

An analysis of European Union Refugee Policy since 1990-2018

Doci Silva¹, Mwatela Raphael Ziro²

¹(School of Politics & International Studies, Central China Normal University, China)

²(School of Politics & International Studies, Central China Normal University, China)

Corresponding Author: Doci Silva

Abstract: Since the formation of the European Union, member states have grasped with common effort to handle various issues that affect them. Amongst these are issues like refugees among others. The 2011 refugee crisis exposed and to a large extent shaped new policies with regards to handling of refugees across the EU. This study analyses the evolving European Union policies regarding refugees since the 1990s until 2018. Relying on qualitative data, the authors sought to explore the trends, then and now with regards to refugee handling with a view to establishing any change or stagnation in this area, and hopefully inform future discourse on refugee issues.

Keywords: European Union, Refugees, Refugee crisis, Refugee policy, Immigration

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I. INTRODUCTION

European Union (EU) refugee policies have grown since time immemorial and up to date, significant changes continue to occur. The guiding principles of these policies regard the freedom of immigrants to enter the EU Member States to settle and make a living. These individuals impact the GDP of the country as they offer skilled labor and consequently influence the economic and political developments of the given EU Member State. The policies guiding the refugee entry into the EU nations involves the trends that resulted in immigration flows. Besides, the challenges that the refugees faced led to the enactment of rules and policies according to the human rights body. Earlier, the refugees invading migration to the EU Member States encountered difficulty due to rejection and extreme conditions like death, especially from the Mediterranean Sea. Issues of discrimination and racism were prevalent prior to the enactment of EU refugee policies meant to protect the rights of refugees. On the other hand, the European Community (EC) Member States encountered difficulty differentiating genuine refugees from fake ones and as a consequence the formation of documented rules to mitigate these challenges to both parties. EC preceded EU and the formation of EU in 1993 resulted from the signing of the Maastricht Treaty (European Parliament, 2018). The formation of this union brought about the concept of a common European citizenship that has helped harmonize the condition of refugees' crisis since the early 1990s to date. Although immigration crises have still manifested, the policies in place such as the Asylum Policy have helped to manage them all together.

Refugees are people that seek safety and settlement from foreign nations due to discrimination based on religion, political affiliations, war, natural disasters, and race among others as detailed by Lavenex (2001). Mostly, people living in nations with political conflicts and insecurity would need to relocate in search for peaceful environs. When these people migrate into safer countries they deserve human rights but in some cases, they lack it if the right systems are not in place in the destination countries. Markedly, immigration laws were in high demand to help in the process of enhancing refugee integration in Europe. However, human rights entities such as the United Nations work closely to ensure they advocate for equal and fair treatment of refugees. In the EU member state, it was not an exception policies have had to be enacted over and over again to ensure the refugees attain fair treatment as much as possible. As a way of eliminating refugee crises in the EU Member States, the EU Commission resolved to come up with common policies to run across its 28 Member States (Lavenex, 2001). However, the states had diverse implementation strategies but the EU policies made it possible for the refugees to have a smooth transition.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE EUROPEAN UNION REFUGEE POLICY

The trends of immigration resulting from the conflicts and wars in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq resulted in a refugee crisis in the EU. According to Bade, the idea of immigration of refugees in Europe dates back to the early 20th Century when World War I broke in 1914 (2008). Wars like this one interrupt the normal living and security of citizens and thus the need to immigrate to stable countries to seek security and food. The intended destination countries for the refugees, however, are not willing to accept such persons and it poses a great threat to the affected. Nations like Germany and French were involved in the World War I and as a consequence refugees were in these nations and others who needed to seek more stable nations to accommodate them (Bade, 2008). Other European countries were not willing to accept the refugees and as a result, the refugees faced difficulty. Following the challenge, it became clear that policies be enacted to harmonize the situation. Due to the persistent calls for conflicts and wars, there arose the need for such policies to be put in place to help the refugees attain safe migration to other states. In Europe, a Commission was created to advocate for the refugees' rights through the formation of the European Community. The European Community (EC) was formed in 1952 after World War II to bridge the gaps created by the successive world wars that significantly affected the economic, political, and social aspects (Council of Europe, 2014). The EC had the obligation to cater to the needs of the refugees and since it was an international entity, it worked hard to form legal policies to surpass the needs of refugees.

Refugee crisis was dominant in Europe as the borders were unfavorable for refugees to cross over in their search for safety. Consequently, the EC advocated for the end of the brutal actions against the refugees at the borders by incorporating immigration policy to allow entry of the immigrants. Until 1990, the EC worked diligently to incorporate rightful laws to enable immigrants to gain residence in most of its Member States. In this regard, the member nations accepted to accommodate refugees but with diverse rules pertaining their rights and obligations in different states. For instance, Rica, Glitz, & Ortega, (2013) explain that Greece and Turkey had control over the settlement of refugees as they avoid integrating them in their employment systems. It was for some of these reasons that the EC required to intervene to enact standardized policies across its Member States. In 1992, the EC was incorporated to form what is now known as the European Union by the Maastricht Treaty (Bade, 2008). Since the formation of the EU, the European Communities became its core pillars. The signing of the Maastricht Treaty apprehended freedom of movement and in turn, led to the creation of EU to spearhead the rights of the immigrants. To date, the EU has around 28 Member States from across Europe. The aim of creating the EU was driven by the idea of a common European citizenship to see to it that equality among the refugees is at par with the Human Rights policy.

The EU is up to the task to ensure that they deliver the best services to the European nations without bias. As they EU commission incorporated the many issues of economic, social, and political needs of the citizens, they likewise devoted their efforts into upholding the inclusion of refugee policies to mitigate the crises that have been in existence for decades then. They gave in to the call for strategic policies that will harmonize the situation regarding borders where the refugees entered the countries. Equally, the refugees had issues regarding their settlement due to lack of stipulated laws that protects their human rights (Bordignon & Moriconi, 2017). For instance, the refugees lacked the right to favorable housing and employment. As a result, irregular conflicts arose between the citizens and the refugees which created a rift all along. It became a necessity as well as requirement for the EU to stipulate policies that will enable the two teams to integrate and live harmoniously. According to Bordignon & Moriconi (2017), the EU Member States in the 1990s had diverse regulations on the refugee entrance and their integration into their boundaries. Some of them were unfriendly to the refugees and it necessitated for standardized policies and regulations to help refugees have a smooth transition. The policies included but not limited to access to citizenship, border enforcement, asylum-seeking, and integration policy. Most importantly it was necessary that the refugees have access to citizenship following the time they would stay in their destination. Also, it was primarily that the asylum law is put in place to assist refugees to gain citizenship through procedural steps. In this regard, the immigration policy was also enacted to enable refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers access citizenship successfully. The conflict was among the top issues that were of great influence to the success of these policies and with time the EU Commission had to review them to suit the needs of the refugees. It is because of this reason that EU refugee policies continue to change and new ones get enacted appropriately to date. The formation and amendment of the refugee policies have made a significant impact in the EU Member States and due to the policy of attracting talents, a lot of economic changes have been felt following the utilization of labor markets. In 2011, the EU developed and implemented a new policy to enable the Member States to enhance the mobility of the refugees namely "Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)" as detailed by Martin (2012). The policy's aim was to address regular and irregular refugees entering the EU. It was meant to harmoniously deal with these two types of immigrants and integrate them in the new environment and perhaps the deportation of the irregular ones without violation of their human rights.

The policies also helped to incorporate intra-EU migration to boost economic and social significance among the EU members.

III. HISTORY OF EUROPEAN UNION REFUGEE POLICIES

The history of refugee policies dates back to the post World War II era. After the war, the rate of refugees seeking entry to Europe grew. In this quest, refugee crisis was at the peak because there were no stipulated rules and regulations guarding the entry of refugees into Europe. It became of great concern that the then European Community form standard rules to protect the human rights of the refugees. According to Batsaikhan, Darvas, & Raposo, trafficking and smuggling were predominant at the time and this called for the EC to enact policies that would help mitigate the issues in place(2018). Most refugees illegally entered into the European nation causing chaos that the nations could not handle without standardized rules and regulations. The refugee inflow was high a condition that necessitated the intervention of the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC). The aim of the UNHRC entailed protecting the rights of the refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers globally. It was useless to state policies without the UNHRC yet they were the main international body protecting the refugees and as a consequence, the EC worked closely with them to form immigration policies. However, there was still much to be done on the implementation of the laws because stability hadn't resumed from the economic and political drawbacks encountered during the Second World War. Therefore, the European Commission worked with its Member States to ensure smooth implementation of the policies happened. It was not an easy task and as discussed below certain policies were addressed with distinct efforts of all stakeholders.

The European Union aim was to set up a strategic approach that would create common policies to curb the refugee crisis among its Member States. A few of its states had high prevalence rates of refugee crisis because of the external borders. For instance, Greece was one of the nations that the refugees could illegally enter because it was close to the external border and it posed a challenge to the border security agencies as detailed by Batsaikhan, Darvas, & Raposo (2018). Also, it was essential that the EU could create standard levels of responsibility and obligations across its Member States to enhance equality and fair sharing of resources among the EU citizens and the refugees at hand. It is for this reason that the EU commission enacted a provision to allow the third-world countries to bring their refugees into the Member States. Legal procedures were to be utilized as much as possible to ensure the laws were fairly distributed. Integration policy became eminent in the process of accepting refugees in Europe and thus the development of more informed decisions among the Commission and the European Parliament. At this juncture, the integration initiative was meant to enhance the compatibility of the refugees into the host nations.

In the process, the population of the host countries multiplied significantly as a result of large numbers of regular and irregular refugees. Equally, the host nations experienced conflicts over and over again as they failed to differentiate genuine refugees from fake ones. Although the increase in population in the host countries was showing some positive economic implications, conflict continued to rise significantly. Arguably, the call for strict measures to be put in place became a concern and thus the EU had to rise up to the task. The EU had no option but to create lasting partnerships with the countries of origin for the refugees. They did this by approaching nations of North Africa to regulate cases of irregular immigration and smuggling into the EU Member States as Consultez (2010) explains. The EU further enhanced protection of its borders such as the Mediterranean that most of its refugees entered its states. This measure worked well together with the partnership policy because it reduced the rates of trafficking and smuggling of refugees. Asylum seekers, on the other hand, became many and the EU had the obligation to strategically put up plans on the same to review their applications strictly. Some of its Member States received large numbers of asylum applications and needed to attend to them timely. Countries like German were among the countries that received high rates of applicants and the EU had the obligation to intervene to help them address the issues as fast as possible.

As the EU continued to take roots, the call for informed measures and policies became evident because the pressure of the refugee crisis was also high. The culture and attitude of the EU Member States towards the immigrants differed from one country to another posing difficulty for the EU commission to create suitable policies across its members. A lot of resources and potential was needed of the EU to mitigate the issue and thus the integration of policies of the Asylum Guard Agency (Consultez, 2010). The EU opted to enact the two policies to address the issue of irregular immigration and refugee crisis facing the member countries on a daily basis. Formation of the Asylum Procedures Directive came to address the issue that the EU faced concerning the approval of asylum applications. However, the distinctions between the attitude and cultures among the Member States posed a bit of a threat to the success of the policy. Regardless of the distortions caused by these differences the EU strategically set up legal steps that the nations should approach to ascertain the applications of the refugees.

Additionally, the EU enacted the Dublin Regulation that has guided its processes in addressing the refugee crisis. Its origin dates back to early 1990 where it was meant to address the issues surrounding the procedures for approval of the asylum applications. The Dublin Convention got adopted in 1997 after being signed by some of the EU Member States. Later on, reforms were made to legal procedures and in the early 2000s, the convention got replaced by the Dublin Regulation II that took effect in 2003 (European Parliament, 2018). The main obligation of the regulation entailed defining and assessing the procedures that guided the approval of asylum application by the EU Member States. The Dublin Regulation, also, enabled the commission to monitor the bordering regions to help the protection personnel mitigate irregular entrance. Also, it was the mandate of the commission to apply the regulations to disregard asylum seekers that were not genuine refugees and deport them back to their countries of origin. The process was done procedurally without violation of the deportee's human rights. The regulations as well guided the procedure of examination to be done fairly. Harmonization of the regulation required informed decision makers to help the Dublin Regulation II become effective across EU's Border States (European Parliament, 2018). Although the Dublin Regulation came into effect to regulate the refugee crisis, it failed to materialize well given the differences that existed in the EU Member States. It stipulated the guidelines that help the Commission determine which EU member state has the duty of reviewing asylum applications.

The aim of the Dublin Regulation was to provide efficient guidelines to the Member States to help them in making decisions after reviewing the asylum applications. However, it is evident that the regulation has not achieved its aim based on the challenges resulting from the indifferences surrounding the EU countries. Some systems like that of Greece have not fully implemented the directives a condition that continually challenged the progress approving the applications (Apostolatou, 2007). Majorly, Greece is one of the borders where the refugees enter into Europe and thus it faces challenges of transferring them to the other states dimmed fit. However, with advanced commitment and intervention of the EU Commission, policies have been set to regulate entrance. One vital policy was the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) in relation to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Tocci, 2017). The two policies were useful towards the regulation and moderation of the refugee crisis that surrounded the EU external borders such as the Mediterranean. Despite the efforts of the EU Commission to mitigate the issues magnificent in the borders, issues of asylum shopping further arose. It was the practice in which the asylum seekers went on to apply for protection from several EU states and yet they transfer to other nations illegally. This posed another threat to the commission in which they could not undertake the reviewing process. Further, the EU resolved to reform the Dublin Regulation II to form what is now called the Dublin Regulation III. The regulation laid conditions in which the asylum seekers found practicing asylum shopping were returned to their countries of origin peaceful. In their quest to eliminate the cases of asylum shopping, the EU stipulated reforms in the Dublin Regulation II to ensure that the refugee seeking protection do so at the country where they arrived. In this way, it made it easier for the application process to be implemented successfully.

Amidst the formation and enactment of the Refugee policies, the EU incorporated the Lisbon Treaty. The Lisbon Treaty was meant to amend the previous international agreements of the Maastricht Treaty and the Treaty of Rome that has been guiding the principles that govern the EU. The Lisbon Treaty materialized in October 2009 but was proposed in the Mid-2007/16. It is the Lisbon Treaty that spearheaded the complete demolition of the EC that provided the guidelines to the EU since its formation in 1993. The Lisbon Treaty acted as the EU constitution as it provided it the necessary laws and regulations to its functionality. Additionally, the treaty organized the formation of the Council of the European Union. This Council's aim was to make informed decisions in the EU in all sectors including the issues regarding refugee policies.

IV. THE MAJOR REFUGEE POLICIES AND THEIR REFORMS

Refugee policies were a result of the need for handling of the immigration crisis that the EU Member States experienced overly. In essence, the policies were enacted in relation to the guidelines that match human rights. Refugees and immigrants are human beings and are entitled to fair and equal treatment from the authorities guarding the EU borders. The UNHCR works to ensure that these immigrants are handled humanely without discrimination through the process of asylum applications and review of the application. Although challenges predominantly affected the process of asylum applications, the refugee policies and regulations affected the procedures significantly. One of the major policies that guarded the asylum seeking steps was the Dublin Regulation which came into effect in the mid-1990 (Tocci, 2017). The policy's main aim was to stipulate procedural guidelines that manage the process of immigration. Later on, the EU further established the Common Security and Defense Policy that was meant to regulate cases of refugee trafficking and smuggling that posed insecurity at the borders. Despite the efforts of the EU to control illegal entrance into its states, a lot of irregular immigration occurred and thus the need for intervention. After reviewing the asylum applications by the

concerned Member States, the approved applicants became subject to integration to become part and parcel of that society. In this regard, the refugees were subject to the common laws and regulations of the state and ventured into all aspects evident there to become productive citizens. The integration policy enables the society to accept and work with immigrants for the betterment of their life. However, this policy brought about some crisis as well concerning the working environment of these new people. Consequentially, the EU was obliged to regulate this menace and as such, they came up with a new policy called "Global Approach to Migration and Mobility" (Martin, 2012). The aim and responsibility of the GAMM were to address the working environment for the refugees across its Member States as will be detailed later in this article. This section will analyze the various refugee policies and their reforms since 1990 to 2018.

Dublin Regulation

The Dublin Convention came into effect in the mid-1990 when the need for procedural reviews of asylum seekers applications. The outline of the policy entailed the measures to guide the process of examining the applications. There is no sense in working out the examination exercise minus common regulations across the EU Member States. The Dublin Regulation was then known as the Convention and was meant to help the EU Member States with the right guidelines for assessing the asylum applications as explained by Tocci (2017). The convention also had the mandate to offer protection to the asylum seekers throughout their transition. The UNHCR worked closely with the Dublin System to ensure that possible misunderstandings get addressed with ultimate concern. The Dublin System comprised of a fingerprint database across Europe that enabled the EU Member States to authorize entrance of asylum seekers. Initially, the EU had not improvised this database but following the need to end the refugee crisis, the regulation was established. The system further acted as the authorizing entity for the EU states to exclusively determine genuine applications from fake ones. It also authorized the possibility of transfers of application from one nation to another legally. These guidelines were well stipulated in the Dublin System regulations. In late 1997, about 12 EU Member States signed the Dublin Convention to start implementing its regulations in their review processes(Tocci, 2017). Later on, the other states continued to sign into the system after seeing the impact it has had on the first 12 signatories.

The convention was later renamed Dublin II Regulation in 2003 in all EU member nations to implement the rules regarding mobility, security, and the freedom of the immigrants. Regardless of the pressure that the Member States experienced from the refugee crisis, the Dublin II Regulation came aboard to apprehend things a little better. An agreement was made for the EU to allow its non-Member States to sign into the Dublin II Regulation to enable them to apply the regulations in their daily operations with the refugees. An example of a non-member state is Switzerland which signed into the Dublin II Regulation in 2008(Tocci, 2017). The EU expanded the application of the regulations into various non-Member States to enhance its usability. Further changes manifested in the Dublin System to accommodate the rising needs of the refugee integration into the Member States and non-member nations. As a result, amendments were proposed by the EU Commission in the late 2008 and later in 2013, the Dublin III Regulation was approved. The regulation replaced the Dublin II Regulation but it was based on the similar principle as the previous two namely "the first Member State where finger prints are stored or an asylum claim is lodged is responsible for a person's asylum claim" (Hurwitz & Hurwitz, Agnes Hurwitz, Agnès G. Hurwitz, 2009). The new system took effect until in 2017 when the European Court of Justice (ECJ) upheld it following the high refugee crisis that manifested from 2015 to 2016. In this quest, the ECJ allowed the EU nations to deport refugees to the initial country of entrance into EU despite their claim for asylum approval. For this reason, the Dublin III Regulation relies on its core objectives that prevent the asylum seekers applications to the multiple Member States. The above reforms have been helpful in making the EU Member States responsible for their actions against the refugees.

Border Enforcement Policy

The EU came up with the border enforcement policy to help stabilize the situation that happens in its borders. Cases of insecurity are prevalent within the EU borders but such policies are helpful in mobilizing the stakeholders. Markedly, the EU has incorporated the common action and cooperation between its authoritative bodies in the borders to enable the Member States to fight and eradicate cross-border crimes and terrorism. How many lives would be lost if the EU fails to put up such a policy? Definitely, uncountable lives would be lost in the presence of cross-border crimes. It is even worse when the national police of the given nation are not in cooperation with the customs authority. However, it is wiser that the EU spearheaded the facilitation of a common action from the two security teams to help eradicate the menace and save lives.

Additionally, the EU enacted the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) in relation to the European Border and Coastal Guard Agency(Tocci, 2017). Through these common platforms, the EU expands its functionality to international borders. Also, the agencies work collaboratively towards mitigating and

preventing crimes and terrorist acts magnificent in the EU Member States borders. Besides, the European Commission funds the various activities of its Member States to ensure the smooth running of activities regarding procedures of security technological advances. These advances are meaningful in that they help the nations to track any given misconducts that happen within the borders. Anti-terrorism forces have been set up to prevent radicalization to help in crisis management within the Member States borders. In so doing, the Member States have made it combat common crimes of online child abuse, smuggling, human trafficking, and drug trafficking effectively. Insecurity at the borders has been an issue of concern over the years but with the policies in place, the EU has attained some credible results. However, a lot still has to be done to ensure that the insecurity issues are reduced to zero because it continues to enhance the rate of the refugee crisis in the EU (Scholten & Breugel, 2017). The EU can work towards creating well-structured systems across its borders to help in monitoring of the actions of the security personnel and the asylum seekers. It will be suitable to strategically incorporate technologically advanced cameras to record all the events that occur at the borders. This will create a transparent and open operational border enforcement system altogether and it will help in crisis management.

European Integration Policy

Integration of refugees in the society is a vital aspect in the quest for addressing refugee crisis. The EU has been on the forefront to reinforce this policy along with other concerned bodies to ensure that the refugees have access to public resources for the purpose of productivity. In 1999, the EU implemented the policy of integration through the reinforcement of the Amsterdam Treaty that enhanced the efforts of the Commission to integrate the refugees into the diverse societies (Ginsberg, 2007). The Amsterdam Treaty also boosted the entry and integration of refugees from the non-EU nations into the EU states for the purpose of economic, cultural, social, and political development. It was a significant achievement for the EU to apply the treaty because it enhanced the utilization of the opportunities of legal migration and grabbing of the benefits that the person can make towards the development of EU. Regardless of the existing policy that the individual Member States have the mandate to exacerbate integration, the EU has closely worked with them to ensure smooth coordination of the policies. They have done this through financial support which has been the major drawback for some of its states. On the other hand, the EU has involved the other public and private institutions in the process of integration such as governments, civil societies, and institutions. In this way, these bodies have helped the integration process to thrive through informed knowledge exchange across the borders. In their search for a successful exchange of ideas and knowledge with other relevant refugee integration personnel, the EU went ahead to implement the following three elements as proposed by the European Commission.

a) European Integration Network

This network was established following the adoption of the 201 Commission's Action Plan. The action plan aimed at the possible integration of the third country nationals to promote relations and cooperation between the EU and the non-EU Member States. Besides, the EU can hold dialogue with other relevant authorities at the national and local level with the aim of creating a network for smooth integration of immigrants. The network as well brings on board diverse representatives of civil society, public authorities from across the 28 EU Member States and non-EU states to discuss the common goal of refugee integration (Hoerber & Stephenson, 2015). Other common public sectors are included in the search for knowledge and idea exchange such as education, health, and employment bodies. These three are vital for the coexistence of the refugees and once they are brought on board the integration process would thrive successfully.

b) European Migration Forum

This forum was created in 2015 to replace the then European Integration Forum. Its aim is to foster discussions between the EU institutions and the civil organizations which converge twice annually. Additionally, the forum now covers more issues of immigration as compared to the European Integration Forum where it addresses asylum and immigration concerns. Since its inception in early 2015, the committee has faced difficulty in attaining its mandate following the shooting of the refugee crisis in 2015 and 2016 (Scholten & Breugel, 2017). However, with informed decision-making team of members, the body pursued the mandate of refugee integration swiftly. Issues of concern were the safety and freedom of the refugees in the states of choice as they perform their daily activities to earn their living.

c) Migration Partnerships

The essence of creating partnerships with the third world countries and the EU Member States led to the formation of the Migration Partnership Framework in 2014. The framework's main agenda was to

accommodate the interests and needs of the refugees while focusing on their integration into the society at stake. The EU Commission adopted this policy to ensure that it works closely with other societal organizations in the aim of making integration a reality among the EU Member States. Earlier on, the European Commission adopted the Global Approach to Migration to ensure that asylum seekers' qualifiers get basic necessities irrespective of their country of origin. Also, of vital importance was the aim of the EU to regulate if not stop irregular immigration among its states. However, following a lot of pressure from the refugee crisis, the Commission further amended the initial slogan of GAM to Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) Scholten & Breugel (2017). GAMM was driven by the objective of integration of external migration and asylum policy to address EU's dialogues and cooperation with other non-EU countries. The addition of the mobility aspect into the GAM meant that the refugees were allowed to freely mingle with the citizens of that given nation as they focus on daily activities. Also, the GAMM was meant to rift the gap in the limited high-skilled migration to reduce if not clear the shortage of labor in the EU.

V. CONCLUSION

The EU has worked diligently towards the stabilization of its Member States refugee integration. Unlike the non-EU countries, the EU nations have made significant transformations on the approach of asylum seekers applications. However, the journey has not been smooth but the EU has tried to make advanced changes to the asylum policies to address the crisis it faces. Such policies include but not limited to border enforcement, Dublin Regulation, and policy integration. These policies have gone through significant changes for the last 28 years to ensure that EU nations address the challenge of refugee crisis in a timely manner. For instance, the Dublin System began in 1990 as Dublin Convention but has gone through amendments to become Dublin III Regulation. The regulation changed initially into Dublin II and later on after a decade, it was amended to Dublin III Regulation. Such transformations and improvements were not done vaguely but rather aimed at improving the way the EU countries addressed the needs of the refugees. The rest of the policies definitely made advanced changes in their search for informed solutions to the rising concern of asylum seekers applications. The author believes that the refugee policy have made massive advances since 1990 and much is still to happen as trends of insecurity and wars continue to manifest that would likely trigger rise on the levels of refugees significantly. In fact, refugee crisis recently triggered concerns when EU states received many asylum applications than expected. It was at the peak in 2015-2016 following massive wars in the refugee source nations like Iraq and Afghanistan.

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