

At least since October 2013, the unprecedented influx of migrants and refugees has triggered growing concerns in the EU with irregular migration, which has increasingly come to be viewed as a security or strategic risk in many if not all EU Member States. In part by virtue of its association with migrant smuggling and other forms of cross-border crime, current levels of irregular migration are considered to present major challenges to the realms of internal and external security alike.

The smuggling of migrants is an attractive source of income to criminal networks. Restrictive policy alone will not reduce migratory flows. To the contrary, it is indeed more likely to increase the involvement of criminals as routes to reach the EU are becoming longer, more dangerous and thus more expensive. Dealing with the causes of emigration in the regions of origin should hence be a major concern in order to structurally manage migratory flows.

The increasingly trans-boundary nature of unfolding security issues in the EU's immediate and broader neighbourhood, such as the challenge of uncontrolled immigration and fundamental changes in the way societies are organised, have blurred the boundaries of the traditional internal/external security divide. The need to properly balance justice and home affairs and external security priorities is thus particularly evident in the case of irregular migration. It is projected that irregular immigration to Europe from and through the periphery is likely to continue in the near and far future because of the persistent instability and conflicts in the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. In line with the assumption that external peace would foster internal stability, and vice versa, national and international policy aimed at the stabilisation and normalisation of conflict areas have the potential to contribute to the regularisation of current migratory levels.

This book provides an overview of the nexus between migrant smuggling, migration and EU security policies with a focus on the EU's migration policy and its effects on migrant security and migration flows in the Mediterranean region. Situating this inquiry within a generally changing security environment

of the EU and its future challenges, this book critically examines the current EU policy response and the contributions of the different relevant actors.

The authors thus identify two major gaps in the EU security architecture: the persistent, but artificial division between internal and external security realms and the lack of coherent European action in the external dimension. This paper therefore suggests that instruments from both realms of security, the internal and the external dimension, need to be brought together in order to discuss the nature of potential challenges that irregular migration and its concomitant phenomena are presenting to each area and to develop a shared and more balanced approach towards European security challenges.

It furthermore suggests that the EU's assistance to transit countries in strengthening their border systems should be supplemented by actively engaging transit countries on a policy, legal and financial level. Given protracted conflicts in countries of emigration, the paper concludes that a lack of proactive EU foreign policy towards countries of origin and transit and the often only bilateral action taken by individual Member States results in a crisis-led approach that fundamentally puts in danger the European project as it is today.

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Long March for Europe

Migrant Smuggling in the Mediterranean as a Challenge for Internal and External Security Strategies of the EU

Preface by Rob Wainwright

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