

Report on the Model United Nations of Munich 2017

From the 13th to the 17th of November 2017, a number of students from the European School of Brussels 2 participated in a Model United Nations (MUN) conference in Munich representing Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sweden and Hungary. We represented those countries in various committees ranging from Economical and Social Councils to the Security Council. The conference took place in the European School of Munich as well as in the European Patent Office.

We arrived in Munich on a cold and rainy day and hurried to get to our hostel to gather up and have a last training before the big conference we were going to attend the next day. Despite being exhausted because of the trip and drained by the amount of research we had done, we had a very challenging and interesting evening asking each other critical questions and trying to come up with diplomatic and persuasive answers. Going to bed we were all very excited, although a hint of nervousness kept all of us awake for a little longer.

When we arrived at the European patent Office the 14th of November, nametags and informative booklets were given out to us and we got to assist in the opening ceremony listening to speeches by the European School of Munich's headmaster, as well as the teacher who organized the conference and the secretary general. After these very welcoming speeches, we were given lobbying time in order to find countries that would co-submit the resolutions we had written which is a vital step to get a resolution discussed. We also got to know our fellow delegates and were able to make new friends during lunch even though we represented countries that normally would never have such warm relations.

The 15th and 16th of November were the days we saw the most evolution in ourselves, not only as delegates but also as people. During those two days, we were part of heated discussions and long debates which lasted more than five hours each day at the European School of Munich. We saw ourselves and our classmates bloom during those two days, as students who were very shy and morose about the thought of talking evolved to become the most active and witty leaders of complex and difficult discussions. I personally firmly believe that none of us came home on Friday night without much more developed public speaking skills as well as very diplomatic vocabulary in a language that is not native to even one of us.

The 17th of November was the most enriching and challenging but also the most depressing day. It was on that day that we could truly demonstrate our freshly sharpened skills, as we discussed the topics we had previously discussed with our committees in front of an entire assembly of various committees. Every single one of us experienced to be much less nervous during this conference than we had been on the first day of debating, despite the fact that we had to talk and defend our often critical points of view in front of a much bigger audience. This also shows how much these four days took away our innate fear of speaking in front of many people. They made us arise as independent, witty and confident speakers; qualities that we have incorporated into our personalities as well. The closing ceremony felt very rewarding to many of us as we remembered ourselves being in that exact same room four days ago as entire different people and were glad about how much we had grown in such a relatively short amount of time. It is in a very friendly manner that the European School of Munich's staff and the secretary general as well as the chairs of all the conference's committees sent

us off leaving behind a certain feeling of fraternity in us. I however can't possibly state that we weren't depressed to leave this weighty conference behind us and to return back home.

In conclusion, therefore I believe that the experience of participating in such a conference is extremely rewarding and enriching, despite being challenging making the participants not only more confident public speakers but also much more confident people; and confidence is a key element for the successful development of teenagers. I'm therefore delighted to have had the opportunity to take part in this trip and wish to express my hope that it will become accessible to more students.



The EEB2 delegation (Upper line, from left to right: Inkeri Kalimo, Kia Katainen, Anika Karmakar, Effi Spiegel. Lower line, from left to right: Marie Houot, Luuk Karmakar, Emma Haglund and Alessia Houghton-Clarke



