



ERG: Ever Closer Union: Five Institutions, Five Presidents but more than Five ways to create a United States of Europe

By stealth: The President of the European Commission

"We decide on something, leave it lying around and wait and see what happens," he explained. If no one kicks up a fuss, because most people don't understand what has been decided, we continue step by step until there is no turning back."

The President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker¹

By a political interpretation of EU law: The President of the European Court of Justice

"I would like to say a few words about your mission, You are taking up office during the worst financial and economic crisis that Europe has suffered at a time when the European ideal is beset by criticism from Eurosceptic circles. Thus your key task is to prevent the fruits of European integration being trampled in the dust."

Vassilios Skouris, the President of the European Court of Justice to the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker,²

By barring the door to exit: The President of the European Council

One problem with Brexit is *"it might offer an attractive example for anti-European political forces in other countries."*

Donald Tusk the President of the European Council³

By controlling the money: The President of the European Central Bank

"We need a quantum leap in European integration. We need to address the fragilities of our economies; to ensure that divergence will become convergence again; and to safeguard the irreversibility of monetary union. Our report provides the roadmap for this."

¹ Irish Times; October 12 2002; <http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/it-s-harry-potter-and-the-treaty-of-nice-1.1099112>

² Telegraph; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11286233/EU-judge-gives-Jean-Claude-Juncker-the-key-task-of-defeating-Euroscepticism.html>

³ NY Times interview 18 February 2016; <http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2016/02/18/the-case-for-europe-an-interview-with-donald-tusk/>

Mario Draghi The President of the European Central Bank⁴

By institutional rivalry and aggrandizement: The President of the European Parliament

*"I am proud that I belong to the people who suggested the Spitzenkandidaten process. And exactly that exercise will be repeated in the next European election," National governments that believe "a parliament who won one right would give it up, know nothing about history"*⁵

*"Someday we will have the 'United States of Europe'"*⁶

*"You cannot have a relationship with yourself. The EU is and Britain are one thing. The UK belongs to the EU."*⁷

By not letting a crisis go to waste: Viviane Reding Vice-President of the European Commission

"I believe a United States of Europe is the right vision to surmount the current crisis, but above all to overcome the failings of the Maastricht Treaty. Ultimately, as a European Christian Democrat, I cannot allow my vision of the future to be dictated by British Eurosceptics."

*"We need to build a United States of Europe with the Commission as government and two chambers – the European Parliament and a "Senate" of Member States,"*⁸
Viviane Reding Vice-President of the European Commission 8 November 2012⁹

By design: Italian Prime Minister

"For my children's future I dream, think and work for the United States of Europe,"
Italian PM Matteo Renzi¹⁰

Some individual potential actions:

1. Junker commitment to Security Union / EU intelligence Agency

⁴ ECB 22 June 2015; https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2015/html/pr150622_3.en.html

⁵ Politico, 6 May 2016: <http://www.politico.eu/article/martin-schulz-no-way-we-give-up-power-to-pick-eu-commission-president/>

⁶ https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/upload/92af4675-6929-442e-abc9-b365aa407ee9_Anne%20van%20der%20Velden%20-%20The%20United%20States%20of%20Europe.pdf

⁷ Telegraph, 18 June 2015; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11682879/EUs-Schulz-UK-belongs-to-Europe.html>

⁸ Telegraph, 8 January 2014; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/10559458/We-want-a-United-States-of-Europe-says-top-EU-official.html>

⁹ 8 November 2012; http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-12-796_en.htm

¹⁰ EurActiv 9 May 2014; <http://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/news/italian-pm-vows-to-push-for-united-states-of-europe-during-presidency/>

Juncker: *"In the area of security, as in many other areas in Europe, fragmentation is what makes us vulnerable. Europe needs a genuine security union"*¹¹

Proposal of the European Political Strategy Centre:

*"One of its major tasks would be to provide for a European diagnosis of the counter-terrorist threat by 'connecting the dots' and coordinating intelligence capabilities. It would then develop strategic plans for counter-terrorist action,"*¹²

2. Juncker Commitment to EU Army:

Juncker: *"A joint EU army would show the world that there would never again be a war between EU countries. Such an army would also help us to form common foreign and security policies and allow Europe to take on responsibility in the world."*

*"With its own army, Europe could react more credibly to the threat to peace in a member state or in a neighbouring state," "One wouldn't have a European army to deploy it immediately. But a common European army would convey a clear message to Russia that we are serious about defending our European values."*¹³

3. Financial transactions tax

10 EU states have already agreed to go forwards with a FTT that could affect cross border trades that involve the UK¹⁴

4. EU proposals for after the referendum: EU Tax & removal of UK rebate

The EU's "The high-level group on own resources" reporting in 2016 has already proposed:

"As regards the reform of the correction mechanisms, the Commission proposed to abolish all existing correction mechanisms: both temporary (reduced VAT call rates and GNI lump sums) and permanent (UK rebate and the hidden correction which the 25% collection costs on TOR represent-see above)."

"On the basis of its analysis on new own resources presented in a staff working paper accompanying the legislative proposals, the Commission proposed the introduction of

¹¹ European Commission press release, 12/13 April 2016;

http://ec.europa.eu/news/2016/04/20160413_en.htm

¹² Telegraph, 1 May 2016; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/01/european-union-should-set-up-central-us-style-intelligence-agency/>

European Political Strategy Centre 'Towards a Security Union';

http://ec.europa.eu/epsc/publications/notes/sn12_en.htm

¹³ EurActiv; 9 March 2015 <http://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/juncker-nato-is-not-enough-eu-needs-an-army/>

¹⁴ WSJ, 8 December 2015; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/ten-eu-countries-agree-on-some-aspects-of-financial-transactions-tax-1449582941>

a financial transaction tax (FTT) own resource and a new VAT resource, both from 1 January 2018 at the latest.”¹⁵

5. EU Caucusing – Eurozone Social Pillar including regulation “pay”

‘Launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights’

“President Juncker announced the establishment of a European Pillar of Social Rights in his State of the Union address in the European Parliament on 9 September 2015. This initiative is part of the work undertaken by the Commission for a deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) 1 and part of the Commission 2016 Work Programme.”

“Ultimately, the legal nature of the Pillar itself will need to take account of the scope and legal limitations at EU and euro area levels. For instance, Article 153 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union clearly does not provide competence of the Union to legislate on “pay”. ”¹⁶

[Note, the Eurozone has a qualified majority of the EU’s votes 65%+]
Further Eurozone integration: The Five Presidents Report¹⁷

6. Pan European Continental Presidential democracy / Spitzenkandidates:

The European Parliament stated on 11 October 2015 that:

“European elections should be fought with formally endorsed, EU-wide lead candidates (“Spitzenkandidaten”) for the Commission presidency, Parliament said on Wednesday” ¹⁸

Cameron’s commitment to reform following the appointment of Jean-Claude Juncker as President of the European Commission in 2014 David Cameron stated that:
“It is therefore important that the European Council has agreed today to review what has happened and to consider how we handle the appointment of the next Commission president next time around.”¹⁹

Some more quotes:

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/hlgor/index_en.cfm &
<http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/hlgor/library/reports-communication/FirstAssessmentReport-December2014.pdf>

¹⁶ 8 March 2016: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0127&from=EN>

¹⁷ EC, Five Presidents Report; https://ec.europa.eu/priorities/sites/beta-political/files/5-presidents-report_en.pdf

¹⁸ European Parliament: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151109IPR01698/html/EP-elections-Spitzenkandidaten-mandatory-thresholds-right-to-vote-abroad>

¹⁹ UK Gov, 27 June 2014; <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/european-council-june-2014-david-camerons-speech>

“Sometimes I like to compare the EU as a creation to the organisation of empire. We have the dimension of empire.” Jose Manuel Barroso 2007²⁰

“The world needs a Europe that is capable of deploying military missions”. Jose Manuel Barroso 2012²¹

“Decisions taken by the most democratic institutions in the world are very often wrong.” Jose Manuel Barroso 2010²²

“National sovereignty is the root cause of most of the evils of our time. The only final remedy for this supreme and catastrophic evil is a federal union of the peoples.”
A Quote (from Lord Lothian (1882-1940)) on the wall of the EU Visitors Centre²³

“No need to confuse people with the underlying institutions/history behind the current EU”
EU Internet Handbook²⁴

“European criminal justice will eventually mature into a regular EU policy field. The European Parliament should be the co-legislator in all legislative procedures and the Court of Justice should have full control over all EU criminal legislation.” Justice Commissioner Vivien Redding 2013²⁵

“If it’s a Yes we will say “on we go”, and if it’s a No we will say “we continue”.”²⁶
Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Council

“The substance of the Constitution is preserved. That is a fact.”²⁷
German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the Lisbon Treaty

“I have read some of [the Lisbon Treaty] but not all of it.”²⁸
Caroline Flint, former Minister for Europe

“They must go on voting until they get it right.”²⁹
Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

²⁰ Telegraph 11 July 2007; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1557143/Barroso-hails-the-European-empire.html>

²¹ EC, 12 September 2012; http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-12-596_en.htm

²² Telegraph, Dan Hannan; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/9895323/Europe-has-to-start-treating-voters-like-adults.html>

²³ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/andrew-gilligan/8933457/Fiddling-as-the-euro-burns.html> & Spectator 1941 <http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/20th-december-1940/7/lord-lothian>

²⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/content/tips/words-style/jargon-alternatives_en.htm

²⁵ EC, 12 November 2013; http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-914_en.htm

²⁶ Telegraph, 26 Ma7 2005; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/1490810/Keep-up-the-pressure-for-a-No-vote-Left-warned.html>

²⁷ Angela Merkel, German Chancellor, speech to the European Parliament, 27th June 2007.

²⁸ In answer to Rt Hon Mark Francois MP, 30 March 2009;

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmgeneral/euro/090330/90330s03.htm>

²⁹ <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2007/oct/24/comment.politics3>

"If you go through all the structures and features of this emerging European monster you will notice that it more and more resembles the Soviet Union."³⁰

Russian dissident Vladimir Bukovsky

"I believe neither the French nor the Dutch really rejected the constitutional treaty."³¹

Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg

"The 'no' votes were a demand for more Europe, not less."³²

Romano Prodi, former President of the European Commission

"...within ten years 80% of our economic legislation, perhaps even fiscal and social as well' would come from the EU."³³

Jacques Delors, President of EU Commission 1988

"The [EU] Council of Ministers will have far more power over the budgets of member states than the federal government in the United States has over the budget of Texas."³⁴

Jean-Claude Trichet, head of the European Central Bank 2003-2011

"The process of monetary union goes hand in hand, must go hand in hand, with political integration and ultimately political union. EMU is, and always was meant to be, a stepping stone on the way to a united Europe"³⁵

Wim Duisenberg, first president of the EU Central Bank

"The President of the Commission, Mr. Delors, said at a press conference the other day that he wanted the European Parliament to be the democratic body of the Community, he wanted the Commission to be the Executive and he wanted the Council of Ministers to be the Senate. No. No. No." - Margaret Thatcher 30 October 1990 ³⁶

³⁰ 27 February 2006; <http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/865>

³¹ June 2005; <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200506/ldhansrd/vo050621/text/50621-20.htm>

³² <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/eureferendum/12166318/EU-referendum-Just-how-stupid-does-David-Cameron-think-we-are.html>

³³ July 1988; <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/RP10-62/RP10-62.pdf>

³⁴ A quoted in the [Great European Rip Off](#) 2009 Elliot and Craig

³⁵ Telegraph 13 September 2008;

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/samleith/3562125/European-Union-symbols-are-a-waste-of-time-and-public-money.html>

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2f8nYMC02I>