The European Union
Council of the European Union

Immigration in the EU
Turkey Accession into the EU

FUMUN 2013
Chair: Klevisa Kovaçi
Dear delegates of the Fairfield University Model UN Conference 2013,

I welcome you to the specialized committee European Union: The Council of the European Union. My name is Klevisa Kovaci, and I am a senior at Fairfield University. I am a major in International Studies, Politics, and French, and a minor in Philosophy. At Fairfield University, I work as a Research Assistant in the Politics Department and a Teaching Assistant for French. This is my fourth year in FUMUN. I feel excited to be chairing this committee and look forward to hearing your discussions. Our committee topics are Immigration and The Accession of Turkey into the EU.

I was born in Albania and studied abroad in France. European-born, I am a fan of Europe and fascinated by its affairs: the diverse people, the history and culture of the continent, and its evolution. From my experience as an immigrant to the US and as someone who has traveled frequently throughout Europe, I understand the issues of Immigration and the European identity on a personal level. Therefore, I am interested to learn your thoughts on such exciting topics.

A Focus on Identity:
The official motto of the EU is “United in Diversity.” This emphasizes the diversity of different European cultures, traditions, and languages that exist under the same ideals of peace and prosperity. With over 503,000,000 people and over 20 official languages, the EU indeed comprises a diverse region. Yet, there also exists a distinct European identity, shared history, and culture. Today this identity is shifting with globalization, increased communication, increased travel due to open borders within the EU, and of course, Immigration and EU Enlargement. The ethnicities, religions, and cultures that make up Europeans pose benefits, but also challenges to the EU.

The Euro Crisis, what some see as failing European economics, has cast into doubt the strength and ideals of a European identity, with skeptics being highly critical of European integration. Keeping this in mind, one must ponder, what is Europe and what does it mean to be European? What should the role of identity be, and with it the role of the EU in maintaining a peaceful and prosperous Europe?

Please write a 1-2 page Position Paper on the stance of your country addressing our committee topics and e-mail it to me at kkovaci92@gmail.com.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,
Klevisa Kovaci
The European Union Committee Chair
FUMUN 2013
The European Union

The European Union: Identity and Integration

In 2012, the European Union won the Nobel Peace Prize for transforming Europe from a continent of war to one of peace. The Nobel Peace Prize committee said that the EU’s greatest achievement was “the successful struggle for peace and reconciliation and for democracy and human rights.”

The European Union (EU) is an international organization made up of 27 member states and centered in Brussels, Belgium. Originally founded as the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1948, its chief aim was to prevent future war by linking the European economies. After two world wars, founding fathers Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet, Winston Churchill, and Alitero Spinelli, among others, made the German and French economies so interdependent that war between the two would never be possible again. Their vision: a peaceful, united, and flourishing Europe.

The EU pursued European integration through economic, political, and later sociological issues. Key treaties in the development of the EU as it is today are the Treaty of Rome (1958), the Maastricht Treaty (1993), and the Treaty of Lisbon (2009). The EU does not have a Constitution but is formed on the basis of these treaties and their revisions. Some feel that the lack of a formal Constitution undermines the legitimacy of the EU.

The EU has a common external tariff, a common currency (the Euro), and common policies in agriculture, the environment, transportation, and more. The EU abolished trade barriers within its member states to allow the free movement of goods, services, labor, and capital. In international conferences, the EU negotiates as one country, with all member states united under one position. The EU is usually represented by the President of the Commission or the president of the European Council. In fact, some compare the EU countries to a loose federation because of its mix of intergovernmental and supranational bodies. The EU economy in total has the highest GDP in the world. The EU and US are major trading partners and cooperate in international issues such as terrorism. However, the EU has not been without its troubles.

One of the weaknesses of the EU has been the difference in economic levels. The EU economies range from robust ones, like the economic powerhouse Germany, to weaker Southern European nations. However, the European Central Bank utilizes the same monetary policy, which makes it hard to adapt for all economies. Another weakness has been the unwillingness of EU states to agree on a common foreign policy. This contributed to failures of the EU to act during the violent breakup of Yugsolavia and other events. The EU lags in defense, and primarily utilizes NATO for
protection. In addition, the expansion of the EU to include more central and eastern European countries has proven both an opportunity and a challenge.

**Institutions of the European Union**

The main legislative bodies of the European Union are the Council of the European Union, which represents each member state, and the European Parliament, which represents the people of Europe beyond national boundaries. The “Executive” body which implements EU law is the European Commission. The Commission begins the legislative process by proposing a law. Afterwards, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (about equal in power and similarity to the lower and upper houses of the US Congress) draft and pass a law. The Commission must then execute the law, as does an executive branch of a government. Meanwhile, the European Council sets the general agenda and direction of the EU. The EU Court of Justice upholds and interprets European Union law. It has jurisdiction over legal disputes between EU member states, institutions, businesses, and individuals. Other institutions include the European Central Bank, the Court of Auditors, and more.

**Council of the European Union**

At FUMUN 2013, our committee is the Council of the European Union body of the EU, also known as the Council of Ministers. This is the Intergovernmental Branch of the EU, meaning that it is comprised of the individual states that make up the EU. Unlike in the EU Parliament and Commission, the delegates at the Council of the European Union represent the interests of their own state. Here is where the ministers of member countries meet to pass EU laws, coordinate policies between different EU countries, approve the budget, sign inter-state agreements, and create foreign policy. To pass a bill, generally a simple majority of the 27 EU members is required or a “qualified majority vote.” For our purposes at FUMUN 2013, we will use a 55% majority (see page 18).

**Terms to know:** Supranational, Intergovernmental, European Integration, Common External Tariff, Schengen Zone.
Sources Cited:


European Union Homepage: www.europea.eu/

**Topic 1: Immigration in the EU**

From 2004 to 2008, the EU averaged about 1.7 million immigrants annually. The 2004 expansion of the EU to 10 new Eastern European countries allowed many more Eastern Europeans to migrate into already established EU countries and seek employment in mass numbers there. Immigration from Africa has also occurred, as impoverished West Africans risk their lives to enter Europe through boat journeys. Since 2010, about 30,000 to 40,000 North and Sub-Saharan Africans have migrated to Europe due to the Arab Spring and refugee crises (Eurostat). In his speech to the European Parliament, Kofi Anan said, “One of the biggest tests for the enlarged European Union... will be how it manages the challenge of immigration.”

The European Union guarantees the “free movement of persons” as a “fundamental right” to EU citizens. This concept developed at the Schengen Convention in 1990, which abolished control of borders between fellow EU countries. This established the Schengen Zone, which has been in place since 1997. EU countries now worry that open borders within the EU due to the Schengen Zone allow for illegal immigrants to travel throughout the EU uncontrolled. The influx of immigrants has caused a highly polarized debate with various viewpoints, as the EU places immigration near the top of its agenda.

**Pro-Immigration**

Some view immigration as positive by saying that it contributes to the host country’s economy and fills gaps in the labor supply. According to Eurostat, non-EU citizens contributed $354 million dollars to the EU economy in 2011. Immigrants take jobs as skilled professionals, healthcare workers, and work that EU citizens reject. Most economists believe that the immigration influx is benefitting Germany by helping to fill skilled labor shortages, like in engineering. Furthermore, immigrants contribute to a country’s economy by paying taxes, renting living spaces, and buying goods. Supporters of immigration say that immigrants bring new skills and talent to the EU. In addition, immigration compensates for the changing population age demographics. Europe’s large aging population and small young working population poses a serious problem to the pension and welfare systems in the EU countries. The birth rate in the EU is falling. The population of EU citizens is set to drop by 50 million people by 2050 (Spidla). Therefore, new young migrants in the workforce are necessary to support the older population and keep the systems solvent. Moreover, immigrants in the EU contribute to the stabilities of their original countries by investing in them, supporting international aid programs to their home country, and sending money to their families overseas. This helps to develop and stabilize these countries, which is of great benefit to the EU, since it often steps in to deliver aid to such countries (Novotny).

**Anti-Immigration**

Criticism against immigration includes the potentially negative impact on the social security and welfare system. A lot of immigrants come from poorer countries to find a better life, but in Europe, the welfare states assume the costs of their needs. Immigrants bring families, import wives, and speak very little of the host language. Children of immigrants who grow up in the same areas and...
context face the same issues with integration as their families (CQ Researcher). Providing for the educational, social, security, and health care needs of immigrants is very costly. Administrative costs for immigrants filing for asylum cases add up, as do extra costs from illegal claims and deportations (Novotny). Europeans believe that more immigration will lead to even more crowding in the public transportation system and welfare system.

Furthermore, immigrants sometimes live “outside the sphere of the law” by being exploited in labor, and are victims of crime like, human trafficking (Novotny). EU countries also fear vandalism, crime, and terrorism resulting from immigrants (Spidla). Negative attitudes towards immigrants, especially Muslim immigrants, are fueled further by terrorist acts like the 2004 Madrid Subway bombings, 2005 London transit bombings, and September 11, which also traumatized Europe.

EU Countries and Immigration: Identity, Culture, and Fear

Immigration has actually decreased in the EU during the economic recession, but distrust of foreigners has increased. From 2008-2009, EU migration dropped by about 60% (CQ Researcher). But the decline in the EU economy, mounting pressures by right-wing parties and the addition of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen zone create reservations against immigration in the EU. As a result, anti-immigrant rhetoric is increasing while anti-Immigration parties have risen in the Netherlands, Austria, France, and other EU countries (Civitas). Even mainstream politicians in France, Germany, and Britain have promised to decrease immigration.

The fear of immigration reflects in the policies of EU countries. The UK proposed easier laws to deport foreigners. It also passed laws to require foreigners to pay for part of their healthcare, unlike UK citizens. Denmark re-established border controls. Spain began to require work contracts for immigrants from Romania (Minder). France expelled hundreds of Roma in 2010, violating EU agreements. Even Switzerland, which is not in the EU, placed immigration quotas against the EU because of increased immigration from it. Immigration experts are disturbed by these trends.

Events like these are influenced by a distrust of foreigners and a desire to protect one’s culture. Attitudes against immigration may come from a fear that immigrants are not able to integrate into the host country’s culture or do not want to. These attitudes are especially present towards conservative Muslims, comparable to the anti-Muslim attitudes in the US.

Some people blame EU countries for allowing what they view as too much multiculturalism. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, said that the model of “Multiculturalism”, many different cultures living side by side, had “failed, and failed utterly.” Other European leaders like UK Prime Minister David Cameron and the former French president Nicolas Sarkozy emphasized issues that immigrants face in trying to adapt to the European lifestyle (Novotny). For instance, political leaders point to the failure to prevent suspected “honor killings” of women in the UK’s Muslim immigrant communities. Other crimes committed by immigrants include forced marriages from abroad. At the same time, police fail to investigate culturally or religiously motivated crimes in immigrant communities because they are worried about appearing racist.
Indeed, some point to racist or ethnocentric attitudes that are discriminatory to immigrants. Discrimination may exist in hiring practices, for instance. Next, language requirements and integration tests are criticized as being discriminatory, because they are not well suited for low-skilled immigrants and for those who grew up in a different cultural context. Sometimes, immigrants are depicted as “backwards” in these tests (CQ Researcher).

**EU Law in Immigration**

While each EU country maintains immigration policies and procedures, they also coordinate and deal with the issues together. In the EU, immigration and asylum policy fits under the heading of Justice and Home Affairs.

The EU countries signed the UN Geneva Convention in 1950 to protect refugees, especially from expulsion or return to a state where they would be in danger of death, torture, or undeserved imprisonment. While EU countries previously set their own immigration policies, the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997) and Tampere European Council (1999) committed them to a Common Immigration and Asylum Policy (Civitas).

The Hague Program and the Stockholm Program were set in place to improve cooperation of external border policy between EU countries. They established, Frontex, the EU agency that manages operations and cooperation on external border issues. Later, the Lisbon Treaty gave the EU more power over EU countries in determining immigration and asylum policy. It also established the European Refugee Fund with a budget of €628 million. The 2008 “European Pact on Immigration” proposed setting uniform rules for asylum applications in all EU countries, minimum standards for refugees and immigrants, and deportation of illegal immigrants. Its priorities are:

1. Organize legal immigration to fulfill the needs and capabilities of member states and make integration possible
2. Control illegal immigration, ensure the return of illegal immigrants to their own countries
3. Improve border control
4. Provide asylum in Europe
5. Create a partnership with countries where immigrants come from to work together to help immigrants and improve development in their origin countries.

In 2009, the EU established the European Asylum Support Office, which has a budget of about €50 million. That same year, the EU adopted the Blue Card, the work and residence permit for migrants and immigrants (Civitas). The EU is also coordinating several research projects on immigration in member countries to better handle the issue (Novotny).

But within the EU, the Intergovernmental and Supranational institutions clash when it comes to immigration. EU countries tend to favor stricter immigration policies while the EU, led by the European Commission, aims to increase integration of legal immigrants.

Meanwhile, EU states have little interest in efforts of the Commission to facilitate more immigration (Orlowska). Supporters of the state feel that only EU states should have the power to deal with immigration and their own borders. They think that the EU no longer has the capacity to accommodate more immigrants. Yet, others believe that a common immigration policy between EU
members is necessary to protect EU’s borders (Civitas).

**What to do**

EU Immigration policy should aim to secure external borders to prevent illegal immigration. It should also determine a humane and fair way of how to handle illegal immigrants already in the EU (currently the accepted policy is deportation). EU immigration policy should allow for legal migrants to satisfy the labor and economic needs of their host countries, as well as integrate them into the EU country with appropriate rights. The EU must be capable of making the distinction between genuine asylum-seekers and those politically persecuted, versus illegal movement (Orlowska).

**Current Events in EU and Immigration:**

In 2011, during the Arab Spring, Italy granted about 21,000 Tunisian immigrants visas, knowing that the immigrants would choose to immigrate to France because of relations there. France accused Italy of illegally handing visas and placing all the burden of accommodating the refugees on France. So, it re-established border controls with Italy and blocked Italian trains carrying refugees from entering France. Such actions violated the Schengen Treaty. This event shows the fragility of EU law and tension between EU countries when it comes to immigration.

In 2013, the EU Commission took the UK to EU Court of Justice because it believes that the UK illegally denied welfare benefits to immigrants (Civitas). The Commission prepares to make the UK pay them. The UK, Austria, Germany, and Holland demand more restrictions on access to welfare benefits, as they believe their resources are being taken advantage of by non-citizens (Mason).

In 2010, France deported hundreds of Roma to Romania after giving each family a certain sum of money. France and Sarkozy received major criticism from the EU and human rights groups, as being in violation of EU law and human rights. The EU threatens to take France to the EU Court of Justice if France conducts “illegal” deportations like this again. Roma expulsions in France continue.

**Questions to Address:**

1. How should labor immigration be managed?
2. Should states or the EU have more power in immigration and external borders policy? What combination of power should there exist between the two?
3. What are the positive and negative aspects of immigration? What view does your state hold (at FUMUN 2013)?
4. How can host countries better integrate immigrants culturally?
5. What should the policies be for asylum seekers, legal immigrants, and illegal immigrants?
6. Should policies differ depending on the area of origin of immigrants, or would a more uniform policy be best?
7. How can external borders be secured?
8. What is to be done about illegal immigrants living in EU states? Generally the policy widely accepted in EU states is returning them to their country of origin.

**Eurostat Facts:**
- The United Kingdom reported the largest number of immigrants (566,044) in 2011, followed by Germany (489,422), Spain (457,649) and Italy (385,793);
- 60.3% of all immigrants in the EU states are in these 4 countries.

![Countries of Origin of immigrants into the EU (2009)](image)

**Sources Cited**


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**Other Helpful Sources**


Topic 2: Turkey Accession into the European Union

European Union Enlargement

Article 49 of the Lisbon Treaty establishes the basis for states to enter the EU, “Any European State which respects the values referred to in article 2, this is human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights and is committed to promoting them, may apply to become a member of the Union” (Beke). Countries that apply to enter the EU must first pass the pre-conditions to be candidates, and then go through “the EU’s roadmap to enlargement.” They must make several reforms that align with the ideas of the EU. For instance, they must participate in association agreements, visa liberalization, and free trade agreements with EU countries (Beke).

There are 35 “chapters” of laws that EU candidate countries must implement sufficiently prior to joining the EU. The chapters are on conditions that must be met before joining the EU, such as Democracy, Minority Protection, Environmental Protection, Economic Stability, and more. Candidate countries “open the chapters” when they start discussing and making reforms based on EU recommendations. Throughout this process, they negotiate with the EU on their progress. A chapter is said to be “closed” when both the candidate country and the EU have agreed that the progress of the candidate country on the particular chapter is acceptable by EU standards.

EU enlargement presents many opportunities, but is also difficult because of huge gaps between the economies of the current EU countries and the ascending countries. Over history, the EU enlargements occurred as follows:

- The EU was founded in 1957 by France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.
- 1st wave of expansion in 1973: Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined
- 2nd wave of expansion in the 1980s: Spain, Portugal and Greece entered
- 3rd wave the 1990s: Austria, Sweden and Finland entered
- 4th wave in 2004: Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Cyprus, Malta, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This is the largest EU enlargement to date
- 5th wave Romania and Bulgaria entered (Civitas.com)

Europeans have popularly been against the enlargement of the EU from the start, yet enlargement has been one of the most successful EU policies. It has allowed the EU to implement peaceful, successful, and democratic societies in other countries, integrating them into a union based on such values.

The next wave of enlargement is predicted to be one of the most challenging, as it is the entrance of the Balkan countries. Southeastern Europe has incurred much instability,
violence, and continuing conflict between ethnic and religious groups. Today they seek accession into the EU. These next eight countries attempting to join the EU are Turkey, Iceland, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia (BBC).

There are controversies about the limits of EU expansion, and questions arise about whether the EU can really accommodate more countries. “Enlargement Fatigue” is now one of the main issues of the EU because increasing the EU population so much will add strain to the institutional network of the EU. This may potentially jeopardize the economic, political, and social prosperity that the EU has enjoyed. An alternative to making neighboring European countries full members is to give them special status in the EU and offer them similar benefits as EU countries.

While EU Enlargement may have limits, the limits have been left open-ended. The word “European” has deliberately not been defined in the EU for fear of the consequences of specifying identity (Nikolaos, Constantine). Ideas about identity, politics of identity, and politics of exclusion play a role in determining new EU members, and this is certainly the case with Turkey.

**Introduction and History of Turkey & Europe**

Accession into the EU has especially been difficult for Turkey, a developing country that some argue is not “European” enough. As explained by Anderson, “Many Europeans do not want to include a poorer, Islamic, Asian country in the union.” (Anderson 359).

Turkey was born out of the Ottoman Turkish Empire, one of the largest empires in the world. The Ottoman Empire invaded the Balkans and was barely stopped at Vienna. The Christian Hapsburg Empire and the Holy Roman Empire were fearful of the Islamic Ottoman Empire. After modernizing its political, social, and economic institutions during the 16th century, the Ottoman Empire began to stagnate and fall. It lost the first Balkan War, relinquishing control of what is now Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria (Anderson). In 1923, the first president and founder of the Republic of Turkey, Ismail Kemal Ataturk, proclaimed a modern, western, and secular Turkey.

**In Favor of Turkey Accession into the EU**

In terms of identity, Asia Minor is closer to Europe historically, geographically, and culturally than even some parts of Eastern Europe. While some Europeans think that Muslim Turks do not belong in Europe, the Ottoman Empire remained in southeastern Europe for over 5 centuries, greatly influencing the region. European products of today such as tiled artwork, ornamental rugs, and coffee came into Europe through Turkey. Because Europe is a very diverse continent, Turkey should fit in religiously, ethnically, and culturally, adding to the “mosaic” of Europe.

Furthermore, historically Turkey has actively participated and contributed positively in European and Western affairs. It joined the Council of Europe in 1949, NATO in 1952, and became a founding member of the OECD in 1960 (Canan). During the Cold War, Turkey allied with the US and NATO against Russia. It was a strong and strategic ally for Europe and the US (Anderson).

Regarding one of the main criteria for EU accession, democracy, Turkey has a relatively stable and developed political system with strict separation of religion and state. Turkey is indeed a very secular country. For example, the hijab is forbidden in public buildings. The Turkish military has occasionally intervened to preserve the secular identity of Turkey.

Furthermore, Turkey has been working hard to achieve the human rights criteria of the EU. For instance, it eliminated the death penalty in 2004 and renounced the use of torture in interrogation. Yet, in other instances, the EU has criticized Turkey for its harsh treatment of Kurdish rebels in the southeast, while condemning its actions in the 2013 Taksim Square protests.
In addition, the inclusion of Turkey poses an opportunity to bridge the gap between the democratic west and authoritarian Middle East, as Turkey maintains relatively good relations with both regions.

If it entered the EU, Turkey would have considerable gains and benefits, such as receiving economic aid from the EU as Greece, Ireland, and Spain did.

**Issues surrounding Turkey joining the EU**

There have been several ongoing controversies regarding Turkey joining the EU. Turkey’s refusal to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide sets it back in EU negotiations. The EU insists that in order to adhere to human rights, Turkey must recognize and make amends for its past abuses. Other EU countries like Germany long admitted that their killings were genocide and apologized officially for them. Meanwhile, Turkish officials and scholars are still not looking at this issue honestly and impartially (Anderson).

One of the greatest challenges to Turkey joining the EU is Cyprus, an island nation. In the Greek-Turkish War of the early 1920’s, millions of Greeks and Turks were killed and expelled from each other’s territories. In 1960, Cyprus obtained independence from the UK. But in 1974, Turkey invaded and claimed Cyprus. Since then, Turkey claims control of the north, while the south is independent. As a consequence, Southern Cyprus is part of the European Union while northern Cyprus is not (Anderson).

Next, the EU has economic fears of Turkey joining. Turkey has over 71 million people and is a developing country. In fact, many Turkish people have already immigrated to other EU countries. With the entrance of Turkey into the union, the EU fears a massive influx of Turks into other EU countries to look for employment. Yet, this may also be a positive factor because the young Turkish labor force can fill gaps in the EU economies, as it has successfully been doing in Germany (BBC).

The EU also fears that Turkey’s entrance will open the door to the politically instable Middle East, because many Middle Easterners can come to Turkey and enter the EU through it. Europeans fear that Turkey’s presence in the EU would draw Europe into the instability of the Middle East. Nicolas Sarkozy, former French president spoke on this issue, “enlarging Europe with no limit risks destroying European political union… Europe must give itself borders, that not all countries have a vocation to become members of Europe, beginning with Turkey which has no place inside the European Union” (*Turkishpress.com*).

**Turkey’s Ongoing Negotiations with the EU and Current News**

Turkey applied for EU membership in 1987, and was confirmed as a candidate country in December 1999. Turkey entered the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) in 2005, completing the first formal step for negotiations with the EU. Now, Turkey is in the process of going
through the different negotiating chapters with the EU. Turkey has opened 13 of the 35 chapters, and it must fulfill 33 out of the 35 to get in the EU (BBC).

In 2010, the EU froze accession talks because Turkey refused to open its ports and airports to southern Cyprus. Progress stalled over Cyprus as Turkey did not budge on the issue (BBC). The EU has also been concerned about freedom of speech, democracy, religious minorities, women’s rights, children’s rights, and civilian control of the military in Turkey (Anderson).

While trying to fulfill the EU requirements and facing its own internal challenges, Turkey has accused the EU of having “biased” attitudes against it joining. This plays on the politics of exclusion. From the beginning, Ataturk established Turkey as a secular, modernized, and westernized nation. Turkey’s entrance would ensure its westernization and democratization, but the European fears of Turkey being incompatible with the EU identity is taking a toll on Turkey’s slow accession into the EU.

Turkey speaks out against what it considers discriminative laws in the EU for preventing Turkey’s entrance based on national and religious identity (Anderson). As Canan writes, “The pattern of hope, disappointment, and rejection has become a dominant feature of Turkey’s relationship with the EU historically.” There exists the idea that EU-Turkey relations are not reciprocal and lack common interests. About 62% of Turks believe that the EU has been treating them with “double standards,” such as imposing on them and improvising new conditions that were not previously necessary, and frequently halting their accession talks. In 2004, 2/3 of Turks supported membership, now this number has dropped to 35% (Canan). Support for Turkey in the EU has decreased dramatically over the years.

EU officials also propose different possible statuses for Turkey rather than full membership. For instance, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that Turkey should have a privileged partnership with the EU, but no EU membership.

**Taksim Square Protests**

Turkey’s brutal treatment of the Taksim Square protesters beginning in May of 2013 is greatly endangering Turkey’s entrance into the EU. Turkey has arrested at least 20 people, as well as used water cannons and tear gas against protesters. At least 4 people have been killed and over 8,000 injured as a result of the protests and government action against the protestors.

In June 2013, the ministers of the Council of the European Union, under the recommendation of Germany, supported the German proposal to halt membership talks with Turkey for 4 months over Turkey’s treatment of protesters. Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands highly criticized Turkey for its actions towards the anti-government protests. Turkish Prime
Minister Erdogan fired back by accusing EU countries of hypocrisy in that they use similar tactics to disperse large dangerous demonstrations (BBC). Some have criticized the EU for not being tough enough on Turkey for its actions against the protesters. Once again, Turkey accession talks are suspended and set to begin again in October. It is up to FUMUN 2013 to decide how to proceed from here.

**Questions to Consider:**
1. Is the EU suffering from “Enlargement Fatigue?” Can the EU keep expanding?
2. What are the pros and cons of Turkey joining the EU from the EU’s perspective? How about from Turkey’s perspective?
3. Is full membership or a special status on the EU better?
4. What areas should Turkey make improvements on in order to better fulfill EU requirements?
5. How should the EU handle Turkey’s actions towards the Taksim Square protests?
6. Should the concern of a European vs. Turkish identity play such a large role in choosing to accept Turkey into the EU, or should decisions be based solely on formal EU accession procedure and law/“chapters?”

**Sources Cited**


For more information


Accession of Turkey in the EU – Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union
States in the European Union Committee (28):
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

Rules of Procedure
Parliamentary Procedure
55% or more majority is required to pass a resolution (at least 15 countries).
Quorum – at least 50% of the member states (14).

Note on Position paper
You may reference the background guide, but do not copy or plagiarize it.

Computer Policy
Delegates may use laptops during European Union Committee Sessions.

Closing Note
I am looking forward to this year’s FUMUN conference and the European Union Committee. While you may be familiar with various issues in the US or other parts of the world, focusing our attention on Europe, the US’s oldest and most reliable allies, can be quite mind-opening. These are unique, controversial, and exciting topics in Europe and in the US. I hope that your research and our committee will be informative for you. I believe that this will be a great learning experience and a chance for you to engage in the world of international relations. If you have any specific questions or need help regarding our committee or topic please feel free to contact me at kkovaci92@gmail.com.

I wish you luck in the conference and in your research process,

Klevisa

Klevisa Kovaci
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FUMUN 2013
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