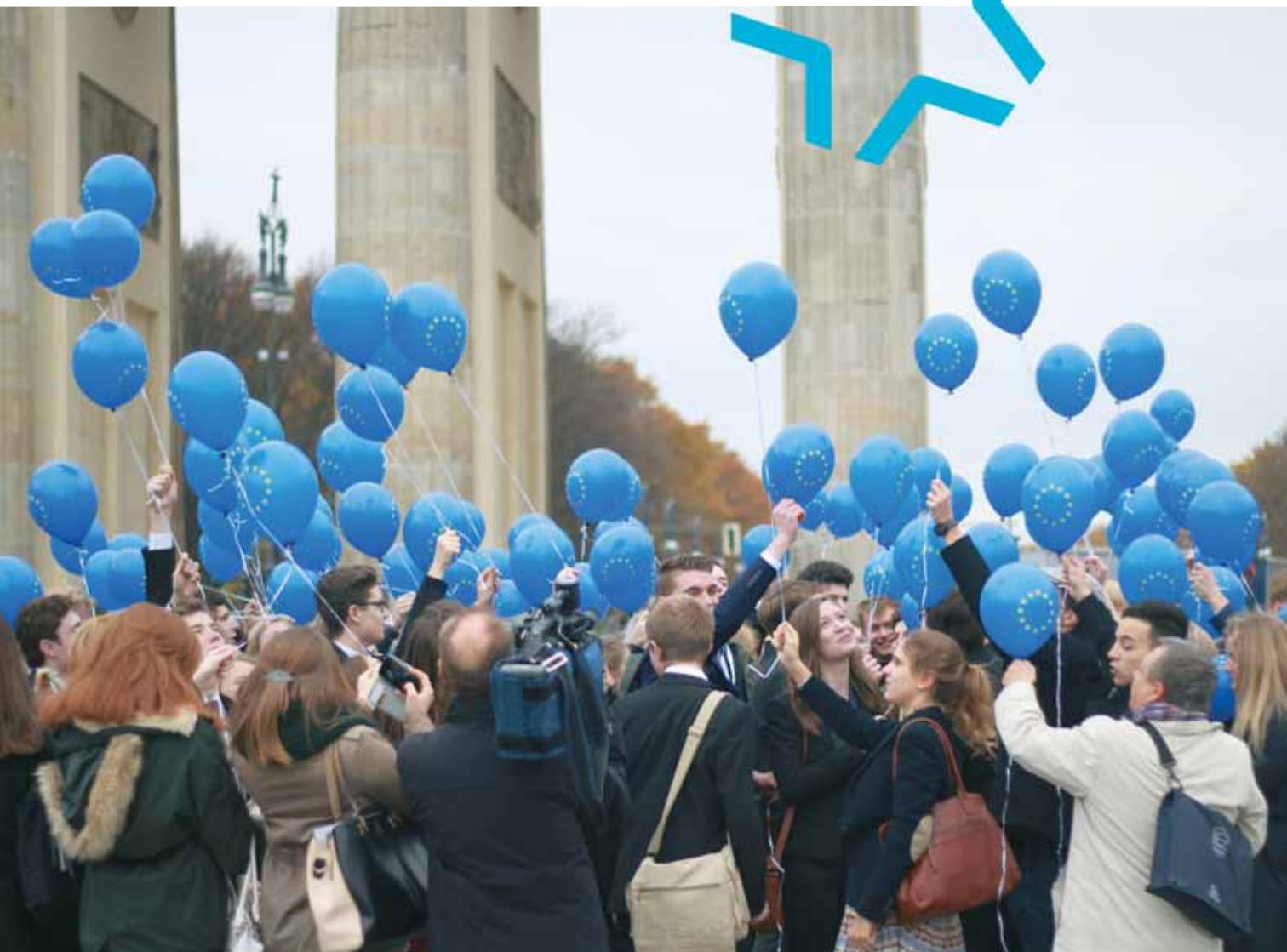


**Model European  
Parliament 43rd session  
8. – 15.11.2015 Berlin -  
Empowerment for  
Youth Participation**





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“I feel more like a European citizen than ever before” - “Initially a Eurosceptic, MEP totally reshaped my perspective of European politics and the importance of the European Union in the wider world” - “I had the time of my life in MEP.

I want to make Europe a better place to live, and thanks to MEP I made the first step toward politics.” “Just continue to do what is already being done, as it was probably one of the best weeks of my life.”



Preface - Christopher Lucht MEP Germany

## Do you think you can tell heaven from hell, blue skies from pain?



Of course, we were facing a big challenge when organizing such a big event like the international session of the Model European Parliament. Will the organization run smoothly? Will the delegates like the activities? Will everybody take part in the discussions? The positive feedback in the evaluation sheets, however, shows that we managed to meet the challenges.

We certainly offered a lot of different and sometimes surprising ideas to the 180 delegates from 27 EU-Member States and candidate countries to consider.

The event started with the opening ceremony in the town hall with speeches by Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe, the Ambassador of Luxembourg Georges Santer, the European Woman of the Year Linn Selle, the alumnus Andreas Sowa, and the Director of European Affairs of

the City of Berlin Maria-Luise Löper. A new European anthem was performed by the Berlin singer Yansn and her rap-AG. The "free day" was filled with a lot of new elements: a boat trip on the river Spree including the lobbying, the blue-balloon action "High-Noon for Europe" in front of the Brandenburg Gate and a fishbowl discussion with the former Vice-President of the European Commission Günter Verheugen, the European experts Richard Kühnel (Representation of the EU-Commission in Germany) und Ulrike Guérot (European Democracy Lab). In the evenings, 24 embassies invited their delegates. A special highlight of the MEP was, of course, the debate of the 10 resolutions in the Berlin House of Representatives (State Council).

The hemicycle is a breathtaking "cathedral of democracy" and technically absolutely up to date. After the welcome speeches by President Ralf Wieland and Sylvia Yvonne Kaufmann, Member of the European Parliament, the of rhetorical skill battle could start.

## **On the first day five resolutions were discussed point by point in MEP routine fashion. But then the shock - nothing was as it had been before.**

The second plenary day started with grief and deep consternation. The night before, 129 people were killed in several attacks in Paris. The French delegation felt the urge to say a few words of condolence and sadness before the as-

sembled European youth. Then the Marseillaise was played, followed by a minute of silence and helplessness. How should we proceed? The next step to "business as usual" was obviously hard for everyone. Some Committee-Presidents and the spokeswoman of the French delegation left the plenary to draft a declaration of condolence addressing the assassinations and the role Europe has to play now.

The incidents of the day left visible traces on all delegates. How everybody - the Presidents, the Committee-Presidents, the delegates and especially, the French delegates dealt with this extremely difficult and extraordinary situation, how reflective and self-confident they moved on uncertain ground, that was absolutely astonishing and self-controlled and proves that the MEP Europe and its participants have reached a high level of political maturity. The MEP made painfully clear: heaven and hell are closer than we think.

Many thanks to our partners and public financiers, especially to the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and to the Erasmus-plus programme of the European Union. Without them it would have not be possible to realize the international MEP-Session in Berlin. The project was approved and received an EU-grant as part of key action 3: „Structured Dialogue“. We took this special opportunity to involve about ten active political decision makers in this youth project to discuss with them the young people's point of view face to face.

Thanks to all participants for this amazing experience. The MEP Berlin 2015 will stay in our memories for a long time.

[www.mepgermany.de](http://www.mepgermany.de) / [www.mepurope.eu](http://www.mepurope.eu)



# Programme



## Tuesday 10th November

09:00 – 12:30 Opening Ceremony Model European Parliament Berlin 2015 - Berlin Rathaus / Town Hall

09:00 – 10:30 Speeches: Heads of Delegations of the Member States and Candidate Countries of the European Union  
Break

10:45 – 12:15 Welcome:  
Erhard Kohlrausch, Chairman MEP Germany  
Speakers:  
Maria-Luise Löderer - Director of Federal and European Affairs of the City of Berlin  
H. E. Georges Santer - Ambassador of Luxembourg, (EU presidency)

Michael Roth - Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office Germany

Linn Selle - European Woman of the Year 2015 - Young European Federalists

Andreas Sowa - Former Member of the MEP - European Parliament

Mr. Gottfried Oehl - MEP Europe Board Member

Akwasi Osei-Dwomoh - President of the General Assembly of MEP Berlin 2015

Music:  
(Yansn and Support - Berlin Rap - Georg von Giesche Europa-schule)

14:00 Committee Meetings in the Federal State Representation Offices and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Ministry of Defense and the Willy Brandt Forum.

18:00 Delegates and directors / teachers are received and have dinner in their respective Embassies

## Sunday 8th November

08:00 – 22:00 Arrival of the delegations at Berlin - Airports (Schönefeld, Tegel) or Railway station  
Youth Hostel - Assembly Hall - Jugendgästehaus / Festsaal

## Monday 9th November

09:00 – 12:30 Teambuilding, Festsaal des Jugendgästehauses / Youth Hostel

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Jugendgästehaus

13:30 – 17:00 Committee Meetings in the Youth hostel and the A+O Hostel

### Wednesday 11th November

- 08:30 – 12:30 Committee meetings in the Federal Representation Offices of Berlin and the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Ministry of Defense and the Willy Brandt Forum
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch at the Federal State Representation Offices of Berlin, Willy Brandt Forum, Town Hall and Federal Ministry of Defense and Federal Ministry of Environment
- 13:45 – 16:15 Committee meetings (s.a.)
- 16:30 – 19:00 Approval panel  
Jugendgästehaus / Youth Hostel

### Thursday 12th November

- 09:00 Sightseeing, individual programme - leisure time
- 12:00 "High noon for Europe" - Blue Balloon Flash mob at the Brandenburger Tor
- 14:00 – 17:00 Boat trip through Berlin Spree - Riverside-Trip  
Departure Friedrichstrasse  
Delegation meetings and lobbying on board; Snacks will be provided
- 18:00 – 20:00 Fishbowl-Discussion - Festsaal Jugendgästehaus  
Günter Verheugen - former Vice-President of the European Commission  
Richard Kühnel - Head of the Representation of the EU Commission in Germany  
Ulrike Guerot - European Democracy Lab - European School of Governance  
"Envisaging a Europe we want to live in"  
Moderation: Lena Störk, Eva-Linda Kermendi and Hendrik Proehl

### Friday 13th November

- 09:00 – 13:00 General Assembly  
Berliner Abgeordnetenhaus / Berlin House of Representatives  
Niederkirchnerstrasse 5  
Speakers:  
Ralf Wieland - President of the Berlin House of Representatives  
Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann - MdEP  
Lena Störk - President of the General Assembly of MEP Berlin 2015
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch for delegates and directors / teachers  
House of Representatives (State Council)
- 14:30 – 17:30 General Assembly

### Saturday 14th November

- 09:00 – 17:00 General Assembly, Berlin House of Representatives
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at the House of Representatives
- 17:00 – 17:30 Closing Ceremony of the Model European Parliament  
Speakers:  
Christa Bauerschmidt - MEP Germany  
András Sztróky - Board Member, MEP CSEE Coordinator  
Hendrik Proehl - President of the General Assembly of MEP Berlin 2015
- 21:00 – 24:00 Farewell Party, dinner Jugendgästehaus

### Sunday 15th November

Departure of delegations



The official MEP-Berlin-2015-bags, specially prepared for the Luxembourg delegation. / Reception of the delegates by our charming MEP Organisation team.

Arrival of the Turkish and the Rumanian delegations at the youth hostel. / Hundreds of MEP bags and badges - not all of them survived the MEP week. 📁









Gottfried Oehl with a piece of barbed wire from the 1989-Hungarian-Austrian border. / Five perspectives on Europe during the Opening Ceremony in the Berlin Town Hall: Maria-Luise Löper, Linn Selle, Georges Santer, Erhard Kohlrausch and Michael Roth.

Gottfried Oehl and Yansn are listening to the European rap performance by pupils from the Georg von Giesche Europa-schule. 🎵



# We are the future of this continent

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Seven months ago I stood at a podium quite similar to this one and gave the closing speech of this year's national MEP session.

In that speech I called myself a European citizen. I said that I feel a primarily European identity, transcending individual nation states. And I said - probably most importantly - that

**I was proud of that feeling.  
Proud of being a citizen  
of Europe.**

I based this statement on experiences and impressions I collected on my travels through Europe - with the MEP or on my own. I saw a continent that was coming together more and more. A continent overcoming differences based in language or customs and starting to form and live unified identity that celebrated one another's differences instead of using them as lines of division.

I was also convinced that the political willpower of those leading Europe and the European Union was aimed at the same goal as mine - towards more unity and away from egoistic and isolated pettiness.

I was proud of that. I was proud of my continent and the direction we were heading for.

Today, I would not make that same statement again.



The reasons for that are plentiful but do not include the individual European.

It is much more the way some of those who lead Europe politically are portraying themselves and how the issues facing our shared community are being portrayed to and discussed by the public.

This development began to show during the financial crises in the Eurozone, and is reaching a dangerously damaging dimension as Europe tries to deal with the influx of refugees - a dimension with actual human consequences: Humans fleeing from violence and persecution, humans seeking protection and safety under the core values of the European Union - values we are so very proud of - cause some political leaders to start chipping away at these exact values.

Fences are being built in Europe again. Some are calling for walls.

Walls.

25 years after this continent overcame its deepest division and vowed itself to unity has been overcome by fear and bickering.

Fear and irrationality have also taken over Europe's public perception.

Discussions are taking place more and more in the abstract. Public discourse is focused much more on talking points and platitudes than on a constructive analysis of the real-world consequences of policies or a differentiated look at existing problems and causalities.

## Suddenly it is more important whether or not a certain Prime Minister is wearing a tie than how the negotiations he is taking part in are going to affect his people.

Commentators talk about "The Greeks", "The Germans", "The Refugees". Incredibly diverse groups with many different views and needs are reduced to punch lines. Anger has become a response aimed for. Criticism tends to be destructive, and the European Union as a whole is being questioned almost reflexively by some as soon as they disagree with particular policies.

There is no use in assigning blame to particular counties. Doing so would only enforce the destructive mechanisms that are taking hold now.

Also, states as a whole are not responsible for certain issues. By their nature there will always be some elements working to better Europe and some that are trying to hinder it.

Instead I blame a growing culture of cynicism. It's easy to say "that's impossible". It's easy to just want things to stay the way they are. It's easy to blame a perceived foreign threat. It's easy to reject the system as a whole and forget one's role in it.

All this has led to cowardice taking the place which was once occupied by braveness and visions, and a lack of trust in ourselves and our abilities has replaced the "can do"- attitude and visionary spirit that shaped Europe over the last two and a half decades.

I did not use the word "we" a lot in what I just said. Mostly, because we as a generation are probably least responsible for the crisis of confidence we are currently experiencing. The MEP is the best example for that. There might be no place where the European ideals are valued higher.



**We** - and now I am talking exclusively about the participants of this MEP and the generation we represent -

**might not be responsible for the current state, but we are confronted with the responsibility, maybe even duty, to act against it.**

I am aware that this might seem contradictory considering what I said earlier and that one might want to put me in the same corner as those I am criticizing so loudly. I might seem cynical. But not because I have given up. I am frustrated because I want things to get better again. And for that, I would argue, we have to realize our own position within the context in which we are living to then efficiently bring about change.

We are the future of this continent. We will - no matter how cheesy that sounds - be the leaders of our communities one day. Be it as politicians, business people or just as regular citizens. But we cannot wait until we have reached a certain age or position or whatever. We have to act now. We have to stand up, let our voices be heard and fight for our vision of Europe and the world. If we do not, us being the "future" won't have much use.

The MEP might be one of the best places to do so. You can practically feel the energy that will be taking hold of everyone over the course of the week. Discussions here are focused on the issues and not so much on public perception; and - most importantly - you all interact so intensely, both as delegates and after "work" hours that you quite naturally overcome borders in your heads and stereotypes on your mind. May you find great new friends and have unforgettable experiences.

With that I declare open the 43rd international session of the MEP. Welcome to Berlin!

I wish you and all of us thoughtful, inspiring and constructive debates both in and beyond the committee rooms. Get to know each other, share your ideas and ideals and lay the foundation to make Europe a place that represents policies, attitudes, and identities one can again be proud of.

Thank you very much.





 The Hungarian Guest President Eva-Linda Kermendi. / In the November sun: Gottfried Oehl, Christa Bauerschmidt and President Akwasi are having a coffee break on the deck of the Spree-ship.

The MEP-Presidents Hendrik, Lena and Akwasi seem to enjoy the “Blue Balloon Flashmob” at the Brandenburg Gate.



High noon for Europe - 250 blue balloons for solidarity and more Europe within the EU.





# We must lean forward and embrace change

Dear Madam President, Presidents,  
dear Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am quite excited to be standing here. 10 years ago I was at my first MEP session, then went on to chair at a couple and was president at one installment of the MEP Baltic Sea Region. Today I work for the actual European Parliament in Brussels, where I am heading the office of a Member of Parliament.

So someone, namely my former teacher Mrs Bauerschmidt, thought it would be a good idea for me to say a few words here. So I will.

10 years. It feels like an eternity. Yet it also feels like just yesterday. I can still feel what it is like to be sitting where you dear delegates or you dear presidents sit. It doesn't take much for me to sense your mix of excitement, nervousness and optimism.

Well, 10 years have passed and what has actually happened?

A lot of things happen in your life in 10 years. You finish school, go to and leave University, fall in and out of love, travel the world, start working - in my case even in my dream job. A lot of change. A lot of, on the balance, good change.

Change however, of course, is not confined to one's personal life. The whole world changes around you, too. And so it has over the last 10 years. I am however a lot more hesitant to say that it has, on balance, been good change.

**We made progress in some fields and fell back in others. On balance it seems we have not moved ahead by much.**



Just looking at the issues debated at my first international MEP and the ones you debate today make this painfully clear.

10 years ago we debated the EU's strategy towards Turkey. We have seen quite a number of ups and downs over the years, but I think it is safe to say that, looking at the situation today, a lot of fundamental questions have not been answered yet. Is Turkey a foe, a partner or a plausible future EU member? A question again more pressing due to the refugee crisis you are also debating, but not at all close to being answered.

## 10 years ago we debated the issue of bridging the gap between EU institutions and EU citizens. And what has happened?

Sure, efforts have been made to close the gap; the European Citizens' Initiative instituted, the parliament strengthened. And yet the gap appears to have grown - populism, often directed against the EU and its institutions, is on the rise.

10 years ago we debated climate change. Today you are debating it again. Of course you are - the earth is still heating up and time and again humanity has messed up its efforts to bring about a truly workable solution to the issue.

But we do not only need to look at committee topics: Things seem to be rather falling apart than coming together. The situation in Syria, our relationship with Russia, the economic well being, especially of our southern fellow Europeans and even the cohesion of our European Union itself - things have gotten worse, not better.

I am not a pessimist - I do not want to be a pessimist. I believe there are a lot of factors that should make us hopeful that real progress is

possible. Technology is bringing all of us closer and closer together; it enables us to know more and to know it faster. Advances in science let us live longer and understand more about ourselves and the world we live in. And the emergence of a culture with a global reach means that we can all understand each other now, we watch the same TV shows, talk about the same things - we inhabit the same world - we know that we share fears, hopes and aspirations.

But all of this by itself will not do the trick. These developments have been around the last decade and yet didn't facilitate the political progress this world so desperately needs. It leaves me frustrated - we could have gotten further in this time.

So what lesson should we draw from all this? Surely it cannot be to reminisce about the things that could have been. No,

## we must instead make sure, make absolutely certain, that in the next 10 years we actually fulfill the potential we have to make things better.

We, and I'll be a bit cheeky and count us to the same generation, we must lean forward.

We are, on average, extremely privileged; privileged to be alive in this century; to be living on this continent; to be right here in this room. And to be young and have most of our lives ahead of us.

To make the next 10 years better we must not only be and stay young by age, but young in outlook, young in heart. Be young in our approach to life.

We must lean forward and embrace change. Constantly rid ourselves of the prejudices and perceived entitlements that keep us too attached to the political realities of today.

If we want to see the world change for the better, we need to be ready to see the world change. And that means we have to be truly ready to see the world change. To give up things we have gotten used to. To accept that tomorrow will not look like today. Be it the family that lives across the street, the country in which you live or the language you speak - tomorrow simply needs to look radically different than today.

If we lean forward, we have a chance not only to see good change in our personal lives; as I am sure you will in yours just as I did in mine. We will also have a better chance to see the world move ahead in the next 10 years and make things better for real.



Envisaging a Europe we want to live in - The fishbowl discussion with Günter Verheugen, Richard Kühnel and Ulrike Guérot shows: the refugee crisis even divides European youth.

Richard Kühnel, Günter Verheugen, Hendrik Prühl, Lena Störk, Eva-Linda Kermendi and Ulrike Guérot awaiting questions from MEP delegates.



# How to get infected with the MEP fever



Speech General Assembly  
Your excellency,  
dear fellow presidents,  
honourable delegates,  
distinguished guests,  
ladies and gentlemen,

„Tear down walls and build bridges“

This is what our coordinator Mr. Oehl advised you to do in his speech during this week's opening ceremony. A piece of advice that I personally think is of great importance, especially if you take a look at the development and the state of the European Union today.

The 43rd international session of the model European Parliament is held in a place that stands for European peace, unity and solidarity. Here in our wonderful capital city, Berlin.

Exactly 26 years and 5 days ago, the fall of the Berlin wall literally opened a world of opportunities. After the demolition of the separation between East and West, the drive for unity was overwhelming. It has paved the way for the Europe we have today, with all its freedoms we still profit from.

Germany's first chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, once commented on the issue as follows, „Europe's Unity was a dream of only a few, it became a hope for many and today it is a necessity for us all.“

I believe this quote never lost its relevance, but instead still applies to the European Union nowadays, just in a different context.

Think about the millions of people, enduring unbelievable obstacles to still find hope, peace and unity in our home.

So far, so good.

But recent politics reveal an ugly truth.

It is marked by cynicism, selfishness, greed and the desire to please, all without changing the status quo, thus leading to deep conflicts within the member states, clearly shown in the discussion on the so-called refugee crisis.

My fellow president Akwasi claimed in his speech that he refuses to even call it a crisis and I fully agree with him on that matter.

In fact,

**I am outraged by the debate on this problem because it painfully shows that we are losing our highest good our moral values, ladies and gentlemen.**

Has history not taught us well? Or shall I say, did we not listen carefully?

**It is simply not acceptable that EU countries are experiencing a new division, in those who give and those who take. That is why we must resurrect solidarity and compassion.**

Not too long ago, our Union was given a very important honour, the Nobel Peace Prize, for ensuring peace and human rights to its citizens, as well as to the world.

This is why I call upon the decision makers to fulfill their moral duties and prove once more that we are a union of values, not only an economic union.

In addition to that, I am aware of the fact that only calling upon the decision makers is not enough. Each individual has got to take the responsibility to stand up and fight for these shared values.

I can only congratulate you, as you took this important step by deciding to participate in this project. Unity is our power, so be critical, but not destructive.

As I conclude my speech, there is only one last thing that I want to draw your attention to: You all have the unique privilege of living in a system of political participation, so please take advantage of it!

You have a heart as loud as lions, so why let your voice be tamed?

I am sure that you have not yet fully noticed the great impact and great variety of experiences this MEP session provides for you.

But let me tell you one thing, after words like subventions, utopia, or the good old multimedia campaign have been adopted to your natural choice of words, it will be that you realize that you have been infected with the MEP fever.

I wish you all a successful General Assembly, interesting debates, lots of new friendships and most importantly, that you will profit from your MEP experience as much as I did and still do.

I hereby officially declare the 43rd General Assembly of the international MEP opened.







Lobbying on the river Spree - a very special place for political discussions. Unfortunately there was no time for sightseeing.

# You are the product of this MEP week

Distinguished delegates,  
Dear teachers, Committee Presidents,  
and Admins,  
Honorable guests,  
Irreplaceable members of the  
organizational staff,

I hope that all of you, all participants of this forty-third session of the International Model European Parliament, will long bear the past seven days in good memory despite the horrible events of last night.

You came here, to Berlin, from all over Europe, seeking to exchange views, to learn from each other.

**You had the opportunity of having an immediate insight into the work of a supranational institution, and acquiring new rhetorical skills. But really, I do not believe that this is what this project is about.**



We surely will benefit from it, no matter what way our future may take us.

But to me, what we are doing here is not so much about the visible result.

Let us be honest: Will the decisions we make have an impact on international politics by changing the way the European Union' decision-makers act? Can we, by drafting these documents, alter the world we live in?

We live in a conglomerate of states that claims to be built on the principles of solidarity and shared values as we have heard several times this week.

Indeed, I feel that, now that they are required to be put into action, their poor integration into people's heads begins to show.

Just as the delegation of France, I have to ask you: Why do we only stand together in the worst of moments?

## **If we really share common values, why do we not live these values every single day,**

but instead limit ourselves to our immediate environment and own views as long as possible, only to cry out in support when ignorance can no longer shield us?

Why is solidarity not the guiding principle we all follow? What are the values we are claimed to share, the values connecting us, regardless of our citizenship?

I do not know.

I cannot tell, because I have not seen them being lived them yet.

You yourself got to see that formulations, small choices of words or one unpleasant clause prevented agreements from being made. I assume you now understand why making decisions takes so much time: Because we are not willing to accept our will may not always prevail.

If you cannot solve this problem of unwillingness to work together in the framework of this simulation, what can you do about the current real-life situation?

Will drafting and debating resolutions that are eventually passed on to a member of the European Parliament change politics and people's approach towards each other?

I would like to see how. Because I do not believe these resolutions have any direct impact.

I am not saying your work was useless. I am not saying you could have stayed at home.

All I am saying is: Your resolutions' content will hardly bring about direct change. I do not believe that any single one of us sitting here can see through the numerous layers making up the challenges we face.

In my eyes, however, the MEP does not require this. The most important point to this project is not the resolutions being written by you, but you writing the resolutions.

## **YOU are the "product" of this week, not a stack of printed paper.**

The tangible results of these negotiations, composed of ICs and OCs, will not change the world, but the process of writing them may have, in a way, changed you.

The question we face is not whether these resolutions are passed, whether they impact the "real world out there."

The question we face is what lesson we will learn from the past weeks, from the events that happened in the past, and the events that may still happen in the future.

I hope you will, at some point in the future, realize that drafting these resolutions did enable you to alter this world. The past week laid the groundwork for a change of yourselves, of your attitude towards others.

This change is what we need. We need to move away from secluding ourselves and our opinions, but instead choose unity to strengthen us.

How are the challenges of the European Union to be managed if debates are dominated by emotions and ignorance is shading our view while unity is forgotten? I do not believe there is much hope for this. Some place, some time, a change towards understanding needs to start.

If this change towards open-mindedness does not begin soon, I fear it might be too late. The rifts between the member states deepen, tension rises, accusations are being made within a Union having declared solidarity as its founding principle. This principle is being abandoned more and more.

I could not bear to see it being lost.

I wish for you to realize that, when the resolutions you drafted cannot impact this world all too much, it is up to you to put their message into action. A message of dialogue, of tolerance, of understanding, of coming together, and of standing united.

Please, remember what you experienced during this week: That there are many like-minded; that everyone's opinion counts, because the decisions each one of us makes will affect so many more.

And remember that you as an individual can fight the ignorance estranging and separating us to instead promote the solidarity we are missing, and the will of standing together and jointly solving whatever problem we are facing. For we have severe decisions to make, decisions that can only be made by us.

**Please, let us work together to not let our reason be carried away by insecurity, by fear in the face of the unknown, but preserve what has been achieved in the past decade.**

We need such a change of mindset, and I would like to thank you for having come here and for witnessing what coming together can do. I would like to thank you for the effort you have invested in your resolutions and, more importantly, in yourselves.

The way you take, the decisions you make are now entirely in your hands. I ask you to consider them wisely, for everyone's decision will impact all of us.

You have already made a decision today: The decision to not let ourselves be separated for now. This morning, and just now, you showed your sympathy with everyone affected by the events in Paris.

Do not direct this support solely to the French. Do not direct this support solely to the citizens of the European Union.

**Direct this support to anyone, anywhere, who feels responsible to make a change, be it a French, a European, anyone.**

I am confident that you have embraced this spirit, that you will stand up for coming together and bringing about change.

This leaves me, on behalf of Akwasi, Lena and all members of the organizing team this last, unpleasant honor of sending you back into a world where you are no more than ordinary young people returning from a simulation, ordinary young people with an idea in their minds.

And so I must say:

"I hereby officially declare the 43rd session of the International Model European Parliament closed"

Thank you for your attention.

Model European  
Parliament



# French Condolence Letter

## 14.11.2015

To the people of France, on behalf of the representatives of the youth participating in the Model European Parliament session in Berlin from twenty-four Member States of the European Union and four candidate countries.



We have no words to express how devastated and shocked we are about the events that took place in Paris last night. Many delegates, including the ones writing this, have friends or family who were in the city, some of whom have not yet been confirmed to be alive at the time of writing. This has affected us all deeply. This was not only an attack on Paris or France, but an attack on all of us as Europeans.

Any act of mass violence can be seen as an attack on the European values, nurtured in France, of humanity, peace and liberty. To quote Willy Brandt, 'peace is not everything, but without peace we are nothing'. Our hopes and prayers are with every single person affected by this tragedy.

We must see this attack solely as what it is: an act of violence. Prejudice erupts quickly and is unjustified. The EU is home to people of various religions, cultures and mentalities, which should enrich and unite us as one community. Therefore, it is the responsibility of Europe as a whole, not individual member states and their governments, to tackle prejudice and stand in solidarity.

As representatives of the future Europe we are concerned about our current situation and what it will lead to. We are standing at crossroads all the time, and now we are facing the most difficult one ever. Division and insecurity would be the easy routes to follow; we urge the European youth to choose the path of unity and tolerance instead. With an open mind, keep forming educated and well-informed opinions, maintain our idea of a progressive and cohesive Europe with a bright future.



We are not certain about the aim of the perpetrators, however, we can only presume that their intention was to instil fear and anxiety. But as long as Europe is united and keeps on hoping, no threat will be able to reduce our strength. And we will carry on hoping! We do believe in the good in every human being, or, using the words of Albert Camus: 'There are more things to admire in men than to despise'.

The French Delegation in mourning - after the Paris terror attacks the night before. It is almost impossible for them to find the right words.

## Committee on Security and Defence

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*With the extremist self-proclaimed ISIS now controlling large parts of Iraq and Syria, which joint steps should the EU Member States take to expand their Counter-Terrorism strategy on the matter and contribute to long-term stability in the region?*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Having examined the poor quality of education in the affected regions and the intolerance of ISIS expressed towards religious minorities,
- B) Taking note of the lack of education in the EU concerning the teachings of Islam and creating a distorted understanding of Islam which may lead to Islamophobia or radicalisation,
- C) Fully alarmed that many Muslim citizens are joining ISIS as a result of being heavily manipulated by the terrorist organisation since their religious beliefs are being distorted in order to advocate the violent ideologies of the group,
- D) Keeping in mind the lack of media coverage from affected regions and the manipulation of information by ISIS, as well as their power on social media, which leads to easier recruitment of foreign fighters,
- E) Deeply concerned by the fact that the international community has not found a universal policy regarding ISIS and the lack of collaboration between countries in the Middle East and the international community,
- F) Alarmed by the fact that there is a black market<sup>1</sup> through which ISIS is trading resources<sup>2</sup>,
- G) Bearing in mind that wars in the areas where ISIS is active can only be fought with ongoing financial supplies and that oil extraction is one of the main sources of revenue,
- H) Aware of the current concession policy the EU holds on ransom demands for hostages made by terrorist organisations,
- I) Deeply concerned about the fact that major companies take advantage of the situation in territories occupied by ISIS do not respect any laws and use it as disposal areas for their waste,
- J) Aware of the fact that weapons from countries like the US have ended up in the hands of ISIS-militants,
- K) Considering that thousands of refugees are coming to the EU and limited border control might lead to a number of jihadists potentially entering the western countries,

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<sup>1</sup> Such as but not limited to the „black net“

<sup>2</sup> Such as but not limited to oil





The Berlin House of Representatives in the hands of the MEP for two days of plenary session - 10 resolutions are waiting to be discussed.

- L) Realizing that in certain cases the effectiveness of long prison sentences given to young ISIS sympathisers is questionable,
- 1) Reminds that
    - a. A military intervention, in the form of ground troops, is not beneficial;
    - b. Precise, technical and logical air strikes over the controlled territory of ISIS are necessary;
  - 2) Expecting the success of a military intervention, the EU would provide appropriate facilities and education programmes<sup>3</sup> and then begin to withdraw from the countries concerned in order to give them autonomy, following which the EU could observe, analyse, and evaluate their progress, stepping in to help if necessary;
  - 3) Recommends the use of advertising material within the EU showing the dangers of ISIS such as, but not limited to
    - a. Banners,
    - b. Radio stations,
    - c. Posters,
    - d. Social media;
  - 4) Encourages the implementation of common regulations and appropriate consequences concerning hate preaching;
  - 5) Urges the EU to create a fund common to all member states in order to create facilities<sup>4</sup> for civilians in the affected regions to ease efficient communication with the rest of the world;
  - 6) Requests the creation of a common task force<sup>5</sup>, officially funded by the EU, to monitor<sup>6</sup> websites and social media accounts that show sympathy towards religious extremist groups such as ISIS;
  - 7) Proposes an “awareness scheme”<sup>7</sup> open to all students in the already existing education systems, as a long-term solution in the fight against Islamophobia;
  - 8) Calls for reinforced cooperation with NGOs during the recreation of, and for the provision of help for self-help in, the affected regions after successful military intervention;
  - 9) Authorises the EU to investigate territories controlled by ISIS to find out which companies take advantage of the situation to dispose of their waste, fine them and require them to write an annual report on their disposal activities;

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<sup>3</sup> Facilities and educational program whereby proper buildings, stationery and textbooks are widely accessible. Furthermore, after a conclusive program has been established, content of the program can be modified by the government to include non-extreme theology

<sup>4</sup> Such as but not limited to computers, network infrastructure, radio transmitters

<sup>5</sup> Constituted of competent network specialists

<sup>6</sup> Removal of hate content, reporting suspicious users and activity

<sup>7</sup> Consisting of seminars at schools explaining the differences between extremism and religious beliefs

- 10) Declares accordingly that all EU member states call upon each other for more research and development in green technologies<sup>8</sup>, to indirectly reduce the market available for terrorist organisations to trade with;
- 11) Encourages the prohibition of shipping weapons of all kinds to Syria, preventing them from falling into ISIS' hands and further prohibits the shipping of advanced technology;
- 12) Encourages the EU member states to adopt a treaty in order to prevent European companies from buying oil from ISIS;
- 13) Requests the committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs to make a plan to control and document the refugee influx and to find a solution for jihadi, coming to the EU disguised as refugees;
- 14) Strongly condemns any entity contributing to the expansion of the black market and will enforce sanctions on such entities<sup>9</sup>;
- 15) Further recommends that people are made aware of the link between terrorist organizations and the acquisition of illegal products;
- 16) Draws attention to the routes of operation available to terrorist organizations for trading, fighting and movement due to limited border control, requesting a higher level of border control<sup>10</sup>;
- 17) Urges the EU member states to shorten their prison sentences to very young individuals sympathising with extremism and instead implement community service, psychological help and help in general to have the highest chance of rehabilitation<sup>11</sup>;
- 18) Calls upon all EU member states to unanimously agree to refuse any negotiations with any terrorist organisation, such as but not limited to ISIS, with regards to hostages;
- 19) Calls the European countries to reassure the freedom of faith for all religions;
- 20) Recommends the EU governments to implement necessary renovations and rebuilding of mosques, so Muslims can also peacefully practise their religion;
- 21) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>8</sup> Includes, but is not limited to, nuclear fusion, solar, wind and wave power technologies as a source of energy

<sup>9</sup> An individual or a company

<sup>10</sup> To the neighbouring countries that are affected

<sup>11</sup> If no history of violence is known of

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**Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs I (LIBE I)**


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*Given the rising number of those fleeing conflicts worldwide, what coherent direction should the EU's refugee and asylum policy pursue to account for burden-sharing amongst Member States whilst upholding humanitarian principles?*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Recognizing the growing influence of extremist and populist parties and groups,
  - B) Expressing concerns over the current preference some refugees hold for certain EU-Member States,
  - C) Fully believing in the importance of agreeing on a fair refugee distribution quota, following the EU Commission's recent proposal,
  - D) Aware of the ineffective, lengthy, unfair and unequal asylum application systems within the EU,
  - E) Declaring the interest of the Member States to revise all treaties that hinder the implementation of a distribution quota, such as, but not limited to Dublin III,
  - F) Alarmed by the dearth of social and economic reintegration of the refugees into society of the host countries concerning the sectors of education, language, economy and work,
  - G) Concerned with the fact that the EU-standard for refugee treatment is not always upheld,
  - H) Guided by the lack of an interconnected approach between EU-Members to the Refugee crisis,
  - I) Noting with regret the social and political crises in the countries that people are currently fleeing from,
  - J) Aware of the lack of European citizens' awareness of external issues, such as, but not limited to refugees' national, internal, political or social conflicts or war and deteriorating conditions within the home nations of the refugees,
  - K) Taking into consideration that human trafficking is one of the fastest growing transnational criminal activities,
- 1) Urges the replacement of the Dublin III regulation by a new distribution quota, following the proposal of the European Commission;
  - 2) Calls for an international information campaign educating the EU-citizens on the refugee crisis<sup>1</sup>;
  - 3) Suggests the creation of hotspots in countries of origin or neighbouring countries that would:
    - a) Be protected by European military forces<sup>2</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> The campaign would provide information relating to the nature of the refugees' dangerous situation, the activities of the European Union concerning the crisis, the widespread problem of human trafficking, etc.

<sup>2</sup> These would be military forces of the Member States

- b) Enable asylum applications and assign refugees based on the distribution quota,
  - c) Arrange the transportation of refugees to Europe under the protection of European forces thus combating against human trafficking;
- 4) Urges for greater collaborations amongst the intelligence services of the EU-Member States regarding refugees;
  - 5) Authorizes the newly collaborating European intelligence offices to perform screenings on refugees and subsequently publish all information onto an EU-wide database, accessible by all of the named services;
  - 6) Establishes hotspot controls in European countries which will:
    - a) Aim to identify any kind of suspicious behavior or activities,
    - b) Will cross reference new information with existent data from the collaborative efforts of national intelligence services,
    - c) Allocate a form of identification to each refugee recognized by the EU;
  - 7) Suggests the improvement of practical cooperation among the EU-Member States in building an asylum system and improving the accessibility of information;
  - 8) Requests the creation of a database that would allow EU-officials to process the applications thus relieving the pressure from the hotspots;
  - 9) Supports the allocation of living spaces<sup>3</sup> to refugees within the EU-States;
  - 10) Recommends the distribution of basic necessities to social houses, as is currently done for native citizens;
  - 11) Supports the incorporation of refugees into the national workforce on a merit-based system, as is currently established;
  - 12) Suggests the establishment of integration programmes, primarily addressing language, in the hosting countries;
  - 13) Endorses the integration of refugee children into public schools of host countries;
  - 14) Urges the EU to help refugees stuck in the neighbouring regions in order to prevent the humanitarian crisis from escalating further by supporting the countries hosting refugees in the forms of economic and humanitarian aid, nutrition, construction of camps etc.;
  - 15) Calls for economic sanctions to be placed upon nations who refuse to receive their allocated refugees;
  - 16) Encourages the EU to directly invest in the refugees' countries of origin for the development of the job market, economy and better living conditions as a long-term solution;
  - 17) Encourages the founding of an all measures financing fund ILF<sup>4</sup>;
  - 18) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>3</sup> Such as, but not limited to social housing

<sup>4</sup> International Life-Saving Fund



Impressions from the plenary session. After the speeches of Ralf Wieland, President of the Berlin House of Representatives [👉](#) and Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Member of the European Parliament (page 41). The debate begins.



## Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs II (LIBE II)

*The question of what measures should the EU take to guarantee the safety of its citizens and the protection of basic human rights/civil liberties such as the right to freedom of expression and speech, as well as of thought, conscience and religion.*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Bearing in mind that the absence of unified data protection laws all over the EU damages cooperation on counter-terrorism,
  - B) Aware of the fact that security services can violate the right to privacy, especially through mass surveillance,
  - C) Alarmed by the corruption, discrimination and lack of justice in the court systems of some EU member states,
  - D) Aware of the corruption in politics and the press in some EU states,
  - E) Noting with deep concern the lack of press freedom in various member states,
  - F) Alarmed by the discrimination against people who express their religion in some EU states,
  - G) Recognising the need for regulated hate speech laws which are less prone to misuse,
  - H) Deeply concerned by the abuse of power by police officers, regarding violence and discrimination against prisoners, suspects and minorities,
  - I) Further deploring the xenophobia within the EU,
- 1) Requests a common set of data protection rules all over the EU to help member states cooperate on preventing and combatting serious crime;
  - 2) Further request all intelligence agencies to destroy data regarded as unsuspecting in accordance with the 2012 Data Protection Reform;
  - 3) Calls upon the formation of EOHRDP<sup>1</sup>, an organisation which supervises and assesses the activities of all European intelligence agencies;
  - 4) Supports the introduction of more EU courts of higher justice below the supreme court of justice in order to make it easier for EU citizens wrongly sentenced to appeal the verdict at a higher level;
  - 5) Authorises independent and anonymous election monitors to count ballots of political elections and encourages the use of secure e-voting;
  - 6) Urges for more transparency in the press through a detailed information about sponsors and sources;
  - 7) Further proclaims the strengthening and equalisation of legislation concerning press freedom;

<sup>1</sup> European Organisation for Human Rights and Data Protection



- 8) Recommends raising awareness about lack of press freedom while at the same time establishing a program through which journalists report threatening responses to ensure journalist safety;
- 9) Endorses the idea that all individuals are to be treated on a basis of humanity/humanely both on a professional and private level by further implementing the Racial Equality Directive;
- 10) Condemns revealing personal details such as religion, sexuality etc. in a court case unless they directly influence the actions of the accused which would be regulated by the EUCCS<sup>2</sup>;
- 11) Encourages the education systems of member states to help the process of integration by IP<sup>3</sup> which includes establishing contact between all inhabitants;
- 12) Recommends installing dashboard and body cameras for police, along with mandatory surveillance systems in all police stations and prisons, which should be monitored and controlled by CPPS<sup>4</sup>;
- 13) Expresses its hope that society would lend its support through campaigns aiming at protection of minorities from police brutality;
- 14) Adopts the 2001 UN, OAS Joint Statements recommendation for regulating hate speech;
- 15) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>2</sup> European Union Criminal Court Service

<sup>3</sup> Integration Programme

<sup>4</sup> Commission of Prisons and Police Services





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**Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)**


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*On the question of more Europe or less. What kind of reforms do we need to close the democratic gap within the EU, to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to fighting scepticism and national tendencies? Is the aim of an ever closer union still desirable or should the EU become a more flexible organisation, for example in the fields of free movement, solidarity and more rights for the national parliaments and governments?*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Seeking reforms of the EU structure with the purpose of improving applicability of EU democratic values, as well as EU solidarity,
  - B) Recognising the distance between the EU citizens and the European Union's legislative and executive<sup>1</sup> branch,
  - C) Concerned about the lack of awareness about the EU and its actions and programs among EU-citizens and how this condition is used by populist parties throughout Europe,
  - D) Further alarmed by the growing popularity of nationalist parties and organisations throughout the EU,
  - E) Bearing in mind the increase in euro-scepticism within the EU as well as globally,
  - F) Having examined the decrease of voter turnout in European elections in certain member states,
  - G) Realising that the EU has failed to reach out to its citizens through social media,
  - H) Emphasising the importance of EU integration in candidate states in order to promote EU values and fight euro-scepticism outside the Union,
  - I) Recognising the need for a demographically balanced EU representative body,
  - J) Taking note of the need for an immediate solution to the refugee crisis and regretting the EU's failure to find one,
  - K) Fully alarmed by the rate of increase of benefit tourism due to disparities within welfare systems in the EU, leading to criticism of the concept of free movement,
  - L) Aware of the faults in the current mechanisms for obtaining EU citizenship,
- 1) Endorses the EU to include non-formal education about the EU and its democratic values in order to increase social, political and economic awareness in countries of the EU;
  - 2) Seeking to expand the powers of national commissions that deal with EU law integration through reforms, such as but not limited to:
    - a) Reinforced use of yellow-cards,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The EU executive body is the European Commission and the EU legislative body is the European Parliament

<sup>2</sup> If the law does not correspond with the principle of subsidiarity, the national parliament submit reasoned opinions and EU commission must review its proposal

- b) Increasing the time given to national parliaments for reasoned opinions from 8 to 12 weeks when using the yellow-card procedure,
  - c) Forming EUROCON constituted of lawyers from EU member states to tailor problematic laws to better suit individual nations' situations;
- 3) Endorses the creation of programs<sup>3</sup> which serve the purpose of raising awareness of the EU's internal functions and goals;
  - 4) Encourages the EU to reach out on how citizens can participate through the ECI<sup>4</sup>;
  - 5) Requests the EU to restructure its online presence to make it more accessible to the average citizen;
  - 6) Calls upon thorough research to determine better ways to reach the citizens of member states;
  - 7) Supports member states in introducing online voting as a possible way of voting and providing stable servers and security systems in order to make voting more appealing, efficient and reliable;
  - 8) Suggests that member states use the two-list voting system<sup>5</sup>;
  - 9) Expresses its appreciation for the EU working on economic, social and political integration in candidate states;
  - 10) Invites the candidate states to fully engage in getting closer to the EU by enforcing and promoting EU democratic values;
  - 11) Encourages member states' governments to develop better demographic representation in the European Parliament through support of organisations that deal with underrepresented groups of people;
  - 12) Urges the committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs I to find a solution regarding the refugee crisis as soon as possible;
  - 13) Strongly urges the EU commission and the national governments of the EU member states to pass legislation stating that EU citizens shall only receive welfare and benefits from the countries they pay taxes in;
  - 14) Further promotes financial support for organisations that work on popularising interest in politics, voting and civil society;
  - 15) Asks the national governments of the member states to settle issues regarding citizenship more efficiently;
  - 16) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>3</sup> Such as, but not limited to Erasmus+

<sup>4</sup> European Citizen's Initiative – allows EU citizens to initiate a legislative proposal to the Commission, if signed by at least one million citizens, from at least 7 different countries

<sup>5</sup> The ballot contains two fields: on one a party is selected and on the other a most preferred individual candidate.

## Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

*With problems mounting in so many fields (education, unemployment, globalisation, social media) affecting the youth of today how can we empower young people to have more say in the solution and decision-making process in society with a view to enhancing active citizenship and a sense of solidarity.*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Recognizing that the youth of the EU is not adequately informed about political institutions and is not sufficiently prepared for active citizenship,
  - B) Realising that the lack of interest and involvement in the decision-making process is aggravated by regulations such as voting age restrictions,
  - C) Deeply concerned about the high level of youth unemployment,
  - D) Alarmed by a growing generation gap causing a problem with regard to youth participation in politics, due to mutual distrust,
  - E) Fully aware of the political power of social media,
  - F) Emphasizing the necessity to make the voices of young people heard and taken into account,
  - G) Realising that information concerning politics is extremely detailed and obscure, which results in a lack of interest among young people,
- 1) Recommends that the education systems of the member states adopt responsibility for teaching youth about the processes involved in political institutions in their respective countries and in the European Union;
  - 2) Encourages the creation of platforms for youth to be educated about social and political affairs and prompt youth participation in their respective areas;
  - 3) Requests a lowering of the voting age to 16<sup>1</sup>;
  - 4) Further recommends a lowering of all age-based restrictions on political positions to the age of 18;
  - 5) Calls upon member states to authorize a system of shadow elections<sup>2</sup> which include a possibility to vote, to participate on debates, panels and simulations among the youth between ages 12 and 16;
  - 6) Calls for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs to work on the issue of youth unemployment;
  - 7) Urges that the ESF<sup>3</sup> be extended to apply to youth programmes such as the MEP, youth parliament and similar forms of political participation;

<sup>1</sup> As practiced in the Scottish independence referendum

<sup>2</sup> This would be similar to the system found in Estonia

<sup>3</sup> European Social Fund

- 8) Further invites member states to set up a shadowing programme, allowing young people to follow the work of political institutions and organizations for a short period of time;
- 9) Supports the introduction of optional online voting in elections to make the political process more familiar and accessible to members of the youth;
- 10) Encourages the use of social media to promote already existing programs, supporting active citizenship and political participation;
- 11) Urges the creation of the organisation AYC<sup>4</sup> to aid with this goal;
- 12) Calls upon the founding of EP4U<sup>5</sup> that will provide easily accessible information about topics discussed in the parliaments of member states which concern youth;
- 13) Encourages member states to include source criticism and relevant analytical skills in the compulsory school curriculum;
- 14) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>4</sup> Active Youth Citizenship

<sup>5</sup> Europe for you







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**Committee on Energy, Industry and Research (ITRE)**


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*With the EU's 2030 framework for climate and energy policies being criticized as unambitious, what steps should the EU, on the December 2015 Paris Summit, propose to ensure the transition to a more secure and sustainable energy system while maintaining overall economic competitiveness?*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Deeply concerned about the lack of self-sufficiency regarding energy leading to a dependency on politically unstable countries,
  - B) Guided by the need to improve EU energy infrastructure allowing efficient energy transmission systems within the EU and with foreign suppliers covering the energy demand,
  - C) Noting with regret that problems have derived from an arguable plan set by the EU ETS,<sup>1</sup> such as deflating prices of allowances and the possibility of selling them abroad,
  - D) Having examined the fact that member states have different environmental conditions and different levels of development in the green energy sector,
  - E) Having considered the difficulty in the use of eco-friendly vehicles due to numerous factors,
  - F) Keeping in mind considerable switching costs for individuals and companies,
  - G) Deeply concerned about the lack of effective measures to reduce energy consumption,
  - H) Emphasizing the need for transparency in companies regarding the environmental impact of their products,
  - I) Bearing in mind the need to develop infrastructure as new technologies emerge,
- 1) Requests an amendment in the 2030 framework to set the goal of renewable energy produced within the EU to 27% rather than only 27% of energy consumed to be from renewable sources;
  - 2) Further requests subsidies for renewable energy projects in order to increase the energy production in Europe;
  - 3) Calls upon the implementation of an expanded energy network that connects neighbouring member states with each other, uniting the energy networks of the EU member states;
  - 4) Notes that these interconnections will need to be complemented by energy storage systems, such as, but not limited to, pumped hydro in the short term, and flywheels, batteries and CAES<sup>2</sup> as long term solutions to deal with the problems created by renewable intermittent energy<sup>3</sup>;
  - 5) Congratulates the Market Stability Reserve for backloading unallocated allowances;

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1 Emissions Trading Scheme which deals with the trading of CO<sub>2</sub> emission allowances

2 Compressed Air Energy Storage

3 Renewable energies which are not always available, since they are influenced by factors beyond our control

- 6) Recommends the introduction of an expiration date for ETS allowances to be released, in order to reduce the number of accumulated allowances;
- 7) Notes the necessity of granting member states the possibility of returning the surplus allowances to the EU in return for receiving financial incentives, permanently removing them from the market;
- 8) Calls upon the creation of ERERI<sup>4</sup> to:
  - a) Evaluate the member states' potentials for different sources of renewable energy based on their geographical conditions,
  - b) Invite countries to employ tax reliefs for different renewable energies in proportion to their needs in order to maximize their energy production according to their potential;
- 9) Encourages the implementation of incentives<sup>5</sup> for the use of eco-friendly vehicles;
- 10) Strongly recommends more investments towards public transport companies for the improvement of their services, such as the introduction of eco-friendly vehicles, resulting in the creation of a better transport network;
- 11) Encourages governmental loans with low interest rates when upgrading to green technologies;
- 12) Supports companies providing leasing models for green technologies by intermediation with local legislation;
- 13) Encourages the improvement of existing buildings in terms of energy efficiency through the introduction of innovative practices<sup>6</sup>;
- 14) Promotes a higher standard of sustainability to be set as a prerogative for new buildings;
- 15) Considers redefining current energy efficiency labels to make them more ambitious in order for companies to strive for more energy efficient products;
- 16) Calls upon the creation of an organisation expanding the EU Energy Labelling Directive that will label products evaluating the environmental impact they had in their manufacturing, transporting and disposal;
- 17) Urges member states to proactively stimulate the building of infrastructures for new technologies that will contribute to achieving the goals set in the 2030 framework<sup>7</sup>;
- 18) Recommends the establishment of a European platform interconnecting different companies with an eco-friendly goal and enhancing their cooperation in order to broaden their networks and improve their effectiveness;
- 19) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>4</sup>European Renewable Energy Research Institute

<sup>5</sup>Such as, but not limited to, free parking lots, fast lanes, road tax benefits, cheaper prices for long term use of eco-friendly public transport

<sup>6</sup>Such as but not limited to, cogeneration, smart meters, isolation, LED lighting

<sup>7</sup>Such as, but not limited to, electric vehicles charging stations, energy transmission for solar panels, sufficient amount of solar panels

## Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)

**The question of what impact the TTIP will have on Europe's position in the global economy and on the regulations, standards, tariffs, and transparency in the EPU? To what extent should the EU TTIP States interfere with the rights of parliaments to enhance the world trade?**



- A) Realising the different regulations and standards in the USA and EU,
  - B) Alarmed by the secrecy and lack of public transparency under which negotiations are being held between EU member states and the USA,
  - C) Deeply concerned by the ramifications of TTIP regarding intellectual properties, such as, but not limited to, ACTA, privacy and monitoring of free networks,
  - D) Aware of the inequalities in representation of SMEs,<sup>1</sup> NGOs<sup>2</sup> and CPOs<sup>3</sup> compared to multi-national corporations,
  - E) Deeply concerned by the stagnating economic growth of EU member states,
  - F) aware of the issues surrounding the rights and representation of various participants such as, but not limited to, member states,
  - G) Contemplating the implications of TTIP on loss of national identity, particularly the impact on leisure economies,
- 1) Calls upon the creation of a three stage system (TSS) that will be conducted by the implementation of
    - a) A standardised labelling system on consumer products based on constituent quality grading,
    - b) A committee which seeks to raise standards, but primarily analyse market shares to identify a natural balance of trade standards,
      - i. Adopting an EU-wide average when comparing market shares over time,
      - ii. Achieving this intention prior to progressing to the third phase of the TSS,
    - c) The complete prevention of lower than set standards in transatlantic trading with the involved parties in the TTIP;
  - 2) Recommends the creation of an EU-funded independent organisation leading an information campaign on TTIP through channels like a website, providing
    - a) Drafts on the points currently negotiated,
    - b) Information on parties being involved in negotiations,
    - c) Information which is not biased by the governments of EU member states;
  - 3) Reaffirms the need for some secrecy during negotiations;

<sup>1</sup> Small to medium-sized enterprises

<sup>2</sup> Non-governmental organisations

<sup>3</sup> Consumer protection organisation

- 4) Supports the use of a common copyright system in both the EU and USA;
- 5) Strongly advises that the EU will not give any access to the USA to monitor EU citizens, particularly that no renegotiations take place regarding the central elements of the 2012 ACTA;
- 6) Requests the inclusion of SMEs, NGOs and CPOs in the debates before the actual negotiating sessions;
- 7) Realises the economic kick-starting potential of TTIP that could also reassure the EU as one of the leaders of world trade;
- 8) Requests that any organisation wanting to implement their rights under the ISDS<sup>4</sup> must
  - a) Dispute their case in open court,
  - b) Adhere to clear boundaries to prevent loopholes in legislation that allow native corporations to take legal action in any foreign country;
- 9) Emphasizes that government regulation must be granted some immunity from ISDS prosecution unless a specific appeal has been brought forward to a judicial court to allow renegotiations of existing regulations;
- 10) Encourages the ratification of the proposed TTIP in the participating member states as presented by the EU;
- 11) Calls upon the specification and strict usage of ROOs<sup>5</sup> in the TTIP in order to preserve a national identity;
- 12) Urges that established brands of MNCs pay taxes according to the localised taxation system;
- 13) Encourages the EU institutions to strictly oversee the rules and regulations in OC 12;
- 14) Further invites MNCs and companies investing outside of their native country to establish subsidiaries which declare profits in the country of origin in of the MNC;
- 15) Emphasizes the need for any original products, from the EU or the USA, to be clearly marked prior to being traded between TTIP-adopted states;
- 16) Proposes that the greater the ratio of MNCs, SMEs in a country, the more financial support should be offered to stimulate trade in privately run, small-scale import/export businesses;
- 17) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>4</sup> Investor to state- dispute settlement

<sup>5</sup> Rules of origin

## Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

*The question of the global demand rising for agricultural products such as food, feed and fuel, how should the EU export agricultural knowledge and innovation systems around the world?*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Alarmed by the lack of agricultural knowledge regarding policies, shared agricultural actions and new technologies within the European Union,
  - B) Keeping in mind the need to negotiate free trade agreements concerning agriculture whilst preserving national trade-related policies,
  - C) Emphasizing the inefficiency of trade-related aid,
  - D) Fully believing in the need to enable better agricultural opportunities for non-European states,
  - E) Expecting the enhancement of certain EU-regulations, in particular direct payments,
  - F) Realizing the benefits of exporting new technologies to developing countries,
  - G) Keeping in mind the occurrence of a skills gap caused by more knowledgeable farmers,
  - H) Alarmed by the fact that current methods of supporting agriculture might endanger the environment,
- 1) Expresses its appreciation for the current programs aimed at improving internet connectivity in rural areas and encourages their further development;
  - 2) Urges the creation of a subscription program aimed at informing farmers of changes in EU policies on agriculture;
  - 3) Requests that the committee working on Economic and Monetary Affairs discusses the benefits of simplifying the export of agricultural knowledge;
  - 4) Encourages the EU to reallocate the money aimed at encouraging the development of agricultural systems in non- member-states;
  - 5) Supports setting up new, and promoting existing, agricultural classes, especially in developing countries, in which the basics of both farming and agricultural technology are taught;
  - 6) Further supports that direct payments to farmers are based on a fixed amount per hectare, at a standard rate;
  - 7) Calls upon the EU to provide developing countries with the latest technology on
  - 8) environmentally-friendly chemical substances,
  - 9) machinery,
  - 10) biotechnology;
  - 11) Supports the renewed Standing Committee on Agricultural Research;

- 12) Approves of minimum knowledge requirements regarding agriculture for individuals affected by agricultural policies and programs;
- 13) Affirms the usage of programs similar to the GLAS <sup>1</sup>and the Organic Farming Scheme;
- 14) Urges the development of European Innovation Partnerships that would work on common innovative projects;
- 15) Further recommends increased funding for agricultural expositions;
- 16) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>1</sup> Green, Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme

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**Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)**


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*The question of what a future EU strategy considering measures to combat discrimination against LGBTIQ would look like.*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Deeply concerned by stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice against LGBTIQ in schools and other educational facilities,
  - B) Convinced that recognition of LGBTIQ persons in all EU countries is non-existent,
  - C) Aware of the lack of international recognition of partnerships and marriages between same sex couples,
  - D) Deeply disturbed by the public discrimination and harassment that LGBTIQ people face in EU Member States including hate speech and violence on a daily basis, which takes place because of a lack of protection in civil society,
  - E) Noting with deep concern the stereotypes in the EU member states concerning LGBTIQ persons caused by a lack of awareness,
  - F) Alarmed by the levels of prejudice towards the LGBTIQ community currently perceived within the EU member states, including religion and family,
  - G) Recalling the amount of discrimination in the field of medical assistance and employment,
  - H) Observing the still-existing methods of influencing one's orientation and/or gender identity,
  - I) Taking into account medically unnecessary surgery on the sex characteristics of intersex children and not considering the protection of their physical anatomy,
  - J) Deeply concerned of unnecessary surgeries carried out on transsexual/transgender people willing to be officially recognized as a member of the other gender,
  - K) Aware of the fact that an adopted child of an LGBTIQ couple is only under legal legislation of one parent in countries where the legal adoption by LGBTIQ couples is not recognized,
- 1) Calls for the establishment of an organisation NOSAD LGBTIQ<sup>1</sup> related to already existing local organisations with the aim to;
- a) Develop and carry out presentations about LGBTIQ in educational systems to break stereotypes,
  - b) Improve anti-bullying systems by implementing teaching courses for both teachers and parents in order to combat discrimination;

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<sup>1</sup>NOSAD LGBTIQ- New Organisation for Spreading Awareness about the Discrimination of LGBTIQs





- 2) Requests a report on the current LGBTIQ situation in schools or other educational institutions to be submitted biannually to the national branch of the NOSAD LGBTIQ organization;
- 3) Authorises the national bases of the organisation NOSAD LGBTIQ to provide a help for LGBTIQ persons, suffering under prejudice, through:
  - a) A hotline for instant psychological help and support,
  - b) Psychologist in national bases of NOSAD,
  - c) NOSAD internet platform;
- 4) Encourages the introduction and advertisement of conferences and debates on a national level organised by NOSAD LGBTIQ on the topics of LGBTIQ;
- 5) Approves the organisation NOSAD LGBTIQ to perform national based events such as:
  - a) Meetings among LGBTIQ persons and guests,
  - b) Pride parades,
  - c) Film festivals,
  - d) Other events based on the wishes and needs of the individual country;
- 6) Urges the creation of an EU-wide media campaign, including commercials on national television, concerning the equality of LGBTIQ persons;
- 7) Recommends all member states to implement civil unions for LGBTIQ persons in their legal system;
- 8) Expresses its hope that EU member states that do not allow adoption by LGBTIQ couples recognise the adoption of a child by two LGBTIQ parents as legal;
- 9) Authorises the supplementation of a hate crime manual regarding LGBTIQ peoples, to help guide authoritative forces in dealing with both the prevention and the handling of hate crimes;
- 10) Strongly condemns the practice of conversion therapy within all EU member states;
- 11) Further invites all member states to implement a law that allows transsexual citizens to legally identify themselves as any gender without undergoing sex change surgery;
- 12) Further requests that all member states to implement a law to restrict performance of unnecessary surgery on intersex while encourages psychological assessment from birth for intersex children (until they can state their personal opinion);
- 13) Calls upon the provision of medical and psychological assistance at work for all the employees regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- 14) Invites companies to make it possible for their employees to specify their gender if they are willing to, regardless of their sex, in consideration to their personal identification;
- 15) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.



## Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

*How should Europe cope with an ageing society and its consequent effects on the labour market? Which measures should the EU take to rejuvenate society, ensure employability of the youth and to keep the European workforce globally competitive?*



The Model European Parliament,

- A) Deeply concerned about the lack of cooperation between the education system and labour market in some member states,
  - B) Having considered the high youth unemployment rate,
  - C) Taking into account the consequences of the ageing society,
  - D) Recognising the lack of opportunities in the labour market,
  - E) Considering the potential of the European youth and the insufficiency of investments in research and development,
  - F) Taking into consideration that some EU member states do not encourage the compatibility of family and career well enough,
  - G) Aware of the falling fertility rate,
  - H) Noting with deep concern that employment is often impeded by excessive bureaucracy,
  - D) Realising the fact that employers have prejudices<sup>1</sup> regarding potential employees,
  - J) Noting with regret the dissatisfaction of many European companies with the European labour market leading to them outsourcing their operations,
- 1) Recommends that companies take part in the mentor program<sup>2</sup> in order to make it possible for students to experience working at a young age;
  - 2) Calls upon the governments of EU member states to offer ‘work practices’, internships and traineeships in theoretical schools and further supports their implementation in technical schools;
  - 3) Expresses its appreciation for people continuing to work on a voluntary basis after retirement in order to be beneficial to society<sup>3</sup>;
  - 4) Encourages companies to offer part time jobs to workers who are approaching their retirement age, in order to enable a smooth transition between ‘active working’ and retirement;
  - 5) Further recommends future investments in the EU’s Horizon 2020 Challenge, particularly in the “*health, demographic change and well-being challenge*” that promotes active and healthy ageing;

<sup>1</sup> Age groups, experience, gender, religion, ethnicity

<sup>2</sup> Organisation supported by the EU that sends students to work in different companies, which are given tax reliefs for hiring unexperienced adolescents

<sup>3</sup> Tutoring young employees in specific fields or other less qualified jobs, such as caretakers

- 6) Invites the youth to participate in R&D regarding the needs of the elderly and further supports the emergence of the Silver Economy that potentially increases the number of new jobs;
- 7) Authorises member states to establish a committee of experts working on reforms in their pension systems;
- 8) Takes note of websites<sup>4</sup> that provide information about vacant job positions in the EU member states for citizens who are searching for jobs;
- 9) Supports the introduction of the ‘flexjob’ system within the EU;
- 10) Calls upon the European fund to further increase investments in R&D in order to keep the EU globally competitive by taking advantage of its young graduate population;
- 11) Supports the foundation of a European research office with the purpose of coordinating innovative research and sharing knowledge and skills throughout the EU;
- 12) Urges the EU member states to further improve the balance between work and family life by developing subsidy plans<sup>5</sup>;
- 13) Requests the reduction of bureaucracy by creating an expert group to simplify the employment process for small and middle-sized companies, which would introduce a European Form that would simplify the process of hiring workers;
- 14) Trusts the Committees on Human Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament to address the issues of all forms of discrimination based on employee background;
- 15) Emphasises the importance of maintaining European companies’ operations in Europe in order to support the global competitiveness of the EU and would kindly congratulate European companies choosing to maintain their operations in Europe in order to support EU’s economy;
- 16) Instructs the president to forward the resolution to the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers.

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<sup>4</sup> Such as <https://ec.europa.eu/eures>

<sup>5</sup> Such as parental allowances and packages as well as child benefits

# Evaluation MEP Europe 2015 Berlin

## 1. What do you think you have learned during the MEP project in Berlin?



### Competences:

- My debating skills have developed, allowing me to make a more informed and well-reasoned argument; that not only is respectful but convincing.
- Developing a better understanding of the EU and the relationship help with the UK.
- Lots of interesting facts about the history of Berlin (from tours to home-families).
- Respect for other people from different backgrounds and cultures.
- How important it really is to “tear down walls and build bridges” with regards to my new found international friends.

### Knowledge:

- I learned a lot more about how different cultures look at certain topics, like refugees.
- I have learnt many things about other cultures/traditions and their school and political systems.
- I learned a lot about all the current problems that Europe is facing and I can now make my own opinion about them.
- I have got a lot of new ideas to solve the problems we are facing with.
- I learned more about the similarities and differences between the EU countries. I came the conclusion that despite many differences, we are more similar than one would believe.

### Attitudes:

- I already had the feeling the EU was and still is a good thing, so this hasn't changed.
- I became much more pro-European, now I take a look from an another perspective to a certain situation, I felt myself united with all those others.
- Appreciation of the work of the EU in spite of how difficult it is to agree on anything.
- I think that doing the MEP made me realise how important Europe is and made my feeling of belonging to Europe grow. Europe is definitely a great thing for my country and I wish Europe could be (even) more united.
- I got an appreciation for what role the EU plays in my life. I found out that Europe is an important part of my identity, although being a part of the planet Earth is even more important to me.
- As a participant from a candidate country, I can see that Europe is still holding strong. During this session, what I saw was a number of passionate, well-prepared people, eager to discuss the works of their committees. In fact, I was amazed by the cooperation I saw and was more than happy to work on my committee. Seeing the benefits that member states have first hand, I would want nothing more than my country to one day be a part of the European Union.
- I have learned that democracy is slow and hard but very very important for EU and that we have to stand together to find better solutions.
- I feel like I'm ready to do politics perhaps, and I feel more like a european citizen then ever before! MEP was really successful at letting me get to know new cultures, which I really enjoyed.
- Initially a Eurosceptic, MEP totally reshaped my perspective of European politics and the importance of the European Union in the wider world. The passion of each delegation at the MEP revealed the commitment of nations' to union within the EU, the necessity for interdependence to benefit all member states, and the EU's importance to secure advancement as an emerging economic and democratic power. This passion was infectious, and, through discussion, debate and discord, we each emerged enlightened by our foreign allies. The relationships we each forged whilst at MEP taught me not only to value the diversity of the EU, but its importance for growth and security, internationally. Britain is sceptical, we are misinformed, we lack a strong understanding of the EU, its creation, its purpose and its core values. MEP revealed the relevance of European relations in the modern world and the part that Britain has yet to truly fulfil at the forefront of its development. The general attitude was one of hope, for a bright and prosperous future, across all EU nations. Sharing in this, MEP taught tolerance, understanding, diversity and appreciation for argument, for compromise, to ultimately achieve balance and a sustainable, beneficial future for the youth of today.



## 2. What else do you think could be important for the MEP organization team?

### Criticism:

- It is not a criticism to the organization-team but rather to the whole MEP. As I see it, MEP is about creating new ideas. For sure, one has to be realistic about resolutions, but there were some new, good ideas. Nevertheless they did not pass, because everyone was being too critical. I realized that some people were not there to come up with new ideas and contribute to a better Europe, but rather just criticized everything to get good evaluations. For future MEP's of each kind, I hope everyone that is involved will be well informed and knows what the purpose of MEP really is.
- One week was maybe too short to discuss all the points we wanted to with our committee and to really get to know the other delegations.
- During committee meetings, it would be nice to have better technical background with internet and shared files with better structure.
- Greater definition of voting rules: to avoid a repetition of unclear passing of resolutions. With more clarity and boundaries, a recount of votes, after the result has been formally announced in the GA, should not be permitted. This would ensure that the MEP remains consistent as a realistic reflection of the official European Parliament and its democratic systems.

### Compliments:

- Hosting everyone in hostels or host families and organizing all the sightseeing and the locations we had meetings in seems difficult, but it all worked out perfectly. Especially the fishbowl discussion was an excellent idea.
- Mostly well organised, good food, very beautiful places to have the meetings in, nice activities, beautiful city, good guest speakers ... It was such an amazing week and I really want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to take part at this MEP.
- Everything was quite well organized and I had an amazing week, meeting awesome people from lots of different countries.
- Thank you for the amazing MEP experience. As far as I can remember, it was the best week of my life so far.
- I would like to sum up my thoughts in one sentence: I had the time of my life in MEP. It was so wonderful to be surrounded by diversity of cultures, languages and personalities. What I liked best was that every opinion mattered since MEP emphasises equality. I learned so many things about each EU country. We were growing together, exchanging thoughts and opinions. I improved my talking skills and now I know for sure that this is what I want. I want to make Europe a better place to live, and thanks to MEP I made the first step toward politics.
- The guesthouses were very nice and the building in which we had committee meetings and GA were absolutely awesome. Oh and also the lobbying felt really great and looked professional whilst on the boat.
- The fishbowl was quite fun. And the MEP session in general too of course!  
Thanks for an unforgettable week: smoothly run, well-coordinated, and overwhelmingly enjoyable. Also for the hard work of CP's and Co-CP's throughout the event, in supporting their committees, stimulating healthy debate, and ensuring a high quality of resolutions.



### Suggestions:

- I think that there were too many guest speakers with too similar topics and ideas. Giving the speakers different topics for their speeches, at least for the opening ceremony, might have been more interesting and rewarding.
- More time to formulate resolutions within Committee's - as this was more productive as team building than the actual city team building exercise.
- More photographers should attend the GA and Opening Ceremony, to ensure that a wide range of photos, of all individuals, are available to document this momentous event. Making these available in high quality, online, would also be preferable, as the online image bank can only be accessed in low resolution.
- The speeches and the fish bowl debate could have been shorter or more interactive.
- I would love to see everyone again in a sort of post-MEP week.
- I would suggest that the committees have more time for writing the actual resolution since there was really little of it and I would suggest the opening ceremony be at the actual beginning of the week not the second day.
- More free time to do sight seeing, or a broader guided sight seeing tour would have been amazing. I feel like we did not see enough of Berlin while I was there.

### Visions / new ideas:

- From what I have discussed, I think that another committee meeting should be after the general assembly for those committees, whose resolution had not passed. It would really lengthen the event, yes, but the quality of the resolutions would improve drastically. Also in some events at my home country, we had people like press, lobbyists, leaders of some political groups. I was not sure whether we are representing our country's opinion or our personal one. This should be pointed out maybe.
- Organize the entire event with much more time given for the committee meetings over more days.
- Although it is not usual, it would be more effective, if committee CPs prepared a first draft of the resolutions with the main job of the committee being to rework it to their liking and / or agendas Committee meetings could be almost entirely digitalized - in my opinion, everything would go much smoother.

### Visions / new ideas:

- Continue with the progressive and engaging work seen throughout MEP Berlin; broadening the understanding of Europe's youth, educating eurosceptics across Europe and motivating politicians of the future.
- Just continue to do what is already being done, as it was probably one of the best weeks of my life.



### Political Guests:

Maria-Luise Löper	Director of Federal and European Affairs of the City of Berlin
Michael Roth	Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office Germany
H.E. Georges Santer	Ambassador GrandDuchy of Luxembourg (EU-presidency)
Linn Selle	Woman of the Year 2015 / Young European Federalists Germany
Andreas Sowa	Former MEP Delegate - European Parliament
Günter Verheugen	Former Vice-President of the European Commission
Richard Kühnel	Head of the Representation of the EU-Commission in Germany
Ulrike Guérot	European Democracy Lab
Ralf Wieland	President of the Berlin House of Representatives
Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann	Member of the European Parliament

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