

The current challenges of the EU

European Seniors' Union
Leuven | 10 July 2023

Prof. dr. Steven Van Hecke

 @VanHeckeSteven

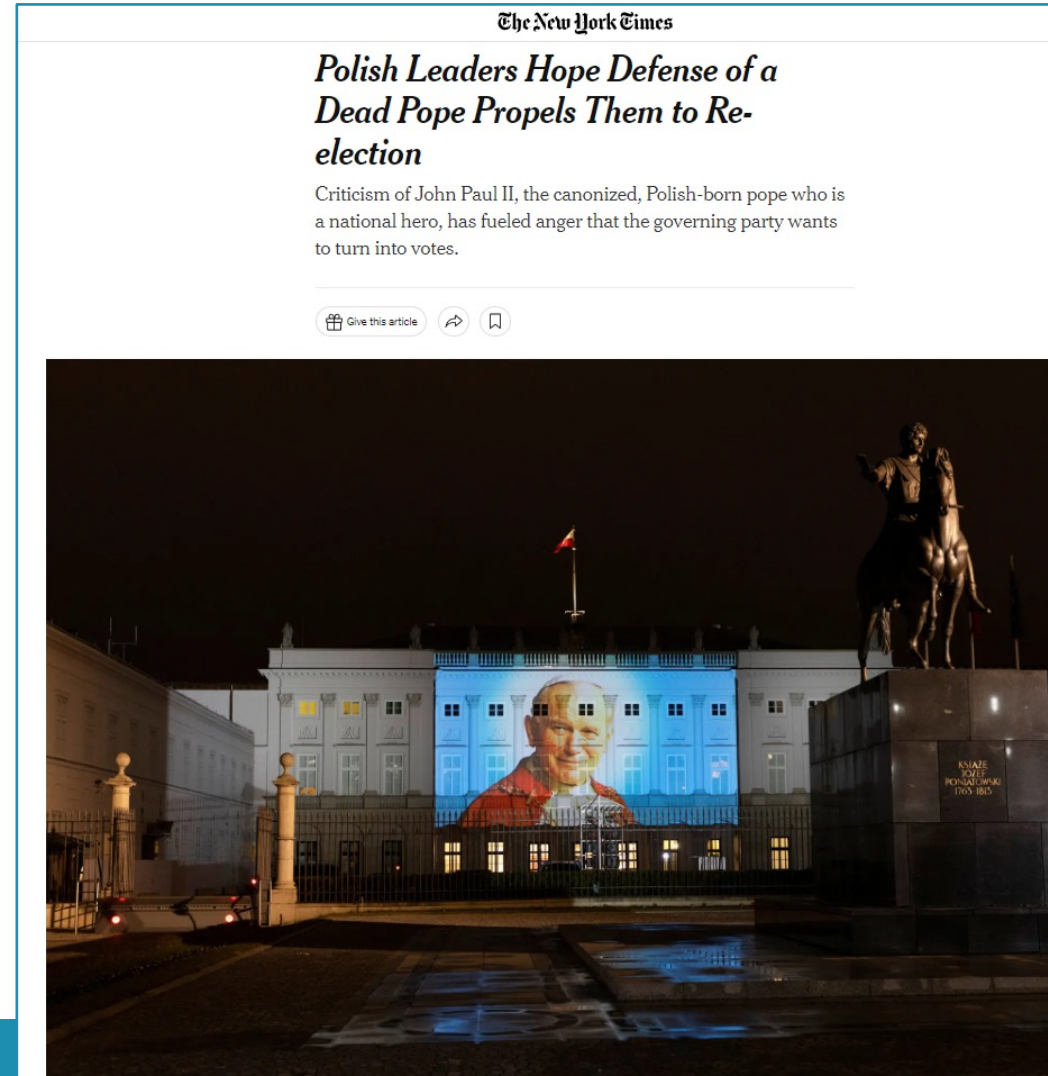


Europe/European Union



Short term challenges

- NATO Vilnius Summit (11-12 July)
 - EP plenary vote Nature Restoration Law (12 July)
 - general elections Spain (23 July)
- + elections in The Netherlands, Slovakia and Poland



EPP attitude



Nature Restoration Law

European Commission

Nature Restoration Law

For people, climate, and planet

22 June 2022
#EUGreenDeal

Over half of global GDP depends on nature and the services it provides. Construction, agriculture, food and health sectors all highly depend on it.

More than 75% of global food crops depend on pollinators.

40% of the world's land is degraded. Costs associated with soil degradation in the EU already exceed EUR 50 billion a year.

Our global food systems are responsible for 80% of deforestation, 70% of freshwater use and are the single greatest cause of terrestrial biodiversity loss.

Restoring wetlands, rivers, forests, grasslands, marine ecosystems, and the species they host will help:

- Increase biodiversity and secure the things nature does for free, like cleaning our water and air, pollinating crops, and protecting us from floods.
- Limit global warming to 1.5°C.
- Build up Europe's resilience and strategic autonomy, preventing natural disasters and reducing risks to food security.

New binding targets suggested by the law:

- restore habitats and species protected by the EU nature legislation
- reverse the decline of pollinators by 2030
- no net loss of green urban spaces by 2030 and a minimum of 10% tree canopy cover in European cities
- improved biodiversity on farmland e.g. for grassland butterflies, farmland birds, high-diversity landscape features
- restore drained peatlands
- healthier forests with improved biodiversity
- at least 25.000 km free-flowing rivers by 2030
- restore seagrasses and sea bottoms

Environment

EPP Group @EPPGroup · 5 u

XXX Three strikes, you are out!

MEPs on the @EP_Environment Committee have just rejected the badly designed #NatureRestoration Law, as @EP_Agriculture and @EP_Fisheries did in May.

We hope Mr Timmermans has now understood the message.

Withdraw this law immediately!

Nature Restoration Law Rejected, again!

epp 70 YEARS

SOTEU 2022



‘This is a war on our energy, a war on our economy, a war on our values and a war on our future.’

European integration

1950-1990

Cold War paradigm
Pax Americana

Germany: *Westbindung*

Market integration

1990-2016

Post-Cold War paradigm
globalisation

German *Wiedervereinigung*

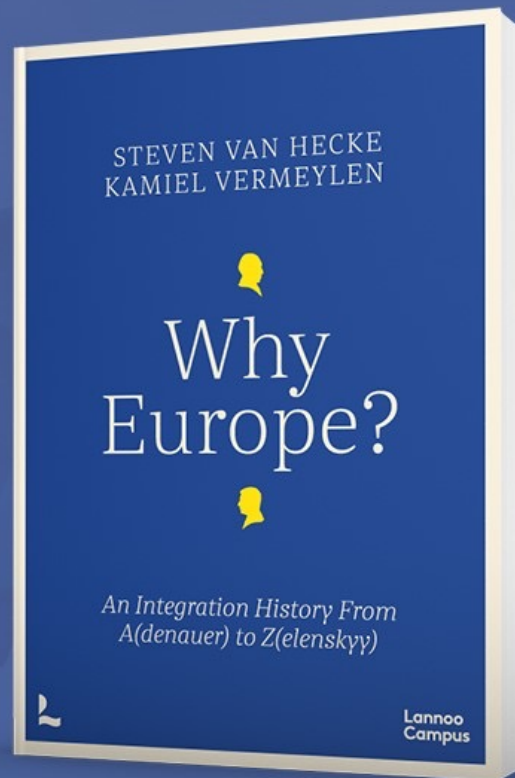
EMU + enlargement

2016-

New Cold War paradigm
strategic autonomy

German *Zeitenwende*

Geopolitics



Why Europe?

An Integration History From
A(denauer) to Z(elenskyy)

2024 European Elections prospect

- turn-out + first-time voters
- VDL Commission legacy
- *Spitzenkandidaten*
- balance of power
- security >> economy & energy >> climate issues



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