

EU: The Immigration Situation in Europe

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The members of the European Union (EU) opened debate during committee session three by discussing whether quotas, or fixed minimums of immigrants that countries have to take in, or caps, the receiving of immigrants with no established minimums, would be more beneficial for the union. The delegate from the Czech Republic showed strong support for caps because they believed that individual countries know how many immigrants they can take in better than an EU body. They also argue that, "...quotas might impede on national sovereignty." Several nations agreed with the Czech Republic, including delegates from Greece, Poland, and Iceland. However, the delegate from France questioned the implementation of caps, asking, "If there is no minimum in place, what is stopping nations from not accepting any immigrants in the first place?"

At the moment, two working papers are in progress. One of the working papers is focused more on integrating immigrants into society by breaking the language barrier and using non-governmental organizations to come into immigrant communities, refugee camps, and local schools to encourage cultural awareness. The goal of cultural awareness through education is to combat xenophobia that stems from ignorance, to produce a more tolerant population. The second working paper is aimed at instituting caps throughout the union and encouraging nations to accept more immigrants through economic incentives. Every year, through this program, an annual report must be sent out from each member state receiving assistance, explaining explicitly where the funds are going to. This program of economic incentives would be fully voluntary, as to not impede on national sovereignty, which caused concern for some nations. Several countries wondered why larger, more wealthy nations would give financial and economic incentives to smaller countries to take in immigrants. With these two working papers in progress, resolutions pertaining to the immigration situation are sure to be introduced soon.