



Review: Policy Proposal European Commission

By: Italy and Greece

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Structure

1. First Impressions
2. Review: Policy Proposals 1, 2 an 3
3. Weakness: Voluntariness
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First impressions

1. Paper is very well structured; easy to follow and understand.
2. It has a nice design, which makes it look very professional.
3. Reliable and good quality sources -academic articles and data/information directly from official EU websites.



Proposal 1: European Asylum Agency

“The EU Asylum Agency shall ensure that the Member States can permanently benefit from a full EU Operational Support regarding migration. To do so, the EU Asylum Agency will be equipped with necessary mandate, tools and financial means.”

- **Strengths:**
 - **Would enhance a common migration and asylum policy, providing an opportunity to tackle the issue in a joint, cooperative and fairer manner which would in turn furnish a more effective solution.**
 - **The Agency would have an active role in providing assistance in key aspects (logistics, processing, finance), relieving pressure on most affected MEs.**
 - **Distinction between economic migrants and refugees/asylees.**
- **Note: Greece and Italy proposed a similar approach on our Position Paper -this is something we are willing to negotiate.**



Proposal 1: European Asylum Agency

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- **Weaknesses:**

- **“Member States will take all final decisions.” This would give leeway to the continuation of an unfair distribution of asylees.**
- **The proposal states the Agency would be equipped with necessary mandate, but if MEs will take all final decisions, what would this “mandate” be about?**
 - **The Agency would lack strong authority and would serve more as a supporting body, undermining the effectiveness the Agency could have in dealing with the issue.**
- **Where would the increased budget come from? (“... additional €55 million per year between 2019 and 2027”).**
- **What about HR? No mention; it should be a guiding principle. The Agency could benefit from cooperating with the UN and NGOs.**



Proposal 2: Refugee Distribution

“Ensuring safe and sound welcome of refugees is a main objective. Making a compromise with all the Member States to reach that goal is mandatory.”

- **Strengths:**
 - **Comprehensive approach including all member states**
- **Weaknesses:**
 - **Voluntariness**
 - **No specific policies**



Proposal 3: Rule of law

“Article 7 TEU is to be strengthened by removing the need for unanimity [...] the suspended European financing must be replaced by national funding”

- **Strengths:**

- This would definitely facilitate procedures, include all member state and strengthen the rule of law. We believe that this system is far-reaching enough.
- The proposal of the precondition that Article 7 TEU should be engage prior to conditionality for receiving funds is less harsh and more effective. It will effectively condemn the responsible governments



Proposal 3: Rule of law

“Article 7 TEU is to be strengthened by removing the need for unanimity [...] the suspended European financing must be replaced by national funding”

- **Weaknesses:**

- However, this proposal is not very realistic and it would never be accepted by member states even with the approval of the European court of Justice being required and even for those states which respect the rule of law and do not profit from EU funds. In such times, European peoples are in majority attached to the sovereignty of their countries as surveys and recent elections show. How would you manage to convince member states ?



Weakness: Voluntariness

Proposal 1 and 2 are relying on the voluntary participation of the member states.

Proposal 3 wants to introduce a reform of the Rule of Law - but is it realistic?

- We support the approach of Proposal 3 to reinforce the Rule of Law and include conditionality - but how do you actually want to establish that?
- Voluntariness seems the only strategy - as some countries still block conditionality. Therefore, most of our ideas to restructure European policies are condemned to fail.
- We strongly believe that we will still find a solution to the migration challenge. As stated in our own proposal, we are open to work on an alternative solution all together as a Union.
- Yet, European citizens might evaluate this as weakness. It might seem to them that a minority dictates decisions on the majority which makes it impossible to find real solutions.



Conclusion

The European Commission's policy proposals are solid and offer a strong response to issues that the union is currently facing. However, we believe that some are hardly realistic and neglect the importance of sovereignty for member states; such as the removal of unanimity to engage the Article 7 TEU.

Italy and Greece are therefor ready to discuss :

- The first proposal for the European Asylum Agency if the commission is able to bring answers regarding its lack of autonomy and authority as well as for the increase in budget.
- The third proposal if the commission can assure us they will find a way to make such proposal be accepted by all member states

