

What awaits Europe in 2019?

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Life is an interesting thing. It does not happen so that everything is permanently either good or bad. White stripes always replace black ones.

This year, the European Union entered another dark streak. And it is determined by two factors: uncertainty with BREXIT and rumors that are gaining popularity about a possible withdrawal of the United States from NATO.

On January 15, members of the lower house of parliament of Great Britain rejected a deal on the conditions for the country's withdrawal from the EU. 432 deputies supported by only 202 expressed opposition to the draft agreement agreed with Brussels, which was actively promoted by the Prime Minister Theresa May. Thus, the seemingly resolved issue with BREXIT delayed.

Now it turns out that a little more than two months are left, and an agreement that would suit both parties has not been reached. Politicians talk about the possibility of delaying the procedure to the second half of the year. And at the end of May, elections to the European Parliament will be held. At the same time, part of the UK chairs has already been reduced, the other is distributed among representatives of other EU countries.

In addition, the parties began the formation of factions, with the result that the coming to power of Euro-skeptics and right-wing populists is considered very likely. When holding elections with the participation of representatives of the United Kingdom, this is hardly possible. In this regard, in the political circles of the EU begins a mess.

The second important factor is the newly emerged rumors about a possible US withdrawal from NATO. If we consider that the

rumors themselves do not appear, then it is worth waiting for the message about this from President Trump's Twitter.

And this situation is also far from ambiguous. The US position is that there is no desire to pay for others. Because many member countries do not contribute to the budget of the alliance 2% of GDP.

And if Trump fails to leave NATO without Congress permission, then he definitely succeeded in bringing panic among the military leadership of European states. The recent years have been characterized by an aggravation of feelings about the presence of a military threat from Russia for a number of Eastern European and Baltic states. At the same time, real doubts are created that the American president will give a command to the troops to come to their aid. And the the US agreement with NATO promulgated about a year ago, which states that America is not obliged to comply with paragraph V, but will send troops at its discretion does not add optimism.

And if Germany, France or the United Kingdom will be able to protect themselves independently, then Poland or the Baltic countries alone will definitely not succeed.

It turns out that the year 2019 began with two interesting questions: to be or not to be NATO and the EU. They entail the following: who will protect if NATO falls apart and who if not the EU will help financially and politically. There are no answers yet.

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