

VARANKMUN'24

EUC Study Guide

(European Union Council)

Agenda item: Refugee Problem in Europe

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Table of Contents

- Letter From Secretary-General
- Letter From Under-Secretary-General
- Introduction
 - Introduction to the Committee
 - Historical Context
 - Area of Focus
 - Introduction to the Agenda
 - Historical Context
 - Stance of the EU
 - Public Opinion
- Definition of Key Terms
 - Major Parties
 - Immigrating Countries
 - Emigrating Countries
- Solutions in the Past
- Possible Solutions
- Beneficial Documents
- Bibliography

Welcome letter from the Secretary General

Esteemed delegates,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to VarankMUN'24. My name is Barbaros Şıracı, and I am privileged to serve as your Secretary-General for this year's conference.

In a world increasingly interconnected, the role of youth in addressing global challenges has never been more critical. At VarankMUN'24, we aspire to cultivate a spirit of diplomacy, collaboration, and innovation among our participants. Over the next few days, you will have the unique opportunity to step into the shoes of international diplomats, engage in thought-provoking debates, and contribute to meaningful resolutions.

At VarankMUN'24, we are committed to providing a dynamic and engaging platform for tackling some of the most pressing issues facing our world today. From environmental sustainability to international security and human rights, each committee and topic has been thoughtfully selected to encourage rigorous debate and foster innovative solutions. This conference is not just about discussing problems but about collaboratively exploring ways to build a more equitable and prosperous global community. We believe that your ideas and contributions will play a pivotal role in driving these conversations forward and in crafting actionable resolutions.

VarankMUN'24 is more than just a conference; it is a community of passionate and driven individuals from diverse backgrounds. This diversity is our strength, and it is through our

collective efforts that we can create a more inclusive and equitable world. I encourage you to embrace this opportunity to learn from one another, challenge your perspectives, and forge lasting friendships.

As you prepare for the sessions ahead, I urge you to remain open-minded, respectful, and resilient. Diplomacy requires patience and empathy, and it is through these virtues that true progress is made. Remember, every voice matters, and your contributions are vital to the success of our deliberations.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our academic team, whose tireless efforts have made this conference possible. Their passion and commitment to excellence are the pillars upon which VarankMUN'24 stands.

On behalf of the entire VarankMUN'24 team, I wish you an inspiring and rewarding experience. Let us come together with purpose and optimism, ready to shape a better future for all.

Welcome to VarankMUN'24. Let the journey begin!

Warm regards,

**Barbaros Şıracı
Secretary-General**

Letter from Under Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

As the Under Secretary General of the European Union Council Committee, I welcome you to the committee with immense gratitude for the fourth annual session of VarankMUN'24.

I am Bengs İlban, a senior student from Bahçeşehir University with double bachelor's degrees in English Language Teaching and Sociology; and I am pleased to serve you as your Under Secretary General. Our agenda item, the Refugee Problem in Europe, and the committee itself are crucial regarding the ongoing global challenges we observe daily. I have tried my best to prepare a beneficial guide for encountering such issues. I would like to remind you that, the guide you will read will give you general information. For detailed information, please read clause eight: Beneficial Documents. My expectations from you are to address the importance of cooperation and challenge differences by drawing attention.

I encourage all delegates to come prepared, engage actively, and collaborate with fellow delegates to make VarankMUN'24 a memorable and enriching experience. Your passion, commitment, and innovative ideas are essential in achieving the goals of the committee and making a positive impact on the world.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Secretary-General Barbaros Şıracı and the organizers of this conference for their determined efforts. Their dedication and hard work made it possible for us to unite and engage in meaningful discussions on urgent global issues.

I wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at VarankMUN'24.

Kindest Regards,

Bengs İlban

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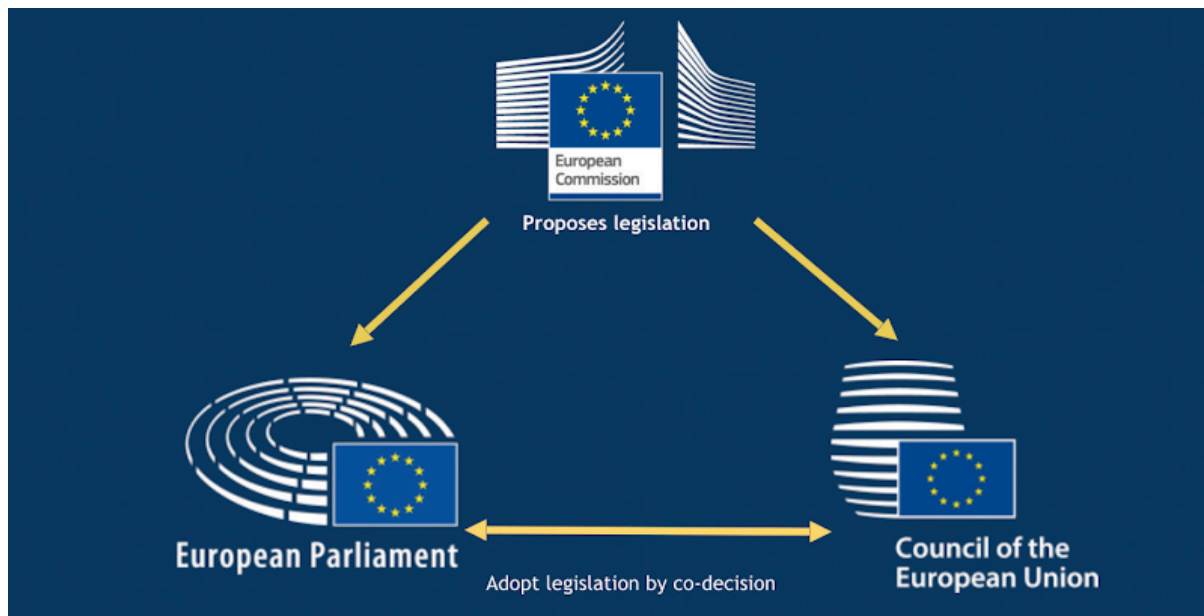
Introduction to the Committee

Historical Context

The creation of a Council of Ministers appeared in 1950 during the negotiations on the treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The Council of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Council of the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) were established by the 1957 Rome Treaties. On 1 July 1967, with the Treaty of Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities, previously mentioned executive bodies were merged and The Council of the European Union was established.

The Council of the European Union, often referred to as the “Council” in official documents is the third of seven institutions founded by the European Union (EU). The Council’s main aim is to discuss, amend, and adopt laws, and coordinate policies. The Council is formed of ministers from each EU country. As the second branch of the EU’s legislation, the Council serves to amend, approve, or disapprove the proposals of the European Commission with the European Parliament.

In earlier times the Council worked aligned with the "The Commission proposes, and the Council disposes" principle, currently the vast majority of the laws require consent from both the Council and the Parliament to be adopted. With this procedure, the Parliament represents EU citizens and the Council represents member states, the balance of power and national interests are ensured.



Area of Focus

EU leaders set out their priorities every 5 years, which influences the Commission to guide and set the agenda. For the 2019-2024 agenda, 6 political priorities have been determined. These priorities are;

A European Green Deal

Shaping the EU into an up-to-date, resource-efficient, ambitious economy while safeguarding Europe's natural environment, combating climate change, and reaching carbon neutrality.

A Europe Fit For The Digital Age

Adopting digital transformation by investing in businesses, advancing research and innovation, improving data protection, creating matching regulations, and empowering citizens with the skills necessary for emerging technologies.

An Economy That Works For People

Securing jobs and diminishing inequalities, supporting businesses, further integrating the Economic and Monetary Union, and completing the banking and capital markets union to strengthen the EU's economy.

A Stronger Europe In The World

Strengthening the EU's influence by maintaining its standing as a champion of strong, open, and fair trade. Enhancing relations with neighboring countries and partners while sustaining crisis management through civilian and military capabilities.

Promoting Our European Way Of Life

Addressing security risks, protecting citizens, and creating a legal, safe migration system. Managing external borders, and collaborating with partner countries.

A New Push For European Democracy

Reinforcing Europe's democratic system by strengthening ties with European and national parliaments, safeguarding EU democracy from external interferences, and ensuring transparency in legislative processes.

Introduction to the Agenda: Refugee Problem in Europe

Historical Context

Throughout history, migration has been persistent due to violence, war, poverty, and natural disasters. The mass movement of people migrating to Europe was first documented during World War II. The invasion of Poland marked the beginning of World War II, an ethnic "cleansing" campaign carried out by Nazis during the period that resulted in millions of people from several countries leaving their homes. Solely German citizens who were forced to leave during World War II are estimated to be 16.5 million.

In 2015, 1.3 million people migrated to Europe from the Middle East and requested asylum; this is the highest number of migrants since World War II. This sudden increase is linked to various wars in the Middle East and military governance due to the Arab Winter. EU attempted to distribute the refugees among member states to relieve the flow of migration.

The migration crisis is currently an ongoing problem, up-to-date struggle can be perceived due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Over 6 million Ukrainian refugees have been seeking shelter in Europe. This occurrence became the fourth-largest refugee crisis in history and the largest of the twenty-first century.



Stance of the EU

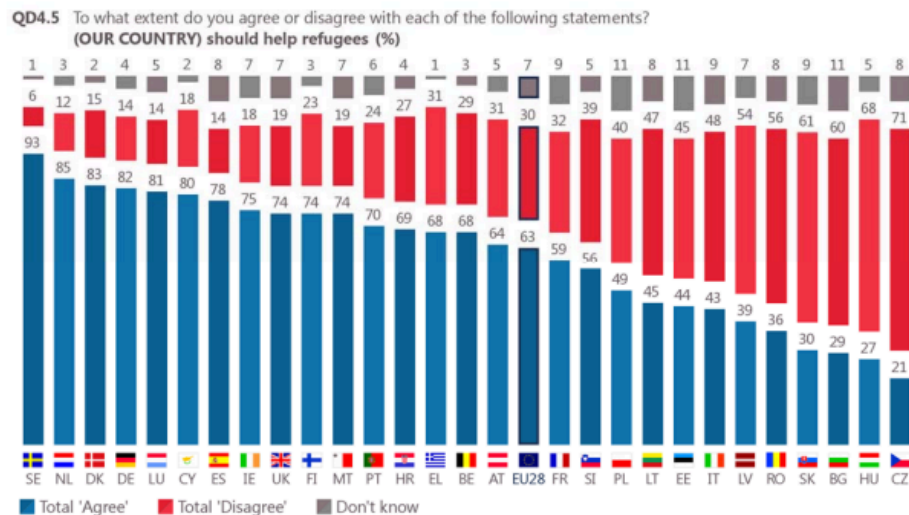
EU had diverse stances towards migration throughout history, while some member states closed their borders one-sidedly others have been welcoming towards refugees. This occurrence can be perceived during both World War II and the 2015 Migration Crisis. In May 2015, the European Commission proposed the distribution of refugees to member states based on population. Nevertheless, various countries refused to

execute this proposal and refused to open their borders. This cooperation attempt failed and the European Commission proceeded with strengthening existing systems such as the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and reforming the Dublin Regulation.

In 2016, the EU introduced a new framework named the Migration Partnership Framework (MPF); this framework created opportunities for non-member countries to collaborate with the EU. In return for this cooperation, non-member countries received money and political favors. Türkiye is a well-known non-member country to participate in regarding its geopolitical position.

Public Opinion

A generalization of public opinion can not be formed regarding the contrasting views in a state. Many countries in the European region had protests performed by such different opinionated groups. Anti-immigration groups gained momentum during previously mentioned crisis periods, such as Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West (Pegida). Opposed to such movements, pro-immigration protests and festivals have been observed.



According to the 85th Eurobarometer survey %63 percent of EU citizens support their country should help refugees. Moreover, more than half of Europeans disagree with the statement “Immigrants contribute a lot to (OUR COUNTRY)” with %52 percent. These conflicting results display how differing views reside even within the same country.

Definition of Key Terms

Ad Hoc Resettlement: Resettlement of individuals due to unexpected circumstances.

ASGI: The Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration of Italy.

Asylum Seeker: Someone who has left their home country as a political [refugee](#) and is seeking protection in another country.

BAMF: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Germany.

CBS: Statistics Office of Netherlands.

CIR: The Italian Refugee Council.

Emigrate: To leave a country of origin to settle in a foreign country.

Eurobarometer: A combination of surveys covering a wide range of topics conducted by the EU to display public opinion.

Eurostat: Statistics based on the research conducted by the European Commission.

Frontex: The European Union's border and coast guard agency.

Immigrant: Someone who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

MAE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain Government.

Migrant: Someone who moves from one place to another temporarily, especially in order to find work or better living conditions.

Net Migration: The number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants.

OFII: French Office for Immigration and Integration.

Orbiting Asylum Seeker: An asylum seeker who roams one country to another.

Refugee: Someone who has fled their country to escape conflict, violence, or persecution and has sought safety in another country.

Major Parties

Immigrating Countries

According to Eurostat (2022), Germany has the lead with 15.8 Million immigrants among European countries. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of first-time issued residence permits has nearly doubled with %190 percent. A study conducted by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Germany (BAMF) concluded that, as a consequence of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the number of refugees in Germany has surged from 369,875 to 1,115,581; more than tripling the original number (BAMF, 2024).

As the second European Union country with the most refugees, France hosts 8,5 Million refugees in its land (OFII, 2023). Since World War II, France has granted asylum to forcibly displaced populations. Welcoming policies and commitments to the human rights of the government has led to an increase in people seeking protection.

In contrast to the financial crisis in 2008, Spain hosts 6,8 Million refugees (MAE, 2023). Previous to the mentioned crisis, Spain was an emigrating country due to the authoritarian government. Currently, Spain receives immigrants mostly from Latin America due to no language barrier. In general, immigrants are attracted to the demand for labor in contrast to the challenging work conditions.

According to ASGI, Italy has one of the highest acceptance rates in the EU with %47 (2022). Due to its geopolitical location, Italy acts as a bridge between Europe and North Africa. Such occurrence results in escalated numbers of North African immigrants, presently Italy hosts 6,4 Million immigrants and refugees as noted by CIR (2023).

The Netherlands currently hosts 2,4 Million Immigrants and this number keeps rising (CBS, 2022). Net migration has been positive since 2007; the reason for such occurrence is the fifth wave of EU enlargement. Many countries became EU members

and provided new work opportunities. Under the EU legislation, any EU citizen can work in another EU country without work permits.

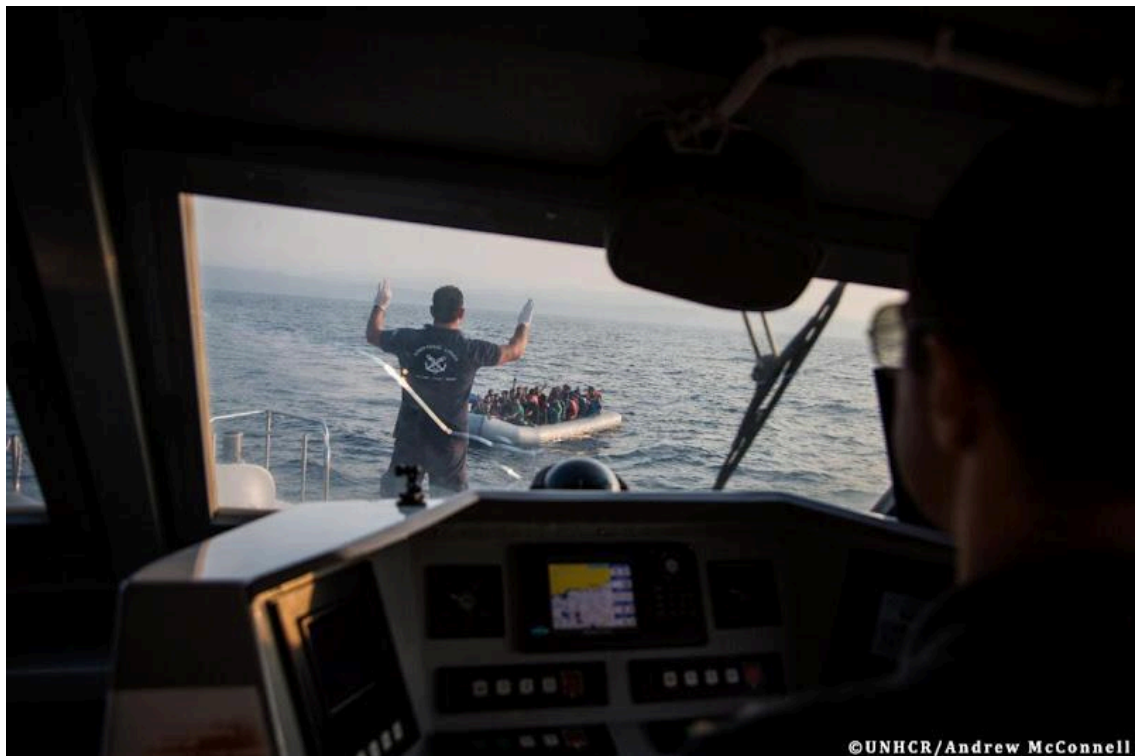
Emigrating Countries

According to Eurostat (2021), Ukrainian people who migrated to EU countries are around 873,000. As mentioned before this rise in Ukrainian immigrants is due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This invasion led to Belarusian people migrating to the EU as well. Belarus, an ally of the Russian government, supported the invasion and allowed the Russian Armed Forces to move across its land. Russian Armed Forces entered the Belarus territory and didn't exit for two months. During and after these two months nearly 309,000 Belarusian citizens migrated to the EU states.

As the conflicts in Syria enter its fourteenth year, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) states "...the suffering of the people of Syria grinds on." and "7 Million Syrians are displaced and in need of humanitarian aid". This crisis caused 183,000 Syrian citizens to migrate to EU states in 2023 (Eurostat, 2023).

Similar to the political situation in Syria, Afghanistan has experienced a years-long conflict. Starting from the collapse of the Kingdom of Afghanistan in 1973, the country has not been in a peaceful and stable period. Currently, Afghanistan has two ongoing conflicts. Nearly fifty years of unrest caused more than 8 Million Afghans to leave their homes and country (UNHCR, 2023). Eurostat said more than 100,000 Afghan people migrated to the EU in 2023.

A survey conducted by the EUMAGINE project showed that Turkish people have a positive image of the EU regarding democracy and human rights (Timmerman et al. 2014). Turkish people have been migrating to the EU since the 1960s. During the post-war period in Europe, labor shortages were observed. With the invitation of the German government, Turkish people migrated to Germany for work opportunities. Currently, Turkish people mainly migrate to Germany to reunite with their families and study. In the last year more than 89,000 Turkish citizens migrated to EU countries (Eurostat, 2023).



Solutions in the Past

Due to the rise of migration, member states of the European Union have developed new pacts and redesigned outdated regulations. One of the first regulations implemented by the EU states was the Dublin Regulation II in 2003. One of the objectives of the regulation was to create a database of asylum seekers and minimize the number of orbiting asylum seekers. While the implementation of a database was successful, a decrease in number of orbiting asylum seekers was not. Moreover, Dublin Regulation II should have considered the capacity of a member state when allocating asylum seekers. Disregarding such factors caused several member states to struggle, Italy is the lead member who faced the mentioned problem. The case of *Tarakhel v Switzerland* is a prime representation of the struggle. After 10 years of unexceptional performance, Dublin Regulation II was reformed and renamed Dublin Regulation III. The European Commission proposed the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) to terminate the Dublin Regulation III in 2016.

In 2020 the European Commission proposed a new Pact on Migration and Asylum. The main objective of the framework is to manage migration for the long term. The framework aimed to build confidence by use of new efficient procedures, and achieve harmony among collective responsibility and solidarity. This pact included new border screening and data procedures, laws to guarantee fundamental rights, and immediate operational support between members.

The Commission proposed a regulation in 2016, the Union Resettlement Framework to ensure a safe transition between ad hoc resettlement schemes to stable two-year resettlement plans. In 2024, the framework was adopted with the support of members of the European Parliament (MEPs),.

In 2021, MEPs supported the transition of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) into the [EU Agency for Asylum](#). With the involvement, MEPs adopted two funds for asylum and border policies. A new fund named Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) was created for external border management and the allocation of €6.24 Billion was agreed upon. MEPs approved the funding of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) with €9.88 billion for the 2021-2027 period.

In December 2023, MEPs adopted a resolution to ensure compliance of Frontex on fundamental rights, accountability, and transparency.

On April 2024; Parliament approved a new policy replacing Dublin Regulation III. This policy ensured the contribution of every member state, both financial and accommodation. The regulations of the mentioned policy set the minimum contribution to be €600 Million or accommodation of 30,000 applicants.

And lastly, the Reception Conditions Directive was revised in 2024 to minimize the challenges asylum seekers face during the integration process. Revised articles include; assigning guardians to unaccompanied minors, entering the education system before two months of arrival, and allowing applicants to work no later than six months.

Possible Solutions

Eliminating migration as a whole is not rational and acceptable. As past actions have been implemented, the possible solutions for such a struggle should be minimizing migration and enhancing secure alternatives to migration.

Possible solutions should proceed from the root cause of the problem: Why are asylum seekers leaving their country of origin? Needed aid and support can be provided to eliminate the reason for emigration. In situations of conflict in an emigrating country, diplomatic efforts and peace-building initiatives can be deployed. Possible solutions affecting immigrating countries, incorporation of; revised border management, simplified application and integration processes, and assistance for legal immigration pathways are achievable.

Cooperation among member states and external partnerships to share responsibility and strengthen connections are crucial regarding this global issue.

Beneficial Documents

[Migration Partnership Framework](#)

[International Migration Highlights 2020](#)

[Statistics on migration to Europe 2024](#)

[Asylum and migration management regulation proposal, 2024](#)

[Union Resettlement Framework](#)

[New Pact on Migration and Asylum 2020](#)

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