

Securitisation and migration

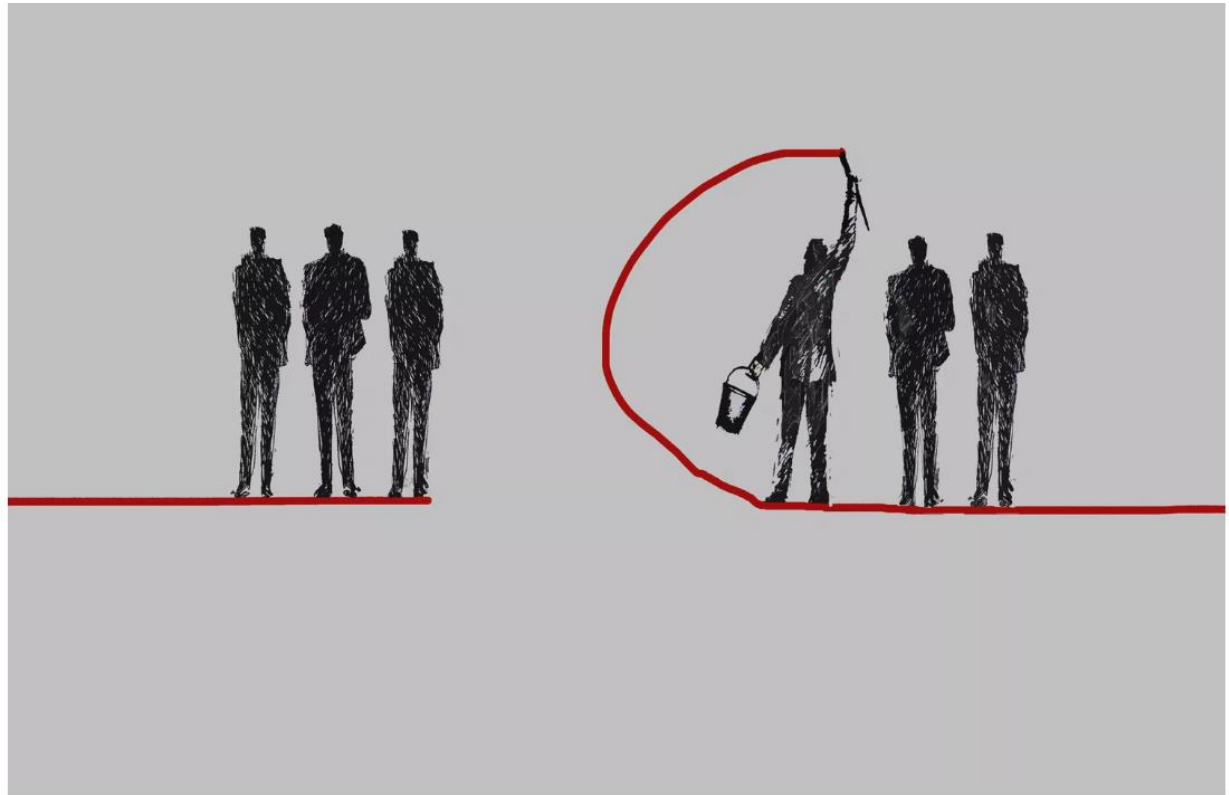
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Plan

- To understand the concept of societal security and how it connects migration and securitization;
- How the securitization of migration has led to the so-called “Fortress Europe”;
- How to recognize the securitization of migration, based on the work of NHRI peers.

Societal security

- societal security $\approx$ identity security
- The referent objects in the societal sector are whatever larger groups carry the loyalties and devotion of subjects in a form and to a degree that can create a socially powerful argument that this “we” is threatened.
- Since we are talking about the societal sector, this “we” has to be threatened as to its identity. (Buzan, Waever & de Wilde: 1998, 123)
- Different societies have different vulnerabilities depending upon how their identity is constructed.



Migration as a threat

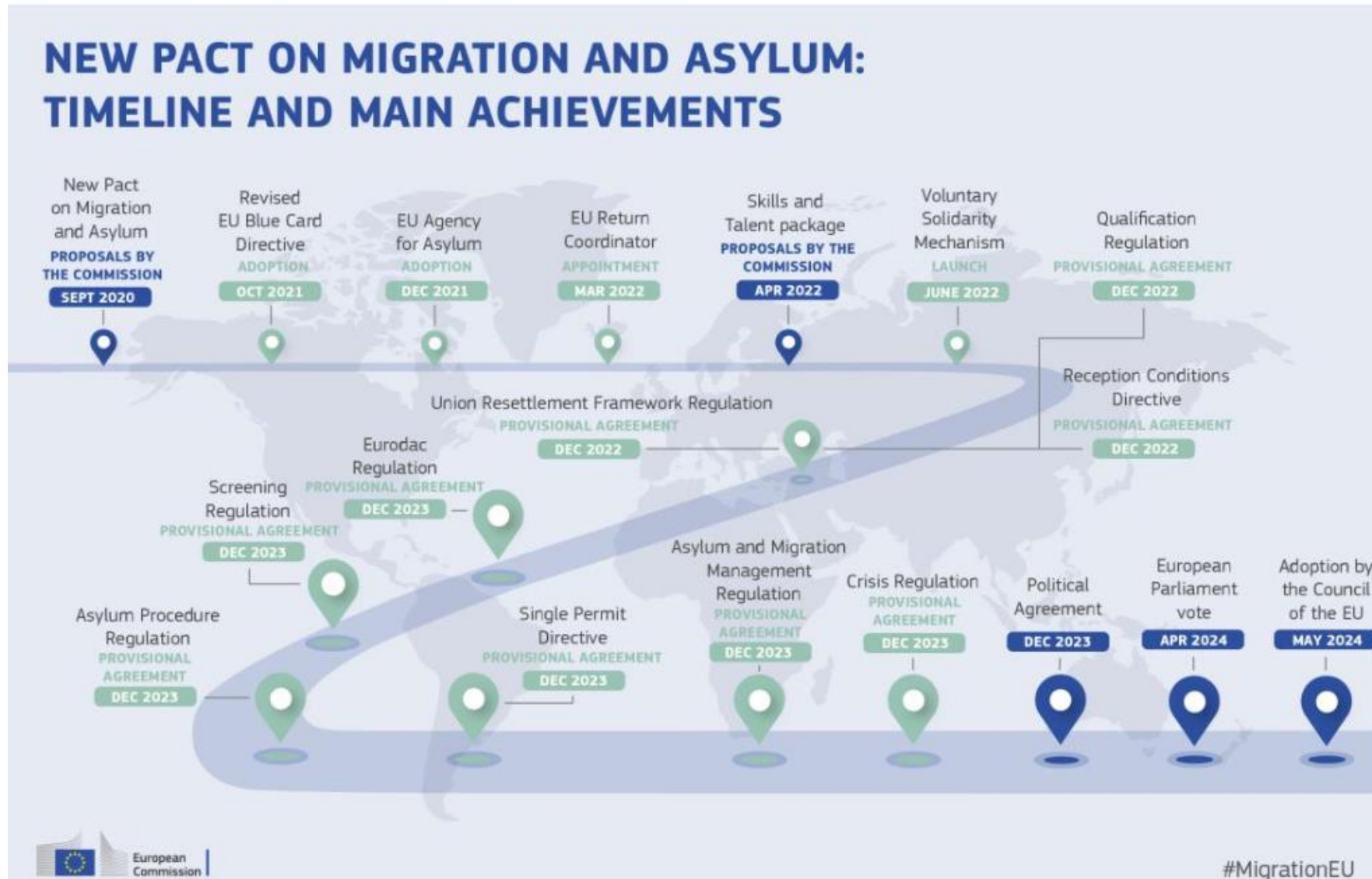
- Migration is high on the societal security agenda.
- Migration is identified as being one of the main factors weakening national tradition and societal homogeneity. It is reified as an internal and external danger for the survival of the national community or western civilization.
- This discourse excludes migrants from the normal fabric of society, not just as aliens but as aliens who are dangerous to the reproduction of the social fabric.

Migration as a threat

Characteristics of the political discourse mainly, in terms of migrants have to do with:

- Positive self-presentation;
 - Negative presentation of the other;
 - Association of migrants and refugees with crime;
 - Securitization of migrants and refugees.
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- The phenomenon of the securitisation of migration self-fulfils its own assumption: if migration is expertly described as a threat, then the arrival of migrants, no matter whether in increasing numbers or not, will always constitute a crisis to manage (Maguire 2015).

EU Pact on Migration and Asylum



EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

- the Screening regulation,
- EURODAC, the fingerprint database that the EU uses to monitor asylum seekers within the Schengen area,
- the Asylum and migration management regulation,
- the Common asylum procedure, and
- the Response to asylum crisis and force majeure situations.

Crisis and force majeure regulation

- Sets specific rules for crisis situations, i.e. the exceptional mass influx of third-country nationals/stateless persons arriving irregularly in a Member State and threatening the functioning of a Member State's asylum, reception or return system, or
- the risk of such a mass influx.
- Under the crisis and force majeure regulation, the concept of *instrumentalisation* has been introduced, allowing Member States to derogate from their obligations.
- The “situations of crisis” definitions are so broad that they will enable states to invoke them at any time, undermining EU law and further complicating coordinated and predictable response.

Thank you!