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Queen Ursula's new 'boyfriend' should make Putin smile

Von der Leyen's public courtship of Mark Carney says as much about Europe's weakness as it does about Canada's leverage

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



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen © Omar Havana / Getty Images

European Commission president and unelected de facto “queen” of Europe, Ursula von der Leyen, can't get enough of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Her annual “*State of the European Union*” address last week should have been called “*State of my crush on Mark Carney*.” It seemed to transform into one giant excuse to gush about him while he sat in front of her, as she mused aloud to “*Dear Mark*” about her vision of some kind of “*associate EU membership*” for

Canada. It reminded me of a kid back in grade school who once did an entire speech on “*seals*” in French class, just so he could constantly repeat the French translation of the subject, “*phoques*,” at a rate of once per sentence.

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"President Metsola, Prime Minister Carney, Honorable Members," she began. "Mark, your presence here is a symbol of the enduring friendship between our people. Our cultural, historical and personal links run deep within the fabric of our societies." That's what we used to call a group date to hide your crush. Only the group here consists of Canada's 41 million people and the EU's 452 million.

"Dear Mark," she continued. "I said we must urgently reimagine our partnerships... We share one ocean, one set of values, one way of seeing the world. And we will now build our shared future as well."



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Carney may be glad that ocean she speaks of is there, as it seems to be perhaps the only thing preventing her from camping out on his front lawn at this point. For his part, Carney has made it clear that he's playing the field, and that any commitment is welcome in that context. *"We're not looking to become a member of the European Union,"* Carney said, unequivocally. *"What we are looking – and will begin discussions for – is a unique alliance between Canada and the European Union."* In other words, he isn't looking to flee Trump's 51st state threat in favor of Canada willingly being the EU's 28th.

No one in their right mind can blame him. You have to think that Carney – the former central banker of both Canada and the UK, and the onetime head of the G20's Financial Stability Board in Basel – knows an economic basket case when he sees one. And it's one thing to hang out, have a good time, and fill your boots. But it's quite another not to have the total freedom to just zip up and peace out when the next inevitable self-imposed meltdown comes along. Which is at about the rate of one a week, at this point.

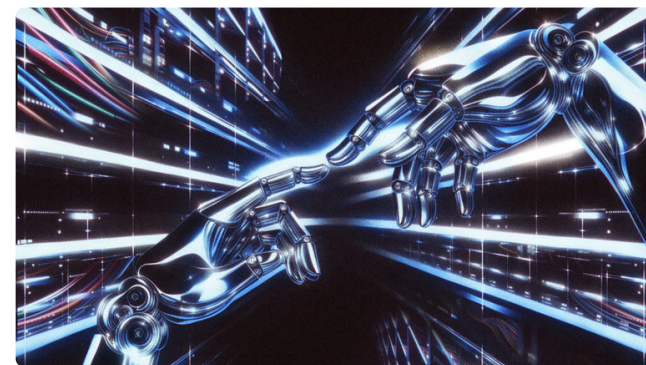
A lot of the EU's problems come down to a lack of accurate foresight and an inability to prioritize by coordinating their agenda with existential reality. Had European leaders been more adept at doing so, they might not need Carney to stand there in front of the EU Parliament and explain that it's okay not to kiss Washington's behind to their own detriment. Or that dating around allows for a more chill approach to all relationships. Until recently, anyone adopting this position in either Canada or Europe would immediately be subject to a proctology exam, accused of being some

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kind of secret tool of the Kremlin. EU officials have repeatedly warned that fragmentation and multipolarity that de-centers the Washington-led agenda hinders Western unity to the benefit of rival powers such as Russia.



Read more: Hey Ursula, angry voters aren't 'pro-Russian,' they're just fed up

But Carney is basically saying that it benefits any country to pursue strategic non-alignment. He's cutting deals with Europe and with BRICS countries. He said to a standing ovation at Davos earlier this year that it was important to be *"pragmatic in recognizing that progress is often incremental, that interests diverge, that not every partner will share all of our values. We are engaging broadly, strategically, with open eyes. We actively take on the world as it is, not wait for a world we wish to be."*

This isn't a guy who's into nation-building beyond his own. Ursula may think that she's acquiring Canada and its resources for Europe, but she's also importing, first and foremost, a political instinct that the bloc has long lacked. Carney is now articulating – to resounding applause – a position that, until recently, was far more closely associated with Russian President Vladimir Putin's worldview than the one that orbits around Washington.

Still, Carney is singing from the EU's hymn book on Ukraine and Russia right now. He's also literally negotiating for Canada to get some defense manufacturing revenues from the EU's massive fear-driven spending spree on its defense security blanket. It's not hard to see a profit motive here. Nor in the fact that he's literally pitching for Europe to replace Russian natural resources with Canadian equivalents.

So right now, Canada and Russia are positioned as competitors on the global economic playing field. At least for the time being. But that won't always be the case once he's secured the bag. Carney – now officially the most popular prime minister in Canadian history at 70% approval – got himself into that position by ditching right-left ideology for pragmatism. He could turn out to be an important interlocutor for Russia with the West. Someone who's blunt, action-oriented, and doesn't much honestly care what you do as long as it doesn't annoy him. Ursula is clearly smitten with Carney. And if her new boyfriend ends up showing Europe how to be a little less cliquy about engaging with the rest of the world, then perhaps there's hope for us all yet.

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OPINION

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B Brad Golding 9/25/2026 at 5:31 AM 0

I wonder what Carney's title will be? After all, he will be consort to Her Divine Majesty, Queen Ursula I, Fond of Lying, by the grace of Soros, Empress of all Europe. Gauleiter of Brussels, and Reichsführer of NATO. I thought he was smarter than that!

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I Izudin Bajrektarevic 9/24/2026 at 1:36 PM 4

She is an ugly creature...never seen anyone uglier than her. I thought she was a man all along.

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G George Hence 9/24/2026 at 3:35 PM ↑ 2

She's a succubus!

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J Josef Liebel 9/24/2026 at 7:56 PM ↑ 1

Honestly, I wouldn't want to check

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J Josef Liebel 9/24/2026 at 7:55 PM 1

What a sad sack of skin and bones she is

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**Skip Shaw** 9/24/2026 at 5:17 PM

2

Ursula needs to be disappeared.

[Reply](#)**Eileen Dover** 9/24/2026 at 4:51 PM

2

The title of this article should be: 'When a Loser Meets a Loser'

[Reply](#)**George Hence** 9/24/2026 at 3:33 PM

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Gross! "Sticks fingers in ears" LALALALALALA!

[Reply](#)**Pegon Zellschmidt** 9/24/2026 at 3:01 PM

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My, I can't believe how you prop up all things Carney. You sound as infatuated as Ursula. Giving credit to Dear Mark's words rather than his accomplishments is a hoot! "We're not looking to become a member of the European Union," Carney said, (as he became an Associate Member (not a member, doncha know?)) Dear Mark '– knows an economic basket case when he sees one' because he's leading one.

I take it that you're speaking of the EU when you muse 'when the next inevitable self-imposed meltdown comes along'? but it can certainly apply to Canada. Canada ranks last in G7 and 32nd of 35 OECD countries for income growth. The elite globalist banker. Perhaps more akin to a teller.



Oh, and 'He's cutting deals with Europe and with BRICS countries.' Really? Words have meaning and 'deals' doesn't mean meetings, studies, negotiations, exploratory work, provisionally applied, not yet ratified and MOU's.

Who's the Queen, now?

[Reply](#)**Green Crow** 9/23/2026 at 7:48 PM

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Hopefully, Carney knows underneath his persistent pro-Ukraine stance—that Russia and Canada are NATURAL brothers and partners. I have been saying for decades that Canada and Russia should join forces and extend the Trans Siberian Railway across northern Canada, down the eastern NA coastline to New York. Sentients in Canada are waiting patiently for the Ukro-Nazi

remnants of the Justin Trudeau government to evaporate so we can play hockey with our Russian buddies again!

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J John Doe 9/23/2026 at 8:59 PM 

1

If Canada is to become a massive exporter of resources it turns into Russia's competitor. And worse, there is a plan to produce millions of drones and export a third of the production to Ukraine. Once the assembly line starts rolling it will make the 2 enemies.

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D David Dunbar 9/24/2026 at 2:29 PM 

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Canada is the USA's natural resource supply. That isn't changing. All the noise is for the political \$hit show.

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J John Holmes 9/23/2026 at 9:40 PM

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Always can tell which columns Marsden writes, by the heading. And poor Carney is criticized over his non stop jet setting. « He needs to spend more time with family», says his worried fanboys . Perhaps next week he will meet fellow leaders on a flight over the Antarctic? That trip really is necessary for diplomacy. Perhaps they could use an earlier model DC-10 for that flight.

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D David Dunbar 9/24/2026 at 2:25 PM 

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LOL. Check that cargo door.

[Reply](#)

 **jesco 3** 9/23/2026 at 6:26 PM

11

Carney is bluster — 75% of Canada's exports go to USA / and the EU's GDP is near zero / with what is the EU going to buy Canadian goods?

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