

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Model European Union 2010

## 1. General

General information about MEU 2010. Select the question you want to be answered from the box above.

### **What is MEU?**

MEU stands for Model European Union and is a simulation of the process of approving new laws in the European Union. The institutions simulated are the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament. We also have journalists, lobbyists and interpreters. It takes place in Strasbourg at the European Parliament. The 2010 edition will take place from the 10th to 17th April 2010.

### **Who can apply?**

Eligible are people who provide a permanent address in one of these countries:

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden

Turkey  
United Kingdom

Priority will be given to people between 18 and 25 years of age who have not previously participated in MEU (other simulation experience welcome).

## **2. Application**

Questions concerning the application for MEU 2009.

### **Deadline and how to apply**

Applications for MEU 2010 is open from **16th December 2009**, until **24th January 2010**. In general we will require the following information.

Click [here](#) to be directed to the application form.

### **Do I need any special skills to participate?**

You do not need to speak English at a native-speaker level, but your English skills must be very good. If not, you will not be able to participate in the discussion in a meaningful fashion and gain the full experience of MEU. Apart from this, we are looking for interested and enthusiastic people to participate in the simulation, no previous experience of such a debate is required. Different backgrounds and fields of work are by no means a drawback.

### **I already attended other simulations/ MEUs. Can I still participate?**

You cannot apply to MEU if you have already attended MEU in a previous year. Outside of this there are no restrictions on previous MUN or debate experience.

### **What is expected from the essay?**

We are looking for well thought-out and structured pieces written from a personal perspective. Research may be useful but, in general, we are primarily interested in seeing that delegates can express a knowledge of, and interest in, European issues outside an academic environment. Essays should be written in English and be of no more than 700 words.

### **I come from Turkey. Do I need a visa?**

You probably do. We will help you with the application procedure.

### **Do you accept group applications?**

The organizers do not accept group applications. All applications should be individual and will be selected as such.

## **3. The Simulation**

What to expect from the simulation.

### **What happens during the simulation?**

Prior to the simulation, you will be attributed a role to play. Nobody will represent his/her own country as this is against the spirit of intercultural exchange. A list of the participants and their respective roles and emails addresses will be distributed. Delegates should use this

to contact people that will represent both their own country, to give advice, and their 'MEU' country, to discuss policies for the debate. There also will be an online Forum for this purpose.

If you are placed in the Council or in the Parliament, you should then gather general information about your country, role and general direction of the government. When you are sent the proposals to be discussed, you should research the topics the best you can so as to bring an informed position to the simulation. You should pay particular attention to the content of the proposals and the position that your country's government defends in these areas.

If you were attributed the role of a journalist or lobbyist, you should get in contact with your team leader who will give you more details as to what to do in terms of preparation and research.

Once the simulation starts you will have the opportunity of learning more about the proposals during workshops on the first day. You will also meet the other representatives of your country in person.

During the second day representatives from the European Commission will present the first proposal to the Council and the second to the Parliament, and you will then have the opportunity to ask questions. You will discuss the proposals, suggest amendments. and vote.

Next, the Council and the Parliament will elect a representative to present the amended proposal to the other institution. Once this is done, you will discuss the new proposal and vote on the amendments. After that you will exchange them once more to vote on the final version.

In the meantime, you will have to cope with the press and the lobbyists. It might be a good idea to gather information on their respective tasks, since lobbyists can be very useful to help you gather scientific and economic data to support your position, and the press can be very useful in channelling information.

There will be a research team available during the simulation to provide support in answering questions that arise during the discussion.

### **Which topics will be discussed?**

The law proposals under discussion will be the "Returns" Directive and a regulation on Genetic Modified Organisms, two up-to-date topics at European level that will provide for difficult but surely exciting debates.

### **How will the roles be assigned?**

The roles will be assigned by the organisation of the event and in no case is it possible to change the role during the simulation. However, your preferences will be taken into consideration.

### **How should I prepare?**

You should gather as much relevant information as you can. Together with the proposals, we

will send you a study guide which contains an introduction to the proposals and some useful links and directions that you can use to prepare yourself and write your position papers.

However, prior to that and as soon as you are assigned your position, you can start researching into your attributed country and/or party: demographical data, economical data, general politic position, latest news and everything that can support your role as a representative of that country and/or political party.

### **What is a position paper?**

A position paper is a statement where you briefly and concisely describe which position you will defend during the conference. It allows you to summarize your research and organize your ideas in a coherent and official way, which will be very helpful through the conference. It must be submitted to the MEU Organizing Team prior to the simulation, a date will be announced when you receive confirmation of a place.

It also allows other delegates to find out your position, allows chairs to evaluate the participant's level of preparation and constitutes the main guideline in the opening speeches. It should be about 700 words and based on the perspective of your specific role.

A possible structure would be:

- general introduction stating the position of the entity that the delegate represents
- a policy statement based on the relevant view of assigned delegation
- a development part where you further elaborate on the position (referring to the EU treaties, or relevant international documents such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union)
- conclusion: very briefly stating your position again and recommending actions which would be supported by the entity that the delegate represents.

It should be a formal document and, as such, formally written. Please note that a long essay-type position paper containing the whole background of the entity on the topic is not useful.

### **I do not know the rules of procedure!**

Do not worry. They will be sent to you in due course and will additionally be explained in the Opening Session of both the Parliament and the Council.

### **Is there a dress code?**

There is a dress code. You will be expected to wear formal clothes at all times while inside the Parliament but not at social/evening events.

Furthermore, as you are playing the roles of politicians and diplomats we expect you to behave accordingly AT ALL TIMES. This includes social/evening events.

## **4. The Event**

Answers to questions concerning the event itself.

### **What will be the costs?**

You will have to pay for the travel costs to and from Strasbourg and the participant fee of

120 Euro, which includes lodgings, breakfast, lunch, dinner and coffee breaks, everyday transportation and tickets to the activities of the social program. All extras to this you will have to provide for.

### **Will we have time to visit the city?**

Yes you will. Please read the next question.

### **How to reach Strasbourg?**

Unfortunately at this moment we cannot assure any travel cost reimbursement. We know that travel costs can be high so we want to provide you with some information on how to get for little money to Strasbourg. At the moment a lot of airlines have got cheap offers for flights. To come to Strasbourg, you might check flights to Frankfurt, Frankfurt Hahn (be careful, it is not the same airport!), Karlsruhe-Baden, Stuttgart, Zweibrücken, Paris oder Basel and, of course, Strasbourg. The longer but more environment-friendly ways are whether to go by bus (e.g. check [Eurolines](#)) or by train (French train company: [SNCF](#) or German train company: [Deutsche Bahn](#)). You can check the "How to reach Strasbourg?" in the MEU 2009 Conference section, accessible though the main menu, for more detailed information.

### **Will there be a social program?**

Yes. A social program including a boat trip, a diplomats cocktail party and a museum visit will be provided. You will also have free time to explore on your own and to go out at night, either in Strasbourg or Kehl.

### **How will lodgings and facilities be?**

You will be staying at an inexpensive Strasbourg hotel, please check back for more information at a later date.

## **5. Miscellaneous**

Other questions.

### **How is it with laptops and internet access?**

There will be no general access to the internet inside the Parliament. At the hotel you will have wireless access to the Internet, but it will not be for free.

Regarding the safety of your laptops (and other values), we must warn you that there is no safe in the hotel. This means that you either leave your laptops in your room or carry it with you at all times. The organisation of MEU will not assume liability for any valuables.

### **How is it with insurance?**

You will have to provide for it, so make sure your travel insurance covers your stay in France and Germany. You may also like to bring a European Health Insurance card (E111).

### **What happens to my data once the event is finished?**

The data gathered from the participants will be used exclusively to organisation purposes, e.g. selection, communication and security. Additionally we will make it available to the European Parliament.

## **Is Strasbourg a safe city?**

Strasbourg cannot be considered a dangerous city. However, like in any other place, and since you are not familiar with it, you have to be careful, especially at night. The usual measures should be enough to keep you out of trouble: walk in large groups, do not show your money around, do not openly carry expensive devices, do not appear aggressive and so on.

## **What if I decide to stay longer in Strasbourg?**

The fee does not cover extra nights at the hostel. However, you can let us know in advance and we can arrange with the hostel so as to book a room for the nights that you wish to stay - which you will have to pay yourself.