The European Council
How to study a Key Institution in Challenging Times

10 November 2020

Joint Conference of

Centre for Turkey and European Union Studies (CETEUS)
and
Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)

In the framework of the Jean Monnet Project TRACK

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

TRACK Teaching and Researching the European Council

10 November 2020	
10:00 – 10:15	**Introduction and Welcome: The relevance of the European Council and the TRACK Project** **Lea Hopp** | TRACK, University of Cologne **Wolfgang Wessels** | TRACK, University of Cologne
10:15 – 11:15	**Keynote Panel: the European Council – what kind of institution?** Chair: **Wolfgang Wessels** | TRACK, University of Cologne - **Brigid Laffan** | European University Institute & TRACK Advisory Board - **Herman van Rompuy** | President European Council emeritus & Head of TRACK Advisory Board *Rapporteur: Adrian Krieger*
11:15 – 11:30	**Break**
11:30 - 13:00	**Panel I: A History-making Moment: The European Council as a transformative force for the Multi-Annual Financial Framework and Next Generation EU – towards a new Union** Chair: **Agnieszka Cianciara** | Polish Academy of Sciences & TRACK Advisory Board - **Michele Chang** | College of Europe - **Jim Cloos** | Secretary-General, Council of the European Union - **Christophe Hillion** | NUPI & TRACK Advisory Board *Rapporteur: Anke Schönlau*
13:00 – 13:30	**Break**
13:30 - 14:30	**Panel II: The Decline of Europe? The European Council in International Affairs** Chair: **Nicoletta Pirozzi** | Instituto Affari Internazionali - **Desmond Dinan** | George Manson University & TRACK Advisory Board - **Julie Smith** | Cambridge University, Member of the House of Lords & TRACK Advisory Board *Rapporteur: Christian Raphael*
14:30 – 14:45	**Break**
14:45 – 15:30	**Results & Outlook: Agenda for teaching and researching the European Council** **Lucia Mokrá** | Comenius University Bratislava & TEPSA **Uwe Puetter** | Europa-Universität Flensburg & TRACK Advisory Board **Wolfgang Wessels** | TRACK, University of Cologne *Rapporteur: Student*

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

TRACK Teaching and Researching the European Council

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 patterns of decision-making, impact on the EU's institutional architecture, lessons for teaching and research) for filling gaps in teaching and research.

★

Academic Analysis
TRACK regularly **analyses** and **assess** the EUCO's activities along **five analytical dimensions** (history, real world functions, internal decision-making, impact on the EU's institutional architecture, and lessons for teaching and research), 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

Project lifetime	01 September 2019 – 31 August 2021
Academic coordinator	Prof Dr Wolfgang Wessels, CETEUS | University of Cologne
Project assistants	Lea Hopp, B.Sc., CETEUS | University of Cologne
	Marius Korte, 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.

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union