

The European Union Must Act Like the European Shepherd

Dog Strategy, Vigilance, and Action: The EU as a Guardian

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1. Moral Victimhood and the Illusion of an Imagined World

Europe has grown accustomed to the role of moral victim. It recoils in horror at what it believes to be “novel” developments in global politics, yet the world has not changed: Trump in Venezuela, Putin in Ukraine, Beijing expanding its influence—all reveal the immutable logic of empires: they act out of interest, not ethics. Europe, by contrast, debates, explains itself, and indulges in self-pity.

For decades, the European Union has narrated itself as exceptional: ethical in a cynical world. This narrative offers comfort, but not power. Self-pity, as Seligman demonstrated, produces learned helplessness. Beck described how chronic rumination erodes the capacity to act. Europe is trapped within its own story: every external aggression reinforces its identity as a victim, sustains a false sense of surprise, and paralyzes action.

Harm becomes political identity, and action is replaced by explanation. While the European Union reflects, the world acts—redistributing power, influence, and resources without waiting for the continent to make up its mind.

2. Venezuela and Ukraine: A Warning Message for the EU's Awakening

Venezuela is not an isolated case; it was an explicit warning. The symbolic capture of Maduro and his inner circle sets a precedent: if action is possible there, it can be attempted elsewhere. Ukraine demonstrates that verbal guarantees do not stop tanks or redraw borders.

The logic is clear: International Law protects the strong, not the weak. Europe has confused norms with power, pacifism with security, and

morality with the capacity to act. Every day without a response is a day in which others decide Europe's destiny.

This pattern repeats throughout history. Thucydides observed it twenty-five centuries ago: weakness invites, firmness deters. By presenting itself as docile, predictable, and self-compassionate, the European Union turns itself into available territory for those who act with determination.

3. The European Shepherd Dog: Practical Ethics as the True Lesson in Survival and Strategy

The European shepherd dog does not pity itself. It does not construct narratives or dramatize its pain. Its ethics are practical and operational: loyalty is not proclaimed, it is exercised. It watches, protects, assesses, and acts. This conduct does not depend on declarative morality or on speeches; it depends on function, on the necessity to survive and to protect the group.

Human history has long recognized this form of practical wisdom. The Romans, fully aware of the effectiveness of their canine guardians, placed warnings at the entrances of their homes such as *Cave Canem*—"Beware of the dog." This was not a poetic flourish, but a security doctrine: the dog guarded and protected without questioning its function. Seneca and Cicero admired in dogs what they called *fides sine contractu*: loyalty without the need for a promise, a stable and reliable bond grounded in action rather than words.

In Greek philosophy, Xenophon noted that the dog combines obedience, initiative, and courage without requiring constant instruction. This balance between discipline and autonomy makes it a model of operational effectiveness. Argos, Odysseus' dog, offers another illustration: after twenty years of absence, he recognizes his master and fulfills his duty without demanding explanations or justice; he acts coherently, carrying out his role as guardian.

The dog's wisdom has also been observed in modern times. Ernest Hemingway, writing about war, understood that the wounded animal does not explain itself—it acts. There is no room for lamentation or self-pity, only behavior, response, and survival. Konrad Lorenz explained that canine loyalty is an evolutionary strategy designed to ensure the survival of the group and the social bond. Tinbergen, in turn, demonstrated that canine

behavior is function-oriented and that each action serves an adaptive purpose.

Even from a contemporary psychological and neuroscientific perspective, the European shepherd dog exemplifies effective emotional regulation: it tolerates frustration, adapts its behavior to the environment, and maintains coherence between stimulus and response. Damasio and Panksepp emphasize that practical intelligence depends on goal-oriented action, not on rumination or self-deception.

The European shepherd dog, therefore, is not merely a physical guardian but a strategic model. It watches without dramatizing, protects without proclamations, and acts without dependence on external recognition. This conduct embodies principles that the European Union and other human societies could apply: coherence between capacity and purpose, constant vigilance, rapid environmental adjustment, and proportionate action—without reliance on heroic narratives or moralistic discourse.

In essence, the European shepherd dog teaches us that survival and strategic effectiveness depend less on words and more on disciplined action, demonstrated loyalty, and constant adaptation to the environment. Europe, with all its resources, would do well to take note: observe, assess, protect, and act—instead of dramatizing, explaining, or delegating.

4. Europe and the Cost of Victimhood: Overcoming It by Emulating the European Shepherd Dog

Europe proclaims values while, in practice, renouncing their defense. It demands international respect without building the instruments that guarantee it. It speaks of human rights and international law while delegating the protection of those rights to others. Its prolonged victimhood—a form of institutionalized self-pity—turns it into a predictable and weak actor on a board where strength is imposed by action, not rhetoric. Each time the European Union and non-EU Europe pause to reflect on injustice instead of responding, they send an implicit message: those who do not act submit; those who hesitate are managed.

Churchill understood that civilization is not sustained by good intentions or moral speeches. It requires organized will, constant vigilance, and a readiness for decisive action. His strategic vision during the Second World War is a perfect example of what Europe has forgotten today. While

powerful and less powerful actors alike act out of interest, the European Union debates morality and etiquette, believing that international law and principles alone are sufficient to guarantee its security. That illusion is a luxury the real world does not grant. I am a Europeanist to the core, and for that very reason I seek to emulate the European shepherd dog.

The European shepherd dog, by contrast, is a model of coherence and pragmatism. It does not indulge in self-pity, it does not dramatize, it does not wait for recognition or apologies. Its question is never “Why is this happening to me?” but “What do I do now?” It patrols the perimeter, adjusts its behavior in the face of threats, reinforces bonds, and acts decisively. Its strategy does not depend on narrative, but on effectiveness. Survival, for it, is a function, not a feeling.

Both non-EU Europe and the European Union must adopt this mindset: constantly assess their strategic environment, identify risks and opportunities before others impose them, and act coherently. Declaring principles is not enough; coherence between word and action is what generates respect and deterrence. A continent that delegates its defense, fears the use of force, and turns ethics into an excuse becomes available territory for those who measure every move with relentless pragmatism.

Just as Churchill understood that peace and security require constant preparation and a credible willingness to use force, the European shepherd dog acts out of necessity and function, not discourse. Europe must learn from this logic: true strength lies in immediate and decisive action, not in rhetorical indignation or moral self-protection. Assess, decide, and execute. That is the rule of the European shepherd dog—and it should be the rule of the European Union if it wishes to survive and retain influence in a world of empires that do not negotiate with victimhood.

5. The Instinct of the European Shepherd Dog: Survival and Power in an Age of Empires

The European shepherd dog does not merely protect; it understands the terrain, maintains the perimeter, and acts at the precise moment— withdrawing once its function has been fulfilled. Its behavior combines vigilance, initiative, and self-control. It is not guided by emotion, dramatization, or discourse: every action is oriented toward a concrete objective, toward survival and the preservation of the group’s structure.

This instinctive discipline is the foundation of resilience and constitutes a model that European politics has largely forgotten.

Churchill understood this better than most: civilization is not sustained by good intentions or declarative ideals; it requires firm presence, constant vigilance, and organized decision. Preparation and strength of character, he argued, are more effective than any moral speech. For him, defense and deterrence were not proclaimed in manifestos nor entrusted to intermediaries; they were exercised through strategic clarity, control, and resolve.

The European Union, however, has replaced this elemental logic with rhetoric, delegation, and complaint. It has sought to be respected without being feared, heard without making itself heard, and protected without protecting itself. Every conference, communiqué, and resolution has become a symbolic substitute for real action. Ethics, morality, and values turn into hollow language when they are not accompanied by the capacity and the will to defend them.

The European shepherd dog, by contrast, defends territory by function and necessity, not by emotion or narrative. Its silent yet constant presence generates respect; its organized vigilance maintains security; and its timely response reinforces order. The lesson for Europe is clear: coherence between function and action generates influence; incoherence between words and practice produces vulnerability.

If Europe looks to history, it will see that societies that replace action with discourse are quickly relegated to a secondary strategic role. Empires and powerful—and less powerful—actors do not negotiate with abstract moralities; they negotiate with power, will, and presence. In this context, Europe's canine pastoral culture is a surprisingly revealing mirror: it combines strategy, discipline, and loyalty without the need for proclamations. It teaches that security is not entrusted to chance nor delegated to others; it is organized, maintained, and exercised with firmness.

Europe needs to rediscover this practical ethic: constant vigilance, firm presence, and proportionate action. Only then can it transform resources, industry, and population into real and respected influence. The European shepherd dog is not deceived by illusions of comfortable pacifism or by speeches about values unsupported by action. Europe must learn from this

instinctive coherence: act when necessary, protect with determination, and withdraw only when the function has been fulfilled.

6. The World Does Not Wait: International Politics and the Lesson of the European Shepherd Dog

The European Union and non-EU Europe have not been defeated on a battlefield, but in the mind and in strategy. For decades, Europe outsourced its defense, weakened key industrial sectors, dismantled strategic capabilities, and at the same time demonized nuclear energy as if structural dependence were a moral virtue. Peace was confused with comfort; ethics with inaction.

While Europe debated principles and hopes of goodwill, fifth columns grew within it: actors—conscious or unconscious, useful or openly aligned with external interests—penetrating universities, media, and cultural structures. There was no single grand conspiracy; it was enough to weaken will, erode self-confidence, and replace active vigilance with empty discourse.

The examples of Venezuela and Ukraine are stark. Every territory that is not defended becomes available ground. This is neither coincidence nor chance; it is the direct consequence of a strategy of inaction and delegated sovereignty. International politics operates according to the logic of presence and capability, not good intentions. By abandoning active vigilance and firm action, the European Union left its perimeter open. The result is clear: its influence shrinks while others draw the strategic map without its participation.

The European shepherd dog teaches that vigilance is constant and action immediate. It does not wait for permission or recognition; it observes, assesses, and acts when necessary. The European Union must learn this discipline. Those who cease to act lose sovereignty and strategic space. History and ethology agree: the absence of defense is an invitation to external domination.

7. From Barking to the Decisive Bite: The European Shepherd Dog and Europe's Survival

The European shepherd dog does not proclaim values nor seek applause. It adjusts its behavior to the environment, watches, protects, and acts coherently. Its ethics are strategic and operational: every action serves a

concrete purpose. Loyalty, defense, and resilience are not speeches; they are facts.

The European Union, by contrast, has replaced this strategic and operational ethic with moralism and symbolic self-protection. Declarations, treaties, and resolutions do not replace action. Ethics without execution are mere ornament; morality without means is impotence.

The European shepherd dog demonstrates that strength and security do not depend on words or excuses; they depend on coherence between purpose and action. The European Union must internalize this logic: values are not defended with speeches, but with constant resolve and operational capability.

8. Lessons from Israel: Europe Hesitates, the European Dog Does Not

This is not about hardening the heart, but about hardening the will. Europe must decide: act, or remain negotiable territory—available to those who calculate every move with cold pragmatism. Watch, protect, endure, and, if necessary, bite. Without empty epic, without hatred—through resilience and firm presence. Every day of inaction is a day in which others decide our fate.

Israel and its shepherd dog offer a tangible and concrete lesson. They are not respected because of their size, population, or geographic location; they are feared and taken seriously because of their unbreakable determination and strategic coherence in defending sovereignty. Security is not based on speeches or goodwill agreements, but on constant vigilance, organized preparation, and immediate response capability. Every Israeli action combines planning, prudence, and decisive execution, demonstrating that freedom and influence are earned through presence and will, not moral rhetoric.

The European Union must adopt—and adapt within its own political culture—that same mindset: observe the environment, assess risks and opportunities, adapt, decide, and execute. The correct question is not “Why is this happening to us?” but “What do we do now?” This is the practical strategy that preserves sovereignty and independence in a world where powerful actors do not negotiate with self-pity or wait for explanations.

Churchill warned of this long ago: peace is defended, not invoked. Security requires constant vigilance, organized preparation, and a willingness for decisive action. The European Union must awaken from its moral and strategic lethargy, understanding that the absence of firm will equals the loss of influence and autonomy. Learning from Israel—as from the European shepherd dog—means integrating vigilance, resilience, and action as strategic and operational principles, not as theory. Freedom and dignity are not proclaimed; they are exercised.

9. Action Before Excuses: The Strategic Instinct of the European Shepherd Dog

The twenty-first century does not forgive—and history does not either. Prolonged weakness is paid for with lost sovereignty, ceded territories, and stolen opportunities. Europe cannot afford to remain trapped in victimhood, self-pity, or moral complaint.

The European shepherd dog offers the final lesson: it acts with practical loyalty, coherence, and effectiveness. Its strength does not lie in epic narratives or discourse, but in vigilance, immediate action, and operational discipline. The European Union must learn this lesson: adapt, decide, and execute. Only then will it preserve its freedom and capacity for influence in a world where passivity is paid for with external control.

True political strength does not lie in proclaiming values, but in embodying them through constant and coherent action. The European Union has the resources, the history, and the capacity to do so. What is lacking is sustained decision, vigilance, and the will to act without delay. Like the European dog, Europe must be present, alert, and ready to protect its space, its sovereignty, and its future—and, if necessary, to bark and bite like a European shepherd dog, among the finest in the world.