





# European Union's Legal System: Essential Features and Tendencies of Modern Development

 Vladyslav Ivanovych Teremetskyi<sup>1\*</sup>,  Olha Borysivna Bodnar-Petrovska<sup>2</sup>,  Ihor Yuriiovych Dir<sup>3</sup>,  
 Anatolii Anatoliiiovych Petrenko<sup>4</sup>,  Tetiana Viktorivna Lien<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Modernizing Commercial Law, State Organization, “V. Mamutov Institute of Economic and Legal Research, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine”, Ukraine.  
<sup>2</sup> Mykolo Romerio University, Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania.  
<sup>3</sup>Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine.  
<sup>4</sup> Department of Theory of Law, V.M. Koretsky Institute of State and Law, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine.  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Public Administration, Law and Humanities, Kherson State Agrarian and Economic University, Ukraine.

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**Abstract.** The purpose of the article is to determine the essential features of the EU legal system, as well as the tendencies of its modern development. The article employs a variety of research methods, including systemic and structural, dialectical, formal and legal, and comparative approaches. This paper uses an approach that looks at the structural parts of the EU legal system, how they interact with national legal rules, and how modern international legal processes affect all of these things. The correlation between legal norms, institutional structures, and the axiological foundations of the EU legal system receives particular attention. The author has analyzed the current processes of the EU expansion and strengthening its influence on other states, resulting in the growing influence of its law on the legal systems of other states, primarily those that are candidates for joining the EU. It was decided that the way the EU's legal system is changing today shows that the EU wants to adapt its own legal system to modern challenges, strengthen its institutional and ideological foundation, and make sure that the rights and freedoms of its citizens are protected at the right level while also promoting integration between EU member states. The study's findings can be used to improve Ukraine's national legislation, to adapt legal norms to EU standards, and to develop strategies for harmonizing national law with the EU legal system. It will strengthen Ukraine's institutional capacity in the process of European Union integration.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of the functioning and development of modern legal systems traditionally is under the focus of close attention of modern legal scholars, as evidenced by the numerous scientific works of Ukrainian and foreign researchers, as well as the periodic holding of various scientific and expert communication platforms, within which certain aspects of this problem are discussed. Some of these issues are very important because they have to do with how so-called supranational or integrative legal systems are formed and grow. One example is the legal system of the European Union (EU), which combines parts of international and national legal systems at this point in its development.

As the EU grows and gains more power over other countries, even those not in Europe, its laws become more and more influenced by those other countries' laws. This is especially true for countries that want to join the EU or are working hard to get that status soon. For this reason, studying European law, especially the specifics of the EU legal system and how it has changed over the past few decades, is both very important from a theoretical and a practical point of view. This is because the conclusions and suggestions that come from such research will help Ukraine come up with the best way to adapt its legal system to the new institutional and legal realities in the EU.

Besides, it should also be noted that the strengthening of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in various spheres and branches of public and state life stipulates the need to study the most important areas of legal integration of Ukraine into the EU, where the issue for the development and strengthening of the legal framework of mutual relations between Ukraine and the EU occupies an important place, as well as the implementation and further application of European legal structures, categories and institutions in the legal system of Ukraine in order to ensure its further modernization and improvement, especially at the level of legislation system and legal enforcement practice.

The Institution of Electronic Petitions (Reshota et al., 2021) is one of the components of the modern legal system of EU countries. This tool of e-democracy is provided in the legal acts of the Council of Europe, in particular in Recommendation CM/Rec (2009)1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 18 February 2009 (Committee of Ministers, 2009) where the petition is defined as a dialogue between citizens and democratic institutions on the issues mentioned in the petition and therefore contributes to the realization of the right to be heard.

The European experience for counteracting disinformation and prevention of hybrid threats is also beneficial for Ukraine. Ukraine, as a direct participant in the information war, is obliged to support and involve European initiatives to strengthen information security at the national level. It is not possible without updating the legislation on information and increasing the role of information security in national acts on security issues (Teremetskyi et al., 2021).

However, the issues mentioned and the rise in interest among Ukrainian scholars in those issues are also affected by a number of other objective factors. These include the crisis realities of the modern world order in general and European security in particular, as well as the challenges and threats that come with the current stage of technological development and the potential for abusing its most valuable assets and achievements in a way that hurts society. We talk about how the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine destroyed modern international and, especially, European collective security. We also talk about how entropy is rising in the system of modern international relations and how quickly artificial intelligence, including generative AI, is developing. This calls for the creation of common international legal standards for its use, along with the right limits and bans on its use in certain situations.

All of this strongly suggests that studying the EU legal system and figuring out its unique features and trends for modern development is both important and useful. It is the very purpose of this article.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The legal system of the EU, its structure and characteristics, as well as the tendencies for modern development, have already been the research subject matter of scholars from Ukraine and other countries. We should single out such scholars as [Onishchenko \(2002\)](#) who analyzed the legal system as a special phenomenon of social reality, its features, and functions in the monograph “Legal system: problems of theory”; created a holistic concept for the development of the legal system of Ukraine, covering the entire complex of interaction of legal norms, institutions, relations, activities, awareness, and culture; revealed the peculiarities of the interaction between democratic, socio-legal state and the legal system of Ukraine, etc. Her scientific work became an impetus for understanding the legal system of the EU as a new, separate type of legal system, different from the national and international ones and earlier accepted by legal science.

The scientific publication by [Suniehin \(2019\)](#) contains the issue of modern tendencies in legal development, the content of which affects the efficiency of the functioning of the legal system. The researcher also looked into the factors and reasons that stop the legal system and its parts from developing properly, which means they can't have a positive effect on social relationships by regulating and organizing them. At the doctrinal level, the work mentioned made it possible to understand the current trends in legal development, which affect how well the legal system works.

[Weatherill \(2016\)](#) fundamental scientific study, “Law and Values in the European Union,” contains a comprehensive analysis of the legal order in the EU. The scholar raised the issue of democratic values and respect for fundamental human rights by stressing the importance of creating such a legal order where states could meet the needs of their citizens by acting collectively.

The authors of the monograph “Philosophical foundations of European Union law” [Dickson and Eleftheriadis \(2012\)](#) presented theoretical views on the main issues facing the EU and its legislation, as well as analyzed a number of points of view on theoretical problems in EU law ([Dickson & Eleftheriadis, 2012](#)).

The specified researchers focused their works only on certain issues of the legal system as a phenomenon of social reality, in particular, on its understanding, nature, structure, and functional areas. In light of this, the authors of this article first raise the question of what the EU legal system is, how it came to be, and how it has changed over time as a social phenomenon in a separate scientific publication. Additionally, Ukraine's plan to become a full member of the EU means that many issues related to defining the essence and nature of the EU legal system, as well as its likely future development in light of the current crisis, need to be rethought.

## 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to achieve the formulated purpose, the authors of the article used a number of research methods that most fully and comprehensively reveal the outlined problems. Methods of general scientific cognition and special legal methods constituted the methodological basis of the research. The conceptual and methodological basis of the research is the system and structural method, which made it possible to systematize its elements (static and dynamic) based on the considered doctrinal approaches to the definition of the concept of “legal system”. The use of the dialectical method made it possible to study the legal system through the prism of determinism and the unity of the processes of its formation, and the functional method assisted to analyze the peculiarities of the functioning of the EU legal system and its compliance with modern conditions of development.

Formal and legal method was used to figure out the formal content of the EU Constituent Treaties. This helped show how the EU legal system is structured and what it is made of. It was possible to get a better understanding of the EU legal system's processes and events by using the comparative method. This also helped with figuring out how the most important tasks are developing and being carried out while keeping in mind the current threats and challenges.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are different definitions of the concept of “legal system” in modern legal literature. At the same time, every legal system is made up of many interconnected, interacting, and dependent parts (legal means, phenomena, and processes) that are formed, work, and grow based on the objective and subjective factors of a country or society's development. These factors give the legal system complete control over the relevant social processes or relationships.

The objective factors of the functioning of legal systems are the peculiarities of legal, historical, socio-cultural, geographical, ideological, economic, and other developments in society. Social reality perceives the specified factors as facts, independent of subjective assessments, ideas, and opinions. At the same time, subjective factors, on the contrary, are directly related to a person as the primary subject of law, in particular, with the level of a human being's legal awareness, legal culture, interests, aspirations, etc.

The legal system's structure can be seen as a mix of static and moving parts that work together to make a dialectical whole. Static parts of the legal system are the core of the system. They are the stable and mostly unchanging legal rules that apply to everyone. They are like models or examples of how the law should work and are used to build social processes (the normative, organizational, or institutional parts as well as the ideological parts). The changing parts of the legal system make it possible for legal models or examples to be put into real-life social situations by enforcing the law in a certain way. They decide on certain areas, factors, and types of social change and make sure that there is a clear and unambiguous link between the events that happen in certain situations (legal relationships, law-making, legal enforcement, etc.) ([Suniegin, 2011](#)).

Given the above and the purpose of the article, we note that the nature of the legal system is primarily determined by the peculiarities of the development of its static elements, first of all law and its structure, authoritative institutions, and value-ideological basis. That is, the nature of any phenomenon, including the legal system, can be seen in its basic semantic concepts. These are what make up the system's structure, and how they are distributed among its other parts creates its defined teleological image, its potential in relation to real existence, and its inherent quality. Without these, the legal system cannot be fully understood in the context of its different manifestations.

It should be noted that the characteristic features of the structure of the entity itself (i.e., the EU), by generating its regulatory and legal components, largely determine the peculiarities of the EU legal system, as well as specific features of national or intrastate legal systems. It is well-known that there are relevant relationships and interdependencies between the institutional structure of the EU and the structure of its legal system. By making and applying common European law, the EU and its structure have a direct effect on it and its internal structure. In turn, the EU legal system has an opposing regulatory and organizing effect on it by setting the legal status of the groups or communities that make up the structure of this union.

The European Union is not a separate state but a corresponding integration, an international association of states that carries out legal regulation of relations at the public and private levels—that is, both between the states that are part of this association and between private individuals who carry out activities within the EU. Legally, the EU is an association of member states working together to make the world a better place. It has elements of both an international organization and a supranational entity that is moving toward having federal powers.

However, the modern system of the EU institutions is set up in a way that makes some institutions more international, like the Council of the European Union and the European Council, while others, like the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Court of Justice of the EU, and the European Court of Auditors, work on a more global level (Tragniuk, 2005). In this way, the EU is what holds the system of laws that apply within its borders together. It is also what supports the institutions and ideas that make up its legal system. It is this fact that determines the specific nature and corresponding features of the EU legal system.

One important thing about the EU is that it was built on international treaties, which set up a system of bodies that work for the whole union. These bodies include the European Parliament, which is chosen directly by the people of EU Member States; the Council of the EU, which is made up of 27 ministers—one from each EU Member State government; the European Commission, which is the EU's top executive body and is in charge of carrying out its decisions; and so on.

The EU's founding treaties give it a lot of power over a lot of different issues. They also talk about the EU's "exclusive competence," which means that when a country joins the EU, it takes on powers that the country itself can't do. EU regulations adopted by its institutions on the basis of the relevant norm of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU have direct effect and are applied by EU Member State courts to private individuals' rights and obligations.

These and other factors have a significant impact on the nature and peculiarities of the legal system of the EU, which cannot be considered as a "classic" state or an international organization. Such heterogeneity of the status of the EU emphasizes its dual nature and, in fact, the intersystemic character of EU law, since, on the one hand, we have the international founding treaties of the EU and the corresponding legal acts of the EU institutions, which are an integral part of the law of the EU Member States and have priority over their national law, and, on the other hand, EU law also includes norms adopted by authorized bodies of the EU Member States at the national level. This makes it possible to argue that the EU legal system has a dual nature, which does not allow it to be attributed to both the international legal system and the national or domestic legal system.

It's also important to remember that the above-mentioned details of the legal and institutional foundations of the EU's work and growth had to have an impact on the details of how the internal system of sources of law was put together. This is because the EU's legal system is based on it being an integration association of sovereign states, with supranational institutions that are authorized to make rules and laws that apply to the whole EU. Its unique structure comes from the fact that EU law applies to both international and national situations. Top EU law sources are the EU Constituent Treaties, mostly the Treaty on the EU and the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. It is easiest to see the difference between primary and secondary EU law in legal acts that are based on primary EU law. The governments of EU member states easily apply primary and secondary EU law in their legal acts.

In addition, the sources of EU law are unique because of how they work in different places and with different people, how they are adopted, introduced, and put into practice in the national legal systems of the EU Member States, and how they use precedents and regulatory legal principles to regulate social relationships. These features are reflected in the common axiological basis of the legal development of the EU Member States, which is reflected in the whole system of sources of EU law.

The EU legal system is dual, but it's not just a mix of parts of international and national legal systems. EU law also naturally brings together parts of the Romano-Germanic (continental) and Anglo-Saxon legal systems.

As one knows, European legal integration is based on the convergence of the Romano-Germanic and Anglo-Saxon legal systems. One of the key factors contributing to such contingency is the close relationship and interaction between the states that are bearers of different legal systems within the EU. These legal systems, in the process of virtually identical organizational, technical, legal, and socio-political functions, exert a constant influence on each other. At the same time, the reason for the convergence of general and continental legal systems is not only the membership of states in the EU but also the consequences of the globalization of the world economy, the expansion of social, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation, etc. The convergence factors of the indicated legal systems totally ensure the stable and purposeful development of Romano-Germanic and Anglo-Saxon law toward their gradual interpenetration and the formation of a qualitatively new legal array on this basis (Lukianova, 2013). At the same time, the combination of features of the Romano-Germanic and Anglo-Saxon legal systems in EU law is primarily traced at the level of the development of EU law's system of sources, which is accompanied by an increase in the role and importance of judicial precedent in the vast majority of EU Member States.

It should also be noted that the principles and values of the EU enshrined in Art. 2 of the EU Treaty—namely, human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities—are system-forming factors for the EU legal system. The specified values are organically complemented by other values, which are mentioned in the same article as features of the social system of the EU Member States: pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity, and equality of women and men. According to Art. 3 of the same Treaty, the support and promotion of these values, including in the international arena, is the aim of the EU (Druzenko, 2010).

The EU promotes social justice, protects human rights, develops social security, and creates conditions for the fair protection of various categories of people who need it. It seeks to prevent social exclusion and discrimination. The EU Member States adhere to the principle of pluralism in various spheres of life. Other important principles of their activity are the principle of non-discrimination and tolerance. European values unite the Member States, and no country that does not recognize them can join the EU. The main aim of the EU is to protect these values in Europe and promote peace and the well-being of the citizens of the Member States, and the European Parliament controls that these values are reflected in EU legislation (Makeieva, 2022).

European values are not an abstract reflection of certain standards but have a concrete embodiment in written legal sources. In particular, the Council of Europe adopted a number of regulatory documents in order to implement the basic values, and they became the foundation for the functioning of European society, including the Council of Europe (1996); Council of Europe (1992) and Council of Europe (1995) etc.

The norms of the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950 (Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms) and the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights of 2000 have a special place in the structure of the EU legal system, along with the legal arrays represented by the EU Constituent Treaties. In particular, their principles and norms are addressed to each EU Member State, and legal acts are adopted by joint supranational institutions of the EU and regulate important issues of the economic, social and political life of the EU and its Member States (for example, the cancellation between Member States of customs duties and quantitative restrictions on the import and export of relevant goods; legal regulation of issues related to the coordination of the general policy of the EU Member States in the field of employment; norms of the so-called "Schengen" law that determine, among other things, the uniform rules and conditions of entry into the territory of the EU, rules of customs checks, etc.).

Thus, the Preamble to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights of 2000 states the EU values, which are human dignity, freedom, equality, solidarity, democracy, the rule of law, security, and justice. The main idea of the charter is that the individual is placed at the heart of its activities by establishing the citizenship of the Union and creating an area of freedom, security, and justice. This document particularly emphasizes respect for human dignity, which is inviolable. The belief that all people have dignity means that they can all consciously choose their own moral behavior, rather than blindly follow codes of honor imposed by the state or by corporations and estates. Respect for human dignity became the first and main chapter of this charter (Amelchenko, 2013) which helped set up a way for the Council of Europe's human rights standards to be

gradually added to Ukraine's legal system. This is also known as "approximating" Ukrainian law to EU law, which means making a number of changes and putting European standards and norms into place that should protect human rights and freedoms (Sakhan & Shevchuk, 2018).

In conclusion, the legal sources we've already talked about have basic rules that are meant to make sure that the EU's values and principles are followed and that basic human rights and freedoms are protected. We are talking about personal, social, economic, political, cultural, and other rights and freedoms, in particular such as the right to life, the right to dignity, the right to liberty and personal integrity, the right to the integrity of housing and the secrecy of postal, telephone, and other messages, freedom of movement and free choice of residence, freedom of information, freedom of conscience, etc.

It's clear that the above-mentioned normative, institutional, and ideological foundations for the development of the EU legal system have a direct effect on the dynamic block of its parts, especially the activities that make laws and make sure they are followed. Because the EU legal system is both supranational and contractual, it is important to set up both law-making institutions or agencies that can make decisions that are binding in all EU Member States and special judicial agencies that can settle disagreements between national legal systems that are part of the EU and protect its values and principles as it grows as an association of democratic European states.

The process by which EU institutions adopt regulatory acts shows that the EU and its institutions work in a way that is broader than national borders. When it comes to building and running the single market and the economic and monetary union, supranational tendencies are most consistent and clear. This is because Member States give the EU the most sovereign rights, and the communitarian method is the main way they work together. There is a direct relationship between the legal nature of the EU and the legal decision-making procedures inherent in its institutions. At the same time, supranational tendencies are most clear when the legislative function is carried out in ways that make the European Parliament's role stand out, such as the cooperation procedure, the joint decision-making procedure, and the authorization procedure (Yakimenko, Salo, & Okladna, 2014). After learning about the main parts of the EU legal system, we should look at how it has changed over time. If we do this correctly, we can guess what might happen to the laws of modern states and the groups that they belong to. This will help us come up with the best legal solutions and ways for these laws to adapt to the new and confusing situations we face now, especially when it comes to rising crises and deteriorating social relationships.

It should be noted that the current tendencies in the development of the EU legal system are directly interrelated with the general tendencies of legal development: the main ones are the following:

1. Tougher legal control over social relationships (both public and private), shown in part by the increase in the number of regulatory legal acts with different levels of legal force that govern those relationships.
2. Universalization and unification of law, which are becoming more complicated and internally inconsistent, are mostly seen in the economic area of society. This, in turn, sets the stage for the implementation of similar processes of universalization and unification in other areas and branches of society.
3. Making the connections and interactions between international, regional, and national law stronger and more complicated at the same time. This can be seen in the way that international law is being more and more incorporated into national law and becoming more important than domestic law, mostly at the constitutional level.
4. The tendency of politicization of law at both the international and national levels, which is primarily manifested in the fact that law is used as a tool to achieve certain political goals, in particular, to ensure political rule, the formation of the necessary public opinion, etc (Skrypnjuk, Parkhomenko, & Onishchenko, 2022; Suniehin, 2019).

It's clear that the EU's legal system is directly affecting the trends we've been talking about in modern legal development. The EU's legal system is unique because it combines elements of both international and national legal systems, making it challenging to compare them. Also, the first three trends in modern legal development are especially clear at the EU level. For the EU to work and grow, it needs to pay close attention to making sure that the processes of harmonizing and standardizing national legal systems within the EU are done correctly. This is because the EU is going through fast, innovative changes that need the right legal rules at the international, regional, and national levels.

In addition, the way the EU's legal system is developing and the relationship that was mentioned are both affected by different things that happen in the EU's social, economic, political, technological, and other settings. We mostly talk about how any legal system and its parts should be able to meet the needs of civil society, deal with the problems and threats that come with social change, and provide the right kind of legal support for today's world. The specified factors or processes primarily affect the substantive component of EU legal development, since the effectiveness of legal influence on certain spheres and branches of social life depends not so much on the formal characteristics of the legal system, in particular its institutional and ideological basis, the peculiarities of the hierarchical construction of the system of sources of law, etc., but mostly from the consideration by the legislator or other subject of law-making activity of the social component of the quality of the law, the elements and indicators of which are the compliance of its norms with social expectations and needs, justice, legitimacy, social adaptability, etc.

In modern scientific literature, however, trends in the development of the EU legal system are mostly looked at in terms of its formal features, such as its institutional and legal backgrounds. Thus, some scholars rightly single out such tendencies in the development of the EU legal system as:

- 1) The trend to make the EU legal system more separate from the national legal systems of the Member States. This can be seen by the fact that it is possible to directly affect them by passing laws that everyone in the EU has to follow, even if those states have passed other laws that go along with them.
- 2) The growing trend to make and keep the EU legal system above the legal systems of EU Member States. This has to do with the work of the Court of the European Union, which is the only body with the power to interpret European law.
- 3) The trend of organic combination and strengthening in the EU's legal system, where most countries use the Romano-Germanic legal system; precedent law, which is mostly formed by the work of the Court of the European Union; (Murray & Holmes, 2018).

Besides, among the tendencies in the development of the EU legal system, one can distinguish a tendency to strengthen systemic relationships between the sources of primary and secondary EU law, on the one hand, and the national law of the EU Member States, on the other; the tendency to expand and strengthen the relationships of the EU legal system with international law and the legal systems of other states (Brkan, 2008; Slaughter & Burke-White, 2006) the tendency to strengthen the priority and supremacy of the EU legal system in relation to the legal systems of the EU Member States; the tendency to strengthen the role and importance of judicial precedent in the system of sources of EU law (Besson, 2004; Schooten & Verschuren, 2008) the tendency of deepening integration processes within the EU and expanding its competence; the tendency of strengthening the protection of human rights and freedoms; the tendency of unification and harmonization of EU law and national law of the EU Member States; the tendency to improve institutional transformations in the EU with the help of new mechanisms and reforms aimed at increasing the efficiency, transparency and accountability of EU institutions; the tendency to strengthen legal regulation of relations related to the use of artificial intelligence, ensuring cyber security, protection of personal data and digital services, which should ensure more effective adaptation of the EU legal system to the challenges of digitization of almost all spheres and branches of life and new technologies; the tendency to strengthen the role of the EU as a subject of international law and its interaction with other international actors (Dickson & Eleftheriadis, 2012) etc.

Highlighting these and other EU legal system development tendencies allows for generalizations about their emergence and development, such as:

1. The modern development of the EU legal system and all other trends in a certain social space are shaped and changed by objective and subjective factors that have a legal meaning or are directly related to the legal sphere of public life. There are objective factors that affect the direction or areas of development of the EU legal system. These include aspects of the growth of the economy, technology, society, politics, and other significant areas of life. On the other hand, subjective factors are mostly related to the level and details of EU citizens' legal knowledge and legal culture. It means that the EU legal system's development is influenced not only by the legal parameters of this integration union of democratic states of Europe but also by other social factors that require the legal system and its elements to respond adequately.
2. The current crisis, especially the damage done to the system of international relations by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the fact that modern international law, especially humanitarian law, can't effectively "protect" against these kinds of wars, has made it much more likely for the EU legal system to strengthen its institutions and authority and become more like the EU's constitution. In this situation, it's clear that the best way to deal with these kinds of problems and threats is to improve the EU's and the whole civilized democratic community's ways of working together. This means rethinking a lot of issues that have to do with protecting people's rights and freedoms, making the law more consistent across countries, and other similar things. It's also clear that these conditions make it more important for things like deepening economic, political, security, and other important integration between EU Member States to happen. This is done by signing new international treaties and passing relevant regulatory acts that aim to harmonize national legislation and unify EU law. They also make it easier for EU authorities to do more, especially when it comes to digitalization, cyber security, healthcare, environmental protection, and more.
3. Finding the best balance between protecting the rights and freedoms of EU citizens and strengthening the legal system's institutional and authoritative base is the most important thing for the future of the EU's legal system. This is to make sure that citizens' rights and freedoms are protected first and foremost in the face of new challenges and threats, mostly related to scientific and technological progress, the inability of modern international law to maintain stable peace and security, and the crisis of society's legal and moral awareness. However, the most important thing is to find a good way for the EU to grow and change in the modern world. This would, on the one hand, make sure that EU citizens' rights and freedoms are properly protected, serving as the ideological basis for the EU's legal system's growth and development. It would also make sure that these rights and freedoms are given top priority in the EU's political and legal space, and it would also set up strong official and governmental defenses against any possible damage to social life within the EU and among its member states.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Given the above, we can make the following conclusions:

1. The EU, as an integration entity, is a unique subject of public authority. Its institutions have a lot of power to manage things both inside and outside of the EU, thanks to the EU Member States. This power is used by legal rules and institutions that were created based on values that are stated in the EU Treaty and other primary EU law sources. The EU has its own unique legal system, which interacts with both national laws and international law. This is because the EU is made up of an integration association of states and supranational power institutions that all of them share.  
Additionally, the EU's legal system is complex, with many parts and levels. It is mainly made up of the rules that govern public and private social relationships within the EU and between the EU and other countries. There are many ways to look at the internal structure of the EU legal system. Some of these are the hierarchical structure and relationships between different parts of the law, the types of social relationships that are regulated by law, the nature of public and private interests, and the social values that are protected by EU laws.
2. The way the EU's legal system is changing shows that the EU wants to make it more modern, strengthen its institutions and ideas, and protect citizens' rights and freedoms at the right level.

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The authors state that the manuscript is honest, truthful, and transparent, that no key aspects of the investigation have been omitted, and that any differences from the study as planned have been clarified. This study followed all writing ethics.

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All authors contributed equally to the conception and design of the study. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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