

DİPLOMATİK İLİŞKİLER VE POLİTİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ CENTER for DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS and POLITICAL STUDIES

# REFLECTIONS OF RISING SECURITY CONCERNS ON HUMAN RIGHTS: EU POLICIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS DILEMMA

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Events that happened throughout the history have changed the balance of countries in domestic and foreign politics. Wars, conflicts and disputes are among the main reasons for these changes. Europe, which has witnessed many different wars and conflicts over time, has been one of the geographies where change and transformation were felt the most. Accordingly, states came together to prevent conflicts and disagreements among themselves in the region and aimed to create a union in Europe in line with common values and interests. The European Union (EU), which is the most fundamental source of political, economic and cultural cooperation in Europe today, was shaped in line with these goals and ideals. The European Union, which plays a guiding role with the cooperation it has established within the region in many different areas, has become one of the leading actors in global politics with this position. The EU, which does not limit its work areas regionally, has increased its capacity over time and started to come to the fore on broader issues. It has developed significantly on a global scale thanks to the projects and initiatives carried out in partnership with the United Nations. The EU, which has achieved balance politics within itself, has received intense appreciation from the international public, especially with its support to regional states such as the Middle East and Africa, which are far from balance politics, democracy and political consensus. The EU and its member states, which have achieved this success thanks to the policies they have developed and the foundations they have adopted, have also made great contributions to the development of international law and human rights. However, when the policies implemented by the EU are examined recently, it is noticeable that this positive image, which has been going on for years, has begun to be shaken by the effects of differences of opinion and disagreements within the Union. The Union, which has been dragged into a dead end due to the differences of opinion it encounters within itself, is therefore gradually moving away from its basic goals and policies that it has adopted since its establishment.

The European Parliament, which is the main decision-making body of the EU, the institutions in which every member state has the right to speak and is among the places where differences of opinion are felt most clearly. The main reason for the disagreements within the EU can be considered as the effort of the member states to prioritize their national interests over the interests of the Union. It is possible to classify these interests as economic, political and security. Economic interests are directly proportional to the agreements made between member states and with other countries of the world. Member states, competing for dominance in the European market, shape their own policies in this direction. Member states, which strive to get a greater share of the equally distributed balance of power within the EU as a political interest and aim to increase their influence on Union policies in order to implement their own interests, also strive to remain at the forefront within the EU. Security, another issue of interest, has developed independently of the other two dimensions. The EU, which does not have a common defence policy, is dependent on NATO forces against attacks from outside. This dependence restricts the military movements of member countries, thus increasing security concerns. Member states, which have become vulnerable to external threats due to these security concerns, are working on various policies in local governments to ensure their internal and external security. Security concerns can be examined under three headings which includes the intense wave of immigration to the EU and the problems and difficulties it brings, the homeless problem, which is increasing and poses a threat to internal security due to its impact on the demographic structure, and terrorist acts seen within the borders of the EU. While increasing security concerns are not welcomed by the public in member states, they also directly affect EU policies. For this reason, the security issue is among the current issues that the EU deals within order to build public opinion and voter base in the upcoming EU elections. In this regard, it is noteworthy that various studies are carried out both in local parliaments and in the EU Parliament. With the new policies created, the EU aims to overcome its security concerns while seeking a solution to the crisis of disagreement within itself. Security problems, one of the issues directly discussed in the EU Parliament, are deeper and faster than expanding economic and political problems. For this reason, representatives in the Parliament are carrying out a more meticulous and detailed study on the security issue. In order to explain the background and near future of security problems, discussing the problems under three basic headings will make it possible to have a predictable vision for the near future of the EU.

### EU Security Concerns and the Rising Terrorist Threat

The terrorist attack in Russia on March 22, 2024, once again drew the attention of all countries of the world to this point. The terrorist attack faced by Russia, which is currently at war with Ukraine, caused

concern throughout the country and brought the possibility of Ukraine to mind. For this reason, Russia quickly launched an investigation to find the source of the attack and organized comprehensive operations. Shortly after the attack, a statement from ISIS identified the attacker and lifted the accusations against Ukraine. The resurfacing of ISIS's organizational activities has led to increased security concerns in all countries of the world. For this reason, many world states have taken various security measures against ISIS, which may launch another attack. EU member states are among the countries that have increased security measures. EU member states, located geographically close to Russia, have quickly increased their security measures in order to be prepared against any possible terrorist attack. The effects of increased security measures have been felt both positively and negatively by the public. While surrounding streets and avenues with security forces increased the sense of security for the public, taking security measures so seriously and guickly caused anxiety and panic at the thought of being the next target country. Increased security measures, especially in government buildings, main streets and places where human populations are concentrated, include close cooperation with the security units of local governments. Europe experienced terrorism with the activities of radical formations seen in various member states in the 1970-80 period. For this reason, in the post-1980 period, there was direct intervention in the activities of radical groups that adopted ideas contrary to both EU policies and the local policies of the member states. The intervention of security forces in such dangerous social movements basically aims to prevent the repetition of the negative experiences

faced in the previous period. For this reason, the attacks carried out in Russia have brought security concerns for the EU as well. Security measures taken within the EU include some steps such as increasing the security forces around EU institution buildings, tightening visa checks at EU border entrances, and making arrangements in immigration policies to protect the borders. The attitude of the member states of the Union has also progressed in parallel with EU policies.

Another issue that poses a security threat to the EU in the near future is the aggressive attitude of the supporters of the PKK terrorist organization in society. The tension between supporters of the terrorist organization PKK and immigrants of Turkish origin in Germany turned into an armed conflict, causing various concerns throughout the country. In the following days, the aggressive attitude of PKK supporters towards Turkish citizens in countries where Turks live densely, such as Germany, Belgium and France, forms the basis of security concerns within the EU. The rising tension between the two groups and the increase in the activities of terrorist supporters have brought to mind some questions as well as concerns. The apparent rapid progress of the activities has revealed that the PKK is supported within Europe. The increasing activities of the PKK, which is also defined as a terrorist organization by the European Union, include various areas. Financial support collected for the PKK, terrorist propaganda, racist discourses and separatist protests can be listed as examples of increased activities. The increase in activities is perceived as a threat by the EU. For this reason, local governments of member states aim to prevent incentives by taking action against communities that support the organization in order to ensure social security. Security forces, which carry out operations in various member states, aim to reveal the organizational network by initiating investigations against people who are determined to support terrorism. PKK activities, which have begun to pose a clear threat not only to Turkey and Turkish citizens but also to Europe and European citizens, are not welcomed within the borders of Europe. The rapid decision to take restrictive and preventive measures once again underlines the EU's antiterrorism stance. At the same time, EU states, which are in communication with Turkey during this process, aim to increase bilateral cooperation in the field of security and strengthen mutual trust.

The 2024 Summer Olympics are among the issues that have caused increased security measures within the EU borders. France, which is in an intense preparation period for the Olympics to be held in Paris, is among the countries that have increased security measures to the highest level. The terrorist attack in Russia, with limited time left before the Olympics, caused the security measures to be intensified. In this context, France has created a special security unit to ensure security before and during the Olympics. With increased security measures, France aims to host the 2024 Summer Olympics as smoothly as possible. In addition to the private security unit, various measures have been taken to increase control at sea, air and land entry and exit points, detailed procedures for visa procedures and to prevent any within the country. It is conflicts noteworthy that the security measures taken within the country are concentrated in the capital. Increasing the measures, especially in points where immigrants and tourists are mostly located, reveals that France focuses its perception of terrorism on threats that may come from outside its borders. It is noteworthy that the measures taken in this sense are applied to immigrants, refugees, homeless people and tourists in Paris. Unlike other groups, care is taken to ensure that the practices applied to tourists are not restrictive in order not to hinder tourism, while direct intervention is made in the daily life of groups including immigrants, refugees and homeless people. For this reason, it is noteworthy that France, which pursues a dual and discriminatory policy, displays an anti-immigrant and anti-foreign attitude, citing security concerns.

## The EU's Attitude Against the Intense Migration Flow: New Policies and Human Rights

European geography has been affected by many different migrations flows over the years due to the advantages it has. The first migration flow to Europe was during World War II. It started as a result of the rapidly developing industry after World War II. The establishment of new industrial cities and the increasing massification of production led to the concentration of a large number of worker migration in the European geography. Particularly in the 1960s and onwards, labour demands from Europe's industrially developed states such as Germany, France, England and Spain caused large migration flows. Guest workers who immigrated to Europe from various world countries such as Vietnam, Cuba and Turkey, including European Union member states, immigrated as a result of mutual agreements made by the states. The Ankara Agreement, signed between Turkey and the European Union (EU) in 1963, is considered one of the starting points of the labour migration movement for Europe. This agreement, which includes the free movement of workers from Turkey within Europe, has a very important position for Turkey and the EU relations. Workers who migrated to Europe for short periods of time to fill the labour shortage in European countries mostly preferred to stay in the countries where they settled and continue their lives there. The path followed by foreign immigrants, who began to adapt to social life over time, later changed from shortterm labour migration with family reunification to migration with all family members. Workers who have fully migrated and have now adopted the country they migrated to have also gained access to social and citizenship rights.

Migration flows expanded further in 1980, moving European countries from the position of sending countries to countries of immigration. In addition to migration flows, which first started as short-term labour migration, the European Union has become a preferred region for brain drain over time. The diversification of the scope of migration has also brought about the expansion of the migrating target group. The diversifying scope of migration, close communication between immigrants and the encouragement of migration have created new migration routes. In an increasingly globalizing and shrinking world, states becoming more accessible to each other is one of the main reasons that facilitates migration. Labor migration in Europe is just one of the types of migration. Since labour migration occurs regularly and in line with legal procedures, it is considered short-term. However, in addition to labour migration, there are also migrations that occur as a result of political, economic and social events. Multidirectional migrations resulting from reasons such as escaping from war, lifethreatening situations in political chaos, financial inadequacy and scarcity of resources can be given as examples of irregular and illegal migrations experienced today. These migrations are mostly considered within the scope of forced migration. For example, European states that regained their sovereignty as a result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 created a second wave of migration to the EU due to their common geography with the EU. Forced and irregular migration flows bring with them many different concerns and dangers for the receiving states. The inability to control migration flows, especially after war, causes great danger for the receiving country. Unregistered immigrants entering target countries illegally and not being registered poses the risk that there will be groups and communities that cause war among the immigrants. For this reason, irregular and uncontrolled migrations are not supported by many states and are intervened in cases where they are encountered.

The instability in the political order as a result of the Arab Spring, which was effective in the 2010s, led to the migration of many immigrants and refugees from the Middle East geography. The people of the Middle East, who migrated to many different countries, also turned to the European Union states in line with the political, economic and political opportunities that Europe could offer. This trend has led to a third wave of migration after labour migration to Europe and migration within Europe. Immigrants and refugees trying to reach Europe irregularly and illegally from the Middle East have not been welcomed by Europe compared to labour migration. This situation, combined with the impact of increasing social concerns in Europe, has led to the development of strict policies regarding migration flows by the EU.

Policies regarding migration flows can be exemplified by Readmission Agreements signed with various countries. Readmission Agreements includes sanctions for the return of refugees and immigrants who enter the EU border to the countries of which they are citizens. At the same time, the deportation of immigrants who enter the EU borders legally in case their visas expire is also included within the scope of this policy. Readmission Agreements are designed as a policy that aims to enable the EU to secure its own borders. In this context, asylum applications made to the EU are evaluated collectively by the EU and many of the applications are rejected and refugees and immigrants are sent back to their countries. This practice is contrary to human rights and international law as an EU policy, as it restricts people's right to migrate, in complete contradiction to the principle of "non-refoulement" in international law. It is noteworthy that this attitude of the EU has similarities with the UK, a former member of the Union. The influence of the UK on the policies developed during the EU membership process has also been effective in shaping the policies of the EU today. For this reason, the commonalities and similarities seen in policies even after the separation show that the UK's influence and guidance on EU policies still continues today. In parallel with the EU, studies on immigration are being carried out in the UK local council. The parliamentary study plans to deport irregular immigrants entering the country and send them to Rwanda via ships in order to prevent illegal immigration. This policy is intended to have a deterrent effect on immigrants. The policy to be implemented in this context conflicts with human rights law by forcing immigrants to relocate and preventing their migration rights.

In addition to the policies given as examples, the refugee and immigrant flows towards the EU and surrounding countries, especially after the Syrian Civil War, are viewed very harshly by the EU. Examples such as direct gun fire on refugees and immigrants who want to enter the EU borders through Turkey in many ways, and the sinking of the ships and boats they use are considered as a sign of the EU's increasingly strict immigration policies. The combination of the wave of migration from Syria with other waves of migration from Sub-Saharan Africa, Afghanistan and Ukraine causes migration to become a bigger problem for the EU.

Unable to adopt a common policy in the face of migration waves, the EU has remained inadequate and unprepared regarding border controls and the entry of immigrants into the country. For this reason, the EU, which caused public dissatisfaction, initiated new studies on immigration. The issue of immigration, which is one of the issues discussed within the scope of studies for the EU elections to be held in 2024, is among the current problems the EU deals with. The preparation of the new policies on the migration, which namely, New Pact on Migration and Asylum, is one of the studies carried out on this subject. This Pact aims not only to regulate immigration from outside, but also to distribute accepted immigration within the EU. In this context. it is aimed to ensure cooperation on migration and to share responsibility equally among member states.

#### The Increasing Homeless Problem in European Cities and the Security Concerns It Brings

Another issue that increases security concerns within European borders is the homeless problem. Homelessness, which has increased in various countries in Europe, tends to become a security problem for local governments. For this reason, it also poses a threat to the near future of the EU. The number of homeless people, most of whom struggle to hold on to life in capital cities, is recorded as 372 thousand in Germany and 6 thousand in Belgium. The main problem source of homeless people and people with housing problems is explained by two different theories. These theories are theories of systematic causes and personal deficiencies.

The theory of systematic causes includes various problems such as high living costs, lack of social housing, shortage of affordable housing, unemployment, inflation, inadequate infrastructure, policies towards irregular immigrants. Personal deficiencies include various problems such as alcohol addiction and mental illnesses that arise from individual reasons. The scope of homeless people has increased over the years and has also expanded over time. Therefore, while previously homeless people were generally elderly, homeless and male individuals. today these patterns have completely changed and the definition of homeless has begun to include people of all ages and genders. Considering the increase in number and distribution, the majority of homeless people in Europe consist of refugees and immigrants. Another issue caused by concerns about irregular and uncontrolled migration, the housing problem experienced by immigrants, is included in the homeless problem. Refugees and immigrants who enter the EU borders illegally and uncontrolled are exposed to social rights since they do not have any legal records. Immigrants, who cannot access basic rights such as health, education and housing due to the lack of social rights, try to hold on to life thanks to the communication networks they have developed. However, these communication networks are quite inadequate compared to the social assistance provided by the state. For this reason, refugees who cannot access rights such as shelter, health and education create some difficulties for local governments. Refugees and immigrants, especially those deprived of their rights to health and shelter, also pose a threat to public health and security. Citizens, who have the right to access protective vaccines as part of their health rights, share common living spaces with immigrants who come to their country as a result of these rights, increasing the risk of infectious diseases in society. For this reason, health checks of immigrants and refugees should be carried out regularly and their right to health should not be hindered. However, although human rights are emphasized in all circumstances by both local governments and the EU, there is silence regarding the health rights of refugees and immigrants.

Health services, which vary from country to country, are provided free of charge in various countries such as Ireland, Poland and Sweden, while in countries such as France and Belgium they are accessible within the framework of determined conditions, ignoring the fact that they are a need and a fundamental right. This shows us the inadequacy and step backwards of the EU, which has developed restrictive policies on the right to health, which is the most basic human right, regarding human rights.

Refugees and immigrants, who are deprived of not only their right to health but also their right to housing, struggle to survive in public areas such as streets, parks and gardens because they cannot provide a home or a place to stay. For this reason, the living conditions of irregular immigrants, whose efforts to hold on to life are perceived as a security threat, are becoming increasingly difficult. The fact that all these efforts are ignored and, in some cases, blocked by local governments, diversifies the backward steps taken regarding human rights. The networks communication established among immigrants and refugees coming from the same country and speaking the same language are another element perceived as a threat. Efforts to concentrate immigrants and refugees at certain points with the risk of damaging the demographic structure are among the policies adopted by local governments. Determining these points as inconspicuous places, especially far from capitals and city centres, completely restricts the integration of immigrants and causes social exclusion on immigrants. Refugees and immigrants, who are isolated from society due to the effects of this exclusion, become "others" over time and are forced to migrate again due to various social pressures. Although this migration is sometimes organized to different cities within the same country, it sometimes results in immigrants being deported and leaving the country. Implementing a policy of intimidation on immigrants and refugees within the scope of security concerns also leads to the obstruction of the right to migration, which is among the fundamental human rights.

The 2024 Summer Olympics, planned to take place in Paris, the capital of France, is considered to be one of the examples where policies are directly such implemented. The scope of increased security measures in line with the Olympic shows to be held is guite diverse. The works carried out in this field include infrastructure support, environmental and traffic regulation, maintenance and repair works in cultural areas and security measures. The target of security measures are homeless people, whose numbers are recorded as 330 thousand in France and 3 thousand in Paris. Within the scope of security measures, it is noteworthy that homeless people, most of whom are immigrants, are moved to surrounding cities outside Paris. Evacuating homeless people gathered at certain points with the intervention of security forces and clearing the capital of homeless people involve a direct intervention of the government in the social sphere. It is aimed to persuade the homeless people to volunteer in this regard with various incentives, such as covering the accommodation fees in new cities. Removing homeless people from city centres is currently only considered within the scope of Olympic preparations. However, it is also possible to adopt a more comprehensive removal policy in line with the policies to be developed in the future. This situation poses a greater threat to homeless people who are deprived of their right to shelter.

Since the majority of the homeless population, which has been increasing throughout Europe in recent history, consists of refugees and immigrants, the policies implemented by local governments include opposing security policies rather than support policies. For this reason, the approach to the homeless problem contradicts human rights, which negatively affects the vision of the EU. Security policies, which can also be interpreted as an effect of far-right attitudes in the EU Parliament, are expected to be reviewed and rearranged in line with human rights.

#### Conclusion

The European Union has recently been affected by the situations in neighbouring regions and countries. In this context, the EU Parliament, which shapes its own domestic policy, aims to overcome the problems that may be encountered in the near future. The upcoming EU Parliament elections have also been effective in the process of developing new policies. For this reason, the recent terrorist attack in Russia caused public discomfort and led the EU to introduce innovations and regulations in some security policies.

Increasing security concerns and a terrorist attack close to the Union borders also pose a threat to the EU. The EU, which takes strict measures against the possibility of terrorist attacks reaching Europe, is carrying out meticulous work on this issue. This is the reason for the security issue, which frequently comes to the agenda in parliament. Increased security measures and expanded policies within the EU borders in cooperation with local governments can be cited as examples of steps taken regarding security. In this regard, the tightening of border controls, inspection of visa procedures and the increase in security forces are proof that the EU is currently working to increase its security.

Security concerns for the EU arise not only from terrorist attacks but also from the

increase in homeless numbers and irregular migration. At this point, it can be said that the EU's security efforts are multifaceted. Especially the fact that the upcoming 2024 Summer Olympics will be held in Paris, the capital of France, has caused security policies to intensify in this region. Thus, the French government has developed various policies towards homeless people and immigrants. When we look at the measures taken and the policies developed, it can be said that these policies are among the strictest in the EU.

The fact that the policies implemented towards the homeless, immigrants and refugees are quite restrictive and obstructive is an indicator of the EU's harsh stance on security. However, it is noteworthy that basic human rights such as housing, living, health and education are violated during the implementation of these policies. The attitude of the EU, which adopts the basic principles of protecting human rights in line with its founding policies, due to security concerns, is contrary to its own basic principles. The EU, which has caused a contradiction within itself, is experiencing falls in its vision due to the backward steps it has taken regarding human rights. The source of all these problems is the adoption of restrictive policies and attitudes towards refugees, immigrants and homeless people within the scope of security concerns.

The EU should give up its harsh and discriminatory attitude in the policies it developed due to security concerns and make adjustments to the policies. Otherwise, there may be a risk that the measures taken within the scope of security measures will turn into long-term laws and the continuation of human rights violations might be occurred. In this case, it is possible to conclude that the EU's

contributions to the development of human rights over the years and its efforts to protect these rights are not binding within its own borders. If the current situation continues, the EU faces the danger of destroying its vision in a short time, which it has created as a result of long efforts. For this reason, the EU is expected to review the compatibility of the policies it develops with human rights and shape its future policies in this direction.

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