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World Café No.1

***The Next Strategic Agenda 2019 – 2024:
Analysis and Assessment of the Institutional
Architecture***

23 October 2019

University of Cologne
Cologne, Germany



TRACK Teaching and Researching
the European Council

Title : The Next Strategic Agenda 2019 – 2024: Analysis and Assessment of the Institutional Architecture

Date : 23 October 2019

Venue : University of Cologne

Participants : 33

TRACK organized a World Café on the institutional architecture of the European Union in the framework of the CETEUS Annual Conference on 23 October 2019 at the University of Cologne. The event was attended by students and people of the civil society and the interested public (e.g. Europa Union, COMOS, Pulse of Europe).



Thomas Traguth, Centre international de formation européenne & Polis 180, explained the ► [core competences](#) of the European Council (EUCO). With regard to the internal dynamics of the EUCO, the decision-making becomes a major issue: As the institution tries to reach consensus while facing diverging national interests, the decision-making process is often marked by a high complexity. In this context, the participants assessed if the European Council is capable to play as a global actor. Further, the group tried to evaluate the performance of the EUCO as an economic coordinator during the Eurozone crisis. Last, Traguth encouraged the participants to formulate concrete expectations on how the EUCO should behave in the future and what policies should be integrated in their agenda.

Tobias Kunstein, University of Cologne, and *Oliver Höing*, University of Cologne, wrapped up the current developments of the European Central Bank's policies. In light of the new personnel policies in the EU, they tried to compare the new ECB president Christine Lagarde with her predecessor Mario Draghi. Further, the group assessed the independence of the ECB compared to the US-American Banking system. Last, the participants of the World Café thought about possible tensions within the European monetary area and dis-/advantages of a common currency.





Siebo Janssen, Heinz-Kühn-Bildungswerk, talked about the new European Parliament. After a short summary of the European Elections 2019, the participants of the World Café assessed the Spitzenkandidaten procedure. Has its implementation and especially the current developments affected a higher turnout in 2019? Moreover, the groups discussed the upcoming agenda of the European Parliament

and its position in the institutional architecture of the EU. Janssen encouraged the participants to reflect on the interinstitutional relations in the EU with a special focus on the European Council.

Wolfgang Wessels, CETEUS/ University of Cologne, dealt with the new European Commission. First of all, he made the participants familiar with the internal (nomination) procedures. Following, they discussed the new College of Commissioners with a special focus on the new president Ursula von der Leyen. Last, the groups evaluated the size and the new agenda of this institution.



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.

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