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## EU Policy on Migration 2015-2018: Hungary, Italy, and Germany




### 2015

-  • Angela Merkel proposes an **“open-door” policy**
- Decision to not apply the Dublin Convention
- Dec. 2015: 890, 000 new asylum seekers
-  • 121,000 asylum-seekers smuggled by sea/land from Jan-Sep
-  • Erection of a 175km-long **wire fence** along Serbian border to keep out migrants, later extended to its Croatian border



-  • European Council made a **deal with Turkey** where most migrants arriving in Greece were sent back to Turkey to discourage dangerous sea travel
- Migrant travel along the western Balkan borders close, “stranding” people in Greece

### 2017

-  • Merkel commits to giving 50M euros to the UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration
- **186, 644 new** asylum seekers
- End of 2017: 970, 365 refugees living in Germany
-  • Received **67%** of the EU’s migrant arrivals in 2017
-  • Sharp decrease from 2014-15 rates of asylum seekers: 1216 granted protection, 2880 rejected

-  • Member states are **losing faith** in the EU’s immigration policies and overall response

-  • **Dublin Regulation** imposed: The country the asylum seeker arrives in must be responsible for processing their application. This overwhelmed countries like Greece and Hungary
- **Quota system** imposed as number of migrants rose: Mandatory refugee quotas that were passed through QMV, not unanimity

-  • Balkan route to Germany more regulated
- Dublin regulations pursued again following backlash
- Increased deportations of asylum applicants
- 280, 000 new asylum seekers
-  • Enaction of **SPRAR** - small, decentralised integration of refugees (socially and legally) into Italy
-  • **“Pushback law”** passed, potential refugees caught in Hungary without legal documentation may be sent back to Serbia

### 2016

-  • EC proposes **Action Plan to support Italy** and reduce pressure from increased arrivals
- ECJ dismisses Hungarian complaints of EU migration policies that require them to take in asylum seekers

-  • Increasing political tensions
- Merkel’s controversial compromise to establish border **‘transit centres’**
- As of April 2018: 197, 000 new asylum seekers
- **Salvini Decree:** restricts criteria for obtaining a humanitarian visa to remain, limits access to shelter, detention time pending deportation extended from 90 to 180 days
-  • Passed **‘Stop Soros’** law to criminalise helping migrants
- Passed law to reject asylum applications of those who had passed through countries where they had not been persecuted

### 2018+