



United Nations
Student Association
Maastricht



Delegate's Guide

EuroMUN 2018: Shaping the
Future from the Heart of Europe

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European Parliament

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Table of Content

Introduction Letter

Research for EuroMUN

Introduction

The Topic

The Country

The Committee

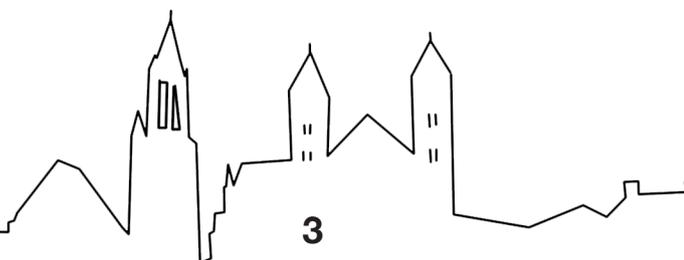
Writing a position paper

Introduction

How to write a position paper

Formatting

Important Notes



Introduction Letter

Dear Delegate,

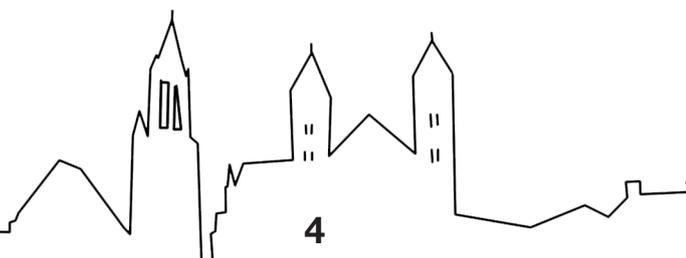
EuroMUN is a Model United Nations simulation ('MUN' or 'Model U.N.'). A Model U.N. conference is a simulation of various international legal, political, economic, and social bodies. During a Model U.N., students take on the role of judges, diplomats and ambassadors, representing different states or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). MUNs allow young people to experience the complexities of international relations with a focus on current events, historic developments as well as pressing (simulated) crises.

This typically involves extensive public speaking and debating skills, problem-solving mind-sets and the willingness to be a politically interested leader of tomorrow. One of the major skills that Delegates get to practice during the conference is the application of the law to real life; Delegates are constantly compelled with the question of a certain measure being within the competence of their committee, or whether the draft resolution on the floor respects previous agreements.

The goal of a MUN is to allow participants to gain insights into politics and in the world of diplomacy in a setting that is both respectful and challenging. Furthermore, delegates engage in intercultural exchange by facilitating dialogue across different cultures and nationalities, developing their skills, not only professionally but also socially, and making connections that will outlive the conference.

In a nutshell, a MUN is a conference in which students typically role-play delegates to the United Nations (or other institutions) and simulate UN/EU committees. They are given a country's viewpoint, and need to defend it during debate.

The present Guide introduces you to the major aspects of what happens before the conference. It will take you through how to research for a Model U.N., and how to write a position paper.



There is more to MUN-ing than preparation, however. The session unfolds according to very specific rules, the Rules of Procedure. You will also need to have some understanding of these rules. If this is your first time, or if you'd like a refresher, we encourage you to read our Guide to the Rules of Procedure, which explains the Rules in some detail. Every participant in the conference should have read the Rules of Procedure, as they differ from conference to conference.

Finally, we also published a Guide to Resolution Writing, which may come in handy if you are not used to this type of documents (and it's a great cheat sheet).

If you have any question, do not hesitate to contact us at information@euromun.org.

Good luck, and see you in Maastricht!

Virginia Debernardi

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Research for EuroMUN

Introduction

It is common that prospective delegates believe in the unchallenged fact that success at a MUN conference is correlated with prior experience and public speaking skills. However, what will differentiate an average delegate from one worthy of one of the conference's awards is the research prior to a MUN conference, which will constitute a solid foundation on the academic content of the delegate's speeches.

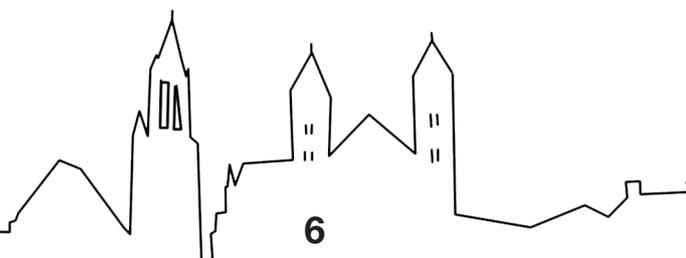
The following guide will support prospective delegates in outlining the main steps of a MUN research so they can know where to start this important part of the preparation of the conference. As a prospective delegate of the EuroMUN conference, there are three crucial elements you should investigate:

- The topic of discussion
- The position of your country on that topic
- The committee you are part of

The Topic

The topic of discussion is the first important element on which a good delegate should devote his time before the conference. To start researching good arguments to defend a topic can look like looking for a needle in a haystack; however, with this guide we will help you to identify the main areas you should start your research with. To start the research on any topic, we recommend examining the following elements:

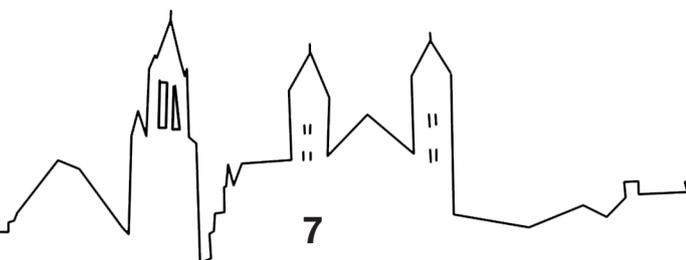
- The historical, social and economical context of the problem
- Its historical, social and economic causes and main actors involved
- Past attempts at finding a solution, especially those being decided at the international level, in International Organizations such as the UN
- Potential creative solutions to solve the problem and options to solve it that are already on the table
- Recommendations from policy-advisors or academia



Sources of information

The first step into the research of the topic should be a thorough reading of the Study Guide available on the EuroMUN's website. The Study Guides, elaborated by the Chairs of each Committee with support from the Secretariat, have the intention to give a first insight into any topic and the main direction that its writers want the topic to take. However, it is important to take the Study Guide as a limited primary source of knowledge, and, as such, it is necessary that you expand your research through a series of tools:

- **UN website and related:** the official website of the United Nations and its bodies is a very helpful source of research, since it contains information on all the main subjects of debate at a MUN. Moreover, the website includes archives on sessions, resolutions and legislative actions on international conflicts that can serve as an inspiration for the resolutions of your topic of discussion.
- **Think tanks:** these are a useful source of policy briefs which analyze current policies and propose amendments or changes to them in order to solve pressing global problems. In order to research in a topic in which the EU is involved, for example, it can be convenient to search information on the website of the Centre for European Policy Studies or the European Council on Foreign Relations.
- **News agencies:** the majority of the topics at a MUN have a very close relationship with current affairs, and news agencies help to provide more in-depth analyses, data and recent developments of a specific topic. Some of the most important news agencies include the BBC, the Guardian, the New York Times, Foreign Policy, the Washington Post, and the Economist.
- **Other sources:** further useful sources include specialized magazines, research papers or any type of encyclopedia. In addition, NGOs websites can offer extensive reports on situations of conflict around the world in diverse topics such as the environment or the protection of human rights. Finally, Wikipedia can also be a great source to grasp the most superficial aspects of the topic such as the timeline of its main chronological events.



The Country

The research conducted on a specific country will vary widely depending on the topic of debate. For example, if a delegate is allocated a country that has a very secondary role in the topic, then the research on the country per se will not be as important as the research on the topic. On the other hand, if a delegate is allocated a country that has a key role in the topic, such as the P5 in the UNSC, then this delegate will need to do a more extensive research on his country's position.

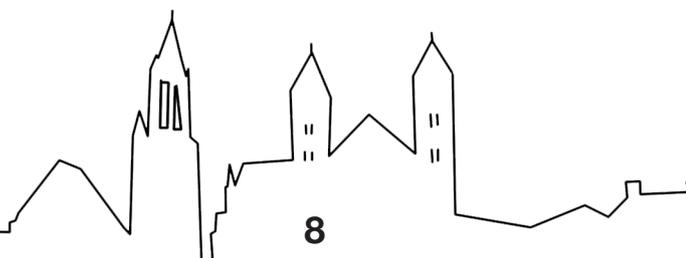
In general, however, every delegate should have some knowledge of his country's:

- History, including the foundation of the state, its main legislative text or Constitution, previous political systems and military conflicts
- Geography, including geographical location, regional neighbors, and size of natural resources
- Demography, including size and structure of population, main religion and ethnic composition, as well as public opinion
- Political system, including the type of regime, its key leaders, and the presence of political movements
- Economy, including position in main economic indexes, GDP of the country per capita, main economic sectors of the country, and trade partners
- International relations, including view of the international arena, international allies and rivals, membership in organizations and signature of treaties

Sources of information

To start the research on a country's position on any topic, the delegate should start by researching broadly on the websites listed in the above-mentioned topic section of this guide. Further information on the political situation and the economy of the country can be found thanks to different sources, such as:

- The website of the country's government, which includes information on its legislative actions, the speeches of the government's officials, and its relations with other international actors



- International organizations and NGOs' websites, such as the World Bank, the IMF or Human Rights Watch, which provide annual reports on specific countries and recent information on states' international actions
- International Indexes, such as the Human Development Index, which provides data on important aspects of the social well-being of a country, or the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index, which gives data on the level of personal freedom enjoyed in a country

The Committee

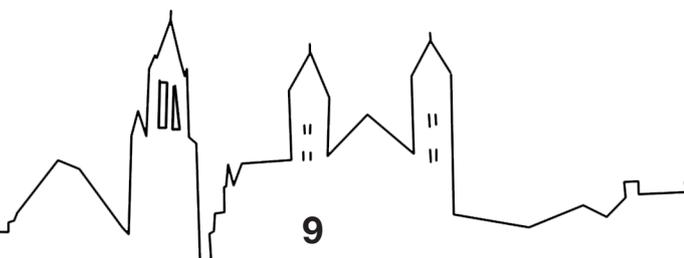
The third and final step of a MUN research should be done on the functions and limits of the Committee that you are part of as a delegate. This part of the research has been often overlooked, triggering typical situations such as delegates of secondary UN bodies taking binding decisions on military deployments (which can only be undertaken by the UN Security Council) or delegates adopting a resolution at an EU Committee that enters into conflict with one of the EU's main treaties.

The research into a Committee, therefore, should include some of the above-mentioned resources and also:

- The specific rules of procedure for several Committee's posted in the EuroMUN website at the end of the General Rules of Procedure
- The constitutive and regulatory Treaties that sustain institutionally the specific Committee or international body
- The website of the specific body, which provides more generic information on the functioning of that specific organization.

Furthermore, a crucial part in your preparation, lays within the blocs of States that may share the same perspective or priorities your country does, and who could collaborate with you in the committee sessions. The following questions can guide you in the research of your bloc countries:

- Within your committee, any other Member State shares your view?
- What States or organizations are opposed to your views?
- Which States are generally in the same voting block as your assigned State?



Writing a position paper

Introduction

Position papers are an essential element of both the preparation and the debate in an MUN. It is a short statement of your country's policy on each matter at hand. It serves primarily to disclose this information, and establish a level-playing field in the committee: everyone knows everyone else's position, so the committee can quickly move on to actual proposals and negotiations. Next to that, it also plays a role in how your Chairs will evaluate you, and helps them conduct the debate more efficiently.

How to write a position paper

Your position paper should be brief and concise: you don't want to overwhelm the Chairs and the other Delegates with useless information. We therefore advise you not to use too extravagant wording: keep it simple! Below, we present a general structure for position papers, from which you can of course deviate as you see fit.

- **Introduction:** your country and the topic: This is your general introduction for this specific topic. This part must be as brief as possible, but you should include two aspects. First, a very short introduction to your country and its relationship to the committee and topic, and second, how the matter at hand affects your country, even if it seems very far-fetched. There is always a way in which your country is affected, or at least, cares about the matter.
- **Position:** make clear what your country's position is. While it is good to keep some mystery for negotiating power, the reader should not be confused about your stance.
- **Past actions:** describe here your country's achievements with regards to the topic at hand. This includes national policy, but also participation in regional and international programs and actions.
- **Plans and proposals:** round off by including your country's proposals. This is obviously the most important, the one on which the committee discussions will rely.

While it is always important to convince your reader, and later on you colleagues, that your country's approach is the best, we encourage you to stay as close to the facts as possible. Statistics and quotes are always a good way to ensure you do not deviate from reality, but there are other ways.

It is not mandatory to reference your sources. However, doing so shows us that you did your research and that you are intellectually honest, both important qualities in a Model UN.

Finally, bear in mind that while you can deviate from the exact position outlined in this document during the debate, it is essential to show chairs the direction in which you aim to go.

Formatting

The division of the text and its structure is entirely up to you, but we have some requirements that all position papers must meet.

A position paper starts with a heading, of the following form:

Committee: The name of your committee, e.g. ECOSOC

Country: The country you represent, e.g. France

Delegate: Your name and institution, e.g. John Smith, Maastricht University

Topic: The complete title of the topic you are writing about

Your position paper should not be longer than an A4 page for each topic, and while there is no lower limit, we encourage you not to make it too short. The text should be in Times New Roman, font size 11, 1.5 spaced and at least 2cm margins.

Important notes

All position papers should be submitted before May 2, 23:59 GMT+1. Position papers received after this deadline will not receive feedback, and Delegates who fail to respect the deadline shall not be eligible for any award.

Should you have any question about writing the position paper, we will happily answer it at information@euromun.org.

Good luck!

Important Documents and Useful Links

For U.N. Committees, be sure to check the following:

- The Charter of the United Nations (<https://www.un.org/en/documents/charter>)
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr>)
- The Geneva Conventions (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions/>)

For EU Committees, be sure to be familiar with the existing legislation and the Lisbon Treaty. You can find information about the former in the Study Guide, while the latter can be explored via:

- <http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/>
- http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/111652.pdf

For NATO, the Washington Treaty and general information can be found in the Study Guide or accessed via the following links:

- <https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/126169.htm>;
- <https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/57772.htm>

