

Σειρά διαλέξεων: Τουρκική κοινωνία και πολιτική

BEKEN SAATÇIOĞLU (MEF University)

The EU's Governance of External Migration: Changes and Implications for the EU's Relations with Partner Countries

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This lecture explores the EU's external migration policy in the period since the 2015 Syrian refugee crisis. It shows that the EU's approach to the crisis had far-reaching consequences both for EU migration governance and the EU's relations with partner countries in the Middle East. Three practices have increasingly assumed prevalence. The first is *externalization*: instead of acting upon burden-sharing and “fair sharing of responsibility”, the EU externalized the crisis to Turkey via the 18 March 2016 EU-Turkey refugee deal. It also completed similar partnership agreements with Tunisia (2023) and Egypt (2024) whereby it promised these countries economic support and cooperation in exchange for their efforts to control illegal migration. The second practice is *refugee-rentierism* which refers to migration partner countries' use of refugees for the purpose of extracting economic and political concessions (i.e., “refugee rents”) from the EU and/or relevant international donors. The third and particularly significant practice is *transactionalism*. The EU's migration partnerships with refugee-sending and transit countries fostered transactional ties with them, consolidating interest-based strategic partnerships. Relatedly, the lecture particularly assesses the changing nature of the EU-Turkey relationship which has become overwhelmingly strategic instead of conditionality-driven following externalization.