

**EUROPEAN CAUCUS**  
**Topic B: Tackling Issues Relating to**  
**Immigration**

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## Background Information

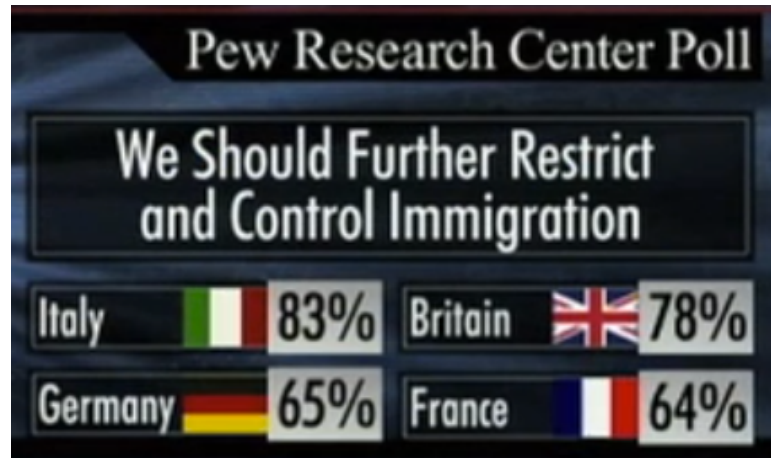
The swift escalation of immigration around Europe begins to provoke backlash to countries' economies. Whereas in the old days (up to WWII) people used to emigrate Europe in search of better living conditions, nowadays people begin to immigrate as they pursue enhancing of their living standards. This is a challenge that Europe needs to turn into an opportunity. In 2010, 2,500,000 (two million, five hundred thousand) people coming from outside Europe got a permanent residence in the European Union (EU). People tend to come for either work, study or to join a family member. These "outsiders" represent 4% of the population.

In present day, Europeans are beginning to live longer; on the other hand, they tend to have fewer babies. This leads to a reduction on population size and also the ageing of the population pyramid. In 2013, there was a ratio of 4 working people for every 1 person over 65 years of age. In 2060, it is presumed that the ratio will drop to two to one. The decreasing of capable working people, will lead to future problems (e.g. the financing of pension systems). An increasing amount of areas in Europe are lacking workers, still, there is a high unemployment rate throughout the EU. These shortages of workers are in areas such as: the kitchen and food industry, domestic services, medical care, and education. Additionally, Europe also needs highly skilled workers in the areas of computer science and engineering in the field of health.

Immigration may help solve the problem. Other solutions would be: pension reforms, increased time of active life (time working, retiring age), and the employment of more women.

Though immigration can be viewed as a possible long-term solution to supply the work force, on a short-term plan, it is posed as a threat to European community and its population. Europe, as previously mentioned, was accustomed to have people emigrating and immigrating. Governments are now flabbergasted and reactionless regarding hasty increase of immigrants both legally and illegally. The population on the other hand is appalled by the incoming masses and cries for stricter border control.

It is important to remember that Europe has an ongoing economic crisis and that it is hardly in a condition to aid their citizens let alone outsiders. Thus, giving reason to the clamors of the population, countries have limited



the inflow of immigrants to Europe. As a result, a new problem has surged, an increased number of applications for asylum in Europe. As a consequence, the shelters designed for those truly seeking asylum, has now turned into a popular

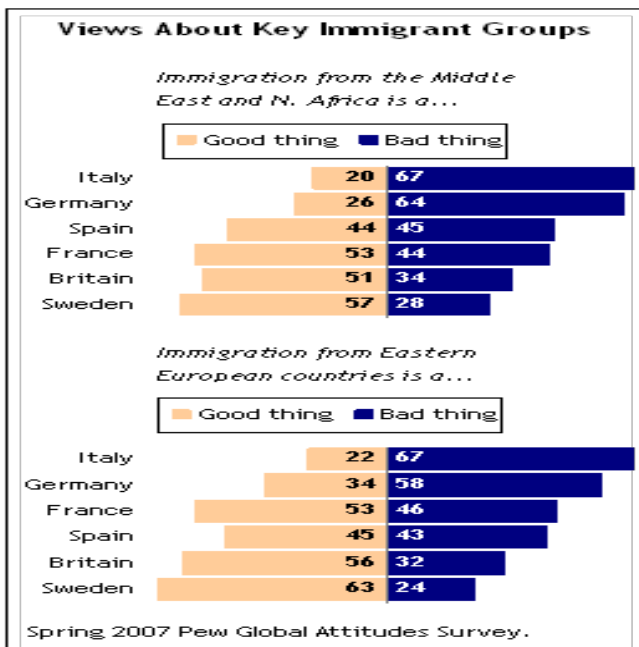
destination to those looking for a way to get into Europe, given it is now the only possible way to legally get in.



Figure 1 Migration Patterns, Africa and Middle East towards Europe

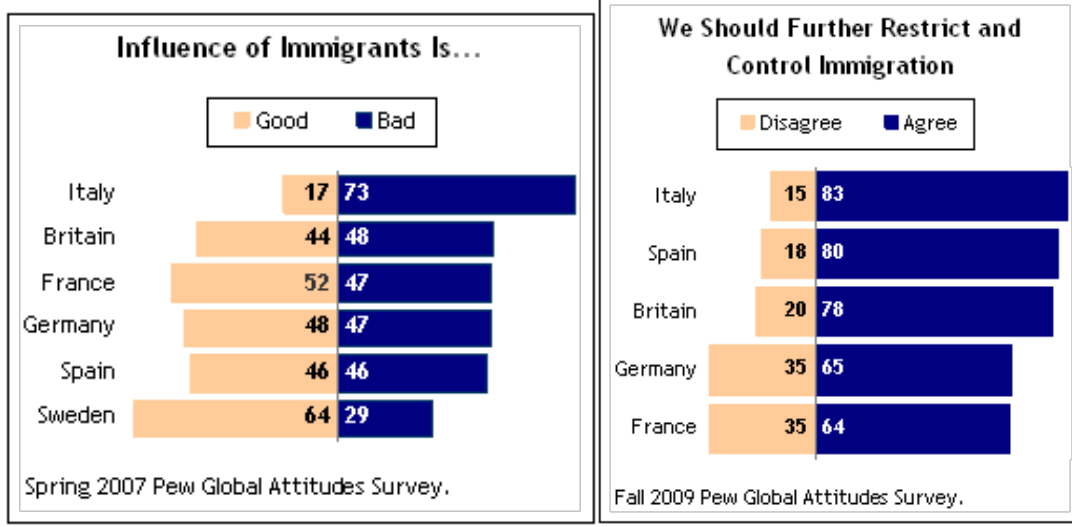
In order to better integrate non-EU nationals into EU society, governments have given them privileges so that their transition into society is smoother. Unfortunately, EU residents are infuriated by the special treatment granted to outsiders since they receive no privileges or special attention

from the government. This feeling of hatred throughout the European community generates xenophobia.



The increasing xenophobia towards non-EU residents and the discontent causes unsettling and weakening of public view towards current government. The search for a new government might lead to the rise of extremists and a new age of facism. There is a general

hatred in greater scale towards Middle Eastern's and North Africans.



Contrastingly, now, the population condemns the income of immigrants.

## Timeline

**1985**→ Establishment of Schengen Agreement to remove internal borders between signing countries.

**2005**→ Laws regarding migration and mobility were created to enhance dialogue between EU and non-EU member countries; known as the Global Approach to migration and mobility.

**November 2006**→ Communication from the European Commission with the proposal of reinforcing the management of the EU's Southern Maritime Borders by strengthening patrol. This has the intent of better controlling illegal third-country immigrants who had been entering the EU through the sea.

**December 2006**→ The European Council stated that the creation of a surveillance system for the EU's southern European borders would be prioritized, for the conflict was increasing.

**2007**→ European Commission proposes the Single Permit Directive (see key terms section)

**June 2007**→ The European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EFI) was established for the period of 2007-2013. The IEF has the main objective of financially assisting immigrants.

**October 2007**→ EU Blue Card (see key term section) was proposed.

**2009**→ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union is established. This focuses greatly on resolving the immigration conflict within Europe through selecting common necessities and rules.

**October 2009**→ Draft of Stockholm Programme (see key terms section) was presented to the General Affairs Council in the EU.

**November 2011**→ The Global Approach to migration and mobility is renewed as a consequence of immigration issues in Europe as a whole.

**2012**→ 10% increase in the number of asylum applications in one year.

# Key Terms

**Emigrate-** to leave from a country or region to another

**Immigrate-** to come to a country one is not native, usually for residence

**Xenophobia-** Unreasonable fear over foreigners of something that is strange and unknown.

**Third-country nationals:** Term used in the context of immigration referring to those who are applying for visas in countries that are not their own in order to get to a destination that is, once more, not their country of origin.

**Single Permit Directive:** Proposal by the European Commission in 2007 as a consequence of the extent of conflicting immigration in Europe. It allows third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State (an issue which had, in the close past, been highly argued between European powers), and provides a common set of rights for such legal workers.

**EU Blue Card Directive:** This is the permit that allows highly qualified third-country nationals to get a job in Europe. Those who wish to get a Blue Card are cautiously selected after submitting applications which include various criteria.

**EU Immigration Policy:** The policy includes tax, tariff and trade rules. These have the intention of determining what goods immigrants are allowed to bring to EU member states and what services they might perform while temporarily residing in such. However, the European Union establishes very few restrictions in this policy, meaning immigrants can seek work anywhere within the EU. This has been of great disadvantage to European countries, but there is little they can do; it's either give away their EU membership, or renegotiating the policy (reminding that all countries have different interests, renegotiating is not as simple as it sounds).

**Asylums:** Shelters, in this case, for immigrants that have not yet been allowed citizenship. Asylum seekers are immigrants who have requested the help and haven of such shelters.

**Stockholm Programme:** Set of European Union's laws establishing priorities for the areas of justice, freedom and security for the period of 2010-2014 (after this period, the laws will be revised to meet even further needs). It' mains goal is to recognize future challenges, hence strengthening the above mentioned areas to the interests and needs of European citizens. It includes decisions to resolve the



immigration issue by attempting to assist both European-born citizens and third-country nationals.

**Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:** "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance". Notice that the article grants freedom of religion, hence the European governments need to be aware of such whilst making radical decisions towards, especially, Islamic immigrants. This has been an issue for many European countries, particularly due to the population dissatisfaction.

**Schengen area:** An area involving 26 European countries, which have consented to remove all internal border controls, meaning travelers can freely move within this space without having to show their passports. The original agreement was signed in the town of Schengen, Luxembourg; hence the name. However, these 26 countries have strict external border controls.

## Guiding Questions

- In what ways is immigration positive and negative to European countries?
- Should there be further restrictions on immigration?
- How is immigration connected to other social problems such as unemployment and racism?
- Should there be international regulations towards immigration or solely national guidelines?
- Does immigration change a country's national identity?

## Further Research

### **Overview of the problem and how immigration can be a solution**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=q-4yKLNIZO0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=q-4yKLNIZO0)

**European union policies towards immigration** [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/immigration/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/immigration/index_en.htm)

### **Charts and population sentiment**

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2010/01/12/widespread-anti-immigrant-sentiment-in-italy/>

**Brief overview of the conflict highly focusing on EU's objectives and actions:** [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/immigration/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/immigration/index_en.htm)

**Focuses on social issues, such as sexual abuse and riots. Keep in mind it is biased!** <http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/huston/070713>

**Very good overview of the conflict, focusing on major points and difficulties, history behind the issue, actions taken:**

<http://www6.carleton.ca/ces/elearning/politics/human-rights/immigration-and-asylum-some-concerns-for-europe/>

**EU immigration policy information on BBC British News:**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7667169.stm>

**EU's website exclusively on the topic of immigration. The link below provides information on each country's immigration policies. You can also explore the website in more depth for more information!**

[http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/tab1.do?subSec=10&language=7\\$en](http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/tab1.do?subSec=10&language=7$en)

**Current, detailed information on asylums. Provides many statistics**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/immigration/general/docs/4th\\_annual\\_report\\_on\\_immigration\\_and\\_asylum\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/immigration/general/docs/4th_annual_report_on_immigration_and_asylum_en.pdf)