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# *European Council Simulation: Democratization of the European Central Bank's Executive Board*

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22 January 2020

University of Cologne  
Cologne, Germany



**TRACK** Teaching and Researching  
the European Council

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Title : „European Council Simulation: Democratization of the European Central bank’s Executive Board”

Date : 22 January 2020

Venue : University of Cologne, Cologne

Participants : 25

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TRACK organized a public lecture on “Macron and the strategic agenda 2019-2024” at the Institut Français on 21 November 2019. The event was attended by students and people of the civil society and the interested public (e.g. Europa Union, COMOS, Pulse of Europe).



*Maxime Lefebvre*, French diplomat, assessed the role of France and especially the French president Macron within the European Union. Therefore, he outlined Macron’s agenda for Europe: The French president pursues a European sovereignty while refusing a European federal state. A European sovereignty should be especially established in the areas of climate change, digital transformation, economic power and regarding the aim to strengthen the euro. Further, Macron

criticizes the bureaucratic decision-making procedure within the EU promoting a rather intergovernmental point of view. Furthermore, Lefebvre highlighted the French demand for a collective European leadership.

*Wolfgang Wessels*, University of Cologne, agreed upon the intergovernmental approach and argued that, with regard to a long-term European integration, none institution should become too powerful. The EU depends on powerful states and the interplay between member states.

In this context, Lefebvre and Wessels stressed the role of the Franco-German couple within the EU and especially within the European Council. They observed, that the couple can be seen as the European engine for integration although the relation between the countries have never been free of any conflict.

In the following fruitful discussion with the participants of the public lecture, the following questions were assessed: How does the Franco-German collaboration works? What are current challenges for their relation? What are the divergent positions of France and Germany on the Spitzenkandidaten procedure?



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### Find out more...

- ▶ Wessels, Wolfgang (2019): [Das politische System der Europäischen Union](#). Wiesbaden: Springer.
- ▶ Weidenfeld, Werner; Wessels, Wolfgang (2020): [Jahrbuch der Europäischen Integration](#). Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- ▶ Weidenfeld, Werner; Wessels, Wolfgang (2020): Europa von A bis Z. Taschenbuch der Europäischen Integration. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- ▶ Wolters, Johannes; Wessels, Wolfgang (2019): [Der Europäische Rat: Schlüsselinstitution der Europäischen Union](#), in: Lippert, Barbara; Becker, Peter (Hrsg.): Handbuch Europäische Union. Wiesbaden: Springer.

Website: [www.track.uni-koeln.de](http://www.track.uni-koeln.de)



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