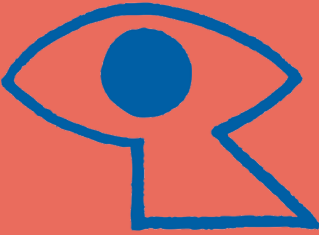


06.2026



our eye on the EU





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HEADING INTO THE SUMMER RECESS WITH A FULL PLATE

As EU institutions head into summer recess, critical issues remain unresolved. We monitor the 2027–2034 budget's impact on democracy and rights, critique the too-little-too-late Intergenerational Fairness Strategy, and question the EU's deregulatory shift in the Transatlantic Trade Agreement. This issue also features a podcast on Amnesty's Greece rule-of-law report and a video-debate between Ioanna and Dionysis on the reasons for the electoral appeal of the far-right, the EU justice scoreboards and the political attitudes of the GenZ. Finally, the bulletin features an analysis of Hungarian election coverage across eight countries—focusing on narrative-building and state media influence.



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE EU-US TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AGREEMENT: INSTITUTIONAL COMPLETION AND PRECARIOUS STABILITY

Afroditi Gkortsou - Political Scientist, International Security Expert

The approval by the Council of the European Union of the two regulations implementing the EU-US tariff commitments marks the culmination of a legislative journey that began almost eleven months earlier. However, this final institutional step does not signal the end of transatlantic trade tensions. Rather, it inaugurates a new phase of managed uncertainty, characterized by competing interests and embedded safeguard mechanisms. At the same time, a persistent asymmetry remains between the EU's approach, which emphasizes legally binding rules and institutional processes and Washington's practice, which prioritizes flexibility and the unilateral exercise of policy leverage.



YOUTH & EDUCATION

THE GENERATION OF SUCCESSIVE CRISES: CAN THE EU'S NEW STRATEGY ON INTERGENERATIONAL FAIRNESS RESTORE YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST?

**Contribution by Georgia Angelopoulou, undergraduate student of Philology,
University of the Peloponnese**

The European Commission's first Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness represents a recognition that today's young Europeans are not facing a single crisis, but the cumulative consequences of successive economic, social, and geopolitical shocks. From the financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic to the war in Ukraine, inflation, and the housing crisis, prolonged uncertainty has reshaped young people's opportunities, financial independence, and confidence in the future. While the strategy aims to integrate intergenerational fairness into EU policymaking, its ultimate success will depend on whether it can translate this recognition into tangible improvements that restore young people's trust in the European project.



CIVIC SPACE

AGORAEU AND CERV+: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPE

**Contribution by Foteini Katsampani, Master's student in Identity, Education and Competences
for Democratic Culture, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)**

In our previous issue, we examined the European Commission's proposal for AgoraEU 2028–2034 and its ambition to create a single framework for culture, media, democracy, and civil society. This follow-up article turns to one of its central pillars: the proposed CERV+ programme. While the reform promises stronger investment in democratic participation and civil society, it also raises important questions about institutional autonomy, funding accessibility, and the future role of civil society organisations in the European Union. As negotiations continue, the debate over CERV+ has become a key test of how the EU intends to strengthen democratic resilience while preserving an independent and vibrant civic space.



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

HUNGARIAN ELECTIONS 2026

This comparative analysis examines the television coverage of the 2026 Hungarian parliamentary elections by eight public service broadcasters across the EU: Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Germany, and Italy. While all broadcasters reported the historic victory of Péter Magyar and the end of Viktor Orbán's 16-year rule, they framed the story in markedly different ways. The analysis explores editorial choices, dominant narratives, discourse, and omissions, revealing how national contexts shape coverage of a shared European event. Some broadcasters adopted a largely factual and institutional approach, while others framed the election as a democratic turning point, a geopolitical shift, or a broader European victory.



BROADCAST

EP30 | TWIN THRESHOLDS

In Episode 30 of the Our Eye on the EU roadcast, Dionysis and Ioanna examine the strategies employed by far-right parties in their pursuit of electoral success. Ioanna argues that the normalisation of collaboration between mainstream political parties and the far right constitutes a damaging tactic that undermines democratic quality, whereas Dionysis explores the underlying factors driving the far right's growing political appeal. On the subject of the Member States' justice system reform scoreboard, Dionysis stresses its importance for economic growth; Ioanna, however, counters that its primary significance should lie in protecting democratic institutions. Finally, in their discussion of the impact of EU policies on a generation shaped by consecutive crises, the two speakers hold markedly contrasting views regarding how these upheavals have influenced Gen Z's political outlook.



PODCAST

EPI10 | ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL - POLICE REPRESSION IN PROTESTS IN GREECE

Following the release of Amnesty International's new report on Greece—titled *Protests Are Not Battlefields: Patterns of Unlawful Use of Force by Police and Impunity in Greece*—Giorgos Karagiorgos and Marin Brekalo of the European Youth Press examine the prevalence of punitive, arbitrary, and abusive police practices during protests. They also discuss the persistent lack of accountability and the damaging effects of police repression on the quality of democracy in the country.