Volterra 2017
Academic Preparation Kit

Index

Dear participants of Volterra 2017,

The Chairs' team of the 41st National Selection Conference of European Youth Parliament Italy can proudly present you the Academic Preparation Kit. This document consists of the topic overviews that have been written and composed by the Chairs based on the committee topics of the conference. The overviews will give you the first introduction to the topic relevance and outline stakeholders involved, elaborate on measures that are in place and offer thoughts for future prospects to explain the complexities of each of them. The topic overviews are supposed to provide you with an objective summary of the committee topics and should only act as the point of departure for your own academic preparation.

During your time with us in April, you will have the chance to debate and discuss these topics. The Chairs' team and Organising team have been working tirelessly over the past weeks to bring this kit together, researching and writing the overviews you will find inside to guide you through and excite you about the topics we will tackle together in Volterra.

Researching your topic extensively will make your session a lot more fun as it will help you to engage in the discussions. I would like to wish the best of luck in your preparations for the conference, and I am looking forward to meeting you in April!

On behalf of all the Officials of Volterra 2017,

Mighel Molenkamp
President of the Session

Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

Europe vs Euroscepticism: with the increasing support among Europe citizens of the right-wing and Eurosceptic parties and considering the recent Brexit, how should the EU ensure the legitimation of its Parliament as well as closer and constructive dialogue with such movements?

Raffaella Meninno (IT)

0. Committee powers and responsibilities

Committee responsible for:

1. the institutional aspects of the European integration process, in particular the preparation, initiation and proceedings of ordinary and simplified Treaty revision procedures;

2. the implementation of the Treaties and the assessment of their operation;

3. the institutional consequences of enlargement negotiations of or withdrawal from the Union;

4. inter-institutional relations, including, with a view to their approval by Parliament, examination of inter-institutional agreements pursuant to Rule 140(2) of the Rules of Procedure;

5. uniform electoral procedure;

6. political parties and political foundations at European level, without prejudice to the competences of the Bureau;

7. the determination of the existence of a serious and persistent breach by a Member State of the principles common to the Member States;

8. the interpretation and application of the Rules of Procedure and proposals for amendments thereto.

1. Relevance and contextualisation of the topic

In recent years, Europe has seen a fast and unexpected rise of the far-right parties and an increase of their seats in the Parliament of their countries. Taking advantage of migrant crisis, slow economic growth and growing disillusionment with the European Union, far-right parties have been achieving electoral success in several European nations.

In **Germany** the *Alternative for Germany* (AfG*)* party won up to 25% of the vote in German State Elections in March 2017 and in September[1], the party took second place in the Legislature in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the home state of Chancellor Angela Merkel. In **France** the *National Front* (NF) won a plurality of the national vote (27%) in the first round of voting in Regional Elections in December 2016, but in the second round the party was denied victory in all 13 regions[1]. In **Greece** the *Golden Dawn* party, after entering in the Greek Parliament for the first time in 2012, winning 18 seats and becoming the country's third-largest party, won 18 seats in parliamentary elections in September 2016. In **Hungary** the *Jobbik* party won 20% of the vote in Parliamentary Elections in 2014,

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[1] The New York Times, 2016, Europe's Rising Far Right: A Guide to the Most Prominent Parties, The New York Times. Retrieved from *http://nyti.ms/2kLBiVA*

making it Hungary's third-largest party[1]. In **Sweden** the *Sweden Democrats party*, won about 13% of the vote in elections in September 2014, which gave it 49 of the 349 seats in Parliament.

The common trait of the right-wing parties is that they often use populist rhetoric to promote its anti-immigration positions: they wish to reduce the number of immigrants into the countries, cutting benefits such as health care. They often favour protectionist economic policies and they are anti-establishment[2], they have negative feelings towards the lesbian, gay, bi, transgender community[3] and they have a huge sense of mistrust against the EU, its institutions and the Euro as a currency.
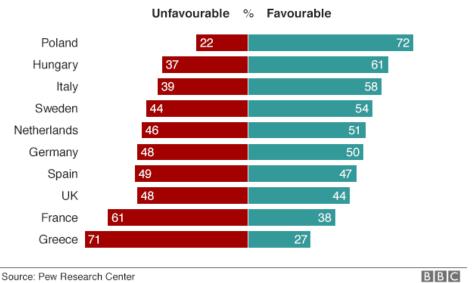

Figure 1: How European countries view the EU

Brexit has been a clear sign that right-wing parties can have a real effect in a country: moreover, within hours of the Brexit verdict, France's National Front (FN) Leader Marine Le Pen and Dutch Eurosceptic political leader Geert Wilders were demanding in-out referendums in their own countries[4].

Among the Germans, two-thirds of AfG sympathisers have an unfavourable view of the EU and 60% want some power returned to Berlin from Brussels.[4] The situation is very similar in the Netherlands, where about seven-in-ten *Party for Freedom* backers are negative about the EU and 60% say some EU powers should be returned to the national parliament.[4] In France, given the Eurosceptic stance of Marine Le Pen, 67% of her party supporters have a negative view of the EU. Similarly 47% of FN backers want some EU powers devolved to France, as do 43% of Republican supporters.[5]

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[2] An anti-establishment view or belief is one which stands in opposition to the conventional social, political, and economic principles of a society.
[3] Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community, asking for their safety, equality and well-being.
[4] Will Carter, 2016, A guide to Europe's key Eurosceptic parties, and how successful they are, Newstatesman. Retrieved from *http://bit.ly/2bdA13e*
[5] Bruce Stokes, 2016, Europe's Far-Right Anger Is Moving Mainstream, Foreign Policy. Retrieved from *http://atfp.co/2hSpdL1*

2. Stakeholders and their actions

The European Commission, as a stakeholder, has limited influence in monitoring the rise of Right-Wing Parties. However, since most of the critics the parties move towards the EU regard the management of the migratory flows, the economic crisis and the power of the European institution, the main action in the competence of the EU is trying to resolve these problems at their source.

The **Right-Wing Parties,** instead, kept promoting their values and ideology and gaining more and more support among the public and seats in their national parliaments and in the European Parliament. In the European Parliament the political group "Europe for Freedom and Direct Democracy"[6] represents all the Eurosceptic parties and has 42 elected members. The French National Front, the Austrian Freedom Party, the Italian Northern League, the Belgian Flemish Interest Party and the far-right Polish party, as well as a British member of the European Parliament who left the United Kingdom Independence Party formed a coalition in 2015 considering their common values and aims.

The **citizens**, because of discontent with troubled economies, with migration pressures, with growing numbers of Muslims –often associated to terrorism- and with what is seen as a cumbersome and distant bureaucracy in Brussels, tend to support immediate, even if extreme, solutions, such as the total ban for migrants, the return to the previous currency or the exit from the EU. In German, roughly half (48%) of the public sees the EU in an unfavourable light and 43% and want powers returned to the nation state. In the Netherlands 46% of the general public is negative about the EU and 44% says some EU powers should be returned to the National Parliament. In France 61% of the population has a negative view of the EU and 39% wants some EU powers devolved to France.[7]

3. Measures in place

The EU, in the years, has mainly focused on the far-right extremist and populist, instead of the far-right as a party, trying to prevent behaviors as racism, violence, discrimination towards minorities. In October 2013, the European Commission has published a document called "**The European Union and the Challenge of Extremism and Populism**"[9]; it underlined the differences between populism and far-right parties and stated that populism is rather a political attitude, rhetoric or practice than an ideology, a programme or a party. Furthermore, the subject of the document is the challenge of the EU in the task of protecting democracy and the rule of law. In 2010, the European Commission, in collaboration with the University of Leipzig, launched the Right-Wing Youth Violence Prevention Programme[8] with the aim of pointing out successful programmes to influence youth against participating in right-wing violent groups.   These results **were expected to be** published in "Antidiskriminierungspadagogik: Konzepte und Methoden fur die Bildungsarbeit mit Judendlichen" in 2010. The policy implications were expected to be published in a second monograph: "Leathan at Risk? Regulating the Right-Wing in Europe?" in 2011, but the project never came to a conclusion.

Considering the mistrust of the European citizens toward the EU, The European Commission is investing in the "**Europe for Citizens Programme**"[9], whose aim is to is to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity, foster European citizenship and encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens at EU level, by developing their understanding of the EU policy making-process, and stimulate interest and involvement in EU policy making.

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[6] Europe for Freedom and direct democracy, retrieved from *http://bit.ly/2cD8I7u*
[7] Bruce Stokes, 2016, Europe's Far-Right Anger Is Moving Mainstream, Foreign Policy. Retrieved from *http://atfp.co/2hSpdL1*
[8] European Commission, 2010, Right-Wing Youth Violence Prevention Programme, retrieved from *http://bit.ly/2lMk3oM*
[9] European Commission, Europe for Citizens Programme, retrieved from *http://bit.ly/1SYcUup*

The priorities for 2017 are:

- Challenging Euroscepticism and fostering informed debate
- Solidarity in times of crisis
- Combatting stigmatisation of "migrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding
- Debate on the future of Europe

4. Key conflicts and key questions

The key question of the discussion is about the underestimation or overvaluation of the problem. The ones defined by the Telegraph as the optimists continue to argue that the concerns about the rise of nationalist fringes in Europe are overblown and that the best strategy is still to ignore them. They mention Marine Le Pen winning big in the first round of France's regional elections, and then being thoroughly squashed in the second; or point out that AfG has no chance of displacing Germany's rock-solid centrist coalitions.[10] At the same time, the surge of far-right parties across Europe, including elements of Britain's own UK Independence Party, are already materially impacting Europe's ability to govern itself and leading to unexpected phenomenon – Brexit in primis - , although they are not actually in power. Also taking in consideration the presence of right-wing parties in the European Parliament and the influence they have in the European context, how should the EU improve his dialogue with this party despite their anti-European view? How can the EU start from their criticism about the European functioning to rethink the European institution and transform the critics in advices?

5. Sources and additional links

Official Sources:

Euroscepticism on the rise across Europe by Martin Banks *http://bit.ly/1WIabbH*

Cohesion policy is our best tool against Euroscepticism by Markku Markkula *http://bit.ly/2dFQGlI*

Media Coverage:

The Rise of the Far-right by Audrey Sheehy *http://bit.ly/2ma7tQy*

The Rise of Far-Right Parties is a chilling echo of 1930s by John Palmer *http://bit.ly/2mnEC7h*

Academic sources:

Why have Far-Right Parties have been more successful in some State than Others? By Alex Murray *http://bit.ly/2lsiRFS*

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[10] Peter Foster, 2016, The rise of the Far-Right in Europe is not a false alarm, The Telegraph. Retrieved from *http://bit.ly/28WDy7b*

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

Integration through education: Concerned by the fact that young people born in a non-EU country are particularly vulnerable to the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) phenomenon, how can the EU increase the integration of young foreigners in our society and economy through education?

Aino Röyskö (FI)

0. Committee powers and responsibilities

Committee responsible for:

1. employment policy and all aspects of social policy including working conditions, social security, social inclusion and social protection;

2. workers' rights;

3. health and safety measures at the workplace;

4. the European Social Fund;

5. vocational training policy, including professional qualifications;

6. the free movement of workers and pensioners;

7. social dialogue;

8. all forms of discrimination at the workplace and in the labour market except those based on sex;

9. relations with:

   - the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop),
   - the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions,
   - the European Training Foundation,
   - the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work;

10. as well as relations with other relevant Union bodies and international organisations.

1. Relevance and contextualisation of the topic

" - many EU economies are still struggling in the wake of the economic crisis. Many face an ever-aging *population. So, we cannot afford NOT to promote equal treatment and social inclusion of migrants and minorities. Persisting discrimination and marginalisation will not only result in losing the skill and talent that Europe needs, but could also endanger social cohesion.*"

Friso Roscam Abbing, Head of Fundamental Rights Promotion Department in European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights[11]

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[11] https://tinyurl.com/AbbingsSpeech

NEETs are young people between the ages 15 and 29 who are **N**either in **E**mployment nor in **E**ducation and **T**raining. NEET rates tend to be closely linked to the current economic situation and especially after the 2008 financial crisis and the following euro crisis the rates have peaked. Not only is having a high rate of NEETs an **economical problem** but NEETs in general tend to have **lower participation rates**, lower trust in institutions and less interest in politics.[12] In 2015 countries such as Greece and Italy had the highest rates whilst Sweden and Iceland had the lowest (see figure 1).[13]
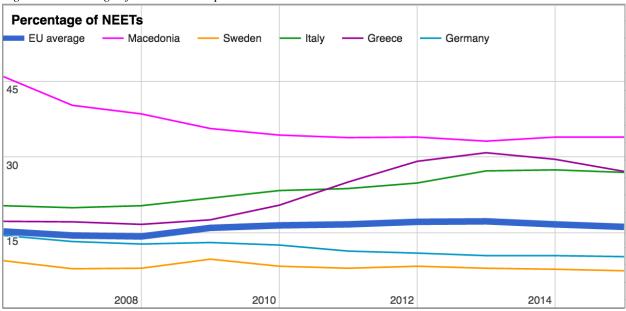
Figure 1: Percentage of NEETs in European countries

Young people with an **immigration background are 70% more likely to become NEET**.[14] An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) study in 2013 discovered that whilst in the 11 OECD-EU countries the average NEET rate was around 15%, for those who arrived as children the rate was 5,2% higher and for those who arrived as adults 15,9% higher totaling at 30,9%.[15] Thus it can be observed that people with immigration background form a significant part of NEETs in the EU.

The problem with NEETs with an immigration background goes far deeper than it can initially seem. Disintegration into society can cause disinterest, which in turn can lead to dropping out of education. Lack of education often also leads to lack of employment - those with **low levels of education are three times more likely to be NEET** than those with tertiary education and two times more likely than those with secondary education.[16] Combined with ongoing workplace discrimination and local attitudes towards immigration this creates a vicious circle that might be hard to escape.

Employment and education play a vital role in integration into society. The most powerful tool is in the very start of the circle - education. So, how can young people with an immigration background be prevented from leaving school early and how can it be ensured that if it happens they can get back to education? How can their integration into societies be ensured through education?

2. Stakeholders and their actions

Economic, social and employment policies fall under EU's **special competences** meaning that EU can take measures to make sure national policies are coordinated at EU level. However, it should be noted

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[12] https://tinyurl.com/EurofoundNEETinfographic
[13] https://tinyurl.com/EurostatNEET
[14] https://tinyurl.com/EurofoundNEET
[15] https://tinyurl.com/OECDNEETstatistics
[16] https://tinyurl.com/EurofoundNEETreport

that education is barely a **supporting competence** and therefore EU can only intervene to support, coordinate or supplement action.[17]

The European Commission is the main legislative body of the EU. It also develops medium-term strategies, such as the strategic framework for **EU cooperation in education and training** (**ET 2020)**. The commission has also set up different networks, for example **the Sirius network** that comprises researchers, policy-makers, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and deals with migration issues.[18]

Member States are responsible for their employment and education policies. Since NEET rates are extremely low at some countries it might be worthwhile to observe their national policies. For example Sweden has a 'New Start Job'-scheme, where employers who hire people who have been without a job for an extended time get financial benefits.[19] In Finland early school leavers are presented with free and easily accessible options like 10th grade after failing to get into further education and programs like VALMA and Ammattistartti or "Job start" which prepare youth for further vocational education or employment.[20]

Companies also play a huge part in reducing the amount of NEETs by choosing who to hire. Generally, people with low level of education and an immigration background have a hard time on the job market.

There are different voluntary actors working on creating more opportunities for NEETs, for example Movement to Work in the UK collaborates with some of Britain's biggest companies and provides vocational training and work experiences for youth.[21] There are also various NGOs working on projects that empower and employ NEETs. The EU can support these actors with the European Social Fund.

Collaboration with local schools and colleges is a central part of making sure that drop-out rates are reduced. Although EU cannot directly affect national or regional curricula, schools can take part in EU programmes such as Erasmus+ and benefit from EU's resources. According to a survey conducted by Civic Enterprises in the US, most students exhibit warning signs of losing interest in school for at least 1-3 years before dropping out.[22]

3. Measures in place

ET 2020 is a strategic framework for education and training until 2020 in the EU. When it comes to immigrants and education, the most important part is the priority considering inclusiveness, diversity and and equality.

Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration policy are eleven central principles adopted in 2004. The principles emphasise for example equal treatment, education and participation.[23]

European Commission's main youth employment initiatives include:

- **The youth package** was proposed in December 2016 and it consists consists of three strands of action: better opportunities to access employment, better opportunities through education and training, and better opportunities for solidarity, learning mobility and participation.[24]

- **Your first EURES job** was a pilot program ran by the Commission in 2012-2015 to help young EU citizens to find a job or traineeship in any EU country through the EURES platform.

- **The Youth Guarantee** is a commitment of all Member States to ensure that all people under the age of 25 receive a good quality job offer within four months of leaving education or unemployment. Implementation was started with a Council recommendation in 2013. **Youth Employment Initiative** is the financial resource of the EU to support the youth guarantee.

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[17] https://tinyurl.com/EUcompetences
[18] More about commissions agenda on migration and education can be found at https://tinyurl.com/ECedu-migr
[19] https://tinyurl.com/SWEnystartsjobb (in Swedish)
[20] https://tinyurl.com/valmafinland (in Finnish)
[21] https://tinyurl.com/mvmnttowork
[22] https://tinyurl.com/SilentEpidemicReport
[23] https://tinyurl.com/integrationprinciples
[24] https://tinyurl.com/ECyouthpackage

4. Key conflicts and key questions

As seen previously, there is a **correlation between lack of education and lack of employment**. Therefore, it is most effective to tackle the root cause of unemployment - education, which undeniably also plays a vital part in integration to society. Measures are needed **throughout school years** in order to reduce dropout rates. Because the EU has only a supportive competence in education, this requires **active collaboration** and knowledge-sharing between EU and national and regional policymakers.

Immigration is often seen as a rather **delicate subject that divides opinions**. Especially in the wake of the refugee crisis some parties and politicians in Member States are unwilling to pass immigrant-related policies and risk their popularity. However, integration policies are now **needed more than ever**. The EU also heavily relies on Member States when it comes to education policies since it only has a supporting competence on the subject. There are huge benefits to integration - and disastrous consequences for failing.

As NEET and immigration rates **vary largely on a Member State basis**, what would be a good approach? Is there even a one-size-fits-all policy in this case? Different Member States have had different successes in the field of education and integration. What can be learnt from the frontrunners?

5. Sources and additional links

Official Sources:

> Eurofound report on NEETs
> https://tinyurl.com/EurofoundNEETreport

> Eurofound's infographic on NEETs
> https://tinyurl.com/EurofoundNEETinfographic

> Eurofound's report on recent policy developments considering NEETs
> https://tinyurl.com/EurofoundPolicydevelopments

> Eurostat statistics on NEETs explained
> https://tinyurl.com/EurostatNEETs

> European Commission page on youth employment
> https://tinyurl.com/ECyouthemployment

> EU fact sheet on the first three years of the Youth Guarantee
> https://tinyurl.com/YGfactsheet

> EU fact sheet on integrating third-country nationals
> https://tinyurl.com/EUintegrationfactsheet

> European Commission page on education and migrants
> https://tinyurl.com/ECedu-migr

Academic Sources:

> Sirius network page on policy recommendations on migrant education
> https://tinyurl.com/SiriusPolicyRec

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

Food for thought: around 88 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in the EU, with associated costs estimated at 143 billion euros. Acknowledging that all actors in the food chain, from producers to consumers, play a role in this important issue, what measures should the EU take in order to prevent both food waste and strengthen the sustainability of the food system?

Edoardo Folenghi (IT)

0. Committee powers and responsibilities

Committee responsible for:

1. environmental policy and environmental protection measures, in particular concerning:
   a) climate change,
   b) air, soil and water pollution, waste management and recycling, dangerous substances and preparations, noise levels and the protection of biodiversity,
   c) sustainable development,
   d) international and regional measures and agreements aimed at protecting the environment,
   e) restoration of environmental damage,
   f) civil protection,
   g) the European Environment Agency,
   h) the European Chemicals Agency;

2. public health, in particular:
   a) programmes and specific actions in the field of public health,
   b) pharmaceutical and cosmetic products,
   c) health aspects of bioterrorism,
   d) the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control;

3. food safety issues, including in particular:
   a) the labelling and safety of foodstuffs,
   b) veterinary legislation concerning protection against risks to human health; public health checks on foodstuffs and food production systems,
   c) the European Food Safety Authority and the European Food and Veterinary Office.

1. Relevance and contextualisation of the topic

Food wastage does represent the decreased availability of edible food originally intended for human consumption. Food is wasted at all the stages of the production and consumption chain (*see figure 1*). For every food item not consumed, it is necessary to take into consideration the waste in transportation, distribution, energy, water, labour used in its production.

According to the FUSIONS report on food waste levels within the EU[25], the Union currently wastes a total of 87.6 million tonnes of food every year, amounting to an estimated 143 billion euros. Other figures in the aforementioned report show that the EU-wide food production is 865 kg per capita, this meaning the wastage represents the 20% of total food production.

Beside representing an enormous loss of resources, food wastage is also a matter of social responsibility toward the environment and the impoverished,[26] who cannot afford to buy food.
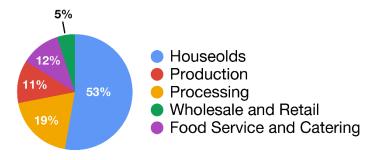

Figure 1: Stages of the food production and consumption chain from Every Crumb Counts[27].

2. Stakeholders and their actions

Food waste develops at all stages of the food chain, from producer and manufacturers to distributors and consumers. All actors in the food chain have a role to play in preventing food waste.

The EU, especially through the European Environment Agency[28], monitors and evaluate the state of food waste on a EU level in collaboration with the European Commission's Food Safety administration. Member States can produce and implement pieces of legislation to tackle food waste.

On an industry level, most of the food is generally wasted due to overproduction or for "aesthetics" standards that do not meet market requirements.

The situation is especially critical on household levels (*see figure 2*), where more than half of food waste is located: 60% of which is considered to be still edible food. A "Preparatory Study on Food Waste" explains the causes of food waste on all the level of the food industry chain[29]

Figure 2: food waste at all stages of the food production and consumption chain.

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[25] FUSIONS is an EU-founded research project on food wastage.
Åsa Stenmarck, Carl Jensen, Tom Quested, Graham Moates, (2016). Estimates of European food waste levels. Retrieved from http://bit.ly/2e1ktEs
[26] The latest Eurostat report on poverty shows that 23.7% of the EU population is facing risk of poverty.
Eurostat (2016). The share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Retrieved from http://bit.ly/2e8XfKw
[27] "Every Crumb Counts" is a joint initiative to prevent food waste involving stakeholders from the European food supply chain.
[28] The European Environment Agency (EEA): http://bit.ly/1lK6ltH
[29] Bio Intelligence Service S.A.S. (2010). "A Preparatory Study on Food Waste across EU 27", an EU-founded research, pages 31-40. Retrieved from http://bit.ly/2mdOvW7

Consumers and households and society in general still have a significant influence over the production phase through their purchasing decisions. Labelling issues represent one major cause of household food waste: it is believed to represent at least a third of the total food waste on a household level[30]. In fact, more than 50% of consumers misinterpret or are confused over the true meaning of the term used for date labels, such as "best before" and "use by"[31].

3. Measures in place

The EU presented the Roadmap for a Resource efficient Europe in 2011, setting a milestone of 50% reduction in edible food waste by 2020. However, 7 years has passed and no major drop in food waste happened[32].

The Roadmap also sets out a vision for the technological and structural change needed up to 2050 with the aim of increasing resource productivity and decoupling economic growth from its environmental impact. Moreover, the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) obliges Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste by 65% by 2016 compared to 1995, yet it does not provide specific guidelines on implementation, which has led to most Member States turning to incineration rather than waste prevention.

One of the biggest non-profit organisations fighting food waste on a European level is the European Federation of Food Banks, whose main mission is recovering surpluses from the food chain and redistributing it to charitable organisations and social centres. Additionally, the Danish Stop wasting food movement[33] is a good example of how a nationwide campaign is suitable to address households, raising awareness through media campaigns, organising events and encouraging discussion and debate of the issues surrounding food loss. The Danish non-governmental organisation is also one of the co-developers of the Joint declaration against food waste, which calls upon the European Parliament and United Nations to implement measures towards sustainable food production and consumption.

In addition, the EU has committed itself to adopt the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in order to tackle the wastage of edible food. These goals also include strengthening sustainable food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices which help maintain ecosystems. It is oriented in the same direction also the EU action plan for the Circular Economy[34], which includes revised legislative proposals on waste to stimulate Europe's transition to a more circular economy. This will boost global competitiveness, minimise the generation of waste as well as develop a sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient economy.

At a national level, the Member States are responsible to adopt their own strategy and programmes. Some Member States, like Italy[35] and France[36], have already developed concrete national food waste prevention programmes and specific legislation that have already begun delivering concrete results.

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[30] http://bit.ly/2kPbJov, page 2
[31] http://bit.ly/2kPbJov, page 1
[32] In 2010, 89 million tonnes of food were wasted.
Bio Intelligence Service S.A.S. (2010). "A Preparatory Study on Food Waste across EU 27", an EU-founded research, page 11. Retrieved from http://bit.ly/2mdOvW7
[33] "Stop wasting food" is a danish NGO aiming at the reduction of food waste. The movement operates in raising public awareness for consumers. http://bit.ly/1RIjSlc
[34] A Circular Economy is restorative and regenerative by design and aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times, distinguishing between technical and biological cycles. The EU plan for a Circular Economy can be retrieved from http://bit.ly/1njgLl6
[35] http://bit.ly/2axuRmZ
[36] http://bit.ly/2bD1Emv

4. Key conflicts and key questions

Reducing food waste has enormous potential for reducing the resources we use to produce the food we eat. Being more efficient will save money and lower the environmental impact of food production and consumption. Considering consumers' autonomy, how could more efficient food management practices be employed?

Another major producer of food waste are restaurants, canteens and/or catering services providing food on a large scale to consumers. Is often difficult for restaurants to estimate just how many customers they will have; thus they are often forced to buy more supplies than actually required and then to discard short life perishable goods.

Food waste has a high environmental impact, derived from the Greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. This does not only account for the emissions during production, but also waste disposal and the consequent landfilling. Every step of the food chain generates waste and pollution.

Improving efficiency of the food chain could benefit the economy through sustainable growth, and can also have an impact in the global balance of trade in agricultural products. Food waste represents a revenue stream for producers and the industry, and ultimately for consumers due to bad purchasing habits.

5. Sources and additional links

Official sources:

> European Commission's page on food waste:
> http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/stop/index_en.htm

> European Commission's page on EU 2020 targets:
> http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/targets/eu-targets/index_en.htm

> EU legal framework on food waste and 2008 Waste Framework Directive:
> http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/prevention/guidelines.html

> Sources of food waste by the European Environmental agency:
> http://www.eea.europa.eu/media/infographics/wasting-food-1/view

> FUSIONS, EU platform of stakeholder aiming to optimising waste prevention strategies:
> http://www.eu-fusions.org/index.php/about-fusions

> REFRESH, EU research project taking action against food waste : http://eu-refresh.org/about-refresh#about-the-project

> European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA): https://www.eurofoodbank.eu/

Media coverage:

> Article having a comparative approach on food wastage among EU Member States:
> http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/how-much-food-does-the-eu-waste-a6778351.html

> Article covering the French law on food waste:
> http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/how-much-food-does-the-eu-waste-a6778351.html

> Article on the economics of food waste (UK and USA perspective) :
> https://www.sustainablebusinesstoolkit.com/the-economics-of-food-waste/

Visual guide on food waste by The Guardian:
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2015/aug/12/produced-but-never-eaten-a-visual-guide-to-food-waste

Irish website aiming to raise awareness of food waste and giving tips and tricks to prevent and reduce food loss: http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie/

Visual representation of food waste in the EU: http://www.go.asia/food-waste-among-european-union/

FAO video summing up the problem on food waste:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoCVrkcaH6Q

Academic source:

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http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/library/docs/fw_expo2015_fusions_data-set_151015.pdf.

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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)

Break the silence, stop the violence: as reports show, one out of three women in the EU has experienced physical and/or sexual violence and one out of ten have experienced sexual harassment through new technologies. Considering how often women fear to report their assault, how can the EU tackle this issue while ensuring protection and rehabilitation to the victims?

Gráinne Sexton (IE)

0. Committee powers and responsibilities

Committee responsible for:

1. the definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the Union and related Union measures;
2. the promotion of women's rights in third countries;
3. equal opportunities policy, including the promotion of equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities and treatment at work;
4. the removal of all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex;
5. the implementation and further development of gender mainstreaming in all policy sectors;
6. the follow-up and implementation of international agreements and conventions involving the rights of women;
7. encouraging awareness of women's rights.

1. Relevance and contextualisation of the topic

Violence against women is a brutal manifestation of gender inequality, encompassing a wide range of crimes that disproportionately impact on women. Regardless of class or social background, gender-based violence pervades every society, in every country of the EU and can be both a private or public problem. The impact of violence against women transcends victims since it also affects family, friends and one's external community. Violence against women remains widespread and often misunderstood, thus it is clear that this issue requires an in-depth look at how society and the state respond to the abuse of women.

Based on an EU-wide survey conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on gender-based violence[37], 33% of women in the EU, i.e. a total of 62 million women, have experienced **physical and/or sexual violence** since the age of fifteen. Furthermore 43% have experienced some form of **psychological violence**. Due to the modern-day rise in social media and

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[37] http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-at-a-glance-oct14_en.pdf

instant messaging, **stalking** and **cyber-harassment** have also manifested themselves as forms of gender-based violence. 18% of women have experienced stalking since their teenage years and 11% have been at the receiving end of inappropriate advances on social media. It is worth noting also that gender-based violence is an issue which may affect women at every stage of life with there being a high incidence (33%) of women suffering **sexual and physical abuse throughout childhood**. Alongside high levels of gender-based violence, Member States offer little in the way of **rehabilitation** programs for both victims and perpetrators. Initiatives such as national helplines and women's shelters for victims as well as social rehabilitation, for example support and behaviour changing groups, for perpetrators are often bypassed. Failure to provide adequate short and long-term care to victims only continues the stigmatisation and prevalence of violence against women across Europe.

From the above figures, it is evident that violence against women is a pressing problem which requires urgent action from EU policy-makers. The conflict at the core of this issue, however, is the low levels of data available to formulate measures which effectively respond to gender-based violence. Only around 30% of victims[38] report the most serious incidents to the police and thus there is a lack of official criminal justice data on the issue. As a result, policy and practical responses to address violence against women are sometimes not supported by comprehensive evidence. Considering that gender-based violence costs EUR 226 billion per annum across the EU[39] and has long-term consequences for the mental and physical health of multitudes of women, informed measures to tackle and prevent violence are required at both national and EU levels.

2. Stakeholders and their actions

The main actor on a European level is the European Commission, it protects women and children from gender-based violence through legislation and practical measures on victims' rights. It raises awareness of the issue, by co-funding campaigns run by national governments, and supports transnational projects run by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) combating violence against women and young people. The Commission facilitates finding common solutions to the problem of gender-based violence among EU countries, by organising exchanges of good practice. It also develops knowledge about gender-based violence by collecting and analysing relevant data in order provide up-to-date information on such a phenomenon.

In addition the Council of Europe is an international organisation focused on promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. Violence against women represents a threat which undermines the core principles of the Council of Europe and, thus, it is an important actor in upholding the protection of women from gender-based violence. Within the Council there exists a Steering Committee for the Equality between Men and Women (CDEG) which has undertaken a series of initiatives since the late nineties with the aim of eliminating violence against women. One of the most successful and visible campaigns of the Council of Europe was its "Campaign to Combat Violence against Women" from 2006-2008. In 2011, the "Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" was created in further efforts to tackle the issue of gender-based violence.

Furthermore, the FRA assists European institutions and Member States in understanding and tackling challenges to safeguard the fundamental rights of everyone in the EU through the collection and analysis of data. FRA conducts large-scale surveys, conducts comparative or social research and produces handbooks for legal practitioners on a wide range of social and political issues. When it comes to tackling violence against women, FRA has an important role to play due to its abilities to provide comprehensive information which is necessary to form the framework of effective policy measures.

Moreover, the European Institute for Gender Equality **(**EIGE**)** operates within the framework of EU policies and initiatives as an independent body. The institute was founded with the aim of contributing to and strengthening the promotion of gender equality, fighting against gender-based discrimination, and raising awareness amongst EU citizens of gender equality. The vision of EIGE is to make "equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans and beyond" whilst also becoming "the European

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[38] http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/gender_based_violence/160316_factsheet_istanbul_convention_en.pdf
[39] http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/gender_based_violence/160316_factsheet_istanbul_convention_en.pdf

knowledge centre on gender equality issues"[40]. EIGE is a key actor in the struggle to end violence against women. Similar to FRA, the organisation provides high quality research and data to policymakers working to achieve gender equality in all aspects of society. This allows stakeholders to make evidence-based and well-informed decisions when formulating measures intended to prevent and regulate gender-based violence.

Additionally Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network , a formal network consisting of multiple European NGOs, is working to combat violence against women and children. The general goal of the WAVE network is to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children with a particular emphasis on preventing violence against women and children. WAVE aims to empower organisations that fight for gender equality and especially organisations that directly provide services to female survivors of gender-based violence. Taking into consideration the lack of evidence-based data on violence against women, members of WAVE serve as primary sources of information on this field in their respective countries. This therefore facilitates the exchange of ideas and dissemination of information about gender-based violence throughout Europe. The WAVE network also lobbies state governments as well as relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and EU to ensure that women survivors of violence and their children receive quality services.

Lastly the European Women's Lobby (EWL) , an NGO, brings together movements for gender equality in Europe in order to influence the general public and European institutions in support of women's rights. The organisation is an umbrella network of women's associations, composed of 2000 organisations across Europe and nineteen Pan-European organisations that aim to represent female diversity. The vision of EWL is to aid the creation of a society in which "all women have self-confidence, freedom of choice, and freedom from violence and exploitation...a culture in which all forms of violence against women have been eliminated"[41] EWL plays a role in combatting gender-based violence by lobbying EU institutions and policy-makers and therefore attempting to bring the voices of European women into the political arena. It acts as a link for an array of different actors and organisations in efforts to bring about social and political change.

3. Measures in place

In terms of measures, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)[42] was adopted in April 2011 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It is the first European convention[43] on violence against women, including domestic violence, which is legally binding. The Convention does not solely focus on members of the Council of Europe and any state is allowed to accede the Convention. In a nutshell, the Istanbul Convention sets out minimum standards for member states of the Convention on the prevention of violence against women, the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators. It has a broad scope as the Convention applies to *all* forms of violence against women, including physical, psychological and sexual abuse, and it therefore plays a significant role in the combating and prevention of gender-based violence. Because the Istanbul Convention requires states to take the legislative measures needed to criminalise any form of violence against women, national legislation that does not comply with the Convention must be changed. Thus the Istanbul Convention provides a highly important modern legal instrument which can improve the situation of women in Europe.

Other than that, in the Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the Protection of Women against Violence (Rec (2002)5)[44], a recommendation adopted by the Council of Europe in 2002, the Committee of Ministers calls upon EU Member States to ensure and protect the human rights of women. Member states are encouraged to take several steps such as developing national action plans, collecting data about violence against women, starting awareness campaigns against gender-based

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[40] http://eige.europa.eu/about-eige
[41] http://www.womenlobby.org/Mission-vision-and-values-588?lang=en
[42] http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/files/gender-equality/factsheet_istanbul_convention_web_en.pdf
[43] Conventions are treaties or agreements between states. The word convention is used interchangeably with terms like international treaty, international agreement, compact, or contract between states. Conventions may be of a general or specific nature and between two or multiple states.
[44] https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/EN_CDEG_2007_3_complete.pdf

violence, including violence against women in criminal and civil law, ensuring that police authorities deal with violence against women cases in a proper manner and also that perpetrators are prosecuted. Although the recommendation is non-binding, it offers Council of Europe member states a common framework and was the first international legal document to frame a comprehensive approach towards overcoming violence against women.

The Lisbon Treaty has created a new political space for issues of gender equality such as violence against women. This is partly because the treaty provides the scope necessary for the EU to introduce common provisions in the field of criminal law, therefore making it possible to harmonise legislation which relates to violence against women. Furthermore, Declaration no. 19 on article 8 TFEU has been added to the TFEU. In this declaration, Member States committed themselves to ensure that, in order to diminish gender inequality, the EU will aim to combat all kinds of domestic violence. Member States also pledged they would take the necessary measures to prevent and prosecute these acts while providing protection to victims.

A number of relevant directives have been created which apply in certain cases of violence against women and to protect victims. One of these is Directive 2012/29/EU[45] or "The Victims' Directive", adopted in 2012, on common minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of gender-based violence. The Directive obliges Member States to support the victim and/or their family members, to protect the victim but also to give victims the right to be informed during, for example, the prosecution of the perpetrator. Member States must also provide training to officials who deal with victims in order to ensure that they are capable to address the specific needs of the victim.

The Warsaw Declaration[46] was signed in June 2000 and is the founding document of the "Community of Democracies", an intergovernmental coalition of states formed to support democratic rules and strengthen democratic norms. In the Warsaw Declaration (May 2005) the heads of state and government of the Council of Europe reaffirmed their commitment to combat violence against women in all its forms, including domestic violence. As a result, a Pan-European campaign was launched in November 2006 in Madrid and a Task Force to Combat Violence against Women was set up.

Finally, the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV)[47] was set up following a decision taken at the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw 16-17 May 2005). It consists of eight international experts in the field of preventing and combating violence against women. The role of the task force includes evaluating measures adopted at both national and international levels to prevent and tackle gender-based violence, making proposals for new measures and developing a method to assist Member States to adopt practical policies for combating violence against women.

4. Key conflicts and key questions

Over the past two decades, violence against women has become understood as a violation of women's human rights such as the right to life, safety, dignity, physical and moral integrity, as well as being a form of gender-based discrimination. It is commonly accepted that "violence deprives women of their ability to enjoy fundamental freedoms and represents a serious obstacle to equality between men and women"[48]. As shown by the 2014 survey on violence against women, conducted by the FRA, gender-based violence is a widespread problem across the EU and takes many different forms. In order to understand violence against women, it is necessary to categorise the various types of violence that can take place. On a global scale, **domestic violence** is the most common type of violence against women and may include physically harmful violence, emotional abusive behaviour and economic restrictions. **Sexual violence** includes non-consensual sexual activity, rape, sexual harassment, sexual assault and female genital mutilation. An indirect consequence of constant developments in ICT is the rise in **psychological abuse** of women and **stalking**. Furthermore, social media has given a platform to increasingly high levels of **cyberstalking** and **cyber-harassment.** Gender-based violence is often rooted in patriarchal traditions that have found expression in laws, institutions, attitudes and

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[45] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:315:0057:0073:EN:PDF
[46] http://www.coe.int/t/dcr/summit/20050517_decl_varsovie_EN.asp
[47] https://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Intro_Task_Force_EN.asp
[48] WAVE, "A right for protection and support?", December 2008, pp. 13-15

perceptions. Particularly due to difficulties in changing deeply ingrained cultural mentalities, it is evident there is no simple one-step solution to this problem.

The greatest conflict in the field of violence against women is **a lack of comprehensive and comparable data**. Despite it being a universal phenomenon, differences in definitions and criminalising forms of violence against women creates differences in the collection of data on violence against women in Member States. For example, Member States use **different legal definitions** on different types of gender-based violence, e.g. not all states recognise sexual violence within marriage as a crime. These disparities make it much more difficult to compare data and it is therefore hard to calculate the exact number of women across Europe suffering from various forms of violence.

In combination with the problem of a lack of data is the issue of **unreported cases** of violence against women. Shame, fear of reprisals and a lack of knowledge about the protection offered by the law make women reluctant to report violence. In order to combat this, there is a need for increased public awareness of gender-based violence, greater criminalisation of the different types of violence and for education of both potential perpetrators and victims. Victims of violence against women are often in need of rehabilitation and this is something which is lacking in Member States. Specialised services such as medical and long-term psychological care, means for immediate escape from violent situations, women's shelters, and legal advice are all key to tackle the problem of under-reporting when it comes to cases of gender-based violence.

While Member States and the EU have shared competences in the elimination of violence against women in the workplace, Member States so far have sole competence in fighting general violence against women, including domestic violence. The issue that arises from this is that there are legislative gaps between Member States as all have **different policies** regarding combating and preventing violence against women. Furthermore, the protective measures taken by Member States in cases of violence against women also differ. In some Member States, the police have the power to immediately intervene in a case of violence whilst in other Member States the police need the approval of a court before being able to act. As a result of these varying policy measures, not all EU Member States have ratified the Istanbul Convention and thus there are **protection gaps** for women in many Member States. This raises the question of how the EU can go about creating an integrated and coordinated policy to tackle violence against women? The lack of a legally binding instrument is a barrier in making a change for women across all Member States.

5. Sources and additional links

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EC Report: "Attitudes towards violence against women in the EU":
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/documents/151125_final_attitudes_enege_report_en.pdf

Factsheet on actions taken by the COE to combat violence against women:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/gender_based_violence/160308_factsheet_vaw_en.pdf

Istanbul Convention
https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805cd162

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http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/gender_based_violence/160316_factsheet_istanbul_convention_en.pdf

FRA factsheet on physical and sexual violence in the EU:
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-factsheet_en.pdf

FRA Survey results- at a glance:
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-at-a-glance-oct14_en.pdf

"Combatting violence against women: EU" EIGE findings:
http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2016.5497_eige_vaw_factsheets_european
_union_0.pdf

Media Coverage:

FRA video on physical and sexual harassment:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UU4lZQ8cB3_fq1wzsqzv13hw&v=MUp2oQ4cMtc

EurActiv article on tackling violence against women:
https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/opinion/violence-against-women-a-
priority-for-the-eu/

Article by Equal Times on the Istanbul Convention:
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redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

"Violence Against Women", edited by Claire M. Renzetti and Raquel Kennedy Bergen:
https://books.google.ie/books?id=POS6vDssTbAC&printsec=frontcover&dq=violence+against
+women+in+eu+free+books&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

What awaits refugees: by 2016, an estimated 3,000 people have lost their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean, with thousands still willing to risk their lives to reach Europe by sea. The rise in the number of refugees has brought with it a vicious trade in human trafficking: what can both the states of departure and those of arrival in the EU do to tackle traffickers?

Meave Buchignani (IT)

0.Committee powers and responsibilities

Committee responsible for:

1. The interpretation, application and monitoring of Union law and compliance of Union acts with primary law, notably the choice of legal bases and respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality;

2. The interpretation and application of international law, insofar as the European Union is affected;

3. Better law-making and the simplification of Union law;

4. The legal protection of Parliament's rights and prerogatives, including its involvement in actions before the Court of Justice of the European Union;

5. Union acts which affect the Member States' legal order, namely in the fields of:
    1) Civil and commercial law,
    2) Company law,
    3) Intellectual property law,
    4) Procedural law;

6. Measures concerning judicial and administrative cooperation in civil matters;

7. Environmental liability and sanctions against environmental crime;

8. Ethical questions related to new technologies, applying the associated committee procedure with the relevant committees;

9. The Statute for Members and the Staff Regulations of the European Union;

10. Privileges and immunities as well as verification of Members' credentials;

11. The organisation and statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union;

12. The Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Mark.

1. Relevance and contextualisation of the topic

The number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean in order to reach the EU has rose immensely in the last few years, reaching its peak in 2015 with 971,289 migrants arriving by sea[49]. Although the number of refugees has decreased in 2016 (see figure 1), the migration flows are still an issue for the EU and more than five thousand people lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean last year. Of said migrants, 370,700 were asylum applicants, and 280,900 first instance decisions were made by the national authorities of EU Member States during the third quarter of 2016. Among them, 63% were positive, granting a type of protection status.[50]

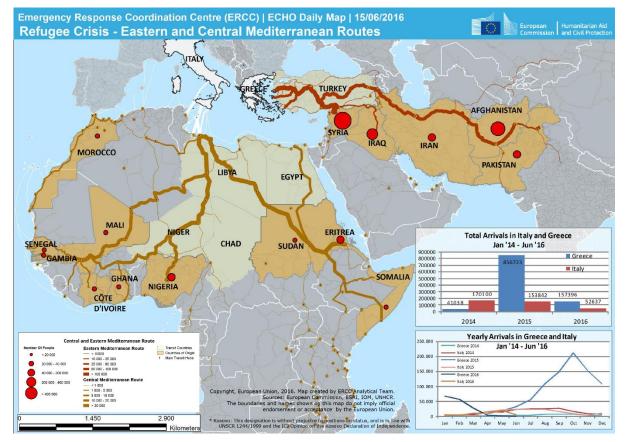Refugees mainly follow two routes: from Africa to Italy and from the Middle East to Greece.

Figure 1: Refugee Crisis - Eastern and Central Mediterranean Routes

The majority of refugees who landed on the Italian coasts in 2016 were from Nigeria (22%),[51] fleeing their home country especially because of Boko Haram, an Islamic extremist group. Human trafficking was reported to be common along the Central Mediterranean Route, with 76% of almost 1,400 migrants and refugees interviewed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Italy from 24th of June to 3rd August 2016 responding positively to at least one indicator of the presence of human trafficking and other exploitative practices on the route.[52]

The number of refugees who have reached Greece in 2016 has dropped drastically - a 79% decrease[53] - thanks to the EU-Turkey Agreement. However, thousands of people are still arriving in Greece from

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[49] http://bit.ly/1IpycP2
[50] http://bit.ly/1A4Ljx8
[51] http://bit.ly/2kBFokQ
[52] http://bit.ly/2beAdOO
[53] http://bit.ly/2l1qnrW

Syria, escaping the outrageous living conditions caused by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Of 1,729 migrants from the Eastern Mediterranean Route between May and August 2016, 14% recognised one of the trafficking and other exploitative practices indicators, based on their own direct experience.[54]

2. Stakeholders and their actions

There are many actors involved in the European migrant crisis, that range from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to European Institutions.

First of all, the European Commission[55], which considers this issue one of its priorities. Its agenda outlines an immediate response to the crisis and it aims to;

1. Reduce the incentives for irregular immigration

2. Save lives and secure external borders

3. Implement a common asylum policy

Another stakeholder is IOM, which was established in 1951, the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration which works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.[56]

Many NGOs are also helping solve this international crisis, helping in two different ways. Bigger organisations, such as Migrant Offshore Aid Station and Doctors Without Borders conduct Search and Rescue operations. Smaller NGOs, for example Sea-Watch, rescue on the spot, providing migrants with first-aid support while waiting for help from larger vessels.[57]

Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency, describes trafficking in human beings (THB) as one of its priorities. Europol aims to eradicate THB in five ways, which include stepping up its prevention, protecting victims of trafficking and pursuing the prosecution of traffickers more robustly. [58]

3. Measures in place

In order to solve the major issue of human trafficking, the EU has adopted different directives and strategies.

In April 2011, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU wrote the Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. The key points of this Directive are:

1. The setting of the maximum penalty for these offences at at least 5 years' imprisonment and at least 10 years in the case of aggravating circumstances;

2. Victims receive assistance before, during and after criminal proceedings;[59]

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[54] http://bit.ly/2beAdOO
[55] http://bit.ly/1UEMK0O
[56] http://bit.ly/1vRAgWv
[57] http://bit.ly/2kD3WpJ (p.4)
[58] http://bit.ly/2lHc0Wn
[59] http://bit.ly/1jfzJcI (full Directive)
  http://bit.ly/212Fjkt (summary of the directive)

Furthermore, in June 2012 the EU has adopted the "EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings", which lasted until 2016. This strategy was based on five key priorities:

1. Identifying, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking;
2. Stepping up the prevention of trafficking in human beings;
3. Increased prosecution of traffickers;
4. Enhanced coordination and cooperation among key actors and policy coherence;
5. Increased knowledge of and effective response to emerging concerns related to all forms of trafficking in human beings.[60]

Operation SOPHIA was launched in June 2015 and its mandate will end in July 2017. The operation's mandate is to "undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and dispose of vessels and enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers" and it consists of 4 phases of which one has already been completed.

Moreover, on 20th June 2016 the Council extended until 27 July 2017 Operation Sophia's mandate reinforcing it by adding two supporting tasks: training of the Libyan coastguards and navy and contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya.[61]

To counter irregular immigration, EU has already adopted two major pieces of legislation:

1. The 'Return Directive' (2008/115/EC) sets out common EU standards and procedures for returning irregularly resident third-country nationals.

2. Directive 2009/52/EC specifies sanctions and measures to be applied in Member States against employers who infringe the ban on employing illegally resident third-country nationals.[62]

4. Key Conflicts and Key Questions

Human trafficking is a gross violation of basic human rights, however it is still very present and its perpetrators have seldom been convicted.

At this moment in time, victims of human trafficking receive a 30-day period of time during which they are provided with medical care. Members of European Parliament such as Catherine Bearder however think this is simply not good enough as many of these victims have been abused and exploited on numerous occasions[63].

"Do you believe 30 days are enough? If not, should everyone be granted a longer period of health care or should distinctions be made? "

Moreover, ethical obligations should always be kept in mind when discussing human trafficking and traffickers. However, it is difficult to decide to what extent they should be present and a reason for political decisions. Should countries persecute human traffickers who transport people through their territory in route to destination countries for ethical reasons? Is there a way international conventions on THB can be set without going against the principle of national sovereignty?

On the other hand, although the significant migration flow, providing refugees with a safe and welcoming environment is a priority for the EU. As discussed previously, the EU has made an agreement regarding migration with Turkey, a non-Member State. Knowing that said agreement has drastically reduced immigration through Greece and the Eastern countries of the EU, would making similar agreements with other countries help the EU solve this major issue?

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[60] http://bit.ly/2l7Oo0u
[61] http://bit.ly/2koQBAc
[62] http://bit.ly/2kwunAy
[63] http://bit.ly/1sADoZU

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Definition of "refugee" according to the Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees (1951) http://bit.ly/1lPOb6G

Article which further explains the difference between refugees and migrants http://bit.ly/29DvWq3

Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

A law for warfare: as European countries have recently started planning to produce drones for military purposes, how can the EU and its allies around the world reap the advantages of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) while safeguarding their compatibility with international laws?

Aurora Dell'Agli (IT)

0. Committee powers and responsibilities

The Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE) is actually a sub-committee for the Foreign Affairs committee. Its responsibilities have their main focus in fostering debate and examining the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) developments in terms of institutions, capabilities and operations. It is an essential tool for holding to account CSDP decision-makers and for the policy to be understood by EU citizens. Specifically, the SEDE committee has oversight of the CFSP and CSDP, and of the European External Action Service, a EU department which manages the EU's response to crises, has intelligence capabilities and cooperates with the Commission in areas which it shares competence with.[64]

1. Relevance of the topic

In the last few years, the field of research and development of Unmanned Aerial **Vehicles (UAVs)** and **Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAs)** has seen an astonishing growth, both in the military and civil sections. Unmanned vehicles have radically redefined intelligence and warfare, since drones have come to prominence as major force multipliers: at reasonably affordable costs, they can bring about powerful surveillance capabilities, as well as reducing troops' presence on the ground for both combat and non-combat missions. Furthermore, over the next few decades, combat drones will modernise air warfare thanks to their innovative aerodynamic, ground-attack and swarming capabilities. The EU is currently at a turning point in this field, as its Member States feel the need to launch unmanned aerial programmes in order to strengthen their industrial domain and thus protect their security and strategic autonomy in the decades ahead.

2. Key Stakeholders

When it comes to European security and defence, the EU *shares competences*[65] with Member States, as stated in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), as specified in articles 2 (4)

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[64] All information is available at the official SEDE website (http://bit.ly/2kCMRLt) and in the Annex VI of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament (http://bit.ly/2lT0jg8)

[65] The Treaty of Lisbon declares that if a competence is shared between the EU and Member States, the latter lose their power to make decisions (i.e. their competence on the subject) as soon as the EU decides to legislate. For further explanation please refer to http://bit.ly/2mbc7xS, an online dictionary of EU key terms.

and 4 (2) TFEU[66]. All matters are debated and linked to the work of the **European Defence Agency (EDA),** a Common Foreign and Security Police body born in 2004 and based in Brussels, under the supervision of the **European Commission.** The agency's main missions are:

- supporting the development of European defence capabilities and military cooperation;
- stimulating defence Research and Technology (R&T) and strengthening the European defence industry;
- acting as a military interface to EU policies.[67]

The Agency collaborates with **The European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation** (**EUROCONTROL**), whose main objective is to guarantee a safe and seamless air traffic management throughout all Europe.

Some **Member States** have already expressed a shared interest in the construction of military drones in European territory, contributing at guaranteeing an adequate common defence strategy and, at the same time, providing a boost to European economy. The arrangement was settled by France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain in Brussels in 2013 at a meeting of the EDA[68].

3. Measures in place

EDA is currently developing a strategy for future Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) on a European level[69], aimed at understanding industry views and building consensus for future courses on European UAS projects. Furthermore, the seven European countries who approved the agreement mentioned above have expressed an interest on the development of a special type of military drone, called Medium Altitude Long Endurance craft, which can be used for both military strikes and surveillance actions in the context of the migrant crisis. However, as of today, every project regarding UAVs must meet the already existing EUROCONTROL and national regulations on the use of military RPAs. Specifically, the integration principles indicated by the EUROCONTROL Advisory and Regulatory Framework clearly state that "*the overall approach towards integration is that **RPAS will have to fit into the** air traffic management (ATM) system and not that the ATM system needs to significantly adapt to enable the safe integration of RPAS*".[70] Military RPAs standard operations are currently reserved in a segregated area: drones cannot be flown higher than 500 feet and beyond the visual line of sight of the remote pilot. Nevertheless, the long term programme of the organisation aims at extending the utilisation of military drones progressively until 2028, as long as they do not prove to be a risk to civil aviation and they do not compromise the security and privacy of European citizens.

4. Key conflicts and key questions

Each new development in military weapons technology invites assessment of the relevant international law. Shocking as it may seem, the truly relevant feature which must be taken into consideration when it comes to drones is not the fact that they are unmanned: the main focus of international law is **safeguarding human life.** Consequently, military drones' use in combat missions is limited because of their firepower. US-built RPAs, which are currently one of the very few examples of fully-operational military drones, are equipped with missiles and drop bombs, which violate international human rights laws in law enforcement operations[71]. In these kind of missions, the only weaponry admitted must be non-lethal, as opposed to what is permitted in the battlefield. Consequently, the use of UAVs in warlike scenarios does not create any particular gap in International Law. Nevertheless, if the EU aims to implement a common drone policy and, eventually, an entire

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[66] The full consolidated version of the Treaty (2012) can be found on http://bit.ly/2lbRVIB
[67] EDA official website, http://bit.ly/2l4xpMl
[68] Andrew Rettman for *Eu Observer (20 November 2013),* http://bit.ly/2kDRLLB
[69] European Unmanned Aircraft Systems conference report, http://bit.ly/2kTwOeh
[70] *"RPAs: the big picture",* EUROCONTROL official website, http://bit.ly/2kEETom
[71] Mary-Ellen O' Connel for the *American Society of International Law: The International Law of drones,* volume 14, issue 37, http://bit.ly/2l7EDio

drone fleet, the main question is **whether these competences comply with every Member State national regulation.** Furthermore, **the psychological impact** of this new kind of warfare, both **on the population and on remote pilots themselves**, still needs to be determined.

Even if the EU decided to use RPAs only for surveillance purposes, privacy concerns could develop. In the US, where small drones are already available to the police for local law enforcement operations, more than 30 States have adopted drone-related legislation in order to protect the citizens' privacy from the intromission of the police in personal lives without sufficient grounds of evidence as regards the possibility of a crime being committed[72]. But is a **common legislative background on privacy and security matters** possible in the EU**,** and **how** could drones be used by the Member States' law enforcement authorities? How can the **Treaty of Lisbon further be implemented in order to clarify the respective competences of the EU and of Member States with regards to these fields?**

5. Links for further research

Official sources:

EUROCONTROL's outlook on coordination between civil and military UAS, Edgar Reuber, http://bit.ly/2l7IHiP

EUROCONTROL Specifications for the Use of Military RPAs as Operational Air Traffic Outside Segregated Airspace, February 2012, http://bit.ly/2kgBayX

European Commission press release on the EU drone policy, November 2016, http://bit.ly/2gYkmeb

SESAR European Drones Outlook Study, November 2016, http://bit.ly/2goXZuF

Media Coverage:

Mackenzie Weinger for *Politico.eu, Drones and the Media*, November 2013, http://politi.co/2l7BmzE. This is particularly useful, as it combines a standalone article and a very rich digest of other related articles.

Academic sources:

Derek Gregory (University of Cambridge), From a *View to a Kill: Drones and Late Modern War,* from *Theory, Culture and Society,* volume 28, issue 7-8, http://bit.ly/2kWofPE

Ann Cavoukian, Ph.D., Information & Privacy Commissioner
Ontario, Canada, *Privacy and Drones: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles,* August 2012, http://bit.ly/2l7JnEI

M. Evans and P. Koutrakos (Eds.), *International Responsibility: EU and International Perspectives*, Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2012, http://bit.ly/2kJ5bDx

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[72] Joan Lowy for *Military.com,* March 2013, http://bit.ly/2l3l8rz

Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)

Travelling towards sustainability: given the fact that numerous European cities have exceeded one or more of the 2010 imposed emission limits due to urban transportation, how can the EU promote and facilitate the transition to sustainable urban transportation?

Jago Lynch (UK)

0. Committee powers and responsibilities

Committee responsible for:

1. matters relating to the development of a common policy for rail, road, inland waterway, maritime and air transport, in particular:
    i)   common rules applicable to transport within the European Union,
    ii)   the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure,
    iii)   the provision of transport services and relations in the field of transport with third countries,
    iv)   transport safety,
    v)   relations with international transport bodies and organisations;
    vi)   the European Maritime Safety Agency, the European Railway Agency, the European Aviation Safety Agency and the SESAR Joint Undertaking;

2. postal services;
3. tourism.

1. Relevance and Contextualisation of the Topic

There has perhaps never been a time in which topics surrounding the environment have been so poignant. There has been a seeming movement away from the previous strides made in global energy policy, with a number of EU Member States failing to meet their environmental targets, with 94%[73] of EU energy reliant on oil when the 2020 Climate Package states this should only be 80%.[74]

The United Kingdom, France, Ireland, and The Netherlands as well as a whole host of other EU states are still a long way off from achieving their 2020 energy targets; these include a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, a commitment to having 20% of the EU's energy produced by renewables, and a 20% increase in energy efficiency.[75]

It is thus clear that there needs to be a reconsideration of the European environmental policy, especially in urban areas, which are the biggest polluters.

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[73] European Union Memo, (2013), retrieved from: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-24_en.htm

[74] European Union 2020 Climate & Energy Package, (2009), retrieved from: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2020_en

[75] (Ibid), (2009)

2. Stakeholders and their actions

Before going into specifics, it would be well-advised to mention that in such a wide reaching topic it would be reasonable to say that **all European citizens** should consider themselves a stakeholder as the negative effects of our environmental impact are almost ubiquitous.

However, beyond this the first specific stakeholders that must be considered are the EU **Member States** that ultimately will have to implement the environmental policy on which the Union legislates. The EU can offer guidelines and limits but only rarely has the power to draft binding legislation. One example of this binding legislation is the 2020 Climate and Energy package, however, as has been mentioned, many countries are yet to get close to meeting them. One might also expect, in some cases, a reasonable amount of opposition to this legislation from certain Member States who may not feel it is within their interests, economically, to comply with EU law in this area: this is a factor that will have to be considered.

Another set of key stakeholders are the **companies which, in countries without nationalised transport, run national transit.** More and more, EU cities have been using private companies to fund urban transport and these companies will certainly be affected – whether negatively or positively – by EU policies on transport.

The final stakeholders that one could mention are the large number of **environmental pressure groups** that have been pushing for a hard-line solution to this issue, such as a movement towards a zero carbon future. One must consider these interests when legislating on environmental issues.

3. Measures in place

The most comprehensive consideration of this issue by the EU is their 'Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility' in which there is discussion of greater usage of digital technology, advanced biofuels, and reconsideration of the combustion engine to move further towards zero-emission vehicles.

All of these suggestions are of course positive and could be effective if implemented, however, as it is a mere 'strategy' there has been no concrete legislation put forward on the issue yet. While it talks about cities and local authorities being a part of their strategy there has been no real consultation in urbanised areas around Europe yet on how such areas can improve their carbon footprint.

Another set of measures are the energy 2020 targets set out by the 2020 Climate and Energy Package, however, many of the constituent Member States of the EU are a long way from achieving these targets. On top of this a further number of EU states have been unable to keep within the 2010 emissions limits and are thus exceeding the amount of emissions that the EU has set out as being environmentally safe.

The EU also acknowledges that 94% of its transport emissions are caused by the burning of oil-based fuels and has urged Member States to look for more efficient options, however, there has arguably been too little change in the energy policies of Member States to move towards these targets.

The EU has also committed to fighting emissions on a global level, with all EU states committed to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, but in summary there has been arguably too little done in terms of concrete movement on this issue.

4. Key conflicts and key questions

The first and perhaps most prominent key conflict is that of the divide between the 2020 energy targets, the 2010 emission limits, and the economic interests of EU Member States and various corporations that – in some instances – fund the urban transport policies of major European Cities such as London and Madrid where urban bus services are now funded by private corporations.

It would also be reasonable to suggest that there would be a certain amount of opposition to a renewal of public transportation services by the EU citizens who use them. Development of new transport

technologies, and the integration of it into urban areas, would no doubt be a disruptive task in the cities in question, regardless of its environmental benefits.

It would thus be wise to try and create solutions that are not too disruptive for the European workforce and at the same time are not negatively affected by the private interests of businesses in European States or the economic interests of the various European governments responsible for pollution as a result of poor infrastructure in urban areas.

The key questions when considering the topic would thus revolve around whether it is possible to enforce EU-wide targets, how the solutions proposed could be beneficial at the same time as being independent of the interests of businesses in the EU, how the committee can work with Member States as opposed to aggravating them, and what the final targets for energy efficiency in this area should be. The above prompts the following questions:

- How can a compromise be achieved between the EU and the companies that in some areas control urban transport?

- Is there a solution that works for all EU cities?

- How can an effective solution be reached without punishing the European cities that have already met their energy targets?

- How can EU citizens directly affect their urban councils and EU policy with regards to this issue?

5. Sources and additional links

Official sources:

Summaries of EU legislation promoting sustainable transport: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV%3Ar12507

EU report on Urban mobility:
https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/urban_mobility_en

EU memo: Clean Power for Transport: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-24_en.htm

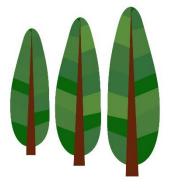EU report on decarbonisation: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/news/2016-07-20-decarbonisation_en

Media coverage:

The Road to Privatisation: an article about the privatisation of Urban Transport:
https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2013/oct/30/europes-transport-innovations-private

An Article on EU countries that have reached the 2020 energy targets:
http://climateobserver.org/nine-eu-countries-achieved-2020-renewable-energy-target/

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