

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

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## **Position Paper**

### **Immigration policy**

*Identify and briefly outline the political issues relating to social policy in respect of the mass immigration and refugee crisis in the E.U. of the summer of 2015*

## *Additional Sources*

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/migration-pulse/2010/lack-common-eu-policy-asylum-and-immigration-stockholm-programme-answer>

Barnickel, C. and Beichelt, T. ‘ Shifting Patterns and Reactions – Migration Policy in the New EU Member States’, in *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*, Vol.27, No. 3, Aug. 2013 pp.466-492.

## *Additional Sources*

Favell, A. ‘The fourth freedom: Theories of migration and mobilities in ‘neo-liberal’ Europe’, in *European Journal of Social Theory*, Vol.17, No.3, Aug. 2014, pp.275-289.

Jurado, E. Brochmann, G. and Dolvik, J.E. ‘Immigration, Work and Welfare. Towards an integrated approach’, *www.policy-network.net*, Feb.2013)

## Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

What does the crisis mean for:

- Harmonisation, mutual recognition and convergence in E.U. immigration and asylum policy?
- Welfare provision?
- Quotas?
- Schengen?
- Nationalism?
- The demographic 'time-bomb' in the E.U.?

## Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

Between 1.1.15 and 31.08.15:

people detected on EU borders seeking entry = 350,000 (doesn't include those who passed through unnoticed) (whole of 2014 = 280,000)

34% from Syria, 12% Afghanistan, 12% Eritrea, 5% Somalia, 5% Nigeria.

Most common route was eastern Mediterranean via Turkey (100,000 attempted to cross overland from Balkans.)

(Source: BBC 'Newsnight' 04.09.15)

## Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

Sea crossings: 2010	9,700
2011	70,000
2012	22,500
2013	60,000
2014	219,000
1.1.15 to 29.06.15	137,000

40,000 people arrived in Hungary in July 2015  
alone

## Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

In 2014 asylum applications:

Germany 203,000 (prepared to accept 800,000 in 2015)

U.K. 36,000 (prepared to accept 20,000 over next 5 years from Syria and Middle East conflict zones)

Sweden 81,000

Italy 65,000

France 63,000

Hungary 43,000

Czech Republic 1,155

## Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

EU countries populations' attitude to immigration  
(Eurostat survey) see:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-sweden-the-only-european-country-with-a-majority-favourable-towards-noneu-immigration-10487466.html>



# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

## Treaty of Amsterdam, 1997

- called for measures to be introduced by the year 2002 to ensure the absence of any control on persons when crossing internal borders in the E.U.

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

By middle of 1990s main sources of immigrants into E.U. were from Yugoslavia, Turkey, Algeria, Morocco

- Germany .... 1,918,000 Turks  
930,000 Yugoslavs
- France ..... 614,000 Algerians  
573,000 Moroccans  
198,000 Turks

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

- U.K. .... 1,281,000 people from non-E.U. countries (included 130,000 Africans and 322,000 from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh)
- Belgium ... 145,000 Moroccans  
88,000 Turks

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

- Netherlands ..... 203,000 Turks  
165,000 Moroccans
- Italy ..... 97,000 Moroccans  
73,000 Yugoslavs

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

2 different processes, and operating at 2 different speeds:

A) much more convergence and harmonisation between individual E.U. States on immigration policy;

B) a much more limited convergence and harmonisation on citizenship policies

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

2 main reasons why migration flows from outside and inside EU into most E.U. countries continue:

- A) Capacity of E.U. states to police their borders effectively and maintain strict controls over immigration is limited;
- B) many E.U. states dependent on migration to meet varying requirements of internally different labour markets

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

## Schengen Accord, 1990

- France, Germany, Netherlands, (and later) Italy

## Treaty of Amsterdam, 1997

- formal integration of Schengen Accord
- E.U. take responsibility border free area (except UK, Denmark, Ireland)

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

- up to early 1980s .... around 100,000 asylum applications each year
- 1992 ..... Over 660,000 asylum applications
- Post May 2004 E.U. enlargement
  - 623,000 Poles
  - 30,600 Czechs
  - 115,000 Slovaksapplied to work in other E.U. states (May 2004 to May 2006)



- *The Stockholm Programme 2010 - 2015*

- The EU's law-and-order agenda - Immigration is a major focus. EU countries urged to adopt a common strategy to better manage their borders and satisfy labour market needs. Called for laws to ensure immigrants had equal rights throughout the EU and for closer monitoring of migration patterns and labour trends.
- Was the first step towards the adoption of a concerted Immigration and Asylum Policy. Cooperation between member states on immigration issues, where their differing priorities will not even allow consensus on the issue of labour migration, is poor.
- The Stockholm Programme was recognised as a necessary, but insufficient framework for future immigration policy planning.

***BUT*** - member states often only take action for short term political gains - and UK & Denmark uninterested in a collaborative migration policy - leaving interim measures the only strategy on the ground. This is exacerbated by economic uncertainty.

# Political Issues and Social Policy in the E.U.

Skills selective immigration policies in E.U. states:

- 1) immigrant-driven policies where points are allocated to individual immigrants on the basis of particular attributes (usually a mixture of education, age and income), i.e. United Kingdom;
- 2) employer-driven policies where employers sponsor application for admission of a foreign worker, i.e. Germany, Denmark, France.