



Communication of the Presidency West Coast Model EU 2019

Heads of Government Common Immigration and Border Scheme

The European Union has witnessed the influx of over 1 million migrants and refugees fleeing conflict and strife abroad. The EU is also home to many more non-EU nationals who come from abroad to work and study under temporary and long-term visas that are issued by member states.

In order to provide for a safer Europe, member states must continue to improve upon our internal security mechanisms in a way that ensures criminals are not able to enter via one member-state and make their way to others, taking advantage of our open borders. The EU must also work to ensure that a handful of countries are not left with the burden of paying for the costs associated with housing and providing care for refugees and migrants.

The Romanian presidency therefore sets forth two proposals for consideration. The first is to reform the Schengen Agreement, creating a stronger Schengen with provisions for external border protections for member states bordering non-EU states. The Schengen Agreement provides for passport free travel between member states, though this has come under attack as several member states have come to erect border controls in order to prevent migrants and refugees from crossing their border. By creating a common fund of €1 billion for external border security, and by creating a common set of standards by which asylum status may be granted, we will be able to maintain the integrity of our internal free movement of goods and people without the undue hindrance we are currently facing. The current “beggar-thy-neighbor” policies put in place by member states need to end, and we need a common solution that benefits everyone.

The second proposal is to create a common immigration policy. In order to further facilitate the free movement of skilled workers, we propose that a European visa program be created. The European visa program would allow highly skilled workers to move and work freely between member states, also allowing students the opportunity to find work in the EU following their graduation. The EU is home to many world class universities and is home to some of the most innovative companies in the world. A common visa for the EU would ease bureaucratic strain for all involved and allow the most qualified non-EU workers to contribute to European economic growth and prosperity.



Energy Ministers Pipelines/Projects of Common Interest/Energy Independence

Energy security is a fundamental area of European Union policy, and gas pipelines are a core area of infrastructure investment. These pipelines bring vast quantities of energy into the EU, but come from or traverse challenging terrain, both physical and political.

There is a delicate long term balance between the EU's growing energy needs, and allowing a partner such as Russia, with whom the EU has a complex and multi-layered relationship, to control a high percentage of energy access for many EU regions. This summit meeting offers EU Energy Ministers the opportunity to help balance these requirements over the decades to come.

The current largest pipeline projects are Nord Stream 2, Interconnector Turkey-Greece-Italy (ITGI), and Eastring. Nord Stream 2 doubles the flow of the original Nord Stream from Russia to Germany. ITGI and Eastring, extend the TurkStream pipeline from Russia to Turkey into Greece/Italy and Bulgaria/Hungary/Romania/Slovakia respectively.

Of these projects, only Eastring is designated as an EU 'Project of Common Interest'. While the all three comply with the ownership unbundling requirements of the Third Energy Package, they still represent a mixed set of challenges and opportunities in the face of increasing partnership complexity with Russia.

The current proposal has two parts: first is a designation of Nord Stream 2 and ITGI as Projects of Common Interest, and increasing the available funds in the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) by €5 billion to a total of €35b to allow both projects to draw on this financing.

A separate area of concern for the Nord Stream 2 project in particular is the possibility that US or EU sanctions against Russia might hamper construction or financing of the project. Policy guidance on how this project might be protected from sanctions would be a valuable contribution.

Second is a series of projects supporting a higher degree of energy independence from Russia, supporting renewable energy projects and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) ship terminals and EU-internal pipeline projects to distribute that product. Proposed is €1 billion of available financing for renewable energy projects, and adding up to three LNG terminals to the list of projects available for Project of Common Interest designation, which carries automatic CEF access.