

HOW DID THE NEW AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT COALITION CHANGE ITS REFUGEE POLICY?

Ana KOSTIĆ¹

Abstract: Since 2015 more than one million migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia have arrived on the European soil. The phenomenon of the “European Refugee Crisis” impacted on increased security risk, new economic and social issues as well as on political and geopolitical pressures overall on the European Union and its member states. In order to face the crisis, the European Union and its members had turned to operational actions and political pressures in accordance with its principles of foreign and security politics.

This article will focus on a particular member state, Austria, and its political action toward the crisis. Even though Austria was characterized as a part of the “western group of member states”, with the arrival of the new government coalition which was a collaboration of the Austrian People’s Party (conservative party, ÖVP) and the Freedom Party of Austria (far-right part, FPÖ), it tended more to the politics of the eastern group of states especially when it came to the European refugee crisis. Following this, new issues/questions emerged: What are the biggest concerns of the new government coalition? What changes did the Austrian new government implement into European Asylum Law? What is the new treatment for migrants in Austria?

Key words: European refugee crisis, European Union, Austria, Austria’s people party, Freedom Party of Austria.

¹ Ana Kostić, Department of Political Science, University of Wien, ana.kostic096@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, the world was faced with one of the greatest human migrations in which more than 65 million people were forcibly displaced as a result of violent conflicts and natural disasters (Refugee crisis in Europe, 2016). Trying to escape all the misfortunes that came with war or even death, people mainly from the Middle East, Africa and Asia arrived on the European soil. Their journey led them mostly over the Mediterranean Sea, in overcrowded and unsafe boats where thousands of people drowned. Without any personal documents and without a legal transfer to Europe, for the “blessed” ones the next stop of their life-changing voyage was some south European shore and for those less lucky, a mass graveyard known as the sea. Around 90% of refugees and migrants trying to reach the EU have paid organized criminals and people-smugglers to get them across borders (Directorate-General for Communication (European Commission, 2018). A large public outcry led to intensified rescue missions. During this period, a vast number of humanitarian organizations, including UNHCR, participated in a series of large-scale media advocacy exercises in order to motivate other European countries to offer their help. A dramatic rise in attention to the refugee crisis followed in the second half of 2015 (Berry, Garcia-Blanco, Moore, 2015, p. 6).

In the period between 2015 and 2016, the EU dealt with a remarkable inflow of more than 1 million refugees and migrants, most of them escaping the war and terror in Syria and its neighboring countries. The EU had introduced a range of countermeasures to deal with the migrant crisis. In order to resolve all the issues and conflicts, it was necessary to combine the efforts for resolving the root causes of the migrant crisis and to provide care and help to the people in need of humanitarian support both inside and outside of the EU. These measures were first implemented by relocating asylum seekers in Europe, resettling people in need from neighboring countries and returning people if they did not have the qualifications for asylum. The EU was resolving these problems in the manner of improving security at its borders, reducing migrant smuggling and providing safe ways for people to legally enter the EU.

The European migration policy advanced when the European Agenda on Migration, which was proposed by the European Commission, was implemented in May of 2015, but despite all the above-mentioned, refugees were still not equally welcomed in all of the EU member countries.

The Agenda is built upon four pillars:

1. “Reducing the incentives for irregular migration: the focus is on addressing the root causes behind irregular migration in non-EU countries, dismantling smuggling and trafficking networks and defining actions for the better application of return policies.

2. Saving lives and securing the external borders: this involves better management of the external border, in particular through solidarity towards those Member States that are located at the external borders and improving the efficiency of border crossings.
3. Strengthening the common asylum policy: with the increases in the flows of asylum seekers, the EU's asylum policies need to be based on solidarity towards those needing international protection as well as among the EU Member States, whose full application of the common rules must be ensured through systematic monitoring.
4. Developing a new policy on legal migration: in view of the future demographic challenges the EU is facing, the new policy needs to focus on attracting workers that the EU economy needs, particularly by facilitating entry and the recognition of qualifications." (European Agenda on Migration, 2018)

Since the refugees did not want to stay in provided, designated camps in certain European countries, they tried to reach countries that were economically more stable. *'The massive flow of migrants has also caused deep rifts within the European Union as a whole, with some countries strongly opposing the very idea of sharing the burden that is accepting a certain number of migrants and integrating them into their societies.'* (Vukoičić, 2017, p. 72) Afraid of possible complications, as a consequence of different religions and increased number of foreign job seekers in its market, Poland and Hungary refused to take any of the asylum seekers. The Czech Republic initially accepted 12 people, but after doing so it completely "closed the door" for other refugees. As a response to such behavior and because of the avoidance to implement the migration policy of the EU, the European Commission began legal actions against all three-member states (Tisdall, 2017).

In the first years of the refugee crisis, Austria followed the migration policy directed by the EU, but as time went by, their government started operating out of the determined policy frames. Major deviations from the EU rules, Austria made under the rule of the new government coalition, a collaboration of the Austrian People's Party (conservative party, ÖVP) and the Freedom Party of Austria (far-right party, FPÖ).

Such actions of the Austrian government are unsurprising given the presence of right-wing populist, who acted much like their colleagues in Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. Since the European Union is divided when it comes to the question of the refugee crisis, what comes in hindsight is that Austria because of tightening its migrant politics, unlike other west European countries, is slowly "migrating" from the "West" to the "East" European guidelines and policies.

The new government coalition also implemented new restrictions, regarding its inner politics, and thus affected migrants and refugees in the country as well as

all other citizens. This article will provide an analysis of the current refugee crisis and its impact on Europe from the viewpoint of Austria.

AUSTRIAN EVENTFUL HISTORY OF HELPING REFUGEES – BUT FOR HOW MUCH LONGER?

*If I am ever required to be a refugee, I hope to make it to Austria.
James Michener, The Bridge at Andau (1957)*

Austria has a long and significant history of accepting refugees, which reached its peak in the 20th century. As a result of its actions in World War II, Austria had moral and political obligations to accept people in distress in the following period. Not long after proclaiming its political neutrality, Austria showed its capability to take in and provide shelter for a huge number of people in need. One of Austria's first humanitarian acts was towards the Hungarians when Austria welcomed a significant number of refugees after the Hungarian Uprising in 1956. A similar event occurred in 1968 when Austria opened its borders to let in thousands of Czechoslovakians after the "Prague Spring" and also during the Balkan war in 1995, taking in people fleeing former Yugoslavia. The fact that proved religion was never taken into consideration for approving or declining asylum seekers, was Austria's willingness to equally welcome Muslims from the former Yugoslavia as well as Catholics from Croatia or Orthodox Serbs. The question is, can we imagine that today?

When trains full of refugees started crossing through Austria, it was apparent that women, the elderly, babies and small children represented the minority. However, the majority consisted of able-bodied men between the ages of 20 and 35. As a result, the following crucial questions emerged: Where would be all the refugees settled since migrant camps were already full to overflowing? How successfully could they really be integrated? And above all: How and where to find work for them?

Christoph Schönborn, the cardinal of the Catholic Church, urged all the EU member states to equally participate and share the refugee "burden." He made it clear, that the Syrian refugee crisis was one of the greatest humanitarian challenges in the past decades 'which will change all our lives' (Pongratz-Lippitt, 2016). He deplored the failure of EU countries to share "equally" the refugee burden.

Even though highly publicized migrant crimes increased the fear amongst Austrian citizens and had led to a negative attitude towards immigrants, Werner Faymann and Schönborn were continually promoting and insisting on the Austrian open-door policy. In the following period, more precisely by the end of 2015, almost 100,000 people applied for asylum in Austria. According to statistics, Austria had

more asylum seekers per capita than Germany or Sweden and even more than the US and Canada together. Having fully exhausted its resources faced with an unexpected number of refugees, Austria was forced to change its refugee policy and close its borders (Pongratz-Lippitt, 2016).

The situation in Europe became even tenser. Religion seemed to have a crucial role in the migrant issue dividing Europe and European bishops. First signs of rebellion happened in the eastern EU countries that rejected to implement the EU refugee policy to the full extension. Austria decided to establish border fences as well as to reduce the number of asylum seekers that entered its borders. How the principles of welcoming refugees were taken into question was best illustrated in the stance of a certain bishop of Burgenland, the most eastern province of Austria, who faced Austrian authorities rejecting to implement erecting a border fence on church land, justifying it as being against Christianity, but shortly after warning Europe to stop being “too naive” regarding the intentions for Islamization of Europe (Pongratz-Lippitt, 2016).

This widely undesirable political situation in the EU was caused by enormous refugee waves that shook European countries, mostly those which were considered wealthy and stable, to their cores. Even though Vienna has a crucial role in the sustainability of peaceful coexistence with migrants and is a center for international cooperation and inter-religious dialogue, its purpose as a “bridge” between the east and west is fading.

The rise of right-wing populism in Austria

Since World War II, the Austrian political scene was characterized by the predominance of the two biggest parties: the conservative Austrian People’s Party (Österreichische Volkspartei, ÖVP) and the Social Democratic Party of Austria (Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs, SPÖ). In order to prevent political disbalance and fascism, the cooperation of these two parties was crucial for ensuring further political harmony in the country. Therefore, this collaboration was institutionalized in the system of Austro-Corporatism that resulted in the so-called system of Proporz, defined with political influence proportionally divided between the parties. (Heinisch, 2008, p. 44 as cited in Danner, 2014, p.12) Even though the domination of the two “big” parties was ever-present, a new party that also influenced the country’s stability emerged - the Austrian Freedom Party FPÖ - guided by liberal economic and national ideologies (Pelinka, 2002a, p. 4, as cited in Danner, 2014, p. 12).

The rise of the third party in Austria had a huge effect on the importance of Austro- Corporatism, which ended with a major deterioration in the 1980s. The failure was a result of internal developments in the country, such as privatization

of prior nationalized industries and banks, as well as the entrance into the European Single Market (Pelinka, 2002, p. 8). National election of the FPÖ was followed by other changes that occurred at that time such as joining the European Union in 1995 and the introduction of the Euro as a currency in 2002 (Pelinka, 2002b, p. 8ff. as cited in Danner, 2014, p.13).

Finally, in 2000 the rise of the right-wing populist and national-conservative political party resulted in the formation of a government coalition between the Freedom Party FPÖ and the People's Party ÖVP. This newly created "Schwarz-Blau" government shocked the entire European Union, as it presented political failure in the long-term trends of keeping the right-wing FPÖ out of the Austrian government (Jandl, Kraler, 2003). The new government was overflowed with judgments coming from both inside and outside of the country, which led to the deception of (mainly symbolic) sanctions towards the Austrian government, coming from the leaders of other EU member states. Opposite to their intention, the sanctions that had taken full effect had a drastic negative outcome. They negatively impacted the quality of life in Austria and as a result introduced more inconvenience in the matter of citizens wanting to defend the "attacked Austria".

The sanctions also accelerated the reaching of an agreement, providing for the compensation of World War II slave laborers (mostly Eastern Europeans), as well as the restitution of expropriated property. They also led to the resignation of the FPÖ's charismatic leader, Jorge Häider, as party chairman, and heightened scrutiny of the government's performance with respect to human rights and policies in regard to minorities and immigrants. From the beginning, however, it was clear that the FPÖ would try to reform aliens legislation as the immigration policy has long been one of its central campaign issues. Finally, in July 2002, the Parliament adopted major amendments to the Aliens Act and the Asylum Law (Jandl, Kraler, 2003).

The reforms brought in 2002 did not deviate from the former line of legislation, but new regulations in three important areas were established:

1. Labor immigration- limited mainly to crucial personnel, where the minimum wage for prospective migrants was around 2,000 per month.
2. Seasonal work- employment in such areas was greatly grounded on allowing such laborers in areas outside agriculture and tourism and extending the employment period to up to one year.²
3. "Integration courses"- all new immigrants who were coming from non-EU third countries (plus those who have been living in Austria since 1998) were obligated to participate in integration courses. These courses were based mainly on learning German as a native language, learning the history of Austria and being

² This regulation stood on the contrary to the first regulation and it was not welcomed because it could bring thousands of foreign workers in Austria.

introduced to the political aspects of Austria. If immigrants did not attend, they would be exposed to sanctions, both financial and legal, their residence titles would be denied, etc. In the worst-case scenario, the non-compliant foreigners would have been deported from Austria. (Jandl, Kraler 2003)

Government coalition Kurz-Strache

'We don't need an upper limit or the upper limit to be reduced by half - we need zero immigration, actually minus immigration, because all illegal individuals and criminals belong outside of the country.'

Heinz-Christian Strache, The leader of the Austrian Freedom Party

After the break-down of the second Schüssel government in 2007, the political polarization has been recreated.

Office	Since	Parties
Schüssel I	2000	ÖVP-FPÖ
Schüssel II	2003	ÖVP-FPÖ/BZÖ
Gusenbauer	2007	SPÖ-ÖVP
Faymann I	2008	SPÖ-ÖVP
Faymann II	2013	SPÖ-ÖVP
Kern	2016	SPÖ-ÖVP
Kurz	2017	ÖVP-FPÖ

But in the elections in 2017, the new government coalition was voted. The European group of right-wing governments counted a new member, the Austrian government coalition, which combines two Austrian political parties: the Freedom Party (FPÖ) and the People's Party (ÖVP). The leader of the ÖVP, Sebastian Kurz, as chancellor and the leader of FPÖ, and Heinz-Christian Strache, as vice-chancellor, govern in the government coalition named Kurz. This coalition of the conservative People's Party of Austria (ÖVP) and the anti-immigration Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) made Austria the only western European country with a far-right component in its governing coalition (Factbox, 2017). This placed Austria alongside its neighbors Hungary and the Czech Republic where right-wing-populist parties have been in power for years.

Since Austrian political and party systems tended to stay polarized,³ the government coalition which would include the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ),

³ Polarized in terms of cooperating in government coalition between the Austrian People's Party ÖVP and the Social Democratic Party of Austria.

was generally avoided. Labeled as a political party whose orientations were Eurosceptic and nationalistic, with anti-immigration policies. The election of such a party woke up the entire European Union (Malone, 2014).

Far-right parties, including this one in Austria, reached their peak gaining significant support from their citizens parallel with the increasing number of asylum seekers, referring to the European refugee crisis in 2014 and 2015 (Steinmayr, 2017). It is remarkable, how much crucial influence and political change the inflow of migrants in the country introduced.

Closing the borders

In the Schengen area, there are no typical boarder-passes, and one does not need to use a passport while traveling from one country to one of the other 26 European countries. (Schengen: Controversial EU free movement deal explained, 2016) The Balkan route, which was established in accordance with the European Union, was a designated route for migrants who arrived at the south Shore of the EU (Grece), leading them to the center of Europe and to the countries within the Schengen area. As a response to the European migrant crisis, Austria had, between November 2015 and January 2016, installed border-barrier fences between Slovenia and Italy. The barriers were to be kilometers long, for instance on the Slovenian border, and they were to be placed on the most crowded border-crossings, where the migrants were screened and processed by the police (Bender, Pop, 2015). The second barrier-fence Austria installed on the Italian border in 2016 (Europe migrants: Austria builds Brenner border centre despite criticism, 2016).

Austria took over the rotating six-month presidency of the EU from Bulgaria in July of 2018, and the new government of Austria has the plan to utilize the presidency of the European Union in 2018. According to Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, Austria will put efforts into shifting the bloc's focus from resettling refugees within the European Union towards keeping further waves of migrants outside the bloc's external borders.

'Our aim is very clear – that in Europe there should not only be a dispute over redistribution (of refugees) but also, at last, a shift of focus towards securing external borders'. Sebastian Kurz on the 9th March (Gotey, 2018).

Cutting funds

The right-wing coalition of Austria brought to light their plan to obstruct and heavily limit benefits, such as social help in the form of payments for all the foreigners who cannot speak German, which includes migrants and refugees as well. Such a

plan could potentially bring a backlash from the EU directed at Austria and could even bring legal “inconvenience.”

The Chancellor in Vienna announced the plan, which as previously stated, would disable all foreigners from receiving the main benefit payments in the timespan of five years.

“The fundamental rule we will introduce is that German will become the key to accessing the full minimum benefit,” Chancellor Sebastian Kurz stated. “That means that whoever has insufficient language skills will not be able to claim the full minimum benefit.” By rough estimations, half of the individuals who receive the minimum welfare payments are foreign citizens, which Chancellor Sebastian Kurz described as “frightening.”

Following the plan, the main benefit payment would be limited to 563 euro per month, which would increase to 863 euro per month once the individual acquired a German-language certificate.

Austria’s government, which rose to power last year with the help of the far-right representatives, has displayed a hard, potentially ruthless stance on asylum-seekers and immigration in general and withdrawing benefits could be regarded as a “not welcome” sign for individuals thinking of migrating to Austria.

Conflict with Brussels?

Now since Austria is expected to treat EU citizens equally as Austrian people, under the EU’s freedom of movement directive, the new plan was bound to introduce problems coming from the EU.

‘Freedom of establishment is the freedom to work in all of Europe. Freedom of establishment is not the freedom to seek out the best social benefits system and, in that sense, this waiting period is in my opinion a step in the right direction,’ Kurz implied. But in March, the Constitutional Court voted down the reform which stated that anyone receiving the main minimum benefit must have lived in Austria for five of the last six years.

Austrian public opinion about migrant integration is divided

In September of 2018, “Statistics Austria” published the results of a survey in their statistical yearbook for migration and integration in Austria (*Statistisches Jahrbuch für Migration & Integration*). They asked citizens of Austria for their opinions regarding the integration of migrants and whether they thought that the integration was successfully working. The results showed that 45% of the population, without the background involving migration, responded positively, while 55% responded with skepticism. Now, these statistics should not be surprising given

the fact that Austria's citizens have recently given 58% of their votes to the two main far-right, anti-immigrant parties, but it does come off as a surprise when the last 8 years are taken into consideration (Fray, 2018).

The percentage of citizens of Austrian nationality who thought the integration was working “very well” or “rather well” increased steadily, from 30.8% in 2010 to 48.6% in 2014. The numbers showed a substantial increase in favor of positive attitudes towards integration.

‘All Austrian states but Kärnten, known as the stronghold state of the anti-immigrant FPÖ party (the far-right Freedom Party of Austria), have been displaying a greater openness to immigrants’

(Czaika, Di Lillo, 2018).

However, all that changed in 2015. Since then, the widely positive opinion on integration and its success has continuously shifted up and down: 40.5% in 2015, up to 48.1% in 2016 and then 36.5% in 2017, but then it went surprisingly back up to 45% in 2018. On a wider spectrum, the results of conducted research indicate that anti- and pro-immigration opinions remained relatively in “harmony” across the state in previous time, and this applies to the majority of Europe. So, then, where does the source of these sudden shifts lie? Well, of course, the obvious change that comes to everyone's mind is the migrant crisis. According to statistics, roughly 865,000 people moved to Austria between 2013 and 2017.

‘If we follow the assumption that approval and disapproval in the population are at a relatively constant ratio of 50:50, then the disapproving half is more articulate nowadays, and also politically more mobilized.’

- Rita Garstenauer, director of the Centre for Migration Research (Lindsay, 2018)

Now, even though the portion of Austrians that disapprove immigration may very well not be increasing, the facts state that they are getting more organized and are ensuring that their opinions are being heard. On the other hand, the migrant crisis has also “inspired” pro-immigration groups, who also ensured their voices were being heard by organizing various protests for a more “humane” asylum policy. However, Austria's current government under Sebastian Kurz, an individual responsible for having closed the Balkans Route as the Minister of Integration and Foreign Affairs, is enforcing a clear policy of forced deportation in Austria (Lindsay, 2018).

Austrian presidency of the Council of the European Union

On July 1st, 2018, Austria took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union. The fact that a government of a country that was to lead the

European Union for the next six months consisted of conservative and right-wing populist parties frightened the whole European Union.

According to the Program of the Presidency for the Council of the European Union (see under Programme of the Austrian Presidency) for the second half of the 2018, it was announced that Austria was aware of the severest consequences which the European refugee crisis brought and that major changes regarding the tightening of the current refugee policies should be considered top priority.

Security and the fight against illegal migration

The fight against illegal migration and providing high-level security in Europe were regarded as a mandatory mission by the Austrian government in the following Presidency. The consequences of the European largest migration crisis could even be felt in countries which were labeled as the most desired by refugees, which resulted in increased concerns about how far the uncontrolled migration inflow could go. The importance of this fact and enabling the EU to cooperate in order to deal with the problem were highlighted. The solution was grounded on reforming the Common European Asylum System and on concentrating and intensifying support for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency FRONTEX, which should provide additional protection on the EU's external borders. Furthermore, working closely with the "third" countries was fundamental in order to establish an effective return policy, such as to support people in distress by manner of providing protection even before they enter the EU, while simultaneously segregating those people not in need of protection and stopping them from illegally entering the EU (Programme of the Austrian Presidency, p. 8).

In order to counter organized crime, the Austrian government encouraged the idea of efficient cooperation and information exchange between the security authorities of individual Member states. Moreover, combined forces at the level of the European Union were mentioned as necessary, aiming to combat terror threats and radicalizations of all kinds (Programme of the Austrian Presidency, p. 20).

External aspects of migration

During its Presidency, Austria will focus on the external aspects of migration so it could establish more adequate migrant control. This includes partnerships between the EU member states and relevant countries of migrant origin and transit. Political stabilization and maintaining economic and social development, human rights and stable governance were designated mandatory aims for the control of illegal migration, in addition with the fight against human trafficking, creation of sustainable protection capacities in the relevant regions as well as securing return, readmission and reintegration (Programme of the Austrian Presidency, p. 22).

Asylum and migration

The establishment of strict asylum and migration systems⁴ were the main goals that would ensure uncontrolled migration and reduce migratory pressure on the EU Member States. In that sense, the Austrian Presidency aims to make contributions towards finding a solution to achieve more efficient negotiations on the reforming of the Common European Asylum System.

Austria will also promote better and more advanced common return policy in the cooperation with the third countries, by applying the principle “Less for Less.”⁵ Moreover, the cooperation with migrant-relevant countries of origin and transit should be placed under a firm footing under the European migration partnership framework in order to achieve increased targeted efforts in the third countries (Programme of the Austrian Presidency, p. 34-35).

CONCLUSION

Since Europe is being faced with the largest migration crisis after the Second World War, where previously migrant inflow had caused structural “inconvenience” in certain countries, people’s fear of possible further uncontrolled migration resulted in the loss of trust in the European Union’s capacity to act in a crisis. One of the consequences of the astonishingly high number of migrant inflow in Europe, particularly in Austria, was a rise of the right-wing parties in the national government. Even though Austria has an eventful history of helping refugees, the waves of refugees in past years have increased extremist and terrorist activities and introduced new threats in crime, leading Austrian citizens to change their attitude and to elect conservative and right-wing populist parties. At the end of 2017, the new coalition consisted of FPÖ and ÖVP entered the national government of Austria, bringing more radical approaches in dealing with not only refugees and migrants, but affecting also current policies, targeting low and middle-class income receiving households. These actions placed Austria right next to eastern countries of the European Union, which under the right-wing parties displayed anti-immigrant attitudes, leaving the EU skeptical regarding further dealings with such coalitions that led certain member states.

Starting from July 1st, 2018, Austria took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, announcing tighter asylum policies. The Austrian Presidency is aiming to contribute to the Union in matters of internal security, by

⁴ Based on distinction between refugees and migrants

⁵ (i. e. links to visa or economic policy and concerted restrictive measures)

placing the focus on asylum and migration issues, on protecting the external borders, on fighting radicalization, terrorism and organized crime.

The world was caught off guard when the migration crisis arose, a crisis with devastating consequences that brought many changes to life in general. Unable to stay afloat of the situation, many innocent people fleeing their homeland lost their lives, but also many criminals took advantage of other people's misery to fill their pockets or enter the Euro zone. We do not know what the future will bring, and which crisis is next in line on the list of never-ending struggles the human race has to endure on its path of survival, and we can only work to make this world a better place for all and the future as bright as possible.

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KAKO JE NOVA KOALICIJA AUSTRIJSKE VLADE IZMENILA SVOJU POLITIKU U POGLEDU IZBEGLICA?

Apstrakt: Od 2015. godine više od million migranata sa Bliskog istoka, Afrike i Azije pridošli su na Evropsko tlo. Fenomen “Evropska izbeglička kriza” prouzrokovao je povećan rizik bezbednosti, nove ekonomske i socijalne probleme kao i političke i geopolitičke pritiske uopšte na Evropsku uniju kao i na njene države članice. Suočavajući se sa krizom, Evropska unija okrenula se političkim akcijama u skladu sa njenim principima spoljnje i bezbednosne politike.

Ovaj članak fokusiran je na Austriju kao članicu Evropske unije i njene političke poduhvate prema krizi. Iako Austrija pripada “zapadnoj grupi država”, sa dolaskom nove vlade odnosno koalicije između Narodne partije Austrije (konzervativne partije, *nem.* ÖVP) i Slobodarske partije Austrije (desničarske partije, *nem.* FPÖ), Austrija teži ka politici istočnih članica posebno kada je reč o izbegličkoj krizi. Imajući u obziru navedeno, proistakla su nova pitanja: Koje su najveće brige nove koalicije? Koje promene je Austrija implementirala u Evropski zakon o azilu? Koji je novi tretman za migrante u Austriji?

Ključne reči: Evropska izbeglička kriza, Austrija, Narodna partija Austrije, Slobodarska partija Austrije.

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