

The LSE IGA ALUM UN simulation allowed students from all over Europe to gather at London School of Economics, in the midst of the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, to reflect on the challenges posed by migration and on possible ways to address the phenomenon.

Organized by the LSE Institute of Global Affairs, the conference took place in London (UK) from May 6th to May 8th, 2016 and provided young delegates from Universität Mannheim (Germany), LSE (UK), Bocconi University (Italy), Central European University (Hungary), Hertie School of Governance (Germany) and University of Bologna (Italy) the unique opportunity to deal with one of the most pressing issues of our time.

Playing the role of experts on global migration issues employed by our respective governments, we have been called to draft a Report collecting all the recommendations proposed and voted by the so called “High Level Panel of Experts on Global Migration”.

Being part of this prestigious initiative made the eight of us even more aware of the duty to take a stand and of the importance of dialogue as a key tool to find solutions to global problems, as UN Special Representative for International Migration, Peter Sutherland’s keynote speech pointed out.

The most challenging task, as far as our role was concerned, was endeavoring to unite the opposite views of countries that consider asylum matters primarily in the context of fighting against “illegal” migration and the views of the ones acting upon the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility.

Negotiations were complicated, strenuous and extremely challenging. National interests emerge with full force when comes into play a phenomenon such migration that undermines the symbol of state sovereignty: borders.

We went into detail on every aspect of the issue, from the need for securing external borders, of more rescue operations, the overhaul of the Dublin Regulation together with addressing the root causes of migration and the return of those not eligible for protection.

As the Report we ended up with makes clear, Europe, if really a Union of common values, should develop more stable and more equitable life conditions in the countries of origin, it should rethink its way of accepting and integrating those that seek asylum as refugees instead of downgrading life and dignity of people fleeing from atrocities and despair. It needs, therefore, a common European asylum system which guarantees, once and for all, the respect of human rights and the support of a strong international community truly committed to tackling the issue at stake.

The most important thing we have taken away from this experience is that decisions must be adopted jointly and cooperatively, as only shared decisions can lead to shared consequences. And this is the reason why we sincerely thank the University of Bologna for giving us the possibility of being part of this initiative.

Beatrice Marzi
Chiara Cervasio
Francesca Alampi
Giacomo Ferretti
Irene Vecchiato
Mirya Porcheddu
Sara Pipitone
Simone Papale