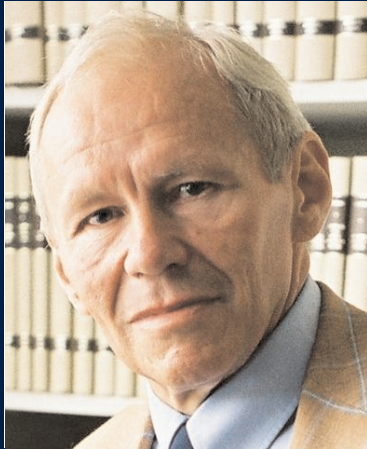


The European Council in the era of crises

'I found myself reliving the time of my mandate as president of the European Council ... Jan Werts' story of the European Council is the story of the Union itself.'

Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council 2009-2014



Jan Werts brings a unique perspective to the European Council. As a journalist, he has reported on the spot from virtually every European Council meeting since 1975, a witness to countless tales of last-minute arm-twisting and creative compromise. As a scholar, he wrote the first ever doctoral dissertation on the European Council, published in 1992. In 2008 he carried the story forward to the verge of the start of the permanent presidency. In this latest book, against the background of the broad sweep of the history of the European Council, he focuses especially on the era of crises that began

around the time of his previous book – the Greek debt and broader euro crises, the migration and refugee crisis, Brexit and Covid among them.

For this new edition Jan Werts interviewed a galaxy of EU insiders whose assessments are extensively quoted in the text. He describes with realism, candour and some sympathy how the leaders, their officials and advisers battled against crises that at times seemed to threaten the European project itself. His book combines in a rare way thorough scholarly assessment with vivid reportage, making it both an authoritative reference and a fascinating read.

Front cover photo. Behind the scenes at the European Council. Photo by Dimitar Tzantchev: see photo section inside.

Jan Werts: The European Council in the era of crises

JAN WERTS



THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL in the era of crises

