

GROUP EXERCISE DIFFERENTIATED INTEGRATION

“[...] And I take full responsibility for this philosophy. Europe is already moving at several speeds, so we should not be afraid to say so and want it! [...] No, let’s embrace the differentiations, the vanguard, the heart of Europe I was talking about earlier. We’ve got to make progress on all our major challenges, quickening the pace and setting our sights higher. No State must be excluded from the process, but no country must be able to block those wanting to make faster progress or forge further ahead. [...] [T]he idea that whoever wants the least can block the others is a heresy. We must accept these many differences and, as at every key moment in its history, Europe will move forward first of all through the determination of a few. [...]”

Initiative pour l'Europe - Discours d'Emmanuel Macron pour une Europe souveraine, unie, démocratique (26/09/2017), <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2017/09/26/president-macron-gives-speech-on-new-initiative-for-europe.en> (retrieved 23/08/2021)

1.) What do you think:

Does/will flexible (differentiated) integration help or damage the EU project in general and why?

2.) What are the **basic** principles of enhanced co-operation as provided for in the Lisbon Treaty? How does "enhanced co-operation" as provided for in the Lisbon Treaty function **in substance**? **No details please, just the essence!**

For your help see:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:326:SOM:EN:HTML>

3.) Viviane Reding former Commissioner, reacting to the Swiss immigration vote (February 9, 2014): "We respect the democratic vote of the Swiss people. The four fundamental freedoms - free movement of people, goods, capital and services - are not separable. The single market is not a Swiss cheese. You cannot have a single market with holes in it." (source: <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/f534a5fe-919c-11e3-8fb3-00144feab7de.html#axzz2t01F7k4B>) (retrieved: February 2014)

Can the single market and differentiated integration in general or enhanced co-operation (as provided for in the Lisbon Treaty) in particular be reconciled? Reflect also on BREXIT in this context, please!

Please note: Do **NOT** analyze the Swiss immigration vote as such but rather read Ms. Reding’s statement as a kind of “teaser”. The question is about (a) the compatibility of the single market with flexibility concepts (please have also a more specific look at enhanced co-operation as provided for in the Lisbon Treaty) and (b) about whether the “inseparability” of the single market was/is also relevant in the context of BREXIT.