



STATE OF THE UNION 2018



Potential Initiatives for Delivery by the Sibiu Summit

Sibiu Summit on the
Future of our Union at 27
9 May 2019

#SOTEU

12 September 2018

'Sibiu is the moment we must offer all Europeans a strong perspective for the future.'

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 12 September 2018



The Sibiu Summit

Six weeks after the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, and two weeks before the European elections, EU Leaders will meet in Sibiu, Romania, to reflect on a new Strategic Agenda to guide the work of the European Union over the next five years.



EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

The EU should ratify the partnership agreement between the EU and Japan. This is a good agreement from an economic perspective and it is a powerful sign that the European Union works for openness and for global rules and standards. The EU and Japan already account for nearly one third of global Gross Domestic Product. This agreement could increase the EU's annual exports to Japan by 13.2%, or €13.5 billion.



Multiannual Financial Framework

Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission should also have brokered an agreement in principle on the EU budget after 2020 by the time of the Sibiu Summit. This will allow us to deliver on time the policy promises we have made to citizens, notably for 12 million young people to take part in Erasmus exchanges, supporting directly 5,000 research jobs and additional 7,000 jobs in the wider economy each month, increasing spending on defence and migration management, and showing we are serious about our partnership with Africa with at least 23% increase foreseen in the future EU budget.



Economic and Monetary Union

The international role of the euro should be addressed before the Sibiu Summit. Euro is the second most used reserve currency in the world with 60 countries linking their currencies to it in one way or another. But we must do more to allow our single currency play its full role on the international scene. This will allow us to pay for more of our imports in euros instead of dollars, and will give us greater financial independence. It does not make sense that Europe pays for 80% of our energy imports – worth €300 billion a year – in US dollars when only roughly 2% of them come from the United States.



Stronger Foreign Policy

The European Union should make visible progress in strengthening its foreign policy and becoming a true global actor. It should be better able to shape global events and shoulder international responsibilities. One of the instruments to achieve this objective is for the Union to take more foreign policy decisions by qualified majority voting. This is provided for in the Treaties, the potential of which remains untapped so far. The Commission proposes to move to qualified majority voting in selected areas where this makes sense: sanctions policy, human rights issues internationally, and in civilian missions.



- 1 | General view of the Grand Square (Piața Mare) of Sibiu.
- 2 | Road sign indicating the direction of Sibiu.
- 3 | Sibiu on the map of Europe.