

THE EU SCENE: A Central European Perspective

A SYNOPSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESENTED
BY THE MCC'S CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

PUBLICATIONS

EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS: A CATCH-ALL TERM OR A VIABLE STRATEGY

By: **Réka Zsuzsánna Máthé**,
Senior Researcher

This paper examines the EU's deepening "competitiveness crisis" against the backdrop of energy shocks, productivity slowdowns, and rising U.S.-China dominance. It reviews key initiatives like the Antwerp Declaration, Letta and Draghi reports, and von der Leyen's competitiveness agenda, showing how each frames competitiveness without fully defining it.

Read the full article at:
[European Competitiveness: A Catch-All Term or a Viable Strategy](#)



PFIZERGATE: GENERAL COURT RULES AGAINST URSULA VON DER LEYEN

By: **Yann Caspar**,
Researcher

This paper analyzes the landmark May 14, 2025, ruling of the EU General Court overturning the European Commission's refusal to release SMS exchanges between Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla. It details how the Court found the Commission in breach of its transparency obligations under Article 15 TFEU and Regulation 1049/2001, extending the definition of "document" to include informal digital communications. Drawing on evidence from the European Court of Auditors and case law, the study explores the decision's legal significance for archiving and access practices within EU institutions, as well as its broader political repercussions for governance, accountability, and the unfolding "Pfizergate" controversy.

Read the full article at: [Pfizergate: General Court Rules Against Ursula von der Leyen](#)

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Brussels Signal: [When cancel culture pulls the trigger: The murder of Charlie Kirk - Brussels Signal](#)- Rodrigo Ballester
- Die Tagespost: [Beilage zu Ungarn in der aktuellen Ausgabe der Tagespost erschienen](#)- Rodrigo Ballester
- Brussels Signal: [EU interventionism in national elections: Who's next? - Brussels Signal](#)- Rodrigo Ballester
- Mandiner: [Itt a Torrente folytatása: csak éppen a valóságban](#) - Rodrigo Ballester
- Infostart: [Botrány Franciaországban - összejátszhat a baloldal az intézményrendszerekbe beépülő muszlimokkal? - Infostart.hu](#)- Yann Caspar
- NieuwRechts: [De Europese superstaat komt er sluipenderwijs - NieuwRechts](#)- Rodrigo Ballester

Center for European Studies · Európai Tanulmányok Műhely
MORE RULES, LESS POWER: EUROPE'S AI ACT MISCALCULATION

 By: **Yann Caspar**, *Researcher*

This paper argues that by using Article 114 TFEU to enact the AI Act (effective 1 August 2024), the EU sidestepped the stricter rights-based scrutiny of Article 16, revealing a mismatch between the Act's internal-market legal basis and its true aim of protecting fundamental rights. It warns that this approach may stifle innovation, weaken Europe's competitiveness against U.S. and Chinese AI strategies, and expose the limits of the "Brussels Effect" in setting global AI standards.

Read the full article at: [More Rules, Less Power: Europe's AI Act Miscalculation](#)


PAST EVENTS

WESTERN BALKANS FIRST: RETHINKING EU ENLARGEMENT PRIORITIES

June 2025


In-depth interview with Arnaud Guillon and a roundtable discussion on prioritizing the Western Balkans in the EU's enlargement agenda amidst shifting geopolitical debates.

[Recap & Photo Gallery](#)
SUMMER HIGHLIGHT: CES AT MCC FESZT 2025

August 2, 2025 | Esztergom

At MCC Feszt, CES hosted a high-profile panel on The Great Reset, featuring Krzysztof Bosak (Deputy Speaker of the Polish Parliament), Rodrigo Ballester (Head of CES), and Zbigniew Przybyłowski (Ordo Iuris), moderated by Dávid Devenyi (CES). The discussion examined how decades of EU centralization have fueled democratic and sovereignty challenges, while presenting Central Europe's vision for a more balanced Union.


UPCOMING EVENTS





EURÓPAI TANULMÁNYOK MŰHELY
 CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

22 / 09 / 2025
 Monday 4.30 PM
 Scitovics MCC
 3-7 Tisza vezér utca
 Budapest 1115


The Future of Academia
In the Face of Woke Obscurantism

Book Presentation and Panel Discussion
**Ideology vs Knowledge:
Is Academia Dying in the West?**







XAVIER-LAURENT SALVADOR
Professor, University of Burgundy, France



RODRIGO BALLESTER
Head of the Center for European Studies at MCC



LEONARDO ORLANDO
Visiting Fellow at MCC



YANN CASPAR
Researcher at the Center for European Studies at MCC

The Future of Academia: In the Face of Woke Obscurantism
Book Presentation and Panel Discussion
 Budapest | September 22, 2025 · 16:00-18:30

This high-profile evening will bring together leading European academics to debate the future of universities and intellectual life. Highlights include the presentation of *Facing Woke Obscurantism: Chronicle of a Turbulent Publication* and a panel discussion on "Ideology vs Knowledge: Is Academia Dying in the West?" with **Xavier-Laurent Salvador**, **Rodrigo Ballester**, **Leonardo Orlando** – moderated by **Yann Caspar**.

[Event details & registration](#)
[About the book](#)