

# UN+ SETTLED



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## **DELEGATE HANDBOOK**

### **CANTERBURY MODEL**

### **EUROPEAN UNION 2015**

THE EU RESPONSE TO  
MIGRATION & REFUGEES IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN IN 2015

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY  
CHRISTCHURCH

3-4 SEPTEMBER 2015

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**[www.eucnetwork.org.nz](http://www.eucnetwork.org.nz)**

**[www.unyouth.org.nz](http://www.unyouth.org.nz)**

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# WHAT IS THE EUCN?

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The New Zealand European Union Centres Network (EUCN), is a network of all eight New Zealand universities that aims to combine the three elements of research, teaching and outreach under a unique thematic umbrella focused on the impact, role and understanding of the European Union within New Zealand and the wider Pacific region.

The Network is multidisciplinary in orientation and open to all New Zealand universities with an interest in European Union Studies. The 1999 EU-NZ Joint Declaration - involving economics, politics, security, innovation, development, democratic values and people and cultures - defines the scope of the Network's activities.

It organizes academic research and administrates scholarships for students studying the EU. Events, seminars and conferences are open to the public and often available via online login.

The EUCN is co-funded by an European Commission Grant.

Visit our website: [www.eucnetwork.org.nz](http://www.eucnetwork.org.nz)



**EUCN - New Zealand European Union Centres Network**



# WHAT IS UN YOUTH?

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The United Nations Youth Association of New Zealand, or UN Youth, serves as the youth arm of the United Nations Association of New Zealand, a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). WFUNA has consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Despite only being in existence since 1999, UN Youth creates an amazing opportunity for youth to express themselves, learn about the United Nations and provide positive solutions for what is, ultimately, their future.

Visit our website: [www.unyouth.org.nz](http://www.unyouth.org.nz)



**UN Youth NZ (National)**



**UN Youth NZ - Canterbury Region**



**@unyouthnz**



# WHAT IS THE NCRE?

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The National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) brings together students, teachers, graduates and academics from around the world to research and study the European Union and Europe-related issues and topics. The centre belongs too and runs the 'European Studies Association of New Zealand' and the 'Jean Monnet centre of Excellence Asia-Pacific'

The NCRE also performs a wider societal role and serves as a key element in the EU's outreach within New Zealand and the Pacific. Raising a critical awareness of the EU, informing government, the media and public opinion all play an equally important part in the NCRE's core function.

Above all, the NCRE encourages and promotes a new generation of New Zealand graduates who have a high level of expertise and interest in the EU.

Visit our website at: <http://www.europe.canterbury.ac.nz/>



**All Things Europe - the NCRE**

*Note - you will need a current Facebook account to access this page*



# CONFERENCE DETAILS

## WHERE?

The Model EU Training and Simulation Event will be held at the University of Canterbury (UC), Christchurch. The sessions will be held in the Central Lecture Theatre (C Block Theatre) and Kirkwood Village. The dinner and networking on Thursday will be in the Undercroft.

You can download the UC Finder App on the Google Play store or the App Store <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/theuni/maps/>

## CENTRAL LECTURE THEATRES (C BLOCK)



# CONFERENCE DETAILS

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## KIRKWOOD VILLAGE



***Should you get lost at any stage please approach a UC staff member to call Security or ring Security on 0800 823 637, who will be able to assist.***

## WHEN?

### **Thursday, 03 September 2015:**

Registrations start from 11:30am

Programme start at 12:00pm

### **Friday, 04 September 2015:**

Programme start at 09:00am

# CONFERENCE

## DETAILS: PREPARATION

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To get the most out of the Model EU you will need to do some preparation before arriving. Being well informed about your allocated party, its position, and your committee will make you more confident and at ease when presenting your party's viewpoints.

### **COUNTRY**

Research your country's position on the Refugee crisis; this will enable you to inform your party's position on the Directive. Your country's position will only have a limited impact in the committee as you are now an MEP and you need to prioritise your party's viewpoint accordingly.

### **DIRECTIVE**

Read through the Directive to get the gist of what it is saying.

Make sure you understand what every word means – look it up in the dictionary if you do not understand something.

Find out what your party's interests are and its opinion on the matter. Is it blatantly opposed to it? Does it like certain parts but not others?

Read through your committee description and make sure you know which parts of the Directive you will be debating. Remember: short, sharp, snappy speeches are classy and leave more time for debate. They get your point across in the most direct fashion and are likely to have the greatest effect. Remember, too, that there will be a prize for the best MEP in each of the five committees.

### **WHAT TO BRING**

Pen and paper, any research you have done about your country or the Directive, plus the Directive itself! Also, bring a water bottle and any medication that you normally take. Laptops are permitted but an internet connection cannot be guaranteed.

### **WHAT TO WEAR?**

Formal school uniform or formal business attire.

### **ANY QUESTIONS?**

Accommodation [yvonne.grosch@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:yvonne.grosch@canterbury.ac.nz)

Registrations [alex.mchugh@unyouth.org.nz](mailto:alex.mchugh@unyouth.org.nz) or [kaitlyn.white@unyouth.org.nz](mailto:kaitlyn.white@unyouth.org.nz)

# INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME:

## ***“THE EU RESPONSE TO MIGRATION AND REFUGEES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN 2015”***

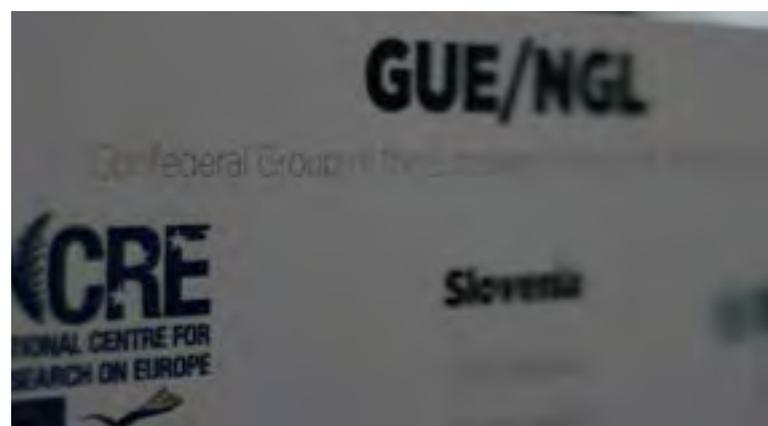
Welcome to the 2015 Canterbury Model European Union. This is your delegate booklet, a resource designed to give you a general understanding of this year’s Model EU topic – the Mediterranean Migrant Crisis – as well as your expected role as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

In recent months, a series of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean Sea have killed thousands of people fleeing their war-torn and corrupt countries and trying to reach a perceived better life in affluent Europe. Since the European Union (EU) has largely abolished borders, the migrant crisis affects all of the countries in the EU. Therefore, the EU is trying to respond to this crisis and limit the death toll in the Mediterranean.

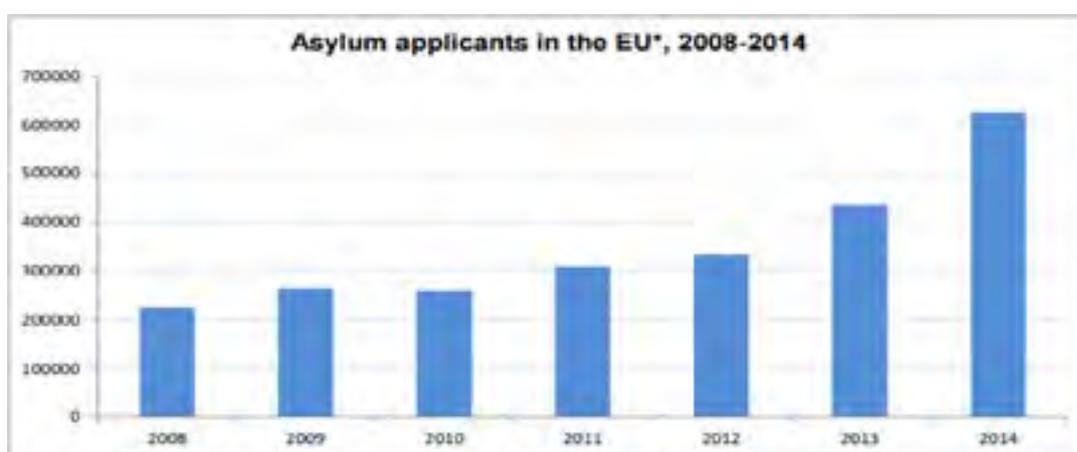
Your role as a Member of the Model European Parliament (MEP) will be to represent your assigned country’s interests, as well as your assigned party’s interest in discussing and making amendments to the resolution that will be presented to you.

But first here is some background information on the issue in order to help you understand what is at stake. You are strongly encouraged to do your own research as well, in order to form a representative position on the issue.



# WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AT THE MOMENT?

So far this year, more than 100,000 migrants have reached southern Europe by boat. This number is already slightly ahead of the levels reached at this time last year. According to the European Commission, in 2014 the EU received around 626,000 applications for international protection which is the highest level of asylum applications in over 20 years.



\* EU refers to EU/27 (excluding Croatia) for the years 2008 to 2013 and to EU/28 for 2013 and 2014.

These data<sup>7</sup> on asylum applicants in the EU are published in a report<sup>8</sup> issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

In 2015, the largest migrant group by nationality is Syrians - more than 8,800. Then come migrants from Eritrea (more than 3,300) and Somalia (more than 2,900). Many of the others are sub-Saharan Africans, or from Asia, such as Afghanistan. Of that total, 54,000 arrived in Italy and 48,000 in Greece. Another 920 reached Spain and 91 Malta.

Apart from the central Mediterranean route, there has also been a sharp increase in illegal migration across the border from Serbia into Hungary, as Serbia is not an EU country.



Source: Frontex, IOM

BBC

# WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AT THE MOMENT?

The boats these migrants travel on are often very unsafe and accidents happen frequently during the crossing. The migrant death toll at sea this year stood at 1,865 by 10 June, of those, 1,816 died trying to reach Italy, 31 en route to Greece, and 18 en route to Spain. In 2014 over 3200 migrants died during the crossing and officials fear this year the death toll may be even greater. A solution therefore needs to be found urgently.

Migrant deaths in the Mediterranean, 2014-15



Data covers central and eastern Mediterranean routes. Locations are based on the IOM's Missing Migrants database. Some locations are approximate.  
Source: IOM



# WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

Europe has always been as an attractive destination for migrants, whether they be economic migrants or asylum seekers.

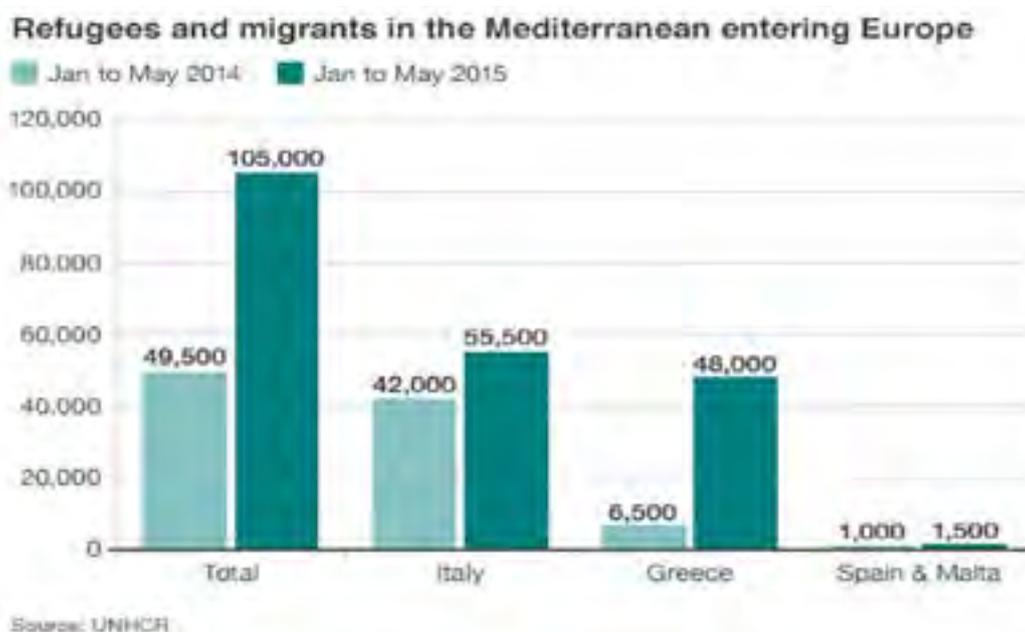
However, with increased instability in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean the number of migrants has skyrocketed. Syria's brutal civil war, as well as turmoil in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Tunisia have served to push more migrants towards Europe. Many of these migrants will seek to get asylum in Europe.

Asylum is a form of international protection given by a state on its territory. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his / her country of citizenship and / or residence, in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

Migrants, especially economic migrants, choose to move in order to improve the future prospects of themselves and their families.

A refugee is a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside his or her country of nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country. Refugees have to move if they are to save their lives or preserve their freedom.

People smuggling networks take advantage of the despair of people in order to make money. They sell the passage across the Mediterranean for thousands of euros. Very often the embarkations they use are unsafe which is why there are so many accidents.



# WHAT IS THE EU DOING ABOUT THIS?

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## **SAVING PEOPLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

In November 2014 Italy controversially ended its search and rescue mission in the Mediterranean, called Mare Nostrum. This was replaced by a cheaper and more limited EU operation called Triton, focused on patrolling within 30 nautical miles of the Italian coast.

Aid organisations say the scaling down of the rescue effort has put more migrants' lives at risk.

## **ASYLUM PROCEDURES**

The European Union (EU) has limited authority over asylum in Europe. This means that the individual Member States of the EU make decisions on who may, or may not, be granted asylum in their countries. There are however some EU-wide rules that all countries must follow.

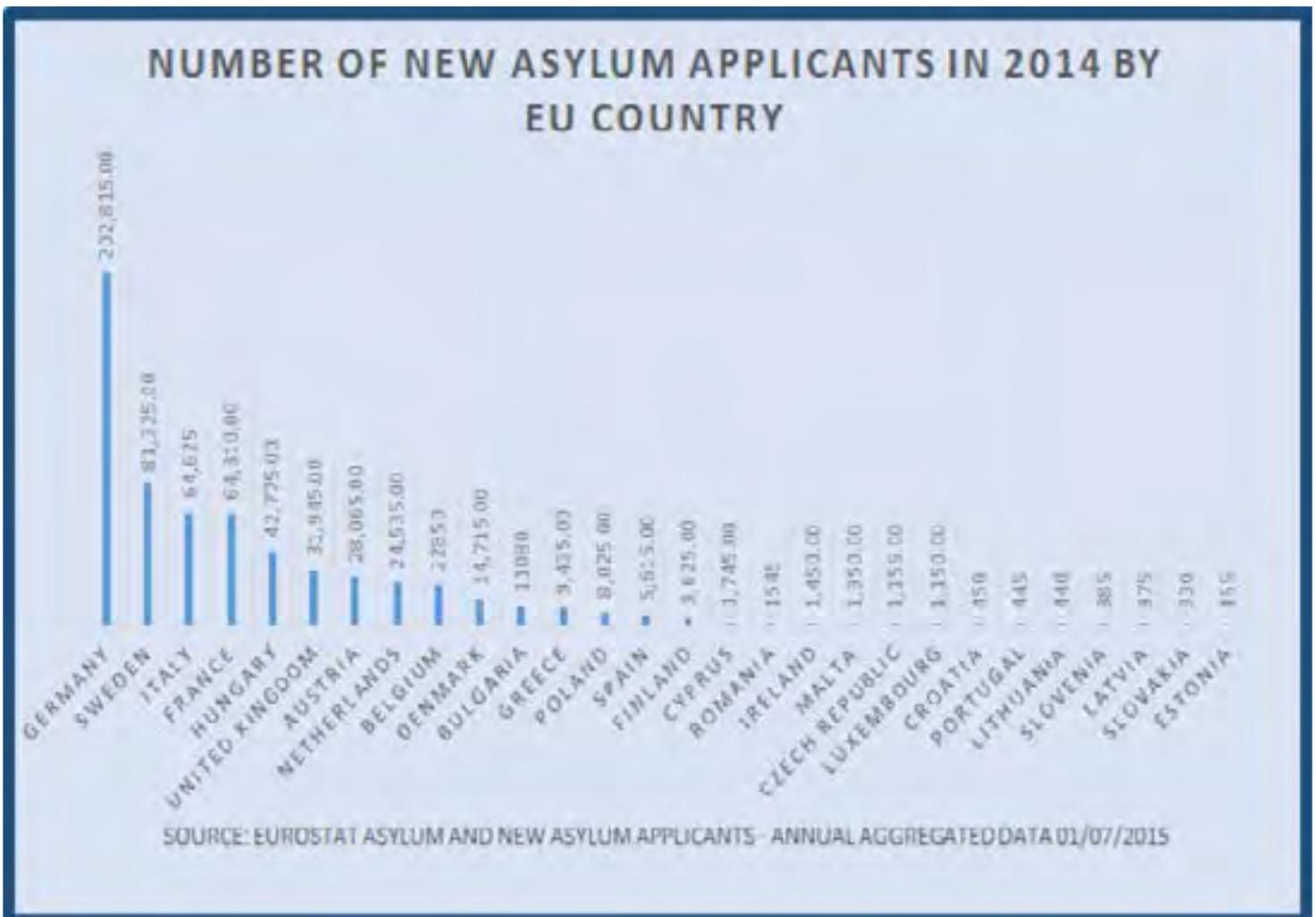
All the EU Member States make a distinction between asylum seekers and refugees. An asylum seeker is a person submitting a request for refugee status. The asylum seeker is not granted refugee status unless the Member State decides they qualify, following a defined legal procedure.

The main body of text that governs asylum procedures in Europe is the Dublin III Regulation. It regulates which EU countries are responsible for the asylum applications and ensures that only one application can be made per applicant in the EU so that responsibility over applications can be determined quickly in order to ensure effective access to asylum for refugees in the European Union.

There are a number of criteria that govern which Member State is responsible for an asylum application including: whether the applicant has family members in one member state, whether an applicant has recently had a visa or residence permit in a Member State or whether the person had travelled through another Dublin III country. If the applicant has no family in the EU, and if they have not been issued a visa or residence permit then the first country they have entered within the Dublin III countries, shall be responsible for their application.



This system, under Dublin III, has been criticised because it puts pressure on countries in the south of Europe such as Italy, Greece or Malta who deal with the large influx of migrants and who don't necessarily have the capacity to deal with large numbers of asylum applications. However, some countries are more appealing to migrants because of cultural ties, perceptions from their home country or because they heard that the reception conditions are better (Germany and the United Kingdom for instance). These countries wish to reduce so-called "asylum shopping" whereby asylum seekers would be able to choose which country to file an application for asylum.



# WHAT ARE THE REPERCUSSIONS WITHIN THE EU?

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Immigration is the most pressing concern for Europeans, overtaking the economic issues and unemployment, according to a new Eurobarometer survey. Thirty-eight percent of Europeans regard immigration as their main policy priority, the spring Eurobarometer poll published on Friday (31 July) found, a 14 point increase from last autumn.

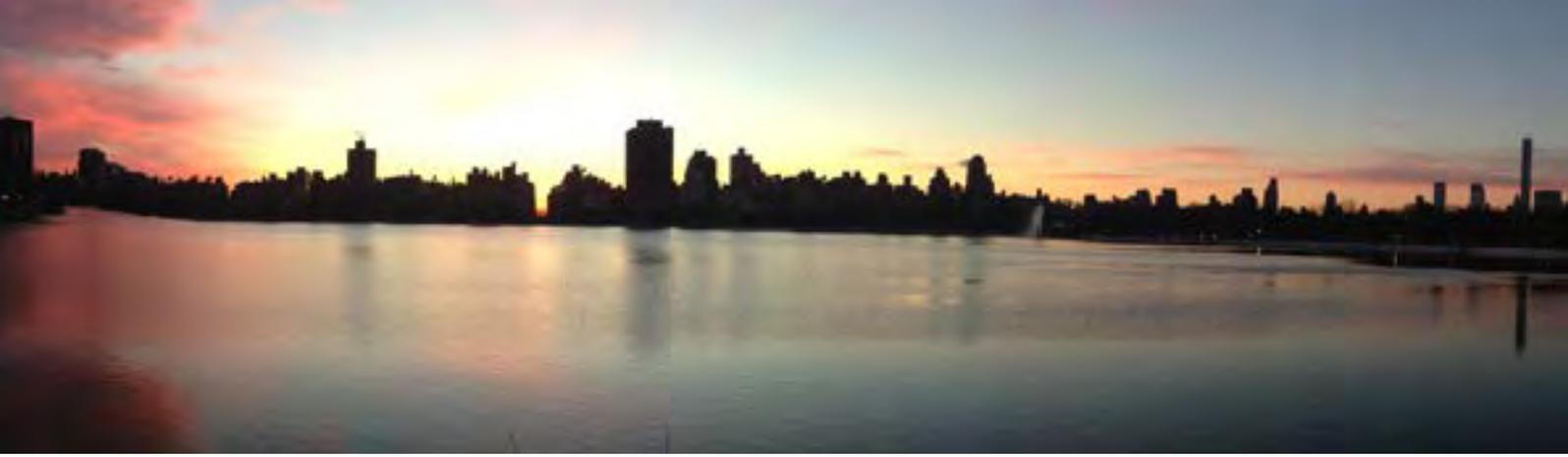
This crisis is happening at a time when nationalist sentiment, xenophobia and islamophobia are at a peak in many European countries. Therefore these issues are much debated within civil society, on the media and within domestic political systems.

Freedom of movement across internal borders is a fundamental principle of the EU, but the current migration crisis is testing some EU member states' commitment to that ideal.

Hungary for example, has suspended its observation of the Dublin Convention and has announced that it will decline to take back migrants who have travelled further west. This has created tensions between Hungary and Austria. Austria stated that it may have to reinstate anti-EU border controls with Hungary. That announcement followed Hungary's announcement that it plans to build an immigrant-repelling fence on its border with non-EU member Serbia. Hungary also erected anti-immigrant billboards nationwide warning foreigners they "cannot take away Hungarians' jobs."

Migrants often go through the nets of the EU's external border controls and makeshift refugee camps are sometimes created in places such as Calais in the north of France, where the Eurotunnel links the UK to continental Europe. Migrants in Calais often try to smuggle themselves into the UK by attempting to board lorries taking the train through the tunnel or the ferry across the channel or to try to hide on Eurotunnel trains themselves. These stories have been prominent in UK press with some newspapers and politicians advocating for the army to be deployed.





Germany is the country with the most asylum applications in Europe. In the first half of this year alone, more than 179,000 people applied for asylum in Germany, a country of about 80 million. That is an increase of 132 percent over the same period in 2014. During the same period, the Interior Ministry recorded 202 attacks on housing for asylum-seekers, including attempts to render shelters uninhabitable through arson, attacks with stones or other vandalism. In addition, a group called Courage Against the Right (Mut Gegen Rechte Gewalt <http://www.mut-gegen-rechte-gewalt.de/> ) cites 48 attacks on individuals, based on local police records.

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of registered applicants in 2014 were recorded in Sweden (8.4 applicants per thousand inhabitants), well ahead of Hungary (4.3), Austria (3.3) and Malta (3.2).

The increased pressure on asylum application infrastructure has meant that the processing of these migrants applications for asylum has deteriorated in many Member States. Countries such as Greece, Italy, and Malta are asking for a redistribution of migrant asylum seekers throughout the EU as they can no longer provide safe and timely asylum procedures.



# HOW DO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND DEAL WITH ASYLUM?

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When considering how to deal with a policy issue, Policy makers often look at other countries. It may therefore be useful for you to consider what approach Australia and New Zealand take towards granting refuge to asylum seekers.

## NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand currently accepts 750 refugees under its formal UN Refugee Quota Programme. Additionally New Zealand accepts up to 300 people under the Refugee Family Support Category. New Zealand has not increased its refugee quota for 30 years. It is ranked 87th in the world for total refugee resettlement per capita.

New Zealand's Prime Minister, John Key has accepted that there is "an international problem", but the scale of the crisis meant an increase in New Zealand's refugee resettlement would achieve little.

"If we were to go ... from 750 to 850 or 750 to 1000 it's hard to believe that that's going to resolve the issue." Key acknowledged that Australia's quota was far higher than New Zealand, but added "there's also a lot of countries that don't take any at all." New Zealand reviews its quota every three years, and the next review deadline is mid-2016.

New Zealand is party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of Refugees. In recent years, New Zealand has received an average of 300 claims per year from people seeking to be recognised as refugees or protected persons. They are assessed in accordance with the criteria for refugee status set out in the 1951 Refugee Convention, the Convention against Torture, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Refugee and protection status applicants who are declined at first instance have the right of appeal to the Immigration and Protection Tribunal of the Ministry of Justice. The number of refugee and protection claims approved over the last few years averages around 150 per year.

Refugees who are resettled in New Zealand through the Refugee Quota Programme and Refugee Family Support Category have permanent residence status on arrival. Successful refugee and protection status claimants are eligible to apply for permanent residence.

# AUSTRALIA

Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Programme re-settles 20,000 refugees each year. Australia is in the top three countries for resettlement of refugees, along with the US and Canada. In 2012, asylum seeker applications in Australia accounted for just over 3% of the global share.

Since 2012, Australia has seen a significant increase in the number of boat people arrivals, with more than 20,000 in 2014. This year 157 asylum seekers have arrived in Australia by boat as a result of a boat pushback policy, introduced by the Abbott government. This policy means any boat intercepted on its way to Australia is either sent back to Indonesia or picked up with all occupants detained in detention centres on Pacific Islands in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Anyone judged a refugee will be resettled in Nauru, PNG or Cambodia, rather than Australia. Canberra is broadcasting videos telling would-be immigrants that if they try to make the trip by boat illegally, "there is no way you will ever make Australia home". Abbott has openly criticized EU policy and told Europe they should be following the Australian example.

Offshore detention has come under sharp focus in recent months following the deaths of two asylum seekers on Manus Island and allegations of sexual abuse against women and children on Nauru.



# FURTHER READING

## **Why is EU struggling with migrants and asylum?**

BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>

## **Why won't NZ accept more refugees?**

NZ Herald [http://m.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11468045](http://m.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11468045)

## **Hungary: Change to Asylum Law puts tens of thousands at risk**

Amnesty International <https://www.amnesty.org.nz/hungary-change-asylum-law-puts-tens-thousands-risk>

## **Australia asylum: Why is it controversial?**

BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28189608>

## **Asylum seekers and refugees guide**

Australian Human Rights Commission <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/asylum-seekers-and-refugees-guide>

## **Why is there a crisis in Calais?**

BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29074736>

## **10 truths about Europe's migrant crisis**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/aug/10/10-truths-about-europes-refugee-crisis>



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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**Dr Katharine Vadura**  
**NCRE Adjunct Senior Fellow**  
**University of Canterbury**



Katharine Vadura is currently senior fellow at the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch New Zealand. At the NCRE she is involved research on aspects of human rights and human security in relation to the European Union and the Pacific, as well as undergraduate teaching and postgraduate teaching and supervision. Her research interests focus on human rights dimensions associated with forced migration and transnational security issues; human security and global governance related to children's rights, and human rights aspects of humanitarian action in a European and Asia Pacific context. She has authored a number of articles, and presented at international

**Dr John Leslie**  
**Economics and Trade Advisor**  
**European Union Delegation to New Zealand**

John Leslie joined the European Union Delegation to New Zealand in January 2014 as Adviser for Economics and Trade. He also follows bilateral relations in Science and Technology and Climate Change. Before joining the Delegation, Dr Leslie was a Lecturer in Political Science and International Affairs at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) from 2005-2013. He lectured European Politics and Political Economy at VUW and served as a member of the Executive



Board of the New Zealand European Union Centres Network from 2006-2013. His research compares 'deep' economic integration between Australia and New Zealand to integration in Europe and the Asia Pacific. Results of this research have been published in the Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS), Government & Opposition and have been cited in reports by Australian and New Zealand Productivity Commissions reports on strengthening economic relations between the two countries. Dr Leslie was educated at the University of California at Berkeley, the Free University Berlin and Princeton University and was a Fellow of the Robert Bosch Foundation in Germany, the University of California Institute of European Studies and the Australian National University Centre for European Studies.

# TIMETABLE: DAY ONE

THURSDAY, 03 September 2015			
Time	Location	Topic	Activity
11:30	C Block Foyer	Registrations open & lunch	Come to sign in and collect your Delegate package
12:00-12:15	C3 Theatre	Welcome	Kaitlyn White, UN Youth Darryn Russell, AYC Maroi Gail Gilton, PVC Education
12:15 – 13:00	C3 Theatre	Introduction to the EU	Dr Serena Kelly
13:00 – 13:40	C3 Theatre	Keynote Speech	Dr Katharine Vadura, UC
13:40 – 14:00	C Block Foyer	Afternoon Tea	
14:00 – 15:00	C3 Theatre	Introduction to the Theme	Berengere Greenland Iana Sabatovych Eva Brown
15:00 – 15:20	C3 Theatre	Rules of Procedures Training	UN Youth
15:20 – 15:40	C3 Theatre + Foyer	Country Representative Meetings	Recap your country's position
15:40 – 16:00	Walk to Kirkwood		
16:00 – 16:45	Kirkwood	Political Party Meetings (help sessions)	Meet up in your political parties to discuss the party position on the Directive in general and what you'll say at the committee meetings.
	EPP	KH03	
	ECR	KH05	
	EFDD	KH07	
	GrEFA	KG06	
	GUE/NGL	KG07	
	S&D	KE04	
	ALDE	KE05	
	ENL	KE06	
16:45 – 17:30	Kirkwood	Committee Meetings	
	LIBE	KE04	
	ECON	KE05	
	HR	KE06	
	FASD	KG06	
	FADE	KG07	
17:30	Walk to Undercroft		
17:45 – 18:45	Undercroft	Dinner	Enjoy food and networking with other Delegates and UC Staff

# TIMETABLE: DAY TWO

FRIDAY, 04 September 2015			
Time	Location	Topic	Activity
08:30 – 09:00	C Block Foyer	Registrations	
09:00 – 09:20	C3 Lecture Theatre	Official Welcome & Opening	Dr Rod Carr, VC Prof Jonathan Le Cocq, PVC Arts Prof Sonia Mazey, PVC BSEC Dr John Leslie, EUD
09:20 – 10:00	C3 Lecture Theatre	Keynote Address	Dr John Leslie, EUD
10:00 – 10:30	Walk to Kirkwood & Morning Tea		
10:30 – 11:00	Kirkwood Pods	Political Party Meetings	Quickly re-cap among your party
	EPP	KH03	
	ECR	KH05	
	EFDD	KH07	
	GrEFA	KG06	
	GUE/NGL	KG07	
	S&D	KE04	
	ALDE	KE05	
	ENL	KE06	
11:00 – 12:00	Kirkwood Pods	Committee Meetings	Meet to discuss the Directive in the committees
	LIBE	KE04	
	ECON	KE05	
	HR	KE06	
	FASD	KG06	
	FADE	KG07	
12:00 – 12:45	Kirkwood	Lunch	
12:45 – 14:00	Kirkwood	Committee Meetings	
	LIBE	KE04	
	ECON	KE05	
	HR	KE06	
	FASD	KG06	
	FADE	KG07	
14:00 – 14:45	Kirkwood	Political Party Meetings	
	EPP	KH03	
	ECR	KH05	
	EFDD	KH07	
	GrEFA	KG06	
	GUE/NGL	KG07	
	S&D	KE04	
	ALDE	KE05	
	ENL	KE06	
14:45 – 15:15	Afternoon Tea & Walk to C Block		
15:15 – 16:45	C3 Lecture Theatre	Plenary Session	
16:45 – 17:00	C3 Lecture Theatre	Closing Ceremony & Prize Giving	Dr John Leslie, EUD Lynn McLellan, UC

# POLITICAL PARTIES



PARTY	LEANING	WEBSITE
Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)	Communist	<a href="http://www.guengl.eu">www.guengl.eu</a>
Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D)	Social Democrats	<a href="http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu">www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu</a>
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (EFA)	Greens / Regionalists	<a href="http://www.greens-efa.eu">www.greens-efa.eu</a>
Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)	Liberals / Centralists	<a href="http://www.alde.eu">www.alde.eu</a>
Group of the European People's Party (EPP)	Center Right / Christian democrats	<a href="http://www.eppgroup.eu">www.eppgroup.eu</a>
European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR)	National Conservatives	<a href="http://www.ecrgroup.eu">www.ecrgroup.eu</a>
Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group (EFDD)	Eurosceptics	<a href="http://www.efdgroup.eu/">http://www.efdgroup.eu/</a>
Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENL)	Eurosceptics	<a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150622IPR69217/html/Opening-new-Europe-of-Nations-and-Freedom-group-declared-formed">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150622IPR69217/html/Opening-new-Europe-of-Nations-and-Freedom-group-declared-formed</a>

# THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP)

With 219 members, the European People's Party is the largest in the European Parliament.

It brings together centre and centre-right pro-European political forces from the Member States of the EU, coming together to advance the goal of a more competitive and democratic Europe, closer to its citizens, and a social market economy.

The European People's Party is the political family whose roots run deep in the history and civilisation of the European continent and which has pioneered the European project from its inception. Tracing back its roots to Europe's Founding Fathers – Robert SCHUMAN, Alcide DE GASPERI, and Konrad ADENAUER - the EPP is committed to a strong Europe based on a federal model that relies on the principle of subsidiarity.

Monika Hohlmeier MEP, the EPP Group Coordinator in the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, welcomed the proposals and urged the Council to wake-up to the reality of asylum seekers.

"The solidarity mechanism for the distribution of refugees is a step in the right direction", she said. "Even those EU countries which have not yet taken any refugees must show solidarity and humanity. However, the corrective factor of 10 percent (applied inversely) for the number of asylum applications received and the resettlement places already offered in the past 5 years is not acceptable. This percentage is too low for some countries, like Germany or Sweden. Moreover, refugees who travel from one Member State to another would not fall under this solidarity mechanism as proposed by the Commission. I believe they should. Every day hundreds of refugees travel directly from Italy to Germany."

EPP Group Vice-Coordinator in the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee, Roberta Metsola MEP, said: "The proposals are an emergency response to an emergency situation in Italy and Greece. It is an acknowledgment that this is a European challenge that deserves a European response by every Member State, acting in solidarity. This is the first step and should be followed by a permanent system which is expected to be proposed later in the year."

"A relocation system is one part of a holistic approach to migration. It must go hand in hand with other measures and we hope that this will signal the beginning of a reform of EU rules on migration and asylum that would mean that Mediterranean countries are no longer faced with a disproportionate responsibility once people are rescued from the sea"

# THE EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS (ECR)

This party was officially created in 2009 by the the British Conservative Party at the behest of David Cameron. The party is formed of 72 MEPs from 15 EU countries, and is currently the third largest group in the European Parliament.

The ECR want to steer the EU away from the ideological march towards a European federal super-state and towards a more flexible organisation that listens to and respects people in all of its member countries. Instead of clinging to outdated ideals of European integration they believe in equipping the EU with the practical solutions required to rise to today's challenges.

Their founding ideals are based on an EU open for trade, closer to its people, living within its means and delivering value, and respectful of the diversity across Europe. Above all, we want an EU of cooperation and common sense.

On the issue of migration in the Mediterranean, Mr Kirkhope, ECR spokesman in the LIBE committee and former British Immigration Minister, has stated: "There is no doubt that when it comes to saving lives, addressing the criminality of human trafficking, and stabilising the EU's external border, cooperation is key. We have a moral duty to assist one another." He has stressed that the EU must do what it can to help create stability in North Africa, while also assisting the arrival countries.

However, the ECR does not believe that relocation of migrants is a good long term solution to the crisis. On this subject, Mr Kirkhope has said "True solidarity cannot be created through compulsion alone, and binding quotas oversimplify the solution for such a complex situation."

# THE EUROPEAN FREEDOM AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY PARTY (EFDD)

This party was formed in 2014 but is a continuation of the Europe of Freedom and Democracy (EFD) group that existed since 2009. Its presidents are David Borelli and Nigel Farage. They are widely regarded as the Eurosceptic party of the European Union.

Members of this party believe that the legitimate level for democracy lies with the Nation States, their regions and parliaments since there is no such thing as a single European people. The EFDD opposes further European integration (treaties and policies) that would exacerbate the present democratic deficit and the centralist political structure of the EU. They also believe that member states have the right to protect their borders and strengthen their own historical, traditional, religious and cultural values. On the issue of migration and asylum Paul Nuttall a member of the EFDD said: "These Federalist fanatics expose their crazy undemocratic schemes at each crisis. There is no acknowledgement that common European policies such as the Euro or Fisheries Policy have been a disaster." "They now use the Med Crisis to call for a centralised common asylum system. It would be the death knell of national sovereignty and an inducement for more people to hand themselves over to barbarous people-traffickers in Libya."



## THE GREENS/EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE

The Greens/European Free Alliance counts with 50 MEPs from 17 countries and 5 regions. It is the only group with a gender-balanced Co-Presidency.

The EU was founded on a community of values and fundamental rights, however experience has shown that some of these commitments only exist on paper. The Greens/EFA want to establish a genuine culture of human rights in EU policy and practice. They also want the systematic inclusion and enforcement of a binding human rights clause in all EU agreements and for EU Member States to allow EU scrutiny of their human rights practices. The Greens/EFA fight all forms of discrimination and intolerance and take the urgent action required to help the most disadvantaged in society.

Greens/EFA stand for the values of environmental responsibility, freedom, justice, diversity and non-violence. These values are considered interdependent and inseparable.

On the issue of migration in the Mediterranean, Greens/EFA co-presidents Rebecca Harms and Philippe Lamberts said: "There are no objective, binding criteria for the reallocation of migrants and no solidarity among the EU member states. Where EU leaders do agree is on tightening up border control and preventing migrants from getting into the EU. While so many migrants are fleeing conflicts at the EU's borders, dictatorships or climate change, there was no discussion of these causes or of safe and legal means of entry to the EU."

They believe priority of EU Member States should be given to responding to the increasing loss of life and human suffering. Therefore the EU and all of its member states must accept taking a greater share of refugees and facilitating legal access to the EU: the Greens/EFA therefore strongly oppose the militarization of the European approach towards refugees.

# CONFEDERAL GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT/NORDIC GREEN LEFT (GUE/NGL)

The party was officially formed in 1994 from communist, socialist and other political forces of leftist orientation. It currently represents a group of 52 Members from 19 different political delegations and 14 Member States (both national parties and MEPs). National parties retain control of their MEPs, what together with ambiguity between reformism and revolution may divide the Group on certain issues, leaving it up to each party to decide on the manner they deem best suited to achieve their aims.

The GUE/NGL is committed to European integration and views it as a socially equitable, peaceful and sustainable process based on international solidarity. The Group calls for more jobs and educational opportunities, a respectful way to deal with earth and its resources, cultural exchange, diversity, and its preservation, a consistent peace policy. It fights with Fascism and racism as of traditional aims for the left movements in Europe.

The Group positions itself as an 'insider' within the EU that stands for "fully democratic" and transparent Europe, while breaking with "neo-liberal monetarist policies" and promoting social equality. "The European Union must become a project of its people and cannot remain a project of the elites" states the GUE/NGL mission.

On the issues of migration, the party is appalled by the increasing coercive measures used to prevent migrants from getting into the EU and returning - most of them swiftly based on a European "safe country" list via mandating FRONTEX for return, forcible and swift registration, fingerprinting, expulsion, detention and increased readmission agreements.

GUE/NGL MEP Martina Anderson who participated in the delegation to Lampedusa and Sicily said: "All the women, men and children ... deserve protection after the hardships they endured, no matter what country they come from. Deporting them is inhumane and a crime. It is also unacceptable that people who do not want to be registered in EURODAC are being beaten up to force them to give their fingerprints." GUE/NGL MEP Cornelia Ernst added: "... with both the Commission and the Council promoting the use of violence against migrants, the overall situation of people arriving in Europe will deteriorate drastically."

The GUE/NGL shows its opposition to the EU's restrictive and security based migration policy and stands for call for an open and truly united Europe: for the opening of borders, the closure of detention centres and the regularisation of migrants. The Groups draws to the need in relocation and resettlement, even though viewing the existing proposals of the EU leaders as a limited option, considering the collapsed asylum reception system and the humanitarian crisis both in Italy and Greece. Moreover, despite the rights of migrants and asylum seekers were widely discussed in the report on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU in 2013 and 2014, and the amendment tabled by the MEP Marie-Christine Vergiaton behalf of GUE/NGL for a review of the Dublin Regulation was also adopted, she stressed: "For me, it is one of the key elements of Fortress Europe and the absence of any real European immigration policy other than a security policy".



# SOCIALISTS & DEMOCRATS (S&D)

The S&D Group is the leading centre-left political group in the European Parliament and the second largest, with 191 members from all 28 EU countries.

The S&D Group stands for an inclusive European society based on principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, diversity and fairness. Our MEPs are committed to fighting for social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reform and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for everyone.

The S&D Group's priority is to fight unemployment and ensure that our societies and markets become fairer. We want to give people back trust in the EU and hope for their future. These principles inspire our daily work, in the European Parliament and beyond.

On the issue of migration in the Mediterranean, the president of the Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Gianni Pittella has said: "Only together can we face the dramatic challenge of migration to Europe. What else has to happen to convince all the member states of the EU that immigration is a global challenge and needs a united approach to find concrete solutions in terms of welcome and security? Selfishness is negative and useless. But so far member states don't seem ready to accept a real EU strategy."

S&D MEPs welcomed the proposals presented by the European Commission on the resettlement and relocation of asylum seekers. On the same issue Birgit Sippel, S&D spokesperson for the committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs, has said: "It is high time that we have a fair way of distributing asylum seekers between member states. Although some countries have already criticised these proposals, we are delighted that the Commission has finally shown some backbone on the issue!"

Following the issue, the president of the Socialists and Democrats Group, Gianni Pittella, stated: "Europe has lost its vision of the future. In dealing with migration, we take note that some member states have reaffirmed their willingness to do whatever it takes to save lives in the Mediterranean Sea. However others, namely Hungary, have threatened to build new walls and suspend the rights of asylum seekers. National selfishness still prevails over solidarity. And this national selfishness threatens to prevail in the conclusions of the next Council."

He added: "Europe must regain its credibility and its vision of the future. Let's change the Dublin Regulation, let's create a truly all-encompassing common immigration policy for Europe, based on compulsory solidarity between member states and common rules in terms of refugee, asylum, control and repatriation policies. Let's be and act as a real Europe."

# ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE (ALDE)

Established in 1976, the ALDE party is currently led by President Sir Graham Watson and consists of 55 member parties and many individual members from 37 countries across Europe. As of 2015 it is the third largest European-wide political party represented in European Union institutions, with 70 MEP's and 5 members of the European Commission. Since 2004 the ALDE party has been politically represented in the European Parliament by the ALDE Group, in conjunction with the European Democratic Party, currently led by former Prime Minister of Belgium Guy Verhofstadt.

The ALDE Party and Group represent liberal democrat values in Europe. Together with their liberal member parties across the European continent, ALDE actively seeks to translate the principle of freedom into politics, economics and other areas of society. ALDE provides an increasingly vital link between citizens and the EU institutions. ALDE further recognises the significant role of the EU in not only extending the four freedoms to EU citizens, but also the role of the EU in achieving peace, stability and prosperity. ALDE therefore supports and promotes the EU taking a key leadership role in tackling today's and tomorrow's global challenges.

Alongside freedom and EU integration ALDE believes in a Europe based on the fundamental principles of democracy, transparency, rule of law, human rights, tolerance and solidarity. ALDE also campaigns for a more accountable Europe, taking decisions only on those matters which require European solutions.

ALDE believes that the issue of migration in the Mediterranean is one of those matters which requires a European solution. Europe is facing the most serious migration crisis since the end of the Second World War, with thousands of migrants undertaking the dangerous journey to Europe. Italy, Spain and Greece have been left to deal with the massive influx of migrants, while other EU Member States (MS) seem to reject minimal proposals by the European Commission to secure the resettlement of 40,000 asylum seekers.

In a recent press release ALDE Group leader Guy Verhofstadt agreed that this migration issue is a challenge for the whole of Europe and requires a European response: "The migration crisis is not just a challenge for the Italian government, we have to find a European solution. We talk about people's lives, which makes it even more cynical to see how European leaders are haggling over the number of asylum seekers they can accommodate.

We cannot pretend this crisis will go away on its own. Member States speak of solidarity when they publicly mourn the people dying, but then behind closed doors they reject proposals by the European Commission which would put in place a fair system for the distribution of asylum seekers between the Member States".

ALDE has released a "Blueprint for a new European Agenda on Migration" which recognises the failures of the current EU asylum and migration system and calls for a fundamental rethink. ALDE is committed to ensuring the European Agenda for Migration is based on a European approach underpinned by solidarity between MS fulfilling their responsibilities. To this end they propose a new centralised EU distribution system that would allocate refugees between MS. This approach would promote responsibility sharing between MS whilst keeping the integrity of the asylum system.

## EUROPE OF NATIONS AND FREEDOM (ENL)

Several attempts of unification by far-wing and far-right parties ended up with launching the Europe of Nations and Freedom Group in June 16 2015. The Group now accounts for 38 members from eight different countries and is the smallest group in European Parliament.

The Group members view European integration as a threat to the interests of nation-states and are strongly prone to anti-EU critique. The ENL disregards egalitarianism, underlying the need in social hierarchy and even inequality in opposition to liberalism.

For that the Group stands for anti-immigration policies that include not only illegal but also legal migration. Thus, many parties in the Group share anti-Muslim views, opposing the Muslim immigration from North Africa, West Africa and the Middle East, viewing them as a danger for European culture and economy, primarily through the imposture of alienated 'anti-Christian' norms and tensions immigrants cause on labor market. ENL members also stand for reduction of accepted asylum applications, deportation of illegal, criminal, and unemployed immigrants.

Franz Obermayr, a deputy of European Parliament from Austrian 'Party for Freedom' paints a dramatic picture of the threat of illegal immigration – the issue, he suggests, will become "increasingly severe" and "acute and problematic", involves "thousands", and will be "difficult if not impossible" to deal with. In his view, member states' systems of immigration are at risk of falling apart, as countries become overrun with illegal immigrants. At the same time far right leader of 'National Front' Marine Le Pen advocates to "vote for the abolition of the law enabling the regularization of the illegal immigrants" as well as for a moratorium on legal immigration. Regarding the Migration Crisis, she said that France should send migrants back to their port of departure so "traffickers know that no migrant will come ashore on our coasts."

The statements made by ENL members and parties representatives are often labeled fascist, extreme nationalistic, chauvinistic, xenophobic, racist or reactionary. Thus, in 2002 the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance first denounced the 'Lega Nord' (an Italian party, which is now a member of the ENL) in "a particularly intense use of racist and xenophobic propaganda." Still, the degree of rightist views among different parties within the ENL Group varies and may be a reason for controversies within the Group.

# PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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Each Delegate will represent their political party on one of the five committees to discuss key aspects of the Directive.

There are five parliamentary committees/working groups:

1. Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)
2. Economic or Monetary and Budget (ECON)
3. Human Rights (HR)
4. Foreign Affairs – Security and Defence (FASD)
5. Foreign Affairs – Development (FADE)

Below is an introduction of each committee, their roles and challenges in regards of the crisis, which could be discussed in the committee meetings.

***It is important to remember that at committee meetings you will be acting as a political representative who holds certain values and ideas on how best to govern. You may disagree with other MEPs, and can voice these concerns, but you must find a way to compromise.***

***It is important to remember that MEPs in your party are relying on you to represent their views in the thematic committees. You are their spokesperson for your party on the committees. You must always think to yourself “will my party agree with this recommendation and if not, why?”***

***This will be your chance to speak up and voice your views.***



# CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE) COMMITTEE

The Civil liberties, Justice and Home affairs Committee is responsible for protecting civil liberties and Human rights within the European Union and has oversight of Justice and Home Affairs policies of the EU. It deals with issues such as asylum, migration, police and judicial cooperation in the EU, data protection and fights against discrimination in the EU.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

The Motion for a European Parliament Resolution on the Mediterranean Migrant Crisis stresses the need for all Member States to respect the Common European Asylum system and other EU legislation on migration. Considering your country's position in the EU and your party's views on immigration in the EU how do you feel, as a Member of the European Parliament about this proposition?

The motion proposes the implementation of a mandatory European relocation scheme which would redistribute asylum applicant who have reached the EU though potentially a different Member State.

Considering your party's objectives and the situation of your country with regards to asylum processes, how would you feel about this relocation program? Do you wish to make amendments to this proposition?

The motion also encourages the establishment of a voluntary resettlement scheme through which member states can volunteer to take in a certain number of asylum applicants from other Member States.

Considering your party's objectives and the situation of your country with regards to asylum processes, what do you think about a voluntary relocation program? Do you wish to make amendments to this proposition?

The motion proposes to strengthen borders controls of frontline Member States. You may want to consider how this may affect your country if you are an EU country with external borders. Would you consider this helpful?

Considering your party's views on immigration in the EU and asylum procedures as well as what do you think about the strengthening of EU frontline countries? Do you think it is an adequate solution or do you fear this will create a type of "Fortress Europe"?

# ECONOMIC & MONETARY OR BUDGET COMMITTEE (ECON)

There are two kinds of problems that prevent the effective management of irregular migration and asylum seeking. First, irregular migration and asylum seeking pressures are so high and the human and financial resources so far dedicated to asylum so low that it has been nearly impossible to guarantee an adequate control of the Greek, Italian and Maltese southern sea borders while also providing to unauthorised migrants information and the option of applying for asylum.

While a lot of the intern EL conflict can be attributed to an initial lack of political will of these countries (Greece, Italy and Malta), successful implementation of the immigration policy depends on adequate funding. Financial instruments remain of key importance for migration policy and need to be used in a comprehensive and coherent way. Future programming and allocation modalities of EU financial instruments should continue to contribute to the goals of immigration policy, while respecting the overall objectives of these instruments and in accordance with their rules.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

The resolution stresses the need for the EU to strengthen its presence in the Mediterranean, but what further measures should be adopted? What kind of assets should be reinforced the most - should attention be on the human resources or on maritime, land and air assets? Is this likely to reduce the number of immigrant? Of the total amount, should €27 million be added for Frontex, to reinforce the two operations Triton and Poseidon? This reinforcement will correspond to a tripling of the operations for the last 7 months of the year 2015.

The resolution welcomes the increased financial assistance to the frontier Member States. Is this likely to make Member States who have less immigrants vote against this resolution? Why would countries that are not frontier countries pay more, because the financial assistance would come from the EU budget? Should the EU budget provide dedicated funding of an extra €50 million in 2015-2016 to support the EU-wide resettlement scheme to offer 20,000 places?

The resolution welcomes a cost analysis of detention and in addition to this increase the transparency on how policies are implemented and how money is spent, but is it likely to increase transparency or it is more likely to increase cost of the bureaucracy?

Italy is spending a minimum of 55 million Europe per year on its CIE centres (Centres for Identification and Expulsion). In the period between 1998 and 2012 nearly 170,000 individuals have been "hosted" at CIE but only 46.2% of them have been effectively removed from the Italian territory. In addition, the Italian government has invested, in the period 2005-2012, a total sum of 1.668 billion Euros (of which 1.3 billion contributed by the Italian state and 281.3 million from EU funds) with a dubious success in limiting the phenomenon of irregular migration. In addition to this there is a lack of transparency on how policies are implemented and how money is spent. There is a lack of evaluation and assessment of the activities conducted and the expenses sustained. In addition under the current Spending Review, the funds available for the CIE have been reduced further jeopardising the quality of life and the respect of the basic human rights of people detained

The resolution welcomes the additional increase of the financial support to Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Mali and Niger among others, to monitor and control the land borders and routes and to increase the financial support to the neighbouring countries (Turkey and Serbia), but is the EU and its Member States in a position to financially assist other countries or should it concentrate on its own internal problems? Should an additional €30 million be made available in 2015-2016 for Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs) and should be complemented by additional contributions from Member States?

Should a budget allocation of EUR 96.8 billion for the 2014-2020 period be given for EU external cooperation assistance and in particular development cooperation? Should the EU play an important role in tackling global issues like poverty, insecurity, inequality and unemployment which are among the main root causes of irregular and forced immigration?

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (HR)

Human rights are among the main priorities of the European Parliament. The Subcommittee on Human Rights' main responsibilities include all matters relating to human rights, the protection of minorities and the promotion of democratic values. The main objectives involve ensuring that human rights are at the forefront of European foreign policy and mainstreaming human rights across all policy areas.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Considering your country's position in the EU and the party which you represent, how do you feel about the EU granting safe and legal access to asylum seekers? Would this further increase the number of migrants seeking refuge in the EU? Is your country able to support more migrants? Does the EU have a responsibility to protect and support displaced persons? Should humanitarian visas be granted and if so, could it be possible to apply for such visas in countries of origin?

In regards to the proposal for a European Resettlement Scheme, and considering that the UNHCR asked for at least 130,000 resettlement places in the EU, is 20,000 places sufficient?

Should the EU play a larger role in third countries in eradicating the factors that cause people to flee: unfair trade and development policies, support of non-democratic regimes, arms trade, climate change and so on.

# FOREIGN AFFAIRS - SECURITY AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE (FASD)

The Security and Defense Committee deals with the provision of necessary background for carrying out the defense function as well as EU security, thus, covering both domestic and international aspects of EU actions. The Committee undertakes a preparatory work for the EU defense forces and evaluates the risks of external threats, posed to the Community. The Committee also promotes the EU vision on international order and stability, covering such broad areas of activities as:

EU defence market, particularly, support to the industry and SMEs development;

The importance of R&D in defense as well as space and cyberspace security;

Security of supply: transparency of regulations, roadmaps and supply routes;

Cooperation with the NATO, the European Defense Agency, coordination of existing military projects and programs;

Strong support towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

Aviation safety over conflict zones and high seas;

The importance of proper management for funding the civilian and military operations;

Solidarity over external threats and domestic arrangements regarding security and defense of the EU.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

The motion proposes to support 'Frontex' military operations in the Mediterranean. Considering that the project has already been launched, do you believe its operation fits the requirements your party and the EU associate with it? Is 'Frontex' efficient in terms of solving the migration crisis or rather represents a tool of masking the problem? Will the non-participation of the UK and Ireland in Schengen acquis impact the performance of 'Frontex'? (for more news on Frontex actions please visit <http://frontex.europa.eu/> and, particularly, the Report *Frontex Quarterly 2015* [http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk\\_Analysis/Fran\\_Q1\\_2015.pdf](http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Fran_Q1_2015.pdf) )

Considering your country's position in the EU and the party which you represent, do you agree with the measures offered for the prosecution of traffickers and struggle with their activities? What measures should be added to those listed in the motion of resolution already? Should the responsibility of criminals be tightened and sanctions imposed (visas bans, assets freeze)? Will the control over the internet contravene the freedom and liberty protected by EU law?

The motion for resolution underlines the necessity of enhanced border control (the Internal Security Fund has provided 2.7 bln euros for this purpose up to 2014-2020) and border management. In this light and considering the differences of migration problems faced by the Member-States should the border control be respectively tightened or it is a common responsibility of all Member-States? Should the EU concentrate on its own border control or support similar process at African and other neighboring states (Mission on Common Security and Defense policy launched in Niger and Mali)? Should the standards of border management be unified? What is the role of IT systems and technologies in it? What the potential of the "Smart borders" package in increasing the border management efficiency? Won't its cost exceed the expectations, while violating some human rights as in reinforced border checks, focus on high-risk travelers and shared databases (for more information on the "Smart borders" please visit <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/EPRS-AaG-559476-Smart-borders-package-FINAL.pdf> )?

Considering your party's objectives and the country's position, what do you believe may unify all Member-States in the light of European Agenda for Migration (more details about it on [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/index_en.htm) )?

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS - DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FADE)

The Committee on Development is responsible for the promotion of the EU's development policy. It engages in political dialogue with developing countries, bilaterally and in the relevant international organisations and interparliamentary fora, it is responsible for aid, as well as cooperation agreements with developing countries, it promotes democratic values, good governance and human rights in developing countries. It is very involved in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP).

The Motion for a European Parliament Resolution on the Mediterranean Migrant Crisis wishes to raise the awareness of the international community on migration issues. Do you believe this will help to solve the Migrant crisis? Will the efficiency of arranged summits, conferences and roundtables exceed the investments they require? Will it increase the return from international actors that take part in organized events in terms of support to EU-led initiatives?

Regarding your party mission and country's position on Migrant Crisis, do you believe that EU neighborhood countries (including those in Northern Africa and Middle East) are interested in EU initiatives on strengthening the borders and preventing migrants flows? Will the effort given by respective actors to settling the issues be similar to the one made by the EU? Should the EU launch and finance more missions on border management in third countries? How can the EU help to save lives at the sea? How can other international organizations support the EU's position on the issue and vice versa?

The motion for a resolution considers instability and war as the main reasons behind the Migrant Crisis. What EU tools can be used in this regard? Can the EU mission on peace, democracy and prosperity be considered successful? How can it be more effective?

In regards to the motion for European asylum centres in third countries, can the respect of rights of would-be refugees be guaranteed? How will the work of the asylum centres be coordinated within the EU, if there needs to be coordination at all?

Should development aid be increased, considering the lack in the UN 2014 humanitarian aid budget of 38%? What areas and regions should humanitarian aid be aimed, considering the persistence of crises in some of them? (for more data on EU humanitarian assistance please visit [https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/45b93d04-9456-4269-9ba3-b36136b032c6/Briefing\\_August\\_Humanitarian%20Aid.pdf](https://polcms.secure.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/45b93d04-9456-4269-9ba3-b36136b032c6/Briefing_August_Humanitarian%20Aid.pdf) )



# DRAFT DIRECTIVE

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Motion for a European Parliament Resolution

On the Mediterranean Migrant Crisis

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- (1) Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 78(2)(d) thereof,
- (2) Having regard to the European Union Charter of Human Rights, and in particular Article 18 thereof,
- (3) Having regards to the European Council statement of 23 April 2015 on the strengthening of TRITON
- (4) Having regards to the Dublin III regulation establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person

Scope,

- I. Whereas the situation in the Mediterranean is a tragedy. The European Union will mobilise all efforts at its disposal to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of the human emergency that we face, in cooperation with the countries of origin and transit. Our immediate priority is to prevent more people from dying at sea.
- II. Whereas a common policy on asylum, including a Common European Asylum System, is a constituent part of the European Union's objective of establishing progressively an area of freedom, security and justice open to those who, forced by circumstances, legitimately seek protection in the Union. Such a policy should be governed by the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility, including its financial implications, between the Member States

Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs

1. Stresses that all EU member states must ensure effective implementation of the Common European Asylum System thereby ensuring that common European standards under existing legislation are upheld. And reiterates the obligation of all Member States to respect the rights of all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and to respect all EU legislation on migration and free movement of people
2. Given the extraordinary circumstances in the Mediterranean region and the increased pressure on border countries to deal with the influx of migrants, The European Parliament asks for the implementation of a temporary European relocation scheme to

redistribute persons in clear need of international protection among member states. This redistribution will take into account the capacity of Member states to absorb and integrate refugees based on an objective, quantifiable and verifiable criteria.

3. Until the implementation of temporary European relocation scheme, the European Parliament welcomes the establishment of a voluntary pilot project for the relocation of persons qualifying for protection across the EU member states.

4. Welcomes the strengthening of frontline Member States to swiftly identify, register and fingerprint migrants arriving and coordinate return in cooperation with the European Commission, EUROPOL and FRONTEX.

#### Economic and monetary affairs

1. Stresses the need for the EU to adopt further strengthening of its presence at sea rapidly reinforcing EU Operations Triton and Poseidon by at least tripling the financial resources for this purpose in 2015 and 2016 and reinforcing the number of assets (such as maritime, land and air assets and human resources), thus allowing to increase the search and rescue possibilities within the mandate of FRONTEX.

2. Welcomes the increase of the immediate provision of enhanced financial assistance to the frontline Member States to help alleviate the costs of receiving and processing applications for international protection. The EU Parliament proposes that all Member States should participate in the resettling of 20 000 displaced persons in clear need of international protection, reflecting the specific situation of Member States.

3. Stresses an overall need for a cost analysis of detention and in addition to this increase the transparency on how policies are implemented and how money is spent. Welcome the evaluation and assessment of the activities conducted and the expenses sustained.

4. Welcomes the additional increase of the financial support to Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Mali and Niger among others, to monitor and control the land borders and routes step up dialogue with the African Union at all levels on all these issues step up cooperation with Turkey in view of the situation in Syria and Iraq. Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs) will be set up or deepened in these countries in this respect.

5. Stress the need for the EU to increase a budget for the 2014-2020 period for EU external cooperation assistance and in particular development cooperation, with the aim to tackle global issues like poverty, insecurity, inequality and unemployment which are among the main root causes of irregular and forced immigration, this includes support in regions of Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe where most of the migrants reaching Europe originate from.

## Foreign Affairs - Human Rights

1. Stresses the need for safe and legal ways for vulnerable people to reach the EU and expresses their deep sorrow and solidarity with the victims and their families.
2. Stresses the need for the EU to continue to consider the special rights of minors applying for asylum in the EU.
3. Considers that it is time for the EU to face up to its responsibility and act in order to bring about a stop to the deaths at sea, and to consistently increase its role in helping refugees and migrants. The EU must find the resources necessary to develop a common action plan coherent with the values of solidarity and respect of human rights.
4. Welcomes a proposal for a European resettlement scheme that will relocate 20,000 individual displaced persons in clear need of international protection from third countries to EU Member States. The EU parliament proposes that this resettlement scheme take into account the capacity of Member states to absorb and integrate refugees based on an objective, quantifiable and verifiable criteria.

## Foreign Affairs - Security and Defense:

1. Calls up to Member-States to strengthen the EU military presence in the Mediterranean by supporting Frontex military operations as well as military initiatives of individual Member-States in saving migrants lives at the sea.
2. Stresses an overwhelming need in the disruption of trafficking networks via capturing and destruction of shipment vessels before their use, control over the Internet content that may be used by traffickers for the attraction of migrants and refugees, and strengthening the measures over tracing and prosecution of the perpetrators and organizers of human-trafficking.
3. Emphasises the reinforcement of EU borders security undertaken by the enhanced border control and surveillance, advanced risks evaluation and enhanced border management system.
4. Finally, reiterates the need in solidarity and responsibility for all the EU Member-States in enhancing and implementing European Agenda for Migration in order to develop a more systemic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration problems.

## Foreign Affairs - Development

1. Calls up to increase the awareness of international community on the migration issues via arranging summits, conferences and round-table discussions.
2. Calls for enhanced cooperation with the governments of states that source the problem of illegal immigration (particularly, in Northern Africa and the Middle East), oth-

er third countries, regional and international groupings and organizations.

3. Stresses the need for international solidarity in promoting peace and stability in the regions war-torn by civil conflicts and those sourcing the threat to human life and dignity.
4. Welcomes the proposal to set up European Asylum Centres in key transit countries such as Niger, Egypt, Turkey or Lebanon in order to reduce leverage of human traffickers by giving legal alternatives to persons seeking asylum in Europe and reduce the number of migrants risking their lives by attempting to cross dangerous waters.
5. Emphasises the increase of humanitarian aid to support the UN and EU-led humanitarian missions to the conflict areas as well as to arrange refugees camps in EU neighbourhood, thus, providing people with food, water, medications and other necessities.

# DEFINITIONS

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**Asylum Seeker** - a person who has left their home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another. An asylum-seeker is someone who says he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been definitively evaluated. Asylum seekers can become refugees if their application to the immigration authorities of their host country has been accepted.

**Refugee** - term used to describe a person who has left their country in search of protection and has already been granted asylum.

**Human Trafficking (Article 3 of the Directive)** - “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”.

**Child victims** - Article 2(6) of the EU Directive on prevention and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (and other international legislation on human trafficking) defines a child as any person below 18 years of age.

**Economic migrants** - Persons who leave their own countries in search of better work and living conditions in another country.

**Operation Triton** is a border security operation conducted by Frontex, the European Union's border security agency. The operation, under Italian control, began on 1 November 2014 and involves voluntary contributions from 15 other European nations (both EU member states and non-members). Current voluntary contributors to Operation Triton are Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Austria, Switzerland, Romania, Poland, Lithuania and Malta. The operation was undertaken after Italy ended Operation Mare Nostrum.

**Operation Mare Nostrum** was a year-long naval and air operation commenced by the Italian government on October 18, 2013 to tackle the increased immigration to Europe during the second half of 2013 and migratory ship wreckages off Lampedusa. It had become too costly for a single country to fund and was costing the Italian government €9 million per month for an operation that lasted 12 months. During the operation at least 150,000 migrants, mainly from Africa and the Middle East, arrived safely to Europe.

**Relocation** means a distribution among Member States of persons in clear need of international protection who have already reached an EU member state. The relocation of these persons is to be based on an objective, quantifiable and verifiable criteria that reflects the capacity of Member states to absorb and integrate refugees based on the size of their population, their GDP, the average number of spontaneous asylum applications and their unemployment rate.

**Resettlement** means the transfer of individual displaced persons in clear need of international protection from a third country to a member state, where they will be admitted and granted the right to stay and any other rights comparable to those granted to a beneficiary of international protection. The share of resettlement places for each member state will be calculated on the same basis as the criteria for the relocation scheme explained above.

**Fortress Europe** is a term mostly used by critics of the EU's immigration and trade policies. As far as immigration is concerned, critics say the Union has become a fortress which is unwilling to welcome people from other countries seeking political asylum or simply looking for a better life. They point to the increasingly tough immigration and border-control rules in EU countries as evidence of this.

**FRONTEX** is a European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the European Union. The agency coordinates national policies to protect the EU's long external border. The agency acts as an information exchange centre for national border control authorities. It liaises regularly with other EU law and order agencies such as the EU police office, EUROPOL, and draws on databases that contain information about millions of people who have crossed the Union's external frontiers. It also trains border control experts from EU member states that can be deployed urgently, known as Rapid Border Intervention Teams (RABITs).

**EUROPOL** is a police agency whose basic role is to coordinate operations between the EU's 27 national police forces. The main tool it uses to do this is a huge database called The Europol Computer System (TECS), which contains information on people suspected of being involved in criminal activity. The agency has the right to coordinate operations in a wide range of areas including terrorism, illegal immigration, people trafficking, forgery and smuggling radioactive material.





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