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Who der Leyen: The EU has a major, unfixable problem with its foreign policy

It must be quite a burn for Brussels elites when Washington says their most vaunted quality is not as good as they try to make it look



By **Rachel Marsden**, a columnist, political strategist, and host of independently produced talk-shows in French and English.

rachelmarsden.com

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European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. © Toby Melville - WPA Pool/Getty Images

This one stings. When asked how the EU might dodge US President Donald Trump's tariff hammer, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent replied, *"My observation... goes all the way back to [former US Secretary of State] Henry Kissinger's statement: 'When I call Europe, who do I call?' So, we're negotiating with a lot of different*

interests." Translation: You

can't sit with us until you stop fighting at your own lunch table.

Sure, the continent is tripping over its own policies and tumbling down an economic staircase, but at least everyone's falling in sync. Brussels tightens the *"unity"* straitjacket, and they all cheer, or risk getting whacked back into line. Unity is the brand. Unity is the product. Unity is the hashtag.

"Only together can we address the grave challenges we face," unelected European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in January 2024.

"It is thanks to all this that in the last five years, Europe has weathered the fiercest storm in our economic history. And we overcame an unprecedented energy crisis.

We did this together, and we can do it again. And we have the political will. Because when Europe is united, it gets things done," she said in an address

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earlier this year at the Davos World Economic Forum, explaining how solidarity will help the EU weather the problems created by its own policies.

“The EU’s strength lies in its unity, including when confronted with major health crises. European solidarity, in sharing medical supplies, treating patients or helping repatriate citizens, and in the reconstruction of our economies, helped us to protect our citizens together and overcome the most difficult phases of the pandemic,” she said in 2023 about the Covid fiasco, during which she brokered a non-transparent deal for jobs with her pal, the CEO of Pfizer, via [text messages](#) that have since vanished. Contracts which ultimately left EU member states [on the hook](#) even after they had no use for the jobs.

“This 4th Ukraine meeting was another demonstration of European unity,” Queen Ursula posted a month ago on social media. Of course it was. What isn’t?

Even just this week, in evoking fires in Israel and EU assistance, she wrote on social media that it was *“EU solidarity in action.”*

Unity and solidarity are important to the EU in the same way that the concept of family is important to evoke every time two toddlers want to poke each other’s eyes out with crayons. As in, *“you’re supposed to be brothers, so play nice!”* All that helps to paper over the unfortunate history of family infighting and battlefield beatdowns.

Enter Scott Bessent, politely suggesting that he’s not impressed by the EU’s unity thirst traps.



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And that hits deep. It's like telling someone that what they think is their very best feature is really their worst. Say, for example, you really love your own butt, have been spending years in the gym doing every kind of squat, lunges, hip thrusts, and you're so proud of your butt – and then one day, someone you're interested in is like, *"You know, you should really work on those glutes more."* That's exactly what Bessent's comment is when he says that the problem with the EU is their lack of unity.

Nothing the US can do about it, he implies – just a little friendly feedback. Back to the gym, Brussels. And Queen Ursula must be fuming since she talks like it's her best feature and she already spends all day and night obsessing over it. How is she possibly supposed to do more when she's already maxed out on her unity obsession? Which is all superficial by the way. Her unity-at-any-cost talk really just means that dissent from countries that disagree is quashed. And those dissenters are typically those with ideological views and approaches similar to Trump's that place their own country's interests above those dictated by a supranational institution of global governance.

This is some brutal negging on the part of the Trump administration saying basically, look, you're not as hot as you think you are. So go work on yourself and then maybe get back to us afterwards. Because this is a YOU problem.











Bessent specially mentioned the wide variation within the bloc when it comes to taxation of digital services. *"We want to see that unfair tax on one of America's great industries removed,"* Bessent said. Funny how they can't agree on that, but have no problem marching in step behind the Digital Services Act, which basically



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Read more: Brussels floats solution to Trump – FT deputizes *“fact-checkers, civil society, and third-party organizations with specific expertise on disinformation,”* to keep EU internet users *“safe and accountable.”* When it comes to taxes, the EU is a jazz band. When it comes to censorship, they’re a military parade.

Meanwhile, von der Leyen reportedly tried to book time with Trump at Mar-a-Lago before his inauguration. No dice. Her staff was ghosted by the White House despite blowing up its phone. When she finally caught up with Trump in Rome at Pope Francis’ funeral, it was said to be... not exactly a summit. More like a celeb sighting.

Word is that Trump told her they’d meet. Perhaps just to get her to release his hand.

Other than the fact that Queen Ursula is unelected, unlike all the leaders of individual EU nations with whom Trump has been meeting, why else might he be ignoring the EU’s top boss? Well, maybe it’s the constant scolding. *“Global markets are shaken by the unpredictable tariff policy of the US administration,”* von der Leyen said this week at a political gathering in Spain. *“My friends, we cannot and we will not allow this to happen. We have to double down on our hallmark policies of open markets of win-win trade and investment partnership, and of free and fair trade.”*

Bessent’s whole *“fix yourselves first”* vibe also lines up with Trump’s vice president, J.D. Vance’s stance. According to the UK *Independent*, Vance reportedly wants future trade deals tied to countries, like the UK, abandoning speech-curbing laws.

So if the Trump doctrine is a world order of free nations over rule by top-down globalist committee, then using trade as a crowbar to pry open authoritarian

institutions certainly checks out.

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OPINION

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d don wilson 5/14/2025 at 3:01 AM **0**

Ursula is a well known BASKET CASE...no body elected her, only FOOLS listen to her ...she is the EU equivalent of Joe Biden ..FACT NEWS FLASH...he was also NOT ELECTED...fact ! Germany is dead in the water, France has a super FOOL doing idiot things...England is totally without a rudder and a cause to exist, .. Not a Trump fan BUT he is doing all the right things....like them or not!

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M Matthew 5/13/2025 at 3:02 AM **1**

Nice that a radical German official runs the EU and with the help of her Estonia lackey has set up concentration camps in Libya for poor African migrants. And once again Europe and the pathetic Vatican are silent. History sadly repeats.

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B Bill P 5/12/2025 at 9:16 PM **1**

The 3 stooges along with some lessor morons such as the Pollacks and Estonians are Hungary for their demise. Makes no logical sense at all. Is the Council of 12

are Hungary for their demise. makes no logical sense at all. Is the Council of 15 calling the shots?

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G **Gunter Meyer** 5/12/2025 at 1:31 PM **0**

» Who der Leyen «
C'est tout à fait approprié pour elle

[Reply](#)

 **Gargarin** 5/12/2025 at 11:14 AM **0**

Marsden likes to quip about queen ursula but seriously how did four-hundred million people get hoodwinked into a nouveau royalty now raising an army of neo-fascists using weapons paid for by the usa working classes (and unsuspecting euro taxpayers)? Further that army now attacking a Christian state, that was one hundred years ago, relentlessly secular? The enlightenment forgotten, replaced by a backward, well what is it, some kind of criminal gang with no coherent ideology, just 'my gun is bigger than yours'? Bit miserable really.

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 **N** 5/7/2025 at 4:47 PM **6**

During the Trump term nothing good will happen, around the world. Trump rhetoric of dealing with Russia is just to counter Europe nothing that he is going to resolve the crises. He will flip flop his national strategy to stay in power as he knows one thing that there is no one country that is going along with him, not even Israel, Ukraine, Europe and the rest.

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R **Rzee** 5/7/2025 at 4:55 PM **12**

No one today is with Israel

No one today is with Israel,

Few are with Ukraine except luni bin western europe.... as for Ukraine,,, hold an election and see how fast this problem gets resolved..... literally 24 hours. No one elected today in Ukraine will remain. Zero.

Dealing with Russia. More than 70% of world deals with Russia how do you think it managed 20,000 sanctions. Now it's like dealing with Europe and the US is becoming the problem.

[Reply](#)



The Demokrat57 5/7/2025 at 5:27 PM ↑

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I've noticed similar.

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Susan Siens 5/7/2025 at 9:21 PM ↑

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The US and much of the EU is owned and operated by Israel. The West has allowed itself to be hornswoggled by a bunch of war criminals in a non-country. I wish no one was with Israel, and at least a goodly percentage of Americans are discovering who rules them.

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