

MEP VIENNA 2014

European Daily Delegate

Weather forecast

Mostly Sunny
Max: 20°C
Min: 7°C

Programme for Tuesday 1/4/2014

08:30—13:00 h

Welcome

(Dir. Mag. Donner) and
Committee meetings
BG Int. School Klosterneuburg

Welcome

Abbott Bernhard IV Hermann
Backovsky
Stefan Schmuckenschlager ,
Town mayor of Klosterneuburg

13:30—14:30 h

Monastery lunch
Stiftskeller Klosterneuburg

14:45 h

Guided scenic bus tour
followed by free time in Vienna
for delegates

Evening

Delegates and coordinators,
teachers, directors have dinner
with their respective embassies
If you have no dinner with your
respective embassies on
Tuesday, you have dinner at your
own account.



Adventurous Arrival

The delegations from 31 European countries arrived on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Theresianische Akademie, from where they were picked up by their host families or taken to Klosterneuburg by bus. Most families spent some time with their guests, presenting their home and introducing the delegates to the foreign culture, for instance by serving traditional dishes or going out together in the evening.

The next day the delegates were supposed to meet at the Theresianische Akademie at 9.30 a.m. for the teambuilding session. While the participants staying in Vienna were blessed with a rather easy and convenient way of traveling, the delegations placed in Klosterneuburg were to be picked up by bus. After waiting for half an hour the organizers were informed that, obviously, no bus would arrive and they were forced to take about 70 people to the school using public means of transport. Traveling by train and tube the anticipated delegates reached their destination about 30 minutes late, but nevertheless immensely motivated for the teambuilding session.

In the afternoon, last but not least, the delegation from the observing country Malaysia arrived.



Facts and Figures about the Theresianum

- the school's emphasis lies on linguistics
- The spanish King Alfonso XII as well as the diving pioneer Hans Haas attended the Theresianum
- A normal school day starts at 8 a.m. and lasts until 6 p.m.
- the school's facilities include a tennis court, soccer fields, a swimming pool and 2 beach volleyball courts
- the Theresianum has partner schools all around the world such as in Japan or Paris
- the park has around 50.000 m²
- Maria Theresia is the school's founder

Teambuilding

The teambuilding session was held by dancing masters of the famous Elmayer Dance School, who hosted a dancing class for the delegates. The lessons were held in the school's gym, the Perigrin hall and the festival room. After a short warm-up the students were taught the very basics of the Slow Waltz, the Boogie and the Cha-Cha-Cha. Contrary to the general expectations there was a surplus of male participants.

The feedback turned out to be quite positive, the only quibble mentioned was that swapping partners in order to get to know more fellows, would have been a great idea. According to those questioned, the dance masters were extremely skilled, teaching the steps successfully even to the rather unenthusiastic novices. On the whole, everybody seemed very satisfied with the new experience and made use of the opportunity to establish contact.

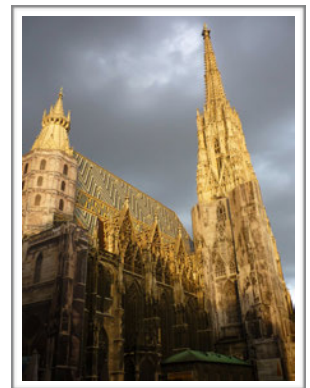


Facts and figures about Vienna

- The Capital of Austria
- The city is entirely encompassed by the province Lower Austria
- About 2.4 million people, that is roughly a fourth of the entire population, live in Vienna and its suburbia
- Tiergarten Schönbrunn was built in 1752 and therefore is the world's oldest zoological park
- Over 150 public balls, including the famous “Opernball”, are taking place in Vienna each year
- The world’s oldest wheel is located in the “Wiener Prater”
- The towns landmark, the St. Stephan’s Cathedral, is approximately 137m high and the highest church in Austria
- The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, which is especially famous for their New Year’s concert, is one of the world’s most famous orchestras

Important sights in Vienna

- Schönbrunn Palace
- St. Stephan`s Cathedral
- Museum of Natural History
- The Austrian Parliament
- Imperial Palace
- Belverdere Castle



Committee Updates

Committee on Culture and Education

The Committee on Culture and Education deals with the question of what the EU could do to ensure the improvement of education and mobility of young people.

After a quick team building session, the delegates were enthusiastic about discussing their ideas for the cultural evening. Having agreed on a very enjoyable performance, committee-work finally commenced. All delegates have been very knowledgeable and well prepared.

The members was very eager to share their ideas and every proposal was discussed intensely. After having identified a range of issues, the CPs split the delegates into smaller groups where they worked on multiple ICs, introducing those issues.

The overall feedback of the committee was very positive. All the members have been very enthusiastic to work and discuss their ideas.

Lukas Beckerhinn, Student Media Officer

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (I)

The question of this committee on employment and social affairs deals with the increasing unemployment amongst young people. The aim of our work is to determine whether the fight against unemployment should be considered national responsibility or what measures the EU could take to stimulate the participation of young people in the labour market.

The committee work started by introducing ourselves and assessing the extend of the topic. While deciding on the problems which ICs should be covered, the discussion of the committee got a little bit off topic. The discussion started to mainly focus on education, however the intervention of the committee president Angel Simbaev (Bulgaria) brought us back on track.

Focusing on our topic the committee nearly forgot to prepare something for the cultural evening. In the end - working until the last minute - we managed to change the lyrics of "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus to something more appropriate and educational.

Max Nusser, Student Media Officer

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

This committee deals with the question of adolescent health. The main and therefore most discussed topics turned out to be alcohol- and drug abuse and unhealthy nutrition among minors. The biggest hurdles our hard-working committee has to face are the very different regulations through-out the nations.

Despite the fact of these difficult conditions all the delegates seemed eager to contribute. Those who had difficulties in participating were invited by the Committee Presidents to express their opinion. The only thing that didn't work out as expected, was finding an idea for our contribution in the cultural evening. However, in the end, the delegates now actively joined CP composed a breath-taking poem about diversity.

As the session progresses a few very intense and interesting discussions during the alignment of the ICs occurred, which were brought up by many of the more active countries of our committee.

Nepomuk Trautmannsdorff, Student Media Officer

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

Our committee discusses the sensible issue of human trafficking. Every year countless people are smuggled into the EU by traffickers. A significant percentage of them end up in sexual slavery. a This modern-day slavery must be stopped, which is why our committee tries its best to gather many ideas and make a good resolution.

The delegates were very eager to contribute to the resolution, even though it sometimes seemed that they took their time to collect their ideas. Still we managed to gather good points and I believe we will continue to work well together.

Ha Un Chung, Student Media Officer

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, led by Committee President Henrik Gustafsson from Sweden, has shown great progress so far. After playing a few name games and creating a human knot for teambuilding, and introducing newcomers to the MEP, the delegates had a good start with a couple of brilliant ideas in the brainstorming. Discussions weren't exactly heated, but after an hour of debating every single delegate had stated their opinion or at least contributed to an IC. Although the first impression of the committee seemed rather calm and passive, there is a remarkably polite atmosphere present among delegates. All in all, the committee has been active and willing to express their ideas and we are looking forward to a good resolution.

Sophie Pramann, Student Media Officer

The Committee on Foreign Affairs

The first committee meeting started off with the delegates expressing their opinion on the question at hand. Right away it was clear that the delegates had prepared themselves well and a variety of view points came up. Next, they began to brainstorm problems and within what seemed like a few minutes, the IC's had been written and formatted. While some delegates held back, the others took the lead and lead the committee into a heated discussion. Only a few times did the discussion go in a wrong direction, overlapping with the subject of human rights, but the delegates succeeded in steering it back into the right direction when the Committee Presidents made them aware of this. After finishing the first part of the resolution much earlier than expected, the committee was asked to write their ditty for the upcoming cultural evening. This, without doubt, was one of the most bonding team building exercises, and the result was fantastic and witty, drawing many laughs as the final presentation that night.

Rebecca Gösker, Student Media Officer

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

What is the EU doing to take responsibility for integration within member states? How does the EU protect the rights of minority groups and how far should EU member states accept cultural diversity when it conflicts with national cultural practices?

The committee started the day with a remarkable work dynamic and working climate: brainstorming ideas for the night's performance on 'diversity in the heart of Europe', as well as pointing out a variety of problems many immigrants and minorities have to face in the European Union.

I am very confident that this group will work together and come up with an amazing resolution and I am looking forward to many innovative operative clauses!

Anna Weihs, Student Media Officer

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (II)

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (II) deals with the problems that go hand in hand with the aging population, such as the overload of the healthcare system.

After getting to know each other the delegates started an intense debate on the various topics. The goal for the first day was to work out all the ICs (Introductory Clause) that need to be further discussed in the following days.

Another task was to prepare a small act, poem or song for the cultural evening taking place in the Scapinelli -Saal of the Theresianum. The delegate of Estonia suggested singing the famous "Frère Jacques" in several languages. The committee agreed on his idea.

After having taken down the lyrics and having learned the rather difficult pronunciation of some languages, the committee went on to formulate the ICs. Subsequently there was still enough time left for having an intense discussion on possible OCs (Operative Clause) during which the delegates and the Committee Presidents realized the sheer complexity of the issues.

I'm looking forward to further heated- up debate!

Thomas Caganek, Student Media Officer

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In our committee we are discussing the topic of the women's role in today's society. The question is how the EU can improve the women's influence and ensure equality. Further more it is asked to what extent this relates to the differing status of women within the cultures of member states.

After having had a quiet start the committee members soon warmed up and showed what they know. It didn't took a long time to notice that two persons were especially into the topic. One of them was the Czech girl, 19 years old and obviously keen on having a key role in the committee. The other girl was from Germany, describing herself as a feminist and being totally convinced that feminism and equality are the same.

The overall atmosphere was really great; the delegates seemed to get along quite well and our CP Yannis had everything under control. All delegates are engaged in the discussions and so I think, even though there might be some flaws in the resolution right now, that at the end of the week we will have a convincing resolution.

Charlotte Krauss, Student Media Officer

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (III)

The committee #8 dealt with the question of safe Internet usage of the youth in the EU. The aim is to set measurements to reduce the impact of cyber-bullying, internet grooming and unregulated social networking sites without violating the human rights concerning free speech and freedom of information.

Firstly, starting with a demanding game, in which they repeated the name of each including an adjective starting with the same first letter as their names in order to get to know the fellow delegates. This game softened the tense tension a lot, before we went: 'medias in res.' Furthermore, slowly getting the discussion to the main task, the delegates gathered the problems regarding Internet usage and the situation in their very own countries.

Afterwards the delegates formulated OCs in a group of three. It was really pleasant to see a sense of community, especially whilst preparing something creative for the cultural evening on the topic 'diversity in Europe', this was the time where friendships were built.

Megfan Böhm, Student Media Officer

Cultural Evening

After receiving some small refreshments in the dining hall the participants, as well as the coordinators of the MEP, met in the Scapinelli Hall where the cultural evening took place. The Moderator Skye Macdonald led the audience through an entertaining programme, starting with a small concert of the school's organisation "Favorita Brass". After that, the first two committees, which spent part of the afternoon preparing a small interlude, presented their results. While the committee on Industry and Research displayed some forms of renewable energy the Committee on Employment 1 sang a modified version of "Wrecking Ball", an experience described by the moderator as "truly beautiful".



Following an act of the school's choir and the "Radetzky march" the Committee on Employment 2 performed the song "Bruder Jakob" in eight different languages. The Committee on Environment surprised with a poem regarding diversity and afterwards the stage was nearly crushed beneath the "Plattler Madln" dancing group that spontaneously taught a dance some volunteering delegates. The committee on Culture and Education entertained the audience by presenting a stereotype about each country, an idea that also came to the mind of the committee on foreign affairs,

where delegates picked on one another rather than calling out their own stereotype. The delegates of the 6th committee showed their ways of saying "hello" and the breath-taking piano playing skills of two students of the Theresianische Akademie were admired as they performed pieces of Mozart and Chopin. The Committee on Civil Liberties 2 shared their idea of reading out a sentence associated with diversity in each delegate's language with the Committee on Gender Equality while the committee on Civil Liberties 3 came up with creative ICs regarding the different countries as well as the MEP session in general. The last act of the successful evening was a group of Polka dancers performing and dancing with the delegates as well.

Opening ceremony

On Monday morning the excited and still a little tired delegates reunited at Vienna's town hall, where the MEP Opening Ceremony started with a performance of the EU-Hymn by students attending the Theresiansche Akademie. Afterwards the delegates were officially welcomed to Vienna by some politicians.

Chrisitan Oxonitsch, City Councillor for Education, Youth, Information

The Councillor of Vienna City welcomed the MEP participants and subsequently started to tell them about his tasks in the Council, trying to improve the already high standard of living in Vienna and providing the opportunity of a free and self-determined life. He informed the audience that about one fourth of the city's population is younger than 26 years and that to offer the youth support and new opportunities 38 million euros are spent every year. Although Austria is proud of being the country with the second lowest youth unemployment rate there is always room for further improvement. He concluded his speech with wishing the delegates that the trip would prove to be a rich and pleasant life experience.

Andreas Sztrokay, Member of the MEP Organisation Board

The young and motivated member of the Leaderboard stated that the MEP is a unique experience and an opportunity to practise one's dream job one day. Besides praising Dr.Oehl and his Co-Organizer Rebecca Kmentt for their impressive work as well as the hospitality of the Theresianische Akademie and the BG International School Klosterneuburg he presented the great plans of the upcoming MEP sessions.

Gottfried Oehl, Chairman MEP Austria

After sending his thanks to the whole organisation team Professor Oehl began his speech with reminding everybody of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1. As he appropriately stated "Vienna has changed from an abyss of war to the Capital of Peace over the last century." He has kept some symbolic reminders of the different wars, but also the MEP T-shirt of the session in the UK 2007 symbolising a



step forward on the way to peace.

Georg Pfeiffer, Director of the EU-Parliament Office in Vienna

Explaining the increase of the power of the European Parliament was the main aim of the director's speech. He laid special emphasis on the fact that the commissions president will be elected by the parliament and that the peoples votes in the parliament elections in May will also determine the commission. The function of the parliament, to get the executives to work, will be further supported by increasing its power.

Laurence Doering, MEP alumnus, British Embassy Vienna

"Turn around and remember the person behind you." With these words the young speaker introduced the topic of his speech. While issues, politics, etc. change, the relationships built during the MEP sessions last a life long and may help the delegates in their future. The purpose of the MEP is to link yourself, because even the best idea in the parliament is worthless when it does not get the majority of votes.

Dr. Franz Vranitzky, former Chancellor of Austria

The former Austrian chancellor led the audience through Austrian and later European history. Following the World War 1 people were confronted with inflation, underemployment and the broken spirit of the war's witnesses. After a civil war in the 1930ies Adolf Hitler had an easy game in merging the country with Germany. In the post-war period people tried to unite the countries by holding a peace forum including even Germany. In 1984 the EFTA was established and after applying to the EU in 1989 and a successful forum with a majority of 66 per cent, Austria finally became a member of the EU in 1995. Today there are two terms which he finds most important for the EU: Solidarity and Democracy. He concluded his speech with stating his belief that the young generation will continue taking steps towards peace and a unity of countries.

Sebastian Saxinger, President of GA

The very last speech of the day was delivered by the president of the General Assembly, the experienced MEP and MUN participant Sebastian Saxinger. In the very beginning he stated that, although pursuing the same goals, such as peace, democracy and economic stability, the EU is not defined as United States of Europe, but as Union of 28 various countries, each of them having a different history and culture. Europe has come a long way round, from the wars of the 20th century to countries opening their borders in a union of free travel and trade. But still, the countries remain independent and have their own opinions and points of view. In conclusion, this is the aim of the MEP session: To represent your country, but in the end find a solution together, "Una in diversitate-unified in diversity" here in the heart of Europe



Stay tuned!

Programme for Wednesday 2/4/2014

8.30 - 11:30 h

Delegation meetings in traditional Viennese
Coffee Houses

11:30—12:00 h

Early lunch for coordinators/directors/teachers
and delegates (at own expense)

12:15—15:00 h

Guided tour for coordinators/directors/teachers
and delegates

meeting: followed by

visit of WWI exhibit in Austria's National Library,
State Hall

15:30—18:00 h

Lobbying Theresianum: dining halls

17:00—18:00 h

Light refreshments

19:00—21:00 h

On the occasion of the centenary of the
outbreak of WWI

Panel Discussion

Austrian National Library, State Hall

19:30 h

Welcome Dr. Johanna Rachinger, Director of
Austrian National Library

Video Message from H.E. President of Austria,
Dr. Heinz Fischer

Fishbowl Diskussion

'The EU — a global player of peace?'

Presentations of the Heads of delegations

Following the welcome speeches the Heads of delegations had the honour to present their country's culture, landscape and history, or merely explaining what makes them proud of their nationality. In addition they shared with the audience their expectations from the MEP and their aim to achieve the best possible results together.

At 11.40 a.m. the Mep session in the heart of Europe was officially declared for open by the President Sebastian Saxinger.

Impress

Emil Nusser

Alena Rottensteiner

Megfan Böhm

Maximilian Nusser

Thomas Caganek

Nepomuk Trautmannsdorff

Lukas Beckerbinn

Ha Un Chung

Anna Weihs

Charlotte Krauss

Rebecca Gösker

Georg Gangoly