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— The first question to you as the head of a leading academic institution in charge of European issues is, of course, about Brexit. Now, as time has passed after the British referendum, what consequences are noticeable for Europe? Will anyone follow the UK “to the exit”?

“The Brexit can result in improving relations between Russia and the EU”

— **The domino effect on the exit of other countries from the EU is unlikely. In the remaining 27 members states of the European Union there is no ruling political force which aims to hold such a referendum and there is no political platform for the exit from the organization. A situation when a political party with such a program will come to power in the near future is also not foreseeable. There are many of them in the EU, but in contrast to the Tories, they are in the second or third division of the struggle for power. But there is no doubt that the success of the British Eurosceptics will give a new impetus to such forces. The future of this question depends largely on what kind of damage will be inflicted by the Brexit to Britain and the EU. If this damage will be clear and obvious than the arguments of British Eurosceptics followers in other countries will become less convincing. Other weak links of the EU in the future could be such countries as the Netherlands, Sweden, Austria, Finland and Denmark. But the return to the Vienna system in the relations of the great powers in Europe is hardly possible in the foreseeable future, maybe only hypothetically. Firstly, the great powers are almost gone. Secondly, it will spell doom on the EU. Thirdly, it implies a considerable distancing of the Europeans from the US, which has no prerequisites yet. But in the worst-case scenario for the situation in the EU, meaning the direction of its collapse, it is potentially possible that the system of relations between the leading nations in Europe will turn into a new edition of the “concert of powers”.**



— What changes in relationship between the European Union and Russia should be expected after the Brexit? Is it right to count on at least some warming-up?

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— And what are the consequences of the Brexit for the European policy of the United States?

— What should be expected in Europe itself? What will be its response to the British referendum and how will the response be expressed?

— Today we often hear the opinion that the Brexit will entail a wave of separatism within the EU. What do you think about this prediction?

— **The Brexit may lead to the improvement of relations between Russia and the EU, but only in the medium term — in two or three years, not earlier. Firstly, Britain will stay almost a full member of the EU before its exit that can happen only in 2019. Secondly, if we look at the near future, the danger of Brexit repetition somewhere else in Europe could, on the contrary, consolidate the EU and NATO in the field of tough policy towards Russia according to the formula “when you have problems inside, look for an external enemy”. Thirdly, Britain in any case will remain a member of NATO, where it can only strengthen the anti-Russian rhetoric in order to compensate for the loss of its influence in the EU. NATO, primarily the United States, will also try to avoid the rise of inner sentiments to create independent from NATO military-political structures in the event the UK exits from the EU. However, it appears that over time Brexit in its implementation will have a positive impact on the EU-Russia relations. In the absence of Britain the new “Big Three” of the EU — France, Germany and Italy — will not keep the inordinate British level of confrontation towards Russia. And Poland is unlikely to prevent such a “softening”.**

— **The exit of the UK from the EU could bring complications to American projects in Europe. That is why Washington was interested in maintaining the UK’s participation in the European Union. Now the US will try to consolidate the anti-Russian tendencies in the foreign policy of Germany and continue to actively nurture them in Poland and the Baltic States. The Brexit has already contributed to the fact that the signing of the agreement on transatlantic trade and investment partnership in 2016 is practically shut out. But if it does not happen under the Obama administration, it may not happen ever.**

— **The influence of Eurosceptics and populists in other EU countries such as the nationalists, the New Left and the New Right will be increasing. The party systems of the European countries will continue to change. Like in Greece, new political forces can come to power at the national level in Spain, Italy (the new Mayor of Rome is a representative of the “Five stars” movement), the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, Finland. The National Front in France has less obvious prospects by now, but the potential is great.**

— **The United Kingdom is facing a real threat of the collapse in the coming years with a breakaway of Scotland and the reunification of Ireland. We also can assume the probability of Catalonia exiting from Spain sooner or later. In the future it will be difficult to maintain the unity of Belgium. In other countries, especially in Germany and Italy, the decentralization processes will gain momentum while preserving their territorial integrity.**

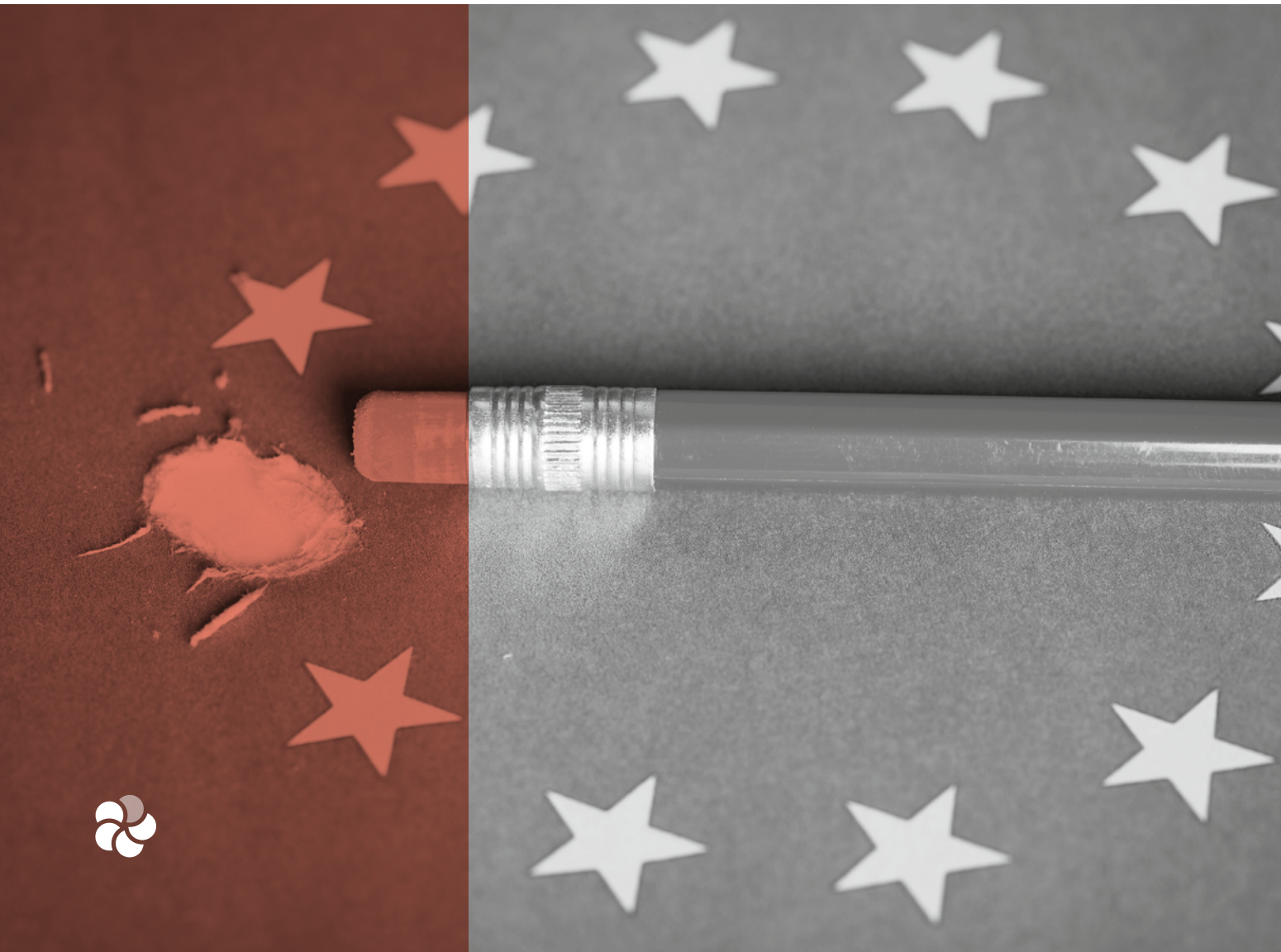
“ **In the worst-case scenario for the situation in the EU, meaning the direction of its collapse, it is potentially possible that the system of relations between the leading nations in Europe will turn into a new edition of the ‘concert of powers’** ”

– Until now, the North Atlantic Alliance was a cementing structure for Western and Central Europe. What will happen to NATO after the Brexit?

– And the last question – about the economic consequences of the Brexit. Will this event slow down or, on the contrary, accelerate the overcoming of the crisis in Europe?

– **The position of NATO after the UK's exit from the EU may become slightly complicated. Firstly, if the Brexit at the end provokes the breakaway of Scotland, it will lead to a reduction of the military, including the nuclear, potential of the kingdom, primarily because of the need for the redeployment of four nuclear Vanguard-class submarines to the south of England or to the United States. Secondly, if the EU overcomes the current crisis than the likelihood of the EU developing its autonomous military and political potential in the medium term will increase.**

– **Be it short or long term, the Brexit will slow down the speed of recovery of the economic growth in the UK and in the EU as a whole. Economic stagnation, a very weak growth, is guaranteed to Europe in the coming years. The return to recession, however, is unlikely. The renewal of recession is possible in some countries – such as Italy, France, Greece, Spain and Portugal. The propensity of states to protectionism will increase which can be seen quite clearly since 2008. The only major factor that could provide the EU economy with a significant revival is a return to full-scale economic relations with Russia.**



What is your lifetime project?

To be able to do as much as possible of what future generations will find useful

Уметь сделать как можно больше того, что и потом здравствующим поколениям полезно.

What do you dream about?

In the profession – not to be interfered with while working, personally – about the wellbeing of relatives

В профессии – чтобы не мешали работать,
в личной – о благополучии родных

What do you care about most and why?

Lack of time and chance – these cannot be avoided

Нехватка времени и случайность – их не избежать.

Who do you like to debate with and what about?

With F. Castro – about ideals, with Y. Habermas about the future of Europe

С Ф. Кастро – об идеалах,
с Ю. Хабермасом – о будущем Европы.

What are your key life principles?

Optimism, curiosity, creativity

Оптимизм,
любопытность,
созидание

What do you regret about?

About the fact that love brings as much joy as unhappiness

О том, что в любви столько же радости, сколько и несчастья.

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