Announced Topic 2018: Italy and Mediterranean Migrant Crisis

Monday, September 10, 2018, an estimated 100 migrants from Libya capsized and drowned in the Mediterranean Sea. It was the latest in a string of tragedies tied to refugees transiting to Europe to escape war, poverty and oppression from various points in the African continent for the better part of the decade. One analysis blames the rising Mediterranean death rate on Italian policies that have “barred most rescue vessels from bringing migrants to Italian ports” since June 2018.

Despite Italian and broader EU policies to deter these risky water passages, and despite efforts by European States to coordinate humanitarian efforts to intercept, house, and process refugees, the overall problem remains unresolved, partly due to infighting in Europe about burden sharing.

From the perspective of an Italian delegate, be prepared to answer questions concerning Italy’s position with regard to national and regional responsibilities related to refugees into Europe. How does it feel about EU policies and other countries efforts compared to Italy’s? How has Italy tried to stem refugees specifically leaving from Libya and what are its policy proposals for responding to migrant flows across the Mediterranean and elsewhere into Europe. Be ready to address claims about Italy's new far-right coalition government and its policies toward migrant flows from the Mediterranean.

In preparing for this exercise, consult national and international news sources, and any other sources you feel is appropriate. In your interview, you will role-play an Italian delegate facing similar questions from the interview panel.