



Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

**CONTENT:**

Editorial.....	page 1
Evaluation of 3rd HOMER seminar.....	page 2-3
European Council Meeting.....	page 4
Preparation for the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties.....	page 5
A new building called EUROPA.....	page 6
Jean Claude and the 5 scenarios.....	page 7



## WELCOME

Dear readers,

*the reflection on the past and future of the European Union is attracting growing interest both in daily politics as well as in the academic world. While the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Rome treaties and the opening of the new Europa building (replacing the Justus Lipsius building) as the seat of the EU council offered primarily a frame for considering the achievements of European integration, the ongoing debates about the Brexit and European*

*Commission's "White Paper on the Future of Europe" contributed intensively in the past months to the conflicts of Europe's prospects.*

*The HOMER project is taking up these different incentives and explores continuously the debate about the different narratives on European integration. The third HOMER seminar that took place in the winter term 2016/17 dealt in particular with the Lisbon treaty and its impact for shaping current Europe's narratives. This HOMER newsletter presents a short feedback on the third seminar*

*and informs as well about the most recent activities and developments at the European level in this respect. We cordially invite all persons interested in the project to have a closer look – the website offers further information at [www.eu-homer.eu](http://www.eu-homer.eu)*

*On behalf of the HOMER team  
Juergen Mittag*

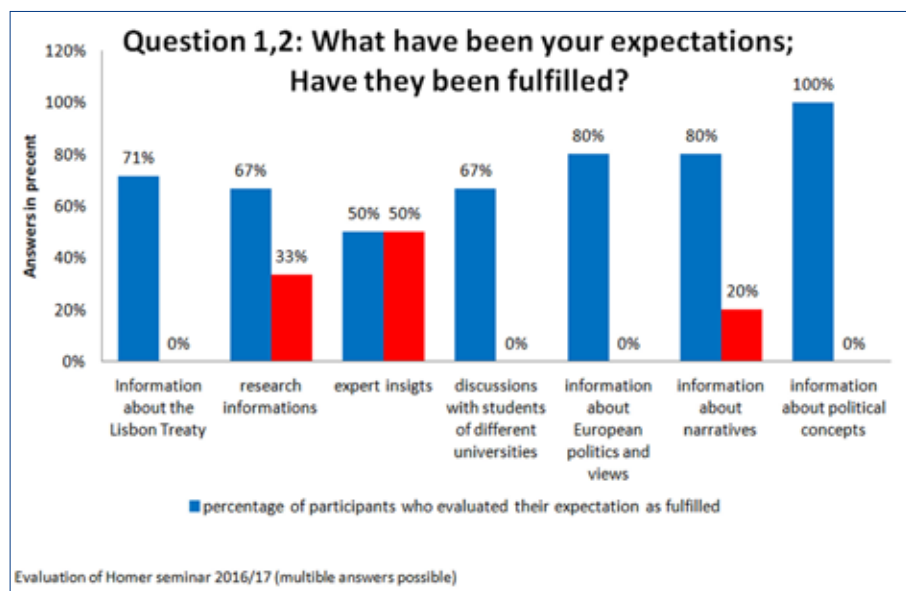
# Completion of the third HOMER-seminar on European Integration (2016/2017)

Hanna Kramer / Lisa Röseler / Jürgen Mittag

The HOMER project has just passed another important milestone with the completion of the third joint seminar on “The Lisbon Summit and European Narratives”. After exploring the Hague summit 1969 and the Maastricht summit 1991 as well as related constitutional changes the third seminar shed light on the Lisbon treaty and its summits. The seminar was organized by German Sport Uni-versity Cologne, the University of Maastricht and the University of Köln again in five subsequent steps: After the opening session in Cologne in October 2016 with primarily theoretical and topic-related content, a meeting in Brussels in November 2016 offered the frame for in-depth debates with experts and intense research on relevant material and sources (newspaper articles, archival material, memoirs, academic interpretations, interviews etc.). Two sessions in-between were held at the respective universities in order to discuss individual questions before the final HOMER meeting in January 2017 took place in Cologne again. The students presented their findings and discussed the offers and constraints of narratives on the European Union.

After the seminar the students have been asked on a voluntary basis to participate in an evaluation of the third HOMER seminar. The students gave a generally positive reflection of the seminar and expressed that they were pleased with the seminar and its contents. However, a closer look at expectations and evaluation showed severe disparities. Being asked for the reasons why they decided to participate in the HOMER project: 41 % of the students anticipated more and detailed information about the Lisbon Treaty while just 29 % of students were primarily interested in the different European views and narratives. Nearly all of them (94 %) regarded their respective expectations as fulfilled.

interaction with different lectures were most helpful; others also mentioned the introduction in research or narratives as useful. However, the student’s presentations were seen by nearly half of the participants as critically (47%). Generally positively rated (88 %) was the support and the literature provided by experts and teachers. Several students highlighted in this context the video material that has been provided, in particular the Danish documentation “Alles Bandiden” that has been broadcasted in 2003 on the occasion accession negotiations. Yet 12 % of the students were critical and wished to get more detailed information about alternative ways of finding literature for their studies.



76 % of the participants evaluated the interaction with students from different universities as positive. “Something that should be done more often” is an exemplary statement that has been given in this perspective. Although the exchange in general was considered as encouraging, there was also criticism

linked to the “coordination of discussion”, which “took too long” or the “different level of knowledge about politics and the EU”, which influenced the quality of contributions.

In addition to the seminar contents the different methodological and didactical elements were evaluated. 52 % of the students stated that the

linked to the “coordination of discussion”, which “took too long” or the “different level of knowledge about politics and the EU”, which influenced the quality of contributions.

For further information see:

Improvements have also been proposed regarding the number of experts (29%) or the implementation of additional meetings (17 %) between Brussels and the final seminar in order to get a more detailed feedback

on the research that has been carried out in the meantime. The overall assessment at the end of the evaluation revealed remarks such as “great extracurricular seminar”, “interesting seminar”, “nice atmosphere”,

“I would always chose to participate again”, thanks for this opportunity (...) to deepening our knowledge” that underline the relevance of the HOMER project and the approach.

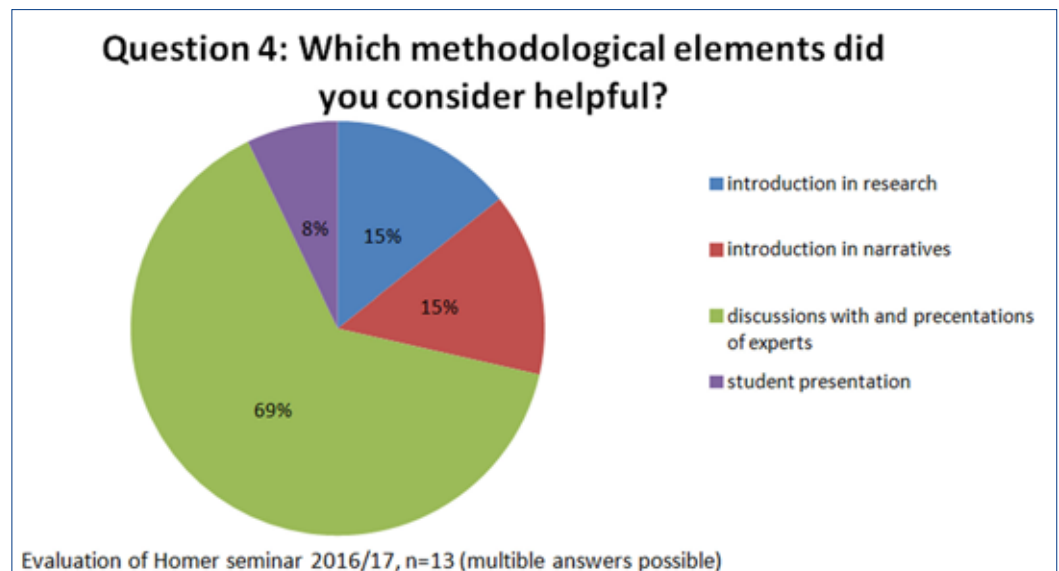


Figure 2: Question 4: Which methodological and didactical elements can be considered as particularly helpful?

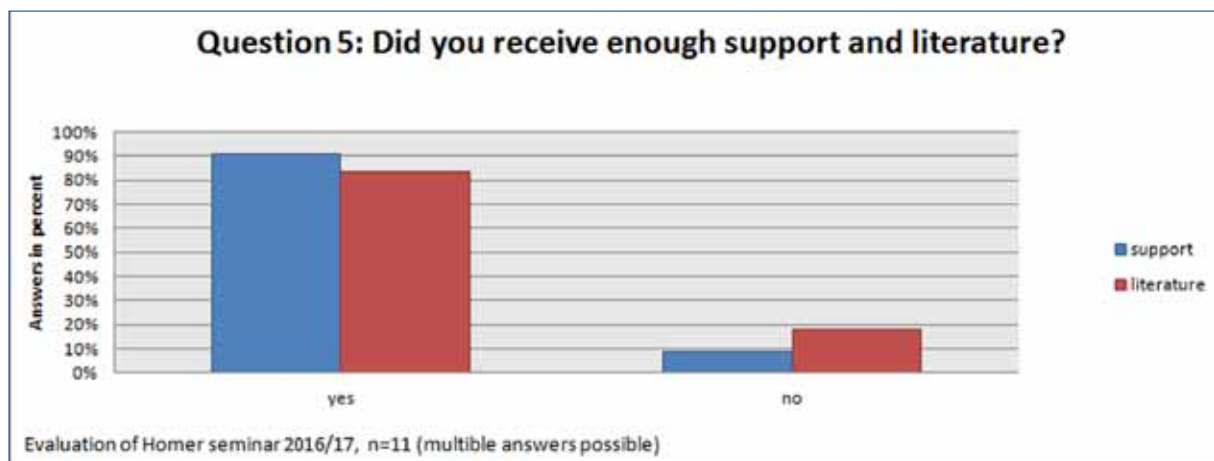


Figure 3: Did you receive enough support and information during the seminar?

This Newsletter is published and produced by the Institute of European Sport Development and Leisure Studies. If you have ideas for ways to improve it, suggestions for articles or if you want to subscribe, please contact: Till Müller-Schoell: [t.mueller-schoell@dshs-koeln.de](mailto:t.mueller-schoell@dshs-koeln.de)

Realisation: Lisa Röseler

Responsibility: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mittag

For further information see:

[eu-homer.eu](http://eu-homer.eu)

[dshs-koeln.de/iesf](http://dshs-koeln.de/iesf)

[jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de](http://jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de)

[mceg-maastricht.eu](http://mceg-maastricht.eu)

## European Council Meeting, 09-10 March 2017

At their most recent meeting EU leaders looked at a number of the most pressing issues, including the reelection of the president, economy, security and migration.

**Election of the President:** The European Council re-elected Donald Tusk as its President for a second term of two and a half years. He was also re-appointed as President of the Euro Summit. The European Council decided to come back, later this year, to the process, criteria and balances needed regarding high-level appointments for the next institutional cycle.

### Jobs, growth and competitiveness:

The leaders assessed the economic situation in the EU and the euro area, concluding that the reforms implemented by the member states since 2008 are bearing fruit:

- the economic recovery is continuing with positive growth across the member states, and the outlook is encouraging
- the unemployment level is at its lowest since 2009
- the state of public finances is improving and investment is growing

To ensure the sustainability of the economic recovery, the leaders called for structural reforms, strengthening of public finances and promotion of investment, including through the swift extension of the European fund for strategic investments. The implementation of various single market strategies by 2018 remains the EU's shared objective. The European Council will review progress in June 2017. The leaders welcomed the positive vote in the European Parliament on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and looked forward to its imminent provisional application. „The EU remains

strongly committed to a robust trade policy and an open and rules-based multilateral trading system, with a central role for the World Trade Organisation (WTO),“ the leaders concluded. At the same time, they called for the quick adoption of legislative proposals that would equip the EU with WTO-compatible tools to tackle unfair trade practices and market distortions.

The leaders also confirmed that the EU will resolutely advance on all ongoing negotiations for free trade agreements, including with Mercosur and Mexico; negotiations with Japan being closest to conclusion. Trade relations with China should be strengthened on the basis of a shared understanding of reciprocal and mutual benefits.

The leaders reiterated the need to complete the banking union in terms of reducing and sharing risks in the financial sector. They emphasised the importance of international cooperation on the design of common prudential and supervisory standards for financial services.

As part of the European Semester - the EU's annual economic policy coordination process - the leaders endorsed policy priorities for 2017, as set out in this year's annual growth survey, and the draft Council recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area for 2017. The member states are expected to take these priorities into account in their national policies. As concerns the social dimension of economic growth, the leaders look forward to the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, which is to take place in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017.

**Security and defence:** The heads of state or government assessed the im-

plementation of its December 2016 conclusions on external security and defence. Leaders welcomed the progress achieved, as outlined at the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 6 March, and called on for additional action and resources. They recalled the importance of implementing the proposals set out in the joint declaration for enhanced cooperation with NATO.

EU leaders also discussed internal security and the fight against terrorism. They called on co-legislators to:

- agree on the proposal for an entry-exit system by June 2017
- speed up work on the proposal for the European travel information and authorisation system (ETIAS)

**Migration:** Prime Minister Muscat reported on progress in implementing operational measures agreed at the informal meeting in Malta on 3 February 2017 regarding the Central Mediterranean route.

The leaders reiterated its determination to deliver on all the elements of the Malta Declaration. They said that they stand behind actions undertaken by individual member states to support the Libyan authorities as well as their North African and southern neighbours.

They invited the Council to rapidly examine the Commission communication on a renewed action plan on return, and to pursue work on EU readmission arrangements with third countries. The heads of state or government reiterated their determination to deliver on all aspects of the EU's migration policy, and to achieve consensus on the reform of EU's asylum policy during the Maltese presidency.

Source: EU Council

For further information see:

## The 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties - Informal meetings of the heads of states

At the informal meeting in Malta, 03/02/2017, the afternoon session was an occasion for the 27 leaders to prepare for the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties on 25 March 2017. The discussions built upon the political reflection on the future of the EU with 27 member states, launched immediately after the UK voted to leave the European Union on 23 June 2016 and continued in Bratislava on 16 September 2016.

In his letter on the future of Europe sent to the 27 heads of state or government on 31 January 2017, President Donald Tusk identified three main threats, dangerous for the stability of Europe. These include:

- new geopolitical situation: an increasingly assertive China, Russia's aggressive policy towards Ukraine and its neighbours, wars, terror and anarchy in the Middle East and in Africa (with radical Islam playing a major role) and worrying declarations by the new American administration all make our future highly unpredictable
- internal situation: a rise of the

nationalist, increasingly xenophobic sentiment in the EU itself

- state of mind of the pro-European elites: decline of faith in political integration, submission to populist arguments and doubt in the fundamental values of liberal democracy



In the letter, President Donald Tusk called on the leaders to stay united.

"It must be made crystal clear that the disintegration of the European Union will not lead to the restoration of some mythical, full sovereignty of its member states, but to their real and factual dependence on the great superpowers: the United States, Russia and China. Only together can we be fully independent."

On Friday 10 March the 27 leaders met again informally to prepare for

the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties and discussed the main elements of the Rome Declaration.

The debate focused on the EU future, including the idea of a multi-speed Europe.

"Some expect systemic changes that would loosen intra-EU ties and strengthen the role of nations in relation to the community. Others, quite the opposite, are looking for new, deeper dimensions of integration," said President Tusk, summing up the discussions. He highlighted that, considering the interests of the community of 27 countries in the

context of the upcoming Brexit negotiations and the long-term strategic interests of the EU, he would be urging everyone to strive towards maintaining political unity among the 27. "When discussing the various scenarios for Europe, our main objective should be to strengthen mutual trust and unity among 27. "

Source: EU Council



Copyright: EU Council

For further information see:

# A new building called EUROPA

Lisa Röseler

The new building for the European Council in the heart of Brussels is eye-catching and spectacular. Consisting of a patchwork of 3750 wood-framed windows around a heart of glass the new building – called EUROPA – can be seen as a symbol for the enlargement of the European Union. The current seat of the Council was acquired in 1994 at a time when the European Union consisted of only 12 member states. Nowadays, with 28 member states, more space was needed. In 2004 the decision for the new building was taken, after eight years construction time the building was ready. (In contrast to this, it took 15 years to build the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg) For a symbolic euro, the



Belgian government left the property to the EU.

The builders – a joint venture by Samyn and Partners (Belgium) - Studio Valle Progettazioni (Italy) - Buro Happold (United Kingdom) - claim

above all the fusion of old and new at the new building. One part of the 320 million Euro building integrates the Residence Palace from the 1920ies which lies directly behind EUROPA. The facade with the numerous small windows is symbolic: all wooden material was recycled from renovation or demolition sites all over Europe not only as a statement for sustainability but also for the motto: united in diversity.

Sustainability shall be achieved by using 636 solar panels at the entire roof, a system of rainwater collection and storage to supply the sanitary facilities and the installation of energy saving equipment in order to regulate lightning, humidity and temperature.

Under the facade of “Europe” three conference rooms are wrapped in the main part of the building. Philippe Samyn explains why the shape of a lantern was necessary primarily for functional reasons: “In terms of volume the lantern is one of the major elements of the whole project. The lantern shape was necessary for two reasons: firstly, the spaces that were to be located on the various levels had increasing and then decreasing proportions.



Secondly, the narrow base of the lantern can also be explained by the fact that it was not possible to install structural support across the whole site because of the nearby Schuman railway tunnel.”



The meeting rooms are different in size, the largest one can host 330 participants. All meeting rooms are decorated in bright colours by the Belgian artist Georges Meurant. The press centre and the administration will remain in the Council building Justus Lipsius which was until last year the home of the EU council. Both buildings are connected with two bridges.

all pictures: Copyright: Philippe Samyn and Partners architects & engineers via EU Council



For further information see:

[eu-homer.eu](http://eu-homer.eu)

[dshs-koeln.de/iesf](http://dshs-koeln.de/iesf)

[jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de](http://jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de)

[mceg-maastricht.eu](http://mceg-maastricht.eu)

# Jean Claude Juncker and the five scenarios for the future of the EU

Lisa Röseler

On March 25th 2017 the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome took place. This date marked an important occasion for all 27 member states to reflect on the future of the European project. Jean-Claude Juncker published a white paper with 5 possible scenarios. What are the five options in his point of view?

## Scenario 1: Carrying on

Juncker sees the EU27 carrying on at the basis of the Commission's „New Start for Europe“, announced in 2014 and the Bratislava Declaration of 2016. Single market and trade, economic and monetary union, Schengen, migration and security as well as foreign policy and defence will be developed in order to achieve more cooperation.

## Scenario 2: Nothing but the single market

In case that there will be still no cooperation in areas like migration, security and defence, the EU27 will re-centre on the single market. This means that cooperation within e.g. the Euro area will be limited whereas the defence cooperation will re-

main as it is now.

## Scenario 3: Those who want more do more

In scenario three Juncker sees a “coalitions of the willing” - one or more states who want to work closer in specific policy areas. Such could be defence, internal security, taxation or social matters. The status of other members remains as it is but there is always the opportunity to join those who do more.

## Scenario 4: Doing less more efficiently

The EU27 concentrates on certain policy areas to work faster and deliver more whereas in other areas less will be done. The advantage could be that the EU27 can act more quickly and decisively in the chosen parts.

## Scenario 5: Doing much more together

In case there is an understanding that the EU27 and the European countries on their own are powerful enough to face the challenges of the future, member states agree to share more power, resources and decision-making. As a result the cooperation

in all areas will be more extensive than ever before.



© EU Council

For detailed reading of Jean-Claude Juncker's white paper:

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/white\\_paper\\_on\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_europe\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/white_paper_on_the_future_of_europe_en.pdf)

## „The European Council: From fireside chats to key decision-maker“

The Council of the EU is proud to release a new 40-minute documentary film telling the story of the institution that brings together the leaders of the EU member states. *The European Council: From fireside chats to key decision-maker* combines exclusive interviews with European Council insiders past and present, as well as rare archive material. The film was part of the celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Rome Treaties. Watch short film trailer under:

[https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/bmm\\_video\\_embed/embed\\_video/91759](https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/bmm_video_embed/embed_video/91759)



The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.