

Fair Lawn Model United

Nations Conference V

2016

European Union

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Letters from your Chairs

Greetings Delegates!

Hello and welcome to FAIRMUNC V! My name is Jackie Espineli and I look forward to being your chair for the European Union committee. I am currently a junior at Fair Lawn High School and this will be my second year as a part of Model UN. Like many of you, I'm still learning the ropes of MUN and hope this year's novice conference will be a learning experience for all of us, delegates and chairs alike. Even with my limited experiences at conferences, I can still vouch and testify to the skills that this club can offer, from learning how to efficiently research, to finding your voice in the midst of debates. I truly hope you will all enjoy participating in these discussions as I do watching them unfold.

Welcome to Fair Lawn's Model United Nations Conference. My name is Sana Shahab and I will be chairing the European Union committee. I'm currently a junior at Fair Lawn High School and I have only been involved with Model UN for one year. However, from the conferences I have attended, I have learned an innumerable amount of skills that have and will continue to help me in the real world. Joining Model UN has been one of the most beneficial experiences in high school so far and I am extremely excited to be chairing this year. I look forward to watching intense debate unfold and hearing everyone's arguments. Hope you all are ready for the excitement that is FAIRMUNC!

Jackie and Sana

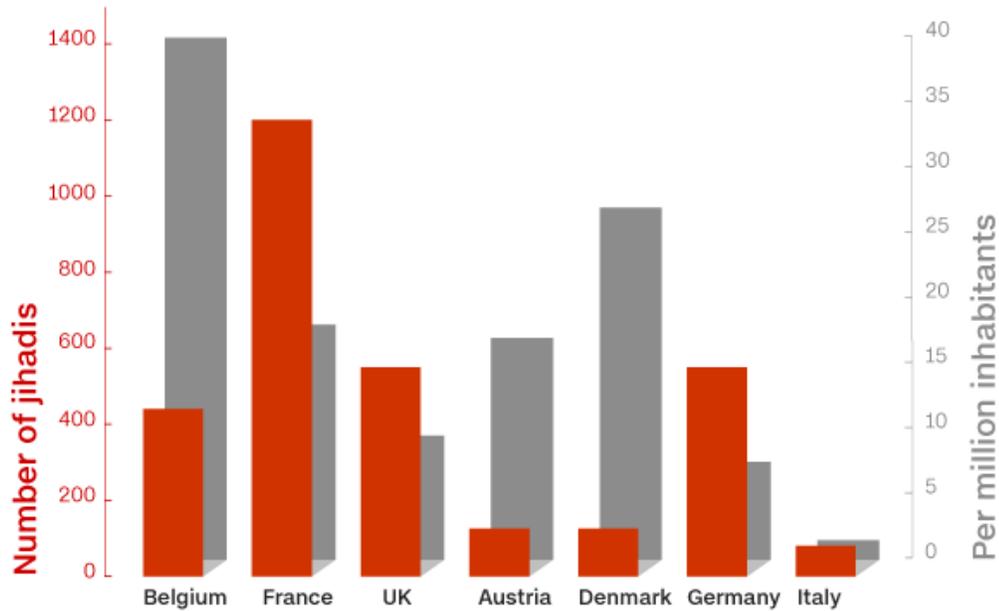
TOPIC 1: INCREASING TERRORIST ATTACKS IN EUROPE

A new wave of terrorism has made several EU member states its focal point, since 2015 terrorist attacks have killed almost 200 civilians, leaving hundreds more injured, and has shaken the lives of the 500 million individuals in the EU. Over the last decade, Western Europe has dramatically dropped in terrorist attacks, and in turn, citizens experience a significantly safer life than they would have in the 1970s. In order to draw attention and gain footing, organizations like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) have orchestrated numerous large-scale attacks in civilian populated areas. November 13th, 2015 three suicide bombers detonated outside the Stade de France during a football match, but this was not the end, later that night there were countless shootings, along with suicide bombers terrorizing cafes and restaurants. Police engaged in a stand-off with gunmen, in attempts to try and rescue hostages in the

Bataclan Theater. That night 130 people were killed, while another 368 injured, leaving France on a three-month state of emergency.

A growing concern amongst Europeans stems from the very capital of the EU: Brussels, Belgium. It is no exaggeration that Belgium has more foreign fighters per capita than any of its European neighbors; estimates of 500 Belgian men and women have traveled to Iraq and Syria for the purpose of joining ISIS. The actual number can never be certain, but it is apparent enough to cause unease that Belgium is producing homegrown jihadists.

The seeds of terrorism affect the whole population of these countries, including the immigrants and refugees that have worked so hard, or are working hard, to gain access into safer areas. Rallies of anti-immigration and anti-Muslimism have popped up across Europe, especially on the political level. The problem arises when racial disdain creates fuel for animosity and radicalization.



EU Response to the Paris attack:

The EU has been looking into the further prevention of radicalization and foreign terrorists since 2013, but released a statement on February 12th, as a response to the Paris attack. EU leaders were able to agree on a statement that will be used as a guideline, for EU member states, that highlights courses of actions that should be taken:

(Below is a small section of the mutually agreed on response to the Paris attack)

Ensuring the security of citizens

Member states are encouraged to better implement and further develop the tools we have, in particular to detect and disrupt

terrorist-related travel, notably of foreign terrorist fighters

B. Preventing radicalization and safeguarding values

Preventing radicalization is a key element of the fight against terrorism.

Instruments need to be brought together in a comprehensive approach to address this phenomenon.

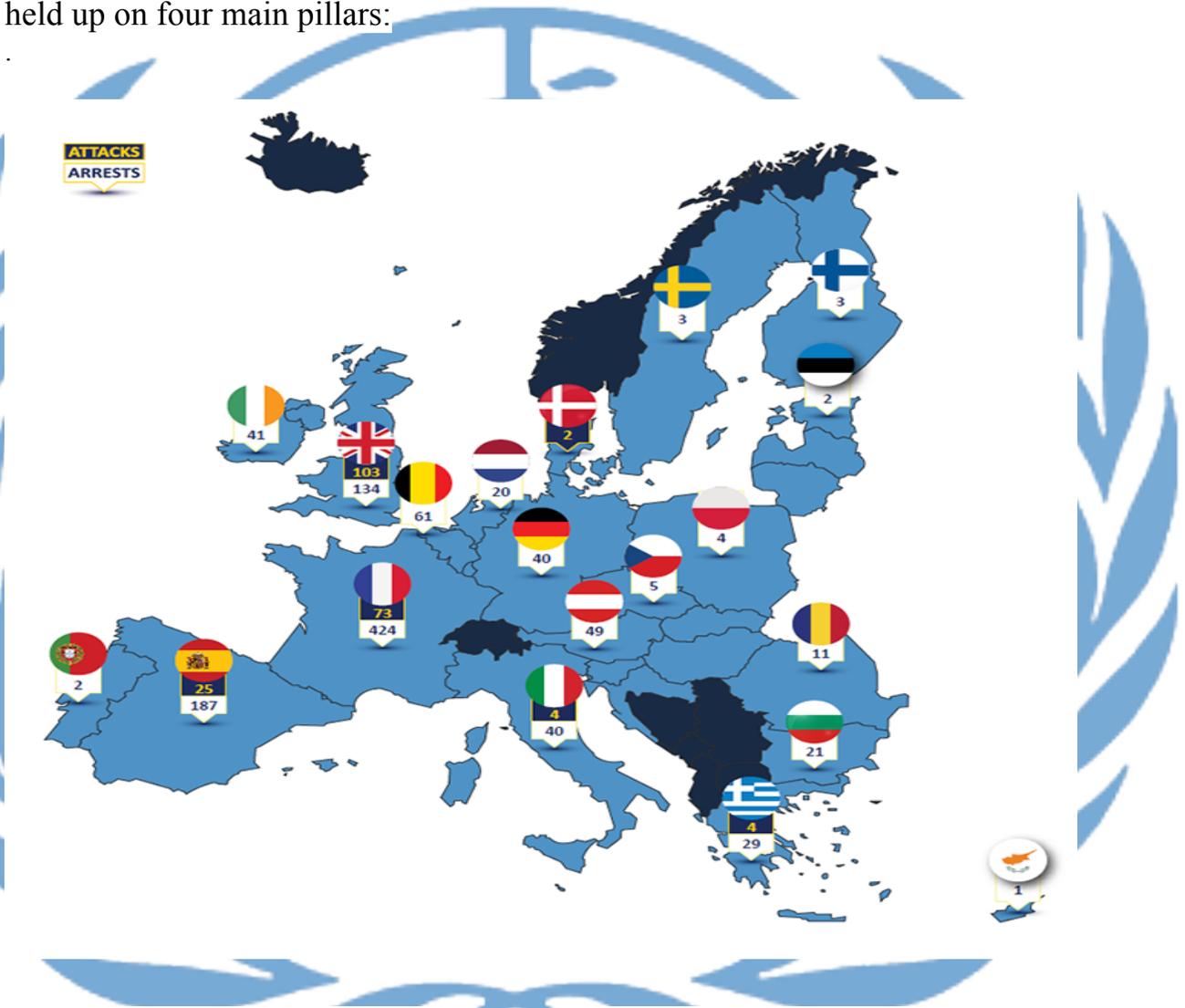
C. Cooperating with international partners

The EU's external relations must also contribute to countering the terrorist threat, which is escalating in certain parts of the EU's neighborhood, in particular Syria and Libya.

EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The pre-existing defense that the European Union implemented in 2005 is meant to jointly combat terrorism while designing methods that will administer optimal safety for their citizens. The strategy is held up on four main pillars:

prevent, protect, pursue and respond. Although this is the strategy that the EU has adopted, collaboration with third countries and international organizations is essential to the success of it



Terrorist Attacks on Other EU Member States:

Brussels, Belgium

On the 22nd of March 2016, Brussels was besieged with three suicide bombings that worked in tandem with one

another. The first two took place at Brussels Airport in Zaventem, and the other one at a metro station in Maalbeek, leaving 32 civilians dead and more than 300 casualties in its wake. Not long after, terrorist group ISIL took responsibility for coordinating these attacks.

Nice, France

During a celebration for Bastille Day in Nice, on July 14th 2016, a truck drove into crowds of people with hostile intent. Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, the driver of the truck, was shot and killed by the police, but not before taking the lives of 84 civilians with him, and injuring dozens.

Munich, Germany

On July 22nd, 2016 gunman Ali David Sonboly killed nine people.

About a month later on July 16, an Afghan refugee murdered several passengers on the train, officials later found an ISIS flag in his room.

These attacks against the public along with dozens of others, have the government encouraging citizens to stockpile on food and supplies in case of a lockdown pertaining to terrorism.

Bloc Positions:

Central and Eastern Europe:

Several countries in central and Eastern Europe are making connections between the influx of refugees and the relentless terrorist attacks. Some of these countries are Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece and Italy. In response to the Brussels attack, many eastern countries like Poland have made it increasingly clear that there is no way they will be able to accept refugees. Rather than maintaining an open society, they feel as though the safety of the country is not worth risking. This common belief that these countries share is also evident in their recent parliaments, with 14 right-wing extremists currently in place and a Prime Minister (Robert Fico) who is publicly against

Muslim immigrants.



Western Europe:

As the epicenter of most of the recent terrorist attacks, a majority of the countries have become more resentful and intolerant, but for the most part, Western Europe retains their pre-established principles of an open-society. Except for national emergency lockdowns, countries do not seem to be changing their policies.

Eastern countries often criticize their western counter parts for risking their safety in attempts to uphold an open society. Rather than closing up, these countries are taking a more defensive route, while sending air raids to the

middle-eastern countries where ISIL and ISIS bases are supposedly located.

Questions to Consider:

1. Consider your nation's history with terrorism
2. Consider what policies have been put in place to protect your nation from terrorism. Have these policies changed due to recent terrorist attacks?
3. What is the dominant motive for terrorists in your country? It could be political, religious, etc.

4. How does your country's culture, state of government or international relations relate to acts of terrorism?
5. How can your country combat terrorism while respecting the minorities?

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2. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/>
3. https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu_en
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TOPIC 2: BREXIT

Introduction:

In 1957, the European Union was formed with originally six nations involved. Today it is an entity of 28 countries, including Great Britain. While most of the EU used the euro as their currency, Great Britain continued to use the pound as their currency and also did not participate in regulations that other EU nations do, like the **Schengen border-free zone**. In 1975, the United Kingdom Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, issued a referendum after opposition rose within the country on the issue of staying with the European Economic Community. However, the vote ended with 67 percent preferring to “Remain” in the EU. Since the late 1990s, the time of Margaret Thatcher, a vocal minority has demanded that Britain leave the European Union. That minority has continued to grow in opposition. Therefore, Prime Minister David Cameron promised to hold the referendum should he be re-elected prime minister. More than 40 years later, from the first referendum vote, on June 23 2016, registered voters in the U.K. have decided on whether they want to “Remain” in the EU or “Leave.” It was estimated that an overwhelming majority, almost

80 percent, would choose to “Remain” in the EU. However, with the votes in, Great Britain voiced to “Leave” the European Union. Now the process of the U.K. exiting will begin, but the U.K. will have two years to negotiate its withdrawal and could formally leave the EU by December 2018. Until then, EU laws and treaties still stand in Great Britain but they are not part of the decision-making body anymore.

“Remain” or “Leave”:

The two opinions during the referendum were to either “Remain” in the EU or “Leave.” Those who voiced to “Remain” in the EU were lead by Prime Minister David Cameron and were part of the Conservative government he leads. Other supporters of remaining in the EU were part of the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party, which are all strongly pro-Europe. In addition, most independent economists and large businesses favor staying in as well as the most recent heads of Britain’s intelligence services. The people who want to stay believe that an island, that is the size of Great Britain, needs to be part of a

larger group of other countries with the same ideas and motives, ensuring the nation's security, economy and influence.

Those who voiced to "Leave" the EU were led by Michael Gove, the justice minister, and Boris Johnson, the former mayor of London. Supporters of leaving the EU included nearly half the Conservative members of Parliament and members of the U.K. Independence Party. This group who favor leaving as they believe that the European Union has changed enormously over the last four decades and the British influence and sovereignty is decreasing.

Economic Impact of Brexit:

Before the vote deciding that the U.K. would "Leave" the European Union, economists predicted that if the U.K. were to leave, the economy would suffer. This prediction proved to be true as the pound has fallen by one-tenth against the dollar and the FTSE 250, an index of domestically focused firms, is down while there is growing evidence that the real economy is slowing. However, consumer spending and shoppers did not seem to be affected as the number of people entering shops has not much changed since the

referendum, according to data from Footfall, a consultancy. However, in the week to July 8th there were one-quarter fewer new jobs than in the first week of June and as some Britons struggle to find new jobs, others are losing theirs. In a period of two weeks, the unemployment rate is 5.3%, not the official rate of 5% (last recorded for the three months to April). In addition, businesses are cutting investment, too.

On a global scale, Brexit has brought great uncertainty to global markets. The efforts of the Bank of England have not been able to solve the wild fluctuations in the market in the global economy and more modifications will have to be made.

Bloc Positions:

Great Britain- The United Nations has voted and will be leaving the European Union after an estimated two years once negotiations have been made

Germany- The German government strongly supports Britain staying in the European Union. The United Kingdom leaving the EU would cause dramatic political and economic repercussions for both sides, in the eyes of the German government.

Italy and France- Throughout the European Union, the positive

opinion on leaving the EU is growing as Prime Minister Matteo Renzi of Italy and Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right

National Front party, express their desire to follow in the footsteps of Great Britain

Questions to Consider:

1. Will the European Union be hurt when Great Britain finishes negotiations and is ready to leave?
2. Is it worth it for the United Kingdom to even leave the European Union?
3. Should there be a second referendum?

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