



Beata Glowa

Born in Poland. Age 50.

Prime minister for Poland since 2015. Belongs to the Christian Conservative party. Her first two actions as prime minister was to remove the EU flag from press conferences and to place a big cross in the hall where all the ministers meet. A weak negotiator with a bad negotiations history with the EU where she always loses. Draws unfortunate attention with ill-timed and offensive remarks, and disagrees with everyone except Turban.



Strategy

- Will stop at nothing to prevent a binding EU agreement on quotas on refugees.
- Hates the liberal Ronald Kusk (also former prime minister of Poland) and has even voted against him being chairman at The European Council. Finds eye-contact with him difficult, and likes to lash out at him with personal remarks.
- Attempts to plant fake news about Ronald Kusk (also former prime minister of Poland), e.g. that he's not Polish-born and that he really works for Germany, international capitalism, and American NGO's.

Political suggestions

- EU's outer borders must be kept hermetically shut.
- Backs Turban's views on refugees.
- And, as a good Catholic, she still supports humanitarian aid – in their neighbouring regions!

Stances

- Feels that her government has spent twice as many resources on migrants and refugees then the former government (headed by Kusk)
- The migrants included in the EU's allocation plan are not refugees but economically motivated migrants, who should be sent home. Hence, the quotas do not work.
- It is the responsibility of the government and prime minister to protect the population against danger, and she therefore refuses to compromise regarding the safety of the Polish people. Refugees means crime and terrorism.
- It is impossible not to connect terrorism and the migration problem. The two things are connected, as was seen on London Bridge when a van rammed into pedestrians.
- Refugees also contain a risk of diseases and parasites.
- If Poland were to receive refugees, it would be a forced allocation against the will of the refugees. Most migrants do not want to live in Poland anyway. Poland would therefore have to incarcerate their quota refugees in camps to prevent them from travelling further west. And the EU is refusing to acknowledge the facts, if they deny this.
- Poland will not submit to blackmail for the EU commission.

Task

Choose one from the group who plays Beata Glowa for the course of the conference. The rest of the group plays members of the European Parliament, members of the national-conservative and EU sceptical group ECR – European Conservatives and Reformists.



Cecilia Vekselström

Born in Sweden. Age 40.

Member of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) since 2009.

Former chaplain in the prison system and the Cathedral of Göteborg.

Is chief negotiator in connection with the Commission's suggestion of a collective refugee policy. A strong communicator.



Strategy

She has a temper and has difficulties remaining calm when approaching those she disagrees with, but must represent the entire parliament and therefore seeks unity. Would like to convince Poland and Hungary to support a common agreement, but is still really angry with them because of their behavior.

Suggests Quotas

- Mandatory and binding allocation of refugees via a quota system. Refugees are to be further distributed from the receiving countries, mostly Greece and Italy.
- The quota depends on a country's BNP and the size of the population.
- In 2016, Sweden received 160.000 refugees, but should according to the quota system only have received 40.000. Denmark received 20.000 and should according to the quota system have received a little less.
- A gradual introduction of the quotas over five years, so the Central European countries have time to adapt.
- Punishment: EU countries opposing the allocation must be punished financially.

Suggests an efficient and preventive effort

- Speedy case handling: Refugees who have no right to asylum must be returned quickly to their home countries.
- Refugees must be allowed to seek asylum at embassies outside the EU to avoid the dangerous routes.
- Secure speedy family reunification.
- Make it easier for refugees travelling together to go to the same country.
- If a refugee has family in e.g. Denmark, they must be allowed to go there.
- Better protection of unescorted children.
- Preventive effort: Offer the countries, from which the refugees come or travel through that their citizens can obtain work visa in the EU, if these countries in return make an effort to detain and return the refugees.

Arguments

- The quota system could work, if the countries took responsibility.
- Solidarity in EU goes further than rich countries helping poor countries.
- Thinks the billionaire, George Soros is right in saying that the EU should accept more refugees.
- Everyone should do their part as opposed to the situation in 2013 where 1,3 million refugees were allocated between very few countries (like Sweden and Germany), while the vast majority of the EU countries hardly received any (Poland, Hungary, and The Czech Republic, especially)
- Those who take few or no refugees also receive most EU money.
- The task of receiving refugees is manageable if everyone chips in.
- Many are migrating and Europe is a rich continent. We cannot leave it to the poor neighbouring countries to e.g. manage the situation in Syria.
- EU's agreement with Turkey doesn't solve the problems. Millions of refugees are stranding in Turkey and the EU will become dependent on President Erdogan and the expensive financial contributions to his regime.

Task: Choose one from the group who plays Cecilia Vekselström for the course of the conference. The rest of the group plays members of the European Parliament, members from the liberal group ALDE – Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe.





Didrik Diktafonis

Born in Holland. Age 40.

Journalist for the tabloid Dagelijks Sensazionen.
Anti-elitist and has an affinity for conspiracy theories.
Rarely trusts official data from the elite or the authorities.



Dagelijks
Sensazionen



Goals

- His paper makes a lot of money on round the clock sensation news.
- His paper's regard of him rises with the number of clicks generated by his stories.
- He looks for juicy, sharply angled stories with a catchy head line.
- He would like to catch the elite in being out of step with the population.
- He is skeptical towards transnational institutions.

Work Method

- At the conference, he spend every break and the press meeting getting a good story from the politicians.
- He doesn't look for broad, complex stories, but a clear simple piece of catchy news.

Interview technique:

- He asks closed and leading questions – to get clear answers.
- Rhetorical questions. E.g. Can you guarantee that there will be no acts of terrorism as a consequence of refugees?...So there's a risk of terror, and that's okay with you?
- He uses value-laden words to create a dramatic atmosphere. E.g. The EU is 'flooded' by 'well-fare tourists', 'asylum-shoppers', and 'convenience refugees'.
- He use the concepts of refugees and migrants interchangeably.
- He is quick to accuse the elite (parliament) for e.g. not having invited common people into the panel.
- He perceive himself as the voice of the people

Research

- He navigates via opinions, moods, and the personal stories he hears, rather than the data the elite presents.
- He was just in Greece where he spoke to four people:
- One Greek lost his job due to failing tourism caused by the erection of a refugee camp on his Island.
- Another Greek has an olive grove, which he hardly dares visit because of migrants from a local refugee camp, who hang out there.
- The leader of a refugee camp, gave quite a few negative stories about crime, violence, fights, rape, and child abuse.
- One migrant (not a refugee), who came from North Africa, stated he is looking for a better life in rich EU.

Task

Choose one from the group who plays Didrik Diktafonis for the course of the conference. The rest of the group plays journalists from likewise papers. Be free to invent your own names and papers.



Filippa Grandiosum

Born in Italy. Age 35.

General Secretary in the UOR – United Organizations for Refugees

Has a background as an activist and is easily provoked by Glowa and Turban.



United Organisations
for Refugees

Strategy

- Happy that the EU are implementing a common policy, which obligates all countries.
- Tries to make politicians and journalists understand the seriousness of the situation.
- Fights hard to introduce more facts into the debate.
- Thinks everyone will listen to the rational voice of reason.
- Spends all the conferences and coffee meetings influencing journalists and politicians.
- She has been in contact with the journalist, Karolina Pullitza, who also participates, prior to the conference and given her a lot of facts.

Political suggestions

- Common allocation of refugees based on solidarity and respect for human rights.
- The allocation cannot rest on a few voluntary countries, but must include all.
- Establish safe, legal routes to the EU for refugees so their reception and allocation can be organized efficiently, and so their sufferings on the journey are limited.
- Secure more aid in the Mediterranean.
- Skip the deal with Turkey and Libya as they neither live up to the standards of basic human rights, nor qualify as safe third countries.
- Improve the conditions on the Greek islands, where refugees are detained under horrible conditions.

Stances

- The EU countries' stance that refugees must be helped in their neighbouring areas is problematic because these are often very poor and very unsafe.
- It is especially bad in Libya where refugees are imprisoned, tortured, and abused.
- A big fan of the EU accusing The Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary for not receiving refugees.
- Feels that Poland and Hungary are mocking the founding principles of the EU.
- The EU's idea that refugees can be helped in the neighbouring areas is problematic because these countries are often very poor and not safe enough.
- Libya is especially bad due to refugees being incarcerated, abused, and tortured.
- Likes that the EU has criticized the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary for not receiving refugees.
- Feels that Poland and Hungary are mocking the founding principles of the EU.

Facts (www.unhcr.org, 1. august 2017)

- Refugees who have crossed the Mediterranean in 2017:
 - Italy: 95.000, Greece: 11.500, Cyprus 530, Spain 6.500
 - Of these are 16% children, 12% women and 72% men.
 - In Italy's case, this is an increase of over 20% compared to last year.
 - More than 2.300 people are estimated to have drowned in 2017.
- Many have experienced traumatic abuse based on gender or sexual orientation, extortion, kidnapping, or sexual assaults in either home or transit countries. Therefore, many require treatment.
- Europe is not overrun with refugees. In 2015 86% of the world's refugees lived in the world's least developed countries.
- A large part of these are unescorted children, who require better protection. The number of unescorted children rose by 109% from 2015 to 2016, where the total amount was 25.846 children.

Task: Choose one from the group who plays Filippa Grandiosum for the course of the conference. The rest of the group work in the same NGO and share the same position and strategy. Be free to invent your own names.



Karolina Pullitza

Born in Spain. Age 25.

Journalist for the intellectual weekly magazine REFLEKTUS

She is very intelligent, finished university quickly, and is very ambitious. She has not won a prize yet (but would love to!)



Goals

- To find a complex story, that will reveal something big and important (and get her a prize).
- Vigorously trying to expose populists and others who attempt to muddy the factual news flow.
- To be a guard against fake news, Russian trolls, sensationalist press etc.

Work Approach

- At the conference, she spends every break and the press meeting trying to get a good story from the politicians.
- She is the classic, unbiased journalist.
- She has a high moral standard and love source criticism – she can never know too much.
- Wants to hear both sides of stories and cases.
- Interview technique:
 - She poses unbiased questions and talk in neutral phrases.
 - E.g. 'the refugee situation', not the refugee crisis.
 - She poses open questions, which allow for nuanced and broad answers:
 - How, Why...e.g. 'What does it take to create a sustainable policy for asylum seekers?'
 - She avoids questions which one can only answer 'yes' and 'no' to.
- She is very focused on not confusing the concepts of 'refugees' and 'migrants'.
Refugees are forced to flee, migrants is a broad term covering e.g. people who move to obtain better opportunities in life.

Research

She did some research and spoke to the acclaimed general secretary, Filippa Grandiosum. Filippas NGO, United Organisations for Refugees, have given her the latest UN data (UNHCR, August 1, 2017):

- Refugees who crossed the Mediterranean in 2017 for:
 - Italy: 95.000, Greece: 11.500, Cypres 530, Spain 6.500
 - Of these are 16% children, 12% women and 72% men.
 - Regarding Italy, this is an increase of more than 20% compared to last year.
 - Over 2.300 people are expected to have drowned in 2017.
- Many have experienced traumatic abuse based on gender or sexual orientation, extortion, kidnapping, sexual assaults and abuse in either the countries they flee from or travel through. Therefore, many require help and treatment
- Europe is not being overrun with refugees. In 2015, 86% of the world's refugees were found in the world's least developed countries.
- Many of these are unescorted children, who require better protection. The number of unaccompanied children increased by 109% from 2015 to 2016, where the total number was 25.846.

Task

Choose one from the group who plays Karolina Pullitza for the course of the conference. The rest of the group plays journalists from likewise papers. Be free to invent your own names and papers.



Ronald Kusk

Born in Gdansk in Poland. Age 50.

President of the European Council since 2014 and reelected in 2017. Prime Minister of Poland from 2007-2014 (during which the country experienced major financial growth). The President of the European Council represents the EU externally on state and government leader level.



Strategy

- Kusk's job consist of securing unity and consensus in the European Council and, consequently, also Poland and Hungary. He is extremely annoyed with Poland and Hungary, because they are always in opposition.
- Likes to point out the importance of his own position, as he is president of the European Council, where all state leaders meet and agree on stuff.
- Likes to point out that Poland under his leadership saw a record breaking financial growth of 20%.

Stances

- There are considerably fewer refugees arriving in Greece because the agreement with Turkey works.
- It is disloyal behavior to the receiving countries, Italy and Greece not to support the quotas.
- If any country can just come up with their definition of solidarity, it is the end of the EU.
- Does not approve of Hungary incarcerating refugees in camps while their cases are being handled, and that they have no possibility to appeal.
- EU sees everyone within the quota system as being screened and declared refugees.
- EU is also about standing together when there are problems and not just receiving financial benefits (as Poland and Hungary does).
- Poland should have received 6.200 refugees and Hungary 1.300, but have received none.

Political suggestions

- To make UNHCR and International Organisation for Migration acknowledge Libya as a safe third country so refugees can be sent back.
- Feels that the many rescue vessels have a certain pull-factor, meaning that refugees attempt crossing the Mediterranean expecting to be rescued. Therefore, these must be stopped.
- EU's current maritime task-force (Fontex) are handling the job just fine.
- A new task-force should target the traffickers' ability to operate.
- The quota system has to work. So far only 20.000 of 160.000 have been allocated.
- The Visegrad countries must take their share of the responsibility. EU has accused the Visegrad countries of not showing responsibility and solidarity. Solidarity is the foundation of the EU.

Task

Choose one from the group who plays Ronald Kusk for the course of the conference. The rest of the group plays members of the European Parliament, Kusk's allied from the Christian-democratic and liberal-conservative parliamentary group EPP - European Peoples Party.





Viktor Turban

Born in Hungary. Age 50.

Prime Minister of Hungary since 2010. Belongs to a national conservative party.



Strategy

- Is a real smooth-talker. An expert in keeping the door to the EU open (so they get the financial benefits), while at the same time avoiding binding agreements regarding refugees. Is of the opinion that the EU needs him more than he needs them.
- Is a populist and always has his voters in Hungary in mind. For this reason, he tends to blame other countries and institutions for the world's problems. Does on occasion use both alternative facts and fake news.
- Often points out poor Greeks who lost their jobs because tourism in Greece is failing.
- Often deals with attacks on his politics by claiming that his opponents are paid by the Hungarian born, but now US resident billionaire, George Soros.
- Uses every opportunity to push fake news to the journalists so their stories will support you. It's all about discrediting the other politicians and NGOs.

Political suggestions

- Does not want a common EU policy on refugees.
- Participation in the quota agreement ought to be voluntary, since it has turned out to be useless.
- If other countries need migrants, they can have them. But Hungary does not need one single refugee to make their economy work, maintain their population, or secure the future of the country.
- Refugees right to asylum should be handled outside the EU at the root of the problem and not by the finishing line in the EU.
- Wants to establish safe-spots in Libya, where refugees can be returned to.

Stance

- The fate of Hungary is sealed by the EU, and Turban himself feels that he is working for EU's survival.
- Today, international politics have become a battle-ground. As it is, Hungary is already under attack from international, financially strong interests, where particularly the Jewish, Hungarian born billionaire, George Soros, suggests that the EU take more refugees.
- Hungary is a Christian-conservative country with no room for Muslims. Migration leads to parallel societies and potentially more antisemitism.
- Turban wants to defend the EU with fences to prevent refugees flooding the continent and replacing the Christian cultural heritage and changing European civilization, culture, spirit, and mentality.
- Asylum seekers are poison for Europe – every refugee is a security risk. Refugees are a Trojan Horse of terrorism.
- Is a huge fan of Donald Trump, who legalized putting your own country first.

Task

Choose one from the group who plays Viktor Turban for the course of the conference. The rest of the group plays members of the European Parliament, Turbans allied from the Christian-democratic and liberal-conservative parliamentary group EPP - European Peoples Party.