



*European Union*  
**GWCI A XIV**  
**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Chair:** Alison Salisbury

**Vice Chair:** Maggie Christenson

**Vice Chair:** Michelle Liu

**EUROPEAN UNION  
GWCIA XIV**

Dear Delegates,

I am proud to welcome you to the European Committee at the Greater Washington Conference on International Affairs XIV. My name is Alison Salisbury and I will be your chair for the conference. I am junior in the Elliott School of International Affairs here at The George Washington University, majoring in International Affairs with dual concentrations in Conflict and Security and Public Health. I hail from Corning, New York, a small town in Upstate New York. In my free time at GW, I work at the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, working with United Nations documents. I am an active member of the International Affairs Society, serving on the 2009-2010 International Affairs Society Executive Board as the Secretary General of the Washington Area Model United Nations Conference- our MUN Conference for high school students. Since coming to GW, I have become a member of GW's Model UN team and have often had the experience of representing E.U. countries. I am currently working to become fluent in German, and as such my interests in International Affairs and German have made me quite the European Union enthusiast.

For this committee I am honored to be working with two wonderful vice-chairs, Margaret Christenson and Michelle Liu. Together we are looking forward to providing with you a great day of debate and discussion about the European Union.

Our topic for discussion will be illegal immigration to the E.U. The European Union has always had an interesting relationship with immigrants, as there have been mass migrations of people at various points in the history of the EU. As the European Union continues to expand, questions of immigration that have already divided the peoples and countries of the organization continue to breed disagreements. As the E.U. prepares to welcome new countries in joining the European Union, issues such as strengthening borders, admitting refugees, and dealing with the consequences of immigrants with different religious, social, and cultural traditions will dramatically affect how the European Union moves forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

During the conference, it will be your job to address these and other issues surrounding illegal immigration in the European Union. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at [asalisb@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:asalisb@gwmail.gwu.edu).

Once again, welcome to the committee of the European Union at the Greater Washington Conference on International Affairs XIV. I look forward to seeing you in November.

Cheers,

Alison Salisbury

### History of the European Union

The roots of the European Union came out of the devastation of the World War II, country leaders hoping for a stronger and more unified Europe. In 1950, inspired by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman's speech in uniting Western Europe's coal and steel companies, Europe starts to become economically and politically secured.<sup>1</sup> The first countries were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands, called the European Coal and Steel Company (ECSC).<sup>2</sup> Together, they signed the Treaty of Rome.<sup>3</sup> Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom joined on January 1, 1973 as the first growth of this union.<sup>4</sup> Continuing the expansion, Greece joined in 1981, and Spain and Portugal joined in 1983, a total of twelve nations.<sup>5</sup> In

1987 the Single European Act was signed to sort out problems among its members.<sup>6</sup> The Berlin Wall was also torn down, opening trade between East and West Germany after twenty-eight years of separation, uniting in October 1990.

The term "European Union" was not introduced until November 1993 under the Maastricht Treaty, creating subgroups including cooperation on defense, justice, and home affairs, and most importantly the introduction of a common currency. More countries joined in 1995, including Austria, Finland, and Sweden. Together the European Union signed the Treaty of Amsterdam, which extended power to the European Parliament.<sup>7</sup> The Euro was introduced to most members of the European Union on January 1, 2002, eliminating currencies like the Italian Lire and the French Franc. In 2003, with the

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/abc/history/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=1454>

<sup>4</sup> [http://europa.eu/abc/history/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/Default.aspx?page=1454>

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> [http://europa.eu/abc/history/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm)

signing of the Treaty of Nice, the EU hoped to standardize institutions that would encourage countries to join the organization.<sup>8</sup> In 2004, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia joined the EU, creating the largest integration of European countries to date. Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU in January 2007, and signed the Treaty of Lisbon to create a more democratic EU in order to overcome global challenges including climate change, security, and illegal immigration.

### **History of Illegal Immigration in the EU**

Illegal immigration in the European Union has becoming increasingly relevant. Because of the transparency and unity amongst the EU, it has become easier for people, especially illegal immigrants to cross borders and settle. There has been

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

immigration policies in place since the 1970s but both legal and illegal immigrants continue to come to the EU as asylum-seekers and hoping for a better life.<sup>14</sup> This has created huge smuggling and trafficking networks across the EU.<sup>9</sup> This problem was originally focused on a country to country basis. It was not until in October 1999 at the Tampere Summit that together the EU started to tackle the illegal immigration problem, publishing statistics in May 2004.<sup>10</sup> The EU continued with an immigration policy, now known was the Hague Programme, which is “a 5 year plan to establish area of freedom, security, and justice in the EU.”<sup>11</sup> There are currently six

issues on illegal immigration to solve, including asylum, return and readmission, information exchange, border control,

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<sup>9</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/immigration/fsj\\_immigration\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/immigration/fsj_immigration_intro_en.htm)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.euractiv.com/en/justice/illegal-immigration-asylum-border-control/article-117508>

## EUROPEAN UNION GW CIA XIV

human trafficking, and family reunification.<sup>12</sup>

All countries have been greatly affected by these immigrants, and the EU is currently working on solutions to stop the flow of illegal immigrants. In the Hague Programme, there are plans including “initiatives on visa policy, readmission and repatriation, border management, and human trafficking.

### **Current Status of Illegal Immigration**

#### **In the EU**

Approximately half a million illegal immigrants enter the European Union each year. Although the Tampere Summit in 1999 attempted to standardize laws and regulations regarding illegal immigrants from country to country, many in the organization still disagree on how best to handle the question of illegal immigration.

The European Union has become increasingly more nationalistic- both as an

entire entity and among individual nations.

As the EU continues to expand, welcoming new member states Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, and currently considering Croatia, Turkey, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as candidate countries, the importance of promoting regulation of illegal immigration is becoming even more important for the future of the EU. With these newest additions to the EU, they bring with them the important question of how secure are their borders and their policies to prevent illegal immigration.

Illegal immigration has always provoked strong reactions from Europeans. Many citizens of the EU blame immigrants from ‘stealing’ jobs or refusing to assimilate into European culture. As immigration continues to rise in the EU, the question of how to address these and other problems illegal immigration is creating has led to the election of some government parties in EU nations, including France and Austria that

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

are particularly focused in slowing the flow of immigration.

One effort of the EU to address the issue of illegal immigration is a policy of readmission for immigrants. The EU has worked to establish readmission agreements with various countries around the world that receive funds from the EU in exchange for agreeing to take illegal immigrants from their countries that are caught in EU back to their nation or origin or transit in an expedited and efficient process.<sup>21</sup> While this effort has been popular among countries in the EU, human rights organizations have criticized this effort saying that the EU's readmission agreements with various nations have the potential to create human rights abuses in the migrants' home countries.

While the EU has readmission agreements with some countries, the EU by no means has agreement with all countries that illegal immigrants come from. The question of what to do with immigrants from

countries that the EU does not have a readmission agreement with still is a persistent problem.

The issue of illegal immigration is further complicated by the difficulties of nations whose borders are very close to that of the European Union's. Many countries, especially in Africa, lack the border security to control the flow of illegal immigrants from within their borders to the EU. Many developing African nations have become resting points for illegal immigrants who are seeking access to European lands. The migrant route from Africa to Europe has become so popular that the E.U. has been forced to provide emergency financial assistance to many of its member states located on the Mediterranean Sea.

However, in spite of the fact that these EU member states have been given funds to work to combat this issue, many are claiming that the funds are not sufficient to

accommodate the huge numbers of immigrants and costs they incur.

The illegal immigrant issue is multifaceted and requires levels of utmost diplomacy. While each European Union member has diverse issues and ideas about the illegal immigration question, through negotiation and diplomacy the European Union will be able to move forward and address this issue in a timely manner.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. There are many different opinions regarding illegal immigration amongst E.U. members. How can you write a resolution that will gain cooperation from a majority of E.U. nations? What measures and compromises does this resolution need to include?
2. Is it important for the E.U. to have one standardized immigration policy?
3. Should the European Union welcome all immigrants, regardless of the cost involved?

4. Should the E.U. focus on securing its borders or financing development in third-world nations? Or both?

### **Country Positions**

#### **United Kingdom:**

There are many illegal immigrants in the UK, and the number is growing. It is expected to rise to 1 million in the near future.<sup>13</sup> There is a population explosion that is particularly hard to deal with, particularly with the economic recession increasing unemployment in the country.

There are some calls for Amnesty, but in the long run that only increases illegal immigration because it gives the people an incentive to simply enter the country.

#### **Spain:**

In 2005, the government granted Amnesty to all undocumented workers who were able to prove that they had been in the country for a certain period of time, had a job contract and

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<sup>13</sup> Daily Mail Reporter, 10 March 2009.  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1160642/Number-illegal-immigrants-Britain-nearing-1million.html>

had no criminal record. The plan was to draw the immigrants out of hiding and allow them to pay taxes to the Spanish government.<sup>14</sup> In addition to this Spain has greatly increased border security to stop the number of illegal immigrants from increasing.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Germany:**

There are nearly 1 million illegal immigrants in this country, mainly from the Balkans, Russia, Asia, Latin America and West Africa. The effort to remove immigrants is wide spread because all government sponsored agencies such as health care workers and teachers are required to inform social officers of any illegal immigrants. Amnesty for illegal immigrants has also been debated by many policymakers.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> BBC, 7 February 2009.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4242411.stm>

<sup>15</sup> Duncan Robert, SperoNews, 16 January 2008.

<http://www.speroforum.com/site/article.asp?id=1367>

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<sup>16</sup> Phalnikar, Deutsche Welle, 10 March 2005.

<http://www.dw->

[world.de/dw/article/0,,1513837,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,1513837,00.html)

#### **Czech Republic:**

In the Czech Republic, the government also works with teachers and health care workers to identify illegal immigrants and then work to move them back to a suitable living situation. Many illegal immigrants in the Czech Republic are involved in illegal employment schemes and human trafficking so there is a large movement to get illegal immigrants involved in human trafficking out of the situation.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Bulgaria**

Many immigrants come to Bulgaria from North Africa and the Middle East. Recently between 2000 and 3000 immigrants have been extradited each year, however there is currently not a large budget to help remove the immigrants because it is a relatively new problem.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ministry of the Interior, Czech Republic, 2008.

<http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/migration.aspx?q=Y2hudW09NQ%3d%3d>

<sup>18</sup> Sofia News Agency, 2 July 2009.

[http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=105265](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=105265)