The European Union

Background Guide

Stanford Model United Nations Conference 2019
Table of Contents

I. Letter from the Chair.....................................................................................................3

II. The Migration Crisis......................................................................................................4
   a. Background..............................................................................................................4
   b. Relevant Documents..............................................................................................7
   c. Helpful Sources......................................................................................................7
   d. Questions to Consider............................................................................................8

III. Ensuring the Longevity of the EU.................................................................................7
   a. Background..............................................................................................................9
   b. Relevant Documents..............................................................................................12
   c. Helpful Sources......................................................................................................12
   d. Questions to Consider............................................................................................13

IV. Works Cited.................................................................................................................14
I. Letter from the Chair

Hi!

My name’s Ryan, and I’m a freshman studying Symbolic Systems (A Stanford-specific major relating AI and CS with philosophy, linguistics, and psychology) and Computer Science. My co-chair is David Yue, a freshman who is an intended Management Science and Engineering and International Relations major. Along with my co-chair, David Yue, I’m greatly looking forward to being your chair for this year’s SMUNC!

I did MUN and competed in both GA and crisis style committees for all four years of high school and attended over 15 conferences across the circuit. I came across many amazing chairs over the years and always appreciated the time they put into making the conference experience enjoyable and educational. I hope to be able to pay it forward and look forward to a weekend of rich debate from you all.

Although our committee is the European Union, we will be following standard MUN parliamentary procedure as outlined in the SMUNC guide. Given the political tumult in European Union right now, I think the topics we will be covering are especially pertinent (the deadline for Brexit is one week before our committee session is held), and I hope that we’ll all learn more about these issues together over the weekend.

Given our limited time together, I expect that you all are at least somewhat familiar with MUN parliamentary procedure and hope that you come prepared with ideas and well-written position papers. Furthermore, please don’t forget to turn in all position papers by November 1st at 11:59 p.m. to my email (see below)!

Whether this is your first conference or your tenth, I hope you will enjoy your time. I’d also like to emphasize that I’m here to help you! I know that MUN can be stressful, especially if you haven’t attended many conferences, and if there is anything I can do before or during SMUNC, please reach me at ryanli8@stanford.edu with any questions or concerns.

See you soon!
Ryan
II. The Migration Crisis

II. a) Background

There is a burgeoning global migration crisis, and the developed world not doing enough to address the problem. By the end of 2018, there were 70.8 million people in the world who needed aid as a result of forced displacement. Forcibly displaced people are those who have fled extreme dangers, such as bombings, invading armies, and gang violence.\(^1\) Among these people, a staggering 85% become hosted by low-income and middle-income countries.\(^2\) Europe is at a unique cross-roads in the global migration crisis due to its geography, positioning it between Africa and the Middle East and serving as a natural destination for those in the region who are faced with life-or-death choices to escape extreme dangers.

Following the political and cultural unrest of Arab Spring in 2011 and the aftermath of the Syrian Civil War, the migration crisis has rapidly expanded. While the number of arriving migrants has been less in recent years, much needs to be done to address those who are already in Europe. In 2018, over 100,000 migrants arrive in Europe, with over half arriving in Spain, 22,000 arriving in Italy, and 29,000 arriving in Greece. And in total, over 1.8 million migrants have arrived since the beginning of 2014.\(^4\) These migrants use many established routes to make their way to Europe. The Central Mediterranean route is the most used, and so many migrants from sub-Saharan and North Africa will cross through Libya before making the sea crossing; however, this has caused a rise in trafficking concerns in Libya that the EU must deal with too. The Eastern Mediterranean route, or the crossing between Turkey and Greece, is most commonly used by those displaced by the Syrian Civil War. Cooperation between the EU and Turkey has reduced arrivals on this route. Much of what can and should be done rests on how the European
Union addresses these routes. Should the Union adopt a closed-borders policy and take a hardline stance on migration in these routes? Should the Union regulate this crossing for safety, especially given the deaths that have surfaced during this dangerous journey, due to the inevitability of attempted crossings?

What has the European Union done? In 2018, the European Commission allotted 3/4th of its humanitarian budget, or 1.2 billion euros, to address the needs of forcibly displaced migrants. Around 35% of this aid reached the intended as a result of direct cash and around 50% was allocated to situations where forcibly displaced people were indirect beneficiaries of the funding. On the side of border enforcement, the EU has adopted Operation Sophia to fight migrant smuggling, and this past month in September, the EU voted to extend its mandate until 2020. Recently, in June of 2019, the EU agreed to increase financial support for migration, border management, and security. What are the EU’s next steps?

The topic of what the European Union should do next is, to no surprise of many, an extremely contentious issue. Polling shows that immigration is still EU citizens’ top political concern, and so clearly something needs to be done; disagreement exists on what that should be. Even more shockingly, only 3% of EU citizens think “all is well” on the subject of migration. And the rise of populist, far-right movements has allowed an anti-immigration sentiment to build in Europe. For example, Italy’s Salvini campaigned on a promise to remove over half a million migrants. Fear-mongering and a lack of unified response from moderate groups can also be dangerous if not addressed. Knaus, chairman of the European Stability Initiative, argues that if governments do not address the question adequately, extremist groups will frame the narrative and continue pushing the anti-immigrant narrative.
I want you during this committee to address this issue holistically. This background guide provides a holistic overview of the migration crisis, but I will encourage debate all perspectives that you wish to bring up. Any direction that the committee takes, so long as it is related to the topic of the migration crisis, will be welcomed! Creativity is heavily encouraged! As delegates, it is your job to not only build on historical precedence but also innovate through the nature of your solutions. If there were already successful enough solutions, we would not be having this debate! Consider the questions below, examine additional resources, and come prepared to debate this topic.
II. b) Relevant Documents

- EU Charter on Fundamental Rights:

- Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement:
  http://www.internal-displacement.org/internal-displacement/guiding-principles-on-internal-displacement

- Overview of EU Migration Policy:

- European Migration Law Documents:
  http://www.europeanmigrationlaw.eu/en

II. c) Helpful Sources

- Doctors Without Borders on Migration:
  https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/refugees

- Human Rights Report on the EU in 2019:

- Scholarly articles on the migration crisis in Europe:
  o https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=gtYtDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA100&dq=europa%20migration%20crisis&q=europa%20migration%20crisis&ots=svyyQrMWiu&sig=838fT__qHrjYm9no_joVm8s9c1#v=onepage&q=european%20migration%20crisis&f=false
  o https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13629395.2016.114582
II. d) Questions to Consider

- Should the EU take a right or left-tiling stance on migration?
- Is the EU morally obligated to take on some of the burden of the migration crisis given the state of the rest of the world?
- What policies can the EU adopt that would be supported by a majority of member states?
- What should be done with the migrants who have already settled in Europe? Should they be assimilated into European culture, allowed permanent resident status, a combination of both or neither?
- What is the role of technology in addressing this issue? How can fake news frame the narrative? Can we use big data analysis or a quantitative approach with our solutions?
III. Ensuring the Longevity of the EU

III. a) Background

Perhaps the most pertinent issue relating to the European Union is, right now, the longevity of this supranational organization. Following the 2016 Brexit vote, many wondered if something similar could follow suit in other European countries as a result of growing far-right movements across the continent. Prime Minister Matteo Salvini claimed it was Italy’s turn to leave; however, after seeing the tumultuous way in which the United Kingdom has attempted to leave the union, no similar movements have arisen—yet. In fact, most Europeans are happy with the state of the European Union; 67% of EU citizens believe that their countries were benefited by EU membership and favorability ratings topped 60% in 2017. However, just as support can surge, so too can it collapse. These previous polling statistics make the following ones even more telling. Over half of EU citizens think the EU will collapse in the next twenty years. How can support for the EU be the highest it has been in decades at the same time that Europe has no hope for the longevity of the same institution?

There are many potential crises brewing in the EU. Part of the answer may lie in the financial stability, or lack thereof, in Europe. A Harvard research study calls the “Eurozone crisis” one of the “gravest crises in the history of European integration.” What makes this crisis so interesting is that it is a crisis among developed countries with rich economies and established governmental structures. The European Council on Foreign Relations has determined that the collapse of the Euro would lead to the demise of the European Union as a body. Could strengthening the Eurozone build stability for EU? If so, what measures can be taken to accomplish this? Furthermore, Europe’s economic model is outdated. As a Guardian article
states, the EU has no equivalent tech powerhouse to Google, Amazon, or Facebook. Previously, companies like Volkswagen and Siemens could compete with American giants, but in the age of big data and technology, Europe is falling behind. Some European researchers call this combination of crises the EU “polycrisis” because of the fracturing of Europe across “simultaneous riftsts.” What can the EU do to prevent the polycrisis from becoming even more severe?

When looking at these concerns, it becomes easy to ask why the world should even care about the collapse of the EU. Why should we not let the course of history continue as it desires? Some people view the EU as a body created solely to ensure reconciliation between Germany and France after the war. However, what truly makes the EU unique is its status as a “measure of democratic supervision over globalization”. Unlike the United Nations and World Trade Organization, which have lax requirements toward their member states, the EU has stringent requirements for candidate states to have “stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and respect for and protection of minorities”. Finally, between encouraging trade and work within Europe, creating internal security, establishing a unified European front on the world stage, helping with the refugee crisis, and reducing bureaucratic red tape, the EU is still a successful institution despite current challenges.

Our job as the European Union is to determine the adequate level of EU governance for maximizing the probability of the EU’s longevity as a democratic institution. Some experts agree on the idea of “more EU” for political and economic challenges but are also aware of many governments’ unwillingness to cede additional power to what some see as an overly bureaucratic institution. Furthermore, the EU seems to be trying to be more integrated with respect to
defense, and pursuing this path is an option for ensuring close collaboration between member states and by extension, longevity. Finally, how can the EU move past the narrative that the United Kingdom is integral to the longevity of the EU?

Once again, like with the previous topic, I encourage creative debate and a wide range of perspectives! The sources presented here are only a small subset of what exists.
III. b) Relevant Documents:

- EU Charter on Fundamental Rights:
  

- EU conditions for membership:
  
  https://ec.europa.eu/ neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership_en

- Ongoing challenges in the European Union:
  

- More challenges:
  

III. c) Helpful Sources

- A scholarly article on “Is the EU Collapsing?”:
  
  https://www.jstor.org/stable/23279994?seq=2#metadata_info_tab_contents

- A scholarly article on hypothetical ways for the EU to break up:
  

- The EU polycrisis:
  
III. d) Questions to Consider

- What can be done in your particular country to ensure EU longevity? What if the majority of those in your country wish to leave the EU, much like the UK? What are steps your country can take to reconcile the answers to these two questions?

- Can we examine Brexit as a foundation for “what went wrong”? How can the EU avoid such events in the future?

- Once again, does technology play a role in addressing this crisis?
IV. Works Cited


