

Editor's Note

As an editor, it is a privilege to publish the 42nd volume of Journal of European Studies. The goal of JES has always been to publish articles that meet scholarly standard and are accessible to a wide readership while, at the same time, offering solutions to complex policy issues.

The first article deals with the EU's climate diplomacy in the Central Asian region. The area is one of the most strategically sensitive regions of the world. Its neighbourhood consists of the Russian Federation, Europe, China, West Asia, and South Asia. Therefore, every diplomatic manoeuvring within this space carries wide ramifications.

The second article is focused on reshaping the European order, its transformation, and realignments in the midst of Russia-Ukraine war. The author emphasises that Russo-Ukrainian war has catapulted Europe into a defining era of long term adaptation and changes. The concept of unity based on collectivism is passing through a challenging time. This scenario is a huge challenge for collective institutional structures and regional affiliations.

The third article deals with the various dimensions of EU-China relations. It describes the contours of alignments between the two massive poles of international politics. Based on the approach of using economic incentives, sanctions, or other financial instruments to influence the behaviour of other nations or to advance particular diplomatic goals. Such huge cooperation network has their advantages and disadvantages.

The fourth article sheds the light on the EU's institutional governance, and the role of the European Court of Auditors. It elucidates the structural character of the European court of Auditors. The article is lengthy but quite readable even for those not technically connected with the subject.

The fifth one is on the reassessment of the EU's energy strategy which is assessed through the lens of nuclear energy. The article studies the Russian-Ukraine war, which drastically pushed Europe to review energy and trade policies with Russia. Nuclear capability comes with greater responsibility. As

climate cognizance is a vital character of the EU identity, therefore, it is necessary that any transition to nuclear energy should adhere to the EU's climate commitments.

The sixth article is focused on a very sensitive topic of environmental protection between Pakistan and European Union. The last three decades has seen a sharp rise in the debates on this issue. Climate change is a fundamental challenge of this century. The human induced damages altered the patterns of weather, heavily affected the agriculture and health of the human beings. The author has traced the chronological history of EU and Pakistan which covers almost 30 years of cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

This issue of the JES continues to reflect the work of our esteemed authors selected through a peer-review process. I am committed to sustaining the practice to keep the academic standard of the journal as a proud third generation editor of the JES since 1980s. We have reached this stage through the constant support of our advisory board members and the intellectual generosity of the reviewers, especially the editorial team whose contributions have been indispensable in this continuous journey of success. I really want to thanks H.E. Asif Hussain Memon, Ambassador of Pakistan to Hungary, for his reflection on the sixty years of friendship between Pakistan and Hungary.

As the year 2025 concludes, I extend my deepest thanks to the readers for their intellectual engagement.

I appreciate all of you for being part of our academic endeavour.

Happy New Year.

Prof. (Retd.) Dr. Uzma Shujaat
Editor
Journal of European Studies