

**Political seminar on
Elections to the European Parliament
and the future of the EU
By Tihany Center for Political Analysis**

EU's Challenges after 2019 EP elections

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- **Overview:**

In a crucial point of the European integration history, the last EP elections outcomes has come to make the Union in more ambiguous circumstances, five-year institutional cycle begins with the European parliament, and a changes of leadership in the European Commission and European councils, which will determine the EU policies toward many challenges and topics, this essay explores some of the issues and challenges which will shape Europe's next period In the areas of politics, environment culture, and economy.

- **EP's 2019 elections: 0**

Democracy is one of the basic principles on which the European Union has been based since its inception. Elections are the arena in which this principle is practised and applied on the ground. The last elections in May came out with surprising but interesting results. The major blocs in the European Parliament have lost their centre-right and centre-left parties their majority amid increased voter support for liberals, greens and nationalists. This reflects the attitudes of the people who have expressed their views and their desire to experiment with new options. It necessarily changes the map of alliances and makes decision-making more difficult in the EU institutions. Classical parties do not have a majority, which leads to the formation of new alliances include concessions and settlements on many topics, perhaps the Top Jobs of the European Union.

- **Democracy question**

Despite the high participation of EU citizens in voting in the largest numbers over two decades. The high participation rate in Hungary and Poland more than doubled from the previous elections, may be considered as a serious indicator of the rise of populism and its role in influencing decision-making. while in Denmark which has set a record of 63%, besides the increase in the Green Party seats in the European Parliament, an indicator of increased awareness of environmental issues such as climate change, reflecting a state of conflict within the European Union between the priorities of Eastern and Western countries.

Although in the recent period, European public opinion has assumed that while the main candidates of the parties for the European commission are campaigning for elections, Europe will become more democratic if the Spitzenkandidat System is implemented, but no one expected to end the deals in closed rooms and return to the old way of taking office, Expressed some frustration as a result of the concessions or so-called "poker" of the leaders of the bloc countries, and it came to be described as a "deception to all voters" who thought they would be able to deliver the head of the Commission, From "rams" Between the heads of state and the members of the European Parliament, and a signal of frustration for the hundreds of millions of European voters who have come up with the momentum to vote to guarantee the idea of European unity and to say to them as you wish and we make the final decision.

- **Economy & Trade:**

The European Union is facing the risks of deflation of the economy, with the average annual growth slowing to less than 1.5%, with high levels of debt, despite the European Central Bank launching several measures to stimulate investment to avoid a recession. International trade

agreements, most recently EU- Mercosur trade deal, which is seen as an opportunity to increase cooperation between the European Union and Latin American countries, but there is a lot of voices about the danger of this agreement on the agricultural sectors in Europe. But that could be explained as part of the concession in the agriculture sector to get more competitive opportunities in the industry, with competitors such as China and the United States.

For East European countries such as Hungary, labour migration is a nightmare, with low numbers of qualified workers. Reports indicate that there is a severe shortage of staff in various sectors. Some schools need full cadres to accommodate students this year, even a threat to the social security system of those States

- **Climate Change**

The issue of climate change is now a reality that can be seen by looking through the window, rather than just reading about it in scientific research and reports. The turbulent weather, the rising temperatures and the rain during late summer suggest disasters that are necessary to prepare for. Which the world faces today, making it impossible to prioritize, but climate change can outperform other challenges if it is linked to other challenges, which will also have a domino effect. For example, if climate change makes parts of Europe uninhabitable, or if automation causes upheaval in labour markets, migration both within and into Europe will likely go up. The EU needs to do all it can to manage the transitions, which have already begun.

- **Migration**

The migration file is the most important challenge facing the European Union in recent years, especially with the clear division among member states in this regard and the existence of blocs, the most important of which is V4 group, which is the axis of anti-immigrant reception policies, and with the rise of the extreme right and the arrival of its parties to power in a number of Member States and most important Italy is increasing the challenges and increasing the controversies, not only within the EU but also in the largest political groups . With the European People's Party (EPP) continuing to freeze Hungary's Fidesz party, Hungarian MPs are voting for the European People's Party candidate von der Leyen The European Commission, opens the door to speculation about the future of this dispute and the extent of the possibility of the parties to make concessions. Especially since the victory of von der Lien in the elections was narrowly limited to nine votes, while winning the vote of members of the Hungarian parliament, but in return she did not receive support from the fiercest supporters of the European Union, such as the " Green Party "and members of the" Social Democratic Party ". Which may further strengthen the position of the anti-immigration axis.

- **Summary**

Today, the European Union does not face the same problems it faced yesterday, such as the economic crisis experienced by some member states such as Greece, Ireland, Portugal and other euro area members 10 years ago. Today, threats and challenges are widening to take on cultural, environment, geographic, social and political dimensions. The effects of economic crises, climate change and migratory waves, as well as the continued competition between the world powers, and

despite the fact that these crises are not urgent and urgent compared to the crises witnessed by the European continent in advance, but this does not make them less important.