

**THE FRAGILE STATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
- ITS BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL WITH THE MEMBER
STATES.**

**A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the Master of Arts
(Honours) in Politics in the Division of Humanities at Macquarie University.**

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Summary.

This work covers research carried out on the most important aspects of the development of the European Union (EU) and will prove that due to its organisation is inherently fragile. Of special interest were the stresses and tensions inherent in an organization that is largely supranational but in certain areas is required to act in an intergovernmental fashion with the Member States. The European Union's lack of streamlined voting procedures which requires intensive negotiations and bargaining, leads to compromises which usually satisfy no one completely and are considered to be the cause for the inherent fragility of the European Union. The developments over the last two years, especially the failure of the referenda in France and the Netherlands, and the fierce arguments over the Member States' contributions to the Union budget, as well as the fight over the budget's allocations, confirm the author's assessment.

No part of this work has been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Ocean countries
ADAPT	Communit initiative concerning the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change
AFSJ	Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
ALTENER	Alternative Energy Programme
BATNEEC	Best available technology not entailing excessive cost
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (Western Balkans)
CEC	Commission of the European Communities
CEEC	Central and Eastern European Countries
CEEA	Common European Economic Area (EU- Russia)
CEP	Common Energy Policies
CCP	Common Commercial Policy
CCT	Common Customs Tariff (also CET)
CEP	Common Environment/Energy Policy
CFI	Court of First Instance
CET	Common External Tariff (also CCT)
CFP	Common Fiscal Policy or Common Fisheries Policy
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CJ/ECJ	Court of Justice/European Court of Justice
CJHA	Common Justice and Home Affairs
CM	Common Market
CMS	Common Mediterranean Strategy
COP	Corporate Operational Plan
Coreper	Committee of Permant Representatives
CP	Community Programme
CR	Committee of the Regions
CSCE	Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
CSF	Community support framework
CTP	Common Trade Policy or Common Transport Policy
DG	Director -General
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGGF	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
EAP	Environment Action Programme
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Community
ECB	European Central Bank
ECLAIR	European collaborative linkage of agriculture and industry through research

ECOFIN	Council of Economic and Finance Ministers
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
ECU	European Currency Unit
EDF	European Development Fund
EEA	European Economic Area or European Environmental Agency
EEC	European Economic Community
EES	European Employment Strategy
EEZ	European Exclusion Zone
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
EMS	European Monetary System
EMU	European Monetary Union or Economic and Monetary Union
EP	European Parliament
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ERM	Exchange Rate Mechanism
ESC	Economic and Social Committee
ESCB	European Systgem of Central Banks
ESF	European Social Fund
ESPRIT	European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technology
EQUAL	Community Initiative for combating discrimination
EU	European Union
EUR	euro
EUROMAR FOR	European Maritime Force
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the EU
FIFG	Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance
FRY	Former Republic of Yugoslavia
GDP	gross domestic product
GNI	Gross national Income
GNP	gross national product
IEA	International Energy Agency
IEM	Internal Energy Market
IMP	Integrated Mediterranean Programme
INTERREG	Community initiative concerning border areas
IRTE	Integrated road transport environment
ISPA	Investment for Structural Policies for Accession
JHA	Justice and Home Affairs
LEADER	Rural Development Community Initiative
LIFE	financial instrument for the environment
MAGP	Multi-annual guidance programme

MARIE	Mass transit rail initiative for Europe
MCR	Merger Control Regulation
MEP	Member of European Parliament
MFP	Multi-annual framework programme
MLG	Multi-level Government
MTF	Merger Task Force
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCB(s)	National Central Bank(s)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units
OCA	optimum currency area
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PCA	Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
PHARE	Poland-Hungary Aid for Reconstruction
PPP	purchasing power parity/Polluter Pays Principle
QMV	Qualified Majority Voting
RACE	R&D in Advanced communication Technologies for Europe
R&TD	Research and technological development
REACH	EU Chemical Analysis Directive
REGIS	Community initiative concerning the most remote regions
RIA	Regional Impact Assessment
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SAP	Social Action Programme
SAP	Stabilization and Association Process
SAPARD	Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
SAPS	Single Area Payment Scheme
SCENT	System for a customs enforcement network
SEA	Single European Act
SEM	Single European Market
SFOR	Multi-national stabilization force
SFP	Single Farm Payment
SGP	Stability and Growth Pact
SME	small and medium-sized enterprises
SMP	Single Market Programme
SNA	Sub-national Authorities
SPD	Single Programming Document
TAC	total allowable catch

TACIS	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States
TEEC	Treaty establishing the European Economic Community
TENs	Trans-European Networks
TEU	Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty)
THERMIE	Programme for the Promotion of European Energy Technology
TREVI	Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism and International Violence (EU Internal Security Group)
UCTE	Union for the Coordination of Transmission of Electricity
URBAN	Community initiative for urban areas
VALOREN	community programme for the development of certain less-favoured regions by exploitng endogenous energy potential
VAT	Value added tax
WEU	Western European Union
WTO	World Trade Organization