

The Future of the European Integration Process and the Role of Regions

The future development of the European Union is uncertain. On the one hand, there are many policy challenges that seem to require a reform or overhaul of the EU's current institutional structure, but, on the other hand, any such change that would require a revision of the European Treaties seems very unlikely in the foreseeable future. The talk will therefore explore the possible evolution of the EU political and legal system in the absence of Treaty changes, and will pay particular attention to the role of the 'strong' regions in the integration process. The current position of those regions can be summarized as one of respect for the territorial solutions adopted by each of the EU member states, and the question arises whether the European Union should develop a more proactive policy towards the recognition of the place of those regions in the EU system, and on what legal basis such a proactive policy could be developed.