

EU Combats Extremism and Xenophobia Through Immigration and Refugee Regulation

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Shelby West

The European Union (EU) met today to discuss the problems of extremism and xenophobia in Europe and how to combat them. Xenophobia in European countries is caused by the inflow of immigrants and refugees from places very different from themselves and can lead to violence and internal dissent. Delegates from different European countries proposed ways to regulate immigration and refugees in order to curb extremism caused by these groups and xenophobia.

One of the main causes of xenophobia, as discussed by the EU, is unregulated and/or high rates of immigration into countries. High influxes of immigration and/or refugees into a country can be unwanted by its citizens, and can in turn cause xenophobia and unrest in native populations. Such is the case in Greece. The Greek delegate addressed the EU with the reminder that, “immigration is currently not proportion to all countries,” and that these high influxes of incoming people is economically draining, as Greece is, “in the midst of a financial crisis.”

Most of the nations present -- like the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), Greece, Poland, and Austria -- believe that the EU should allow each country to have their own agenda and solution to their respective immigration problems. The UK delegate proposed that, “countries need to have an individual right to regulate immigration,” because, “every country has its own individual goals.” This bodes well for Greece considering the massive amounts of immigration and refugees coming across its borders, putting extra stress on its struggling economy and current financial situation.

While the number of refugees and immigrants affects Greece and similarly Italy, other countries need these populations more. Portugal introduced that, “countries with a declining population would like the immigration.” When a nation’s population is in decline, it can have a negative impact on its workforce and, subsequently, its economy. Greece proposed an even distribution of refugees and immigrants to better accommodate for the unique situation of each state.