

# GEMUN 2018

## Special and Political and Decolonization Committee (SPD)

### Topic 2: Improving diplomatic relations between Europe and Libya in order to address the issue of exploitation of migrants.

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#### I. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

**United Nations:** An international organization, with headquarters in New York City, formed to promote international peace, security, and cooperation under the terms of the charter signed by 51 founding countries in San Francisco in 1945.

**Migrant:** Any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country.

**Refugee:** A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

**Asylum Seeker:** When people flee their own country and seek sanctuary in another country, they apply for asylum – the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection and material assistance. An asylum seeker must demonstrate that his or her fear of persecution in his or her home country is well-founded.

**Dictatorship:** A country, government, or the form of government in which absolute power is exercised by a dictator.

**Election:** An election is a process in which people vote to choose a person or group of people to hold an official position.

## II. INTRODUCTION

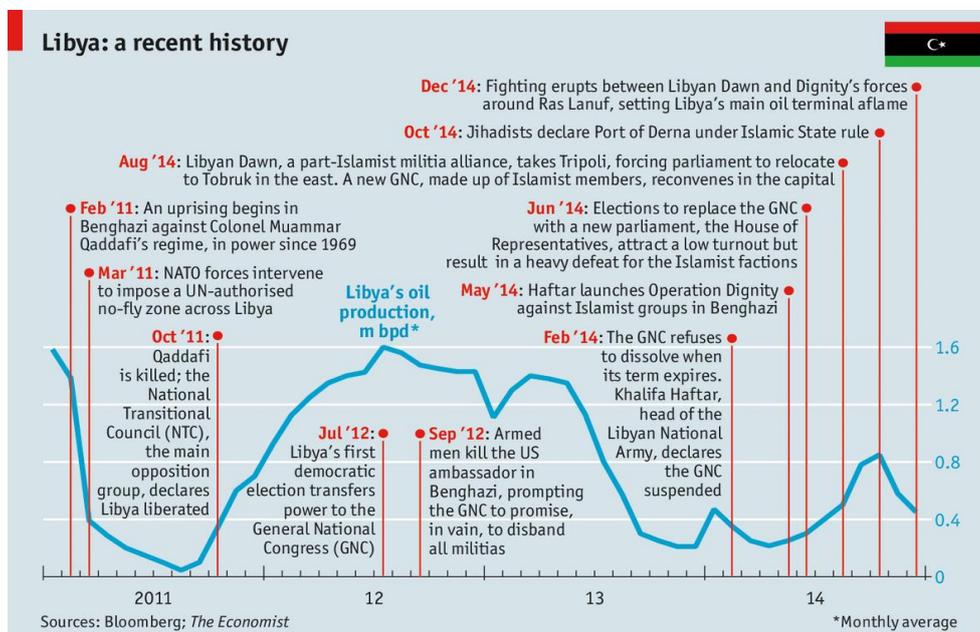
The term **migrant** can be understood as *"any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country."* (unesco.org)

Libya is a key role country in the immigration process of African people directing to European states. Thousands of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea leaving from Libyan coasts to reach by sea the nearest European coasts, although the majority of these migrants are not Libyan citizens.

## III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Libya is a sovereign state in north Africa. It has been colonized by Italy in the XX century. Libya gained independence in 1951 as a kingdom. Muammar Ghaddafi ruled the country from the revolution in 1973 until when he was overthrown and killed in 2011.

The first revolution in the Libyan state began in 2011, the revolutions tried to force the leader Gadhafi to resign from his task. On 15 February 2011 the armed forces contrasted the first protesters in Benghazi but the news spread rapidly through all the country and many other people in different parts of the nation began protesting against Gadhafi leadership. In the following days many ministers and the US ambassador resigned. Two Libyan fighters planes also landed in Malta requesting asylum after receiving the order from Tripoli to bomb civilians. Days after the first revolutions UN began with sanctions although Gadhafi held on his position and publically said that he would rather die than give up his power. UN continued demanding Gadhafi to stop the conflict.



"That It Should Come to This." *The Economist*, The Economist Newspaper, 10 Jan. 2015, [www.economist.com/news/briefing/21638123-four-year-descent-arab-spring-factional-chaos-it-should-come](http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21638123-four-year-descent-arab-spring-factional-chaos-it-should-come).

### The Civil War

After many days of negotiation between UN and Libya, the UN arrived imposing strict restrictions to the country.

On March 2011 the UN Security Council authorized a no-fly zone over Libya and air strikes to protect civilians, over which NATO assumed command. Libyan rebels conquered territory but were forced back by better armed opposing.

In August Gadhafi hid after the arrival of opponents in Tripoli, his family fled to border county Algeria.

On 20th October rebels captured Gadhafi and executed him. Rebels declared Libya liberated and announced that free elections would take place in eight months.

In November Saif al-Islam the fugitive son of Gadhafi was captured.

In August 2012 the General National Congress was elected, Mohammed Magarief was elected by the congress as head of State.

In September the US ambassador and three other American citizens were killed in the blitz of militants in the consulate in Benghazi.

In October Ali Zeidan was elected by the congress as prime minister.

In March 2014 the Congress fired Ali Zeidan and elected new prime minister Ahmed Maiteg.

In May the prime minister gave orders to attack the militants. After few days he resigned after the court ruled his appointments illegal.

In July the UN pulled out of the nation, embassies closed down, foreigners were safely evacuated. The International Airport was destroyed after fightings, in Benghazi the militants have most of the control of the city.

The Rise of the Islamic State:

In October 2014 the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon visited the new parliament and government in Tobruk to continue diplomatic actions after that the protesters had invaded Tripoli.

In January 2015 the Army and the militia declared partial ceasefire after the UN intervention.

In April 2016 UN staff returned to Tripoli after nearly two years of absence.

In July 2017 the Islamic Group was ejected from Benghazi after three years of fighting.

### **Migration in Europe**

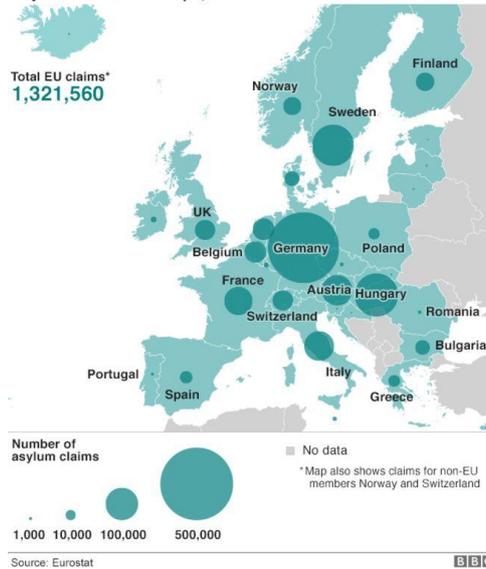
The immigration process from less economically developed countries to European developed countries saw significant numbers of migrants arriving in the continent. This number is continuously increasing. Although it doesn't seem like the minority of the migrants arrive by crossing the Central Mediterranean zone as you can see in the graph.

Migrants detected entering the EU illegally, 2014-2015



The migrants are not yet equally distributed among the European countries although the European Union states. The Dublin Convention as a fact states that the nation where the migrant first arrives is responsible for documents and asylum requests. This created an over concentration of migrants in some of the nations on the border lines of Europe, especially the Mediterranean ones and many other European countries decided to close the borders to migrants violating the Schengen Zone requisitions. The following graph demonstrates the distribution of migrants in the European regions.

Asylum claims in Europe, 2015



#### **IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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"Libya Profile - Timeline." *BBC News*, BBC, 31 Oct. 2017, [www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13755445](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13755445).

*Migrant* | *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*, [www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/migrant/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/migrant/).

"United Nations." *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, [www.dictionary.com/browse/united-nations](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/united-nations).

"What Is a Refugee?" *What Is a Refugee | USA for UNHCR*, [www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/](http://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/).

"Definition of 'Election'." *Election Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary*, [www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/election](http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/election).

#### **V. USEFUL LINKS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZmeOWa3inc>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34131911>

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/migrant/>