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# Letter From the Secretary-General

Highly Esteemed Delegates,

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for your enthusiasm and interest in our conference. My name is Yaren Keçili and I would like to express my gratitude to be able to welcome you to the seventh annual session of Troy Model United Nations Conference 2024 as your Secretary-General. This year, as always, we feel great joy to present to you our hard work. Both the academic and operations teams have been working very hard to serve you to the best of their abilities and give you an unforgettable experience.

As the delegates of the European Council, you are obligated to find effective solutions to the matter of Effects of the Extreme Amount of Migration on Economic and Sociocultural Matters in the EU. Over Migration is a growing issue in the EU and many other places. You are responsible with both pointing out the root of the problem and generating solutions to find remedies for the wounds caused by over migration. Undoubtedly, the delegates of this committee will make fruitful debates surrounding this delicate matter.

I wish to show my gratitude to the chair board and Yaprak Nisa Akay, who is going to serve as your Under-Secretary-General. They need all the praise for their work.

Once again, I would like to welcome you all to both the conference and the committee. Buckle up and get ready because we have prepared an incredible ride for you. Let's have three days full of fun, diplomacy, and memories not to be forgotten.

Yours Sincerely,

Yaren Keçili

Secretary-General of TroyMUN

# Letter From the Under-Secretary General

Most distinguished participants,

First of all, I would like to welcome each of you to our annual conference TroyMun'24.

My name is Yaprak Nisa Akay and I will be serving as your Under-Secretary General for this committee which is European Council.

With the assistance of my chairboard we have worked and prepared the most helpful and inclusive study guide that we could create. But it is important to remember that study guides alone are not enough for achieving a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. So please make sure to do further research before coming to the conference.

I hope that you will improve yourself, make new friends and have so much fun by the end of the conference.

If you have any prior questions do not hesitate to contact me via my email address below!

yaprakakay24@gmail.com

Best regards,

Yaprak Nisa Akay

# 1. Introduction to the Committee: European Council

The European Council is one of the main institutions of the European Union (EU). It is made up of the heads of state or government of the EU member countries, along with its President and the President of the European Commission. The Council's primary role is to set the EU's overall political direction and priorities. It doesn't have legislative power but is crucial in shaping policy and making high-level decisions on major issues like foreign policy, economic strategy, and EU treaties.

Meetings of the European Council are held at least four times a year, and they play a key role in defining the EU's agenda and responding to major challenges facing the Union.

## Differences between European Council, Council of Europe and Council of the European Union

The Council of Europe, the Council of the European Union, and the European Council are distinct entities with different roles and memberships.

The Council of Europe, established in 1949 and headquartered in Strasbourg, is an international organization dedicated to promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law across Europe. It includes 46 member countries, many of which are not part of the European Union, and is known for its work on conventions like the European Convention on Human Rights.

In contrast, the Council of the European Union, often simply called the Council, is an EU institution involved in legislative and policy-making processes within the European Union. It represents the governments of EU member states and works alongside the European Parliament to adopt EU legislation. Its meetings are attended by ministers from each EU country, with various configurations based on the policy area.

The European Council, another key EU institution, sets the strategic direction and priorities for the EU. Composed of the heads of state or government of EU member states, along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, it meets in Brussels to address major issues and provide high-level guidance for the EU's overall agenda. While the Council of Europe focuses on broader human rights and legal standards across

Europe, the Council of the European Union handles specific EU legislation and policies, and the European Council shapes the strategic direction of the EU.



## 2. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The European Union has experienced significant migration flows over the past decades, particularly since the early 2010s. This migration surge has brought numerous opportunities and challenges, influencing economic structures, social fabrics, and cultural landscapes across member states. Understanding the multifaceted impacts of extreme migration is crucial for formulating effective policies that promote economic vitality, social harmony, and cultural richness.

**Migration in the EU** has significant impacts on both economic and socio-cultural aspects. On the **economic side**, migration can benefit countries by filling labour gaps, especially in aging populations, and contributing to economic growth through taxes and new businesses. However, it can also put pressure on public services like healthcare and education, and in some cases, create competition in the job market that affects wages, especially for low-skilled native workers.

From a **socio-cultural perspective**, migration adds diversity, which can enrich societies with new cultural influences, languages, and ideas. But it can also lead to social tension if integration is not managed well, potentially causing issues like segregation, discrimination, or backlash from certain political groups. The

cultural impact of migration often depends on how well migrants and native populations adapt and integrate with each other.

**Policy and integration efforts** are key. Successful integration involves comprehensive approaches, such as language education, employment support, and anti-discrimination measures. The EU has frameworks in place to manage migration and support integration, but the effectiveness varies across member states.

Overall, migration is a complex issue in the EU, with both positive and negative effects depending on how it is managed and the specific contexts of different countries.

# 3. Historical Context

The history of migration in the European Union (EU) is marked by several waves of movement, driven by various social, economic, political, and conflict-related factors.

### I. *Post-World War II Migration (1945-1970s)*

- After World War II, Europe experienced significant reconstruction and economic growth, leading to labour shortages in many countries. Western European countries, such as Germany, France, and the UK, began recruiting "guest workers" (e.g., from Italy, Spain, Turkey, and North Africa) to fill these gaps.This period marked the beginning of significant labour migration to Western Europe. The idea was that these workers would be temporary, but many stayed and settled, forming the basis for multicultural societies.

### II. *Migration and Decolonization (1950s-1970s)*

- The collapse of European empires after World War II led to migration from former colonies to Europe. This was especially pronounced in countries like the UK (from India, Pakistan, and the Caribbean), France (from Algeria and other parts of North and West Africa), and the Netherlands (from Indonesia and Suriname). This migration was partly

driven by the right of citizens from former colonies to settle in the metropole and was further fueled by economic opportunities in Europe.

### III. *Migration During the Cold War (1950s-1989)*

- During the Cold War, migration within Europe was shaped by the division between the capitalist West and the communist East. People fled Eastern Bloc countries (such as Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia) for political asylum and better economic opportunities in Western Europe. The 1951 Refugee Convention established the framework for handling asylum seekers and refugees in Europe, ensuring protection and rights for those fleeing persecution.

### IV. *Migration in the 1980s and 1990s*

- With the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, migration patterns shifted. Eastern Europeans began moving to Western Europe in search of economic opportunities. Conflicts in the Balkans (e.g., the Yugoslav Wars) in the 1990s led to significant refugee flows into the EU. The Schengen Agreement (1985) and its implementation (1995) created a border-free zone in much of Europe, facilitating intra-EU migration.

### V. *EU Enlargement and Free Movement (2000s)*

- The EU expanded in 2004 and 2007, incorporating many Central and Eastern European countries. This led to increased migration from new member states (like Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria) to wealthier Western European countries under the principle of free movement of people within the EU. This migration was largely economic, with migrants seeking better jobs and living conditions. It became a point of political debate in several countries, influencing national policies and political dynamics.

## VI.    The European Migration Crisis (2015-2016)

- The Syrian Civil War, along with conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, and parts of Africa, triggered a massive influx of refugees and migrants into Europe. In 2015 alone, over a million people arrived in the EU, leading to what is commonly referred to as the "European Migration Crisis. "This period exposed deep divisions within the EU regarding asylum policies, border controls, and the distribution of migrants among member states. It led to debates over solidarity, security, and the limits of integration.

## VII.    Recent Developments (2017-Present)

- The EU has focused on tightening border controls, striking deals with non-EU countries (like Turkey and Libya) to limit migration flows, and reforming the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). However, these measures have been met with criticism from humanitarian groups and some member states. Migration remains a contentious issue, influencing political discourse, electoral outcomes, and the rise of populist, anti-immigration movements in several EU countries.

# 4. Economic Impact of Migration

The economic impact of migration in the European Union (EU) is multifaceted and varies across member states, sectors, and over time. Migration can have both positive and negative effects on the economy, influencing labour markets, public finances, productivity, innovation, and overall economic growth.

## a. *Labour Market Dynamics*

- **Filling Labour Shortages Across Skill Levels**:

  o **High-Skilled Migration**: Migrants play a critical role in addressing skill shortages in sectors like healthcare, engineering, information technology, finance, and academia. For example, in Germany and the UK, a significant percentage of doctors, nurses, and IT professionals are migrants. High-skilled migrants bring specialized skills that are often in

short supply among the native workforce, enhancing innovation and productivity. Their presence helps European companies remain competitive globally by filling gaps in fast-evolving industries.

- o **Low-Skilled Migration**: Low-skilled migrants are vital in sectors such as agriculture, construction, hospitality, and domestic work. In countries like Spain, Italy, and Greece, migrants are heavily relied upon for seasonal agricultural work. In Italy, for instance, agricultural output relies significantly on the labour provided by migrants from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia. In countries like Germany and the Netherlands, construction sectors depend on labour from Poland, Romania, and other Eastern European countries.

- **Effect on Wages and Employment:**

- o The impact of migration on wages and employment for native workers is mixed. Generally, studies suggest that immigration has a limited effect on the wages of native workers overall. However, there can be localized effects, particularly in sectors where migrants compete directly with native low-skilled workers. In some cases, wages in these sectors might stagnate or slightly decrease. For higher-skilled natives, migration can lead to wage growth due to complementary skills provided by migrants.

## b. *Economic Growth and Productivity*

- **Contribution to GDP Growth:**

- o **Direct Contributions**: Migrants contribute directly to economic growth by increasing the size of the labour force, which, in turn, increases the productive capacity of the economy. In countries like Germany and the UK, migration has accounted for a significant portion of GDP growth. The European Commission estimates that, without migration, the EU's GDP growth could be significantly lower in the coming decades, especially in aging countries.

- o **Indirect Contributions**: Migrants boost demand for goods and services, which stimulates economic activity in sectors like housing, retail, education, and healthcare. This additional demand helps create jobs and further stimulates the economy.

- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:**

  - Migrants often bring new skills, perspectives, and entrepreneurial spirit, which can lead to innovation and economic dynamism. Research shows that immigrants are more likely to start businesses than native-born individuals, contributing to job creation and innovation, especially in sectors like technology, trade, and services. Cities like London, Berlin, and Paris have seen thriving start-up ecosystems partly driven by immigrant entrepreneurs.

### c. *Impact on Public Finances*

- **Taxes and Social Contributions**: Migrants, particularly those who are employed, contribute to public finances through taxes and social security contributions. Studies suggest that migrants typically contribute more in taxes than they receive in benefits, especially when they are young and working. This can help offset the costs associated with aging native populations in many EU countries.

- **Welfare and Public Service Costs**: While migrants contribute to public finances, they can also create additional demand for public services such as education, healthcare, and housing. The net impact depends on the migrants' age, skills, and integration into the labour market. For example, refugees may initially cost more in terms of welfare support but, over time, as they integrate into the labour market, they can become net contributors.

- **Fiscal Sustainability**: In the long run, well-integrated migrants can help sustain public finances by alleviating the fiscal burden associated with aging populations, as they often enter the labour force at a younger age and contribute taxes over a more extended period.

### d. *Sectoral Impacts*

- **Healthcare and Social Care**:

  - o **Critical Workforce in Healthcare**: In countries like the UK, Germany, Italy, and Sweden, a significant percentage of healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, and support staff, are migrants. Migrants are essential in filling shortages in healthcare services, which are exacerbated by the aging population in many EU countries. For example, in the UK, more than 13% of NHS staff are foreign nationals, and in Germany, the healthcare sector relies heavily on Eastern European and non-EU migrants.

  - o **Elderly Care Services**: Migrants are heavily employed in elderly care services, such as nursing homes and in-home care. This workforce is vital given the increasing demand for elderly care in aging societies. For instance, in Italy, a large proportion of care workers for the elderly are migrants from Eastern Europe, the Philippines, and Latin America.

- **Agriculture and Seasonal Work**:

  - o **Dependence on Migrant Labour**: The agricultural sector in several EU countries, including Spain, Italy, France, and Greece, heavily depends on seasonal migrant labour, particularly from Eastern Europe, North Africa, and Asia. These workers are crucial for harvesting fruits and vegetables, where the work is labour-intensive, and there are few native workers willing to take on these roles. For example, in Spain's Andalusia region, Moroccan seasonal workers are indispensable for the strawberry harvest.

  - o **Challenges of Labour Rights and Conditions**: While migrants are crucial to agriculture, there are also issues related to labour rights, working conditions, and exploitation. Seasonal migrants are often employed under precarious conditions, with limited access to labour rights and social protections.

### e. Regional and National Variations

- **Differential Impacts Across EU Member States**:

  o **Northern and Western Europe**: Countries like Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden, with strong economies and high labour demand, tend to benefit more from migration. These countries have relatively high levels of integration and have established mechanisms to attract and retain high-skilled migrants.

  o **Southern and Eastern Europe**: In contrast, countries like Italy, Greece, and Hungary, where the economic situation is more precarious, may face challenges related to integration, unemployment, and social cohesion. In these countries, the economic benefits of migration are often undermined by high levels of informal employment, limited integration opportunities, and socio-economic exclusion.

- **Urban vs. Rural Disparities**:

  o **Urban Concentration of Migrants**: Migrants are more likely to settle in urban areas where there are more job opportunities, better access to services, and established migrant communities. Cities like London, Paris, Berlin, and Stockholm have become hubs for migrants, contributing to economic dynamism but also facing challenges related to housing, education, and social cohesion.

  o **Limited Impact in Rural Areas**: Rural areas, on the other hand, may experience less economic impact from migration. However, some rural regions have successfully integrated migrants, who help revitalize declining towns and villages and fill labor gaps in sectors like agriculture and food processing.

### f. Impact on Social Cohesion and Integration Policies

- **Integration as a Key Determinant of Economic Impact**:

  - **Successful Integration and Economic Contributions**: The economic benefits of migration are closely linked to how well migrants are integrated into the labor market and society. Countries with strong integration policies that focus on language acquisition, education, and employment support tend to see better economic outcomes. For instance, Germany's extensive integration programs have helped improve employment rates and educational outcomes for migrants.

  - **Challenges of Poor Integration**: Conversely, countries with weak integration policies may face challenges such as underemployment, low wages, higher welfare dependency, and social exclusion, which can limit the economic contributions of migrants. The experiences of countries like Italy, Greece, and Hungary highlight the importance of comprehensive integration policies.

- **Investment in Education, Training, and Skills Development**:

  - **Educational Attainment and Economic Success**: Migrants with higher levels of education and skills tend to integrate more successfully and contribute more positively to the economy. The EU is increasingly focusing on attracting skilled migrants and providing support for upskilling and training low-skilled migrants to meet labor market demands.

### g. Long-Term Economic Impact

- **Potential for Economic Transformation**:

  - **Positive Long-Term Outcomes**: In the long term, migration has the potential to transform European economies by addressing labor shortages, fostering innovation, and sustaining economic growth. This is particularly true for countries facing demographic decline and labor shortages.

  - **Policy Frameworks for Maximizing Benefits**: To fully realize the economic benefits of migration, EU countries must implement policies

that promote fair labor practices, encourage entrepreneurship, invest in education and skills development, and support social cohesion.

- **Challenges of Irregular Migration and Informal Economy**:

  o **Irregular Migration and Economic Impacts**: Irregular migration poses challenges for economic management, as it can strain public resources and create an informal labor market that undermines labor standards and wages. Countries must address these challenges through comprehensive border management, legal pathways for migration, and regularization processes for undocumented migrants.

# 5. Socio-Cultural Impact of Migration

The socio-economic impact of migration in the European Union (EU) encompasses a wide range of effects on both host societies and migrant communities. Migration affects labour markets, public services, social cohesion, cultural diversity, and the political landscape. Below is a detailed exploration of the socio-economic impact of migration in the EU:

## I. *Social Cohesion and Integration*

- **Cultural Integration and Diversity**:

  o Migration introduces cultural diversity into host societies, leading to the exchange of ideas, values, and practices. In cities like London, Paris, and Berlin, cultural diversity has enriched the arts, cuisine, and public life. This diversity can foster creativity and innovation, particularly in cosmopolitan urban areas.

  o However, cultural differences can also create challenges, particularly when migrants come from regions with distinct traditions, languages, or religious practices. Successful cultural integration depends on the host society's policies and attitudes toward inclusivity, tolerance, and multiculturalism.

  o Some EU countries, like Sweden and Germany, have invested in integration programs, such as language courses, cultural orientation, and support services, to help migrants integrate. However, others, like Hungary and Poland, have shown more resistance to multicultural policies.

- **Challenges of Social Cohesion**:

  o Rapid and large-scale migration can strain social cohesion, especially in areas where host populations perceive migrants as competing for jobs, housing, and public services. This perception can lead to social tension, discrimination, and polarization between native and migrant communities.

  o Some regions of Europe, such as Southern and Eastern EU states, have struggled to maintain social cohesion due to economic inequality, high unemployment, and insufficient integration policies. The rise of nationalist and anti-immigration political movements in countries like

Hungary, Poland, and Italy is partly driven by concerns about migration and social cohesion.

- **Identity and Nationalism**:

  o The increasing presence of migrants has sparked debates about national identity and the future of multiculturalism in many EU countries. In some cases, migrants are viewed as a threat to traditional values, language, and social norms. This has fueled the growth of far-right political parties, particularly in countries like France, Germany, Italy, and Hungary.

  o However, in other regions, such as Northern and Western Europe, societies have embraced multiculturalism, viewing it as a strength that contributes to economic and social dynamism.

## II. *Public Services and Welfare Systems*

- **Impact on Healthcare**:

  o Migration places increased demand on healthcare systems, particularly in areas with large migrant populations. New arrivals may require access to healthcare services, including preventative care, mental health support, and maternity services. In countries like Germany, Sweden, and Italy, large-scale migration has strained healthcare resources, especially in urban centers where migrant populations are concentrated.

- **Education System Pressures**:

  o Education systems across the EU are affected by migration, as schools must accommodate children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. In countries like Sweden, Germany, and France, schools have expanded programs to provide language support and cultural orientation for migrant children.

  o Migrant children may face challenges such as language barriers, social exclusion, and difficulties in adapting to new educational systems. Schools with large migrant populations often require additional resources to support these students, including language programs, counselors, and tailored curricula.

- o In the long run, well-integrated migrant children can contribute positively, but if integration efforts are insufficient, there can be negative social consequences, including lower educational attainment and higher dropout rates among migrant youth.

- **Housing and Infrastructure**:

  - o Migrants often settle in urban areas where job opportunities are concentrated, putting pressure on housing markets and public infrastructure. Cities like London, Paris, and Berlin have experienced significant increases in demand for affordable housing, leading to overcrowding, increased rents, and competition for housing.

  - o This pressure can create tensions between migrant and native populations, particularly in low-income neighbourhoods where housing shortages are most acute. Some EU cities have responded by investing in social housing, while others face challenges in meeting demand.

- **Welfare Systems**:

  - o Migrants, particularly refugees and asylum seekers, may require short-term welfare support, including housing assistance, healthcare, and unemployment benefits. This creates fiscal pressure on welfare systems, particularly in countries that receive large numbers of migrants, such as Germany, Sweden, and Greece.

  - o However, studies indicate that migrants, especially those who integrate into the labour market, tend to contribute more in taxes than they receive in benefits over the long term. In countries with well-functioning integration policies, such as Germany, migrants become net contributors to welfare systems once they are employed and paying taxes.

## III.  *Political and Social Consequences*

- **Rise of Populism and Anti-Immigration Sentiment**:

  o The socio-economic impact of migration has contributed to the rise of populist and anti-immigration political movements across Europe. In countries like Italy, Hungary, and Poland, political parties that emphasize national sovereignty, border control, and opposition to immigration have gained significant support.

  o This political shift has led to debates over the EU's migration policies, particularly regarding asylum seekers and refugees. While some countries, such as Germany and Sweden, have adopted more open policies toward refugees, others, such as Hungary and Poland, have resisted EU efforts to distribute migrants across member states.

- **Social Tensions and Discrimination**:

  o Large-scale migration can lead to social tensions, particularly in areas where migrants are perceived as competing with native workers for jobs, housing, and public services. Discrimination and xenophobia can create barriers to integration, contributing to social exclusion and marginalization of migrant communities.

  o In some EU countries, migrants face higher levels of unemployment, underemployment, and poverty than native-born populations, which can exacerbate social divisions. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive integration policies that promote equality and social inclusion.

## IV.  *Economic Contributions and Entrepreneurship*

- **Economic Contributions**:

  o Migrants contribute to the economy not only as workers but also as consumers and taxpayers. By increasing the labor force, they contribute to economic growth, productivity, and innovation. In countries like Germany and Sweden, migration has been a key driver of GDP growth in recent years.

- o Migrants also pay taxes and contribute to social security systems, helping to support aging populations in many EU countries. Young, working-age migrants can help balance the dependency ratio by contributing to the workforce and supporting public pensions.

- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**:

  - o Migrants are more likely than native-born individuals to start businesses. In countries like the UK, Germany, and France, migrant entrepreneurs have founded businesses that create jobs and stimulate economic activity. For example, migrants have been instrumental in the development of thriving startup ecosystems in cities like London, Berlin, and Amsterdam.

  - o These businesses often serve both the migrant and native populations, creating opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration and innovation. Migrant-owned businesses have contributed to sectors ranging from technology to retail and hospitality.

## V.   *Demographic and Long-Term Social Effects*

- **Addressing Demographic Challenges**:

  - o Migration has a significant impact on the demographic landscape of the EU. Many EU countries, particularly in Southern and Eastern Europe, are facing declining birth rates and aging populations. Migration can help address these demographic challenges by bringing in younger, working-age individuals who contribute to the labor force and support public pension systems.

  - o Migrants also contribute to population growth, particularly in urban areas, where they help offset population declines and support economic activity. This is particularly important in regions like Italy, Germany, and Spain, where native populations are shrinking.

- **Second-Generation Migrants and Social Mobility**:

  - o The long-term socio-economic impact of migration is influenced by the success of second-generation migrants. In countries with strong integration policies, second-generation migrants often achieve higher levels of education and social mobility than their parents. However, in

countries with weaker integration efforts, second-generation migrants may face continued barriers to social and economic inclusion, including discrimination and limited access to higher education and employment opportunities.

## Multiculturalism vs. Assimilation

- **Debates over Multiculturalism**: In Northern and Western Europe, countries like the UK, the Netherlands, and Sweden have long embraced multiculturalism as a way to manage migration. Multiculturalism is based on the idea that different cultures can coexist and thrive within the same society. Supporters argue that diversity enriches societies by bringing new perspectives, innovations, and cultural experiences.

  - **The UK**, for example, is home to large communities of South Asians, Caribbean, and African immigrants, contributing to a vibrant multicultural society, particularly in cities like London and Birmingham. This diversity is often celebrated through festivals, food, and arts, and has contributed to the UK's global image as a cosmopolitan nation.

  - In **Sweden**, the government has actively promoted the integration of migrants while maintaining cultural diversity. Sweden's openness to refugees, particularly during the 2015 crisis, is seen as part of its humanitarian tradition. However, there have been challenges in managing integration and public backlash in some areas, leading to the rise of far-right parties like the Sweden Democrats.

- **Challenges of Multiculturalism**: Despite the positive aspects, multiculturalism has faced criticism. In countries like **Germany**, the concept of "parallel societies" has been used to describe communities of migrants who live separately from the mainstream population, sometimes without fully integrating into the host culture. This has led to concerns about social fragmentation and the failure of some migrants to adopt the values of the host society.

- o For example, debates about the role of Islam in Germany have intensified with the growth of Muslim communities, leading to questions about how far multiculturalism should go in accommodating religious and cultural differences.

- **Assimilationist Models**: In contrast, countries like **France** have adopted a more assimilationist approach, expecting migrants to adopt French culture and values. France's republican model emphasizes equality, secularism, and the universalism of its values, meaning that public expressions of ethnic or religious identity (such as wearing religious symbols in schools or public institutions) are discouraged. This model seeks to create a single national identity, but has faced challenges, particularly with its Muslim population, leading to tensions around issues of secularism and integration.

# 6. Previous Actions

The European Union and its member states have a long history of dealing with migration, both through the European Council's initiatives and through individual countries' national policies. Migration has been a central issue in European politics, particularly since the 1990s, when the Schengen Area and the Dublin Regulation established the framework for migration management within the EU. Below is an overview of past actions taken by the European Council and EU countries to address migration:

1. **Schengen Agreement (1985)**

- The Schengen Agreement, signed in 1985, was one of the earliest significant actions taken by European countries concerning migration. It abolished internal borders within much of the EU, allowing for the free movement of people among member states. While the Schengen Agreement promoted freedom of movement, it also highlighted the need for coordinated external border controls and common asylum policies, which became more pressing as migration flows increased in the following decades.

## 2. Dublin Regulation (1990, revised in 2003 and 2013)

- The Dublin Regulation was introduced in 1990 and established rules for determining which EU member state is responsible for processing asylum applications. Generally, this responsibility falls to the first EU country that an asylum seeker enters. This regulation was later revised (Dublin II in 2003 and Dublin III in 2013) to improve the efficiency and fairness of the asylum process. However, the system has been criticized for placing disproportionate pressure on frontline states like Greece and Italy, where most migrants enter the EU.

## 3. Tampere Programme (1999)

- The Tampere Programme was launched in 1999 by the European Council to create a common EU immigration and asylum policy. It aimed to harmonize asylum laws, integrate migrants into European societies, and manage migration flows in cooperation with non-EU countries. Key goals included the creation of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and improved legal migration pathways.

## 4. Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

- The CEAS is a set of EU laws and measures to create a unified asylum system across member states. Key legislative instruments of CEAS include the Dublin Regulation, the Asylum Procedures Directive, and the Reception Conditions Directive. The system's goal is to ensure fair and humane treatment for asylum seekers across the EU and to manage asylum applications in an organized and predictable way. CEAS was significantly reformed in 2011 to address weaknesses, but disparities between national asylum systems continue to challenge its effectiveness.

## 5. 2005 Hague Programme

- The Hague Programme built on earlier EU efforts to create a comprehensive migration and asylum policy. It focused on strengthening external borders, fighting irregular migration, and promoting legal migration.The program also emphasized the integration of migrants,

cooperation with countries of origin, and balancing the EU's security concerns with its humanitarian responsibilities.

## 6. Stockholm Programme (2009–2014)

- This program outlined the EU's priorities for the areas of justice, freedom, and security, with a particular focus on migration and asylum. It stressed the need for solidarity between EU member states in managing migration and called for the development of a sustainable and coherent migration policy. It introduced the concept of the "Global Approach to Migration and Mobility" (GAMM), which sought to address migration comprehensively, including its social and economic aspects and cooperation with non-EU countries.

## 7. European Agenda on Migration (2015)

- migration crisis in 2015 prompted a significant response from the The EU. The European Commission introduced the European Agenda on Migration to address the immediate challenges posed by the large influx of refugees, mainly from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

- **Key components of the agenda** included:

  o **Relocation and Resettlement**: Proposals for relocating asylum seekers from frontline states like Greece and Italy to other EU member states. This was met with resistance from several Central and Eastern European countries.

  o **Hotspots**: Establishment of "hotspots" in Greece and Italy to register and process migrants quickly.

  o **Return Policy**: Focus on returning irregular migrants who did not qualify for asylum to their home countries.

## 8. EU-Turkey Agreement (2016)

- To reduce the number of migrants arriving in the EU via the Aegean Sea, the EU struck a deal with Turkey in 2016. Under this agreement:

  - Migrants arriving in Greece from Turkey would be returned to Turkey if they did not apply for asylum or if their asylum applications were rejected.

  - For each Syrian returned to Turkey, another Syrian would be resettled in the EU.

  - In exchange, Turkey received financial aid from the EU to support refugees within its borders.

- This agreement played a significant role in reducing migration flows across the eastern Mediterranean, although it has faced criticism for its human rights implications.

## 9. Reform of the Dublin System

- The flaws in the Dublin Regulation became apparent during the 2015 crisis, leading the European Commission to propose a new system in 2016. This reform aimed to introduce a permanent relocation mechanism for times of crisis, ensuring more equitable sharing of responsibility across member states. However, this proposal faced strong resistance from several member states, leading to deadlock in negotiations and highlighting the division within the EU over migration policies.

## 10.  EU Pact on Migration and Asylum (2020)

- In September 2020, the European Commission proposed a new pact on migration and asylum, which aims to reform the EU's asylum system and create a more predictable and effective migration policy.

- **Key elements of the pact** include:

  - **Mandatory solidarity mechanism**: Member states can choose how they contribute, either by relocating asylum seekers, returning those without a right to stay, or providing financial and operational support.

- **Strengthened external borders**: Increased resources for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

- **Faster asylum processes**: Introduction of a border procedure for faster processing of asylum claims, especially for those coming from countries with low recognition rates.

- **Partnership with third countries**: Continued focus on cooperation with non-EU countries to manage migration flows and address root causes of migration.

# 7. Partnerships With Other Organizations

The European Union (EU) collaborates with several international organizations and agencies to manage migration, focusing on both immediate migration crises and long-term solutions. These partnerships are crucial in addressing the complex and global nature of migration. Here's a brief overview:

## 1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The EU works closely with the UNHCR to ensure the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. This partnership involves providing humanitarian aid, implementing asylum systems, and resettling vulnerable populations.

## 2. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The EU partners with IOM to manage migration flows, support voluntary returns and reintegration of migrants, and promote safe and orderly migration. IOM plays a significant role in assisting migrants during crises and in collaborating with the EU on resettlement initiatives.

## 3. Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency)

Frontex is an EU agency responsible for coordinating border control and security across member states. It works with non-EU countries to manage external borders, prevent irregular migration, and enhance cooperation with third-country agencies.

**4. European Asylum Support Office (EASO)**

EASO supports member states in managing asylum claims by providing expertise and technical assistance. The agency plays a role in harmonizing asylum procedures across the EU and facilitating cooperation between member states.

**5. African Union (AU) and Other Regional Organizations**

The EU collaborates with the African Union and regional organizations in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia to address the root causes of migration, strengthen border management, and improve legal migration pathways.

**6. NGOs and Civil Society**

Various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work alongside the EU to provide humanitarian assistance, legal aid, and support for the integration of migrants and refugees. These partnerships are essential for on-the-ground operations in migrant camps and host communities.

# 8. Questions to Ponder

What impact does a massive migration wave have on the productivity and general economic growth of EU member states?

What particular economic sectors are severely impacted by extreme migration, and what effect does this have on employment rates?

Which integration policies have been most effective, and how can they be scaled across the EU?

How can the EU maintain unity while respecting the diverse approaches of member states?

How can the EU balance the economic benefits of migration with the challenges it poses to labor markets and welfare systems?

How can international cooperation be strengthened to address the root causes of migration and manage migration flows effectively?

What obstacles to language, education, and cultural assimilation do migrants encounter, and how are these obstacles being overcome?

Are there any opportunities or difficulties that can be anticipated for the future? If so, what proactive measures can be taken to handle them?

How successful are integration programs in assisting migrants in assimilating into the host society, and to what extent do they exist?

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