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**VON DER LEYEN INVOKES 'CALL OF HISTORY' AS SHE BACKS EU MEMBERSHIP FOR UKRAINE**

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13.09.2023

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Politico (13 September 2023)

BY SUZANNE LYNCH AND NICHOLAS VINOUCUR

*European Commission president says she envisages the EU growing to more than 30 countries.*

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen invoked the call of history as she urged Europeans to bring Ukraine into an EU of more than 30 countries, casting enlargement as an epoch-defining decision for the 27-nation bloc.

The future of Ukraine is in our Union, the Commission chief declared in her annual state of the union address in Strasbourg, in which she also opened the door to EU treaty change, if needed.

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