

European Union

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome all of you to BUSUN 2009 and the complex dynamism of the European Union! Our committee promises to yield a very riveting and pertinent discussion of the obstacles that currently face the international community in the realm of the European continent, and it is my hope that these dialogues will provide each and every one of you with an enhanced perspective of the region's constantly evolving international political landscape. Correspondingly, I hope that these discussions help you craft your own informed understandings about the global society of which we are both students and active participants. My name is Melissa Dzenis and I will be chairing the EU committee and assuming the role of Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana. Prior to delving into the substantive material regarding the topics of a common European asylum system, Turkey's membership bid, and the promotion of economic stability in Eastern Europe, I wish to divulge a little bit of background information about myself.

I am currently a junior at Brown University double concentrating in International Relations and History, with an emphasis on the topics of global security and regional studies of the Middle East. I am originally from New York, specifically Westchester County, and I have been a Model UN enthusiast all throughout my academic career, beginning with an active dedication to MUN during high school and extending to a both participatory and organizational role once at college. Last fall I spent a semester at Columbia University, during which time I was a student at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and simultaneously interned at the United Nations through ECOSOC while working with the Control Arms campaign being spearheaded by Amnesty International. Following my work with the UN, I was also in the employ of the East West Institute, a Track II NGO that works to ensure effective diplomatic communication between China, the EU and the US, with a focus in the fields of military strategy and economic integration.

Outside of my academic concentration, I am a tremendous language enthusiast, and I am currently pursuing French and Arabic at the university level, in addition to maintaining fluency in Latvian, Tagalog and Spanish. Furthermore, I have a soft spot for all things

Foucault and British Romanticism, both of which I have been able to take alongside my required courses by virtue of Brown's wonderfully flexible open curriculum. This will be my first time chairing a BUSUN committee, however given my past experience and familiarity with Model UN, I don't foresee such a fact being problematic.

Best of luck to all of you with your research! Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions and concerns.

See you all in November!

Regards,
Melissa Dzenis
European Union Chair
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Committee History

The European Union is frequently cited in diplomatic and academic circles alike as the most visible manifestation of the phenomenon that is globalization. This reality of social, political and economic integration, while certainly subject to some disagreement over its designation as a positive or negative occurrence, nonetheless has severe implications for international citizens and non-citizens alike. The benefits of economic integration, the elimination of political borders, and the ease with which capital and culture may flow in and out of the nations of Europe, is nonetheless accompanied by a whole new set of problems. The difficulty of controlling and categorizing refugee flows, an issue that has become a major point of concern in the discourse of the asylum process, is but one of the myriad variables that plays into the convoluted equation of vestigial nationalist tradition, cultural bias, and economic sustainability. In the same vein, the question of who does and doesn't "belong" to the Council of Europe has revived a sense of religious and political sensitivity, while the policy norms of the present toward Eastern Europe could be argued to reaffirm discriminatory historical notions.

Given the parallels between the greater issue of globalization and the current obstacles that face the EU, the value of any applicable solution that our committee would be able to generate in response to these three salient issues is doubly significant if those resolutions then may serve as grander answer to the global obstacles of a world that is shrinking, but whose problems are simultaneously expanding. You will find included in this background guide a brief discussion of the topics that have been selected for the conference and what substantive measures have already been undertaken in response to those issues. This guide should serve as a springboard for your research, and

provide you with a sufficient template for the more in depth research that you should do in addition. Please be aware that, while you may be able to get the gist of the major concerns and nuances of each of the topics presented from the facts and analysis contained in the background guide, it is by no means an exhaustive scholarly document, and you should not rely solely on its contents to form your arguments and prepare for the conference. The effectiveness of our simulation will be dependent on the extent to which each of you is able to present the concerns of the individual nation-states, their representatives and the populations contained therein.

Topic 1: The Asylum Process

Background

In 1951, the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees was agreed to at a UN conference, and later in 1967 a protocol was approved in Geneva, now known as the Geneva Convention. Essentially, the Geneva Convention defines what a refugee is and lays out a common set of policies for the rights of refugees. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) helps to maintain the goals of protecting refugees and assists with resettlement efforts.

Using the frameworks of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the European Union established a Common European Asylum System in October 1999 at the European Council in Finland. Simply looking at the flow of people seeking refuge in the EU underscores the importance of dealing with refugees. Furthermore, a unified policy or Common Asylum System helps to prevent one country being more attractive than another, and thereby receiving a disproportionate amount of refugees. According to the EU website, the following is the definition of asylum:

Asylum is a form of protection given by a State on its territory based on the principle of non-refoulement and internationally or nationally recognized refugee rights. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his/her country of citizenship and/or residence in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

There are four main legal instruments within the Common European Asylum System: the Reception Conditions Directive, the Asylum Procedures Directive, the Qualification Directive and the Dublin Regulation. These are all aimed at leveling the asylum playing field among nations. Of these, the Dublin Regulations contains rules

about the member state responsible for an application for asylum, which is important to preventing multiple applications. The Reception Conditions Directive guarantees minimum standards of treatment.

In addition to these directives, a European Refugee Fund (ERF) was established to promote further cooperation and ease asylum processes.

Current Status

On November 5, 2004 the Hague Programme was adopted as a plan to develop the Common European Asylum system further. The Hague Programme aims to set the “second phase instruments” of the system, based on a thorough and complete analysis of the legal instruments used in the first phase. Keeping in mind the importance of cooperation among the EU member states, a major component of the program is fostering the solidarity and responsibility sharing necessary to achieving the Asylum process goals.

Some of these goals include agreeing on a single procedure, standardizing country of origin information, and improving the quality of individual decisions by member states. A central European Support Office will be set up to oversee all forms of cooperation between member states.

One particular focus of the Hague Programme is an emphasis on the external aspect of refugees and attempting to deal with the root causes of asylum seeking. An example of a program developed to try to deal with this issue is the Regional Protection Programmes (RPP) in close cooperation with the UNHCR.

Overall, the goal is to adopt the second phase instruments in 2010.

Questions To Consider

1. Why is it so important to have a coordinated asylum policy within the European Union?
2. What is your country’s stance on the Common European Asylum System and its implementation thus far?
3. Do you deem the efforts of the Hague Programme effective and do you foresee any problems

Helpful Resources

- The Common European Asylum System
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/asylum/fsj

[asylum_intro_en.htm](#)

- European Union Asylum Law and Policy
<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a0d667c6.html>
- The challenges of mixed migration, access to protection and responsibility-sharing in the EU
<http://www.unhcr.org/4a44dd756.html>

Topic 2: Turkey's Membership Bid

Background

Turkey has been an associate member of the European Union since 1963. Throughout the Cold War, Turkey aligned itself with the United States and Western Europe. December 12th of that year saw the signing of the Ankara Agreement, which outlined the process for which Turkey would achieve full membership in the European Economic Community. In the years that followed, Turkey continued to move closer to Europe, at times alienating and greatly upsetting its Muslim neighbors and former colonies in Asia and Northern Africa. However, numerous setbacks in European-Turkish relations occurred, including a freeze in all relations following the 1980 Turkish coup d'état. Despite these setbacks, Turkey continued to draw closer to Europe, ultimately culminating in its application for full membership in the European Union (then European Community), in 1987. In December 1989, the European Commission released its decision to defer the accession of Turkey to a future time, citing the following reasons:

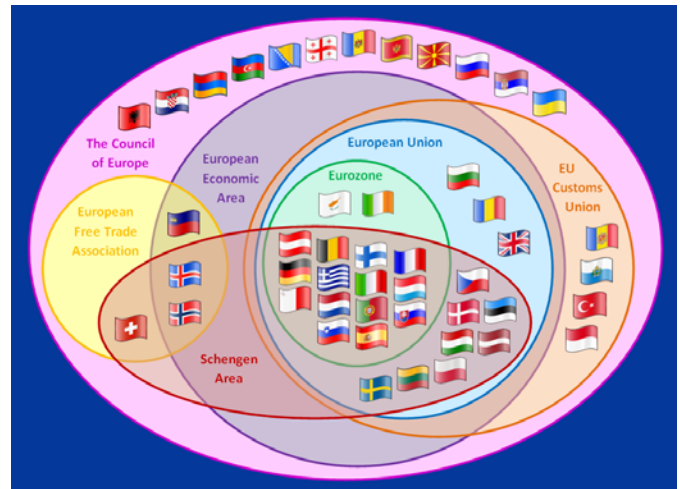
Although there have been developments in recent years in the human rights situation and in respect for the identity of minorities, these have not yet reached the level required in a democracy... At issue are the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

The Commission also cited Turkey's conflict with a current European Union member, Greece, as another reason for the deferment of Turkey's application. In the decade that followed, a total of sixteen (16) more countries applied for membership to the European Union, all of which have since received full membership status (save Switzerland per its own decision).

Current Status

Today, Turkey is entering into its twenty-first (21st) year of application for its membership in the European Union. In the image to the right, illustrating the political and economic affiliations of the European countries, it is clear that Turkey sits just within the periphery of the European Union. While there have been various offers to

accept Turkey as a "privileged partner" of the EU, granting



its full membership remains a divisive issue for the EU member states. According to the 1992 Maastricht Treaty, all current members of the European Parliament must agree to the accession of new members. Additionally, candidate countries must meet the strict conditions known as the Copenhagen Criteria before membership can be granted. While Turkey has made significant progress in the past twenty years to meet these criteria, it still remains several years to a decade away from meeting all the criteria. Furthermore, many criteria may be impossible for Turkey to meet due to its government's policies, as well as its country's history and culture. In 3 October 2005, the EU announced the start of negotiations for Turkey's accession to the European Union as a full member. However, a number of issues, other than Turkey's meeting the Copenhagen Criteria, persist. While Turkey's Trakya (Rumeli) region allows the country to satisfy the geographic criterion of EU membership, this country with a 99% Muslim population remains culturally distinct from other European entities. This, and other issues, must be reconciled before Turkey's accession to the European Union will ever be accepted.

Questions to Consider

1. How would Turkey's accession benefit, or potentially harm, the European Union economically and militarily?
2. How can the European people reconcile the addition of 71.5 million culturally, ethnically, and religiously distinct peoples into its population?
3. What kind of message would Turkey's accession send to other EU neighboring states and what path does the EU plan to follow in terms of future enlargement?
4. As distribution of Members (and thus votes) of the

European Parliament is based on population, how will current EU leaders reconcile granting Turkey the second largest number of MEPs, and eventually, based on population growth estimates, the largest number of MEPs?

Helpful Resources

- Text of the Ankara Agreement
<http://www.abgs.gov.tr/index.php?p=117&l=2>
- Text of the 1992 Maastricht Treaty
<http://www.eurotreaties.com/maastrichteu.pdf>
- The Copenhagen Criteria
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/enlargement/ec/pdf/cop_en.pdf
- The 1989 Report by the European Commission Deferring Turkey's Accession Negotiations
<http://www.ena.lu/?doc=17471&lang=02>
- Republic of Turkey Secretariat-General of EU Affairs website on Turkey-EU Relations
<http://www.abgs.gov.tr/index.php?p=4&l=2>

Topic 3: Promoting Economic Stability in Eastern Europe

Background

Though there is no general consensus on the specific definition of Eastern Europe, the United Nations Statistics Division has determined that the region encompasses Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, in addition to former Soviet Union nations and lands that were a part of the Warsaw Pact.

With the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, much of the political and economic landscape of Eastern Europe changed dramatically. Countries such as Germany became united once more, while others, such as Yugoslavia, fell apart.

Several countries in the region joined the European Union. These include Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Romania. After years of Communist rule, the countries and their economies were in pitiful states. But in just 20 years, Eastern Europe became integrated into the global economy as production was privatized. Many countries experienced

double-digit growth and it seemed that the booming Eastern European economy would soon catch up to that of its wealthy Western neighbors in the EU.

Current Situation

The astounding growth Eastern Europe has experienced over the past few decades has ground to an abrupt, and apparently long, halt. In the midst of the global financial crisis, the future looks extremely bleak for Eastern European nations. It is estimated that European banks bought some 40 percent of the securities in subprime loans, but unlike the United States, they have been slower to write off losses and recapitalize, thus dragging out this disaster.

This has caused massive bankruptcies, setting off a chain reaction that threatens to spread westward. So far, the IMF has had to bail out Latvia, Ukraine, Hungary, and Romania seems likely to follow. Latvia and Romania have already had their government bonds downgraded to junk by Standard & Poor's.

The main European Union members have been hesitant to aid the far Eastern European countries, instead concentrating on protecting their own financial interests. France has already ordered their factories in the region to be shut down as a measure to save jobs at home.

Just when countries needed capital the most, Western investors are shying away from the euro, and pulling out investments. As a result, the euro dropped around 22 percent against the dollar since the summer of 2008.

Questions to Consider

1. Is the EU responsible for the economic troubles of Eastern Europe?
2. How do you think the current situation will affect other Eastern European countries' chances of being accepted into the EU in the near future?
3. What responsibility does the global community have to Eastern Europe? To the EU?
4. What steps or implications can be made to ensure that this does not happen again?
5. Could the economic crisis in the EU's newer member states jeopardize the unity of EU? Why or why not?
6. Given the severity of matters in Eastern Europe, do you expect some countries to embrace Communism again?

Bloc Positions

Western European EU countries (France, Italy, Germany, the U.K., etc.): Western EU countries have seemed hesitant to come to the aid of their Eastern counterparts, instead focusing on their own individual financial needs.

Eastern European EU countries (Latvia, Romania, Hungary, etc.): These countries have demonstrated the potential for economic and political growth, but have been hit especially hard by the global economic crisis.

Helpful Resources

- Europe's Danube Blues
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/186969>
- The EU at a Glance
http://europa.eu/abc/index_en.htm
- Eastern Europe
http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/places/regions/region_easteurope.html
- Eastern Europe: A Crisis of Confidence in Capitalism?
<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1142/eastern-europe-crisis-capitalism-poll>
- Eastern European crisis may put us all in the goulash
<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/columnists/article5762544.ece>