



Security and immigration: national and European policies in the globalized era

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Abstract

The article presents a study on migration flows in the countries of the European Union, with a focus on Italy and the policies implemented to ensure the countries' security. It is necessary to carefully verify the structural forces and the national and international connections that are the direct cause of contemporary migration, rooted in colonialism, war and military occupation, labour recruitment and economic interaction. The author has tried to analyze the issue of immigration by comparing ISTAT²² and EUROSTAT²³ data, analyzing European and national policies to tackle this issue and verify how these are implemented for making European society democratic, welcoming and secure.

Keywords: *European Union, immigration, security, policies.*

1. The debate on immigration: a closer look at Italy and the European Union

In Europe, migration and external border control have become major political concerns, which are at the top of the political agenda, even though the European Union²⁴ has often been on the verge of definitively abolishing internal borders. The development fractures have shaped great migratory divisions in the world among which: the Rio Grande in Mexico, which separates the United States and Latin America; the Oder-Neisse, which separated Western Europe from Eastern

²² <http://www.istat.it/it/>

²³ Vedi <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

²⁴ Cfr. Figus A. (2011), *Sistema Europa*, Eurilink, Roma.

Europe and that was a fracture that represented the East-West division also at the systemic-political-economic level; the Mediterranean that has always separated Europe from Africa and the Middle East, and that closely involves our territory. When today we talk about migratory flows, we cannot but associate this complex issue with the globalization of the markets, these are in fact two economic phenomena that interact intensely. We can also assert that the factors that preside and contribute to developing the globalization of the world economy, such as the expansion of trade, the growth of foreign direct investment and the liberalization of capital movements, together with the development of technology and telecommunications, ensure more dynamic, flexible and widespread processes of economic growth. We can consider at the base of the motivations that have led, and still cause, millions of people to leave their country of origin and head towards countries that have more favorable living conditions and greater opportunities, especially work, but of survival in general. Over time, the migratory flows have reached increasingly larger dimensions, but the basic characteristics of this important economic and social phenomenon, and also the destination assumed by these flows, have changed profoundly due to the processes of globalization which canceled the barriers of information and have made better worlds known. Today, the traditional north-south contraposition is overridden by a difficult east-west situation; we are in a world that no longer lives on divided spaces but on a single space, the world-wide one, in an order that escapes rules, governed by excessive globalization regulated by the economy. In this context we are now facing two faces of the same coin, opposing and complementary at the same time: on the one hand a crucial demographic and labour force decline, and immigration on the other. Today, about 3.5% of the people on this planet - about 190 million - are migrants, down by about 2.2% compared to the 1970 figures. Although the number of migrants has generally increased in absolute terms, this increase has been neither rapid nor systematic. Migration has always been part of human history and will remain as such. In the future, an increasing number of people, both in developing countries and in more developed ones such as Italy or the countries of the European Union, will need to be able to consider migration, whether permanent or time-related, as the search for new opportunities. But what do we mean by "international migrants"? There is a broad interpretation of this term which includes a very variegated group of people. Knowing this difference allows to understand why people choose to leave their countries and can provide insight into how countries can better handle the challenges and opportunities of migration in a globalised world. First, there are the "Temporary labour migrants", i.e. those workers who travel for a short period of time.

"Long-term and low professional migrants": Reception in countries that generally favor these temporary migrants; for example, this one addresses the experience

of host workers from Western Europe. It's important to understand the presence of category of migrants with a high qualification level, the "Highly qualified and corporate migrants" who are being recruited and are becoming a target for some developed countries. Then there are the "Irregular migrants": also known as irregular or illegal migrants who live in a country without the necessary documents. Some of them may arrive legally, but then break through their initial condition and work illegally. The migrant workforce around the world includes many irregular migrants.

"Refugees": defined by the United Nations Refugee Agency as "someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence, with a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group and who are unable or unwilling to return to their home countries²⁵".

"Asylum seekers": "An asylum seeker is someone who claims to be a refugee but whose claim hasn't been evaluated²⁶", so not every asylum seeker will be recognised as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum seeker.

"Forced migrants": may include refugees and asylum seekers, but also people who are escaping from hunger and natural disasters.

"Family members" (family reunion and joint family members): people who join relatives who are already resident abroad, as well as people who are married or are about to marry a resident of another country.

"Returning migrants": people returning to their home countries after a period spent abroad²⁷.

Advancements in means of transport have already made more simple to move between countries, while the rise of the Internet has allowed information on job prospects and life in other countries to spread around the world. Developed countries are already using immigrants to fill the gaps in their human resources, especially in sectors such as information technology, health, catering, agriculture, and many other sectors. Migrants represent more than a third of low-skill jobs in Europe and the United States, a share that - as in many other OECD countries - has increased since the mid-1990s.

²⁵ <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/>

²⁶ <https://www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk/blog/2016/09/refugees-asylum-seekers-migrants-crucial-difference/>

²⁷ Vedi: "un confronto Revisione della performance e dell'incarico", Pisa, 2003 (OCSE, 2006), Stephen Castles.

The other important aspect is that there are more and more people in developed countries such as Europe - but this phenomenon generally involves the whole world - investing more in the education of children. Therefore, these are increasingly receiving a high level of qualification and are no longer willing to carry out unskilled activities. Training is, therefore, becoming central and wealthy people all over the world want their children to develop their knowledge.

This has also been driven by the fact that the average age of people in OECD countries is increasing. As birth rates fall and people live longer, populations age, so in the future, there will be fewer workers to support the populations of children and pensioners in almost every developed country. Of course, immigrants are also growing. Any country that relies exclusively on migration as a quick solution for ageing societies or to compensate for shortcomings in key areas such as science and technology and health is likely to be disappointed. In fact, if we also analyse demographic data by age index, we can see that the majority of immigrants are under the age of 60: the age group 30-39 years is the most statistically significant. Societies will also have to formulate new strategies and adopt new public policies, such as delaying retirement times, employing more people and improving the education and training of local populations. To meet the challenge of ageing, participation in the labour force is crucial: immigrants can be part of it or part of the solution.

There is also a serious concern about the integration of immigrants into "mainstream societies". It is undoubtedly true that in many countries, especially in Europe, some immigrant communities have been affected by unemployment and low levels of educational output, but these issues are only obscuring the success stories of many other immigrants.

Analizing immigrants' working world we could say that, according to the Union Chambers, there are 354,117 immigrant entrepreneurs and that this number has grown 5.6% higher than in previous years.

2. Past, present, and future of migration: data analysis

The process of globalization tends to increase international migration; in particular, the high number of connections are spreading among the population of countries at an intermediate stage of development a sense of relative deprivation which, even more than poverty itself, motivates a substantial percentage of new international migrations (Beyers, Goddeeris & Venken, 2009). The latest available Eurostat data show a lower increase in immigration in 2010 compared to 2009. However, these data do not reflect migration flows to and from the EU as a whole, as they also include flows between the EU Member

States. It should be underlined that all migration flows are included in these data, i.e. both "return" migrants (non-nationals who immigrate to their country of citizenship for the first time) and foreigners (non-nationals of the country of destination) from the other Member States or third countries. By separating the data on total immigration into the EU-27 Member States in 2010, it is clear that 21% of immigrants were citizens of the country of destination (Tab. 1), 31 % were nationals of other EU Member States and almost half (48 %) were third-country nationals, i.e. from the non-EU Member States.

Tab.1 – Immigrants in Europe in 2010

	Total immigrants	From an EU Member State of previous residence		From a non-member country of previous residence		From an unknown country of previous residence	
	(thousands)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)	(thousands)	(%)
Belgium	146.6	76.2	52.0	70.0	47.7	0.5	0.3
Bulgaria	25.2	7.1	28.1	18.1	71.7	0.1	0.3
Czech Republic	29.6	15.4	52.1	14.2	47.9	0.0	0.0
Denmark	78.5	33.0	42.1	44.9	57.2	0.5	0.7
Germany	1 543.8	513.2	33.2	1 015.6	65.8	15.0	1.0
Estonia	15.4	10.2	66.3	4.5	29.1	0.7	4.6
Ireland	76.9	38.7	50.3	38.2	49.7	0.0	0.0
Greece	64.4	43.0	66.7	21.5	33.3	0.0	0.0
Spain	342.1	119.4	34.9	222.7	65.1	0.0	0.0
France	363.9	133.4	36.6	230.5	63.4	0.0	0.0
Croatia	11.7	4.4	37.4	7.2	61.9	0.1	0.6
Italy	280.1	73.8	26.3	206.3	73.7	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	15.2	8.3	54.7	6.9	45.3	0.0	0.0
Latvia	9.5	4.9	51.4	4.6	48.6	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	22.1	15.4	69.4	6.7	30.4	0.0	0.2
Luxembourg	23.8	21.7	91.2	2.1	8.8	0.0	0.0
Hungary	58.3	30.5	52.3	27.7	47.5	0.1	0.2
Malta	12.8	6.3	49.5	6.5	50.5	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	166.9	78.0	46.7	87.6	52.5	1.3	0.8
Austria	166.3	71.1	42.7	90.1	54.2	5.1	3.1
Poland	218.1	102.9	47.2	115.2	52.8	0.0	0.0
Portugal	29.9	16.5	55.3	13.3	44.6	0.0	0.1
Romania	132.8	93.7	70.6	28.6	21.6	10.4	7.9
Slovenia	15.4	4.4	28.4	11.0	71.6	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	7.0	5.6	79.9	1.4	20.1	0.0	0.0
Finland	28.7	13.1	45.6	15.1	52.6	0.5	1.9
Sweden	134.2	38.1	28.4	92.7	69.0	3.5	2.6
United Kingdom	631.5	295.3	46.8	336.2	53.2	0.0	0.0
Iceland	5.6	4.1	72.5	1.5	26.3	0.1	1.2
Liechtenstein	0.7	0.2	34.2	0.4	65.4	0.0	0.3
Norway	60.8	31.8	52.2	29.0	47.8	0.0	0.0
Switzerland	153.6	100.9	65.7	48.4	31.5	4.3	2.8

Note: the values for the different categories of previous residence may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm5prv)

Among the incoming flows, the most represented nationality is always the Romanian (46 thousand ingresses), followed by the Moroccan (15 thousand), Chinese (15 thousand) and Bengali (12 thousand) communities. Compared to 2014, there is a strong increase in the number of citizens coming from Sub-Saharan Africa: Gambia (over 5,000, +209%), Mali (almost 5,000, +135%),

Nigeria (9,000, +68%) and Ivory Coast (2,000, +61%). On the other hand, the immigration of Filipino (4 thousand, -35%), Peruvian (2 thousand, -31%) and Moldovan (3 thousand, -23%) citizens is decreasing.

Tab. 2 Immigrants in Europe by gender

Nation	Total	Females	Men
Romania	1.151.395	658.658	492.737
Albania	467.687	226.358	241.329
Marocco	437.485	201.327	236.158
Cina	271.330	134.047	137.283
Ucraina	230.728	181.735	48.993
Filippine	165.900	94.419	71.481
India	150.456	60.665	89.791
Moldova	142.266	94.577	47.689
Bangladesh	118.790	34.649	84.141
Egitto	109.871	34.569	75.302
Peru'	103.714	60.831	42.883
Sri Lanka	102.316	46.932	55.384
Pakistan	101.784	34.084	67.700
Senegal	98.176	26.637	71.539
Polonia	97.986	71.835	26.151
Tunisia	95.645	36.031	59.614
Ecuador	87.427	50.438	36.989
Nigeria	77.264	36.844	40.420
Macedonia	73.512	34.429	39.083
Bulgaria	58.001	36.388	21.613
Ghana	48.637	18.997	29.640
Other countries	835.783	470.216	365.567

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3. Governance of immigration and security

Italy manages the phenomenon of migration flows from non-European countries through policies that combine reception and integration with the fight against irregular immigration. The admission to the territory of the State is allowed at the border crossings to those who are in possession of a passport or equivalent document, and a visa. With a decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, the State periodically programs the highest quotas of foreigners to be admitted into Italian territory for employment and self-employment, the so-called "flow-decree" - introduced by Law No. 40/1998. The legislation also provides for working entry in special cases (Article 27 of the Consolidated Act on Immigration).

State, regions, local authorities, in collaboration with the associations of the sector and with the authorities of the countries of origin, promote the integration of foreign citizens who are regularly in Italy (Article 42 of the Consolidated Act on Immigration) through different programmes. These consist of providing information on the rights and opportunities of integration or reintegration into the countries of origin, promoting language, civic and professional training, and promoting access to the world of work.

The territorial councils for immigration, established in each prefecture (Prime Minister's Decree of 18 December 1999), monitor the presence of foreigners in the territory and the level of integration in the social and the employment sphere in order to promote targeted local integration policies, in collaboration with other institutions and private social entities. These organizations represent the element of connection between the central government and local contexts for all that concerns immigration and related problems, guaranteeing the homogeneity of the policies managing the phenomenon throughout the national territory.

According to EU data Italy, together with Greece and Bulgaria, received financial support of approximately 7 billion euro, allocated to address the challenges of immigration in the period 2014 - 2020.

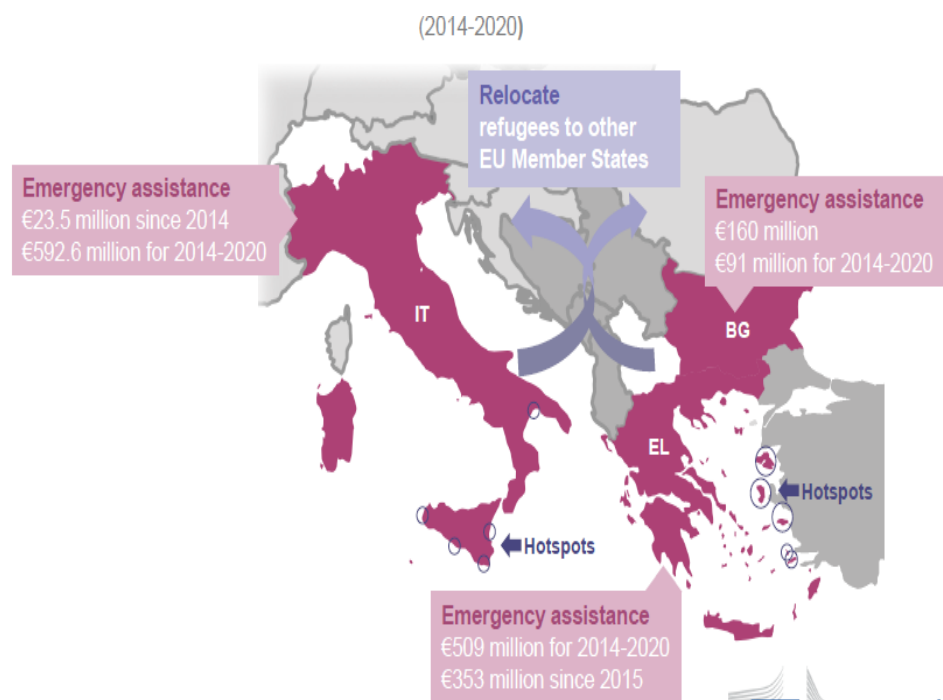


Fig. 1 -: Allocation of funding to address the immigration issue

A comparative analysis of immigration policies in different European countries compared with countries that receive traditional immigrants - such as Italy or Spain - shows surprising convergences between them, as well as differences rooted in specific characteristics.

Nowadays the number of international migrants greatly increased worldwide, making it a global problem. Evaluations show how more than 200 million people are living in a country different from the one in which they were born, and this led to an indiscriminate increase in xenophobic and racism-related episodes. All of this is further accentuated by a growing global crisis, that highlighted the necessity for global policies aimed to improve the governance, paired with better protection that has to be provided to migrants and their families.

The number of asylum seekers for the first time in the EU-28 decreased by -15 % in the third quarter of 2016 compared to the same quarter of 2015, while it increased by 17% compared to the second quarter of 2016. Overall, the number of asylum seekers from non-EU countries in the EU-28 in the third quarter of 2016 reached 358 300²⁸.

²⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/immigration/>

We recall how the Durban Declaration and Action Programme (DDPA) in 2001 highlighted the importance of creating favourable conditions for greater harmony, tolerance and respect between migrants and the rest of society in the host countries.

The countries' aim is to modify their legislation in order to protect migrant domestic workers, and to adopt a more comprehensive and balanced approach to migration.

The year 2001 was declared by the UN "International Year of Mobilization Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance". This effort has been further strengthened, as 2001 has also been coined by the United Nations as the "Year of Dialogue between Civilizations", which emphasizes tolerance and respect for diversity and the need to seek common ground among and within civilizations. This underlines the need to address the shared challenges facing humanity, which threaten shared values, the universality of human rights and the fight against "racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance". In addition, the period 2001-2010 was proclaimed the Decade of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, accompanied by the adoption in 2001 of the Declaration and Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace for the United Nations General Assembly.

National security is about protecting and promoting the well-being of citizens and legal residents of the State and its territory. Security is an important component of a State's commitment to balancing the facilitation and control of migration.

Furthermore, we must say that national legislation on "security" should always include a discussion of states' attempts to block the entry or the escape of ordinary criminals, particularly those engaged in smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.

If we analyse the data on the types of immigration, we observe that the vast majority of international migration today is illegal (CNEL 2003). Overall, since 1990, migration has been reported as legal in only 32% of cases, although this percentage has increased steadily by 10% in 1990 to 47% in 2002. Legal migration was less frequent to Greece (overall 28% of cases) than to Italy (44%), although once again for both countries the share of legal migration episodes has steadily increased from 1990 to 2002.



Fig. 2 – The borders of the Schengeh area

As we can see from the image above, the borders of the Schengen area are and must be reinforced

Against this background, it is clear that there is a current necessity in Italy and Europe to analyse in depth implications and impacts of security concerns related to terrorism in the development of migration policies and operational procedures. In addition, there is the exigency to address the issue at the level of international law in order to simply lead to a reduction of security risks, as well as national laws and policies to improve security. Finally, it is also essential to study the special challenges of internal security and civil liberties and to support those policies that simultaneously consider the needs and rights of those coming from another country. It's therefore vital to provide charitable assistance and, in the absence of

a specific law, the solution must be found by the legislator, given also the difficulty in applying expulsion and immediate return to the country of origin.

If we look at asylum applications we can see that the highest number of first asylum seekers in the third quarter of 2016 was recorded in Germany (with over 237400 applicants for the first time, or 66% of the total number of applicants from EU Member States), followed by Italy (34600, or 10%), France (20 000, 6%), Greece (12400, or 3%) and the United Kingdom (9200, or 3%). These five Member States together account for almost 90% of all first-time applicants in the EU-28.

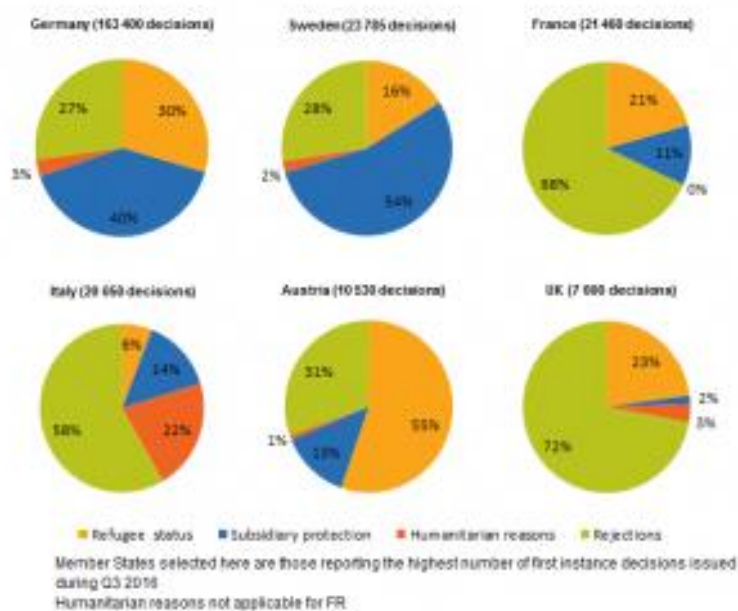


Fig. 3 -First-degree decisions, Member States selected, 3rd quarter 2016

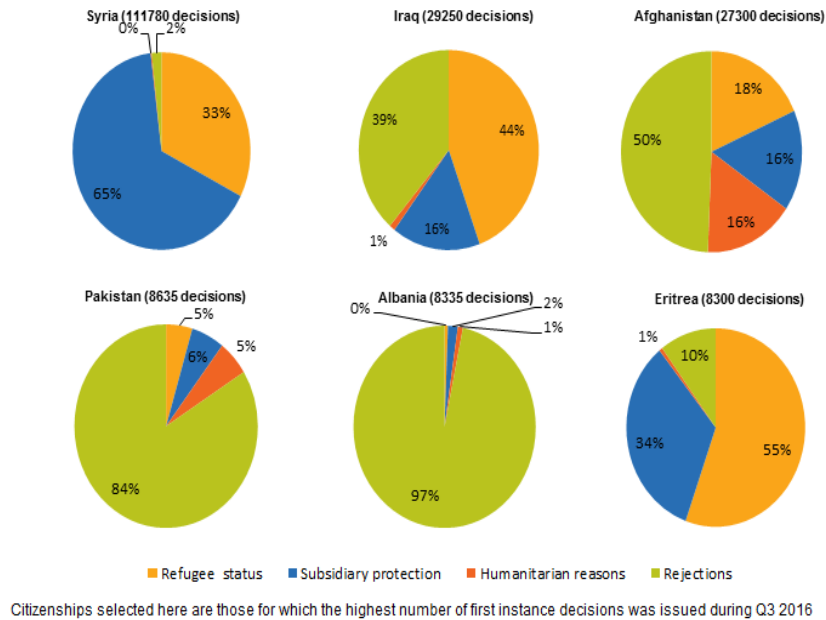


Fig. 4 - First-degree decisions in the EU-28 by selected citizenships, 3rd quarter 2016

In absence of common security policies established by the European Union, there is now the urgent imperative to create legal channels for immigration into our country, with the possibility of obtaining a working visa, or the regularization of people who already work in Italy. On the legal issue and therefore on the direct relationship with the security of our citizens, judges of the first instance will be required to fix the hearing when they'll assess the necessity to personally hear the asylum seeker when they will consider it essential to get clarifications by the parties. In addition, the asylum seeker may also ask the judges to be heard, and it will be up to the judges to assess whether direct listening is due.

The issue of the security of citizens was the main motive for the new decree: security in the traditional sense refers to the individual protection of the State's territory. This security matter is deeply rooted - and it is not a commonplace - to the fateful September 11, to the Twin Towers attack, which has redefined the security of the State and the importance of sharing and collecting global information. New agreements have an important impact on migration, especially on migration flows. Border control is an important action that states must take; there is a need to review treaties and agreements and monitor people flows. Preventive action is needed, as is the use of new technologies such as facial

recognition or fingerprinting. By blocking individuals at risk, these actions also reduce potential health risks; border controls must therefore be accepted in a globalized system such as the contemporary one.

Although prevention is the preferred policy approach, the application of internal measures also plays an essential role in ensuring safety. People who represent security threats will not be able to harm the country; security and migration policy are thus intertwined. The treaties need to be reviewed and two indicators need to be taken into account when doing so: the political indicator and the economic indicator, in order to ensure complete coverage. Conversions in immigration policies can therefore effectively contribute to tackling security anxieties without harming the legitimate movement of people and personal freedoms.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, we can say that it is difficult to talk about immigration after 11 September 2001. We have tried to line up the data to understand the number of people who are moving. Nowadays in Europe and in the developed countries, we are dealing with an extraordinary generalized anti-immigration movement, which has never been reduced. In fact, no legislation restricting immigration or eliminating categories of immigrants is dealing with the roots of the problem. The debate on immigration and immigrants has been dominated by all the actions taken by governments to prevent and detain terrorism at home, often intertwined and confused with the war against terrorism.

Guaranteeing full freedom and human rights is becoming increasingly complicated, a major challenge of our times. European governments cannot violate the rights of immigrants for no reason. The migration issue is therefore intertwined with the security of citizens. This demands political options able to respond more effectively to terrorist threats - policies that can be implemented without excessive executive powers and with minimal compromises, often to the detriment of important civil liberties.

The recommendations of the experts have led us to the creation of better luggage matching protocols or to a fundamental review of the intelligence infrastructure, to a greater focus on the monitoring of terrorist instruments rather than people, better use of technology, better training, and many other examples, but not in relation with immigration. Immigration and terrorism are often confused, they are not facing of the same medal, the media itself often concurs in confusing people. Data are in fact showing us how immigrants can be the engine of new economies. The analysis of European and Italian policies shows us the path that has been taken and that more should be done in order to ensure better governance

of the phenomenon a safe and democratic Europe, in contrast with recent waves of xenophobia.

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