

Future of Europe: 5 scenarios

Scenario 1: Carrying on

In this scenario, the EU sticks to its course, implementing and upgrading its current agenda. The focus is on jobs, growth and investment by strengthening the single market/single currency; and on the fight against terrorism. The speed of decision-making relies on Member States' capacity to overcome differences of views to achieve long-term priorities.

Scenario 2: Nothing but the single market

The European Union is gradually re-centred on the single market. In this scenario the EU cannot agree to do more in many policy areas, but it increasingly focuses on deepening certain key aspects of the single market. There is no shared resolve to work more together in areas such as migration, security or defense.

Scenario 3: Those who want more do more

This scenario proposes the idea of a “2-speed Europe”, with enhanced cooperation between Member States who want to do more in specific areas, such as defense, security, or social matters, and with the possibility for other Members to join at a later stage. In this scenario, the rights of EU citizens vary depending on whether they live in a country that has chosen to do more or not.

Scenario 4: Doing less more efficiently

To increase effectiveness, the focus is reduced to a limited number of areas to be agreed by the EU, such as innovation, trade, migration, where the EU can have more added value. Citizens’ rights derived from EU law are strengthened in areas where we choose to do more and reduced elsewhere. This scenario results in a clearer division of responsibilities, but increased difficulties in agreeing on prioritization.

Scenario 5: Doing much more together

In this scenario there is consensus that neither the EU as it is, nor European countries on their own, are well-equipped enough to face the challenges of today. The Member States commit to deepen the social and economic basis of the EU27 by sharing more power, resources and decision-making with greater coordination in fiscal, social and tax matters. Citizens have more rights derived from EU law, but there is an increased risk of scepticism towards the legitimacy of the EU vis a vis national authorities.

- ✓ **What are the Pros and Cons of each scenario?**
- ✓ **What is your preferred scenario?**
- ✓ **Make a sketch reflecting your thoughts on how European citizens' life will be under your preferred scenario.**