The Euro: Power without Autonomy?

29 APRIL 2026

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Sanctions, Dollar Dominance, and Structural Constraints in the Eurozone
Timeframe: 01/01/1999 – 31/12/2025
European Union (EU) · Trade Policy · Issue II

Key Insights

- Main question: Why has the euro's monetary power not translated into full EU strategic autonomy?
- Argument: While the euro functions as a growing geoeconomic tool (sanctions, trade, finance), its impact is constrained by EMU's incomplete architecture, dollar dominance, and fragmented political and financial integration.

- Conclusion: Without deeper fiscal, financial, and political union, the euro cannot fully rival the dollar or deliver true strategic autonomy.

Definition

Monetary power: the ability to shape global finance through currency use, payment systems, and control over financial infrastructure.

> *The euro functions as a geoeconomic tool—using financial mechanisms like sanctions to exert power—but its effectiveness is constrained by the EU's incomplete institutional architecture.*

Documents: Source Document

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