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Elon Musk: “Europe Is Dying”

The world’s richest man, Elon Musk, plans to reformat Western Europe



The leading European powers, grappling with significant setbacks and feeling nervousness and even despair, have recently turned against the prominent American billionaire Elon Musk, who has been increasingly critical of them. In a recent interview with a German newspaper, Musk claimed that traditional parties “have failed in Germany, their policies have led to political stagnation, social unrest, and the erosion of national identity”.

Where Trump cannot speak openly, Elon Musk does so skillfully on his behalf

On January 8, 2025, The Washington Post reported that Musk is trying to manipulate Germany and the UK, despite the former being the third-largest economy in the world and the latter the sixth.

Musk: A Billionaire and Innovator

At 53, Elon Musk is an entrepreneur known for his pivotal role in the space company SpaceX and the automotive company Tesla. He also owns X, the company managing the social media

platform formerly known as Twitter. In 2015, Musk co-founded OpenAI, a nonprofit AI research organization, and in 2016, he launched Neuralink, a neurotechnology company developing implantable brain-machine interfaces.

Musk's influence stems largely from his wealth – approaching half a trillion dollars – and his massive following (211 million followers on his social media platform X).

Musk, who contributed \$277 million to Donald Trump's campaign – the largest donation in the previous or any other presidential cycle – makes no secret of his disdain for Europe. He has pointed out Europe's sharp decline in birth rates (“Europe is dying”, he wrote) and the rapid increase in immigrant populations.

His ire has been particularly directed at the European Union's Digital Services Act, which mandates online giants to block and remove false content. To Musk, who faces millions of dollars in fines for alleged violations, this law represents a mandate for censorship.

Having become Donald Trump's right-hand man following the U.S. presidential elections, Musk now wields considerable influence both in America and abroad. When Trump was asked if Musk might seek the presidency, he responded that it was impossible, given Musk's birth in Pretoria, South Africa. However, Trump referred to Musk not just as a genius but as a “super genius”.

After successfully aiding the election of his candidate in the U.S., Musk has set his sights on Europe, as reported by The New York Times on January 8, 2025. In a series of posts on his platform X, Musk harshly criticized Germany and the UK, condemning their governments and questioning their economic competence. He personally insulted each country's political leaders, calling Germany's chancellor a fool, its president a tyrant, and accusing the UK's prime minister of being complicit in “the rape of Britain”.

Musk's conversation on January 9, 2025, with Alice Weidel, leader of the Alternative for Germany party, angered Germany's ruling circles. During the widely publicized discussion, Weidel advocated for resuming gas imports from Russia via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline. Musk did not stop there – he recently disparaged outgoing Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau while praising Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, whom European media describe as a “bridge connecting Europe to Trump”.

Columbia University professor Anne Vichowski noted that Musk's actions are not about earning more money but increasing his power and leveraging his influence to reshape the world. While this might seem like an act of arrogance, Musk **is convinced that he knows better.**

Musk Faces Growing Opposition

European politicians are alarmed by the threat Musk represents. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in an interview with Der Spiegel ahead of the release of her book Freedom in late 2024, called his new position as head of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency “an unprecedented challenge”. She argued that politics must determine the social balance between the wealthy and ordinary citizens and that the excessive influence of corporations – be it financial or technological – is a threat, particularly since Musk owns 60% of the satellites in orbit.

French President Emmanuel Macron, in a televised address on January 6, 2025, accused Musk of trying to “ignite a reactionary alliance across Europe”. Many British and German figures have accused Musk of interfering in internal affairs, arguing that his statements embolden those who weaken Europe.

Meanwhile, Western media have intensified their campaign against Musk, accusing him of undermining the U.S.’s relationships with key G7 allies. Musk’s biographer, Seth Abramson, stated in an interview with The Daily Beast that Musk is dangerous to the U.S. because “he’s losing his mind”.

German politicians, particularly stung by Musk’s remarks, have been especially vocal. Musk’s praise of the Alternative for Germany party, which they accuse of extremism, as the “hope and salvation” for the country has further inflamed tensions.

Critics in Europe argue that Musk, a billionaire with global business interests ranging from satellite launches to artificial intelligence, is now supporting right-wing nationalist parties and figures that pose a fundamental challenge to European unity.

The American press notes that “money and information are the two tactical weapons of modern politics, which Musk can wield on an unprecedented scale”.

The panic among European elites is exacerbated by Trump’s actions. Trump has refused to rule out using force to seize Greenland and the Panama Canal. He has also vowed to rename the Gulf of Mexico the “Gulf of America” and has suggested using “economic power” to make Canada the 51st state, citing national security concerns. Unsurprisingly, European leaders have issued only muted statements about the “inviolability of borders”.

Where Trump, who has yet to formally take office, cannot speak openly, Elon Musk does so skillfully on his behalf. Against this backdrop, Musk’s popularity among European youth is surging, as they see him as a model of success through the fusion of power and capital.

Veniamin Popov, January 24, 2025

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