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A New International Democratic Union

Democracies are coming under pressure worldwide. The causes for this are manifold and range from rising costs and increasing complexity in many areas, political framework conditions and personal lack of prospects to migration and challenges of social coexistence. Not to forget global warming, environmental change and the global expansion of autocratic tendencies. The promise of supposedly simple solutions is not helpful, but only manifests itself in exclusion and isolationism.

In order to counteract these developments, the strong democracies that still exist need a common position and need to speak with one voice. To achieve this, the existing unions and alliances are not sufficient.

It is therefore necessary to rethink the strengthening of democratic structures and link it to the economic power of democratically legitimised nations. This can be achieved through the establishment of an "International Democratic Union", which would instantly represent enormous potential in world politics with its market power. Democracies from the EU, Great Britain, Canada or Australia, could become members.



A new goal

The central element of the "IDU" would not primarily be economic interdependence (as in the EU, for example), but the strengthening of common democratic values. This is about

- education,
- transparency,
- eye level in all areas,
- community and coexistence as well as
- good and effective communication.

Votes within the IDU would be carried out with a simple or two-thirds majority to rule out blockades.

Numerous advantages

An International Democratic Union would have numerous advantages:

- A community that is not regionally limited.
- Economic power and attractiveness: Business is preferably done with states that share the values of the IDU. By transparently communicating this approach, other countries are encouraged to join.
- Reduction of dependencies (raw materials).
- No tariffs.

The economic areas of the EU, Great Britain, Australia and Canada alone comprise around 560 million people¹ and thus an enormous potential.

In perspective, it can - and should - go even further:

- Dissolving the "patchwork" of associations, agreements, alliances and economic agreements.
- Unification of military technology.
- Lean bureaucracy with shared IT.
- Possibly even replacement of the EU.

Simple rules

Membership is linked to a set of rules that is applied every three years to renew membership. This ensures that the basic idea cannot be undermined from within.

Of course, implementation requires a detailed consideration of all relevant parameters and a viable strategic concept. From our point of view, however, an International Democratic Union would be a perspective that would be worth pursuing.

Editorial Notes

About the Authors

Wiebke Brüssel and Dr. Heiko Heinrich Stutzke are managing partners of Das Strategiebüro.

¹ Cf. <https://www.worldometers.info/population>

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