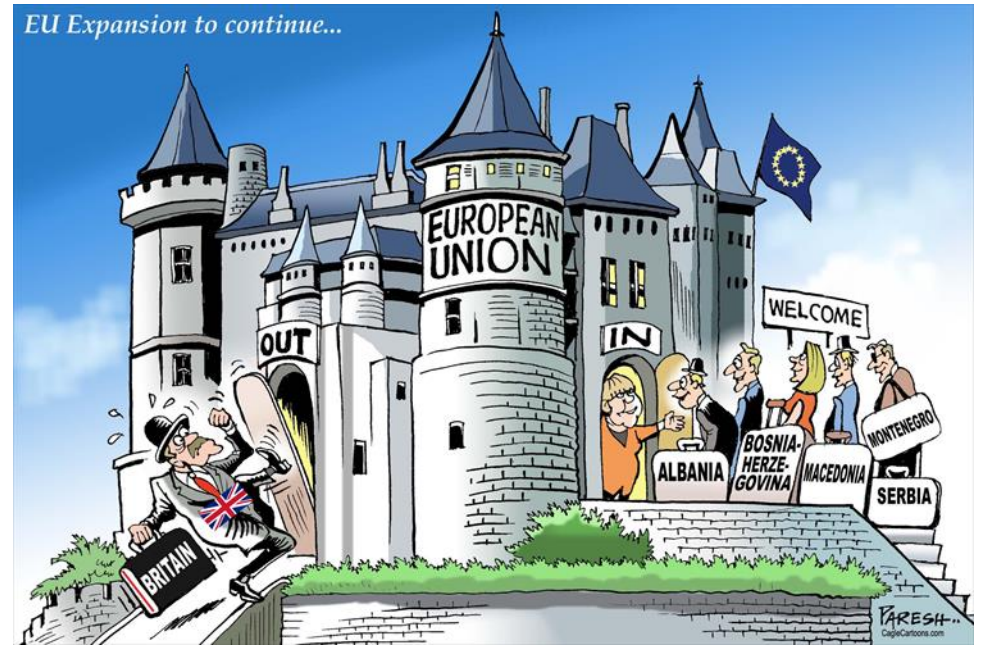


Post-Brexit: Is EU Enlargement Dead?

Marek Neuman
University of Groningen
30 October 2020

A word of welcome

- Who am I?
- Introduction
 - link between EU foreign policy making and EU enlargement
 - The shock of Brexit (inspiring followers?)
- Making my argument
 - Enlargement is certainly not dead, but so much more complicated than before
- Conclusion & questions
 - Where does EU enlargement end?



Let's start with 2 quotes ...

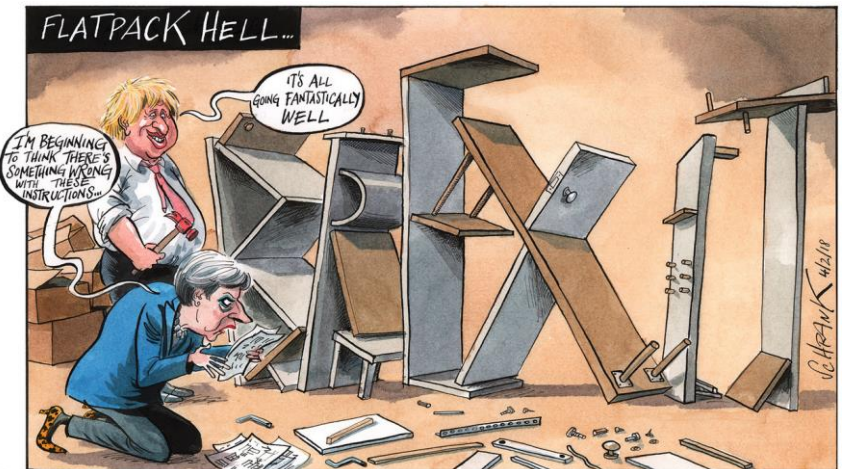
- According to the EU treaties, membership of the European Union is open to "*any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them*" (TEU Article 49)
 - respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities
- "It is clear that there will be no further enlargement during the mandate of this Commission and this Parliament" (Jean-Claude Juncker, 2017 State of the Union speech)

So, which one is it, then?

The relevance of Brexit to EU enlargement

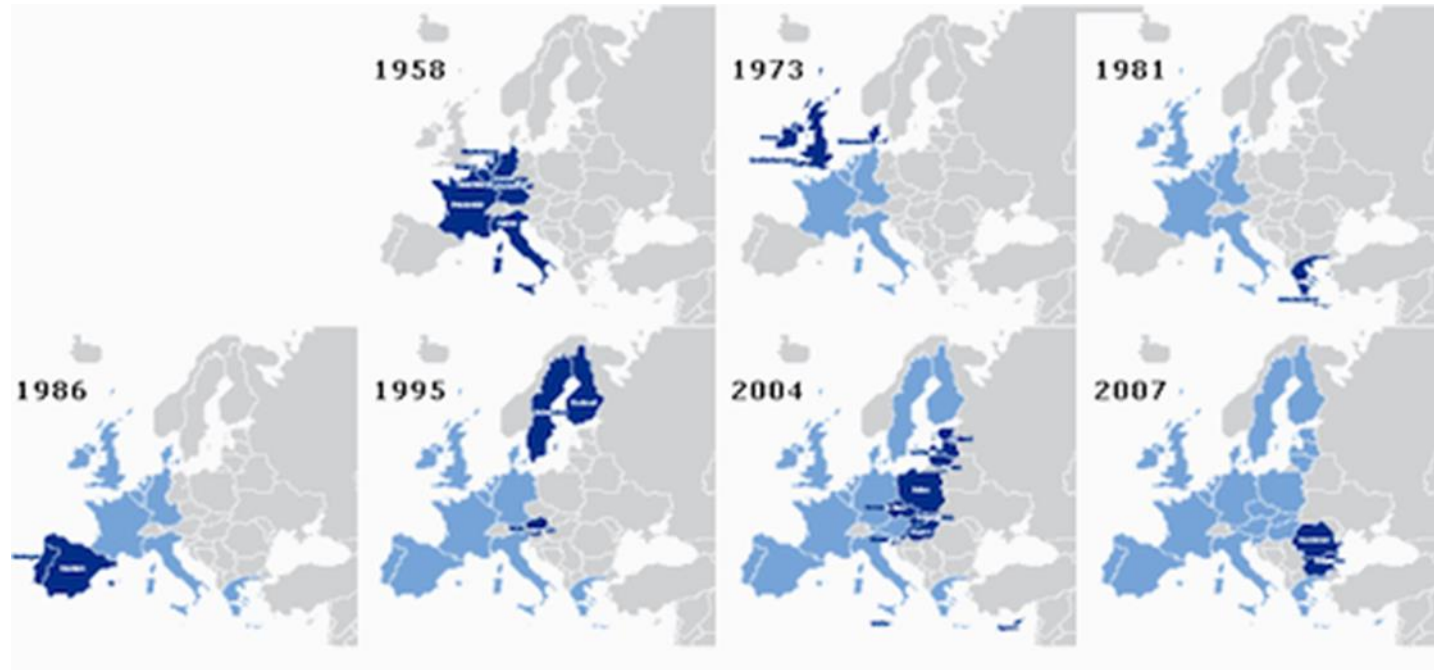


- Brexit as undermining the “raison d’être” of the EU’s existence
- The United Kingdom as an ardent supporter of EU enlargement
- The United Kingdom as inspiring potential followers?



Looking back (and why?) ...

- EU enlargement has never been an easy affair as it touches upon such issues as ...
 - Geopolitics
 - Finances
 - Identity
 - Political/public support
(enlargement fatigue)
 - Institutional capacity
(absorption capacity)



(2013 missing)...

- ... but got so much more complex since the 2004/2007 EU enlargement round
- Only think back to these:

- Geopolitics
- Finances
- Identity
- Political/public support
(enlargement fatigue)
- Institutional capacity
(absorption capacity)

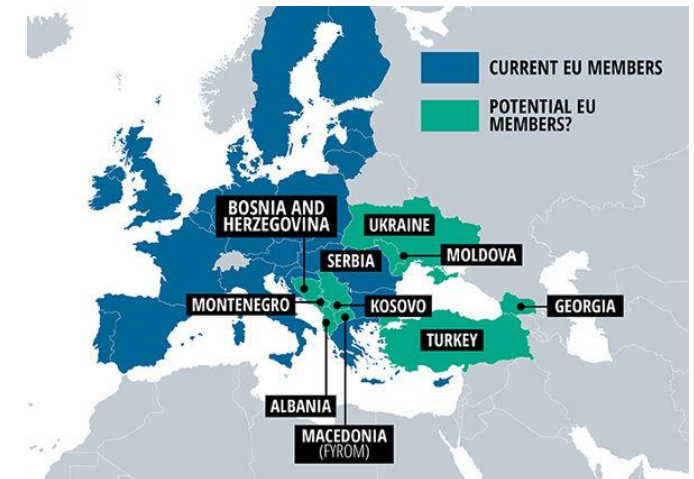


=> The EU came up with (more or less) clear accession criteria, aka “Copenhagen criteria”

These criteria continue to guide future EU enlargement (though they are somewhat toughened) ...

- The Western Balkans
- Turkey
- (Iceland?)
- (some EaP countries?)

=> But for these, it is even more complicated



So, where are we at? Is EU enlargement dead?

- I would say it isn't, despite the shockwave sent throughout the European Union (and elsewhere) by the Brexit referendum of 2016
- That being said, EU enlargement will continue to become increasingly complex, mirroring the heightened complexity of the European Union as such
- As to where the EU may (or may not) enlarge to in the future, the political elite (and the respective populations) need to answer the question of what *European* stands for and whether the EU should or should not draw fixed borders

Thank you for your attention
and please, ask all and any of
your questions