

# The European Council's Agenda: Towards a European Strategic Autonomy?

15 April | 15:00 CET | Zoom

"The strategic independence of Europe is our new common project for this century. Autonomy is not protectionism; it is the opposite" European Council President Charles Michel said last year in September. However, the debate on a European Strategic Autonomy is quite controversy and lacks a common concept among academia as well as among politicians from the Brussels arena. Why is the achievement of a common understanding of the nature of strategic autonomy as a common EU project so important? Should the topic of achieving strategic autonomy be discussed at the Conference on the Future of Europe? Among others, these questions will be discussed by the following speakers:

**Mathias Jopp** | Institute for European Politics

**Maxime Lefebvre** | ESCP Business School

**Ingrid Shikova** | Sofia University

**Wolfgang Wessels** | University of Cologne

Prior registration [here](#)

**TRACK** Teaching and Researching  
the European Council



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## Jean-Monnet Project

*Teaching and Researching the European Council: Enhancing and disseminating knowledge on a key institution in challenging times*

### TRACK Objectives

Regarding political and academic challenges, TRACK responds to an ongoing need to provide regular offers for teaching and research on the European Council (EUCO) as a key institution. In view of known and unknown challenges in the EU, TRACK focuses on the EUCO's role in the EU's policy-making and in shaping the EU's future. By identifying challenges for Europe, TRACK analyzes and assess the EUCO's activities along five dimensions (history, real world functions, internal decision-making, impact on the EU's institutional architecture, and lessons for teaching and research).



#### Academic Analysis

TRACK regularly **analyses** and **assess** the EUCO's activities along **five analytical dimensions**, aiming to **promote EU studies** by a **real-time analysis** of the EUCO as a **moving target**.



#### Events

TRACK organizes amongst other a **kick-off conference** in Brussels; **public lectures with panel discussions and a luncheon debate** across Europe; a **mid-term event** on the German Presidency in Berlin; **World Cafés** at secondary schools and a **dissemination conference** in Brussels.



#### Online Activities

TRACK provides open access information comprising **analytical reports** on the EUCO's performance, **comments** after each EUCO meeting **on Twitter**, a set of **innovative online teaching modules**, contributions to **Wikipedia articles** and **living editions** on the EU system and **journal articles**.



#### Dissemination

TRACK follows a tailor-made dissemination strategy and spread its output via a constantly updated **website**, **newsletters**, **social media** (Twitter, Facebook) and the **partner institutes' networks**.

### TRACK Key Points

<b>Project lifetime</b>	01 September 2019 – 31 August 2021
<b>Academic coordinator</b>	Prof Dr Wolfgang Wessels, CETEUS   University of Cologne
<b>Project manager</b>	Lea Hopp, M.A., CETEUS   University of Cologne
<b>Project assistants</b>	Denise Ersoy, B.A., CETEUS   University of Cologne

The TRACK advisory board consists of high-level experts from different disciplines and countries with Herman van Rompuy, former president of the European Council, as the head of the advisory board.

