



Review of Poland & Hungary's Position Paper

By: Italy and Greece

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Structure

We identified three main arguments in the Position Paper that are discussed in this presentation:

1. Security issues related to immigration
2. Cultural aspects
3. Economic aspects

While we see some common ground to work shown at the end of our presentation, there are weaknesses in the quality of sources and the logic of several arguments.



Security issues related to immigration

“Migrant diasporas in Europe could become a cultural hub for terrorists and could serve as bases for terrorist operations around Schengen countries” (Schmid, 2016)

Form the same paper :

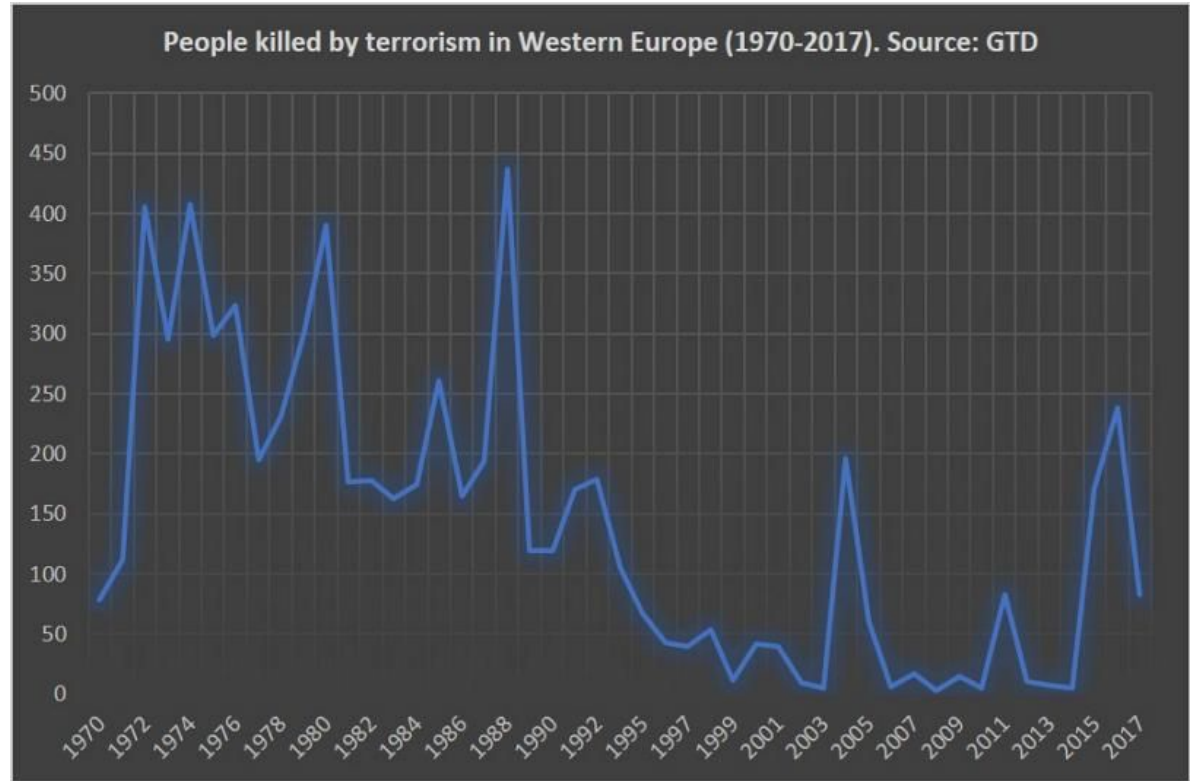
- “**The paper quotes Peter Neumann** (Director of the ICSR in London) : Peter Neumann, [...] was right when he said People who have just escaped civil war, oppression or poverty are **unlikely to be interested in attacking the very society that has given them safety and the opportunity for a fresh start**. I know of **no empirical evidence** that would demonstrate that first generation immigrants are particularly rebellious or receptive to extremist messages.”
- “If the member states of the European Union could have agreed on a fair **burden-sharing scheme**, taking into account its recipient country’s carrying capacity, the reception of more than a million of refugees in countries with more than 500 million inhabitants would not have been a major problem”



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“The period between 1970 and 1990 was significantly more tragic in terms of the number of fatalities than the present era. The peaks mark the Madrid bombings in 2005, the Norway attacks in 2011, and the European terrorist campaign of ISIS in 2015-16”

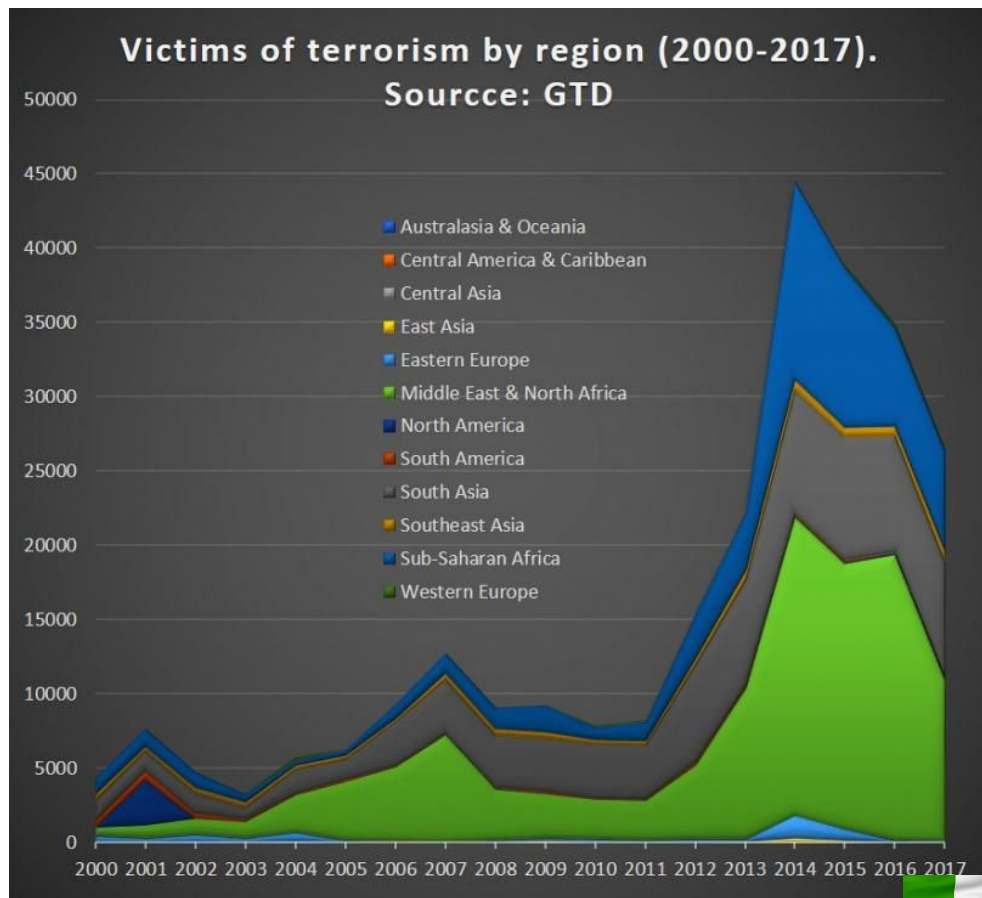
Euronews



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“The regional distribution of deaths caused by terrorism shows (Figure 3.) that while Europe’s share is hardly visible (less than 1 percent of all fatalities took place in Eastern- and Western-Europe combined), the vulnerability of people in the Middle East and Northern Africa is not only high but – largely due to the presence of ISIS – is prominent in a decade-long perspective too”

Euronews



Security issues related to immigration

Why your argument is invalid:

- No empirical evidence of a clear correlation between migration and an increase in terrorists attacks
- The countries where the migrants come from are actually the ones who are most targeted by terrorists attacks
- The protection of sovereignty is not compatible with the political union when it comes to shared issues such as the security of our countries



Cultural aspects

“Both countries strongly emphasize the change that migration from Muslim countries brings to the recipient countries. It has been documented that this type of migration changes attitudes, society, fashion or local cuisine”

- Hungary and Poland PP

- **The source used (European Immigration Network) states: “Any specific conclusions that can be made must remain hypotheses.”**
- **Furthermore, this study is only focusing on general migration development in European countries. It mainly deals with regular economic migration and does not focus on Muslim migration.**
 - **The information provided in the Position Paper is not strongly linked to integrating refugees into a society and thus not particularly relevant**



Cultural aspects

- Immigration has historically been one of the main drivers of dynamism, change, improvement and innovation.
- Interconnectedness and globalization have been two of the most important guiding trends over the last decades when it comes to global markets and widespread social change -especial emphasis on Human Rights → refugee crisis as a HR matter.
- “The priorities for both countries are the security of their citizens, the defence of the traditional (European) values and economic prosperity” - Poland and Hungary

PP

- European values: protection of HR → intra-union and worldwide.
- “Unity in diversity” → multiculturalism and coherent stance (expansion of their argument → “historical differences” with Western Europe).
- “The European Union actively promotes and defends the universality and indivisibility of all human rights within its borders, but also when engaging in relations with non-EU countries.” - European Commission.



Cultural aspects

“The European Commission sends a adverse signal to the Polish and Hungarian people simply tried to ensure their security, and foster the respect for traditional Christian and European values. “

“However, being part of the Christian-Jewish European community of values is also decisive.” - Poland and Hungary PP

- In discussion → Secularization of State cited as a common value between Poland and Hungary and Western European member states.
- Making political decisions on the basis of religion endangers one of the most salient pillars of modern European society.
 - Hungary → Article 6 → Freedom of religion and separation of the Church and the State.
 - Poland → Article 53 → Freedom of religion. Article 25 → Separation of the Church and the State.



Economic aspects

- “A report conducted by five Danish ministries concluded that Danish strict immigration policies saved the country approximately 6.7 billion euros over the years 2001 – 2011”
 - Out of context : 4 years prior the migrant crisis
 - **Where does this report come from :** The right-wing populist DPP, which has been working with the ruling center-right coalition government of Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen since 2001, has in the past made its aims very clear: a complete halt to immigration into Denmark from non-Western countries. **“A Somali who is no good for anything, that is simply not acceptable,”** said DPP leader Pia Kjærsgaard



Economic aspects

Why your argument is invalid:

- “Evidence from the UK suggests that countries might not be able to develop quickly enough to match the increase in migration and subsequent population levels (Beckett, 2016)”
 - The article talks about the issue related to **population growth in the UK and its related consequences, not on the economic effect of migration.**
 - The article states in the end : “But is alarm the right response to the population boom? Jonathan Portes of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research thinks not. “Population is not well discussed in Britain,” he says. “[...] We find it hard to be positive about population growth. **But it has boosted economic growth.** It has made **austerity less painful**, by increasing total employment and tax revenues. And congestion, pressure on services – they’re considerably easier to cope with, from a collective point of view, than the opposite problems. We’ve forgotten what depopulation feels like.”
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/09/is-britain-full-home-truths-about-population-panic>



Possibilities of common ground

- Funds for cohesion and helping Eastern nations level-up with Western economies.
- “Need for a properly-focused European migration and border policy...” - Poland and Hungary PP.
 - But “... that implements existing laws such as the Dublin Regulation and restricts migration to those who genuinely need it.” → myopic view that disregards unequal imposition of the burden. Italy contributes larger share of EU budget than Hungary and Poland (European Parliament, 2016), but is imposed larger refugee burden.
- Lesson-learning from certain Western European nations in matters regarding immigration, multiculturalism and burden-sharing.
 - Germany → vocational school system that helps integrate refugees into workforce in industries where there is shortage of labor (Hindy, 2018).



Conclusion

- Immigration as a natural flow of human development.
- Refugee crisis as a Human Rights (HR) matter → Declaration of HR + Convention on the Status of Refugees + European values (protection of HR and diversity).
- Immigration policy that deals with economic migrants and asylum seekers as two different issues.
- Lack of evidence that links immigration with terrorism.
- Framework of cooperation and solidarity where we tackle shared issues together, and in which no winners and losers are picked → solidarity across the Union and across issues.
 - Cohesion funds and refugees.
- Issues with sources presented by the reviewed team.
- This is a Union, and united we must tackle our shared issues.



Sources

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