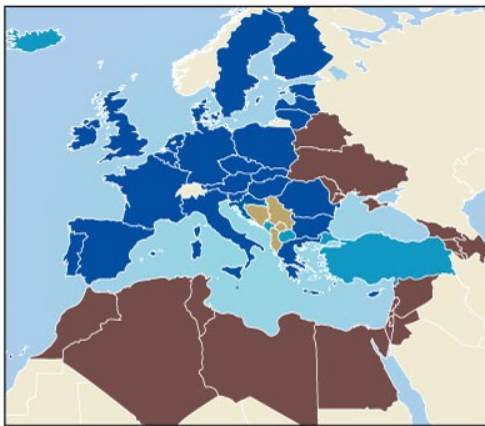


# EU AND THE MIDDLE EAST



■ EU States      ■ Candidate countries  
■ Potential candidate countries      ■ ENP countries



Mgr. Eva Taterová, M.A., Ph.D.

*Politics and Society in the Middle East*

# CONCEPT OF 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“.

# EU CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

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



# POSITION OF TURKEY

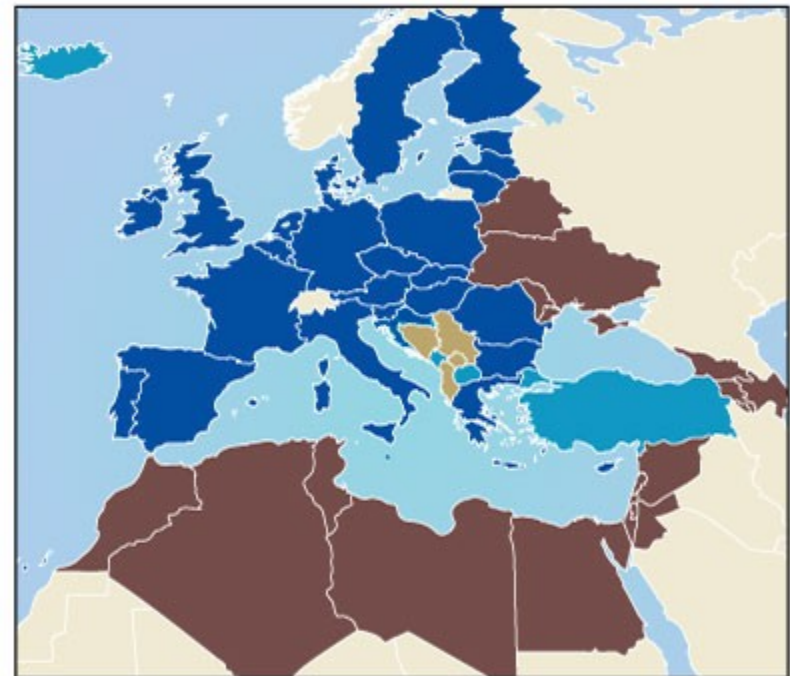
- Associate member since 1963.
- Partner country in NATO.
- Application in 1987, candidate country since 1999.
- Negotiations opened in 2004, but are very slow.
- Poor country (but with huge GDP growth).
- Large agriculture.
- Does it lie in Europe?
- Common history.
- Current political problems in Turkey.

# 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.

# EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

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



■ EU States                      ■ Candidate countries  
■ Potential candidate countries    ■ ENP countries



# 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.
- Ambitious goals: cooperation in education, industry, science, transport, energy security, water resources, development of rural areas, and many others.



# The Union for the Mediterranean

Leaders from over 40 countries gather in Paris to launch a new forum for cooperation



# EU AND MAGHREB

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



# EU AND ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

- EU supports the idea of two states.
- Since 1967, most of western European countries rather support Arab side.
- 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).

# 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.

# EU AND MIGRATION CRISIS

- 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.



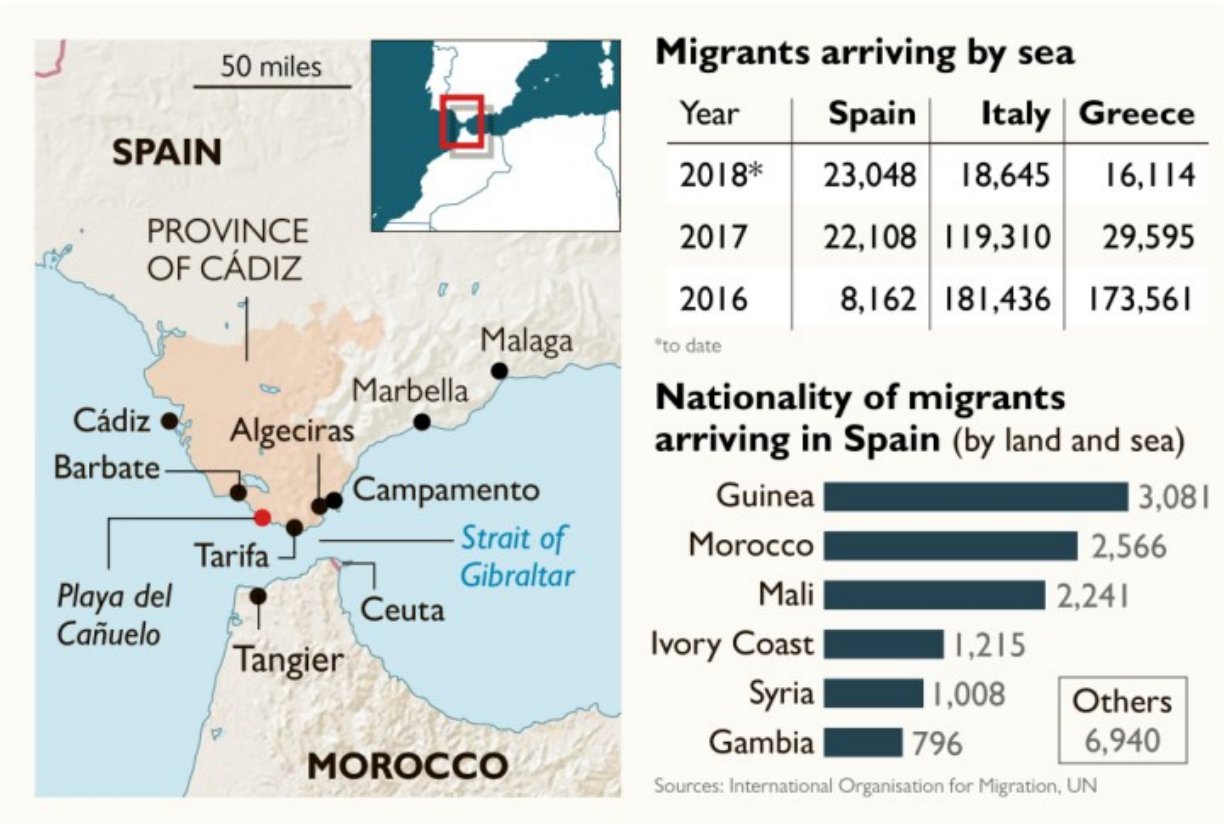
# MIGRATION CRISIS

- 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.





# MIGRATION CRISIS: STATISTICS



# 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?

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**