



AtidMUN 2023



EUCO Study Guide



European Council

**Topic A: Limiting the Influence of
Global Powers on Member States**

**Topic B: The Future of European
Integration**



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CHAIR LETTER

Dear delegates,

We, the chairs of the European Council, are excited to invite you to AtidMUN IX! We hope you have a wonderful and memorable time.

Our committee will focus on the role of the EU as a global power on the world stage. In recent years, the EU has been more active in global affairs – it has changed the privacy protection of its citizens online, aided Ukraine in its war against Russia, and even forced Apple to change its charger to a USB 3.0 port. However, the EU must address some lingering issues to be considered a global power.

Our committee is tasked with tackling two of the most burning issues – the influence of global powers on EU member-states and the further integration of the EU. The EU is a supranational entity, meaning all its member-states have the right to pursue their foreign agendas. Thus, the three global powers – the USA, Russia, and China – have exerted varying levels on EU countries to steer their foreign policy in a way that suits them. To truly become a global power, you must find a way to curb these damaging influences. Moreover, creating a European superpower will require meaningful action to integrate the EU countries further. However, this is a contentious topic among the various members of the EU, as some view further integration as a breach of their national sovereignty.

As heads of state, you are tasked with finding solutions to advance the vision of a European global power while still aiding your respective countries. This will be a challenging task that requires diplomatic skill from you, as all conclusions you draft will require unanimous approval by the committee.

We have complete faith in you to find these solutions and are available for any questions.

See you soon!

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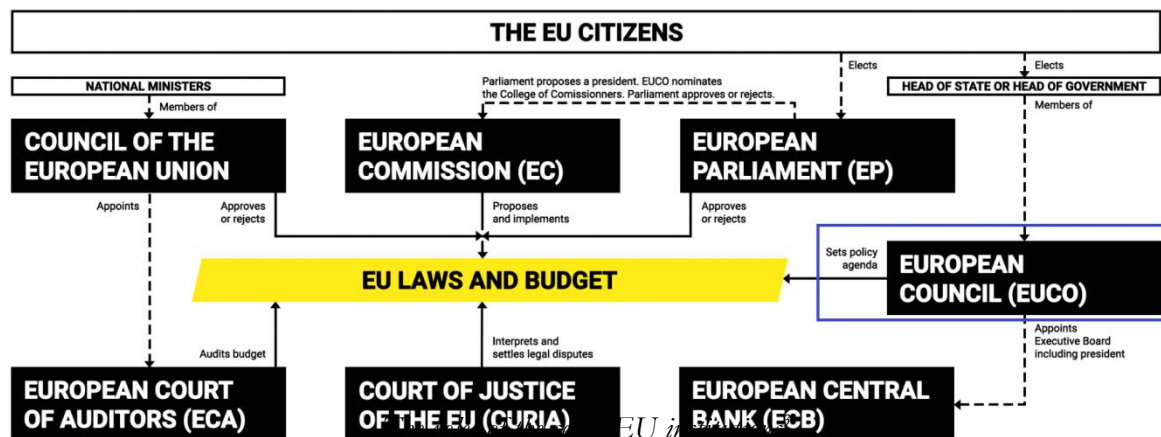


INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The European Council (sometimes called EUCO) is one of the seven European Union (EU) institutions. More specifically, it is a part of the EU's executive body in conjunction with the European Commission (EC). It is comprised of all Heads of State of the EU member-states (currently 27), as well as two non-voting members: the European Council president (currently Charles Michel) and the President of the European Commission (currently Ursula von der Leyen)¹.

The role of the European Council is not to initiate or vote on legislation – in fact, it holds no legislative powers at all – instead, it is to provide overall direction and political guidance to the EU as a whole. This is made possible by the fact that the EUCO includes all Heads of State of the various EU member states and that its conclusions require unanimous agreement; thus, its decisions represent the wishes of all the governments of EU states².

While simulating this committee, delegates will take on the Heads of State of their assigned countries' roles and try to balance their national interests with the interests of the EU. Decisions will be made in the form of conclusions (not resolutions; sample conclusions can be found in the AtidMUN IX Rules of Procedure) that require complete unanimity to pass. A single country opposing a decision is enough to fail it.



¹ "European Council." *Wikipedia*, 10 July 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Council.

² Ibid.

³ Fettouche, Cédric. "What Is the European Union? Infographics of the EU System 2021." *HUMANITARIAN DESIGNERS*, 28 January 2021, www.humanitariandesigners.org/2021/01/28/european-union-infographic/



TOPIC A: LIMITING THE INFLUENCE OF GLOBAL POWERS ON MEMBER STATES

INTRODUCTION

The European Union today serves as a supranational entity and as the leading voice of Europe in international and global affairs. EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital within the EU internal market; enact legislation in justice and home affairs; and maintain common trade, agriculture, fisheries, and regional development policies. What started as an economic partnership slowly led to the EU becoming a prominent player in the supranational playground. The Cold War solidified the world as the playing field of global powers. In 1993, 2 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the creation of the EU signaled the official entry of a unified European entity into the global stage.

Countries have, from time immemorial, been subject to the influence of neighboring countries; however, modernization and globalization have enabled large and powerful countries to assert an impact on nations located on the other side of the globe. These nations are called global powers. Today, the discussion of global powers revolves around three central countries: the United States, Russia, and China. Keen-eyed readers will notice that the EU isn't one of these global powers. While the EU is a serious player in the influence game, they are still very much exposed and subjugated to influence from these nations. The most significant difference is that unlike the big 3, the EU was pulled into the influence game reluctantly. The EU has no intention of rocking other nations' boats regarding political change and is more concerned with maintaining smooth sailing within its borders. The most significant and crucial difference between the Big Three and the EU is that the EU is not a nation but a collection of separate sovereign states. Member states act independently while adhering to a united code under EU legislation. Therefore, each member state is vulnerable to influence from external forces. This study guide will focus on the global power the leading players in the international field apply.



AMERICAN INFLUENCE

1991-2016

As with all nations not included in the union, trade is the primary relationship between the European Union and the United States. The EU and the US are each other's main trading partners and heavily depend on each other. The two together represent 60% of global GDP, 33% of world trade in goods, and 42% of world trade in services. In addition to trade, the EU sees the US as an integral part of its military alliances, seeing how the US is a leading figure in NATO. Unlike the EU, NATO is a military alliance consisting mainly of EU and US member states.

Since 1991 and the fall of the USSR, the United States has established itself on the global playing field as the world's "big daddy." The US has a notorious track record of international interference in "justice" and "freedom." While some nations welcome America with open arms, some are reluctant to American influence in their lands. The most significant advantage of the US-EU partnership is the shared basis of values and ideals. With the US winning the Cold War, Europe shifted towards capitalistic and democratic ideals, making itself a natural ally of the USA. Aside from the EU, America has tremendous influence over many other parts of the globe. An address from the president of the USA can change an entire nation's course of action.

Over the past few decades, the EU has partnered with the USA on many occasions, as they spearheaded progressive and modernized ideals globally. One such occasion would be the 2015 Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement, in short, is a UN treaty containing details and guidelines for reducing fossil fuel usage and instructions on implementing green energy technology. The Paris Agreement is a binding treaty enforced through monthly reports that pressure members to achieve their designated emission goal.

Being at its core an economic union, the EU has deep financial ties with the United States. The US is the EU's largest trading partner; the EU exports a large portion of goods to the US while importing many services from the US. The stock investment in each other is essentially balanced.

However, the military relationship between the two powers might be more significant; these relations are based on NATO. A binding military alliance with the world's largest army is no small feat, and Europe leans on said alliance as assurance. In addition, NATO acts as Europe's protective



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blanket from a second iron curtain. In Layman's terms, the USA protects Europe from Russia with NATO. While some see NATO as merely a military treaty, the reality is NATO allows the US to influence Europe directly with military presence and finance. Having American troops on European soil and having NATO train and upgrade using what is essentially American money puts an asterisk on Europe's defense capabilities. While having said all that has been said, a distinction must be made between Europe as a whole and the EU. Not every European country is part of the EU, and not every European country is part of NATO. The EU represents the face of Europe and, with legal and geographical freedom, sometimes acts as one nation. The impact of having foreign soldiers in Europe is startling. The EU does not bind its member states militarily, and a country in the EU that's not a part of NATO (such as Austria) may not be too eager to welcome foreign soldiers to the continent. Non-NATO members might not be obligated to welcome NATO soldiers into their borders. Still, in a union that practically eliminated border control, the issue no longer remains black or white.

2016-2021

In 2016, Donald Trump became the 45th president of the United States of America. With Trump's rise to power, the US adopted a more isolationist approach to the international playing field. The phrase "America first" isn't just a power slogan for Trump but a glaring statement to the rest of the world declaring that the United States no longer sees the interest of other nations as a priority in foreign policy. If aid or assistance to other countries comes in the way of US prosperity, Trump would cease it or cut it down drastically. US foreign policy during the Trump administration was a 180-degree turn from the traditional relations between the States and Europe.

A central aspect that changed due to the new foreign policy is the lack of unity between the EU and the USA on international affairs. For example, the USA withdrew from the Paris Agreement, a momentous move that changed the environmental landscape. Another example of unity breaking between the EU and the US is in the Iran Nuclear Deal. The Iran Nuclear Deal is an international agreement between the P5+1 members of the UNSC (+1 referring to Germany) on the topic of slowing the nuclear arming process in Iran. The deal was drawn up in 2015, and in 2018, the United States withdrew from the agreement under the Trump administration. Trump promised to draw up a better deal to hold Iran underfoot, yet left the white house without such a deal written.



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The strain on unity between the USA and the EU has left the EU in a state where the union no longer feels it can rely on the United States for support in international matters due to indifference and differing opinions.

2020-PRESENT

After the 2020 US election, the Biden administration took office and began repairing relations between the US and the EU. The main goals set by both entities revolve around green energy and post-COVID pandemic financial repair.

In terms of green energy, both the USA and the EU have set goals to commit to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The relations between the United States and the European Union have focused on trade and financial partnership, specifically in recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. The EU and the US have created recovery plans and invested large sums (\$1.8 million and \$1.9 million, respectively) to restore businesses and social programs in their states and member states. In addition, a Transatlantic Trade and Technology Council was created to maintain consistent and fair trade.

On another note, the European Union's military dependence, which relied heavily on the US and NATO, was shaken by the US's minimal response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and by Trump's foreign policy. In the past few years, member states have started developing their militaries to achieve security independence without the USA. This included purchases of advanced military weapons, including planes, warships, and long-range radars. While the process of militarisation is long and detailed, many believe it to be a false endeavor and that the resources of the EU should focus more on financial and social issues. However, while the EU does have an Article within it to create military cooperation between member states (such as Article 6 of the Treaty of Lisbon), the current major force of defense lies in the inherent protection from Article 5 of NATO and the grand military prowess of the United States of America.

RUSSIAN INFLUENCE

1991-2014

In 1991, the "Iron Curtain" was lifted from Eastern Europe with the dismantling of the USSR. Democratic governments were installed in many of the former members of the USSR, and the European Union's expansion process was discussed and implemented. Russia itself, transitioning from a communist regime to a democratically elected state, found itself in a tricky position. The



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relations between Russia and the rest of the Western world were sour from 40 years of proxy wars and isolationism. Right off the bat, trade between Eastern and Western Europe began to prosper. While countries from the former USSR were beginning to adopt independence, Russia was rebuilding itself as a new global hegemon through two vital exports - natural gas and oil.

As with any other planet, the European Union and its member states must run on energy to maintain ordinary living for its residents. There is no real need to elaborate on the importance of energy consumption. To quickly summarize the procedure through which a particular country can get the energy it needs, here's a handy explanation: countries receive their energy sources by producing them on their soil or importing them from other nations. Energy sources may vary from petroleum (oil) barrels and fossil fuels to renewable energy and nuclear plants. Most countries rely on both methods to sustain steady energy consumption and usage.

Like most other countries on earth, the EU member states rely on producing their energy sources and importing sources from abroad. The EU uses every available resource to create its energy. Different member states utilize their resources, so different countries rely on other resources. Nations such as Cyprus and Malta have access to petroleum, so 87% and 86% (respectively) of their energy consumption is derived from it. Other nations, such as Sweden and Latvia, use renewable energy as their primary power source, with 49% and 40% of energy coming from renewable sources, respectively. France uses nuclear energy, making up 41% of its energy sources. In 2020, the EU produced 42% of its energy resources (a 2% increase from the yearly average due to the Covid 19 outbreak). The remaining 58% of the resources are imported from other countries. The energy sources imported are crude oil, natural gas, and solid fossil fuels.

Russia is the largest exporter of natural gas and crude oil to the EU. In 2021, Russia exported 40% of the gas consumed in the EU and 29% of oil in the EU. Other notable exporters are the United States and Norway (9% and 8%), but neither comes close to Russia's contribution. The dependency rate shows how much an economy relies upon imports to meet its energy needs. Seeing how the EU produces only 42% of its energy resources, the dependency rate is 58%. The dependency rate for the EU is an average of all its member states, ranging from a dependency rate of 90% in nations such as Malta, Cyprus, and Luxembourg to 10% in Estonia. It is to be noted that a combination of a high dependency rate and an importation market relatively controlled by one seller could cause damage if said seller were to present complications.



It is not to be understated that alongside being a leading trade partner, Russia was still invoking feelings of dissonance and alienation from Europe post-fall of the USSR. Vladimir Putin became Russia's prime minister in 1999 and remained so until 2000, returning to the role in 2008 and incarnating it to this day. He has also been the president of Russia from 2000 until the present day, with a four-year gap between 2008-2012. Since taking office, Putin has led Russia in a direction that grinds against many of the democratic and social beliefs of the Western European nations. If the United States can be named a country with a shared basis of values and ideals, Russia has been steering in the opposite direction. While perhaps not showing outright hostility toward one another, Russia slowly but surely alienated itself from the EU regarding economic, social, and military decisions, yet reluctantly retained a shared cultural heritage with many European Nations.

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE (FEB 24TH, 2022 - PRESENT)

During the first half of the 2010s, Ukraine faced a difficult decision on whether to side with Russia or the European Union. Grossly oversimplified, in 2014, a revolution known as the Ukrainian Revolution or the Maidan Revolution ousted the current president, who supported aligning with Russia and placed a new pro-EU government. In response, Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula. Moreover, Russia strengthened paramilitaries (consisting of pro-Russia Ukrainian citizens) in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. The armed conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk continued up until the invasion in 2022 but only involved Ukrainian civilians (with Russian finances and arms).

In 2021, Russia started gathering troops across the border, with Ukraine inching closer to striking a deal with the EU and possibly NATO (a military alliance). On February 21, 2022, Russia recognized the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, two separatist quasi-states. The next day, Russia moved in with armed troops into said regions.

On February 24th, 2022, Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" in the efforts of "demilitarization and denazification" of Ukraine (Putin was on record claiming Ukraine is run by a neo-nazi government). Moments later, aerial strikes were brought down upon Ukraine, and the Invasion of the mainland began. Besides Belarus, the global community immediately condemned the invasion and started acting against Russia and its irredentist and expansionist campaign. While not taking arms and sending forces to Ukraine, the international community took a non-violent economic approach. Western countries have applied limited economic sanctions after Russia's recognition of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR).



After the invasion, the other countries “hopped on the bandwagon” and sanctioned Russia. These limitations and embargos were placed instead of sending soldiers with the intention of financially crippling Russia and forcing it out of Ukraine. These sanctions were placed on both independent Russian companies and the Russian government. The sanctions mainly focused on ceasing all trade with Russia and freezing their assets overseas. While the attempt to financially combat Russia is chivalrous, it left the EU cut off from its main natural gas and crude oil supplier.

THE ENERGY CRISIS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Since the invasion of Ukraine, the EU has placed many sanctions on Russia, the most notable of which is the cutoff of trade with Russia. Being the leading supplier of gas and oil in Europe, the EU found a loophole to refrain from paying Russia while still receiving energy sources they “paid for.” A drastic move made by the USA and the EU was to exempt Russia from SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication), essentially cutting off Russian banks from interacting with banks outside their sovereignty. This cutoff made it so Russia could not convert foreign currencies into Rubles (the Russian money). The lack of ability to exchange currency stacked with complete embargos from the nations of the world left Russia’s profit practically worthless.

In an attempt to combat this blow, Russia declared that the payment method for their gas pipelines would alter from the so-called “compromised” currencies (e.g., Euros and USD) to Rubles. Russia ordered the Central Bank of Russia and Gazprom (a major Russian bank controlling the gas pipelines) not to accept any payment not made with Rubles. Any country refusing to pay in Rubles would be impacted by immediate and substantial ramifications.

The backlash from the Western sanctions was still felt in the Russian economy. EU member states quickly started to find new ways to supply themselves with gas and oil and, while not being utterly viable as substitutes, made up for the short term. Russia realized its demand to be paid in Rubles bore little to no fruit and decided to take on a new approach. On March 31, 2022, Putin signed a decree named Decree 172, which states that purchasers of the Russian pipeline gas must transfer their payments through Gazprombank, a bank owned by Gazprom. While seemingly a small and insignificant gesture, the repercussions changed the playing field regarding Russia earning a profit. Nations purchasing gas from Russia had to pay through Gazprombank, a domestic Russian bank. Once paid, Gazprom would sell the foreign currency on the Moscow Stock Exchange for Rubles. The Ruble would then be deposited back to the Gazprombank account owned by the purchaser



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and only then transferred to the pipeline company (also owned by Gazprom). Gazprombank accounts held on non-Russian soil were almost immediately frozen, while Gazprombank accounts managed to churn in a profit domestically. On April 29th, 2022, the EU announced that paying the pipeline company through means of Decree 172 was not a breach of the sanctions input on Russia.

Since the adoption of Decree 172, the European Union has found itself in a pickle. The EU has to find a solution to cover the amount lost by the cut-off from Russia. Two explanations have been brought up to fight this shortage: replacing Russia with a different central trader or creating a basis of international trade within its borders.

Substituting Russia for a different nation to trade is not as easy as it reads. Not only was Russia a viable trade partner due to its abundance of resources (mainly gas), which fueled the rest of Europe, but the advantage of sharing a continent and borders with the nation also contributed to its convenience. If the EU were to find another suitable trade partner, it would have to look for either a country with vast resources in its immediate vicinity or a nation with the transportation capabilities to maintain such trade. This substitution will not eliminate the inherent problem of relying on another country to exist practically. The most common answer to this question would be China, but we will get to China's relations with the EU and the repercussions of trade with China later.

Option B is the route most member states push for and seems to be the course the EU is taking to combat the energy crisis. Several economic tactics can be implemented to strengthen domestic trade within the EU. Methods such as retail price caps, regulated tariffs, and even capital funding of energy companies were suggested to minimize the damage inflicted on customers and businesses. Another policy aims towards energy reduction in the Union, focusing on energy savings and a transition towards energy already produced within the EU.

In this way, the EU must stretch its resources to stabilize its economy and energy consumption. It is up to you, delegates, to discuss how to combat this shortage. Do you prefer each nation to fend for itself? Should the EU harshen its tariffs to maintain stability or minimize its usage of self-produced energy? Can the EU survive without another trade partner to cooperate with?



CHINESE INFLUENCE

1945-1991

As World War 2 ended, the Cold War began to set in, and influential “camps” began to form. While one could say that China would reside in the communist camp alongside the USSR, that would not be entirely correct. Mao Zedong and his Great Leap Forward campaign would carry the People’s Republic of China to a more industrialized and communist nation. China still opted for a somewhat secluded approach to the Cold War. China did aid the Soviet Union in several conflicts during the Cold War, yet it never became a part of the Soviet bloc, nor did it try to penetrate Europe and install communist ideals.

The first contact between this new China and the European Union was in 1979, following the formation and first election of the European Parliament (one of the EU’s legislative bodies). However, following the massacre in Tiananmen Square in 1989, the EU placed an arms embargo on China, one that has yet to be removed and still holds effect.

In 1990, nearing the dismantling of the USSR, China began repairing relations with the rest of the globe, yet paid little focus to the EU. China focused on improving its relations with the United States (the “winner” of the war) and with significant nations neighboring them and sharing influential geographic residences (i.e., Japan, Korea, India). While perhaps not the main attraction for diplomats and politicians, European businesspeople began to take great interest in China and its economic potential. EU-Chinese trade increased faster than the Chinese economy, tripling in ten years from US\$14.3 billion in 1985 to US\$45.6 billion in 1994.

1991-2023

After the Cold War, China became a relatively new member of the global community. Trade and investment made by European businessmen helped China thrive, and its economy boomed. China retained a rather anti-US political approach but preserved growing trade between the USA and the EU. The EU kept this relationship with China to continue business and set aside political differences. In 2001, China reduced its outspoken dialect towards the United States to appease the EU and have it removed the embargo placed in 1985. Pressure from the much more influential US pushed the EU to keep the ban intact, thus branding the EU as “weak” and “dependent” from the Chinese perspective.



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Trade between China and the EU continued throughout the decades, and in 2013, the EU composed a formal agreement that would help regulate and protect EU investments in China from domestic influence and vice versa. The Comprehensive Agreement on Investments (CAI) was drafted by the European Parliament and was proposed to the EU that same year. The main goal of the CAI was to protect FDI (Foreign Direct Investments) in China and Europe. In addition, the CAI creates transparency between the EU and China in terms of their FDIs and their treatments. The need for such an agreement became increasingly apparent with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) taken by China spreading to European countries and member states of the EU. Exceptionally briefly, the BRI is a business model Chinese businesses adopt to integrate FDIs into a country's economy and become a crucial and irreplaceable part of said country. Countries such as Greece and Hungary have used China's help in their economies and now find themselves where they depend on China's corporations and cannot survive without their support. With that said, the CAI is meant to protect both the FDIs within the EU and the FDIs within China. As of today, the CAI has not been signed due to pressure from the EU.

The trade between the EU and China came to a head with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Since Russia was the EU's leading trading partner and the aggressor in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the EU decided to make a drastic move and cut trading ties with Russia. The EU prioritizes its values, as seen with the arms embargo on China, and does not fear sacrificing financial gains to condemn acts of human rights abuse (remember this sentence; it'll come into play later). Once the European Union cut trade with Russia, China became the number one trading partner with the EU.

2023-PRESENT DAY

The current situation puts the EU in a tricky position. On the one hand, the EU must strengthen ties with China to make up for lost profits from the departure from Russia, yet on the other hand, China is becoming a more and more difficult partner to trade with. China poses two significant issues the EU must tackle before investing even more money and diplomatic partnership with said nation.

The first of these issues is China's immediate influence over some member states and non-aligned European nations. The BRI and other Chinese FDIs plague Europe and, while profitable for the member states and China, hold the state hostage financially from developing independently and growing out of the Chinese dependency. The CAI protects these member states from Chinese



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hostility in these FDI's and separates the Chinese government from Chinese businesses (the same can be said for Chinese investments in EU territory).

The second issue China poses is the EU's ethical dilemma against China. China has faced severe backlash from many Western countries on various topics within its borders. The treatment of the Uyghurs in work, reeducation, and indoctrination camps, as well as the human rights violations in Taiwan and Hong Kong, create a situation in which the EU must trade with a country that directly violates EU values. As we established previously, the EU does not tolerate association with countries that oppose or ignore the democratic or humane values held by the EU. With that said, the EU can't necessarily afford to lose China as an economic partner. The loss of Russia puts the EU in a state where it needs to latch on to China to sustain itself financially, at least until the EU revises its economy to be more EU-centered or revolves around another trading partner. The CAI is currently frozen due to pressure from the EU on China to cease its violations.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can the European Council ensure that member states' sovereignty is preserved while navigating the complexities of global politics?
2. What measures can be taken to protect the autonomy of EU countries in the face of external pressures from global powers?
3. How can EU member states diversify their economies to reduce dependency on global powers for trade and investment?
4. What regional economic initiatives within the EU can help strengthen financial independence and resilience?
5. How can the European Council enhance the political resilience of member states against foreign interference and influence?
6. How can the EU promote democratic values and institutions within and outside its borders to counterbalance global powers?
7. What role can the European Union play in bolstering collective security among member states in response to potential threats from global powers?
8. How can the European Council utilize soft power, cultural and educational exchanges, and diplomatic initiatives to strengthen ties between EU member states and uphold shared European values to counterbalance the influence of global powers?



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9. What cybersecurity measures should EU member states adopt to protect themselves from cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns orchestrated by global powers?
10. How can the EU collectively respond to cyber threats while respecting member states' sovereignty in managing their national security?
11. How can regional alliances within the EU, such as the Visegrad Group or the Nordic Council, be strengthened to address global power influence collectively?
12. What diplomatic efforts can EU member states undertake together to increase their bargaining power in global negotiations?
13. What areas of cooperation can EU member states explore to proactively counter emerging threats to sovereignty, such as hybrid warfare and economic coercion?
14. How can the European Council facilitate collaboration among member states in implementing effective strategies?
15. How can the EU engage with multiple global powers to create a balanced and cooperative international environment?

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