



WESTMUNC 2016

SPECIALIZED: EUROPEAN UNION

ABOUT WESTMUNC

The 2016 West Model United Nations Conference (WestMUNC) will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at [Mills High School, 400 Murchison Drive, Millbrae](#). The conference will start at 10 a.m. and end at approximately 6 p.m.

There is a delegate fee of \$5, which will cover limited food. If you are in the San Mateo Union High School District, please turn in your money before the conference to your club president; otherwise, please bring the money on the day of. Visit [westmunc.com](#) or email [westmunc2016@gmail.com](#) for more information.

SCHEDULE

10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Registration
10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Opening Ceremony
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Committee Session 1
1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.	Committee Session 2
3:45 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Break
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Committee Session 3
5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Closing Ceremony

Schedule is subject to change. Please visit [westmunc.com](#) for the most updated schedule.

YOUR CHAIRS

CAROLINE COSOVICH is a senior at Burlingame High School and serves as the Vice President of the MUN Club. She has been involved in MUN for about three years now, and is very passionate about foreign relations and languages. She is very excited to be involved in this year's WestMUNC Conference!

[carocoso@gmail.com](#)

MITCHELL PON is a senior at Mills High School and Vice President of the Mills MUN Club. Model United Nations has helped him eliminate his fear of public speaking and increase his interest in domestic and world economics/politics in our ever changing world. Mitchell wishes you the best at WestMUNC and hopes to hear delegates say "MUN IS FUN!" at the end of the conference.

[mjpon45@gmail.com](#)

MEILING THOMPSON is a junior and the MUN club treasurer at Aragon High School. She is really excited for the EU specialized committee at WestMUNC. Please contact her if you have any questions!

[meilinglthompson@gmail.com](#)

Please email your chairs for any committee-specific questions.

POSITION PAPERS

Position papers are due Monday, September 19 at 11:59 p.m. Please email your position paper to *all* three of your chairs with the subject line "Position Paper - [Your Name and Assigned Country]." Please limit your position paper to three pages, with additional room for works cited.



EUROPEAN UNION

CAROLINE COSOVICH, MITCHELL PON AND MEILING THOMPSON

INTRODUCTION



Terrorism and Refugees in the EU

Currently, two of the world's most pressing crises are merging together to create an even greater threat to the safety of our population. As explained above, the Syrian Refugee Crisis is an ongoing event sparked by the deadly Syrian Civil War in the Arab Spring. The result has left hundreds of thousands of Syrian natives displaced and discarded in the war torn region and beyond. These victims and their geological area make them perfect targets for terrorist groups in recruitment and attacks, which is the basis of our fused committee topic.

Recent news has been plagued with references to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), their successful attacks, and those who lead their operations. The orchestrators and actors in such attacks have more often than not established their

loyalty to ISIS before carrying out large-scale attacks in European countries and abroad. Information on specific attacks can be found in the previous sections.

The issue bridging these two crises is the ease that comes with posing as a Syrian refugee in order to reap the benefits of social programs and gain access to countries with otherwise strict immigration laws. European nations have altered their legislation significantly in order to account for the many refugees seeking protection and habitation. The simplicity of crossing most borders within the European Union presents an issue because of the unpredictability of some, not all, refugees. Generally, although they have escaped the turmoil of their home countries, their conditions are not much better when they arrive in the European Union, which is part of the reason that legislation and organization are needed to ensure their minimal contentedness in the future. Furthermore, the ease of traveling prompts terrorist groups such as ISIS to take advantage of open borders by targeting displaced individuals as potential loyalists to their cause.

Background on the European Union

The European Union (EU) is structured to protect the sovereignty of member states, and collaborate with external nations for bilateral benefits. The EU was originally formed by the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1993, growing to a modest membership size of 27 countries, excluding



the recent referendum vote to have the United Kingdom leave the EU. Its current bylaws establish loose border controls, enabling citizens of the EU to travel through member states with ease.

Originally serving as an economic uniter of European nations, referred to as the European Economic Community, the name and goal of the organization was amended from deeply economic motivations to political ones, and has continued to operate in that capacity since then. The EU is recognized as an ally of the United States, used to mutually benefit both entities.

It is comprised of multiple governmental bodies, including the European Commission and European Parliament. The explicit goal of the European Union is to eventually include all countries in Europe, in order to create a stronger, more connected alliance of nations.

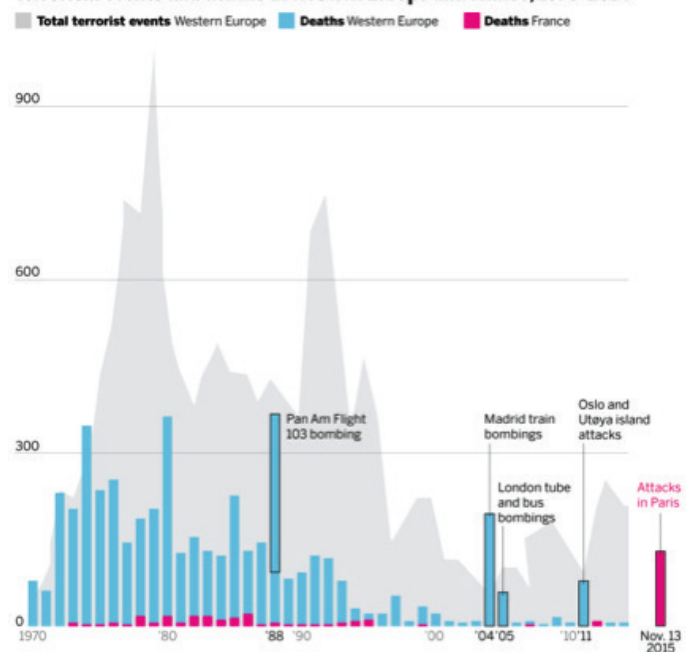
Twenty-two of the 27 member states are in the Schengen Area, signifying that there are no regular border controls or documentation checks. In the case of national security issues, including terrorist attacks, natural disasters, or serious, verified threats to public policy, the borders may be closed, border checks are to be reinstated for periods up to thirty days. The economic implications and complications for doing this, though, prove to be costly and hard to maintain. The Schengen Information System (SIS)

serves as a database for those who are not welcome to stay or pass through the Schengen Area, which is helpful for tracking the movements of identified offenders, but ineffective when they are undocumented.

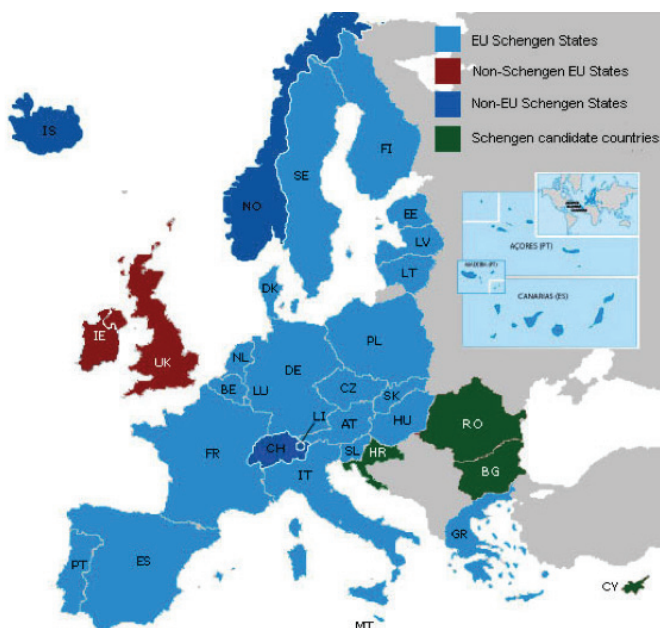
Important to note for the purpose of this committee is that the EU votes by consensus, meaning that directives can only pass if the entirety of its member states agree on the proposed legislation. This will apply to the committee, although not every member state will be included, and external countries will not be required to pass EU policy-specific directives.

A BRIEF HISTORY AND COMPARISON OF TERROR IN EUROPE (70s – 90s)

Terrorism events and deaths in Western Europe and France, 1970-2014



The rise in terror in Europe was similar to the string of violence from communists, nationalists, anarchists, Islamists, and common criminals in the 1970s and 80s. Bombings of planes, gunning down civilians in public areas, and hostage crises were quite common at the time. European authorities applied strong security tactics that attempted to prevent attacks, although they were not always successful. The most notable was Britain's Ring of Steel, which had an increase of checkpoints, narrower streets, and increased car-barriers in pedestrian areas in





response to bombings in the metro area. However, despite the increase in physical security, terrorists eventually got through with the bombing of Central London in 1996. Today, despite the upsurge in terror, the 70s through 90s remains Europe's bloodiest in terms of terrorism within the region.

Attacks upon Large Public Areas and Events



The most prominent, televised attack was during the Olympics of 1972. Because Berlin was hosting the Olympics for the first time since the rise of the Third Reich (Nazi Regime), the Germans wanted to present Germany in peaceful way that reflected their rich culture and history instead of its militaristic pre World-War Two look. However, this led to lax security and fewer checkpoints at Olympic facilities, which allowed the kidnapping of 11 Israeli hostages by Palestinian terrorists and then a shootout during a failed police assault at the Fürstenfeldbruck airbase which killed both terrorists and hostages. Other attacks upon the public ranged widely during the course of the years. The most effective were airport attacks. Airports were known to be "soft" targets for many terror plots. Often, airplanes of Israeli airlines were bombed and check in terminals were gunned down at many European cities.

Attacks on Governmental Officials



During the year of 1978, terrorists successfully killed a former head of state.

The former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro was kidnapped by the "Second Red Brigade" terrorists, who hoped it would force the release of communist prisoners. Despite pleas from the families and even the Pope asking the terrorist to take himself instead of Moro, the government of Italy responded with the policy of "refusing to negotiate with terrorists" and launched a massive campaign in an attempt to find Moro. He was found killed from 11 shots to the chest in the Jewish center of Rome 3 months after his initial kidnapping.

RECENT JIHADISTS ATTACKS IN EUROPE

Sadly, terror in Europe is so common now it is difficult to give an accurate timeline of events. We have provided a link to a constantly updated timeline [here](#).

CURRENT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Response by the EU as a whole

In 2005, the European Union worked on a framework to counter terrorism, highlighting the goals of counter terror measures in response to the 2004 attacks in Madrid. The framework's "four pillars" are to "Prevent, Protect, Pursue, and Respond" towards any terror action that "poses a serious threat to our security...(and) values of democratic societies..." Currently, the EU council and parliament has passed an agreement that would allow intergovernmental law enforcement agencies to collect and access personal data from airlines. The European Union claims that this method will allow governments and companies to find at-risk passengers and to identify possible terror suspects while traveling.

Response Amongst Prominent EU Nations

France – Due to the increase in mass attacks in the country, France has declared a state of emergency for the last nine months and continues to do so today. Regular military and paramilitary units have been deployed throughout popular areas such as Disneyland Paris while massively increasing security measures at large festive events. France

Germany – The country has developed a new anti-terror program, which gives more power and men to the police, increases surveillance, and stricter paths towards citizenship. Police now have new branch called the BFE+ (Beweissicherungs- und Festnahmeeinheit plus) which fills the void of a paramilitary police (GSG9 (Tactical Anti Terror Unit) and the SEK (SWAT)) not having the power to investigate and arrest, which are solely for tactical and massive manhunt purposes.



Jihadist Terrorism

The most prevalent and publically known groups in the European Union are radical groups of AQAP (Al-Qaeda) and the Islamic State. Both groups are known to radicalize members via their propaganda online and claim they are responsible for the terrorist attacks. This makes it extremely hard both on law enforcement and the European Union to predict and estimate the ability of both groups.

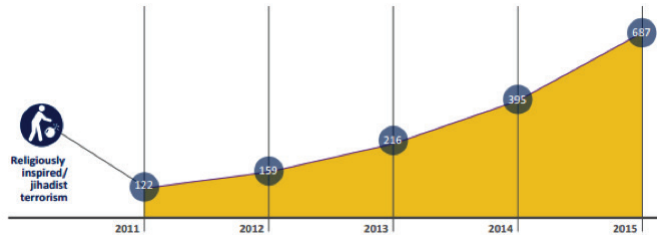


Al-Qaeda was widely known for early 2000 attacks that involved planting bombs in civilian areas and for plotting to hijack aircraft. Bombing attacks occurred in Sweden, Great Britain, and Spain. Other countries, such as Germany and Italy, have received threats but no bombing attack was ever committed against them. France was the only country that suffered an attack by gunmen from this group.

The Islamic State is also known to take credit for attacks despite no clear connection pointed out by law enforcement. This terror group has been on the rise since 2014 as routed the entire Iraqi army leaving a vacuum of power for the group to take over. Since then, it has used effective Internet



propaganda for many Europeans to either travel to the Middle East and back or stay under the scope of European Intelligence.



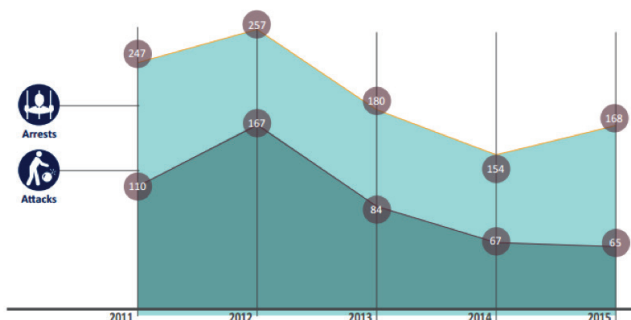
Ethnic, Nationalist, Separatist Terrorism

According to the Euronet report of 2016, Irish and Turkish groups are the only ones in this category who have widely caused much disturbance. However, after the recent ceasefire events and peaceful actions of British and Irish governments, terrorism from Irish Separatists has widely died down.

Despite the ceasefire of the 1990's, the Dissident Republicans, an anti-cease fire group has caused at least 16 attacks against PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) which they regard as a "illegitimate" police force occupying and preventing the uniting of Ireland as a whole.

The current active Turkish extremist group, Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), has no known attacks in the year of 2015. However, clashes between Turkish supports and this group have occurred in EU countries during demonstrations.

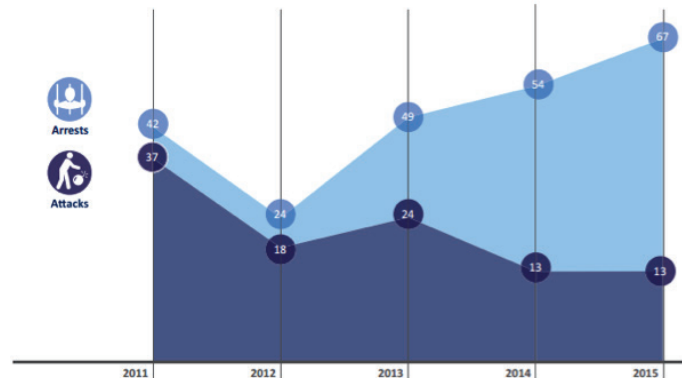
Figure 7: Number of failed, foiled, or completed attacks and number of arrests for ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorism 2011-2015



Left-Wing Terrorism

Left wing terrorism has been on the decline for the past couple years while the arrests for these groups have been steadily increasing. However, from 2014 to 2015, the amount of attacks have remained the same and the number of groups are staggering.

Figure 9: Number of failed, foiled, or completed attacks and number of arrests for left-wing and anarchist terrorism 2011-2015



Attacks are commonly done during public demonstrations (anti immigration protests) or large governmental events such as the opening of the European Central Bank (ECB) and the UN Climate Summit. Members of these groups were extremely hostile to police (as shown on the right), participated in widespread vandalism, and some even broke through police barriers while attempting to enter the conference. Their actions off the streets have major repercussions as well. Online propaganda is one of them, and this influences many to carry out extremist acts such as sending parcel bombs or torching governmental facilities.



Right-Wing Terrorism

Currently there have been nine reported acts of terror committed by right-winged extremists in



2015 and has been steadily increasing in states with increases of immigration and economic turmoil. In recent years, radical forms of political terrorism has been a key factor in reacting to the Syrian Refugee crisis and jihadist terror attacks.



Vandalism, harassment, formations of vigilante groups to do civilian patrols, and the use of hate on the Internet (blogs and forums) has been the primary forces of terror these groups use. In France and Poland, Islamophobia has allowed mosques to be defaced, bombed, or even torched by groups such as Blood and Honor which were found possessing live ammunition and assault weapons during these events.



THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

In March 2011, nonviolent, pro-democracy protests in Syria erupted into chaos after security forces opened fire on protesters in the southern city of Dar'a. Protesters were rebelling against the Assad regime that had ruled over Syria for decades. Violence escalated and different opposition

groups, such as the Free Syrian Army, had formed by the end of 2011.

Today, they are four major groups fighting each other within Syria: the rebels, Assad's regime, the Kurds, and the Islamic State. Surrounding countries and foreign powers rapidly became involved in the Syrian Civil War. Many countries backed and funded the opposition groups that they favored. Sunni countries, such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia, backed the rebels while Shia countries, such as Iran, backed the Assad regime. In 2013, chemical weapons were introduced and the United States also became involved, decrying the use of chemical weapons and requesting that Assad dismantle the regime's chemical weapons program. Fearing U.S. military involvement, the regime conceded. Fighting continued and extremist groups, such as ISIS, took advantage of the chaos and got involved.



In 2016, about 5 years after the war began, estimates of those killed ranges from 250,000 to over 400,000. The UN stopped counting Syria's death toll due to the inaccessibility of many areas, but the estimate released by the UN two years ago was about 250,000 people killed. Years of constant and seemingly endless fighting in civilian areas, such as Aleppo and Damascus, as well as widespread war crimes, have led to a humanitarian crisis: The Syrian Refugee Crisis.

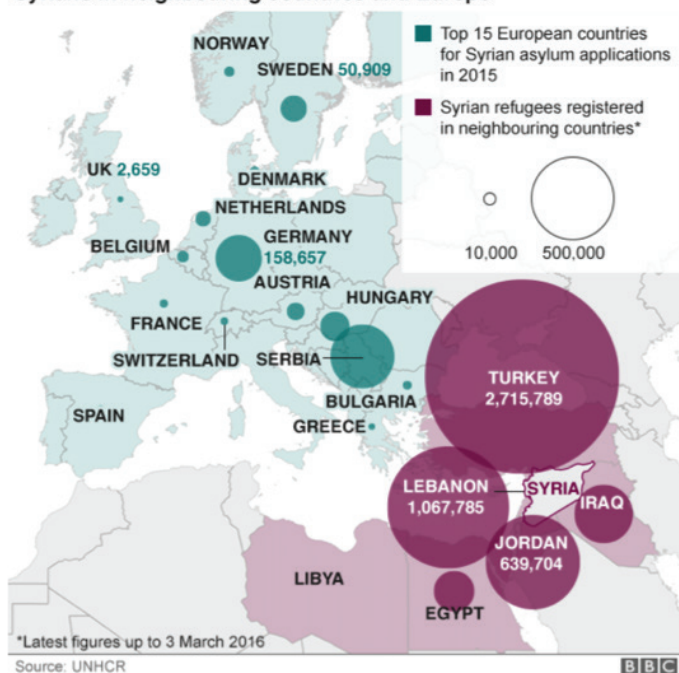
THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

The Syrian Refugee Crisis is one of the worst and large-scale humanitarian crises in recent times. The U.N. approximates that 4.8 million refugees have fled Syria, while 6.6 million people are still



displaced within Syria. Out of the country's pre-war population of 23 million people, about half have been forced to flee from their homes. More than half of the 11 million refugees are under the age of 18. A large number of humanitarian organizations, such as Relief International, Mercy Corps, and UNICEF, have partnered with the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) to provide aid for refugees both in and outside the country. However, they have running into problems with both funding and getting access to refugees within the country. The UNHCR estimates that 70% of funding is still missing. Humanitarian access to people in need within Syria has been restricted and blocked by chaos and fighting, especially in war-torn areas such as Aleppo.

Syrians in neighbouring countries and Europe



THE MIDDLE EAST

Due to their geographical proximity, many refugees have fled to nearby Middle Eastern countries, including Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, and Iraq. Lebanon and Jordan, both small countries that share a border with Syria, have been overwhelmed by the number of refugees. Lebanon has taken in about 1.1 million refugees, which makes up about 25% of the population is made up of refugees. Because almost all of the Syrian Refugees are Sunni

Muslims, the delicate balance of Sunni Muslims, Shia Muslims, and Christians has been disrupted.

This enormous amount of refugees has also taken a heavy toll on Lebanon, both economically and politically. There are currently no formal refugee camps within Lebanon. Jordan has taken in about 620,000 registered refugees, although public fears about the effect of the influx of refugees on Jordan's economy and infrastructure have grown. Turkey currently has about 3 million Syrian refugees, and has a relatively "open-door policy". However, Turkey's resources have become increasingly strained as the number of refugees grows. Egypt has about 115,000 registered refugees and Iraq has about 250,000 registered refugees. There has been a large amount of humanitarian aid in the region although funding is considerably low.

EU RESPONSE





The European Union has taken in about 10% of the Syrian refugees. Many European countries have expressed concerns about how refugees will affect their economy, job market, and general culture.

Germany has taken in over 300,000 refugees and is very appealing to many refugees due to its strong economy, high standard of living, and welcoming public. However, several crimes committed by refugees have raised concerns about how safe it is to have so many refugees in the country. Germany is also incredibly difficult and expensive to reach for many refugees. There are several different routes in which people reach Germany. Many refugees attempt to make the risky journey from Turkey to Greece and then travel through the Balkans until they reach Germany. Some attempt to reach Italy from Libya or Tunisia and then travel to Germany from there.

Another "haven" for refugees is Sweden, which has taken in approximately 180,000 refugees. Sweden is also extremely difficult and expensive to travel through. Some refugees are able to fly there, while others have to take the long and difficult overland route through Russia or through Germany and Denmark.

USEFUL RESOURCES

We recommend that you read and/or watch at least some of the following:

[European Union's Fight Against Terrorism Plans](#)

[EuroPol Reports](#)

[Newsfeed on ISIS](#) (New York Times)

[What Happens After ISIS Falls?](#) (Wall Street Journal)

[What ISIS Really Wants](#) (Atlantic)

[Founder of ISIS](#) (PBS)

[Abu Musab al-Zarqawi](#) (CNN Declassified Series)

[Illegal Arms Trade](#) (CNN Declassified Series)



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