Muslim Migration to Europe
Case Study: EUROPEAN UNION—the Justice, Freedom and Security Department

History of immigration/citizenship policies:
- The European Communities was the predecessor to the European Union. The 1957 Treaty of Rome approved by the European Communities became the basis for immigration policies until the 1990s. The treaty favored the free movement of EU citizens and migrants however individual member states determined their own immigration policies.
- The United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, also known as the "Geneva Convention," influenced many European countries to accept refugees and asylum seekers. The convention defines who a refugee is and the responsibilities of states to protect them. Initially the focus was to protect refugees from World War II but over time the geographical and temporal boundaries opened up by the 1967 Protocol to the convention. * Denmark was the first to ratify the Convention in 1952. http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b73b0d63.pdf
- The European Union was formally created in 1993 and continues to support the free movement of EU citizens within Europe. Its primary focus now is developing a common immigration policy for all member states. Free movement is one of the EU's Four Freedoms (goods, capital, services, people).

Recent immigration/citizenship policies:
- The 'Schengen agreement' ensures the right to travel freely from one country to another for EU citizens. Five European countries (France, West Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Netherlands) initiated the agreement in 1985 to end border controls and create a borderless area known as the Schengen Area. The EU adopted the agreement in the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/special_report/1997/schengen/13508.stm
- The EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights (1999) supports freedom of movement and protects the rights of non-EU citizens as they work and live in Europe.
- The Stockholm Programme is a general roadmap for 2010-2014 EU policies concerning migration. Main areas include continued migration for labor-market needs, family reunification policies, migrant integration programs and protecting vulnerable populations such as minors and asylum seekers.

Sources:
http://europa.eu/pol/justice/index_en.htm
http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/index_en.htm
http://www.euimmigration.org/

Key Issues:
- The EU promotes a common immigration policy for Europe based on principles of prosperity, solidarity and security. However, individual member states of the EU do not always agree with these policies and continue to support restrictive immigration policies.

10 Common Principles
Prosperity and Immigration:

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- Clear rules and a level playing field
- Matching skills and needs
- Integration is the key to successful immigration

Solidarity and Immigration:

- Transparency, trust and cooperation
- Efficient and coherent use of available means
- Partnership with third-countries

Security and Immigration:

- A visa policy that serves the interests of Europe and its partners
- Integrated border management
- Stepping up the fight against illegal immigration and zero tolerance for trafficking in human beings
- Effective and sustainable return policies

Source:
http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/jl0001_en.htm