



President's Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the European Council of the Model United Nations Conference!

My name is Irving Barrera and I will be one of your chairs this year. I am a first-year Biochemistry major at Earlham College. I was born and raised in Mexico, and I have been immersed in an international community since I was 17 years old for studying at an International School. I have participated in two Model United Nations conferences, which has increased my awareness of global affairs and international conflicts. My interests are learning languages and applying scientific discoveries to alleviate world issues. I believe that Model United Nations gives me a platform to discuss my ideas with my peers. Every conference is a wonderful opportunity to learn. I am excited to embark in this journey with you.

My name is Mihnea Balan and I will be your other chair this year. I am majoring in Physics with an interest in politics and diplomacy. Whether you are an ardent debater or a newcomer, I hope this conference will further your diplomatic capabilities and your political knowledge and will lead to personal growth. The entire ECMUN team, including myself and my co-chair, are always happy to address your questions and concerns, so feel free to ask me questions at any time. This is my second time chairing at the ECMUN Conference and I also attended the 2015 LEIMUN conference. I hope you will learn and follow the Parliamentary Procedure rules, engage in fruitful discussions, treat our team and your fellow delegates with patience and respect, and most importantly, have fun while you endeavor to expand your body of knowledge.

We are all very excited to meet you all in January and lead you through this amazing experience! A little bit about our committee. Europe is a continent at the crossroad of the past and the present, and it is at the center of many of the most important global affairs at the moment. The topics we will be discussing in the committee are highly significant and relevant in our globalized world, and we hope you will all come prepared, with carefully done research, and open-minded spirit, and the willingness to learn. Please familiarize yourself with parliamentary procedures and do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us if you have any questions. We are all looking forward to working with you. Best of luck!

Best regards,

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Committee Background

The European Council was created in 1974 with the intention of establishing an informal forum for discussion between Heads of State or Government. It rapidly developed into the body which fixed goals for the Union and set the course for achieving them, in all fields of EU activity. It acquired a formal status in the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht, which defined its function as providing the impetus and general political guidelines for the Union's development. On 1 December 2009, with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, it became one of the seven institutions of the Union. The European Council consists of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States, together with its President and the President of the Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy takes part in its work. When the agenda so requires, the members of the European Council may decide each to be assisted by a minister and, in the case of the President of the Commission, by a member of the Commission. Decisions of the European Council are taken by consensus, except where the Treaties provide otherwise. The European Council meets twice every six months, convened by its President. At ECMUN we will not be using personal names during session, but rather country names.

Topic I: Brexit's and the Fate of the European Union

Overview:

In a historic nationwide in/out referendum, Britain has voted to leave the European Union with a 51.9%¹ Leave vote. The "Leave" campaign, spearheaded by the right-wing UK Independence Party (UKIP) has convinced many Brits to leave the EU by spreading Euroscepticism, appealing to anti-immigration sentiments in a time of cumulating difficulties due to the refugee crisis and a great influx of immigrants from central Europe, and by pointing toward the Eurozone crisis to disprove EU financial efficiency (Taub, 2016). The Brexit also takes place in a time when populist right-wing, anti-globalization movements have gained momentum across the Western world and Britain leaving might amplify the populist sentiments and trigger a "domino effect" in which other European nations might also leave the EU (Weissman, 2016). The Brexit triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, which requires the EU and Brexit to determine the terms of Britain's withdrawal (Weissman, 2016).

Current Concerns:

Although shares in Britain's biggest companies are worth more than before the referendum, there has already been a strong impact on financial markets due to the decision to leave – and this will in turn have negative consequences on living standards and economic opportunities. The sterling has faced a downward trend for some time, but after the referendum, it has significantly lowered compared to the euro and the US dollar (Allen, 2016). UK exporters will expect to find their goods more competitively priced on world markets. This will give a rise in their sales in the global market which might help boost their sales overseas. At the same time, tourists will find it more affordable to visit the UK, which will improve the tourism economy (Allen, 2016). However, this situation is reversed for the British citizen, who will find traveling to other countries more expensive. And since imports in the UK have become more expensive, British citizen's living standards will have to mutate more and more according to the growing prices of goods sold in shops all over the UK. The short term implications of the "Leave" decision has even been felt shortly after the referendum, when the UK inflation rose to a 22-month high in September 2016, which in turn affected the price of food, a situation which will greatly affect poor families, as inflation is expected to increase significantly over the next two years. Thus, even after a short period of time, the Brexit has already influenced British economy, trading, currency and living standards. Which begs the question: what are the long term impacts of the Brexit?

Future Concerns:

Brexit will have long lasting economic and political impacts on both the EU and Britain. However, since this event is the first time a nation leaves the EU, the best political and economic scientists can know about the future is based on speculations and predictions.

Looking first at the predictions of the change in the economies of the UK and EU, we see that the impacts can vary according to many variables and models (more details here: https://www.global-counsel.co.uk/sites/default/files/special-reports/downloads/Global%20Counsel_Impact_of_Brexit.pdf).

According to the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), an interdisciplinary research center at the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK's GDP per capita will be 6.3-9.5% per year lower than it would be if Britain would have stayed in the EU. It is also likely to mean an 8% cut in the real value of pensions and public services – fewer teachers, police and nurses, according to CEP (Dhingra, 2016). Thus, the UK will definitely have a poorer economy compared to if it would have stayed in the EU, but it will probably not experience any crisis. In the case of the EU, Brexit may impact on the location, liquidity and cost of financial services in Europe if it undermines London's competitive position. This would prove itself costly for businesses and households across Europe. Most large European banks have major operations in London which would be costly to relocate. The EU also lost a significant net contributor to the EU budget through the Brexit. This gap would need to be filled either by higher contributions from other states or less spending. There would likely be a shift towards support for higher spending in the European Council (Global Counsel, 2016).

According to the analysis of the Global Counsel, an "advisory firm, working with clients to navigate the critical area between business, politics and policymaking", the political landscape inside the EU will also change. Because the UK is one of the most influential member states and the 2nd largest European economy, its departure would change the relationship between other large, important states, most importantly, France and Germany. The Brexit could bind them together or push them apart (Global Counsel, 2016). Netherlands, Ireland and Cyprus will be especially affected since they have strong financial, investment and/or policy links to Britain. However, as the Economic and Social Research Council, UK's leading research and training agency addressing economic and social concerns, points out in a project, the Brexit will not cause a collapse of the EU. Brexit might have even been followed by a push for more integration. Yet much of this is dependent on the actions of all other nations, in other words, on the plausibility of the "domino effect" mentioned earlier (UCL, 2016).

Thus, the Brexit will certainly have a strong effect on Britain's economy and it will force it to redo trade agreements with EU countries and will also lose its decision-making power in the EU. The EU will have to depend on its unity more than ever and will try with all efforts to avoid its worst case scenario, a domino effect that will make more nations leave the EU. Furthermore, the power dynamics of the leading EU nations will also change, as Germany and France will gain more power and will have to either collaborate to fill the void left by UK's departure or to compete to hold more bureaucratic power.

Questions to consider:

1. How would the EU respond to a domino effect?
2. Considering the different models from page 6 of the analysis from source number 7, which would you think would be the most probable and why? Since most other EU countries use the euro as their currency and/or participate in the union's Schengen Area open-borders agreement, other departures might prove more disastrous to the EU than Brexit.
3. How would the EU be affected and react to the departure of a country such as the Netherlands or Spain?

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Topic II: Turkey's Political Status and Stability

Overview

Location: The Republic of Turkey

Duration: fifty-six years since the establishment of the Second Republic, and four months since the July of 2016 coup d'état attempt.

Significance to other countries: Relevant for the Republic's relations between the United States and NATO.

Turkey's location in global hotspots makes its territory relevant for US/NATO's military operations against the Islamic State. The early warning missile defense radar and the transformation of a command unit in Izmir reinforced Turkey's importance as an ally. Shifts in the current regime and the social tensions in the country could affect its external relations and the military actions of NATO in the Middle East. In 2015, Turkish officials approved the use of Turkish territory for airstrikes in Syria and Iraq against the Islamic State. The political instability of president Erdogan's regime can affect the military interventionism against IS.

Since the instauration of the Second Republic of Turkey in 1960, the country has experienced a period of political instability. The Republic has affronted five attempts of domestic military interventions, the most recent one being the one in July of 2016. In July, individuals from outside of their line of command attempted to overthrow President's Erdogan administration. The Turkish government blames the cleric Fethullah Gulen for orchestrating the coup. After the event, president Erdogan's administration consolidated its power by arresting the rebellious military elements along with 6,000 people. The government's response raised concern in the international community for possible civilian rights violations.

Historical Background:

Since the 1980, Turkey has experienced fundamental internal change led by the economic empowerment of the middle class from the Anatolian class that emphasizes Sunni Muslim Values. This change fueled the transformation led by the Islamic leaning Justice and Development Party (AKP) and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who won four governing majorities.

Domestic polarization has intensified since 2013, when nationwide anti-government protests took place in Istanbul, for allegation of corruption against Erdogan's colleagues.

Various measures to prevent private In recent years the Republic of Turkey has experienced major structural changes to the justice sectors amid accusations that the Fetullah Gulen movement tried to destabilize the country. The cleric Fetullah Gulen is currently based in the United States. In May of 2016 the former Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu was replaced by the Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

Timeline of Past Turkish Domestic Military Interventions:

- 1960: Polarization led to violent protests. The military overthrew the government of Prime Minister Adnan Menderes. He was executed. A new constitution was created
- 1971: Coup by memorandum. By widespread strikes, political violence and terrorism, military leaders warned that they were ready to take over the government. The government resigned
- 1980: The third coup. Violence, food and fuel shortages raised the specter of a civil war.
- 1997: Soft coup. Military leaders warned the government of tilting toward Islamist policies. The coalition government stepped down.
- 2016: Failed attempt of coup

The 2016 failed coup attempt and its aftermath. In July 15-16 of 2016 a coup attempt against the Erdogan's government took place. Government officials used various traditional and social media platforms to rally Turkey's citizens in opposition to the plot. Resistance by security forces loyal to the government and civilians in key areas of Istanbul and Ankara succeeded in foiling the coup, with around 270 killed on both sides. The leaders of Turkey's opposition parties and key military commanders helped counter the coup attempt by promptly denouncing it. Turkish officials have publicly blamed the plot on military officers with alleged links to Fethullah Gulen. A total of 40,029 people have been detained in investigations following the coup, and 20,355 of them. Several thousand companies and institutions suspected of having financed Mr Gulen have also been shut. But the UN raised concern that the measures were being used to target dissent and criticism and to follow the rule of law. Turkey fired or suspended 50,000 people from the country's institutions and security forces last week. They include judges, teachers, police and journalists. More than 9,000 soldiers have been arrested since the coup, but 1,200 were released Saturday, the government said. Some 5,000 state employees have been sacked and 77,000 suspended in the purge since last month's failed coup in Turkey, the prime minister says.

Responses from the International Community

The United Nations has warned Turkey that wide-ranging purges and arrests following a failed coup “go beyond what can be justified” and may violate international law. A group of experts from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) criticized purges in the military, media, education and justice sectors. “While we understand the sense of crisis in Turkey, we are concerned that the government’s steps to limit a broad range of human rights guarantees go beyond what can be justified in light of the current situation,” they said in a joint statement. “Turkey is going through a critical period. Derogation measures must not be used in a way that will push the country deeper into crisis.” The White House condemned the attacks but has repeatedly refused calls from Ankara to extradite Mr Gulen.

Questions to Consider:

1. How could the NATO members in the European Council comply with the human rights violations by the regime of President Erdogan without compromising their military operations in Turkey?
2. What can the European Council legislate to stabilize the political tensions in Turkey without compromising their activities in Syria?
3. Should the requests of Turkey to integrate to the European Union be reconsidered after the failed coup attempt? What are the recommendations that the European Council should give to the Turkish government after these events?

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Topic III: Xenophobia and Domestic Terrorism

Overview:

Over the last decade, the European society has experienced a dramatic transformation. The arrival of refugees from Syria and other Middle Eastern countries, added to those coming from Northern African countries has created cultural and social frictions amongst the recipient nations. In recent years, more than a thousand failed, foiled or completed attacks were carried out in the EU, which resulted in an increase of xenophobic and separatist movements. Currently, the tensions have led to an increase in hate crimes, most of them against the Muslim population. The policies taken by the recipient countries on this issue might affect the Middle Eastern countries as well as will have a deep influence in their domestic social tensions.

Historical Background:

Due to the political instability in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries, millions of citizens have been forced to flee to European nations in the hopes of finding better life conditions. The Islamic State, a terrorist organization, has taken such opportunity to expand its outreach and plotted several attempts against the recipient countries of the refugees, derogating the perception of the Muslim populations living in Europe. Between 2009 and 2013 there were 1010 failed, foiled or complete attacks. Of which 38 people died. Several European citizens have been kidnapped and killed by terrorists. In addition, over the last three years, serious threats adjudicated to IS resulted in the domestic attacks of France; events that led to a worldwide movement against terrorism in Europe, but that unchained the rejection against Muslims and refugees.

Summary of relevant attacks

- Charlie Hebdo in Paris: On 7th January of 2015, two gunmen linked to the terrorist organization of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, killed 12 employees of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, for their satirical works.
- Bataclan attacks: On Friday Nov 13 of 2015, three gunmen killed 90 attendees at a concert in the Bataclan Theater in Paris.
- Attacks in Brussels airport: Members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, coordinated a suicide bomb at the Brussels airport. 32 people were killed.
- Attacks in Nice: On 14th of July of 2014, a Tunisian resident in France drove a cargo truck into the crowd celebrating the National Day of France. 86 people were killed.

According to figures from the Europol, in 2015, 151 people died and over 360 were injured as a result of terrorist attacks in the EU. 1077 individuals were arrested in the EU for terrorism-related offences, of which 424 in France only. 94% of the individuals trialed for jihadist terrorism were found guilty and prosecuted. Xenophobia and Discrimination In 2014, 861 hate crimes occurred in Europe. Given the climate of terrorism in the EU, the trend of separatist and xenophobic movements has grown in Europe. In France, the National Front Party led by Marie le Pen has openly demanded the expulsion and prohibition of Muslim immigrants in France. Additionally, the anti-immigration PEGIDA movement in Germany is growing in numbers of supporters.

The European Union has introduced measures to combat forms of racism and xenophobia, including the Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia and the Refugee Fund.

The UNHCR and its commissioner Antonio Guterres have condemned xenophobia and discrimination in Europe against the refugees. From the beginning, UNHCR has been urging States to put in place immediately an effective reception, registration and screening mechanism immediately upon arrival. For those determined to be refugees, protection should be provided and eligible asylum-seekers should be relocated under the EU plan.

Questions:

1. What policies should the European nations adopt in order to prevent further terrorist attacks?
2. Should the European Nations compromise the rights of Muslim refugees in order to prevent terrorism?
3. Is the prohibition of Islamic practices in public spaces by France justifiable?
4. What measures should be adopted to incorporate the refugees into the European society?

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