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**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA AGAINST THE REFUGEE CRISIS AND THE LACK OF COORDINATION, LACK OF PRINCIPLES AND THE UNPREPAREDNESS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Abstract**

The European Union and most of the international community saw the first refugee problem as a problem of Syria, later as a crisis in Turkey or its neighboring countries, but soon it all became very clear that the refugee issue is a global crisis, a crisis that cannot be ignored, nor to forget the war in Syria which began in 2011, although not with such intensity as it is today. Even then, a great number of the Syrian population moved out in the nearby states, in camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Egypt. Syrians have left their country for five years now. Once the situation has escalated and tipped a fierce war in Syria as a result primarily of geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East, the war has become more intensive. With the Islamic State taking part in, the war became even more brutal. Having in mind that ISIL fighters are active from spring 2013, now the question is asked: Why do Syrian refugees arrive in Europe now? The member-states of the European Union and the countries candidates for EU membership are faced with an unprecedented wave of refugees. As a result of disagreement among EU members on how to cope with the wave of refugees, the Republic of Macedonia suffers consequences. The refugee crisis could cause a serious security crisis in Macedonian, although the humanitarian and the religious-political implications are felt daily by the citizens of this country. In the EU itself there is a lack of mutual trust between member-states, and as a result the lack of principles emerged towards the states located on the Balkan Peninsula. The inability and the lack of coordination with the southern EU member state made Macedonia to monitor the situation directly and postfestum. All this stressed the reluctance of the country in terms of resources and in terms of managing to cope with this challenge, but on the other hand the crisis has demonstrated EU’s cynical and unprincipled relation in showing coordination and management leadership of current problems.

**Keywords:** refugees, refugee crisis, crisis management, leadership, security crisis, political and religious consequences,еuropean integration, stabilization, association, recommendation, negotiation, euroscepticism, geostrategic plan

**1. HOW DID THE REFUGEE CRISIS?**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad member Alaviti for years dictatorial rule their country. Bashar al-Assad is a continuation of the rule established by his father Hafez al-Assad, who became president of Syria in 1971. Rule of his father Hafez al-Assad, is far more brutally unlike his son. His political party Baath[[1]](#footnote-1) constantly working on blurring the differences between the various Syrian communities, particularly among Sunnis and Alawites[[2]](#footnote-2). The key twist in hiding the problems between Sunnis and Shiites[[3]](#footnote-3) happens when the US toppled Saddam Hussein's former president of Iraq capitulated in 2003. Saddam ruled Iraq's Sunni minority, and after his overthrow, the government receive Shiites who feel this as a chance to impose their will on the Sunni minority.

In July 2011, US and French ambassador to Syria in service in the city of Hama encounter hitherto peaceful Syrian opposition from the Muslim Brotherhood in order to try to unite against the regime of Bashar al-Assad. After this meeting any chance of dialogue or negotiations with President Assad were destroyed. According to data released by the WikiLeaks US planned overthrow of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad since 2006.

**2. WHY IT HAPPENED REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE?**

There are many reasons why migrants en masse leaving Syria and surrounding countries went to the old continent, Europe. The first and main reason is the war that lasted from 2011[[4]](#footnote-4). The second reason is the route to refugees via Turkey, Greece, Macedonia and Serbia go to the coveted European destination, although no one has ever explained why bypasses Bulgaria and Rumunia states closest to Turkey and the route is much shorter. The third reason is the cost of transportation. The fact is that at the beginning of refugees leaving Europe through Libya on the Mediterranean Sea to Italy. The cost of transport of this relationship was between five and six thousand dollars. But organizers (criminal gangs) for tours through Turkey to Greece and other Balkan states charge between 2 and 3 thousand dollars. The fourth reason is the fact that the rising tide of refugees to Europe is a result of the weather. Much easier travel from March until the end of October than in winter. The fifth reason is the decision of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for the recruitment of all the people who are younger than 30 years. Fearing possible military mobilization many Syrians leave their country.

Sixth reason. Although slightly contradictory decision on recruitment, Syrian authorities have adopted a decision to facilitate the obtaining of the passport of the citizens of Syria and the decision allows those who are not serving in the army for just $ 300 to delay serving the military. The seventh reason is the international community and its disregard for the conditions in which refugees live in refugee camps in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon and therefore easy to decide to leave the promised land of Europe. And eighth reason is ISIL action or activities of militant Islam.

But, despite all these enumerated reasons it seems that one of the biggest reasons is the German ,,welcoming "of refugees by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Interior Minister Thomas de Maiciere. German government at the beginning of June 2015 clearly stated that it will receive all Syrians in Germany seeking asylum. It was enough signal for most of the refugees are directed towards Germany.

3. **WHY REFUGEES EARLY 2015 BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN EUROPE, THE WAR IN SYRIA LASTED FROM 2011?**

The war in Syria began in 2011, although not with such intensity as today. At that point a number of the Syrian population and live in nearby states in camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt. As a result of geopolitical turmoil in the Middle East and the inclusion of the Islamic State, the situation is escalating and the war has become more intense and brutal. The military ISIL is active in this area since spring 2013. Syrians leave their country for five years, mostly living in camps with poor conditions in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt. The refugee crisis that we felt in the country, residents of Turkey felt five consecutive years.

Considering these facts it is necessary to ask the question: Why Syrian refugees arriving in Europe right now? The answer is very simple: Because they were invited to come to Enropa! German government at the beginning of September 2015 clearly stated that it will receive all Syrians in Germany seeking asylum. It was clear enough signal to start flowing ,,river" refugees to Europe. Statistics say that the Germans for years require human resources, and Berlin is likely to use the war as an excuse, just to attract a huge number of people who will respond to the need for new labor. In support of this conclusion recall the statement of the German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiciere: ,,We need people. We need young people, we need immigrants. As we all know, we have little kids".

Because of poor demographic situation of the Germans need young people to work in the years to come. This means that the Western Balkans are already a victim of the policy of the German political leadership and temporary shelter for migrants or buffer zone where later will be "delivered" like migrants in Germany on an annual or monthly basis[[5]](#footnote-5).

**CONCLUSION**

The member States of the European Union and countries candidates for EU membership are faced with an unprecedented wave of refugees. As a result of disagreement among EU members on how to cope with the wave of refugees, to the detriment not only European countries but also Republika Macedonia and other Western Balkan countries. In the EU there is a lack of mutual trust between Member States and different perspective on the solutions for dealing with the crisis, for example in Hungary 15 September created a new system for border control have been introduced amendments to some laws (such as the Criminal law) and is included in military security and border control. Also, the decision to introduce controls on the border with Austria, Germany suspend the Schengen agreement on free movement in Europe.

The decision of the European Commission for adoption of quotas for refugees (allocation mechanism of Refugees from the Middle East) in EU Member States was adopted by outvoting. Dissatisfied with this decision were the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary. Slovak Prime Minister publicly stated already initiated proceedings to challenge this decision before the Court of Justice because it has seriously violated EU legislation. Outvoting the European Commission on the occasion of this decision, by these four countries was characterized as a dictatorship of Brussels or small successful blitzkrieg German Chancellor Angela Merkel. As a result of these inconsistencies and disunity among EU members come to the surface and unprincipled attitude towards the countries located on the Balkan peninsula or the so-called Western Balkans.

Fourteen years after 2001 following the arrival of nearly 350,000 refugees from Kosovo to Macedonia's EU situation is almost identical. European Union for refugees from Kosovo crisis has undertaken to cover the costs in the amount of 660 million dollars, but has Macedonian and paid only 50 million. By decision of the European Commission Macedonia should get 24 million, 45 million and Serbia. Macedonia refugee crisis because monthly spending one million euros for security forces at the border and other staff. Although the European Commission promised to pay aid of 24 million, now Macedonia received aid amounting to only 90 thousand euros are joined in our budget, but entered through the International Red Cross. Just this year, the southern border into Macedonia entered 424 656 refugees. Average increases of 20 people a day, and the biggest influx of migrants in the last month comes from Afghanistan.

The mini-summit held in Brussels at the end of October 2015, leaders of the European Union and the Balkan countries agreed to the plan of 17 points for cooperation in dealing with the wave of migrants passing through the Balkans. UNHCR will help create places for 50 thousand refugees in Greece and another 50 thousand stations across the Western Balkans. Also agreed is the exchange of information on refugee wave, and it does not wear unilateral decisions that will have negative consequences for other countries.

All decisions made after the summit began to problematiziraaat by those states who participated in their adoption. It seems that the hastily convened mini samitt not solve essential problems. It is not clear why the summit was not invited and Turkey where new refugees constantly coming to the Balkans[[6]](#footnote-6), but it is not clear why this summit is not invited Italy and France as countries which are also susceptible to attack refugee waves, although far smaller scale.

The application of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to build camps along the Balkan corridor and the EU is more than hypocritical and unprincipled. That ,,dirty work" that German Chancellor Merkel could not finish off at home seems to be determined to finish in the Western Balkans Action Plan of 17 points. The loom is the so-called ,,sort" of refugees who will be able in the future to obtain asylum in Germany and other European countries, and which of them will be deported back to the countries from where they come. The essence of the adopted action plan is to slow down the influx of refugees (migrants) or refugee wave through Greece, Macedonia and Serbia to Germany and other countries to run smoothly and without problems and be organized and part of ,,unsuitable" refugees stay countries in the so-called Balkan route refugee themselves to deal with them.

In Republic Macedonia of refugee crisis could cause a serious security crisis, although humanitarian and religious political implications daily feel the citizens of this country. Frivolous would be any EU proposal to pay money to the Macedonian government to accept a new influx of refugees or build camps because when it comes to Macedonia should be given a very delicate ethnic and religious balance in the country where efforts to build civil state. Concomitant should be borne in mind that the state more than a year shakes largest state and political crisis from the moment of the declaration of its independence and sovereignty.

Considering the previous negative experience with refugees, Macedonia must not allow to become a buffer zone will be built camps, but only to allow registration and rapid transit oon refugees across the country. Macedonia should not build any migrant or refugee camps. Refugees should be given medical assistance, water and food, entry and exit, in order to be able to continue their route on the way to the desired destination.

Meanwhile the EU has to order its member Greece to be cooperative with its northern neighbor R. Macedonia. Inability and lack of coordination with the southern EU states bring Macedonia to monitor the situation directly and post festum. It requires serious daily cooperation with Greece on all levels, starting with the border police, to the level of ministers and directors of intelligence agencies. The refusal of Greece to participate in the European border agency Frontex border crossing point could be disastrous because Frontex offers assistance for determining whether foreign nationals are refugees or migrants.

The refugee crisis is the biggest challenge for the Euro union from the moment of its creation. Europe needs a single European system of border management, why the current system has proved utterly unworkable. Inability or unwillingness to dislike and its recognition by some Member States could lead to tectonic changes in a number of countries not only in the Western Balkans but in Europe. All these developments and inconsistent policy of the Union, lack of a system for dealing with such situations brought to the surface and the reluctance of the Republic of Macedonia in terms of resources and in terms of managing to cope with this challenge. On the other hand the crisis has demonstrated the cynical and unprincipled relation to the EU in demonstrating leadership in the coordination and management of current problems and the very subtle way eliminates the principle of solidarity and equality of the EU.

**USED LITERATURE AND CONSULTED OTHER SOURCES**

1. Schengen Agreement, 14 June 1985,
2. Schengen Convention, 1990,
3. Amsterdam Treaty, 1999,
4. Council Regulation (EC) no. 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 on the introduction of criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an for asylum submitted by a national of a third country in one of the Member States.
5. Regulation (EU) no. 604/2013 of the European parlamentai Council of 27 June 2013, the introduction of criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examination of the application for international protection lodged in one of the countries a member of the third-country national or a stateless person (transformscloves) (effective from 1 January 2014).
6. Council Regulation (EC) no. 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin conventions.
7. Council Directive 2005/85 / EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards relating to the procedures for recognition and revocation of the status of refugees in countries States.
8. Directive 2013/32 / EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for the identification and seizure of international protection (recast) (effective on 21 July 2015).
9. Council Directive 2003/9 / EC of 27 January 2003 on the introduction of minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers.
10. Directive 2013/33 / EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013, on establishing standards for the reception of applicants for international Protection (revised) (effective on 21 July 2015).
11. Council Directive 2004/83 / EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and on the content of the protection granted.
12. Directive 2011/95 / EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011, on standards for the qualification of third country nationals or stateless persons for achieving international protection for the unique status of refugees or a person eligible for subsidiary protection and the content approved protection (recast) (effective from 21 December 2013).
13. Report of the High Commissioner for Refugees United Nations, 2015
14. Statements and declarations of Amnesty International for Macednia, 2015
1. BAAT is the ruling party in Syria as ideology that nurtures Pan Arabian socialism [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Alawites are a subset of the Shiites or religious minority numbering about 2.5 million ripadnici, or 12-13% of the Syrian population. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. It is about 1,300 years old division between Sunnis and Shiites. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Besides Syrians in Europe its place under the sun and refugees seeking countries in which there are also clashing as detected Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia and Nigeria. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Several statistical indicators:

• Although during the 2014 Republic of Germany notice increase in population of 430 000 inhabitants, demographers predict that the current figure of 81.2 million population by 2060 will fall to 68-73 million.

• The working population, which now numbers about 45 million people in 15 years will be reduced to 39 million, and by 2050 to 29 million.

• In Germany, the unemployment rate is 4.6% and it is the lowest level in the last 30 years. At this point in Germany free to more than 597,000 jobs and more than 140,000 is the need for engineers and other highly educated professionals.

• Statisticians say that by 2040 Germany could be a shortage of 3.9 million workers.

• Of the total number of people who have sought asylum in Germany 29% are minors, and 51% are aged 18-34 years. This means that 80% of asylum seekers are younger than 35 years, a huge potential to rejuvenate the workforce. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. According to the latest report of the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations, last year in the world there were about 60 million refugees, of which 11 million from Syria. According to him, Europe this year could receive one million refugees. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)