

In conclusion, I would like to say that this concept by now have more negatives sides than positive ones. Economists and politicians all around the world are unable to come to a consensus. What regards Belarus, this concept is very new to our people and we should be careful in testing it.

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## FEATURES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU AT THE PRESENT STAGE

By systematizing key threats and challenges to the functioning of the EU, it is necessary to distinguish between their internal and external nature, while not forgetting the immediate interconnection. Thus, mainly internal problems of the EU include the institutional crisis (Brexit problem and future vision of EU development) and economic challenges, which are partly due to external factors. The key external threats include strengthening security challenges in the light of the latest hybrid conflicts in the region, the migration crisis, and terrorism as a way to destabilize the internal situation in the EU member states.

The issue of Brexit, in particular, and the eurosceptic mood, is broadly reflected in the spread of other centrifugal trends in EU development. This is the desire to weaken the centripetal tendencies within the EU, that is, to pause/stop the transformation of the EU into a "superstate" with centralized management, but rather to put in place a kind of "EU-light", where the member states would receive a significant share of their state prerogatives, which They delegate to Brussels when they arrive. For this, the Netherlands and Italy, Belgium and the Visegrad countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary) are in favour. In the light of such tendencies, Europeans are particularly surprised by the "Euro-enthusiasm" shown by the people of countries outside the EU who would like to join him. It's about Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine, where, according to statistical surveys, the idea of joining the EU is still supported by the majority of the population.

The modern threat is also the problem of launching the "domino effect" and increasing the tendency to withdraw from the Union of other states. Already, there is a danger that Brexit can trigger a chain reaction, as the uniting of Britain becomes less attractive to liberal, rich northern states such as Denmark and the Netherlands, where the demands for a similar referendum are increasingly heard.

In addition to the above-mentioned difficulties in the economic and institutional sector, the general internal threat to the functioning of the EU is the well-known and frequent failure of its member states to coordinate a common internal and external policy (a striking example of the latter is the split reactions to

the hybrid policy of Russia).

A number of internal and external threats faced by the European Union today (among them aggression of the Russian Federation, the migration crisis in Europe, a series of terrorist acts in European cities, the unpredictable policy of D. Trump on the European security system, the strengthening of the position of the left and right political forces in the European states, Brexit and its consequences, in particular the threat of the "domino effect" in other EU member states) has forced European leaders to be more consolidated in terms of a common vision of the future of the EU, and from so take on the commitment to promising directions for the development of the EU. And the Rome Declaration of 2017, signed at the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the 1957 Rome Treaties, could become a document whose implementation will not only become a strategic basis for the formation of an adequate response to the urgent internal challenges of the EU, but will also strengthen the position of the association on the international arena, consolidates the states of Europe in the fight against external threats.

Today, there is a problem of implementing systemic reforms in the EU, as the Community's vulnerability to modern challenges has become evident.

As the most acute economic and security problems have arisen, the most active discussions and first practical steps in the EU are being carried out to reform these areas of activity. It is about improving the coordination of economic policies, paying more attention to employment and social problems, implementing a common fiscal policy, as well as a new defense and security project PESCO, which aims to make European defense more effective and achieve greater output, providing enhanced coordination and cooperation in investment, capacity development and operational readiness.

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