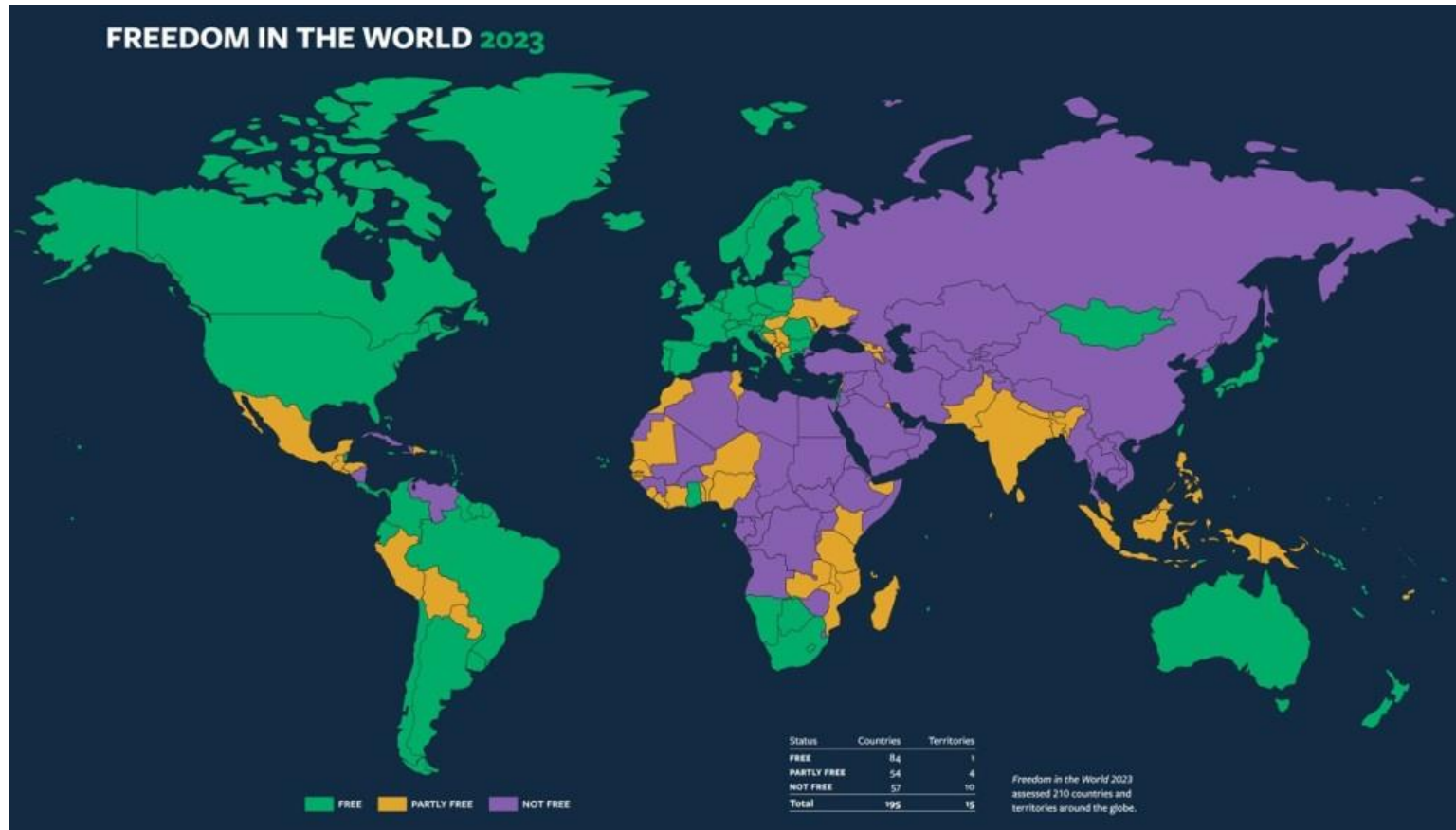


**EUrope**  
**&**  
**A Questioned Democracy**  
*- Problems and Prospects*

Daniel Silander  
Department of Political Science



# Freedom in the World 2023



# *Regime Change in the World*

**Democratization** means that a country is making moves away from autocracy and toward democracy.

**Autocratization** is the opposite, meaning any move away from democracy toward autocracy.

It follows that democratization can happen in an autocracy without the country becoming a democracy, or inversely autocratization can occur in a democracy that does not become an autocracy

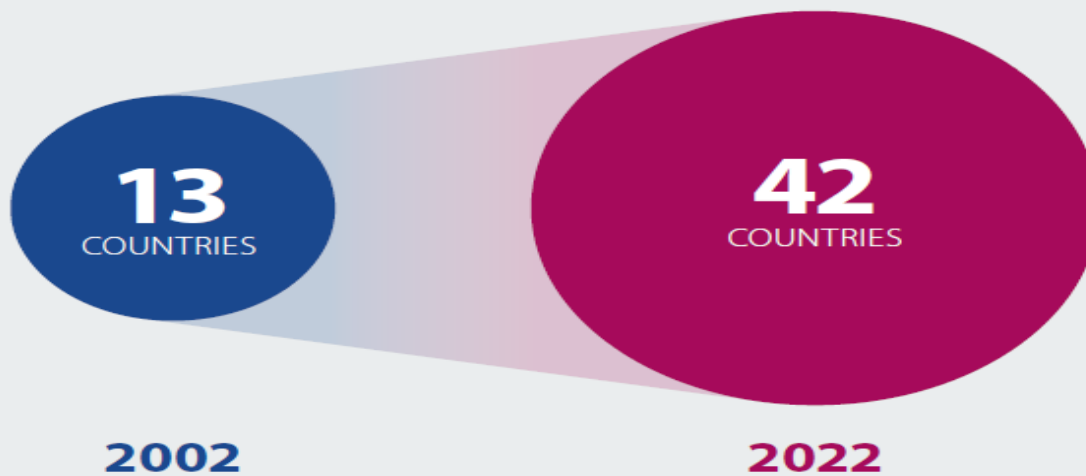
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## NUMBER OF COUNTRIES DEMOCRATIZING



## NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AUTOCRATIZING



# ***Autocratization***

**\* 1974-1994: A Wave of Democratization**

**\* 2010-2024: A Reverse Wave of Autocratization?**

- 1. Consolidation of Authoritarian Regimes**
- 2. High Level of Domestic Repressiveness**
- 3. High Activity of Soft Power Internationally**
- 4. Higher Activity of Hard Power Internationally**
- 5. Authoritarian Leadership, Nationalism & Populism within Democracies**
- 6. A Questioned Global Democratic Leadership**



# Autocracy vs Democracy

## **Closed Autocracy**

No multiparty elections for the executive; absence of fundamental democratic components such as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and free and fair elections.

## **Electoral Autocracy**

Multiparty elections for the executive exist; insufficient levels of fundamental requisites such as freedom of expression and association, and free and fair elections.

## **Electoral Democracy**

Multiparty elections for the executive are free and fair; satisfactory degrees of suffrage, freedom of expression, freedom of association.

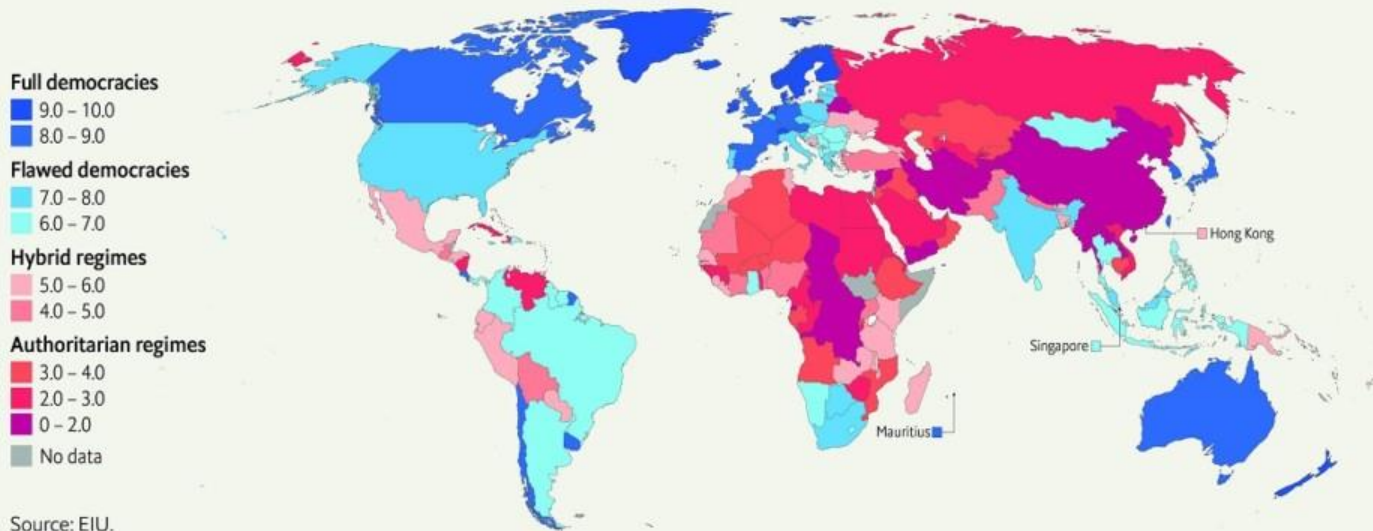
## **Liberal Democracy**

Requirements of Electoral Democracy are met; judicial and legislative constraints on the executive along with the protection of civil liberties and equality before the law.



## Democracy Index 2022

Only 8% of the world's population lives in a “full democracy”



## SHARE OF WORLD POPULATION LIVING IN AUTOCRACIES

2012:  
**46%**



2022:  
**72%**



## SHARE OF WORLD POPULATION LIVING IN AUTOCRATIZING COUNTRIES

2012:  
**5%**



2022:  
**43%**





**FIGURE 13. TOP-20 DECLINING INDICATORS, 2012–2022**

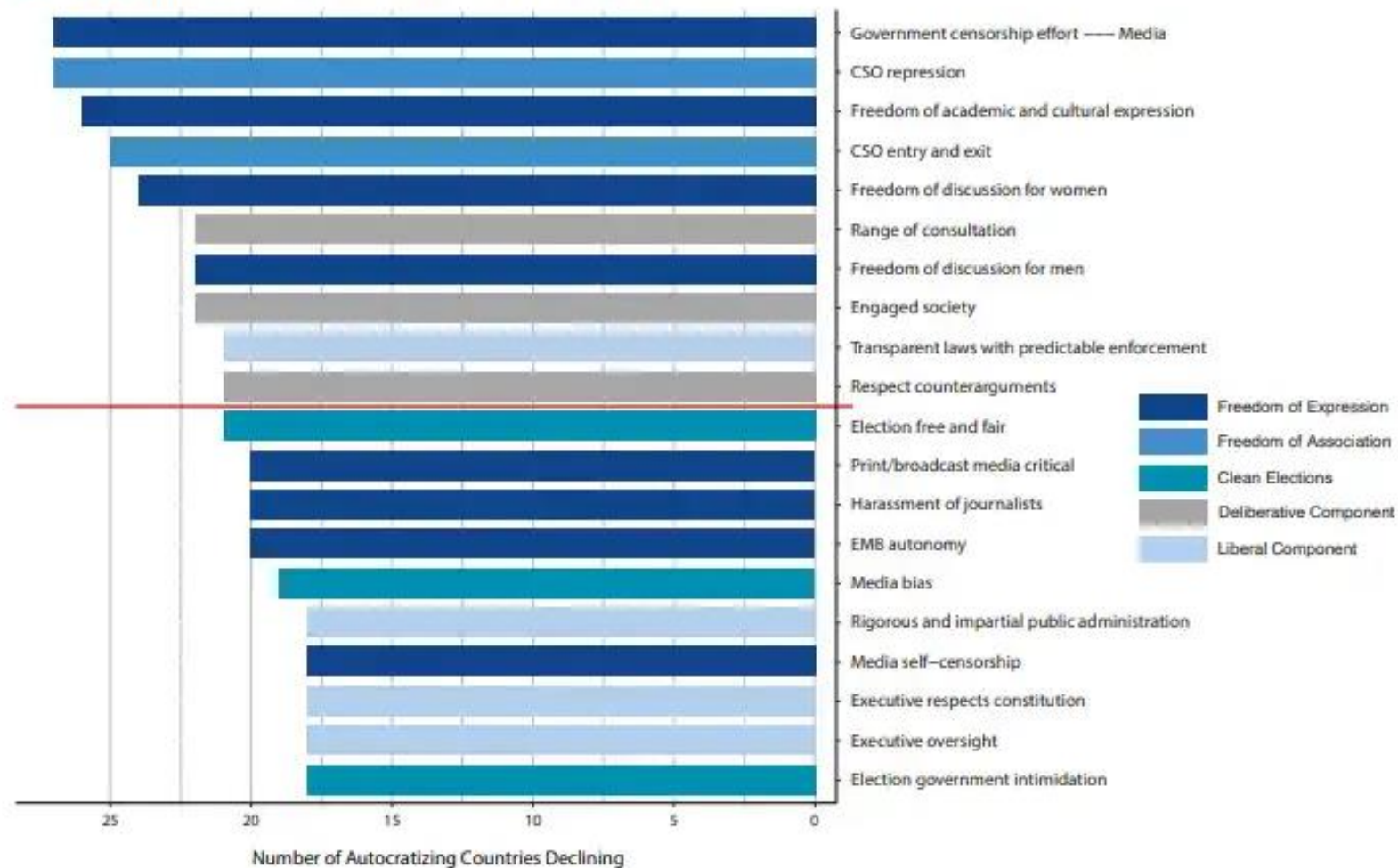


Figure 13 plots the number of autocratizing countries declining significantly and substantially on the top 20 indicators. The red line marks the top 10 indicators. An indicator is declining substantially and significantly if its 2022 value is at least 0.5 points lower than its 2012 value on a scale ranging from 0 to 4 (for most variables) or 0 to 5, and the confidence intervals do not overlap.

## QUICK FACTS ON AUTOCRATIZATION

- The level of democracy for the average global citizen by 2022 is back to 1986
- There are more closed autocracies than liberal democracies – for the first time in more than two decades
- 72% of the world's population – 5.7 billion people – live in autocracies by 2022; 13% of the population – 1 billion people – live in liberal democracies
- Freedom of expression is deteriorating in 35 countries in 2022 - ten years ago it was only 7 countries.
- Government censorship of the media is worsening in 47 countries over last ten years and government repression of civil society organizations is worsening in 37 countries.



# EU & Democracy

## *Article 2:*

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.



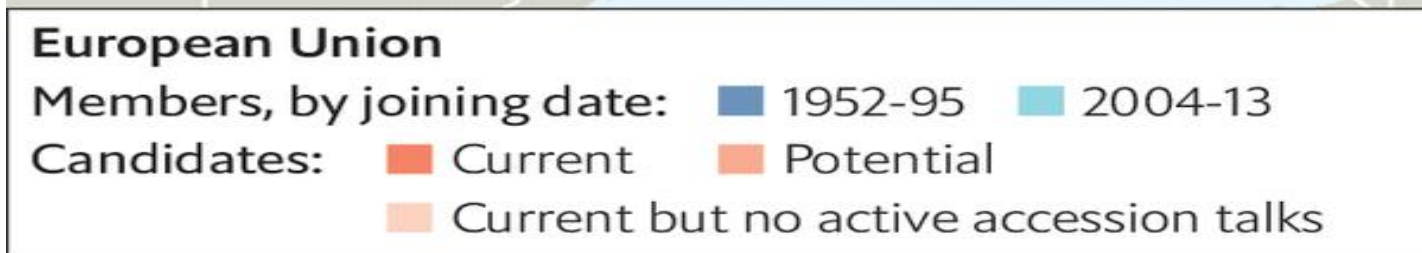
# EU Enlargement

Any European state which respects EU democratic values and is committed to promoting them may apply for EU membership.

The accession criteria, or Copenhagen criteria (named after the 1993 Copenhagen European Council meeting which defined them), are:

- **political criteria:** stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities
- **economic criteria:** a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces
- **administrative and institutional capacity** to effectively implement the EU acquis (body of common rights) and ability to take on the obligations of EU membership





The Economist

# European Neighborhood Policy

- Wider Europe Initiative of 2000
- Need for a new proximity policy after 2004 enlargement
  - Absorption Incapacity?
  - Domestic Readiness?
  - Euro-crisis?
  - Enlargement fatigue?
- Eastern Dimension: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
- Building a bridge to neighboring states
  - "To be like us, but not one of us"
  - "Ring of countries, sharing the EU:s fundamental values"



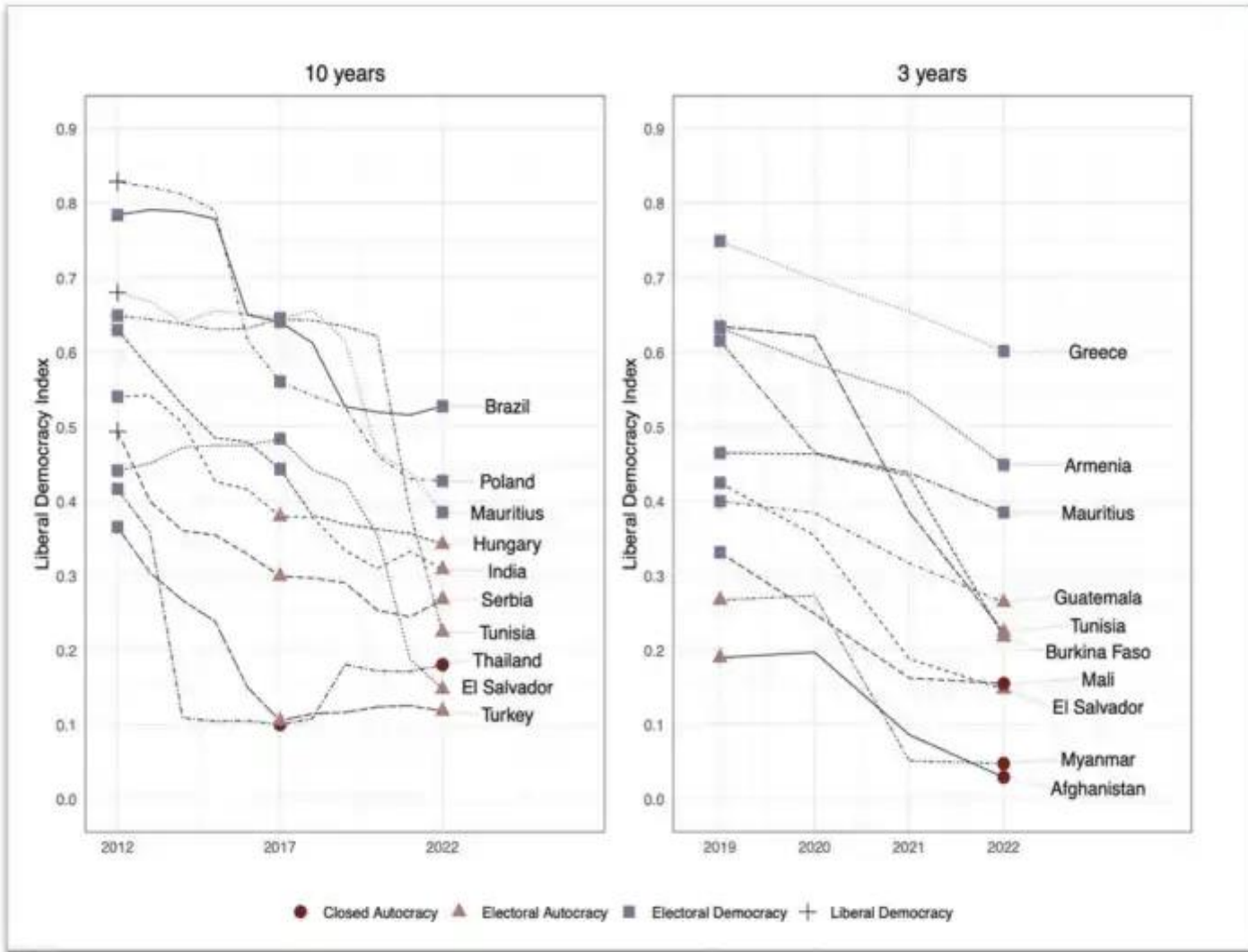
# EU and Democracy

**Article 7:** allows for the possibility of suspending European Union (EU) membership rights (such as voting rights in the Council of the European Union) if a country seriously breaches the principles in Article 2.

On the proposal of one third of EU Member States, or of the European Parliament or of the European Commission, the Council, acting by a majority of four fifths of its members, having obtained the Parliament's consent, may determine that there is a clear risk of a serious breach of these fundamental principles by a Member State, and address appropriate recommendations to it.



Figure 1: Top 10 autocratising countries in the world since 2012 (10-years v 3-years)



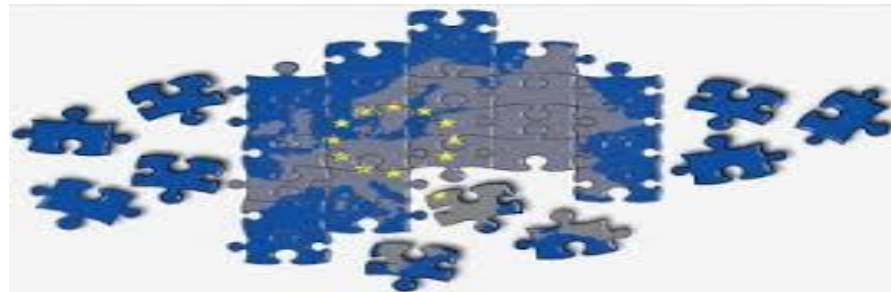
Source: V-Dem Institute, *Democracy Report 2023: Defiance in the Face of Autocratization*, p. 23.






# EU at the Crossroads?

- + Decades of expanding democratic European space
- + Decades of expanding European democratic peace
- + Years of new applications to the EU
- Autocratization within European democracies
- Authoritarian-led war over Ukraine, what is next?
- \* *An Enlarged EU Democracy, but is it Eroding?*
- \* *A Questioned Democracy a Crisis or Window of Opportunity?*



# “Speaking with one voice in global affairs” (Commission 2015)

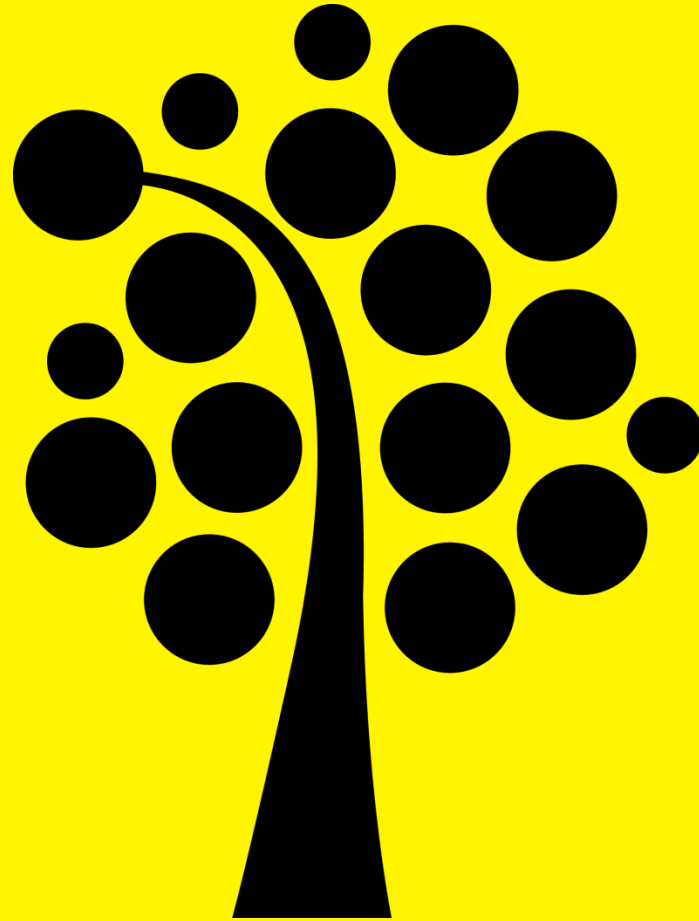


No EU Member State can stand up to today's global challenges alone

Our strength and unity in internal policies must be matched by unity in our external action

Only united can Europe successfully promote European values and interests

A single European voice is needed, as we are not only spectators in this world but bear global responsibility



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