



New European Perspectives - Brexit: The End of a New Beginning

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Abstract: Since the establishment of the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community in 1951) to the present day, the European Union has not faced such a situation, leaving a Member State in the European sphere, which is why Brexit is a new phenomenon. I can say that it is a new project, and we can see that it is a new process, that of disintegration, in which a state no longer wants to be part of the EU, on the contrary, it wants to leave the European circle. It is intended to be ordered by various separation provisions in order to prevent disruption and to provide legal certainty to the citizens of the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Keywords: European Coal and Steel Community; EU; UK; Brexit

Introduction

If so far there has been talk of European integration processes, I will bring up the processes of leaving the EU and the steps that the United Kingdom of Great Britain has taken, the new phenomenon, that of disintegration and de-Europeanisation. This phenomenon is a first that may or may not set a precedent, depending on the result and the effects felt by the two parties following the separation.

Since the establishment of the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community in 1951) to the present day, the European Union has not faced such a situation, leaving a

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Member State in the European sphere, which is why Brexit is a new phenomenon. I can say that it is a new project, and we can see that it is a new process, that of disintegration, in which a state no longer wants to be part of the EU, on the contrary, it wants to leave the European circle.

It is intended to be ordered by various separation provisions in order to prevent disruption and to provide legal certainty to the citizens of the European Union and the United Kingdom.

But have you wondered what the future of the European Union will look like? What will the European Union's sanctions on the UK impose on Brexit? How are the policies of the European Union affected after the UK's exit from the EU and what are the negotiations on the territorial sphere and future agreements? What changes will there be for Article 50 TEUs? What partnerships will exist between the two spheres? Is this a new phenomenon, that of de-Europeanisation? What will the EU look like with 27 Member States and how will they face the new challenges? What are the steps to leave the EU and what will the new partnerships be? If the EU is left with 27 Member States, then will the future of Europe be different?

What is the European Union?

The EU is not a state, but a common and unique partnership between several European countries, called 'Member States', currently only 27 Member States. Citizens have the same single currency: the euro, they have a single market, a single history, but a common culture. Since the summer of 2016 one of these states, namely the United Kingdom has decided to leave the EU. Until the withdrawal process was completed, the UK was a member of the EU, with the same rights and obligations as the other Member States and was the 28th EU Member State.

The EU is an important global player, an extremely good player globally on the following areas: economy, foreign policy, negotiations, common security, conflict resolution, trade, defence, all of which fulfil a complementary role. Why do they say that the EU is an important player? Because it is stronger globally, at the diplomatic level it promotes stability, security, democracy, the rule of law, being challenged and responding effectively to the challenges it faces.

The aim is to promote peace, security, unity, fundamental freedoms and prosperity at the world, global, international level.

European Values and Principles are common to all EU citizens and Member States: inclusion, transparency, codes of conduct, language regime, equality and non-discrimination, security, environmental impact, cohesion. In addition, human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, human rights are added, all of which form the basis for the formation and formation of the EU through the Treaty of Lisbon and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The objective was to promote peace, the well-being of citizens, which happened in 2012 as a reward, the EU received a Nobel Peace Prize, reconciliation, democracy, and human rights in Europe.¹²

All these EU-specific characteristics encompass and describe how pacifist this continent is, how beautifully it has evolved over time and how it has managed to maintain harmony and peace for a long time. But as time went on, there was also some discontent from some states, and the first state to decide to leave the European bloc was the United Kingdom.

Fundamental Objectives of the EU

For a state to become a member of the EU, a European country must meet these conditions: respect human rights, be democratic and have a functionable market economy. The EU's main objective is to promote peace, equal prosperity, freedom, democracy, safety, citizens' well-being, economic consolidation, cultural and linguistic diversity, a euro economic and monetary union.³ According to the 2016 Referendum, British citizens opted to leave the European circle.

Thus, the EU aims to promote peace, well-being, to provide freedom for citizens, to provide security without borders, to ensure sustainable development with balanced economic growth, to protect the environment, to strengthen social and economic cohesion and to promote the well-being of citizens.⁴ That is why the EU cannot resist the desire set by the United Kingdom.

¹ Official page of the European Commission, European Values Section, https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles_ro, accessed on 16.10.2020.

² Official page of the European Commission, EU section in a nutshell – EU objectives and values, https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_ro, accessed on 16.10.2020.

³ Union European, the EU Short, https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_ro, Accessed 03.04.2019.

⁴ Union European, the EU Short, https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_ro, Accessed 03.04.2019.

Europeanisation

To begin with, it is necessary to define the terms with which I will operationalize during this work. The first term is '*Europeanisation*', which is the most common term used in integration theories of recent years and is defined as a general process of European integration, in which it concerns the new Member States of the European Union, in particular the gradual takeover of the political, economic, social, governance and *acquis communautaire* prevailing in the European Union. (Angheloiu & Bărbulescu, 2015) Europeanisation implies the existence of a political entity, such as the European Council or the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This process concerns how the EU institutions are understood, they are perceived differently by the new states, and there is also a discrepancy between the Western and Eastern European states. Europeanisation is the social, political, cultural economic harmonisation with the political center of the Union. (Institute European Union Romania, 2005, pp. 10-12)

The Olsen theorist defines Europeanisation as a process of exporting EU forms of government and relations with global actors. (Olsen, 2014, p. 10) On the other hand, Haas assumes that all actors belong to several national frameworks and political expectations are a new centre of power. Others consider Europeanisation to be the internal impact of institutions from European to national level (Ladresch, 1994, pp. 69-75). Europeanisation can mean the emergence and development of new structures at European level, political, legal, social institutions, to solve political problems between actors and networks of new policies with the aim of binding European rules (Cowles & Caporaso, 2001, p. 3).

The term "Europeanization" was explained from the perspective of neo-functionalism in the 1980s, and ten years later researchers talked about this concept from the perspective of intergovernmentalism, but after the 2000s this concept is increasingly common in political science and communication (Wedge, 2014, p. 19). Papathanassopoulos & Negrine (2011) proposed the concept of "EU-isation". (Papathanassopoulos & Negrine, 2011, p. 20) Europeanisation means the unification and construction of the European Union, the harmonization of the institutions and the creation of a common European culture.

Moreover, Europeanisation is seen as an institutionalisation at European level of national governance systems, giving them the opportunity to jointly adopt and implement decisions. Thus, Europeanisation is a phenomenon of including organisational capacity for joint action and developing a common idea, in terms of nationality and quality of a Member State. (Jumara, 2020) By this term we mean the development of the EU institutions, in particular the European Parliament and the construction of a collective leadership centre, just as it is now, when the EP developed an online platform at European level and distributed it in each Member State so that all European citizens are informed and participate in the vote during the European elections of 23-26 May 2019.

Europeanisation is developed in political science, based on the theory of international relations, later becoming a concept with a wide range encompassing area such as: economic, political, institutional, symbolic. This concept, that of Europeanisation, is used in the context of society, but also in the political system, being a phenomenon of enlargement and political integration of the EU. According to Bărbulescu, Europeanisation means the edification and spread of rules, principles and beliefs related to the impact of the European political system. Europeanisation means the unification and construction of the European bloc. In other words, it is Europeanisation that takes the multilateral decisions of some states, based on principles and rules of public and private, domestic, and international law. Europeanisation involves the division of power at different stages of the governance of European states. Another form of Europeanisation is that of political development, with the aim of a united and strong Europe from a political, economic, and social point of view. The process of Europeanisation is also seen as a political and distinct entity. Sovereign states are united under one and only political space, with a functioning system of government: the European Union. As can be seen, there are many opinions and definitions on the Europeanisation process, being irreversible, with Europe becoming stronger, more united. (Beciu, 2010, p. 194; Bărbulescu, 2015, p. 547; Jumara, 2020)

The idealistic theory refers to internationalist liberalism, in which one of the liberal principles is: the interest of the rule of law prevails. In this case, the interest of the United Kingdom is determined by certain internal factors (Miroiu & Ungureanu, 2006, p. 145). The international society must, however, reorganize and restructure itself in order for anarchy to be eliminated. International liberals believe that peace, well-being, and justice are acquired through international cooperation, namely, accepting new moral norms, respecting international laws and collaborating through international organizations. From a liberal point of view, the interests of states can be changing and multiple, which tend to meet their own needs.

Therefore, this possible new concept in the international field, that of Europeanisation, is being used in the context of society, but also in the political system, being a phenomenon of enlargement and political integration of the EU. According to (Bărbulescu, 2015, p. 547) Europeanisation means the edification and spread of rules, principles and beliefs related to the impact of the European political system. Europeanisation means the unification and construction of the European bloc. Based on the theories of Europeanisation, I can say that one of the European members no longer wanted to respect these European principles. A Brexit-style

process can drive states away from the values of European democracy, affecting interaction with other state actors, risking a domino or snowball effect, in which other states will want to leave the EU, especially since the EU has never faced such an event before, being something new. The potential contributions to the development of this research are to monitor and monitor the decisions of the European Commission and the European Council on the Brexit case, the consequences to come, but especially the negotiations, new partnerships and how the future of the EU is affected, and what are the new threats at European level. The Commission reminds us that it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to prepare for all possible scenarios.

So the concept of Europeanisation is a broadly defined one, having multiple meanings, being used in various contexts such as: the Europeanisation of domestic policy through the influence of Brussels, the Europeanisation of society, the political system, Community policies, the process of enlargement, institutionalisation, the dissemination of rules, values and principles related to the Community political system (Bărbulescu, 2009, p. 345).

This concept, that of Europeanisation, is used in the context of society, but also in the political system, being a phenomenon of enlargement and political integration of the EU. According to Bărbulescu, Europeanisation means the edification and spread of rules, principles and beliefs related to the impact of the European political system (Bărbulescu, 2015, p. 547).

Comparing the period now and before Brexit, we can see some changes and effects at European level. *“The accession of a State to the European Union shall be accompanied by the process of Europeanisation of the whole area of the new territorial entity.”* In other words, the new EU Member State is undergoing changes in national policy, but also in the internal institutional framework, stating that it may be a theory of de-Europeanisation, triggering a domino effect. Even after leaving the European circle, there will be partnerships and the future will be different. If so far there has been talk of European integration processes, I will bring up the processes of leaving the EU and the steps that the United Kingdom of Great Britain has taken, the new phenomenon, that of disintegration and de-Europeanisation. This phenomenon is a first that may or may not set a precedent, depending on the final result and the effects felt by the two parties following the separation (Feather, 2014, p. 11).

Following the invocation of Article 50 TEU, a new agreement was to be negotiated, which had to be finalised by 29 March 2019. These negotiations have been extended

and there is a transit period. The transit period took its toll, and after long negotiations, on 31 January 2020 the UK left the EU, following the transition period and the establishment of new external partnerships.

Building on the theories of Europeanisation and following the phenomenon of Brexit, I can say that this is a possible new process of des-Europeanisation, a phenomenon new to European level that can create negative effects on the European bloc, risking a domino effect where other EU Member States would like to leave the EU. As early as 29 March 2017, following the result of a referendum in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ('the United Kingdom') and its sovereign decision to leave the European Union, the United Kingdom wanted to withdraw from the European Union (the 'Union') and the European Atomic Energy Community in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. Following the invocation of Article 50 TEU, a new agreement was to be negotiated, which had to be finalised by 29 March 2019, an agreement that no longer appears to be finalised. The first step was to formally notify the UK's intention to leave the European Union. According to Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union (TEU), negotiations to determine the terms of withdrawal of the UK may take up to two years. Thus, on 30 March 2019 – during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU – UK was to become a third country vis-à-vis the EU, but the transit period was extended. In accordance with Article 50 TEU, in conjunction with Article 106a of the Euratom Treaty and subject to the conditions laid down in this Agreement, Union and Euratom law shall cease in full to the United Kingdom from the date of entry into force of this Agreement.¹

Brexit

Brexit means leaving the UK's UK from the European Union following an advisory referendum organised by David Cameron on 23.06.2016, where 51.9% expressed their opinion, opting to leave, while 48.1% opted to remain in the EU. The British Prime Minister did not want to take England out of the European sphere, having political dispute with party members.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 17.10.2019 the United Kingdom and the European Union signed an Agreement to withdraw the United Kingdom from

¹ European Commission, "*Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community*", Official Journal of the European Union, 2019/C144/01 of 25.04.2019

the EU, which entered into force from 1 February 2020 and allowed the transit period until 31 December 2020. During this period, numerous negotiations on future relations have been started. Thus, the end of the transit period has led to numerous changes, such as: the travel regime of Romanian citizens in the United Kingdom, the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, the partnership between the EU and the United Kingdom, changes in the economy, customs, transport and authorisations, justice and home affairs, etc.¹

Even if the European *acquis* has continued to be preserved or the rights and obligations specific to THE EU Member States have been respected, it is the citizens who suffer with these regulations.²

Thus, at the end of this year, on 31 December 2020, the transitional period for the process of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU was completed, meaning that EU law is no longer valid in the territory of that country, officially called a third country.

Des-Europeanization

If so far there has been talk of the process of Europeanisation, after the United Kingdom has decided to leave the European Union, it seems that we can bring up a new process: that of des-Europeanisation, that when a state wants to leave the European Union, to abandon the system of common governance, to become a third, independent state, governing itself according to its own rules. Otherwise, we can say that through this process, the United Kingdom of Great Britain renounces the multilateral decisions of the EU Member States, renounces the political entity, European unity and integrity, choosing to separate itself from the rest of the European states. So, you can see how solidarity and unity no longer appear in this process.

Leaving the UK of the EU is closely linked to the process of des-Europeanisation. As mentioned above, des-Europeanisation means the reorganization of the state, territory and nation, being a third state. This process is carried out according to the indications and negotiations conducted over time in Brussels, or London, being in line with the requirements

¹ Official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, section Brexit, <https://www.mae.ro/brexit>, accessed on 13 December 2020

² Official page of the Romanian Government, section Brexit, <http://brexit.gov.ro/1/brexit-elemente-generale/>, site accessed on 1.12.2020

of each EU Member State, being a complex and lengthy process. So, the first former EU member to leave the EU was and is the United Kingdom.

Des-Europeanisation can be seen as a des-institutionalisation at European level, providing the opportunity to adopt national decisions separately, independently. There is no longer a focus on the inclusion of organisational capacity for a joint action, no longer emphasis on the development of common, collective ideas, but it is all about individualism, nationalism. This new process can be developed in the field of political science, based on the theory of international relations, later becoming a concept with a wide range. This new concept can be used in the political, economic, social context, meaning separation from the European bloc, where decisions will no longer be taken multilaterally, and there is no longer the edification and spread of European rules. Des-Europeanisation means the division of the European bloc, with the aim of a weaker Europe from a political, economic and social point of view. States are no longer united under a single political space, with a functioning system of government, becoming third states. Of course, there may be many definitions of this new process. If the process of Europeanisation was regarded as irreversible, it seems that this is not the case, and the reality has been different. It seems that in the future, the EU will become a weaker, more divided political actor, or maybe not, it will be the other way around. What is certain is that the term European construction has contributed to the increase in the intensity of interdependencies between states, based on commercial, economic, social and cultural relations.

This possible new term can be widely defined, with multiple meanings, opposed to the process of integration and Europeanisation.

Brief History

The United Kingdom joined the EU in 1973, together with Denmark and Ireland, namely on 1 January 1973. Any new member had to comply with EU-imposed legislation and adopt it, in accordance with regulations, to respect fundamental principles and freedoms, respect for human rights and fundamental freedom, but above all the principles of the rule of law.¹

The idea of this European project has been and continues to be unity, close cooperation between European countries, even if a state wanted to leave the EU, as the collaborative relations between the EU and the UK will continue.

¹ European Commission, “*EU&EU Manual*”, Directorate-General for Communication Information of Citizens, Luxembourg, 2017, p. 12.

The European Union is increasingly becoming an increasingly important global player, offering the chance for all Member States to develop politically, socially, economically and culturally. Under the Treaty of Rome of 1957, Article 237, every European country has the right to become a member of the European Community. It was subsequently strengthened by the Maastricht Treaty of 1992, in which states are forced to demonstrate that they can be 'European' (Costea & Costea, 2007, p. 71).

As regards the Central and Eastern European states, following the criteria established in Copenhagen in 1993, the new Member States wishing to join the EU had to meet certain conditions and criteria for accession, and the commitments made by the new States had to be in line with the new Union policies. The decision-making process of accession considers the values of a democratic society, in which democracy must be broad, active, encompassing the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual/state, but also the cultural context. So, most European states are concerned about the issue of democracy. However, the UK wanted to disregard these European values by choosing to leave the EU.

Instead, as far as the role of Europeans is concerned, it is to build and strengthen common identity in international relations. In other news, on the process of leaving and withdrawing the United Kingdom, I can say that it is and has been a very short, fast one compared to the long accession process that other European states have had.

It all started at 23 June 2016, when Britons opted to leave the European Union, as follows: 51.9% voted to leave the EU and 48.1% voted to keep their country in the European Community bloc. Following this result, the British Government initiated the withdrawal procedures from the European Union on 29 March 2017 in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Thus, I would like to carry out research on this subject, to find out what the new European perspectives are.

Europe is a place where freedom, peace and stability dominate in a world full of political, economic, social divisions and differences. On 26 June 2016 a referendum was held in the United Kingdom entitled Brexit in which British citizens wanted to cast their vote in favour of or against their exit from the European sphere, which is why in March 2017 the European Council was announced by the British's intention to leave the European Union.

Both the European Union and the United Kingdom have an interest in establishing a period of transit or implementation of arrangements, during which all the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union regarding the United Kingdom's participation in Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, union law, including international

agreements, will be considered in order to avoid disturbances during the period of negotiations and agreements on future relations.

In short, a brief chronological summary of the important stages of the Brexit process is presented, according to the European Council¹:

- 23 June 2016 - Referendum: British citizens voted to leave the European Union;
- 24 June 2016: STATEMENTS by EU leaders on the outcome of the UK election;
- 28 June 2016: The European Council explained the situation in the United Kingdom;
- 29 June 2016: informal meeting with the 27 EU Heads of State;
- 8 September 2016: meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May;
- 2 October 2016: application of Article 50 until the end of March 2017;
- 15 December 2016: the first round of negotiations takes place;
- 21 March 2017: convening the European Brexit Council for 29 April 2017;
- 29 March 2017: The United Kingdom formally invoked Article 50 to leave the EU;
- 31 March 2017: Draft guidelines for negotiations have been published;
- 6 April 2017: meeting in London between CUE President Donald Tusk and Prime Minister Theresa May;
- 29 April 2017: first Official Art.50 Trigger Summit;
- 3 May 2017: European Commission recommends draft Brexit negotiating directives;
- 22 May 2017: decision is taken to authorise the start of Brexit negotiations;
- 19-20 June 2017: has their first round of negotiations between the EU (chief negotiator Michel Barnier) and the UK;
- 22 July 2017: the second round of negotiations between the EU and the UNITED Kingdom begins;
- 31 August 2017: third round of negotiations takes place;

¹ Official page of the Council of the European Union, section “Negotiations between the EU and the United Kingdom on future relations”, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/ro/policies/eu-uk-after-referendum/>, revised on 31.12.2020, accessed on 4.01.2021

- 28 September 2017: fourth round of negotiations begins;
- 12 October 2017: round five of negotiations begins;
- 20 October 2017: start-ups for internal preparation for the second stage of negotiations are established;
- 10 November 2017: sixth round of negotiations begins;
- 15 December 2017: progress on the progress of the Brexit negotiations;
- 9 February 2018: the seventh round of negotiations between the EU and the United Kingdom took place;
- 28 February 2018: Draft withdrawal agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom;
- 7 March 2018: Draft guidelines on the framework for relations with the United Kingdom after Brexit;
- 19 March 2018: Partial agreement between EU negotiators and the United Kingdom on the text for the withdrawal agreement;
- 23 March 2018: guidelines for the relationship with the UK after Brexit are adopted (art.50);
- 19 June 2018: Joint Statement on progress in spring 2018;
- 19-20 September 2018: Informal meeting in Salzburg;
- 25 November 2018: Extraordinary meeting of the European Council (art.50);
- 11 January 2019: Council Decision on the signing of the Withdrawal Agreement;
- 14 January 2019: exchange of letters between President Tusk and Juncker and May;
- 7 February 2019: Tusk and May agreed to continue discussions;
- 11 March 2019: Strasbourg Agreement between the European Commission and the United Kingdom;
- 20 March 2019: The UK sends a request for an extension of the Brexit deadline;
- 22 March 2019: Formal decision on extending the deadline for Brexit;
- 29 March 2019: Convening a Summit on 10 April 2019 on Brexit;
- 5 April 2019: The United Kingdom calls for an additional extension;
- 10 April 2019: EU leaders agree to postpone Brexit until 31 October;

- 21 June 2019: European Council meeting – EU27 leaders address Brexit issues;
- 17 October 2019: a negotiating agreement has been reached;
- 19 October 2019: The UK sends a request for an extension of the Brexit deadline;
- 21 October 2019: The Council of the EU takes the first official step towards concluding the withdrawal agreement;
- 29 October 2019: European Council extends deadline for Brexit;
- 13 December 2019: EU leaders prepare for post-Brexit negotiations;
- 22 January 2020: EU27 leaders approve principles for transparency in post-Brexit negotiations;
- 24 January 2020: The Withdrawal Agreement is signed by the EU;
- 29 January 2020: The European Parliament approves the Brexit agreement;
- 30 January 2020: The Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by the EU;
- 31 January 2020: The UK leaves the EU.

Conclusions

Even if an agreement has been reached between the two powers, there are some outstanding issues to be finalised. The British will realize that their economy will shrink. Even though Britain aspires to become a great power in the 21st century, the European Union has shown over the four years of negotiations that the other 27 Member States have not been divided, separated from the common European objective, remaining one voice. One of the characteristics of the EU is that it is based on internal European negotiation, with common principles. This Brexit phenomenon will have consequences felt on both sides for a long time to come. Perhaps in the future, the EU and England will be able to cooperate effectively and face the global challenges that will follow, not only to their political interests, also to consider the environment, citizens and the common good, in order to maintain peace in the world, without wars or conflicts. The fact is that a new concept is born: that of Des-Europeanisation and the process of des-integrations already being finalized. This process is a first that may or may not set a precedent, depending on the final outcome and the effects felt by the two parties following the separation. I can say that it is a new phenomenon, and we can see that it is a new process, that of disintegration, in which a state no longer wants to be part of the EU, on the contrary, it wants to leave

the European circle.

Thus, both the European Union and the United Kingdom have an interest in establishing a transitional period or implementation of arrangements during which all the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union with regard to the participation of the United Kingdom in Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, Union law, including international agreements, will be taken into account in order to avoid disturbances during the period of negotiations and agreements on future relations. Even after leaving the European circle, there will be partnerships and the future will be different, as has been noted.

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