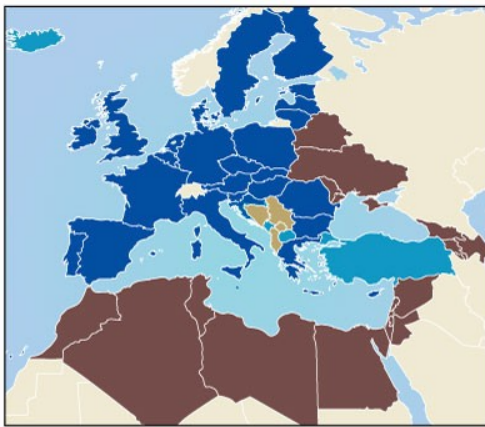


EU AND THE MIDDLE EAST



■ 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
- Northern Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Iceland (stopped)
- Since 2014 Albania



POSITION OF TURKEY

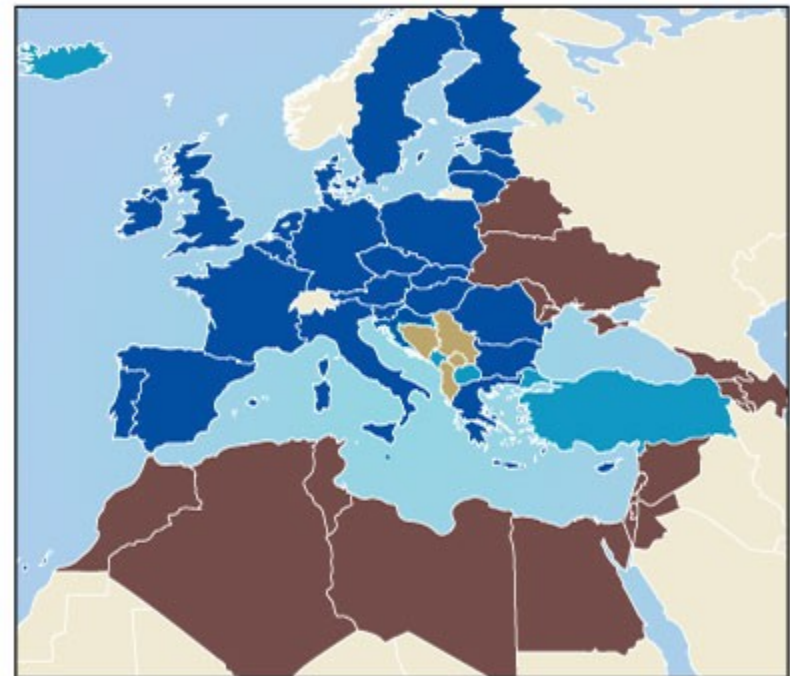
- Associate member since 1963.
- Partner country in NATO.
- Application in 1987, candidate country since 1999.
- Negotiations opened in 2004, but are very slow.
- Poor country (but with huge GDP growth), large agriculture.
- Does it lie in Europe?
- Common history.
- Current political problems in Turkey.

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.

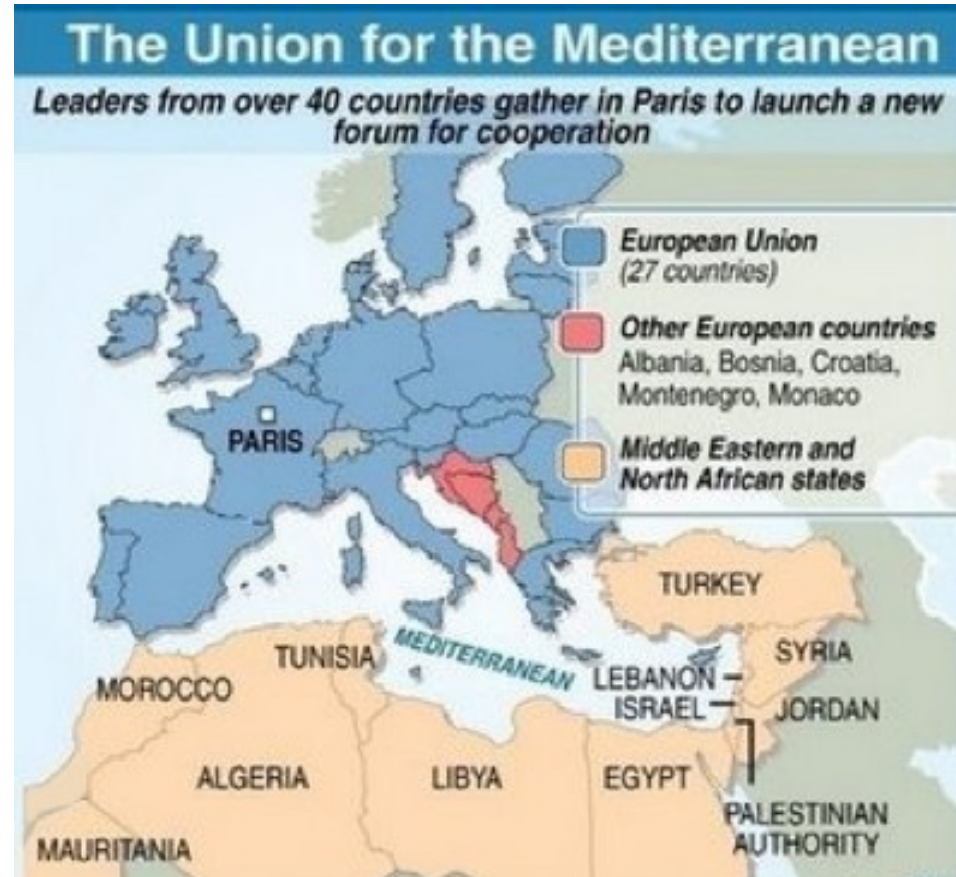
UNION FOR MEDITERRANEAN

- 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.



UNION FOR MEDITERRANEAN

- 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.



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 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 Libya.
- Currently most people come through Spain, but the numbers are much smaller.



MIGRATION CRISIS: STATISTICS



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

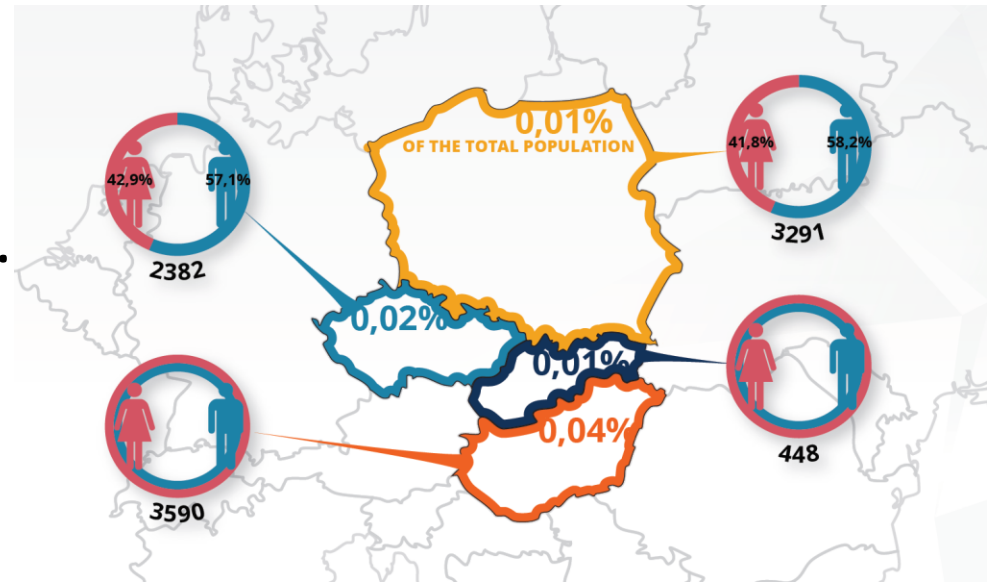
Nationality of migrants arriving in Spain (by land and sea)



Sources: International Organisation for Migration, UN

APPROACH OF VISEGRAD COUNTRIES

- In general, there are not many refugees in V4 countries (most of them come from former USSR).
- V4 countries deny quota system suggested by EU.
- Solidarity within EU?



NEW 'IRON CURTAIN' FALLS ACROSS EU OVER MIGRANT CRISIS

An east-west axis has emerged between the EU member states who want to follow a more moderate path versus those who pursue stricter anti-immigrant policies

The Visegrad Group, with its refusal to take in immigrants under an EU-wide resettlement quota scheme, offers Italy an attractive alliance option

- COUNTRIES WITH ANTI-IMMIGRATION POLICIES
- COUNTRIES WITH MODERATE IMMIGRATION POLICIES



The disagreements and nascent alliances that have recently arisen among EU member states are mainly due to the fact that for several years the EU has been unable to find a solution to immigration policy



MORIA CAMP, GREECE



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