



**Model European
Union Strasbourg**



www.meu-strasbourg.org



Dear Supporter of Model European Union 2019,,

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us!

Model European Union Strasbourg (MEUS) is a unique project, carried out by a team of over 60 volunteers from all around Europe and beyond, taking place yearly under the auspices of the Bringing Europeans Together Association France. Every year, over 150 young people gather at the European Parliament in Strasbourg to simulate the decision-making process of the EU, taking on the roles of MEPs, Ministers in the Council, Lobbyists, Journalists and Interpreters. The project gives participants a rare opportunity to put themselves in the shoes of the decision-makers and attempt to reach a compromise, while learning about the legal and political systems of the EU.

Why do we do it? Our team of volunteers deeply believes in the importance of democratic participation in the EU decision-making. We also believe that true participation has to be based on awareness and access to information. With each edition of MEUS, we are trying to fill the gap of misinformation and disengagement of young people in European-level politics. By engaging them in a realistic reenactment of the Ordinary Legislative Procedure, we attempt not only to educate, but also to show them the complexities and difficulties associated with the process. Each year, MEUS alumni leave our conference more convinced of the importance of their own vote and civic engagement, often enough ready to replicate the simulation in their own countries. In its 12 years of existence, MEUS has inspired the creation of around 20 similar simulations across Europe and beyond!

What makes the 2019 edition special? 2019 is the year of the Elections to the European Parliament. The EU is in a precarious situation: citizens, especially young ones, feel disengaged and reluctant to participate in elections, seeing little benefit in casting their votes. The real exit from the EU does not happen at the head of states level - it happens everytime a European citizen refuses to take part in the European democracy.

We believe that Model European Union simulations can counterbalance this disengagement and disillusionment, by educating young people about the importance and effect of their vote on the reality they live in. By bringing the EU closer to them, and them closer to the EU's heart, its Parliament, we try to contribute to diminish the distance between decision-makers and citizens and to eliminate distrust by allowing students to live through the processes that make the EU what it is.

MEUS is a unique opportunity for young people to experience Europe in ways they never have - and we are counting on you to help us make it happen!

Thank you for your interest in our project.



FRANCESCA MARIA RISSO

Director General of Model European Union Strasbourg 2019



ABOUT MEUS

- Bringing together around 180 diverse and young people in the beautiful city of Strasbourg, Model European Union Strasbourg is a unique learning platform which focuses on the workings and dynamics of bodies creating EU law. Participants can fully immerse themselves in their role as an MEP, a Minister, a Journalist, a Lobbyist or an Interpreter, over the course of a week to debate highly contested issues in the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Participants and organisers alike gain invaluable knowledge about the European institutions right within the European Parliament. With over 12 years of successful simulations under its belt and a network of over 140 partners and supporters, MEUS puts special emphasis on the emergence of a united European identity. It allows participants to engage in various activities to foster networks and camaraderie, with fellow ambitious minds and to meet leaders and representatives of like-minded organisations.



ABOUT BETA

- MEUS is organised under the auspices of the Bringing Europeans Together Association (BETA) France, a national branch of the federal umbrella association BETA Europe. This politically independent, non-profit youth organisation has over 500 members from all over Europe and beyond. Members of BETA work to support and provide more opportunities for young people with events like Model European Union to facilitate a generation of active and passionate European citizens. BETA strives to become a leading organisation to promote intercultural exchange among young professionals by developing exceptional events like the MEU in Strasbourg and elsewhere.



EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

Moins Less than 40% of young European citizens cast their vote in the 2014 Elections to the European Parliament. Undoubtedly, the European project needs to be brought closer to today's youth if we do not wish to exceed this negative record in May 2019. We are convinced that every citizen's voice matters. That is why we strive to put this topic front and centre during the next conference.



Model European Union Strasbourg - highly commended for its realistic representation of the current European Parliament - increases participants' understanding of the political and legislative aspects of the EU on a larger scale. The simulation is designed to educate and motivate students and young professionals by making the European institutions more tangible and the Union's importance more salient in their minds - doubling as a surefire way to get them to the polls.

WHAT MAKES MEUS UNIQUE?

- **EDUCATIONAL VALUE:** MEUS is a unique opportunity that enables all participants to expand their knowledge of European Union working processes as well as improve their language and public speaking skills. In addition to this, Model European Union Strasbourg further encourages participants to become active and informed European citizens who partake and engage with all areas of European Union politics in the years to come.
- **AUTHENTICITY:** At MEUS, we offer a week of intense discussions, hosted in the official European Parliament building in Strasbourg, enabling participants to wholly immerse themselves in their roles. Available positions include MEP, Minister, Journalist, Lobbyist and Interpreter. The latter have access to the real interpreting booths in the European Parliament, making their experience particularly authentic.
- **INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION:** MEUS allows 180 participants and organisers from across 40 different countries to come together during the conference, learn more about different cultures and backgrounds and make friends for life. Furthermore, Model European Union Strasbourg is proud to have over 100 different international partners both from all over Europe and further afield, as well as the support of 40 current MEPs.
- **PRIME LOCATION:** As the name suggests, our simulation takes place in the picturesque and culturally rich city of Strasbourg, which is situated right in the heart of Europe. Having emerged as a new symbol of reconciliation of people after WWII, Strasbourg has become an international hub which enables participants to not only enrich their intercultural skills, but to also simulate the EU in the most official setting - right in the Louise Weiss Building of the European Parliament! This makes MEUS the only simulation taking place in an official institution of the European Union.
- **LONG-LASTING LEGACY:** Established in 2007, MEUS is the longest running simulation of the European Union, and throughout the course of the last decade has earned itself the title of both being the largest and most authentic simulation of the EU's legislative procedure. It also has inspired young people to organise over 20 similar conferences in their home countries.

THE TOPICS FOR MEUS 2019

FIRST TOPIC: CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW

One of the EU's main assets is the strict set of rules about consumer protection, providing predictability and confidence, fostering economic growth, boosting trade and nurturing jobs. This healthy consumer environment has been achieved through major pieces of EU legislation. However, the marketplace is changing fast and new challenges are to be faced. The EU is working hard on reforming the consumer policy legislative framework: discussing this process of modernisation will allow the MEUS 2019 participants to experience the way in which the EU seeks to obtain a fair and complete internal market.

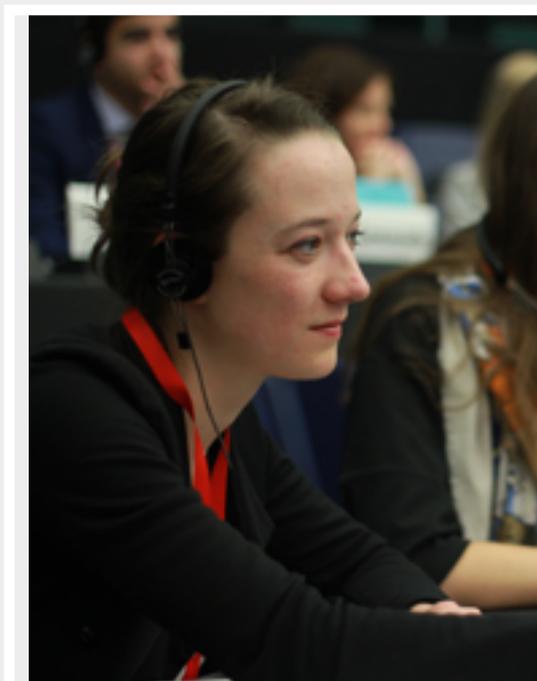
SECOND TOPIC: CLIMATE CHANGE

Over the past years, the EU has set very ambitious and comprehensive climate change policies. The action is indeed badly needed, given the worrying consequences of the climate change. The new legislation promotes transition towards a decarbonised economy and creates even more favourable conditions for investments in clean energy and sustainable practices. During MEUS 2019, the participants will discuss legislation on Climate Change and will leave Strasbourg encouraged to take positive action on this topic later in their daily lives and professional careers.

THE FIVE ROLES AT MEUS

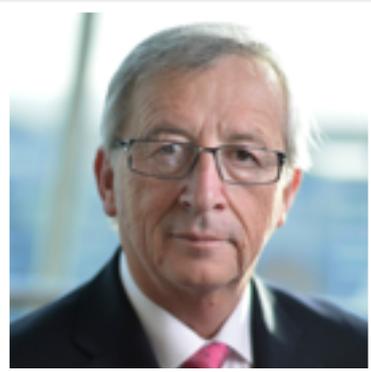
During the simulation, participants have the chance to take on one of five different roles:

- **MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** Representing the ideas of EU citizens as well as their political group in the European Parliament
- **MINISTERS:** Defending the concerns of their country and national government in the Council of the European Union
- **INTERPRETERS:** Simultaneously interpreting the debates on a professional level in the actual EP interpreting booths
- **JOURNALISTS:** Documenting the whole conference in words, pictures and videos and influencing the decision-making process through the press
- **LOBBYISTS:** Defending the interests of an affected company/organisation by persuasively and expertly advising from a professional perspective



OUR SUPPORTERS

- Model European Union Strasbourg is supported by a wealth of individuals, organisations, universities, institutions, and prominent European leaders. In 2018, MEUS had more than 100 partners from over 50 countries, providing us with know-how, exposure, and donations. We are as proud of the endorsements we received in the past from leaders such as Manuel Barroso and Herman Van Rompuy as we are to be supported by people like Martin Schulz and Jean-Claude Juncker along with more than 40 MEPs from various countries and political groups today.



JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

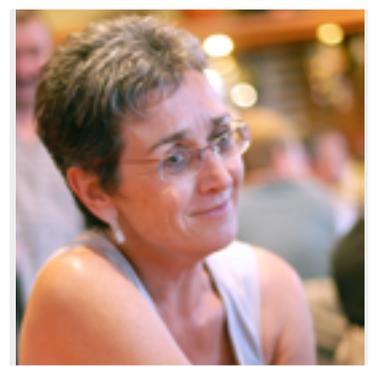
President of the European Commission:

“As you participate in this conference, whether you are a minister, an MEP, a journalist, lobbyist or interpreter, I trust that this week will increase your knowledge about the European institutions and how demanding it can be to find common solutions to Europe’s issues.”

MARTIN SCHULZ

Former President of the European Parliament:

“Model European Union Strasbourg is a unique opportunity to engage you, the youth of Europe, in some of the union’s biggest questions and it is therefore an initiative I wholeheartedly support and follow with enthusiasm.”



ULRIKE LUNACEK

Former Vice President of the European Parliament:

“I am convinced of the importance of young people meeting and debating European issues. For me, MEU is an unique and very authentic and practical simulation of EU decision-making and politics where everyone can learn a lot.”

GUY VERHOFSTADT

Leader of the ALDE Group:

“It’s important that young people engage themselves in European Politics, that they look how EU Politics work in practice. I am very pleased that they are going to European Parliament, in Strasbourg, where they can sit in the plenary themselves, where the heart of European democracy is.”



WHAT DO WE OFFER TO OUR PARTNERS?

MEU Strasbourg is a platform for partner organisations and students to engage with each other so that partners may find talented individuals who could contribute to their projects in the future. Additionally, we offer the following attractive perks to donors:

LOGO IN THE CONFERENCE GUIDE

The MEUS Conference Guide is used to facilitate communication between organisers and participants. It contains the timetable of the week and other crucial information about the conference and its partners. All participants refer to it as their most essential companion for the whole conference. You will ensure visibility by having your logo displayed in our official Conference Guide.

PROMOTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We have a far-reaching Social Media network, with MEU Strasbourg being viewed as the ultimate and most realistic Model European Union and attracting large numbers of interested users. Through Social Media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn we can connect with thousands of followers from Europe and abroad that could pose as an important resource for your interests. We will create a individually optimized post on our Facebook page with more than 14.500 followers and a reach of up to 50.000 people based on a description of your company (max. 150 words) to promote our partnership. We are also open to share your events and your most important posts in order to help you to reach more people, not only on Facebook, but also on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

WELCOME PACKAGE

You can further enhance your visibility by providing us with your own material that you wish be distributed in the welcome bags that participants receive upon arrival: a bag full of flyers, notebooks, goodies, conference documents, etc. – in short: their survival kit for the week! Participants use the materials every day during and even after the conference. Examples have ranged from pens and notebooks to USB chargers, t-shirts and tote bags.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Our partners gain access to the MEUS 2019 networking event to exchange in person with our participants and establish contacts for future endeavours. This event is a unique opportunity for participants to be in touch with real-life decision makers and experts from the fields of the debates that keep them busy during the week. In the past, the networking event of MEU Strasbourg has taken the form of a partners' fair, or of a Networking Night held at the European Parliamentary Association.

POSSIBILITY TO ATTEND WORKSHOPS AND MENTOR LOBBYIST PARTICIPANTS

The first day of the Simulation is dedicated to a series of intense workshops, panel discussions and crash courses, to help participants gain additional knowledge on their topics and roles. By becoming our partner, you have the opportunity to take part in either the panel discussions on topics, or in the role-specific workshops, mentoring a group of participants of your interest. This would give you the possibility to make participants reflect on issues essential to your activity, or steer the debate in that direction by coaching a group of participants (lobbyists) on how to adequately represent your interests.



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