



EU AND MIDDLE EAST

SOFT POWER

- Term opposed to „hard power“ (power to coerce)
- EU tries to spread its own values and ideas (democracy, human rights) in the world
- Crucial for close neighbours because of stability
- Some EU states disagreed with US intervention to Iraq



COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

- Set of conditions the candidate states would have to fulfil to become members
- Political – democracy, stable institutions, rule of law, respect to human rights
- Economic – market economy, ability to sustain competition in the internal market
- Aquis communautaire– to transport all EU law into national legal orders (including EMU)



MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONALITY

- For many countries EU membership is very attractive
- „Power of attraction“ can turn soft power into a power of coercion
- The possibility of membership has to be credible
- For many European countries nowadays EU membership is a „far shot“



CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

- Turkey
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Island (stopped)
- Since 2014 Albania



TURKEY

- Associate member since 1963
- Partner country in NATO
- Application in 1987, candidate country since 1999
- Negotiations opened in 2004, but are very slow
- Islamic country
- Poor country (but with huge GDP growth)
- Large agriculture
- Does it lie in Europe?
- Common history
- Current political problems in Turkey



EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

- Established in 2004 as a framework of relations with neighbouring countries
- First idea was to capitalize on the relations of the new member states with EECs
- The southern countries wanted to include also Mediterranean countries
- Includes altogether 16 countries
- In fact bilateral relations between the EU and a given country



FUNCTIONING OF ENP

- Action Plans are the most important tools – program of concrete reforms in the area of democracy, access to EU markets, JHA
- Monitoring of progress
- ENPI as a main financial instrument of cooperation



EU AND MEDITERRANEAN

- One of the first regions where the then EC established deeper ties
- 1995 as a breaking point – Barcelona Process signed
- Multilateral platform of cooperation
- Political, security, economic, cultural and social level of cooperation

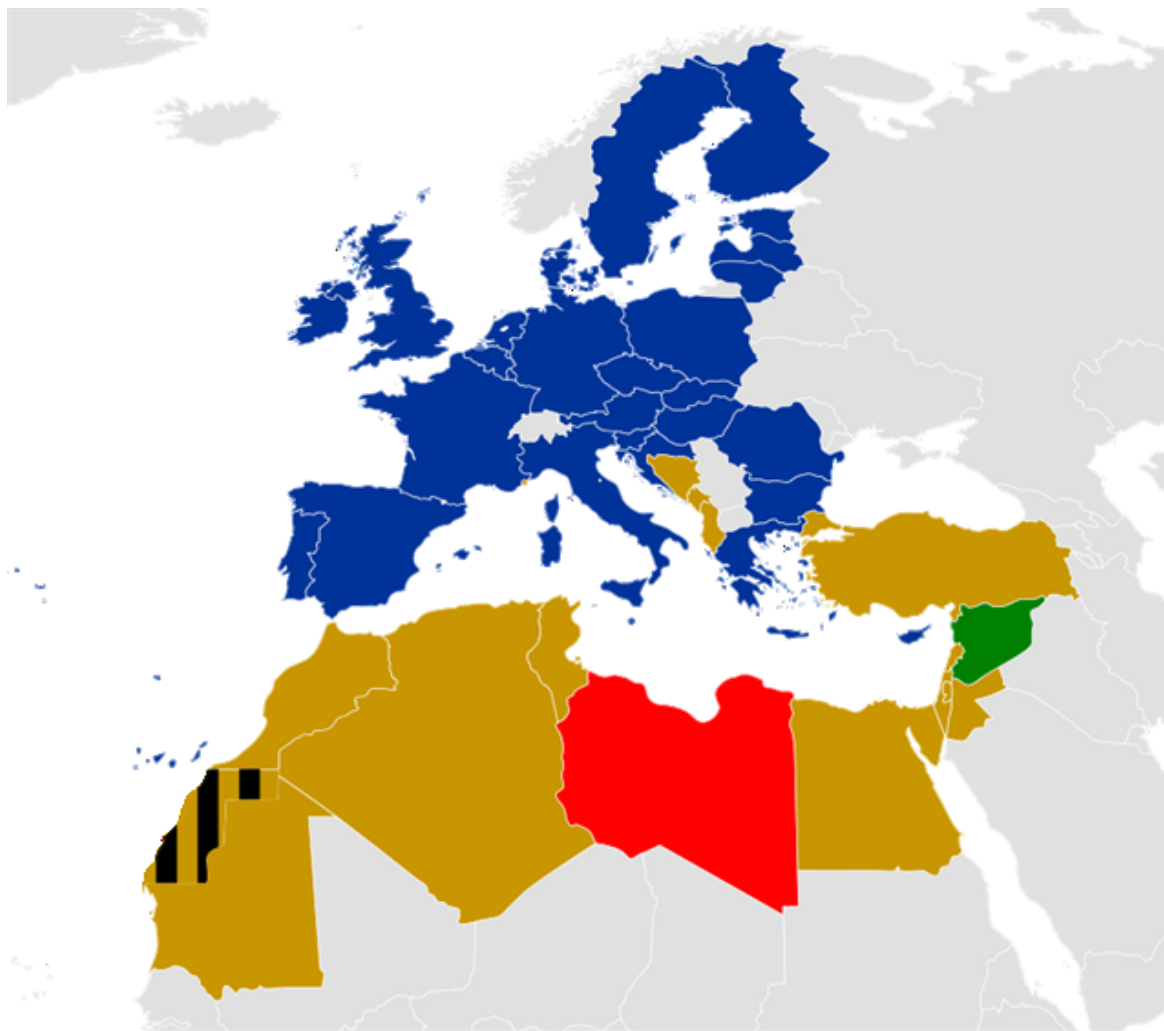


UNION FOR MEDITERRANEAN

- Follows the former Barcelona Process established in 1995
- Was created in 2008, idea of Nicolas Sarkozy – at first it should have been a much closer union of states
- Turkey opposed – no alternative to EU membership
- Contains EU countries, Maghreb and Mashriq countries, Bosna, Montenegro, Albania and Mauritania



UNIE PRO STŘEDOMOŘÍ



EU AND MAGHREB

- Countries that are important for EU countries as regards resources
- Lybian oil (25% for Italy in 2009) and gas from Algeria (ITA 42%)
- Cooperation in migration
- Cooperation on terrorism – potentially problematic countries



EU AND THE „ARAB SPRING“

- EU supports democratic changes in the region
- Substantial amounts of money have been provided through the Support to Partnership, Reform and Inclusive Growth Policy (SPRING)
- Syria – EU was only able to agree on sanctions – lowest common denominator



NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND MIGRATION ISSUES

- Cooperation of neighbouring countries is crucial for tackling illegal migration
- These countries should protect their border and not to let transit
- Existence of readmission treaties
- Most problematic border is Turkey-Greece – FRONTEX action needed – Treaty with Turkey



MIGRATION CRISIS

- Start in 2015 – sharp increase in the number of migrants – over a million people came
- EU response was quite slow
- Treaty with Greece sealed the Mediterranean route
- Pressure moved to Italy – cooperation with Lybia
- Currently most people come through Spain, but the numbers are much smaller



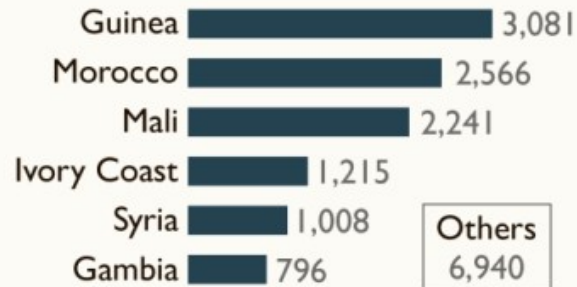


Migrants arriving by sea

Year	Spain	Italy	Greece
2018*	23,048	18,645	16,114
2017	22,108	119,310	29,595
2016	8,162	181,436	173,561

*to date

Nationality of migrants arriving in Spain (by land and sea)



Sources: International Organisation for Migration, UN



SOLUTIONS?

- New rules?
- Current rules put burden at some particular states
- Difficult to find consensus in Europe
- Asylum quotas?
- Cooperation with African/Northern African states??
- Migration/development nexus?



EU AND ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

- EU supports the idea of two states
- EU criticizes Israeli settlements
- EU part of the Quartet (together with U.S., Russia and UN)
- Member states divided on recognition of Palestine (CZE against, UK and DE abstained)

