions of the present and future of the Union.
- **Member States:** Governments, specifically the Ministries of Education in each Member State have the ultimate responsibility and right to determine the contents of the national curriculum. The aim of the Ministries is to offer their citizens education that prepares them to the labour market keeping in mind the promotion of national culture and reinforcement international cooperation.
- **Eurosceptic parties and voters:** During the past decade, Eurosceptic parties have increased their popularity among the EU citizens and have inevitably solidified their presence in the EU's political spectrum. Far-right and far-left wing parties play one of the major roles in the rise of Euroscepticism.

4. What has been done so far?

The EU has gone through reforms to improve its existing actions. The structure has been altered throughout the history of the Union. Most importantly in 2004, the Union was proposed a constitution. [The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe](#) was an unsuccessful attempt to further deepen the integration of the Union. The proposal was blamed to be extremely federalist and accelerating the drive to the result 'United States of Europe' or too neoliberalist leading into the destruction of the social protection of Europe. All of the 25 Member States at that time signed the Treaty on 29 October 2004, and 18 Member States had ratified the Treaty. However, France and

Netherlands carried out popular votes both resulting majority being against in the ratification process. As a result of these two referendums, the Treaty proposal was rejected in 2005.

Right after the rejection of the Constitutional Treaty, works on the [Treaty of Lisbon](#) began. It includes a large amount that of the core goals of the Constitutional Treaty but also the new one were more highly focused on and the level of ambition was lowered to achieve something concrete. The core goal set for the Treaty of Lisbon is improving the decision-making processes through more democratic procedures also countering the prolonged challenge of legitimacy of the entire Union. This was achieved through measures like introducing [Qualified Majority Voting \(QMV\)](#) in the Council of the European Union in most policy areas, Ordinary Legislative Procedure, which initially increases the power of the European Parliament and the legislative initiative for the citizens, [European Citizens' Initiative \(ECI\)](#). Treaty of Lisbon was exceptionally successful, because it made an unanimous decision to strengthen the position of the [High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy](#) by a seat on the European Commission, which essentially increases the consistency and coherence of the external relations of the Union.

Consequented by the recent crisis, the decision makers of the EU were forced into further actions which led to [three approved resolutions on the 16th of February in the European Parliament](#) on boosting the capacity of the EU to act, restore citizen's trust and to prepare the Eurozone for outside shocks. The resolutions exploring the future development of the EU most importantly contained measures the maximise the utilisation of the Treaty of Lisbon, reinforcing the Eurozone and reforming already existing treaties to meet the present needs. The purpose of the resolutions was to clarify the position of the Parliament on the future of Europe.

In addition to the measures that are in place concerning the function of the EU, it funds various organisations and programs like [Erasmus+](#) and the [European Youth Event](#) that benefit the Union with results of building a stronger European identity to young generations and spreading understanding of the Union. According to [Coen van de Kraats](#), Euroscepticism is less likely among people who have been on an exchange. This clearly states that one of the most known EU funded projects, Erasmus+, inevitably enforces the fundamental values of the peace project. Also other EU funded or supported youth organisations encourage civic involvement, which increases the future-minded understanding of the world among the youth.

5. Key Conflicts

The concerns on the functioning and democratic legitimacy of the EU causes scepticism especially among the vulnerable. The challenge is created by a number of factors. The lack of democratic legitimacy grounds on the distant and non transparent decision making processes of the EU for a regular citizen. The problem is highlighted especially in the citizens of smaller Member States, because large Member States have comparably more power than smaller Member States. For example, the five largest Member States have the majority in the European Parliament even with the [degressive proportionality policy](#). With this challenge the power of the Parliament has been increased several times, most recently in the Treaty of Lisbon, to increase the representation of EU citizens in the decision-making processes.

Another challenge for the Union is the slow decision-making process in the EU institutions. Decisions that are made in the Council of the European Union usually only need a [qualified majority](#), but for decisions concerning for instance social or defence policies the Council has to be [unanimous](#). This has kept the Council from making brave decisions concerning the future of Europe.

Struggling of the Eurozone has resulted in further concerns of the necessity of the monetary union. As a structural challenge, the monetary union has the [autonomy of fiscal policies](#) in the Member States. However, the autonomy in the fiscal policies requires strict guidelines and a common fiscal discipline. Passively monitored excessive public debt caused the instabilities and market disturbances. The structural challenges have been there from the beginning since the creation of the Economic and Monetary Union in the [Treaty of Maastricht](#), but when the consequences of the [financial crisis](#) originating from the United States struck simultaneously with the already existing challenges the bottleneck snapped.

European migrant crisis has greatly added on to the Euroscepticism due to the EU's inefficient handling of the crisis. Since the beginning of the migrant crisis in 2015, Member States have contradicted each other with different approaches and solutions to the crisis. Some Member States like Germany and Sweden are suggesting an 'open-door' policy appealing into humanitarian reasons, yet Member States like Hungary and Greece are proposing for stricter immigration policies. According to the [Dublin Regulation](#), asylum seekers should apply for the asylum from the country they first enter in. This is unfavorable for Member States in the border regions of the Union. However, the EU has taken action to even up the burden. Member States have decided on internal transfers of immigrants with a weak success, only Finland and Malta have

met up to the agreed numbers. Warning signs of individual Member States taking action can be seen from Hungary building a wall on the border of Serbia to prevent the immigrants from coming or Bulgaria doing the same on the Turkish border.

The rise of populism and nationalism in Europe is evidently increasing the amount of Euroscepticism in the EU. It is essentially caused by the lack of knowledge about the EU and disinformation in fake news, which both are threatening the fundamental values of the Union. Populist and nationalist movements make use of the current moment and gain support from the most vulnerable, the unemployed, the young and the outcasted. The weakness of the Union is that media is usually not on their side, that even the word 'directive' is now a days associated with a negative tone. As education belongs to the supportive competences of the EU mentioned in Article 6 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union \(TFEU\)](#), it can not demand the Member States to include needed information of the EU in the national curricula.

6. Questions to consider

- Which future path should the EU choose to meet the concerns of Union's legitimacy?
- What kind of actions should the EU take to tackle the migration crisis from further spreading Euroscepticism?
- How can the EU solve the youth unemployment crisis in order to ensure the fundamental values of peace, stability and prosperity of the Union?
- What measures should Member States take to raise the awareness of youth about EU?

7. Further links

- [Catarina Fernandes Martins, 'Why young people in Europe are absent when it comes to defending a united EU' \(Article 2017\)](#)
- [Stefan Lehne, 'Populism: The Risks and Impact on European States' \(Article 2017\)](#)
- [Oxford Analytica, 'Prospects for the EU in 2017' \(Article 2016\)](#)
- [European Union Website, 'EU institutions and other bodies' \(Article 2017\)](#)

Committee on Foreign Affairs I (AFET I)

Cooperation between the continents: With recent political developments causing concern over the future of EU-US relations, how can the EU strengthen its ties with one of its most important bilateral partners whilst upholding the Union's own values and ideals?

By Kārlis Logins (Chairperson, LV)

1. The topic at a glance

The state of relations between the United States (US) and the EU have been in ever-increasing **turmoil** over the past few months. As a result of the 2016 US elections, with the Republican Party gaining control over the [House of Representatives](#), the [Senate](#) and the [Presidency, through the election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States](#), many policies enacted by the Democratic administration since 2008 are now under serious scrutiny. As one of the EU's most important third country partners, the effects of such political change are not contained domestically. In the areas of **trade, security and defence, and the environment**, the change in political climate and the decisions made by the administration and President Trump in recent months are playing an increasing role in the strategic direction of the EU.

In trade, talks of a **comprehensive trade agreement** between the EU and the US have halted entirely. Aiming for tariff-free exchange of goods and services between the two parties, negotiations over the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**, met with opposition from both US and EU officials in 2016, [have now lost all traction](#).

Regarding **security and defence**, however, President Trump's criticism of NATO and the EU's reliance on third countries for its military defence have caused greater concern. Similarly, the US' **meddling in the affairs of the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** heavily opposes the direction of EU foreign policy. Lastly, the US' **withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and reduced multilateral environmental cooperation** is not only detrimental to the campaign against global climate change but such non-cooperation creates a gap for other global powers, including the EU, to fill.

2. Key Terms

- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#): An international environmental treaty, serving as the cornerstone of the **Paris Agreement** and the Kyoto Protocol.

- **Paris Agreement:** The Agreement is based upon signatory nations' pledges to lower their carbon footprints with the assurance that such pledges would be reviewed by other nations every few years. The role of the US and the effects of its' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement are in overseeing and aiding other countries, especially in the developing world, to reach their individual goals set as part of the agreement. As of November 2017, [the US is the only country in the world not part of the Paris Agreement](#), with **197 signatory states** in total.
- **Bilateral trade deal:** A deal between two parties to facilitate investment and the exchange of goods, by reducing or eliminating tariffs, quotas, or any other barriers to trade.
- **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP):** A bilateral trade agreement between the EU and the US, for which negotiations have now stopped. The agreement would aim to advance economic growth via market regulations and simplified import, export, and investment, as well as to create an open market between the two parties.
- **Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO):** [Joint EU defence agreement](#) signed by 25 Member States aimed at developing the EU's military defence efforts and minimising its reliance on third countries, such as the US and, following its withdrawal from the Union, the UK.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **World Trade Organisation (WTO):** Trade between the EU and the US currently follows the guidelines and tariffs set by the WTO. Such guidelines serve the purpose of opening trade indiscriminately; as a result of a trade agreement between the two parties, the procedure of the WTO would be overruled. Alongside its system for trade rules, the WTO also provides a forum for trade talks and settling disputes between trading nations.
- **United Nations (UN):** The UN holds a stake in both international security, with its global peacekeeping programmes, and environmental defence. Diplomatically, the EU tends to comply with the UN with regard to foreign intervention, while the US opposes seeking authorisation from the organisation in such matters.
- **European Commission:** The executive branch of the EU, with the power to propose legislation and implement various decisions, regarding environmental protection and security and defence, as well as the TTIP agreement and any other potential trade deals, being the EU's negotiator in such areas. The European Commission is responsible for upholding the values of the Union, and, in doing so, has been vocal in its resistance to the state-centric direction of the US, criticising its domestic efforts, such as a [tax plan which would risk hampering transatlantic trade](#), and recent foreign policy decisions.

- **Member States:** By influencing the strategic direction of the EU, Member States play a role in all areas covered by the topic – both in terms of trade and security, and holding responsibility for their own sustainability goals set as part of the Paris Agreement.
- **Germany:** Being the Member State with the [largest export of goods in the EU](#), Germany is in strict opposition of [the protectionist direction of the US](#) and supports the globalisation of trade.
- **France:** While President Macron has voiced his [intent to collaborate with the US in security and counterterrorism](#), he has also opposed President Trump’s administration in other areas, such as the environment. Along with Germany, the two states have [promised to make up for the shortfall in climate finance](#) left by the US leaving the Paris Agreement.
- **United Kingdom:** Member State in the negotiating process for its withdrawal from the EU. In its period of withdrawal, while it builds trade relationships outside of the Single Market, the UK has both power and incentive to impact the trade decisions of the US and the EU.
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO):** Intergovernmental military alliance consisting of European and North American states. Though [criticised by President Trump heavily during his election campaign](#), the US has recently [reaffirmed its commitment to the military union](#).

4. What has been done so far?

Although the ideals of both parties seem distant, the [relationship between the EU and the US largely exists upon shared values](#) of human dignity, freedom, the rule of law, democracy, equality, the market economy, and a strong fundamental respect for human rights, including minority rights. This definition serves as a guideline to what **values are non-negotiable in an EU-US partnership**.

Third parties from both the US and the EU have plans to revert the damage dealt by the Federal government’s recent decisions regarding environmental issues. With the withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, [reduced spending for UN climate funding and a loss of USD 2 billion for fighting climate change in developing countries](#), a **Climate Alliance** has been formed in the US by State governments in opposition to the climate change views voiced by their Federal counterpart. This alliance aims to **uphold the objectives of the Paris Agreement** in their states’ borders, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and [meeting green energy guidelines set by the previous administration’s Clean Power Plan and opposed by President Trump](#). In the EU, [France and Germany have vowed to account for the loss in climate finance that resulted from the US’ withdrawal](#) as well.

Regarding **security**, while the EU has no military force of its own, **NATO** plays a large role in the **internal defence** of the Union, with [most Member States being part](#) of the organisation. The two transatlantic partners also have collaborative agreements addressing **global security**, through such terms as the [Middle East Peace process](#), among [others](#), and **counterterrorism**, via the [EU-US Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme Agreement and EU-US Passenger Name Records Agreement](#). In a further step towards the Union's non-reliance on third country militaries, 25 Member States have recently signed the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) agreement – [a joint EU defence pact](#), aiming to fund, develop, and deploy armed forces cooperatively, to boost the Union's collective security efforts.

5. Key Conflicts

While President Trump's views regarding trade have been criticised as **protectionist** in nature, due to the **standstill in Trans-Pacific Partnership and TTIP negotiations**, the US has shown a clear **willingness to cooperate with the EU** as well. The US and the EU make up nearly [a third of the world's trade](#) and [share 50% of the global GDP](#). Concerning Brexit negotiations, the US has also [expressed its will to establish a trade deal with the EU ahead of the UK](#), thus giving the Union a stronger negotiating position. However, no such talks have commenced, leaving the EU in a position of uncertainty; now, the Union needs to consider how to **maintain trade growth and economic stability** if either such a deal is not established or the US begins to favour the UK's position in Brexit talks.

In terms of security and US foreign policy, President Trump's views are in strong contradiction to the aims of the EU. Contrary to the rhetoric voiced in his election campaign and his criticism of President Obama's **meddling in the Middle East**, in his first 100 days, President Trump **launched airstrikes in Syria**, going against the non-interventionist policies of the EU. Similarly, as a result of his criticism of multilateral defence, the Federal government [cut nearly USD 600 million \(EUR 511 million\) in funding for United Nations' global peacekeeping programmes](#). Most recently, however, the **US' recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel** has caused fresh concern. Although the [EU has reiterated its position of securing Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and Palestine](#), [European leaders have denounced President Trump's decision](#), calling it unilateral, counteractive to peace efforts in the region, and opposite international policy on Jerusalem.

The role of the US in environmental security is in the **development and funding of climate change mitigation**, in the fields of **renewable energy, energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions**, among others. With its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, such development is at risk. While France and the UK have recently vowed to compensate for the US' climate spending entirely, the detriment of losing the US as a partner would not be limited to funding and may **severely impact climate change aversion efforts in developing and less industrialised countries**. President Trump's approach to climate change and other environmental issues heavily contradicts that of the EU, as evidenced by the [European Climate Change Programme](#) with its internal climate change goals, as well as the Union's **cooperation with third countries** in tackling climate change. But regardless of the EU's strength in battling environmental issues, partnerships with other global powers are crucial in maintaining this position.

Overall, the significance of an EU-US partnership should not be underestimated. Such a relationship is **crucial in the development of both the Union and the world**, and understanding the new administration of the US is equally important in working towards a successful partnership. Being two of the world's most influential powers, **it is in both the EU's and the US' interests to continue their cooperation**; careful deliberation over the **EU's further direction**, then, is of utmost importance.

6. Questions to consider

- How can the EU ensure the safety of its citizens when the future of global defence cooperation with the US is questionable?
- With the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the halted TTIP talks, how can the EU safeguard its economic stability and maintain growth in trade?
- Given the uncertain nature of US involvement in future environmental protection, what further measures can the EU and its Member States take to ensure the success of the goals set by the signatory nations of the Paris Agreement?
- The reliance of the EU on President Trump's actions as Commander-in-Chief of the US Military is undeniable; how can the EU continue its partnership when the partners' foreign policy directions are so clearly different?
- How can the EU strike a balance between respecting its values and maintaining a successful relationship with the United States as one of its most crucial partners?

7. Further links

- Detailed **explanation of the TTIP** agreement with argumentative analysis of both parties' interests: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30493297>
- Comprehensive guide to the **Paris Agreement**, containing the objectives of the agreement along with states' individual perspectives:
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2015/12/a-readers-guide-to-the-paris-agreement/420345/>
- Recent analysis of the **US' position within the Paris Agreement**, as the only country in rejection of it:
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/11/syria-is-joining-the-paris-agreement-now-what/545261/>
- Objectives of the formation of **PESCO**, the joint defence agreement signed by 25 Member States:
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/12/11/defence-cooperation-pesco-25-member-states-participating/>

Committee on Foreign Affairs II (AFET II)

Global warming's effect on the Arctic Region: through increasing global temperature, new resources are being exposed across the Arctic Region. Considering the unprecedented situation unfolding, how could the EU work in order to contribute to a fair distribution of natural resources with the other countries in the region, while ensuring security of actors involved and the environment?

By Gustav Dahlquist (Chairperson, SE)

1. The topic at a glance

The importance of the **relationship between climate change and the Arctic** has become very prominent in recent decades. Industrial activities in lower latitudes have led to major increases in greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to the Arctic warming up. In fact, the Arctic is warming at almost **twice the global average rate** of temperature increase. Furthermore, feedback loops are now turning the Arctic into a net contributor to climate change through rising sea levels due to melting ice and changing weather patterns, and the thawing of permafrost is starting to release endemic Arctic greenhouse gases. **The impacts of climate change will affect the EU and the rest of the world.**

While the Arctic region is rich in resources both on land and in the seas, the Arctic faces several challenges among other things to its sparse population, limited logistical networks, and fragile environmental conditions. While the main environmental resources are frozen fresh water and fish, there are also large amounts of various **natural resources, including iron ore, gold, phosphate, copper, and nickel.**

Moreover, the biggest aspect in regards to resources is **the oil and natural gas** that is hidden within the region. **More specifically, [the Arctic holds 13% of undiscovered oil and 30% of undiscovered gas supplies.](#)** As Russian oil companies advances in the exploitation of the resources in their territory, the other countries in the region have started to explore their territories belonging to the Arctic area. Nevertheless, the majority of such resources, especially oil and natural gas, **could not be exploited up until now.**

With the decline of the Arctic's ice cap, the exploitation becomes increasingly possible, and a need for a common solution between the arctic states is more required than ever. **EU Member States**

Denmark, Finland, and Sweden, all three have seats in the **Arctic Council** and obtains a piece of the Arctic area, while forming their own Arctic Policies.

2. Key Terms

- **Arctic Council:** An intergovernmental forum for Arctic governments and peoples. It includes information on the Council, Member States, Working Groups, Task Forces, events, documents and reports, official papers, glossary, and links to Arctic data and information.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** An EEZ is a sea zone prescribed by the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#), which over a state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind.
- **Global warming**, also referred to as **climate change:** The observed century-scale rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system and its related effects. Multiple lines of scientific evidence show that the climate system is warming. Many of the observed changes since the 1950s are unprecedented in the instrumental temperature record which extends back to the mid-19th century, and in paleoclimate proxy records covering thousands of years.
- **Exploitation of natural resources:** The exploitation of natural resources is the use of natural resources for economic growth, sometimes with a negative connotation of accompanying environmental degradation.
- **Indigenous people**, also known as **first peoples, aboriginal peoples, native peoples**, or **autochthonous peoples:** Ethnic groups, who are the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonised the area more recently.
- **Regional development:** Regional development is the provision of aid and other assistance to regions which are less economically developed. Regional development may be domestic or international in nature. The implications and scope of regional development may, therefore, vary in accordance with the definition of a region, and how the region and its boundaries are perceived internally and externally.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **The European Commission and the High Representative:** The European Commission and the EU High Representative propose that further development of EU Arctic policy should focus on three key areas: supporting research and channelling knowledge to address environmental and climate change in the Arctic, acting responsibly to help ensure that economic development in the Arctic is based on sustainable use of resources and

environmental expertise, stepping up constructive engagement and dialogue with Arctic states, indigenous peoples and other partners.

- **Member States of the EU and the EEA:** Member States of the European Union such as Finland and Sweden already have their own Arctic policies. The current core of these policies is currently being the integrated EU policy for the Arctic of 2016 that focuses on climate change, sustainable development of the region and international cooperation. Other countries that border the Arctic region, namely Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the United States, also pursue their interests. Important emphasise, with Iceland and Norway both being members of the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#), they are also influenced by the EU's policies and legislation.
- **Arctic Council:** To foster regional cooperation, in 1996 the Arctic Council was formed. The Council has eight member states, twelve observer states and two pending observer states. It is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic states, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular regarding sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. Indigenous communities also have to be considered. Their main aim is to protect their habitat and the Arctic's environment.
- **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs):** Oil and gas corporations argue in favour of exploiting the Arctic's resources, while several NGOs such as the [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#) have voiced concerns regarding the environmental implications of such exploitation. The [Arctic NGO Forum](#) consists of a multiple different NGOs working accordingly to what is aforementioned. Partners as Greenpeace, Arctic Portal and Earthjustice works in order to conduct high level science so humanity can better understand the pace and impact of the warming in the region. As the ice melts and industrial interests move in, these NGOs stands with the people of the Arctic and wider humanity against the forces that threaten the region while dedicating to protecting the natural resources and wildlife of this earth and to defending the right of all people to a healthy environment.
- **Indigenous people:** These are the six Arctic Indigenous organisations that hold **Permanent Participant** status on the Arctic Council. The Aleut International Association, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Gwich'in International Council, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North and the Saami Council. The Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) assists with creating opportunities for the Indigenous Peoples' Organisations to present their causes, and helps provide them with necessary information and materials.

4. Key Conflicts

Each country in the region possesses an **Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles** according to the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#). This leaves the area around the North Pole free, and as the UNCLOS also allows countries to **claim an extended area up to 350 nautical miles**, if case they can prove a prolongation of its continental shelf, the claims in some cases can overlap. All the [Arctic Council Members](#), except the United States, have submitted such claims. The interest in claiming as much territory as possible has therefore clearly risen as the resources in the region is being exposed.

Furthermore, the exploitation of the Arctic's resources does not come without harm to the environment. The drilling processes produce **CO₂ emissions** and the drastically changing landscape by e.g. **moving icebergs harms both construction sites, risking a large scale spilling of oil, and endangered animals**. Considering that approximately **four million** people live within the Arctic Circle, the security of the region becomes of high importance when industrialising the newly exploited areas.

As aforementioned, industrial activities in lower latitudes have led to major increases in greenhouse gas emissions, leaving the Arctic to warming at almost twice the global average rate of temperature increase. Rising sea levels due to melting ice and changing weather patterns, and the thawing of permafrost is starting to release endemic Arctic greenhouse gases. Tackling climate change is thus the most important aspect to discuss.

5. What has been done so far?

[The Joint Communication on an integrated EU-Policy for the Arctic](#) is built on three pillars: Climate Change and the Arctic Environment, Sustainable development in the Arctic and International Cooperation on Arctic Matters. Firstly, the work on climate change is faced within the frameworks of the work against '[Black carbon, methane, and other short-lived climate pollutants \(SLCPs\)](#)'. This is done through the ratification of the [The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution \(CLRTAP\)](#), EU action on SLCPs through the [Air Quality Policy Strategy](#) and as a partner of the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#), engaging with Arctic Council initiatives, such as the [Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane \(EGBCM\)](#). The EU also proceeds to work towards implementing the outlining of the [United Nations \(UN\) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) in order to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions; economic, social and environmental – in

a balanced and integrated manner. Several EU activities taking place in and relating to the Arctic Region should contribute to the achievement of the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

Overall, engagement on behalf of the EU is led by the [European External Action Service \(EEAS\)](#) and the [Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries \(DG MARE\)](#); many other Directorates-General are important actors in specific thematic areas such as research, climate change etc. Furthermore, EU Member States are engaged in Arctic matters in line with their national priorities. All three EU Arctic states, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, as well as the seven EU Member States, which have observer status with the Arctic Council, have developed Arctic policy papers or strategies. The European Parliament had a delegation covering Arctic matters ([SINEEA](#)) which participates in the work of the international [Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region \(SCPAR\)](#).

[The Paris Agreement](#), formed in 2015 and ratified by 171 parties, is for the EU an ambitious, balanced, equitable and legally binding agreement that marks a decisive turning point towards comprehensive and collective global action against climate change. When implemented, the Paris agreement will accelerate the transition to a climate resilient, climate neutral global economy. The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. [The UN Environment Programme](#) finds that if action to combat climate change is limited to just current pledges, the Earth will get at least three degrees Celsius warmer by 2100 relative to pre-industrial levels, which amount of warming would vastly exceed the Paris Agreement's goal, which is to limit global warming by the end of the century to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This means that the aspect of e.g thawing of permafrost that is starting to release endemic Arctic greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has not been considered.

6. Questions to consider

- How can the Arctic territory can be divided fairly, and what role should and could the EU play in this?
- How could the EU support and enforce indigenous representation in the Arctic governance, while also limiting the negative impacts global warming have on the inhabitants living in the risk-zone of fierce weather changes and industrialising areas?
- How can the Arctic's resources be exploited while ensuring tolerable environmental protection?

- How can the EU, with its international position and internal competences, support its northern member states in order for them to enforce their work in the Arctic Council and individually formed policies?
- As the Paris Agreement doesn't focus enough on the alarming situation unfolding in the Arctic, will the Paris Agreement be enough for ensuring a sustainable Arctic? If not, how should the Paris Accords be developed in order for the affection to be as positive and extensive as possible?

7. Further links

The EU's work in the Arctic:

- Climate Change and the Arctic Environment:
https://eeas.europa.eu/arctic-policy/eu-arctic-policy/20955/climate-change-and-arctic-environment_en
- Sustainable Development in the Arctic:
https://eeas.europa.eu/arctic-policy/eu-arctic-policy/20952/sustainable-development-arctic_en
- International Cooperation on Arctic Matters:
https://eeas.europa.eu/arctic-policy/eu-arctic-policy/20954/international-cooperation-arctic-matters_en

The Arctic and the Paris Agreement:

- Norway's push for Arctic oil and gas threatens Paris climate goals – study:
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/aug/10/norways-push-for-arctic-oil-and-gas-threatens-paris-climate-goals-study>
- What Role for the Arctic in the UN Paris Climate Conference (COP-21)?:
<https://www.arcticyearbook.com/briefing-notes2015/177-what-role-for-the-arctic-in-the-un-paris-climate-conference-cop-21>

The work of the Arctic Council and NGO:s in the Arctic Region:

- Thematic Work, The Arctic Council:
<https://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/our-work>
- What is the Arctic NGO Forum?
<http://www.arcticngoforum.org/>

Must-see videos about the Arctic:

- Arctic Ocean Climate Change Impacts
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHEWK9j1EhA>
- Arctic Climate Change - BBC Documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLWL81o7oBg>
- 5 Things to Know About the Warming Arctic | Before the Flood
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKZ009-hSu4>

Indigenous People in the Arctic:

- Arctic Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Climate Change: Tracing the Connections:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsBVDj6_VvY&t=142s

The release of permafrost in the Arctic:

- Permafrost: The Tipping Time Bomb:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLCgybStZ4g>

Must-see documentary:

- Before the Flood (w. Leonardo diCaprio)
<http://dreamfilmhd.io/movies/details/683246579-before-the-flood/>

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)

Wasted food: The European Commission estimates that around 88 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in the European Union. Taking into account the growing urban population and the global scale of the issue, what actions should the European Union undertake in order to ensure sustainability in the production and consumption of food and to reduce food waste within its Member States?

By Maria Hirvelä (Chairperson, FI)

1. The topic at a glance

It is [estimated](#) that **one third of all food produced globally is never consumed**. [88 tonnes of food is wasted annually](#) in the EU, which amounts to about 180 kg per capita each year. The problem builds up throughout the supply chain, from initial agricultural production to final consumers. In developing countries the majority of food waste is created during the production stage, whereas in developed areas, such as the EU, [40% of all food waste occurs from the retail and consumption stages](#).

According to a [Summary Report](#) from 2013 by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**, food waste would be the third biggest carbon emitter after the United States and China, if it would be a country. The production and disposal of wasted food in the EU creates **170 tonnes of CO₂ emissions every year**. Additionally, the estimated costs of food waste come up to [143 billion euros in the EU](#) per year.

Equally, redistributing food waste could help feed the estimated **55 million people living in food poverty in Europe** in a sustainable way. Bearing in mind the strains that increasing food production causes on our planet, redistributing the surplus of food is essential in solving this problem.

Finally, the EU's [Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#) has identified 'dealing with [climate change](#)' and combating food waste as one of its main priority areas in the sustainable development of the EU agri-food trade. Although [actions in the right direction](#) have already been taken, the **EU is still far from solving its food waste problem**.

2. Key Terms

- **Food waste:** Food that is suitable for human consumption but does not get eaten.

- **Food loss:** All food that is produced for human consumption but is that ultimately discarded throughout the [food supply chain](#).
- **Food recovery hierarchy:** Presents the preferable priorities in food waste prevention and redistribution measures according to, for instance, their environmental and economical impacts.
- **EU Action for the Circular Economy:** is a part of the [European Commission's Circular Economy package](#). Outlines the different priorities of the package, including reducing food waste, for creating a stronger [circular economy in the EU](#).
- **Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDG):** Action plan for fostering sustainable development with 'a [set of goals](#) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all'.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **European Commission:** Proposes actions supporting the fight against food waste and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Commission's action plan for the Circular Economy.
- **Member States:** Share the competences on adapting and determining actions taken in order to combat food waste with the EU.
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO):** Specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) that seeks to improve agriculture and food distribution in UN Member States.
- **EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste:** This platform [facilitates](#) meetings for public entities, non-governmental organisations, companies and consumers that play a prominent role in combating food waste. Aims to support the EU-wide goal of reducing food waste by half before 2030.
- **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs):** Raise awareness about food waste and [lobby for policy changes](#) on both national and EU level. For example, [This is Rubbish](#) in the United Kingdom, who works for reducing industry and supply chain food.
- **Food and drink industry:** One of the most important sectors of the European economy, plays a substantial role in reducing food waste and food losses in e.g. the transport, storage, retail and consumption stages of the food supply chain by adapting measures serving this purpose.
- **EU Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD):** Fund that supports the Member States' national schemes and their partner organisations in areas such as combating poverty and giving out food donations in the EU.

4. What has been done so far?

The EU and its Member States are committed to meet the targets of the [SDGs adopted by the UN in September 2015](#). These targets include reducing the food waste per capita at the retail and consumer level by half by 2030.

EU has established a few measures in order to meet the SDG goals. These include an [EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste \(FLW\)](#) and the implementation of **research programs** such as the [EU REFRESH](#) (2015-2019) and [Fusions](#) (2012-2016) with the aim of gathering more knowledge about ways to solve the problem.

In addition, in the [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy launched in December 2015](#), the European Commission has set reducing food waste as one of the priority areas of the plan. The plan includes [a concrete programme](#) of action that aims to cover the whole cycle from food production to consumption and waste management in order to '[foster sustainable growth](#)'.

Furthermore, various **Member States** have taken action on a national level in order to cut their food waste. In 2015, France implemented [a law](#) banning supermarkets from deliberately spoiling unsold food that is still edible. [Italy](#) has provided incentives for grocery stores to further develop systems for food waste donations and [Germany](#) banned traditional landfills in 2015. In 2016, **Ministers of Agriculture of Member States** [agreed](#) to improve data-gathering and raising **awareness** on food losses and waste.

5. Key Conflicts

The EU and its Member States have made an international [commitment to reduce food waste by 2030](#). However, there is no way of [ensuring all Member States will meet the targets](#) set for 2030 by the [SDGs](#), since none of the goals are legally binding for the Member States. [A campaign](#) led by [This is Rubbish](#) has for instance expressed their fear on that the EU has not taken [sufficient enough steps](#) in order to reduce food waste, for instance by not putting enough emphasis on retailer and consumer food waste.

In the EU, food waste is mostly created at the distribution and [consumption stages of the supply chain of food](#). [According to experts](#), **households are the main cause for food waste in Europe**. The main cause for food waste at this stage is the **growing urbanisation**, as it has lengthened the distance between consumers and food production. Additionally, increasing **globalisation of commerce** and **large-scale mass distribution** in e.g. supermarkets have increased the amount of

food on the market. The development of **modern consumer behaviour**, such as the importance of aesthetic standards for fruit and vegetables and increased portion sizes have also led to further creation of food waste.

In order to reduce food waste on the consumer level better coordinated policies and [increased awareness of 'best before' and 'use by' labelling](#) is required, as almost half of European consumers have trouble understanding them, causing great amounts of food waste annually. The European Commission has implemented measures, such as publishing [communication materials](#) in all EU languages, in order to raise awareness about food waste prevention. In addition, [experts](#) have emphasised the importance of **empowering women** in order to reduce food waste, as they most often are responsible for household food preparation on top of balancing multiple burdens due to work and family, leaving less time for frequent shopping for food supplies.

The emphasis of preventing food waste should be in limiting the surplus of food. However, not all food waste can be prevented. The EU has already taken action in order **increase the redistribution of food** by developing food donation, by creating common [EU Food Donation Guidelines](#). However, actions such as creating incentives for food donation and further utilisation of the [FEAD](#), in order to finance the cost arranging food donations [have been previously suggested](#) in [a report](#) made by the European Parliament. According to many stakeholders, such as [This is Rubbish](#), a [common food recovery hierarchy](#) should be set and food redistribution should prioritise giving edible food to people in need, rather than as animal feed or other uses.

Moreover, many scientists are interested in the idea of decreasing food waste by [making more use of sustainable resources](#), such as [social media and mobile technology](#) as platforms for matching people with surplus of food and those in need of donations.

Furthermore, many actors, such as [the Commission Expert Group on Food Losses and Food Waste](#), are calling for the EU to set a legally binding **definition of food waste** that would help assess the implementation of measures taken to reduce food waste. Currently, only [FAO](#) has set specific definitions for food waste and losses.

6. Questions to consider

- What actions should the EU take in order to ensure that all Member States will meet the targets in the SDGs for reducing food waste by half before 2030?
- How can consumers in the EU be better made aware of the impacts their consumption choices can have in reducing food waste?
- Recognising the impact that ‘best-by’ and ‘use-by’ labelling has in consumer behaviour, how should the EU reduce the disposal of edible food?
- With the aim of redistributing surplus food, should the EU further develop and support food donations?
- What stance should the EU take in the further coordination of reducing food waste by creating common definitions for food waste and losses?

7. Further links

- Briefing on food waste made by the European Parliamentary Research Service:
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593563/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)593563_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593563/EPRS_BRI(2016)593563_EN.pdf)
- Fact sheet by the European Environmental Bureau about reducing food waste in the EU:
<https://eeb.org/publications/83/waste-and-recycling/1654/from-farm-to-fork-reducing-food-waste.pdf>
- Infographic by the European Parliament demonstrating the extent of food waste in Europe:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20170505STO73528/food-waste-the-problem-in-the-eu-in-numbers-infographic>
- Video by VOX on innovations aiming to reduce food waste in the United States:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RlxySFrkIM>
- The European Commission’s website, which describes the EU’s current stance on food waste reduction: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste_en

Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

United in diversity: While free movement of persons increases the cultural diversity of the EU, yet Nordic indigenous languages are still in danger, how should the EU ensure that these languages are protected and saved from extinction taking into account the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages?

By Davit Manukyan (Chairperson, AM)

1. The topic at a glance

There are more than 6000 languages in the world, each contributing to the diversity of expression and to richness in world culture. Unfortunately, half of these languages are in a vulnerable state or even under the risk of extinction. Currently, [40-50 million EU citizens](#) speak one of the 60 regional and minority languages (RMLs) across the Union, some of which face significant threats of dying out. Among these are several Nordic endangered languages, such as indigenous Faroese and Elfdalian, spoken by 90000 and 3500 people, respectively, as well as Karelian with slightly less than 30000 speakers. The Sami language, although it has speakers with various dialects and is spoken in Lapland in the territories of four states, is also facing severe difficulties.

A language is considered endangered if its use is limited to a certain age group and is not considered valuable enough to pass it down to younger generations. This is usually a consequence of pressure from another, dominant language, especially if political and societal cohesion in a state is generally high. In the [European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages \(ECRML\)](#), RMLs are recognised for their cultural wealth, and demands are set for their safeguarding. Yet, the EU cannot directly shape policy on Education and Language, as this competence is vested exclusively with the Member States. The EU has an advisory role, however, which means it can support different initiatives aiming to protect and promote RMLs.

2. Key Terms

- **Indigenous Language:** Language with an ethno-cultural lineage with one, linguistically distinct community of indigenous inhabitants of a region.
- **Regional and Minority Language:** Term adopted in the ECRML, distinguishing those languages traditionally used by part of the population of a state, but which are not migrant languages, official dialects of a national language, or artificially-created languages.

- **Assimilation:** Term describing to conform or adjust to something. Used in the linguistic context as the process of an indigenous people adjusting increasingly to official or majority languages in areas such as education and public administration.
- **Multilingualism:** The ability to speak or communicate in more than one language.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **European Union:** According to Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the EU has only a supporting competence in the sphere of education and language. However, according to Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), it should endeavour to truly respect rich linguistic identity. It is in the interest of all core EU institutions that this diversity is preserved, and especially the European Commission remains an active advocate for greater multilingualism and RNL protection.
- **Council of Europe:** International Organisation with 47 Member States, and a core aim to uphold human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe, as well as to promote European culture. The preservation and support of indigenous European languages fall directly under the scope and working practices of the Council of Europe.
- **National governments:** The governments in the Member States are responsible for adopting and implementing policies and laws on language and education, as well as for protecting the rights of all groups and individuals which constitute their citizenship.
- **Local self-governing bodies of indigenous nations:** The institutional bodies representing the interests of indigenous people on a state level. For instance, Sami governments in Finland, Sweden and Norway.
- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** One of the most important international agencies aiming to promote international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms. It intends to raise awareness among policy-makers on the issues of endangered languages and the need to safeguard the world's linguistic diversity.

4. What has been done so far?

In the past 30 years, the EU, its Member States, and other European organisations have begun to pay more attention to the threat of extinction facing many indigenous languages. In 1992, the Council of Europe adopted the [European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages \(ECRML\)](#), which entered into force in 1998. The charter provided a general definition of Regional and Minority Languages (RML), and highlighted the need to protect Europe's rich linguistic legacy.

In 1983, the EU established its '**Action Line for the Promotion and Safeguard of Minority and Regional Languages and Cultures**', with the intention of providing funding for the promotion of indigenous languages as well as other RMLs. However, following a 1998 Court decision by the European Court of Justice calling for increased equity in EU funding, the budget of this programme was reduced. Subsequent efforts have thus been undertaken as part of wider culture and education frameworks. For instance, the safeguarding of RMLs is addressed in the [New Framework Strategy for Multilingualism](#), which was adopted in 2005. It supports funding and research on multilingualism and RMLs, encourages language learning, and promotes language diversity. Some Member States, such as Finland, have been empowered to adopt and develop their own approaches and policies towards RMLs in their jurisdiction. But there remains a lack of European coordination on language preservation and promotion.

There are several successful examples of cross-country cooperation and research preserving Nordic indigenous languages. The [European Language Diversity for All \(ELDIA\)](#) programme supports Finno-Ugric minority languages in multilingual communities in Finland, Sweden, Norway. Moreover, the [INTERREG IV A Nord](#) programme has a subgroup on 'borderless development', focusing specifically on maintaining of a sustainable environment for the Sami language minority and on advocating smooth and unhindered cultural unity for Sami groups living across state borders.

5. Key Conflicts

The concept of the modern nation-state highlights the benefits of harmonised and cohesive culture within the political boundaries of the state, and therefore prescribes developing a **common language and cultural identity**. Education policy and state regulation have since the late 1800s often been aimed at achieving **cultural assimilation**. These policies have proven fateful for those regional languages not adopted as state languages, and it makes it particularly difficult for RMLs to survive alongside majority languages when the former are disadvantaged in state administration and when speakers of RMLs can only maintain and pass along their heritage informally. This enforces a **lack of interest** and even **negative attitudes towards RMLs**. Citizens may increasingly begin to perceive the minority language as lacking in status and economic value and, hence, decide it is **not worthy to be taught to the next generation**. An example of cultural dominance and influence is the situation with the several minority languages and dialects of the Finno-Ugric language heritage. For instance the Ingrian language in the Eastern Baltic region is today only spoken by a few dozen individuals, and the Karelian and Sami languages, while both still have around 25,000 speakers, face bleak prospects for the future unless the language

communities are given official and active use in local administration. The Sami community has benefited from recent support measures, but the Sami language is still in many ways disadvantaged in relation to the official state languages of the Nordic countries.

There is also no coherent taxonomy regarding the **distinction between languages and dialects**, and neither linguists nor state officials have been able to find agreement in this regard. For example, it is not clear whether Gutnish, spoken by circa 5,000 people on the island of Gotland, is a separate language or a dialect of Swedish. The same applies to Westrobothnian, Jamtlandic, and Scanian languages/dialects. Many other Member States face a similar political dilemma.

Overall, the existing strategies to protect RMLs, especially those in severe danger of extinction, are **not structured and effective** on the EU or national levels. While several stakeholders aptly emphasize the importance of safeguarding and developing RMLs, there is **no detailed strategy framework on how to save endangered languages**. For example, there is **no specific clause** on endangered languages **in the ECRML**, which is considered one of the key documents dealing with European language diversity. The latest concrete framework on the RML issue was adopted in 2005, but no updated efforts have been introduced since then. Lastly, there also remains a **reluctance to coordinate efforts and share best practices** among stakeholders, while indigenous groups and other RML communities would urgently need coordinated support. Europeans are paying a steep price for bureaucracy and administrative stiffness, in the form of rapidly decreasing cultural diversity.

6. Questions to consider

- Why is retaining language diversity so important?
- What are the external and internal factors impacting the endangerment of languages?
- What is the connection between the strategy of multilingualism and protection of RMLs?
- What are some effective projects aiming to safeguard and develop endangered languages and indigenous language communities in the world?
- What new efforts could European institutions and states undertake?

7. Further links

- [Regional and Minority Languages in the European Union](#) - Briefing on what is the current situation with RMLs in Europe from different perspectives
- [Endangered Languages and Linguistic Diversity in EU](#) - In depth research paper on RMLs and endangered languages in Europe
- [Endangered Languages in Europe - Infographics](#)

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I (EMPL I)

Welcome to the future: While youth unemployment has been decreasing constantly it still has not reached pre-crisis levels, how should the EU foster youth's participation in startups most importantly in the area of robotics and artificial intelligence?

By Oliver van der Weij (Chairperson, FI)

1. The topic at a glance

Young people are often regarded as the key to a better future. Despite this, **youth unemployment rate** is often [higher than the general unemployment in a country](#). [Youth were more exposed than most in the 2008 economic crisis mainly due to lack of experience and protection](#). After nine years from the 2008 crisis, the average youth unemployment in the EU alone is still over double the overall unemployment. Regardless of the steady decline of youth unemployment in the EU, in 2016 it was reported that, from people aged 15 to 24, [still over 6.3 million young people were not in employment, education or training in the EU](#).

One of the causes behind the high youth unemployment rate is the **difference in the skills** required by companies and the skills the youth can offer with their education. The robotics and artificial intelligence industry requires excellent skills in mathematics and physics and thus often requires its employees to have high level education in these subjects. This **high level of education**, however, usually **costs** thousands of euros, which makes it an unattractive choice for potential students. Youth unemployment is, however, not excluded from the overall unemployment. Youth are also subject to some of the same threats and opportunities as older people when it comes to unemployment. One prominent threat to low unemployment is the ever-increasing use of robots in various industries, including robotics and artificial intelligence.

This situation of high youth unemployment has not been neglected by the EU. One of the common economic goals of the EU is **low unemployment rates**, and youth unemployment is no exception to this goal. Thus, when the EU decreases youth unemployment, they also accomplish their low unemployment goal.

2. Key Terms

- **Startup**: The definition of a startup company is heavily debated, however, the term is often used to describe [a young and still small company](#).

- **Robotics industry:** The industry responsible for the production and general upkeep of robots.
- **Artificial intelligence:** Often shortened to AI, the term describes machines and robots that [have been programmed to simulate learning](#).
- **Mismatch:** This is the term used for the situation where the skills of applicants do not match with the required skills within the vacancies they applied for.
- **Unemployment rate:** In economics, the unemployment rate is determined as [the number of unemployed people divided by the labour force](#). The result is expressed in percentages.
- **Labour force:** [People who are willing and able to work are seen as the labour force](#).

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **European Commission:** The executive branch of the EU, with the power to propose legislation and implement various decisions related to decreasing youth unemployment.
- **Startups and firms:** These are the stakeholders responsible for providing youth with jobs and internships. In the end they are responsible for decreasing youth unemployment by providing vacancies, however, they are usually profit driven and thus aim for a minimal amount of employees to cut costs.
- **Academic institutions:** Most employees require education to find work, and the academic institutions such as schools and universities are to a large extent responsible for this. They, however, also decide the study fees for the students and can then also affect the appeal of education.
- **Youth:** The youth often are often faced with the question of continuing studies or seeking employment. They may be discouraged to study, since there is no immediate benefit in it, but may find it hard to find a good job due to mismatching education.
- **Member States:** When the EU sets recommendations, the Member States will be the ones who decide whether or not they adapt that change into their country. An example of this would be the Youth Guarantee. The Member States can also make more significant changes in their own country when compared to the EU as a whole.

4. What has been done so far?

The Council of the European Union issued [a recommendation](#) in 2013 following the proposal by the European Commission, which recommends the Member States to issue a guarantee for **under 25 year olds**, which assures good quality offer for a job, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a **four-month period** of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. This recommendation is referred to as **the Youth Guarantee**. While all Member States have agreed

to commit to issuing such a guarantee, the implementation has received critique on its effectiveness by people including Members of the European Commission, [who have even gone to the extent to say that it failed](#).

Additionally, [the Youth Employment Initiative \(YEI\)](#) is the main resource used to help Member States to implement the Youth Guarantee. Thus, the YEI tries to help youth who are not in education, employment or training or **NEETs**. It aims to help Member States that had a youth unemployment of **over 25% in 2012**.

The last unemployment scheme on the European level is the [European Solidarity Corps](#). It aims to give youth the possibility to participate in solidarity related projects, which will give them work and project experience. Youth from 17 years and older can register, and the experience is available until the person is 30 years old.

5. Key Conflicts

The first conflict that arises is the [high cost of education](#). Youth often encounter the choice of a more specific area of study, however, these choices may lead the person having to pay thousands, if not tens of thousands of euros for the possibility to study the subject. This in turn might lead to them not studying the subject at all, which decreases the **amount and variety of choice** employers have to fill vacancies. There are a multitude of reasons to **education costs** rising. For instance, the academic institutions are [expanding administration](#) and that the demand for higher education is constantly rising, which suggests that, by laws of demand and supply, the prices will also rise.

Secondly, youth graduating without the right **skills** for certain jobs create **mismatches**. There is an increasing amount of people applying for jobs they are **overqualified** for while simultaneously employers are reporting that their applicants [lack the right skillset to fill the vacancies](#). A person might apply for a job they are overqualified for due to there not being any jobs in the sector they are qualified for, thus having to **downgrade** to get a job. Another reason for why this is happening is that people are often in urgent need of money and they do not have time to search or apply for a vacancy in their specific area of expertise. This leads to them settling for a lower paying and less demanding job skill wise. According to Maarten H. J. Wolbers, [job mismatches occur most often in small firms or those that are in the private sector](#), both of which fit the description of the robotics and artificial intelligence startups mentioned in the topic.

Lastly, since the youth are not excluded from the **general unemployment**, they face the same dangers regarding losing jobs as everyone else. Perhaps one of the most prominent threats to both youth employment and general employment is a particular type of **structural unemployment**. This threat is the increasingly more advanced **robots** that are slowly becoming more **efficient, reliable and cheap** when compared to human labour. Since companies strive for profit, the robots are a far more **attractive option for labour**, when compared to humans and [thus take over more and more of the jobs that previously required humans to complete](#).

6. Questions to consider

- How can the mismatch between the youth's education and skill requirements in available vacancies be minimised?
- How can higher education, more specifically in the area of robotics and artificial intelligence, be made more appealing to the youth?
- How can the threats to all employment, such as the case of robots filling more and more jobs, be reduced and minimised?
- How can the youth be directed towards startups?
- What could be done to decrease overqualification for jobs within youth?

7. Further links

- More statistics related to youth unemployment:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Youth_unemployment
- The views of European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen on youth unemployment:
<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/opinion/taking-one-europes-most-pressing-challenges-youth-unemployment>
- A short video on how the EU works:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvIPSY_Sbfg
- TEDx talk by Mona Mourshed on problems and possible solutions regarding youth unemployment:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDjD8iAgnR4>

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II (EMPL II)

With ever growing and developing Digital Market challenging the EU and putting it in the race with time, how can the EU accompany its Member States in order to ensure that citizens develop the necessary skills for new job opportunities created by the global digital transformation?

By Anneliis Saarend (Chairperson, EE)

1. The topic at a glance

Digital transformation presents enormous growth potential for Europe, if European industry builds on its strengths in advanced digital technologies and its strong presence in traditional sectors to seize the plentiful of opportunities that technologies such as the Internet of Things, big data, robotics, artificial intelligence offer.

EU businesses are not taking full advantages of the technologies or the innovative business models offered by the collaborative economy. According to [the Digital Transformation Scoreboard 2017](#), 75% of companies who responded to the survey regarding digital technologies as an opportunity, but **only 44% of respondents had adopted at least two of the seven key digital technologies**. Thus, the successful new business models that we have seen have often come from outside of the EU, as is the case with Uber and Airbnb, both founded in the US.

With the increasing usage of different technologies in businesses, comes the increasing need for skilled ICT and STEM professionals. However, there are not enough graduates from upper-secondary and higher education to meet the increasing demand. According to [a report by empirica and International Data Corporation](#), the demand for ICT workforce is growing faster than the workforce itself, creating **756,000 vacancies by 2020**.

ICT is becoming an inseparable part of almost all other fields. Currently, however, **37% of people in the labour force** – farmers, bank employees, and factory workers alike – **lack sufficient digital skills**, despite the increasing need for such skills in all jobs.

2. Key Terms

- **Digitising:** The act of converting information into a digital form that can be processed by a computer.
- **Digital transformation:** The change associated with the application of digital technology in all aspects of human society.

- **Digital Single Market:** One of the European Commission's top political priorities to develop in the EU. It is a market in which the free movement of persons, services, and capital is ensured and where the individuals and businesses can seamlessly access and exercise online activities under conditions of fair competition, and a high level of consumer and personal data protection, irrespective of their nationality or place of residence.
- **Basic ICT skills:** The skills needed to use efficiently the elementary functions of information and communication technologies to retrieve, assess, store, produce, present and exchange information, and to communicate and participate in collaborative networks via the internet.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **The European Commission** has identified [the Digital Single Market strategy](#) as one of its ten political priorities, which aims to open up digital opportunities for people and business and enhance Europe's position as a world leader in the digital economy. It has set up different advisory expert groups, such as the European Multi Stakeholder Platform (MSP) on ICT standardisation, and forums, such as the Strategic Policy Forum on Digital Entrepreneurship, to determine how best to reach its goals.
- **Companies** in all fields need or will be needing employees with sufficient digital skills, as a result of the global digital transformation. In addition to needing more ICT and STEM professionals to enter the workforce, companies should work on upskilling their existing employees.
- **Citizens of the EU**, to get a job and to keep it, need relevant skills. For many jobs, having at least basic digital skills is becoming more and more required. Additionally, STEM and ICT professionals are increasingly required to have highly developed 'soft' skills, such as foreign languages, management, communication, problem-solving, project management.
- **Member States** need to work on implementing the measures suggested by the EU, as the areas related to this topic fall into shared or supporting competences of the EU, meaning the EU cannot legislate and adopt binding acts alone in these areas. It is in the interest of the Member States to work on this issue to ensure economic growth.

4. What has been done so far?

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition was launched by the European Commission in 2016 as one of the ten initiatives of **The New Skills Agenda for Europe**. It brings together Member States, companies, social partners, NGOs and education providers who pledge to take action to tackle the

lack of digital skills in Europe. Its actions range from training unemployed people and giving massive open online courses (MOOCs) for teachers to giving coding classes for children and cutting-edge training for ICT specialists. [The Digital Skills and Jobs initiatives repository](#) lists some of Europe's best digital skills projects, including initiatives by the Member States, such as [Mobile Learning](#) in Austria.

[The New Skills Agenda](#) also calls on Member States to develop comprehensive digital skills strategies. To support this, the European Commission has, together with national experts, developed **a shared concept for national digital skills strategies**.

The European Coding Initiative, launched in 2014 and led by Microsoft, SAP, Liberty Global and Facebook with European Schoolnet acting as secretariat, aims to bring coding skills to teachers, kids, and adults. The campaign uses a mixture of online and offline, real-life activities, to establish coding as a key competence within every education system in Europe. It will also play a central role in a number of Europe-wide advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, including EU Code Week and the Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs.

5. Key Conflicts

The increasing digitalisation is creating **skill surpluses**, as manual jobs get replaced by technology, leaving the former workers with a skill that is no longer in demand. At the same time, it is creating **skill shortages**, as the new technology creates a need for workers equipped with ICT and STEM skills, of which there are not as many as needed at the moment. The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition tries to tackle this problem by, amongst other things, supporting the upskilling and retraining of the workforce as well as training one million young unemployed people for vacant digital jobs through various short-term training programmes.

STEM and ICT occupations are also becoming more demanding. The way technology transforms jobs shows that to keep up with changes, simply improving digital literacy is not enough. STEM professionals are increasingly required to have **highly developed 'soft' skills** such as foreign languages, management, communication, problem-solving and project management. This situation is similar for ICT professionals, as there is a growing need to collect and analyse enterprise's internal data to improve production and services.

In some Member States, the supply of ICT proficient workforce is reduced even more by '**brain drain**', the emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a particular country. What often

causes brain drain is the fact that other countries, for example with higher [ICT Development Index](#) of higher [Digital Economy and Society Index](#), offer better conditions for working and living. However, as the highly needed talent leaves the country, the ICT Development can stagnate even more in the talents' origin country, creating even bigger disparities between MS.

Large companies are doing much better in the field of digital transformation than SMEs. For example, the usage of cloud computing and big data analytics is growing much faster in large companies, [with more than 20% of large companies and only about 10%](#) of SMEs using these technological advantages. However, **SMEs are a crucial part of the EU's economy**, accounting for more than 99% of European businesses and **two thirds of private sector jobs**. The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) will make available for SMEs more than [€450 billion to Member States in 2014-2020](#) to finance investments for enhancing jobs and growth. Additional investments in SMEs will be made under the thematic objectives of the [EU Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020](#), particularly concerning ICT and the competitiveness of SMEs.

What is more, as has been the case with Uber for example, in Europe, innovative companies are often taken to court when their business model does not meet the established patterns. This shows that **legislation currently in place does not accommodate for the innovations** that come with digital transformation. This is not only happening to large multinational companies, but it also happens to small European startups. This can cause development to slow down and less new jobs that would have otherwise been created.

6. Questions to consider

- Taking into account the measures in place already, what else can the EU and its Member States do to ensure that citizens develop the necessary skills for new job opportunities created by the global digital transformation?
- Why are the measures in place not working fast enough to fill the gap in the job market? Can the process be sped up?
- Currently, the focus is more on raising ICT skills, but what should be done to ensure that ICT professionals also develop the needed 'soft' skills?
- With technology still advancing, new skills we do not yet even know about might be required in the job market in a few years. How can the EU and Member States ensure that both current and new measures can stay relevant and sustainable for more years to come?

7. Further links

- [‘Digital Transformation and Platform Economy: The European Perspective’](#) - Video from European Innovation Day 2017
- [‘The digital transformation of Europe’](#) - Article published on World Economic Forum website
- [‘Briefing note - Skill shortage and surplus occupations in Europe’](#)- Briefing note by European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, gives insight on which occupations are in demand and why.
- [‘European e-Competence Framework overview’](#) - An overview of the e-CF framework, which became a European standard in 2016
- [‘Digital Agenda Scoreboard key indicators’](#) - Different charts about Digital Agenda Scoreboard indicators, giving comparisons of progress across European countries as well as over time.

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

Standing together for the world: with the effects of global warming becoming more and more apparent, how should the EU act and position itself locally and globally in order to unite all Member States to achieve the low-carbon vision 2050 and start using more sustainable and pro-green practises?

By Saskia Kiiski (Chairperson, FI)

1. The topic at a glance

With temperatures dangerously high, ice and snow melting fast, and sea levels rising, the continued **emission of greenhouse gases** will cause **further warming and severe changes in climate** which are irreversible for people and ecosystems. Limiting greenhouse gas emissions substantially can limit the risks of climate change, but as the impacts are already highly present across the globe, it is clear that EU's commitment to this agenda is vital.

The majority of greenhouse gas emissions are accounted for by burning of **fossil fuels**; coal, oil and gas, in electricity generation, transport, industry and households. The key in mitigating climate change is international cooperation. As seen in the [Paris Agreement](#), with 171 parties having ratified the convention, it is evident that nations across the globe are ready to commit to a joint effort in battling global warming.

2. Key Terms

- **Global warming**: the rise in average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere, which has been clearly contributed to by the effects of greenhouse gas emission.
- **Greenhouse gases (GHGs)**: Gases, mainly carbon dioxide, which cause the greenhouse gas effect. This effect is believed to be the cause of the warming of the Earth.
- A **green economy** and **green growth** emphasise sustainability and minimising environmental risk, whilst maintaining the competitive presence of the EU.
- **The low carbon** vision outlines strategies with the goal of developing into a competitive low-carbon economy.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **European Union**: With devoting 20% of its budget to climate related activities, and acting at the forefront pushing for a global climate deal, the EU is a world leader in preventing dangerous climate change. Acting as the world's largest contributor to international

climate finance the EU is committed to helping developing countries in their action against climate change.

- **International organisations and initiatives** encourage nations to cooperate through autonomous and independent distribution of funds, good practices and initiatives. These include **United Nations, World Bank** and the European Environment Agency.
- **Member States:** Environment is a shared competence of the EU, and so it is the responsibility of national governments to take initiative to act and to legislate regarding this topic, and turn their promises into action. Governments are also [reported](#) to own 50%-70% of global oil, gas, and coal resources, and so play a prominent part in the fossil fuels industry.
- **Local governments:** local authorities of a defined territory, such as a town, have delegated power to adopt policies applying to sustainable and pro-green practises locally. In acting locally, they usually have a deeper understanding and more knowledge on issues related to specific areas.
- **Businesses** are in the position to invest into green energy. [The Carbon Majors Report](#) finds that more than half of global industrial emissions can be traced down to 25 corporate state-owned entities. Oil and gas companies and their investors hold the keys for embarking on green investments. [Shell and BP](#) are examples of these highest emitting investor-owned companies.
- **EU citizens:** the power of initiative lies on individuals represent the interests of society – the behavior and habits of individuals play a role in reducing carbon emissions. The practices and sustainability of consumers and households play a key role minimizing carbon emissions.

4. What has been done so far?

The EU has set [a roadmap](#) for transforming the EU into a for a low-carbon economy by 2050. The roadmap suggests that the EU should cut its domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels. The [targets](#) are to reduce **CO₂ emissions** in the following sectors: up to by 99% in energy, 87% in industry, 67% in transport, 91% in residential and services, and 49% agriculture.

The EU has also set milestones before reaching its long-term 2050 goals. The [2020 climate and energy package](#) outlines three targets: 20% cut in GGE from 1990 levels, 20% of EU energy from renewals, and 20% improvement in energy efficiency. The key tools of the 2020 package are the **EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)** and **National Emission Reduction Targets**.

Being the world's biggest and first major carbon market, the [EU Emissions Trading System \(ETS\)](#) is the **cornerstone of EU policy** in combating climate change. The system of trading emissions allowances creates a financial incentive for the biggest emitters to cut back. The system sets a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases that companies can emit each year. Within this cap, companies can trade emissions allowances.

[National emission reduction targets](#) cover the sectors excluded from the ETS, totaling to **55% of total EU emissions**. These sectors include housing, agriculture, waste and transport. Member States have annual targets which are binding and monitored by the Commission.

[The 2030 climate and energy framework](#) builds on the 2020 package, with outlining three key targets for 2030: 40% cuts in GHG emissions from 1990 levels, 27% share for renewable energy and 27% improvement in energy efficiency.

The Paris Agreement is the first universal legally binding global climate deal due to be implemented from 2020. The agreement aims to combat climate change and sets out a long-term plan to limit global warming to below 2 Celsius degrees.

5. Key Conflicts

['Green growth'](#) entails developing policies that promote a **sustainable, and energy efficient environmental framework**. This includes switching fossil fuels to non-carbon sources, and Europe into a sustainable yet competitive [low-carbon economy](#). This is also an opportunity to redesign the energy market to make it independent from external energy suppliers, and to make it more affordable to consumers and businesses. Furthermore, by unlocking the potential of a greener economy, we can foster innovation which the developing into a **low-carbon economy has to offer**: creation of jobs, smarter products, and developing new technologies. International cooperation, commitment and investment in greener energy are all crucial starting points in mitigating the effects of climate change and moving towards a low-carbon economy.

One of the key conflicts in tackling global warming is the fact that it **affects all countries across the globe**, but not all have the resources to adapt to the impacts caused by climate change. Being more vulnerable and having less capacity to deal with climate change, developing countries are hit the hardest by its impacts. Furthermore, they lack the capital and technology to implement green practises. This puts pressure on more developed countries to not only to carry out their own responsibilities in creating a greener economy, but [aiding](#) developing countries to do so as well.

Another central issue is the fact that different countries have **different commitment levels** in tackling climate change, with some being more active than others. The efforts of countries reducing their carbon emissions can seem a vain effort when other nations are [negligent](#) with their greenhouse gas emissions and keep significantly contributing to global warming.

A conflict arises within civil society in reducing GHG emissions. Many citizens are not engaged in the topic of global warming and are not committed to pro-green practises. The **carbon footprint** of individuals, and social values attached to environmental matters are of crucial significance, yet there remains a [lack of responsibility](#) within society in solving the problem.

6. Questions to consider

- The EU devotes at least 20% of its budget to climate-related activities. Is this sufficient in order to reach the low-carbon vision of 2050? Furthermore, is the EU approaching the problem with the right strategies?
- How can Member States, and EU citizens be encouraged to adopt pro-green practises, and how much weight needs to be placed on social consciousness?
- How can the EU protect the environment whilst holding on to its leading global economic status?
- How can the EU make sure that Member States will follow its policies to their best efforts and innovate them?

7. Further links

- Video on EU climate action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFq5p2l0Q2o>
- Video on the EU financing climate action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5nKMI8v1A>

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs I (LIBE I)

Hindering the split of the European society: With recent attacks on European cities, xenophobia and radicalisation of certain groups on the rise, how should the EU react to tackle these matters swiftly and effectively?

By Ioana Diac (Chairperson, UK)

1. Topic at a glance

Since 2015, the sharp rise in the number of **terrorist attacks** in Europe has been accompanied by **growing intolerance** towards **minority communities**, placing great strain on the cohesion of European society. Alongside attacks by **ethno-nationalist and political extremists**, **jihadi terrorism** accounts for the **most serious terrorist threat** facing Europe as it claims nearly all of the reported fatalities and casualties of these attacks.

Contrary to the claim that terrorists are exploiting the flow of refugees to enter Europe unnoticed, the vast majority of jihadist attacks are actually carried out by **EU citizens radicalised by violent Islamist propaganda at home on European soil**. This problem of homegrown radicalisation has a deep-rooted cause in the **Muslim community's poor integration in society** that has left many second and third generation European Muslims struggling to assimilate due to unemployment and xenophobia, thus creating a pool of disaffected young people vulnerable to radicalisation and extremist violence. The accompanying increase in Islamophobic sentiment and actions following terrorist attacks only serves to further isolate Muslims even more, providing fertile breeding ground for terrorists to spread their propaganda and radicalise even greater numbers of people. It is this **self-perpetuating cycle** between terrorist attacks, rise in xenophobic sentiment and further radicalisation of vulnerable individuals that the EU must address in order to effectively restore peace and security on the continent.

2. Key Terms

- **Terrorism:** The use of violence, especially murder and bombing, in order to achieve a political aim such as the [Turku stabbing in August 2017](#) by a 22-year-old Moroccan asylum seeker. However, it is not solely limited to radical Islamist terrorism but encompasses violent actions across the political spectrum including far-right, nationalist or left-wing extremists.

- **Xenophobia:** Dislike, fear or prejudice against foreigners and people from a different culture to oneself. This can manifest itself in the form of hate speech and hate crimes that have a tendency to rise in the wake of recent terrorist attacks.
- **Radicalisation:** Process by which an individual, or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo. A strong sense of personal or cultural alienation, perceived injustice, limited education or employment and psychological problems can lead many members of minority or immigrant groups to radicalisation.
- **Jihadism:** Militant Islamist movement that sees violent struggle as necessary to establish a society in accordance with Islamic Sharia law. It considers itself as existentially threatening the West.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **European Commission:** As the executive branch of the EU with the power to propose legislation and implement various decisions regarding security, the Commission and other stakeholders at both EU and international levels can help national authorities and local actors to address the challenges posed by radicalisation and xenophobia. Not only can they give political impetus to all actions undertaken on these issues, they can also provide guidance on how to effectively implement laws and policies, through training, or by developing platforms for exchange of methods and practices and funding relevant projects and initiatives.
- **European Parliament:** The European Parliament is a directly elected legislative institution of the EU, which aims to represent the interest of EU citizens. It includes a number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) that support an outright xenophobic narrative against minority communities such as the Front National from France and the Danish People's Party who [won the highest percentage of votes](#) in their respective European Parliament elections.
- **Member States:** Combating terrorism and preventing the radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations still falls essentially within the sphere of competence of the Member States, but European cooperation is essential for the efficient and effective exchange of information between law enforcement agencies in order to combat the cross-border nature of the threat posed by terrorists.
- **Far-right, nationalist political parties:** Established European nationalist groups have become more prominent in the political mainstream as they have enjoyed electoral gains off the back of discontent with the usual governing parties of power. The nationalist Finns

Party came second in the 2015 Finnish general election advocating for strict immigration controls and arguing that Finns, not migrants, take priority for social and healthcare spending which illustrates the xenophobic attitudes that further isolate minority communities.

- [The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation \(EUROPOL\)](#): EUROPOL is the law enforcement agency of the EU formed in 1998 to handle criminal intelligence and combat serious international organised crime and terrorism through cooperation between competent authorities of Member States.
- **Youth organisations:** Youth organisations and youth workers are particularly well placed to enhance inter-community dialogue and strengthen inclusion by reaching out to young people from all backgrounds. In this way, they have an important role to play in tackling violent radicalisation through education where a safe environment for young people's concerns to be truly heard and understood can be created.

4. What has been done so far?

The European Commission adopted the [Internal Security Strategy in 2010](#), which put forward a shared agenda for Member States, the European Parliament, the Commission and others to work together to be more effective in fighting and preventing terrorism amongst other security challenges. However, since terrorism was simply one of many other aspects covered by the Internal Security Strategy, more specific measures had to be taken in response to the rise in terrorist attacks in 2015. As such, Europol set up the [European Counter Terrorism Centre \(ECTC\)](#) that year which aims to become a central information hub in the fight against terrorism in the EU. Similarly, the [Europol Information System \(EIS\)](#) is positioned to serve as a central repository of law enforcement data, including the consolidated list of all known or suspected Foreign Terrorism Fighters yet Member States still need to step up their efforts significantly to provide the necessary data on Foreign Terrorist Fighters to Europol.

In terms of radicalisation, the **EU has been slow to prioritise** the fight against it since it received the smallest contribution from the [EU Internal Security Fund \(ISF\)](#) in 2016, despite pledges by European Union leaders to prioritise the issue following the terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels. However, it did open the [European Radicalisation Awareness Network \(RAN\)](#) in 2015 which pools experiences, knowledge and good practices from relevant stakeholders such as policy makers, security officials, academics and civil society organisations to enhance awareness of radicalisation and communication techniques for challenging terrorist narratives. It particularly

supports Member States in their efforts to combat radicalisation with specific services, practical tools and policy contributions.

In order to tackle racism and xenophobia, the EU has introduced various pieces of legislation to combat its different forms and manifestations through the [Race Equality Directive](#) and the [Employment Equality Directive](#) that prohibits discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin and on the ground of religion in employment respectively. [The Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia](#) penalises public incitement to violence or hatred on the basis of race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin yet its effectiveness is limited as far-right marches that tout slogans rallying against refugees and equating Islam with terror still happen as they did [this November in Poland](#).

Whilst physical demonstrations on the street may be harder to curb, the European Commission has taken steps to combat the spread of illegal hate speech online by establishing [a code of conduct with IT companies](#) including Facebook and Twitter in May 2016. This commits the companies to continue developing internal procedures and staff training to guarantee that they review the majority of valid notifications for removal of illegal hate speech in less than 24 hours and remove or disable access to such content, if necessary.

5. Key Conflicts

The inherent conflict at the heart of this topic is a fundamental clash between those who promote the **liberal values of openness, inclusivity and multiculturalism** versus those who **promulgate a closed, nationalistic and anti-foreigner sentiment**. This attitude dictates the extent to which radicalisation of individuals belonging to minority communities may be prevented if **greater efforts to enhance social integration** are implemented, therefore reducing the risk of terrorism whilst also limiting the extent of xenophobic backlash following an attack. However, this division in outlook is found on **local, national and European levels**, which makes it hard for the EU to offer a coordinated response. Consensus will be ever harder to reach as the current European Parliament includes MEPs, who openly support a xenophobic narrative against ethnic and religious minorities and campaign to solely prioritise their native population in areas such as employment, social benefits and healthcare, similar to the **disagreements occurring between heads of state** such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán who promotes a nationalist, anti-foreigner agenda in contrast to more liberal leaders like the President of France, Emmanuel Macron. On a national level, the entrance of [far-right party Alternative for Germany \(AfD\)](#) to the German Parliament in September 2017 has shaken up German politics for instance with Angela

Merkel's position being weakened after minority government talks failed in what has been interpreted as a sign of **discontent for open-door policy towards refugees** that saw many Muslims from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan settle in Germany. Support for such far-right, nationalist parties have strengthened across different European Member States such as Denmark whose immigration rules are among the toughest in Europe as a result of the [Danish People's Party's power \(DPP\)](#) whose support the ruling coalition depends on in parliament. However, the policies these political parties bring in such as **external border controls, asylum and migration policies** only **fuel racist and xenophobic discourses** against **minority communities** which further marginalises them and increase the risk of radicalisation and terrorism.

The second major conflict is found in the **mutually aggravating relationship between Islamic and right-wing terrorism** which only serves to fuel each other's agenda. Radical Islam is perceived to be the main threat in many people's eyes but it is often overlooked that increasing xenophobia can equally lead to violent attacks against the community believed to responsible. This was demonstrated by the [June 2017 Finsbury Park attack](#) in which a van driver mowed down Muslim worshippers in reaction to the earlier terrorist attack on London Bridge the same month. Whilst this is an extreme example, it must be noted that the **entrance of xenophobic, anti-foreigner narratives into the political mainstream** given the rise of nationalist parties such as the Front National in France feeds the very 'clash of civilisations' narrative that groups such as al-Qaeda and Islamic State (IS) **seek to foster**. In this way, the violent cycle of radicalisation, extremism and violence will only be perpetuated if nothing is done to promote tolerance and better social integration of minority communities.

6. Questions to consider

- How can the EU support the Member States in integrating the minorities better?
- How can the EU minimise the spread of xenophobia following a terrorist attack?
- How can the EU curb the rise of support for right-wing populist parties campaigning on an anti-foreigner platform?
- How can the EU identify and minimise the risk of radicalisation of vulnerable individuals?

7. Further links

- Video on what drives European Muslims to extremism:
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/radicalization-muslims>
- Video on xenophobia in Hungary and their fears of terrorism:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rSm1H5nsts>
- Article on xenophobia in Europe: analysis and solutions:
<http://one-europe.net/xenophobia-in-europe-analysis-and-solutions>
- Article on the rise of right-wing extremism and their influence on mainstream politics and terrorism:
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/28/brexit-europe-far-right-rightwing-extremists-politics-terrorism>
- European Commission Communication detailing Measures to prevent radicalisation:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/repository/education/library/publications/2016/communication-preventing-radicalisation_en.pdf

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs II (LIBE II)

EU at the crossroad: the balance between the freedom of expression and high media standards. Bearing in mind the recent events regarding “fake news” and “alternative facts”, how should the EU proceed to ensure effective media checks and strict fact checking whilst respecting the freedom of expression?

By Nikita Sokolov (Chairperson, RU)

1. The topic at a glance

The world of the 21st century has often been referred to as ‘**information society**’ in which possessing information plays a critical role. As the information is usually provided by various media outlets, their importance has grown significantly, allowing them to manipulate people through providing them with **incorrect data**. That was one of the reasons for the outbreak of **information warfare**, with various governments trying to influence people’s world perception to get a competitive advantage over their alleged opponent. For example, many believe that the conflict in Eastern Ukraine has been made worse by misleading propaganda that has made it difficult for both the residents and the outside world to understand what is really going on in the region.

In order to avoid situations like these, there have been calls for limiting or regulating the **freedom of expression**, making it more difficult to trick people into believing false information. **Media platforms** are continuously used to spread **biased and even false information** for electoral or political gain – recent examples of this include the widespread confusion, hyperbole, and spread of unconfirmed rumours, which surrounded both sides of the **Brexit referendum campaign**. Similar symptoms and strategic use of false media claims mired the **2016 United States presidential election**, and are a recurring characteristic of White House press briefings under **President Trump**. These contemporary challenges with information technology and media require updated checks and balances by national and supranational institutions. But such measures would, on the other hand, certainly raise concerns about the safeguarding of fundamental freedoms of speech and expression, and about the risk of coercive government censorship. Russian media, for instance, is consistently called out for heavy state-control.

2. Key Terms

- **Information warfare:** Concept involving the battlespace use and management of information and communication technology in pursuit of a competitive advantage over an

opponent. Information warfare may involve collection of tactical information, assurance that one's own information is valid, spreading of propaganda or disinformation to demoralise or manipulate the enemy and the public, undermining the quality of opposing force information and denial of information-collection opportunities to opposing forces.

- **Freedom of speech:** Principle that supports the freedom of an individual or community to articulate one's opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or sanction.
- **Media:** The collective communication outlets or tools used to store and deliver information or data. It is either associated with communication media or the specialised mass media communication businesses such as print media and the press, photography, advertising, cinema, broadcasting i.e. radio and television, publishing and point of sale.
- **Propaganda:** Information that is not objective and is used primarily to influence an audience and further an agenda, often by presenting facts selectively to encourage a particular synthesis or perception or using loaded language to produce an emotional rather than a rational response to the information that is presented.
- **Information society:** Society where the creation, distribution, use, integration, and manipulation of information is a significant economic, political, and cultural activity. Its main drivers are digital information and communication technologies, which have resulted in an information explosion and are profoundly changing all aspects of social organisation, including the economy, education, health, warfare, government, and democracy.

3. Key Actors and Stakeholders

- **European Parliament:** The only directly elected legislative institution in EU, which aims to represent 500 million EU citizens and their views on the future of Europe through its resolutions and declarations.
- **Member States** implement EU policies within their national borders. Thus, it is within their competence to conduct policies, regarding exercise the freedom of expression.
- **Russia:** Through its recent emphasis on soft-power tools to support its traditional foreign policy agenda, Russia has actively employed state-driven media influence on foreign outlets. Covert campaigns in print media and social media platforms have are an important contributing factor to the civil unrest leading to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Following apparent involvement in the 2016 United States presidential election, Russia has been publicly warned by several European officials against infiltrating domestic European political debate.

- **Islamic State (IS), also known as ISIS, ISIL or Daesh:** A terrorist organisation in the Middle East, which has perpetrated a number of terrorist attacks around the world and is actively recruiting more people, with the help of social media.
- **The Platform of European Memory and Conscience:** An educational project of the EU bringing together government institutions and NGOs from EU countries active in research, documentation, awareness raising and education about the crimes of totalitarian regimes.
- **NATO Startcom:** Agency within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) tasked with countering propaganda targeted at NATO Member States.

4. What has been done so far?

To eliminate any historical speculations, the European Parliament has initiated the creation of the [European Memory and Conscience](#) deploring totalitarian regimes of the past as well as their crimes against humanity. European Parliament's [resolution](#) on a digital freedom strategy from 10 January 2016 aims at protecting EU based media from hackers' attacks, which could potentially alter the information provided by them. European Parliament's [resolution](#) on EU-Russia relations from 10 June 2015 emphasised the Russian factor in countering the propaganda within EU's borders, highlighting the role Russian media played in destabilising Ukraine as well as their frequent attempts to spread dissent among EU citizens.

Yet another [European Parliament's resolution on countering propaganda by third parties](#) intention to keep to ensuring the freedom of expression for the EU citizens, yet countering propaganda issued by other actors to influence public opinion in a threatening way.

Within the NATO to which most Member States belong, **NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence**, based in Riga, was created, amongst other goals, to combat propaganda aimed at NATO Member States and provide its citizens with factual information. Finland, despite not being a member of the NATO, still joined the initiative, due to an increased frequency of information attacks on the country. Finland's interest in joining the initiative also demonstrates there is a lack of institutions like these within the EU.

5. Key Conflicts

One of the first issues requiring immediate attention is the **lack of awareness of hybrid warfare** among EU citizens, which makes them easy targets for propaganda directed at discrediting EU institutions and European values.

Moreover, Russia has been continuously stating that certain Member States, e.g. the Baltic States, have traditionally belonged to the Russian sphere of influence; thus, Russia is supposed to have geopolitical control over the lands. **Media propaganda** targeted at the local [Russian speaking population](#), which is only exposed to **Moscow controlled news** sources due to poor local language knowledge, has been turning the Russian-speaking community members in these countries against the EU, leading them to believe that their rights would not be respected. The news usually mention nothing about the human rights violations in Russia itself.

There is also widespread concern about **Russia's influence in the democratic machinery** of many Member States, for instance in the form of support that Putin's government has shown towards [far-right and Eurosceptic political parties all over Europe](#). It is also widely disputed **to what extent the Kremlin is responsible** for the [spread of misinformation](#) targeting the EU and its neighbourhood, or whether this campaign is targeted towards [influencing public opinion](#) in Russia or abroad.

Another aspect of the information warfare that may hinder the freedom of expression in the EU is its **relations with IS**, which uses the freedom of speech to firstly **promote their ideas and recruit more people**, and secondly to **frighten Europeans with their alleged capabilities**. It should be noted that IS poses a serious threat to European society due to their potential influence on the **Muslim minority**, which has not yet been integrated, thus **feeling isolated and alienated**.

However, the alleged threats should in no way silence the **objective criticism** of the EU, voiced by its citizens, for the EU has gained prominence as an organisation that firmly stands by human rights protection, which also includes the right to express oneself openly. Thus, there is a clear need for legislation that would not allow EU members to use the currently on-going information warfare as **an excuse to silence any criticism of the existing flaws or malfunctioning of the state apparatus**.

Needless to say, there is a growing demand for a larger number of agencies and institutions, **countering the propaganda and casting light on the fake character of information provided as a part of hybrid warfare**, which would not only allow the EU citizens to have a more objective world perception, but it would also improve their critical thinking abilities, when it comes to distinguishing factual data from fake information.

6. Questions to consider

- How can the EU appropriately combine countering fake information with allowing everyone to express themselves freely?
- How to stop Russia's and ISIL's active brainstorming of European citizens, preventing further collaboration amongst the Member States?
- How can the EU protect its citizens' right to freedom of expression?
- How should the EU, in collaboration with the Member States raise awareness of the hybrid warfare?
- What measures, if any, should be taken against Russia in order to prevent its further using media to their own competitive advantage?

7. Further links

- The Virtual Caliphate - ISIS's Information warfare elaborating on Daesh's involvement in the information warfare:
<http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/ISW%20The%20Virtual%20Caliphate%20Gambhir%202016.pdf>
- Information warfare - Is Russia really interfering in European states, elaborating on Russia's engagement in information warfare against the EU:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39401637>
- EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, casting light on EU's competences regarding the freedom of expression:
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/policy-highlights/freedom-of-expression-and-media_bg
- How to Combat Information Warfare in the Post-Truth Age, illustrating the concept of information warfare:
http://jean-monnet-saar.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Lithuania-Blueprint_Karoline-Schmidt.pdf
- Russian Information Warfare - An advancing Front of Disinformation and Propaganda, elaborating on Russia's usage of media in order to gain a competitive advantage:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rpg9Awf0coY>

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