



# Cambridge University International Model United Nations Conference

22nd Session

*Achieving Gender Equality . . .*

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## European Council

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United Nations Conference

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# STUDY GUIDE

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## I. WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the European Council (EC) committee at CUIMUN 2016. We are very excited about the topics we have chosen for you, and we hope that you will be too. The EC this year will have a joint session on the last day, together with the African Union (AU), where both committees will be in the same room, working towards a common goal and resolution.

In order to introduce you to the topics, we have put together a study guide for you, which will give an introduction into the topics for the weekend. It will also give an indication of what it is that we wish you to focus on for the duration of discussions and resolution writing. The study guide is meant to serve merely as an introductory overview, and we expect you to do further research not only into the topic but also your country's position with regards to the topic.

We want to encourage you to do the research, and become as familiar with and well-informed on the topic as possible as this knowledge will allow for a constructive, effective debate to occur in the committee over the duration of the conference, and lead to a better conference experience for all delegates. We also want to point out that, given our joint session on Sunday, we won't be able to discuss only one topic over the course of the weekend. Hence, preparation is key.

We have faith that you will all provide an excellent standard of engaging debate over the course of the weekend, and we cannot wait to see the resolutions that you can formulate. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions.

Best of luck and we will see you in November!

Liza, Alexandra, and Ralph



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## II. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The European Council (EC) is one of the governing bodies of the European Union (EU), which is responsible for defining the political priorities and directions of the EU. The EC was informally created in 1975 as a summit, but it formalized as a European institution in 2009 when the Treaty of Lisbon came into force.

The EC is comprised of heads of state, or governments, of the Member States. In addition, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission are also considered to be part of the EC. The current president of the EC is Donald Tusk. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will also partake in meetings, given the mandate of the institution.

Unlike the European Commission, the EC has no legislating power. However, it is the main body responsible for guiding and setting political priorities of the EU. In addition, since it gathers the executive powers, the EC can have great power on important policy areas within Member States as well as within the Union. The EC can have influence on the composition of the Commission, matters relating to the rotating Council presidency, as well as the suspension of membership rights. This last point is why Topic A “Negotiations of the agreement of the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union” has been chosen for the committee session and it promises to be very interesting and pertinent.

Decisions within the EC are most often taken by consensus voting – meaning that all heads of state have to agree to a decision for it to pass.

In addition, this year the European Council will have a special Joint Regional Cooperation Session with the African Union. This joint session will take place on Sunday, and the topic that will be discussed will be “Developing a joint framework and infrastructure for African refugees and asylum seekers crossing the Mediterranean Sea”. The joint session will take place in the same room – both committees will join forces in the same location on the last day of the conference. The aim of the joint session is for both committees to cooperate in debating the topic and finding an outcome that will suit both committees. In this study guide, you will find the ECs take on the issue, while AU delegates will bring to the table their unique view on the topic. The aim of the joint session will be to create a single resolution between both committees addressing the topic.



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## III. TOPIC A: Negotiations of the Agreement of the Exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union

### A. Introduction to the Topic

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, a referendum took place in the United Kingdom (UK). The referendum was on one very specific question – whether or not the UK should remain in the European Union (EU). It was a yes/no question and the British people exercised direct democracy on a very complex topic. On the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2016, the votes were counted and a majority of 51.9% voted for a Brexit (a British exit). It is important to note that the referendum was advisory and not legally binding on the British parliament.

The first week after the referendum wreaked havoc on the British market, as well as the pound, which dropped at unprecedented rates. The proponents of the Leave campaign backtracked on their promises made throughout the campaign leading up to the referendum, and it became clear that there was no clear plan in the government on how to go about Brexit. David Cameron, the ex-PM of the UK, resigned on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June.

The procedure for exiting the Union is laid out in Article 50 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), as set out by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. The vagueness of the article indicates that the lawmakers at the time did not think a Member State would exit the Union. However, it is all that the UK has to go by when setting Brexit in motion.

In order for any Member State to exit, it has to officially notify the Union of such a decision, and it must be made with clear intent. The notification would initiate an initial two-year period of negotiations on the terms of the Member State's exit from the Union; there is a possibility to extend negotiations with a unanimous decision by the Council. The Treaties would cease to apply to the Member State in



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question either when the withdrawal agreement comes into effect or, in case of no agreement and no extension two years after the date of notification. There is no precedent on the matter as the UK is the first Member State that will make the attempt to leave the Union.

The European Commission, as well as politicians and officials within the EU have stated their position that “out is out”; however, some others are allowing for a bit more leniency on the topic. While there is some disagreement between Member States on the matter, they seem to be largely unified in their stance.

It is crucial that delegates recognise that this session will operate under the assumption that Article 50 has been invoked.

## B. Timeline of events

Paradoxically, the timeline regarding this case is rather long. In fact, it traces back to the very entry of the United Kingdom into the EU.

- **1975:** calls for a referendum on whether or not the UK should be in the EU begin shortly after the original referendum regarding the entry of the country in the EU<sup>1</sup>;
- **2002:** David Cameron promises a referendum on the future of the country within the EU<sup>2</sup>;
- **October 1, 2006:** After one year as the leader of the Tory party. David Cameron calls his party conference to stop “banging on” about Europe<sup>3</sup>;
- **October 24, 2011:** 81 Tory MPs call for a referendum on Britain’s EU membership<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.historyandpolicy.org/policy-papers/papers/the-case-for-brex-it-lessons-from-1960s-and-1970s> , *The Case for Brexit Lessons from 1960s and 1970s*, by Adrian Williamson, published on history and policy.org, last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-21148282>, *David Cameron promises in/out referendum*, published on www.bbc.com, last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/24/david-cameron-downfall-european-tragedy>, *The Downfall of David Cameron: A European Tragedy*, by Martin Kettle, published on www. The Guardian.com, on 24/6/2016, last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/brexit/2016/06/23/banging-on-about-europe-how-the-euro-sceptics-got-their-referendum/>, *Banging on about Europe: how the Euro-sceptics got their referendum*, by Tim Bale, published on LSE/Blog, on 23/6/2016, last accessed on August 12, 2016.



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- **January 23, 2013:** The PM calls for “*fundamental, far-reaching change*” during his Bloomberg speech<sup>5</sup>;
- **May 7, 2015:** The first Conservative government with a steady majority is elected after 23 years, preparing the way for David Cameron’s referendum<sup>6</sup>;
- **February 19, 2016:** David Cameron announces that the referendum will be held on June 23 while expressing his passionate support for Britain’s remaining in Europe<sup>7</sup>;
- **April 17, 2016:** Minister for Finance, Osborne claims British families will have face severe financial losses in case of an EU exit<sup>8</sup>;
- **May 11, 2016:** Boris Johnson launches the campaign for Leave with one of his main arguments being that the UK makes huge contributions to the EU’s budget<sup>9</sup>;
- **May 26, 2016:** Official data announces net immigration to the UK in 2015 has been 333,000, the second highest on record (although not a statistically significant increase from 2014)<sup>10</sup>;
- **June 16, 2016:** Labour MP Jo Cox is brutally murdered in West York constituency. Campaigning of any type is suspended as grieving politicians pay tribute<sup>11</sup>;
- **June 23, 2016:** referendum takes place.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.breakingnews.com/item/2013/01/23/pm-david-cameron-due-to-give-speech-on-uks-relationship-with-europe/> , update on the newsfeed regarding the referendum.

<sup>6</sup> <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/britains-cameron-won-big-selling-stability-over-fear-175123053--business.html> *Britain's Cameron won big by selling stability over fear* by Andrew Osborn, published on Reuters/UK, on 8/5/2015, last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35621079> *EU referendum: Cameron sets June date for UK vote* , published on www.bbc.com, on 20/2/ 2016, last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/blog/live/2016/apr/18/eu-referendum-osborne-treasury-brex-it-will-cost-families-4300-a-year-politics-live?page=with:block-5714a93be4b0c3a617856e1f> , *George Osborne: Brexit would force income tax up by 8p in pound - Politics live*, by Andrew Sparrow, published on The Guardian, on 18/4/2016, last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/03/16/boris-johnson-exclusive-there-is-only-one-way-to-get-the-change/> *Boris Johnson exclusive: There is only one way to get the change we want – vote to leave the EU*, by Boris Jonshon, published on The Telegraph, on 16/3/2016, last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/may2016>, National Office for Migration, report of May 2016.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/16/jo-cox-killing-shooting-mp-birstall-west-yorkshire> *Grief and Shock over death of Jo Cox*, by Robert Booth, Vikram Dodd, Nazia Parveen and Helen Pidd, published on The Guardian, on 17/6/2016, last accessed on August 12, 2016.



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(Source: Clyde & Co timeline on the Brexit referendum 2015-2016)

It is also important to have a general idea of the international and regional timeline to follow the referendum: most importantly in October of 2016, an Italian referendum on constitutional reform is expected with rather important effects, since PM Renzi has mentioned his will to resign if the reform is not approved. A EU exit question has been brought up as well<sup>12</sup>. (Note the importance of keeping up to date on the topic as this situation will undoubtedly have changed by the time of the conference in November.)

Additionally, as of 2017:

- April 23: First round of French presidential election
- May 7: Second round of French presidential election
- August: Earliest Germany could hold elections; latest is Oct 22

## B. Discussion

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/009468b0-3b89-11e6-8716-a4a71e8140b0.html> *Italy may be the next domino to fall*, by Wolfgang Munchau, published on Financial Times, on 26/6/2016, last accessed on August 12, 2016.



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## The Legal Challenges

In simple terms, the European Union issues some decisions that enter into every EU country's legal system in some way. When it comes to the UK, they can enter in two ways: (a) An EU's decision (directive) may require a/some/all member states to adopt or modify certain policies in order to achieve specific outcomes. (b) When a (mandatory) regulation is issued it is immediately considered as part of every State's internal law. This means that in the event of a Brexit a great list of national laws that were originally created to the end of implementing an EU directive will become redundant. The government will have to choose whether to change them or not, but eventually some of the most important EU regulations would immediately lose legal force. Additionally, since EU regulations govern quite a few important areas, such as food hygiene and safety, this would result in a major gap in UK law<sup>13</sup>. In order to avoid this situation, prior to leaving the EU the government would need to pass legislation setting UK law in areas currently subject to EU regulations. Lastly, since the UK will no longer be subject to the European Charter of Human Rights, it will have to be decided whether any of the economic, social and political rights guaranteed to EU citizens under this Charter should be written into UK law.

We need to clarify that although this was an advisory referendum, effectively it will play a huge role in the upcoming actions of the UK. And this is the starting point for the legal questions of the case. Given the fact that the scope and specifics of Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty are not clear and a lot of authors and specialists have been claiming that this article was never included with the purpose of being activated but purely for the sake of its existence.

Despite the fact that the negotiation process has a certain expiration date, it is not the same as the process of unravelling EU law from domestic UK law. In particular, the repeal of the European Communities Act of 1972 in itself would be insufficient to surmount the legal difficulties.<sup>14</sup> There would also, following Brexit, be some difficulty in identifying the continuing status of EU law, especially in matters where EU law has precedence over the domestic one.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/regulation> Food Standards Agency, main page.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.consoc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Brexit-PDF.pdf> Brexit: *The Immediate Legal Consequences* by Richard Gordon QC and Rowena Moffatt published by The Consitution Society, 2016.



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## Security Concerns

Whilst part of the European family, UK companies had to comply with the same set of security and data protection regulations as all other companies in Europe. After Brexit, there is a certain degree of uncertainty concerning the next course of action. Will the UK propose a new policy?<sup>15</sup>

Another concern to take note of is that one regarding cloud hosting. When UK was a part of the EU, its companies could use the benefits of leveraging cloud service providers based in the UK and vice versa.<sup>16</sup> Since EU law calls for hosting data within EU geographies, cloud providers will face serious problems. To simplify things, the well-known web-based company, Amazon, for example, doesn't have a data centre of its own within UK territory. In this case, Amazon, will have to rapidly come up with a way to serve its UK-based clientele. Of course, Amazon is merely one example of the situation and it is needless to say that since we are in the era of the electronic divide, every aspect of trade and economy will be affected in more ways than we could possibly imagine.

Special attention has to be paid to Cyber security: let it be noted that a vast part of information sharing related to security issues and potential threats was based on EU regulations. At the moment, the UK is in need of a new legal framework that will define new rules for the sharing of sensitive information relating to members of the EU and the UK.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, there are open questions related to future participation of UK in Europol, and the European Cybercrime Centre, of which it is formally

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<sup>15</sup> <https://securityintelligence.com/gdpr-how-to-prepare-in-the-calm-before-the-storm/> *GDPR, how to prepare in the calm before the storm*, by Christina Thompson, published on Security Intelligence on June 20, 2016. Last accessed on August 17, 2016.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.computerworlduk.com/it-business/what-would-brexit-mean-for-it-businesses-3636791/>, *Brexit means data headaches and business uncertainty, says IT pros and lawyer*, by Tamlin Magee, published on ComputerWork on June 24, 2016. Last accessed on August 17, 2016.

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.securitycurrent.com/en/analysis/ac\\_analysis/brexit-potential-impact-on-information-security](http://www.securitycurrent.com/en/analysis/ac_analysis/brexit-potential-impact-on-information-security), *Brexit's Potential Impact on Information Security* by Mark Rash, published on Security Current on June 27, 2016. Last accessed on 17/8/2016.



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a member. It becomes evident that the lack of implementation of new processes of sharing could have damaging effects on the ability to respond to a new cyber threat.

## Immigration and Refugees

For the time being, there are restrictions related only to work visas issued to non EU-nationals. In order for the same regime to apply in the Brexit era, a looser trading agreement with higher trade costs would have to come into existence. The existing rules effectively exclude non-EU immigration from all but graduate jobs and limit numbers arriving on work visas each year to around 55,000<sup>18</sup>. It remains to be decided on which particular groups and criteria visa will be granted.

As far as the question of the refugee crisis is concerned, the immigration figures will not be greatly affected as the government will admit only around 20,000 adult refugees over the next five years regardless. Also, under the current regulation, refugees settled in another EU country will not have the right to live or work in the UK. The procedure of applying for citizenship takes a certain period of time (usually between 5 and eight years) and since the UK is not part of the Schengen passport-free travel agreement, the border checks prevent entry of refugees. Illegal entry to the country will not be any more difficult or any easier post-Brexit.

In particular, the rights of EU citizens with regards to free movement will be directly affected. However, EU citizens are not assimilated to British citizens and remain subject to immigration control whilst territorially present in the United Kingdom. On the other side, the EU citizenship of British nationals would have no independent existence following Brexit but the same may not automatically be said of their EU citizenship rights. Therefore, as of Brexit happens, two main elements will have to be taken into consideration:(i) the nature of the legal conditions that will substitute EU membership

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015/work>. Respective data as provided by the immigration office of the UK government last accessed on August 17, 2016.



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will vary for each country; and (ii) whether the individual in question is a British citizen in the EU or an EU citizen in the UK.<sup>19</sup>

It may sound rather confusing, but simply put, in the absence of an agreement, domestic immigration law will be applicable to EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU. In the EU, this would mean the application of a combination of partially harmonised EU standards and the individual immigration laws of each of the remaining 27 member states. In the UK, however this would mean domestic immigration law: a combination of legislation and policy. Practically though, until the situation is clarified, a lot of people may be immediate subject of immigration control and even worse, expulsion policies may be strengthened.

## Impact on the Economy

Having analysed the legal and policy challenges deriving from Brexit, next in line is economy. It goes without saying that there are economic benefits from European integration, but obtaining these benefits comes at a certain cost of giving up some sovereignty. Inside or outside the EU, this trade-off is a reality. The potential options for the Britons are:

1. *The Norwegian model* – joining the European Economic Area (EEA)<sup>20</sup>. Established in 1994 offers the possibility to European countries that are not part of the EU to become members of its common market. It also comprises all members of the EU together with non-EU countries such as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Membership to this model does not oblige countries to participate in monetary union, to comply with the common foreign and security policy etc. Additionally, while the members enjoy free trade, they are not part of the EU's customs union, which means that they can set their own regulations with other non-EU member States. It can't be ignored that, EEA countries have to practically contribute to the EU's regional development funds and contribute to the costs of the EU programmes in which they participate. Joining the EEA would allow the UK

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<sup>19</sup> [http://europa.eu/youreurope/advice/docs/faq\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/youreurope/advice/docs/faq_en.pdf) *Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on citizens' EU rights*, published by the European Commission on 2016.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.efta.int/eea/eea-agreement> details on the European Economic Area and its members.



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to remain part of the Common Market while not participating in other forms of European integration.

- II. *The Swiss model*: Switzerland is not an EU member but has signed several bilateral treaties allowing participation in certain policies or programmes that it considers important. As a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA<sup>21</sup>), it also enjoys free trade with the EU in all non-agricultural goods and under this approach has a certain degree of flexibility on its actions. For the time being, there is also free movement of people between Switzerland and the EU, although in February 2014, Switzerland voted in a referendum to impose restrictions on immigration from the EU that would violate its agreement with the EU regarding free movement of people. Lastly, despite the existence of an agreement considering trade in services, several Swiss financial institutions often serve the EU market through subsidiaries based in London.
- III. *EFTA*: The UK opted out of joining the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957 and founded EFTA in 1960 as an alternative allowing for free trade of non-agricultural goods between member states. The EFTA also has free trade agreements with the EU and other countries. Re-joining EFTA (which the UK left upon joining the EU in 1973) would not provide for free movement of people or free trade in services between the UK and the EU, but it would be highly beneficial with regards to the trading of goods. Since the UK would not belong to the common market, re-joining EFTA would also probably result in a gradual divergence between economic regulation in the UK and the EU.
- IV. *WTO*: Under its rules, all of the participating members are obliged to ensure the same tariffs, to all other WTO members. The only exceptions to this principle are that countries can choose to enter into free trade agreements such as the EU and can give preferential market access to developing countries. The WTO has no provisions for free movement of labour.

What we practically see in all of the 4 models is that no one can ensure the same privileges as the EU. Rules have to be implemented, and in some cases, the UK will not even have the option to decide. Overall, it is uncertain how leaving the Common Market would benefit the country.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.efta.int/> details on The European Free Trade Association.



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	Pros	Cons
<b>EEA – the Norway model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Belong to the Single Market.</li> <li>o Able to negotiate trade deals independently of the EU.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Required to implement Single Market policies, but have no representation in setting the rules of the Single Market.</li> <li>o Must comply with rules of origin for exports to the EU and subject to EU anti-dumping measures.</li> <li>o Must contribute to the EU budget.</li> </ul>
<b>Bilateral agreements – the Swiss model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Free trade in goods and free movement of people with the EU.</li> <li>o Able to negotiate trade deals independently of the EU.</li> <li>o A la carte approach permits opting out of EU programmes on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Bilateral agreements require Switzerland to adopt EU rules, but Swiss have no representation in EU decision making.</li> <li>o No agreement with the EU on trade in services.</li> <li>o Pay a fee to participate in EU programmes, but contribution likely to be lower than if in EEA.</li> </ul>
<b>EFTA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Free trade in goods with the EU.</li> <li>o Able to negotiate trade deals independently of the EU.</li> <li>o Not required to adopt EU economic policies and regulations.</li> <li>o No obligation to contribute to the EU budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o No freedom of movement of people with the EU.</li> <li>o No right of access to EU markets for service providers.</li> <li>o Goods exported to the EU must meet EU product standards.</li> </ul>
<b>WTO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Able to negotiate trade deals independently of the EU.</li> <li>o Not required to adopt EU economic policies and regulations.</li> <li>o No obligation to contribute to the EU budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Trade with EU subject to MFN tariffs and any non-tariff barriers that comply with WTO agreements.</li> <li>o No freedom of movement of people with the EU.</li> <li>o No right of access to EU markets for service providers.</li> <li>o Goods exported to the EU must meet EU product standards.</li> </ul>

UK's options in a nutshell. © Clyde & Co Timeline of Brexit

## C. Bloc Positions

### The UK Outlook on Trade and the Economy

It is true that all EU members follow a common trade policy and are represented by the EU in all international trade issues. With a Brexit around the corner, the UK will have to negotiate on a new basis its commercial relationships with the whole world. Practically, it may benefit from joining initiatives such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA<sup>22</sup>) in order to benefit from free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico and the USA, or propose a respective free trade condition for the Members of the

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.naftanow.org/> Details on NAFTA.



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Commonwealth. And while autonomy may offer UK the possibility to negotiate better agreements on a variety of levels, the same applies for EU, a big market and way more decisive than the one of one country. That being said, the UK's withdrawal from the EU may provide the country with the liberty to shape its relationships on a new basis with the rest of the world, but in exiting the EU, the UK is certainly risking its current privileged status. To conclude, in terms of trade, its future is rather uncertain.

## Brexit impact through the ten channels: summary



Impact scale ■ moderate ■ significant ■ severe

	Impact on the United Kingdom		Impact on the European Union
Trade within Europe	Significant	Regulatory divergence grows over time increasing the cost of trade, impacting on volumes and the UK place in supply chains	Significant
Foreign direct investment	Severe	The UK is less attractive as a gateway to Europe, as a base for corporate HQs and as a location for investment from Europe	Moderate
Liberalisation and regulation	Severe	The UK loses influence over EU regulation without gaining much freedom to regulate independently	Severe
Industrial policy	Moderate	The UK gains flexibility over industrial policy, but loses the benefits from scale and influence in some areas	Moderate
Immigration	Significant	Immigration is tightened, damaging competitiveness, particularly of London, but how much depends on the Brexit model	Moderate
Financial services	Severe	The UK retains a strong competitive edge, but most likely loses business as it becomes harder to provide certain services to EU markets	Severe
Trade policy	Significant	The UK has less leverage, is a lower priority partner in trade negotiations and finds it harder to resolve trade disputes	Significant
International influence	Significant	The UK loses the benefit from being able to influence both in and through the EU, impacting on economic and foreign policy interests	Significant
Budget	Moderate	The UK gains financially, but how much depends on the model, and variation in the net impact across the UK regions complicates Brexit politics	Significant
Uncertainty	Severe	Brexit is a protracted process lasting several years with uncertainty over the endpoint, impacting on businesses	Severe

A Brexit overview. © Global Counsel, 2015.

A small review of the main arguments that this topic deals with.



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## BREXIT-MAIN ARGUMENTS

(left is leave, right is stay)

### *IMMIGRATION.*

Freedom of movement, in its current form, allows an unprecedented number of people to settle in the British territory, mostly immigrants. An exit, could end this.(l)

With the current migration crisis border controls depends on the bilateral Le Touquet agreements which France has threatened to revoke.

### *CRIMINALITY*

The European Arrest Warrant allows British citizens to be sent abroad and charged for crimes in foreign courts, often for minor offences. Exit would stop this.(l)

Rapists, murders and other serious criminals who convict offences in Britain can only be returned once fleeing abroad thanks to the European Arrest Warrant. Exit would stop justice being done.(s)

### *TRADE*

Britain's links with the EU are holding back its focus on emerging markets – there is no major trade deal with China or India, for example. Leaving would allow the UK to diversify its international links.(l)

44 per cent of Britain's exports go to other EU countries. Putting up barriers with the countries that Britain trades with most would be counterproductive.(s)

### *LEGAL*

Too many of Britain's laws are made overseas by dictates passed down from Brussels and rulings upheld by the European Court of Justice. UK courts must become sovereign again.

The exit campaign has over-exaggerated how many laws are determined by the European Commission. It is better to shape EU-wide laws from the inside rather than walking aw

### *JOBS*

The danger to jobs has been over-exaggerated. By

Around three million jobs are linked to the EU and



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<p>incentivising investment through low corporation tax and other perks Britain can flourish like the Scandinavian countries outside the EU.</p>	<p>will be plunged into uncertainty if voters plump for exit, as businesses would be less likely to invest if the country was outside Europe.</p>
<p><b><i>FINANCE</i></b></p>	
<p>Talk of capital flight is nonsense. London will remain a leading financial centre outside the EU and banks will still want to be headquartered in Britain due to low tax rates.</p>	<p>Banks will flee the UK and the City of London will collapse if Britain votes for exit, because the trading advantages of being inside the EU help boost banks' profits.</p>

## Other European Countries

The balance within the European Council will change significantly since the UK had one of the strongest voices and largest delegations to the EU missions. Let it be noted that the UK is also a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council with significant military presence and rather exceptional persuasive power and diplomatic style within the European Union.

It is interesting to consider how the following countries will be affected:

- The Netherlands: Several Dutch firms have direct investments in the UK<sup>23</sup> The Netherlands has among the most intensive financial sector links to the UK with bank loans from Britain and major Dutch banks having substantial operations in the UK. While Amsterdam may be taking over business from London following Brexit, the effect to Dutch banks and businesses would be important. The Netherlands is closely aligned with the UK in many EU policy debates as the two countries mutually favour less regulation, more liberal markets, and opening up external trade.

<sup>23</sup> Based on data provided by (Office for National Statistics,UK) ONS, (International Monetary Fund)IMF calculations



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- Ireland: Being the closest territorial neighbour to the UK, Ireland inevitably shares a great connection with it. The investing relationship between the two countries is both broad and deep creating a precedent of strong financial links. Additionally, 329 000 Irish nationals live in the UK, representing a rather significant share of the country's population<sup>24</sup>. The two countries also share similar approaches to economic policy.
- Cyprus<sup>25</sup>: Although Cyprus is a small state without close historical and cultural links to the UK, it will be significantly affected by Brexit. Their relationship is unusual among EU states in many regards. Cyprus is a member of the Commonwealth, was a British colony until 1960 and still today houses two sovereign British military bases. Of course, the country's connection to Greece as well renders it rather vulnerable in any exit event. Lastly, as in the case of the Netherlands and Ireland, Cyprus shares similar views to the UK on many topics.
- Germany: This country has been acting as the mediator in all of the European Councils' debates trying to present as the leader of the EU. With UK's presence, Germany could shift its position within EU in order to gain some popularity points, but now, will be forced to a more unpopular policy<sup>26</sup> hence it will have to act on its own power. The UK was the major opposition regarding potentially illiberal measures, whereas now, Germany will become the swing voter who, if voting along with the liberal states, provides enough votes to achieve a 35% blocking minority to illiberal measures. With the UK being absent from the map the shift of power within the Council will become obscure and some States may decide to adopt liberal policies, but nothing is sure yet.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36522985> *Reality Check: Which EU countries contribute most to UK population?* by BBC, published on June 14, 2016. Last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.sigmalive.com/en/news/economy/146907/moodys-brex-it-to-have-increased-impact-in-cyprus>, *Moody's: Brexit to have increased impact in Cyprus* by SigmaLive, posted on 12/7/2016. Last accessed on August 12, 2016.

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- Sweden<sup>27</sup>: A close ally not only in terms of policy but (lack of) currency unity as well, since neither has adopted the euro. They are both strong supporters of trade liberalisation and share a rather interesting investment and trade relationship.
- Belgium<sup>28</sup>: Belgian financial links with the UK are substantial. While it seems inconceivable that the fall-out from Brexit could ever lead to a serious challenge to Belgium's place in the EU, Belgium would be directly affected if other countries considered leaving, given that so much EU activity is centred in Brussels.
- Spain<sup>29</sup>: Given its ongoing recovery from a long-lasting recession period, Spain will not be greatly impacted by Brexit. The recent investment actions though, in airlines and electricity, will create a bond for the future.<sup>30</sup>
- France<sup>31</sup>: France's major connection to Brexit comes from direct investment, finance and trade links. France would be affected similarly to many other countries by the EU losing a major budget contributor such as the UK.

## D. Conclusion – Key issues

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<sup>27</sup><http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/brexit-latest-news-sweden-support-eu-swedish-membership-surges-a7136426.html>, *Swedish support for EU membership surges following Brexit*, by Gabriel Samuels, on the Telegraph, 14/7/2016 last accessed on August 12, 2016.

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/06/brexit-view-spain-160627054018514.html>, *Brexit and the view from Spain*, by Gina Benevento, published on aljazeera, on 27/6/2016. Last accessed on August 12, 2016.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/uk-trade-investment-spain>. Based on data provided by the Department for International Trade, UK.

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.politico.eu/article/why-france-is-unlikely-to-spoil-brexit-party-francois-hollande-theresa-may/> *Why France is unlikely to spoil the Brexit party* by Pierre Briancon, published on Politico on 22/7/2016. Last accessed on August 12, 2016.



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When researching this topic it is important to remember that between the release of this study guide and the conference, the situation may very well change. Hence, it is important that one keeps up with the news with regards to new developments in Brexit and national stances on the matter. Furthermore, it is key that one keeps in mind the overall European Commission position on the matter, as that will play a key role in the negotiations.

Below you will find a list of issues that will be important to address at the negotiations table:

- Trade and immigration: The UK wishes to keep the trade perks, but change the rules surrounding free movement of people. The Commission has made its stance clear that the UK cannot have one without the other and this is a centrally important consideration. This applies not only for refugees but also for UK nationals living in the EU, as well as vice versa.
- Financial sector: currently, most of the EU's financial sector is located in London. Once the UK leaves the EU, this financial centre will be outside of the Union. The UK is likely to want to protect it via safeguard measures, while the Union has to consider how it wishes to deal with its financial sector and its location.
- Security issues: as things stand currently, there is cooperation between British and European intelligence agencies. A lack of serious and strategic cooperation in the field would be likely to put the continent at risk.
- Scotland: in the referendum, Scotland voted overwhelmingly to stay in the EU. The First Minister of Scotland has made it clear that she will fight for Scotland to stay in the EU and wishes to have a seat at the negotiation table. The question of Scotland is likely to be a hotly debated and important one, not only for the EU but also for the future of the UK.

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## IV. TOPIC B: Developing a Joint Framework and Infrastructure for African Refugees and Asylum Seekers Crossing the Mediterranean Sea

### A. Introduction to the Topic

In the past few years, there has been a surge in refugee migration around the world. Europe has seen a refugee crisis on a scale that has not been experienced in years. Refugees are coming into Europe not only from the Middle East, but also from Africa, and there is a clear lack of preparation for an influx of people, which is one of the main factors that has led to the situation becoming a so-called crisis.

In order to better manage the problem, there needs to be more cooperation between the involved governments, particularly African governments, as crossing the Mediterranean is highly dangerous for any refugee or asylum seeker. In the first five months of this year, more than 2'500 migrants have already died at sea<sup>32</sup>. Refugees fleeing from Africa have to cross the Mediterranean sea as there is no land that connects the two continents within a reachable distance. This means that they have to cross the sea by boat or other means, and they are exposed to very harsh conditions at sea. In additions, they also often encounter human smugglers who take advantage of them, often abandoning ships when they find that it's too hard keep going leaving the refugees to fight for their own lives out in the sea<sup>33</sup>.

Europe needs to deal with the refugee crisis in a fast manner and it needs to approach the crisis together instead of individually, because the situation is having an effect on European politics and the

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<sup>32</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/31/more-than-2500-refugees-and-migrants-have-died-trying-to-cross-t/>, *More than 2,500 refugees and migrants have died trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe so far this year, UN reveals*, by Nick Squires, published in the Telegraph on May 31, 2016. Last accessed on September 14, 2016.

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.bustle.com/articles/77596-why-is-the-mediterranean-sea-dangerous-for-migrants-its-a-colossal-problem-thats-only-getting-worse> *Why Is The Mediterranean Sea Dangerous For Migrants? It's A Colossal Problem That's Only Getting Worse*, by Zoe Ferguson, published in Bustle on April 20, 2015. Last accessed on September 14, 2016.



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general atmosphere among EU citizens. When this is added into the pot with the rest of the problems that the EU faces, it is easy to see why this is a problem that it is crucial to address.

The EU has dealt with refugees only to some extent. The European Commission has adopted a quota system for all Member States, where refugees are distributed among Member States so as to avoid unequally burdening southern Member States. Furthermore, it has also introduced Operation Sophia, which is meant to help neutralizing established smuggling routes. However, these actions are not enough to deal with the rising refugee numbers fleeing to Europe so more action is necessary, and cooperation with the African Union (AU) could help in further tackling the issues at hand.

The EU has a relationship with the AU through the Africa-EU Partnership, which is an official channel for communication and cooperation for the two unions, which has been existing for almost a decade. Cooperation on refugees and asylum seekers could be very fruitful given that the two continents have worked together previously. Especially since the two blocs can offer each other expertise, finance, and resources that the other may not have – a give and take that has the potential to create a strong partnership and lead to a more effective response.

The problem is an important issue because it affects the lives of thousands of people. The lack of policy, either unilaterally or in cooperation, has cost thousands of lives, so it is important that the two blocs find a way to cooperate with each other.

## **B. Timeline of events**

- **1951:** Refugee Convention
- **April 2015:** Libya shipwreck.
- **May 2015:** European Commission suggested refugee quota scheme.
- **Mid-2015:** European Union launched Operation Sophia, with the aim to eliminate established refugee smuggling routes in the Mediterranean. Mandate was extended in 2016.
- **July 2015:** Hungary starts to erect fences along its border.
- **September 2015:** Pictures of drowned three-year-old Aylan Al-Kurdi emerge on the internet, provoking a wave of sentiment towards refugees.
- **September 2015:** Austria and Slovakia also begin to reintroduce border control measures.
- **January 2016:** Sexual Assaults in Germany on New Year's Eve.



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- **February 2016:** Riots in Calais Jungle camp region in France.
- **April 2016:** Up to 500 Somalis, Sudanese and Ethiopians drowned in a boat accident, making it the worst such accident in 12 months.
- **May 2016:** G7 meeting called for a global response to the migration and refugee crisis.
- **June 2016:** EU-Africa pact to stem flow of refugees to Europe. Pact slammed by human rights organisations.
- **September 2016:** UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. This conference aims to move from a humanitarian response to a more systematic and sustainable one.

## B. Discussion

**R**efugee: A person fleeing armed conflict or persecution. According to UNHCR, there were 21.3 million refugees worldwide at the end of 2015. They are internationally recognized as refugees due to the fact that it is too dangerous for them to return home, and that they seek sanctuary elsewhere. Refugees are defined and protected in international law – these include the 1951 Refugee Convention<sup>34</sup>, its 1967 Protocol and other legal texts such as the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention<sup>35</sup>. Most refugees are in a process of seeking asylum. An asylum seeker is a person whose request for sanctuary has yet to be processed.

**Migrant:** A person who chooses to move to improve their lives by finding work or other reasons. There is no direct threat of persecution or death, hence migrants are able to return home (should they choose so) and continue to receive government protection.

It is important to distinguish these concepts – governments deal with migrants and refugees through different immigration laws and processes. Therefore, the impact of large refugee flows largely depends on initial conditions, flow and response. According to the UNHCR, “[c]onflating refugees and migrants

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/45dc1a682.html>



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can have serious consequences for the lives and safety of refugees. Blurring the two terms takes attention away from the specific legal protections refugees require. It can undermine public support for refugees and the institution of asylum at a time when more refugees need such protection than ever before.”

However, the distinction between these two concepts remains somewhat blurred, as seen from the reports by many news agencies. It is therefore important to take note of this when doing research. Do take note that many of the images in this study guide have been taken from news agencies, which might conflate migration and refugee movements.

## **History**

In the annals of history, African countries have traditionally experienced growing instability and civil wars. These trends have contributed to increased refugee movements. For instance, refugee movements to Morocco was fuelled by the toppling of President Mobutu in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1997 and the war in the Great Lakes District. After which, a series of civil wars and violence in Sierra Leone (1991-2001), Liberia (1989-1996 and 1999-2003), Nigeria, Sudan and the Horn of Africa have resulted in increasing numbers of Africans to seek asylum by moving towards North Africa. After which, many use North Africa as a transit point in their attempt to cross the Mediterranean to Europe. This phenomenon was also fuelled by the repressive measures instituted by Libyan authorities, such as arbitrary deportation. In 2000, anti-immigrant sentiment in Libya resulted in increasing numbers of sub-Saharan refugees to move towards Europe.



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Source: Migration Policy Institute  
([http://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/source\\_images\\_oldsite/sahara\\_map\\_nov06.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/source_images_oldsite/sahara_map_nov06.pdf))

As seen from the map, refugees traditionally move from Libya or Tunisia to either Malta or Italy. There has also been an increasing trend for refugees to move to the Canary Islands.

## Addressing Root Causes

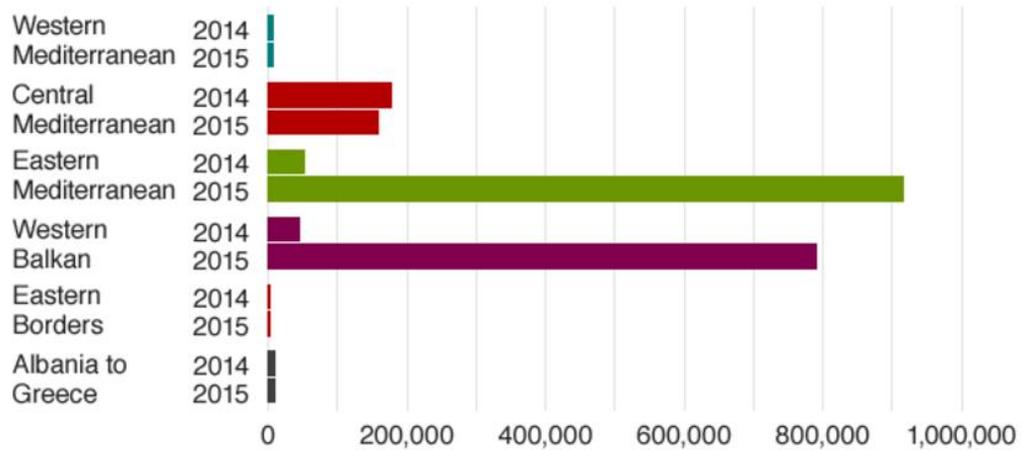
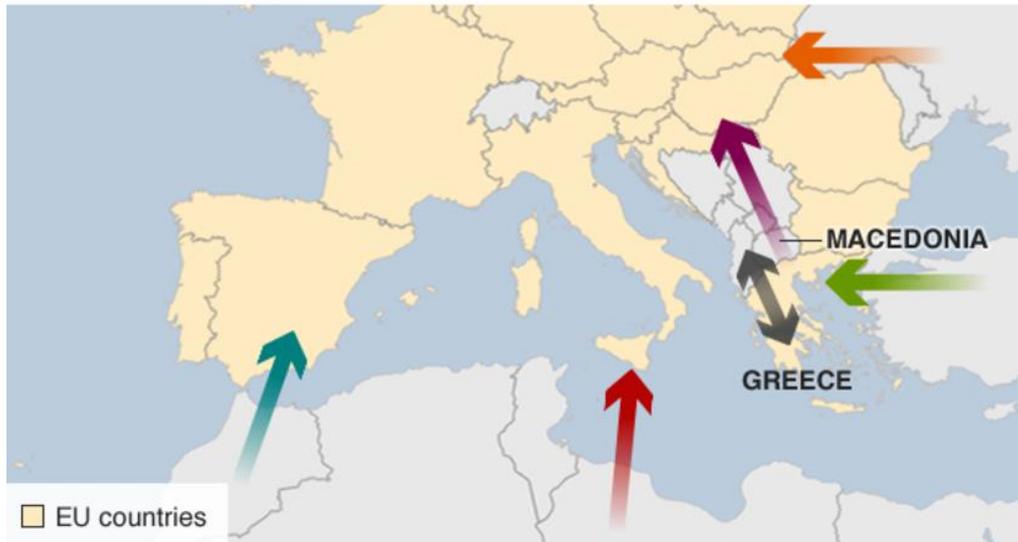


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[http://cdn2.spiegel.de/images/image-987305-640\\_panofree-fgbv-987305.jpg](http://cdn2.spiegel.de/images/image-987305-640_panofree-fgbv-987305.jpg)

## Migrants detected entering the EU illegally, 2014-2015



Source: Frontex



Source: BBC (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>)

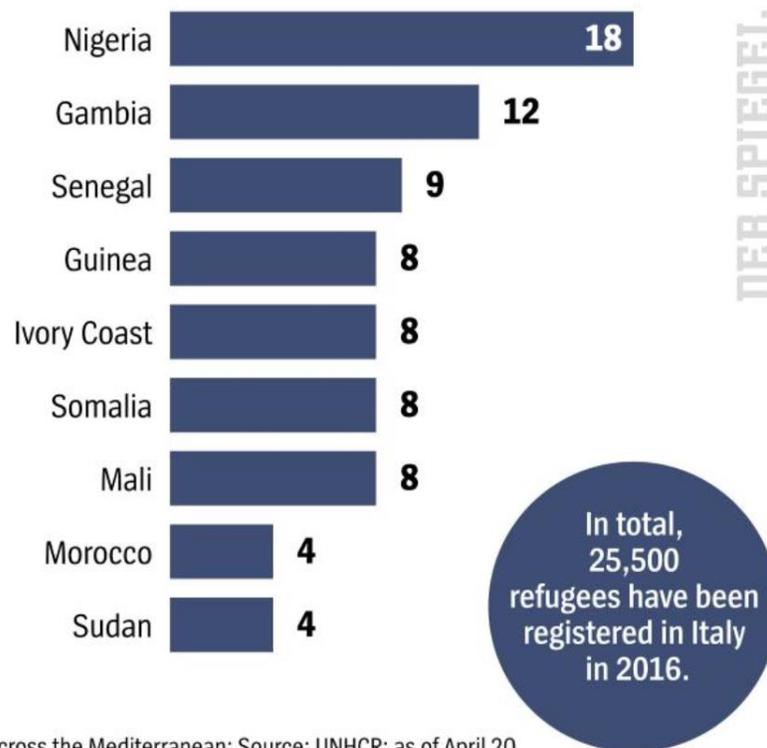


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## Primary Countries of Origin of Migrants\* Arriving in Italy,

registered since January 2016,  
percentage share



Source: Der Spiegel ([http://cdn2.spiegel.de/images/image-987305-640\\_panofree-fgbv-987305.jpg](http://cdn2.spiegel.de/images/image-987305-640_panofree-fgbv-987305.jpg))

With more than a million refugees crossing into Europe in 2015, the scale of the crisis has been unimaginably large. This is a staggering increase of refugees with a 45% increase worldwide, 85% from developing countries. Specific to the topic at hand, 108,000 Africans made their way to Europe



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in 2015 (Frontex, 2015), representing an increase of 42% from 2014. The jump in numbers has also brought about a rise in number of sea-related deaths – for instance, two boats from Libya carrying about 500 migrants sank on 27 August 2015. Most of these refugees make the dangerous journey due to a plethora of factors, one of which includes the dangerous conflicts in their countries. For instance, conflicts in Libya, Somalia, Nigeria and Mali have contributed to soaring refugee numbers. Other factors include entrenched poverty, unemployment and food insecurity from natural disasters such as droughts. Ironically enough, many refugees find themselves disillusioned with the reality that Europe “is not a paradise”. Given that Europe is currently facing a financial crisis, many refugees find it difficult to find work - this is often exacerbated by their immigration status.

The international community has recognized that short-term humanitarian interventions are insufficient due to the protracted nature of the displacement and conflict. In this regard, there is a need to implement immediate and medium-term efforts to alleviate the burden on host community and social infrastructure. Medium and long term measures are also important in building capacity and resilience in host countries. The forced displacement crisis also presents additional cross-border challenges.

The EU has traditionally struggled to harmonize its asylum policy, given the difficulty of standardizing a policy with 28 member states. The Common European Asylum System was established to deal with the issue of granting asylum to refugees – however, given the inconsistent asylum flows and uneven distributions, it is difficult to put these into practice EU-wide. Currently, less than 30% of asylum applicants from African countries (e.g. Nigeria, Gambia, Senegal and Guinea) can expect their asylum applications to be approved (Der Spiegel, 2016). Indeed, this was highlighted in Frontex’s 2016 report, which emphasized the need to “increase the ratio between return decisions and effective returns in line with the EU return policy”.

Apart from policies, the EU has also tried to strengthen “physical” border checks in the Mediterranean. For instance, ships patrolling the Mediterranean sea under Operation Sophia aims to disrupt smuggling routes and capabilities, reducing the flows of refugees and migrants from Libya, the main point of departure. However, the non-consent of Libya’s authorities, lack of a UNSC resolution, the non-permissive nature of the environment and the EU’s general reluctance to engage in coercive action reduces the effectiveness of full implementation of the operation’s mandate (Tardy, 2015).

## **Managing Large Flows**



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With large-scale refugee movements from countries such as Somalia, Eritrea and Mali in place, it is necessary to engage refugee movement and displacement tracking data, which provides a tool for responding to dynamic movements of refugees. The question is how to enable timely, actionable insights, hindsight and foresight. Data preparedness also stresses the need to reduce redundancy and centralize reliability, decision-making and capacity building.

More than half of the world's refugees and displaced live in urban areas, often in fragile cities with high levels of inequality. The unplanned crisis has in turn accelerated the growth of informal settlements and exacerbated existing inequalities, social tensions, risks and lack of access to basic services. As a result, many refugees are homeless (due to lack of available social housing). A sizeable number of refugees also live in camps.

In this regard, there is a need to implement resilience-based development solutions for large population movements by moving away from *pure needs* assessment to a comprehensive risk and vulnerability framework.

## **Protecting Human Rights**

Live in dignity and safety while helping them to find a long-term solution; human rights and leaving no one behind.

There is a need to ensure the right to life, security, health and education of all refugees and asylum seekers, regardless of their status. Refugees and asylum seekers must be able to understand their rights and be empowered to make decisions. With the influx of people moving across traditionally defined boundaries, there has been a rise in the number of exploited refugees and asylum seekers, and this was most problematic in a number of sectors including agriculture, construction, tourism, textile and garment manufacturing and domestic work. For instance, according to UNICEF, refugee children are forced to prostitution. Housing was also used to control and exploit migrants and access to health care could be problematic. Migration is an important economic and social phenomenon, which involves more than 232 million people worldwide; in this regard, there is a need for a comprehensive strategy to ensure the full protection of the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers.



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Better refugee movement governance, protection of civil society and addressing inequalities through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could assist in solving the world's multiple refugee crises.

Combatting xenophobia may be one of the key issues here – there often exists a negative discourse towards refugees and xenophobia is often the first step towards far more serious violations. In order to reframe refugee movements and inclusion narratives, emphasis should be placed on the fact that immigration is a conversation, not a lecture. Emotionally charged responses often render public policy discussions irrational, resulting in the creation of negative frames. In addition, the terms used in language are very important as well – for instance, the term “illegals” undeniably brings about negative connotations, leading to discrimination and stigmatization of refugees and asylum seekers. This may also hinder efforts in integration and assimilation into local communities. In addition, mounting xenophobia has led to the reinforcing of internal policing, resulting in blanket accusations of criminality, arbitrary detention and attacks. In developing infrastructure and framework, there needs to be a section that addresses xenophobia due to the fact that xenophobia and fear often drives public policy in states.

## **Increasing Financing**

It is important to mobilize development financing, including concessional loans – this helps to alleviate the strain on financial resources of the country. It also allows for an innovative way of using development funds for collective cost sharing between member states and international organizations in the long-term.

In April 2016, Italy proposed the EU to offer African countries both funding and cooperation on security issues, with the caveat that financial aid should only be provided to African countries who are prepared to re-accept asylum seekers with denied applications. Italy also proposed the issuing of “migrant bonds”, allowing Italy and Greece to raise additional funds for the crisis.

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) can also play a part in defining a framework for collective action in the forced displacement crisis. According to a joint MDB Paper, MDBs can strengthen their contributions in areas such as: (i) investments (e.g., infrastructure, service delivery, in schemes which support medium and small enterprises access to finance, job creation and livelihood opportunities,



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local/national capacity development); (ii) analytical capacity, to help inform public debates and policy formulation; (iii) technical capacity to facilitate project development and implementation; (iv) capacity to leverage public and private financing to support a sustained engagement with fragility prone and currently affected countries; and, (v) convening power, to enable stronger synergies between the various stakeholders involved and to promote regional cooperation.

## **Adopting a Global Approach**

It is important to coordinate between the different levels of governance – the global level fosters dialogue, the national level enables policies and the local level provides local authorities with capacity building. Joint planning, monitoring and follow-up and review mechanisms are also essential in identifying platforms for collaboration and secure commitments to implement them.

## **Responsibility Sharing**

Responsibility sharing for refugees is currently uneven. According to the European Commission, “the geographical proximity of the ENI SPC, and highly varying protection systems and regimes of the EU MS, lead to an imbalance in terms of responsibility sharing in the region, as well as within the EU itself.”

Active and visible participation of all stakeholders is a cornerstone for successful impact. Large-scale refugee movement is a crosscutting issue that has to include the participation of all stakeholders. In this case, it is not an issue of providing services, but more of a matter of how to make services accessible. Hence, effective coordination at the city level is required. In addition, there needs to be coherence between the legal frameworks of the different countries involved, as well as the mainstreaming of refugee movements within these frameworks.

## **C. Bloc Positions**

The EU interior ministers approved a controversial plan to relocate 120,000 migrants in September 2015. The figure below shows the specifics of the plan:

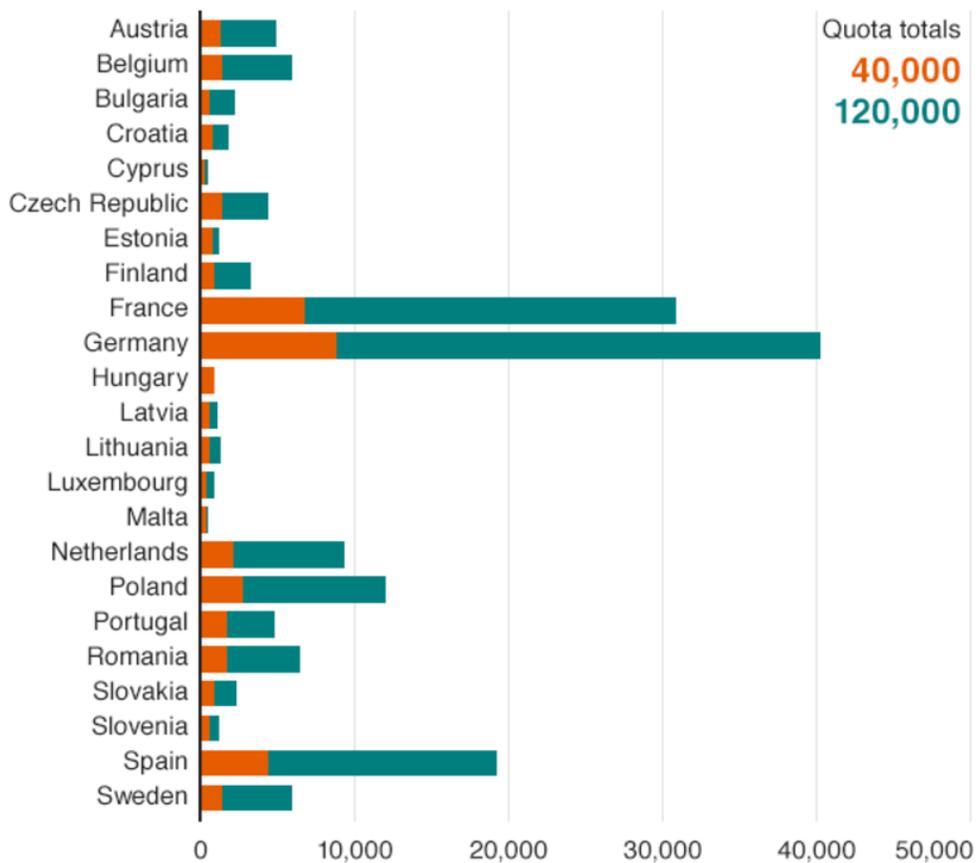


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## Number of migrants EU countries are being asked to take

- May 2015: Proposed quotas for relocating migrants from Greece and Italy
- Sept 2015: Proposed additional quotas for relocating migrants from Greece, Italy and Hungary



UK, Ireland and Denmark can choose whether to take part in the quota scheme

Source: European Commission/Reuters



(Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34329825>)



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- Greece: as a country under tremendous financial strain, Greece has found itself unable to effectively deal with the number of refugees. It insists that “it cannot become Europe’s holding center for [migrants]” and demands fair burden sharing. There have also been accusations of Athens deliberately allowing refugees to enter the European Union without proper documentation. There were plans to provide Greece with €700 million in emergency aid to tackle the crisis. While there are considerably less African refugees in Greece as compared to Italy, Greece would likely support any EU proposal for more financing.
- Austria: Austria re-imposed border checks as a temporary measure – this was allowed under Schengen rules. This followed with an imposition of a daily limit of 80 asylum applications and 3,200 migrants and refugees in transit. This was met with complaints from the European Commission,
- Hungary and Slovakia: Hungary was criticized for building a razor-wire fence and prosecuting migrants and refugees entering the country illegally. Hungary and Slovakia also refused to be part of the EU relocation plan of 160,000 migrants and refugees. They also filed a joint complaint against the EU with the European Court of Justice. Austria, Hungary and Slovakia would likely support tougher measures on, and a limit on the number of, refugees.
- France: France was also criticized for tearing down shacks in the Jungle campsite in Calais which housed migrants and refugees seeking asylum in the United Kingdom. France also reinstated border checks after the terrorist attacks in Paris. There has been considerable anti-immigrant sentiment in France. France would likely agree with proposals supporting African refugees, considering its history with African refugees. However, given recent events, popularity for supporting refugees may waver.
- Germany: Germany has received arguably the most number of asylum seekers – approximately 1.1 million asylum seekers in 2015. Germany has pledged its support for sheltering genuine refugees as its international humanitarian duty, despite the rise in attacks and petty crimes blamed on migrant gangs. There has been concern in Germany - many politicians cannot seem to agree on a common response to the refugee crisis, despite the accelerated rates of deportation and fewer African refugees entering Germany.
- Denmark and Sweden: Denmark most recently extended temporary border checks to curb the number of refugees. Sweden received more than 160,000 asylum applications, more per capita



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than any other European country. In response to this, Sweden introduced identity checks and border controls in order to curb migrant and refugee numbers.

- Italy: Italy is one of the main transit points for refugees crossing the Mediterranean. Historically, it remains the primary entry point for African nationals with few alternative routes. Eritreans and Nigerians have been the largest groups travelling this route in 2015. However, its popularity as a transit point has waned after repeated disasters at sea. Despite EU resources, Italian refugee reception centers in Lampedusa and Sicily remain overcrowded and underfunded. Italy would be open to collaboration, stating that the refugee crisis is “not an Italian problem but a European one”.
- Spain: Spain has mainly responded by intensifying border controls - over the past decade, Spain has traditionally attempted to seal off its borders by erecting fences and installing early-warning technology, such as radar systems. Spain has started collaborating with Morocco, Italy and Libya in terms of border patrolling.

This guide will not detail bloc positions of African countries - for this, please refer to the study guide written by the chairs of the African Union, or documents such as: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/12081.pdf>.

## D. Conclusion – Key issues

**B**elow you will find a list of issues that would be important to discuss and address at the joint session:

- Finance: a lot of the infrastructure that needs to be built and/or put in place in order to alleviate the burden on refugees will be expensive and often the countries that have the biggest burden of monitoring or processing these refugees might not have the finances to set up systems and infrastructure that would make processing and dealing with refugees easier and quicker;
- Resilience-based development: these solutions are needed, especially in light of the influx of refugees and asylum seekers. However, it needs to be done in a way that takes into account risks and potential vulnerabilities in the solutions, so new frameworks need to be developed;



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- The Agenda for Sustainable development could be used as a tool or a basis for negotiations when it comes to migrations governance, protection of civil society, as well as addressing inequalities;
- Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and their role in creating a framework for collective action (see point on finance above);
- Cooperation: more cooperation, trust and transparency is necessary between different levels of governance. In addition, participation of stakeholders can be important in creating the best solutions and ensuring that all voices are heard.

## **E. Bibliography**

Delegates should start research by looking at news articles on the issue and their country stance on the issue. After that, they should look at documents from experts on the issue - for instance, the links from the International Organization for Migration that can be found below. However, it has to be noted that the background guide only contains certain basic information which may form the basis for the debate and your research.

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