

**Abstract Martin Sande**  
**Track #10**  
martinsande@gmail.com

As the European Union is trying to transcend from an economical union to a political union, the modern EU is facing numerous challenges. Some of these challenges are inherent in the structures, and others appear because of the political situation outside European borders. So what factors determine the foreign policy of EU today and what can be done to keep the idea of a unified Europe?

The European Union appears as an overnational organ, like the UN. Like the UN, the populations of the respective member states don't feel that they are affected by the Union's work. This is supported by the all time low voter turn out in 2014 (42,54 %). With the legitimacy being so low, the Union acts on big issues without the population being directly involved and/or caring about it. Thus the EU is succeeding at being an economical Union, but is not united in political views.

The incoherency within makes the EU just as incoherent and ambiguous when it comes to being a united diplomatic entity to the outside. This is the case with the current refugee challenges: countries like Sweden and Germany have a solidaric approach, whereas many eastern European countries respond with stricter boarder control. Therefore it seems like the notion of classic sovereignty seems to be too strong, and growing stronger. Correspondingly, all countries seem to have a wave of right wing uprising.

This reoccurring problem of passiveness of the members states' population towards the union as well as internal political incoherences, needs to be adressed. To overcome these challenges, it is my opinion that the members of the European Union need to rethink their prioritizations on their internal and international laws. Therefore, I would like to discuss the role of the European legal education systems.

As a Master of Law with a somewhat 'outside' view as a Norwegian, I see the challenges of seemingly random internal law systems. Just as the nation states were based heavily on the unity of legal rules within the area, this must be the case with a political Union as well. As I see it, there is only two solutions to having a unity of law inside an area: The toughest and most unrealistic, is a total renewal of the entire system, the establishment of a "United States of Europe". The other and more realistic, will be to reform the legal education system in such a way that all students have the highest competence in pan-european laws, such as EU-Law, European human rights and European international private law; the "federal" law will come in after this, on a master level or as a specialisation at a later point.

Thus, I would like to address the following: How can a unity of legal education change the EU into an actually united Europe? What would that sort of legal education really look like? I would also like to generally discuss the role of law in shaping unity and consequently common foreign policies, and ask if the EU can act united on issues that are more directly affecting the population. Lastly, I would like to pose the question whether the member states are even ready for such a breach of the member states' sovereignty.

*Martin Sande, born in 1986 in Bergen, Norway, has finished his Master's degree in Law in 2015, is a member of the Norwegian liberal party "Venstre" and has worked and travelled all over Europe.*