

WHEN THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF APOCALYPSE GET SCHENGEN VISA: TRANSFORMING EU SOVEREIGNTY IN THE ERA OF PANDEMIC, WAR AND PERMANENT CRISIS

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Abstract: This paper explores the European Union's response to a succession of crises—economic turmoil, migration upheavals, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine—emphasizing the transition towards increased supranational action. Drawing on Jean Monnet's perspective that crises drive integration, it investigates how these events have tested the EU's resilience and governance mechanisms. The analysis reveals a discernible shift towards enhanced EU-level coordination and policy-making, challenging traditional notions of sovereignty and underscoring the need for joint action in managing transboundary issues. It examines the dynamic between intergovernmental responses and the strengthening of EU supranational institutions across various crises. Through a detailed exploration of the EU's legal and institutional responses, including innovative governance mechanisms and the strategic navigation of treaty-imposed limitations, the paper highlights the complex interplay between national sovereignty and supranational authority in the EU's evolving governance landscape. This analysis contributes to understanding how the EU adapts to crisis-induced pressures, offering insights into its capacity for resilience and integration in the face of unprecedented challenges.