



**JEAN
MONNET**

EU model

Jean Monnet Module
“Moving the EU forward”

Athens EU Model 2016
4 - 7 April 2016, Athens, Greece

GUIDELINES

Simulation of the Council of the European Union

**Topic: “Directive on increasing final energy consumption
from renewable sources to 50% by 2030”**



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1. Programme at a Glance

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday 09/03/2016	Preparatory lecture	11:00 - 14:00	42 - 44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Tuesday 15/03/2016	Preparatory lecture	11:00 - 13:00	42 - 44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Monday 21/03/2016	Deadline for Position Paper submission		
Wednesday 23/03/2016	Preparatory lecture	11:00 - 13:00 14:00 - 16:00	42 - 44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Monday 04/04/2016	Registration	09:00 - 10:00	30, Panepistimiou Ave. (Drakopoulos Hall, Central building of the University of Athens)
	Opening Ceremony	10:00 - 12:00	30, Panepistimiou Ave. (Drakopoulos Hall, Central building of the University of Athens)
	Session	13:30 - 16:00	42 - 44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Tuesday 05/04/2016	Session	09:00 - 16:00	42 - 44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Wednesday 06/04/2016	Session	09:00 - 16:00	42 - 44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Thursday 07/04/2016	Closing Ceremony	11:00 - 13:00	30, Panepistimiou Ave. (Drakopoulos Hall, Central building of the University of Athens)

2. Preparatory lectures' syllabus

Preparation of participants is crucial for achieving high-level performance and active involvement as well as to meet the simulation's goals. To this end, participants will have the opportunity to attend 3 preparatory lectures with total duration of 9 hours. The lectures will focus on the institutional processes, negotiating techniques and key aspects of the EU politics related with the "Athens EU model" agenda. During the preparatory lectures and based on the guidance of the tutor, students will be asked to prepare their position papers.

2.1. Programme

DATE	TUTOR	THEME	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday 09/03/2016	Dr. Lydia Avrami	EU climate & energy policy	11:00 - 14:00	42-44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Tuesday 15/03/2016	Dr. Antonia Zervaki	EU decision making & negotiation techniques General introduction to EU financial mechanisms	11:00 - 13:00	42-44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4
Monday 21/03/2016	Paper submission			
Wednesday 23/03/2016	Efthymis Antonopoulos	Mock session & research finalizing	11:00 - 13:00 14:00 - 16:00	42-44, Aiolou Str. Monastiraki area, 2nd floor, room 4

2.2. Literature

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Nicolaides Ph. (2014) *"In search of economically rational environmental state aid: the case of exemption from environmental taxes"*, European competition journal 10 (1), pp 155-165.

Oberthur S. and Kelly C. R. (2008) *"EU Leadership in International Climate Policy: Achievements and Challenges"*, The International Spectator 43 (3), pp 35-50.

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2.3. Position Paper Guidelines

A Position Paper is a brief summary of the position of a participant representing both his/her country and the role assigned to the simulation (especially for the participants of the European Commission). It should contain a clear position on the agenda item, clear reasoning, relevance, argumentation and viable suggestions concerning a plan of action on the issue under discussion.

The Position Paper should be an original and concise document based on the participant's endeavor and willingness to research effectively on the topic of the Agenda in order to participate efficiently during the debate procedure. Precisely, the position paper is divided into two parts; the first section addresses the general topic under discussion and its current developments, indicates the participant's foreign policy on the matter, presents the actions already been taken to tackle the problem, and refers to initiatives and strategies taken either by other European Union (EU) institutions or the international community as a whole. The second part is strictly offered to suggestions or proposals on the issue after having examined national reports or recommendations by international institutions. Additionally, the participants may refer to statements made by policy-makers, representatives of national/European/international institutions or by the government they are representing (mainly for the participants in the Council of the EU).

What is required is a clear depiction of the participant's policy and expectations from the upcoming debate. However, the Position Paper should not present in detail the negotiating positions since this will be portrayed during the sessions. Furthermore, the participants represent a single person and, thus, they are encouraged to make use of the perpendicular pronoun ('I'), while addressing the forum. All participants are asked to respect diplomatic courtesy and act in a polite manner throughout the conference, an element which should be depicted in the structure and redaction of their Position Paper. Finally, the Position Papers should not exceed one page.

Sample Position Paper-Sexual and reproductive health and rights-The Netherlands

Throughout history, women have been forced into marriages, and forced to have children at an early age. These archaic acts must be punished by the government in every single country. It is not just a case of equality and justness, but a case of humanness as well. Furthermore, there is another pressing issue when it comes to discussing the right to reproductive and sexual health- access to contraception. We believe that the time for change has come. We believe that the biggest issue with teenage pregnancies is logistics, distribution, and, most of all, taboos that are embedded in our culture. We firmly believe that sexual education must be a very important part of the school curriculum and that government, and local authorities must make sure that everyone has access to contraception. It is true that the lack of contraceptive methods have already claimed too many lives.

All of us, both women and men are incredibly affected when our sexual and reproductive health rights are stepped on. In the time that has passed, 2 people have gotten HIV. These could be your partners in the future, or people dear to you. Men should be as worried and as committed to reproductive and sexual health as women. It is taking care of your partner, and the chauvinistic idea that women are the only ones who should be involved in family planning has got to be left to the past century. By educating women and giving them a voice and a choice as to how many children they want to have, and not forcing them into having unwanted sexual relations with you, your wives will be happier, have more time to actually earn money (and spend it), more time to educate your children, and, last, but not least: more time for you- more time to be pampered and taken care of.

I would like to finish by saying that this is an issue of life and death: if you don't have the chance to marry at an age of your choice and give birth to children at the age of your choice, your life (and the life of your family) is in danger. Most of all, it is a human development issue- we ought to have the ability to live the life that we choose to live, free of discrimination, abuse, and unnecessary suffering. Our sexual and reproductive health rights should be non-negotiable and equal for all.

How to evaluate your research

- a. Did you use a wide range of sources and references?
- b. Can you prove the validity of your sources?
- c. Does your evidence prove your claims and arguments?
- d. Did you search adequately on the “opponents’” stance towards the matter?
- e. Did you put an emphasis on key words and specific aspects of the Agenda Item?
- f. Did you make use of recent statistics to support your arguments efficiently?

Tips to ameliorate your public speaking skills

- a. Say what you want to say in a loud, clear and convincing voice.
- b. Use notes to prepare your speech.
- c. Trust yourself, take the time to breathe while talking, and make short pauses to help your audience understand the content of your speech, make adequate use of a semi-formal body language and keep your hands on the desk.
- d. Be confident, take advantage of the role-playing and act as an expert to the topic under discussion.

3. Rules of procedure

The Project Supervisor of the Athens EU Model 2016, the Academic Board or the Board may at any point during the debate, suspend the application of the current Rules of Procedure and instruct alterations to facilitate the debate.

i. Language

English is the only official and working language of the Council.

ii. Role of the Board

The Presidents of the two fora (Council of the European Union and European Commission) will have sole and the final power to open and close sessions, recognize speakers, place limits on speaking time and control discussion and debate. While the Board is formally in charge of the proceedings and entitled to all courtesy and respect, they would usually “propose” and “suggest,” than “decree” and “dictate.”

The two Presidents, more than any other participant, are interested in a harmonious and consensual outcome of the conference. In cases where parliamentary procedure is unclear or in doubt, the Board shall use their judgment to settle the matter and proceed with the session. Main goal of the Board is to get different documents passed during the session and summarize into a final document at the end of the negotiations' day. Note that the sessions will be chaired by the President of the Council of the European Union and the President of the European Commission, along with the assistance of the Secretaries-General and not a member state.

iii. Delegations

a. Each member state will be represented by one participant and will irrespectively be afforded one vote. The participants are Ministers (Council of the European Union) or Commissioners (European Commission) of the member states of the European Union.

b. Participants are obliged to attend all sessions.

c. Participants are expected to have carefully read these rules of procedure, and to have thoroughly prepared for every session.

d. Participants are obliged to comply with the dress code as set by the EU Model Board of Directors during every official session. In case of non-compliance, the two Presidents has the right to take appropriate action. The accepted dress code for the Athens EU Model is formal attire.

e. Participants are expected to use courteous and respectful language towards the Board and their fellows.

iv. Seating Arrangement

Ministers of the EU Member States (Council of EU Ministers) and Commissioners (European Commission) shall be seated in alphabetical order, based on the English name of the country. They will then each comment on the agenda and briefly present their country's position.

v. Quorum, Attendance and Roll Call

a. At the beginning of each session, the two Presidents will conduct a roll call to verify the quorum inside the forum. Participants shall state their presence in the assigned forum in either of the two following manners: i. Present and Voting: A participant that declares himself/herself "Present and voting" shall vote in favor or against any substantive matter without the possibility of abstention. ii. Present: A participant that declares himself/herself "Present" shall vote in favor, against or abstain on any substantive matter.

b. If participants arrive during or after the roll call, they are required to send a note to their President. As long as participants have not informed their President of their arrival, they will not be allowed to vote or deliver a speech. All participants who have not informed their President of their arrival until voting procedure begins are not eligible to vote.

c. Simple and two-thirds majority are defined by the roll call as this is taken at the beginning of every session and announced by the Presidents. The same applies for the number of countries necessary for the submission of a draft document and an amendment. Participants are requested to notify their President in case of an urgent need for abstention from the proceedings of their assigned forum in order to modify the respected numbers. In case majority numbers have changed, the two Presidents will announce the new numbers before any voting on a substantive matter.

d. Activities of the two fora shall start when at least one quarter (1/4) of the delegations are present, based on the final list of participants that will be provided to the two Presidents by the EU Model Board of Directors. If quorum is not met within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time of the session, the two fora shall proceed with the number of delegations present irrespectively of the number of participants present. Quorum shall be assumed when forum activities begin.

e. The two Presidents may at any time, and especially before entering voting procedures, revisit the quorum at their own discretion.

vi. Assignment of Agenda Items / Setting the Agenda

Both the President of the Council of the European Union and the President of the European Commission have the right to propose the topic area that will be negotiated by the Ministers/Commissioners. The Agenda Item under discussion will be set automatically since in the Athens EU Model there is only one Topic Area.

vii. Debate Format

The default debate mode used at the Athens EU Model will be a continuous informal debate. Informal debate will require participants wishing to speak to raise their placards and be recognized by the Board. It is the Board's obligation to ensure and guide the flow of communication and to afford each participant an equal opportunity to speak. The Board keep track of the proceedings including the fair administration of the right to speak. The length of speaking time will be set by the Board. Participants make their statements while seated around the table. The Board, however, may comment on statements and express their view like all other participants. Participants may yield the remaining speaking time to a fellow member state by indicating so at the end of their speech or they can yield their time to questions. If not, the remaining time is yielded to the Board.

The normal running of the informal debate, may be interrupted by the conduction of an Unmoderated Caucus, which allows participants to leave their seats in order to talk more privately about their dispute and settle it outside the public arena. During that time, Ministers and Commissioners should negotiate amongst themselves and write/edit working papers and final documents. The Board or any participant may call for an unmoderated caucus for a specified time and explain the reasoning behind the proposal. If all the participants second the motion, it will immediately be put to a vote. The Board will allow for no more than thirty minutes of informal debate within any given hour. Once informal debate time has elapsed, formal debate will resume.

viii. Points and Motions

Participants may propose points which are questions or statements, and motions which are proposals. Motions are always subject to a "second" by participants and the Board decides so, they are brought to a vote immediately.

Point of Order: If, during a session, a participant feels that the procedure is running in a manner contrary to these Rules, he/she may rise to a point of order. The Board may overrule, or accept the appeal. If accepted, the Board may make an immediate ruling or ask the participant to speak on the point of order. The Board will then immediately rule on the point of order.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: If a participant wishes to obtain clarification of procedure or of any other matter, he/she may rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry and receive clarification from the Board or anyone else designated by the Board.

Point of information: The point of information can be addressed either to the Board or to another participant. The point of information to the Board pertains to a clarification on the content of the Agenda Item whereas the point of information to another participant comes as the result of the yielding to questions.

Point of Personal Privilege: A participant may rise to a point of personal privilege if his/her well-being inside the room is impaired. The Board shall immediately try to effectively address the issue. The point of

personal privilege may not interrupt the speech and it should be used with the utmost discretion.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus: A participant may move for a Moderated Caucus thereby suggesting a change from general informal debate to moderated debate. A participant who moves for a Moderated Caucus must suggest a specific sub-topic for the Motion. The Board may also suggest a Moderated Caucus without possibility of appeal. If the Motion passes, the fora will enter a smaller debate inside the general debate whereby the Board will recognize participants who raise their placards to speak about the issue at hand. The moderated caucus may be extended

Motion to Extend the Moderated Caucus: A participant may move to extend the Moderated Caucus if they feel that additional time benefits forum's work. The participant moving for an Extension of the Moderated Caucus must suggest a length for the extension, which shall not exceed the duration of the original Moderated Caucus. The Board may suggest a more appropriate caucus length or speaking time and put it to vote or may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus: A participant may move for an Unmoderated Caucus thereby suggesting a change from formal to informal debate. The participant who makes this motion must suggest a length and justification for the Unmoderated Caucus. The Board may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without possibility of appeal. Once the Motion has passed, the participants will carry an informal discussion on the topic specified in the Motion without leaving the conference room.

Motion to Extend the Unmoderated Caucus: A participant may move to extend the Unmoderated Caucus if they feel that additional time would benefit the work of the forum. The participant who moves for an Extension of Unmoderated Caucus must suggest a length for the extension, which shall not exceed the duration of the original Unmoderated Caucus. The Board may suggest a more appropriate caucus length and put it to vote or may rule the Extension of the Unmoderated Caucus out of order without the possibility of appeal.

Motion for the Adjournment of the Meeting: A participant may move for the Adjournment of the meeting to suspend all forum activities until the next scheduled meeting time. The Board may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal or vote.

Motion to Close Debate on a Draft Document: A participant may move to Close Debate in order to end debate on a draft document, whereby the forum will enter voting procedure on all amendments on the floor. If the Board rules the Motion in order, there will be only two (2) participants speaking against the Motion. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote is required to pass the Motion to close debate.

Motion for the Adjournment of the Session: A participant may move for the Adjournment of the Session to suspend all forum activities for the duration of the conference. The Board may rule the Motion out of order without possibility of appeal or put it to an immediate vote. In the event that the Board approves this, there should be two (2) speakers in favor and two (2) speakers against the motion and the motion will require a 2/3 majority in favor to pass.

ix. Tour de Table

A mechanism known as a tour de table will also be used at the discretion of the Board. The Board will ask each Minister/Commissioner in turn to give a short summary (up to 2 minutes) of their thinking on the matter under discussion, thus ensuring that every participant is able to outline his/her position, and allowing the Board to determine whether a compromise is possible.

x. Working Papers

a. A working paper is an informal document used by the participant to work on building a draft document. It contains general ideas and proposals on the topic discussed and its purpose is to facilitate the proceedings by outlining a more concrete framework for discussion.

b. A working paper does not need to be written in the final document format and will be distributed at the President's discretion when requested by a participant.

c. A working paper does not need to be formally introduced. However, if its author wishes, he/she can ask from the Board the time to read it to the Forum. The Board will rule on this request without any possibility of appeal.

d. No maximum number of working papers that can be on the floor at the same time. The Board will give different numbers to the submitted working papers to avoid any possible confusion when referring to them.

xi. Draft Conclusions

a. When in general debate on the topic, the Board will ask the Ministers/Commissioners to prepare draft Conclusions, following the format in the respective guide. The drafts will be submitted to the Presidents, approved, signed and coded. The Presidents will then entertain a Motion to Introduce a Draft Conclusion, which is a procedural vote and requires a simple majority to pass. Before voting on the motion, the Presidents will have the Draft Conclusion distributed to their forum, and at their discretion, give one of the sponsors of the Draft the opportunity to read it out. A vote will then be taken. Agreement with the motion to introduce the Draft Conclusion does not indicate agreement with its contents, but only expresses a wish to see it debated on the floor. If more than one draft has been submitted, the same procedure will be followed for all of them. The order in which the drafts are introduced is at the discretion of the two Presidents without any possibility of appeal.

b. Draft Conclusions can also be submitted to the two Presidents whilst debating other draft Conclusions.

c. Draft Conclusions that do not comply with the following guidelines will not be accepted:

i. The draft Conclusion has to follow a certain writing format.

ii. Sponsors: Each draft Conclusion has to be sponsored by at least ten percent of the countries present or present and voting. Sponsors are those countries that have prepared the draft Conclusion. A country that is sponsoring a draft Conclusion cannot sponsor another one on the same topic; however sponsors claim no ownership of the draft and bear no obligation to vote in favor of the draft when it is put into voting.

iii. Signatories: Each draft Conclusion has to be signed by at least ten percent of the countries present or present and voting in order to be eligible for introduction. Signatories are those countries who wish to see the respective draft being introduced. Signatories are at the same time neither considered as supporters of the draft nor bear any obligation towards the sponsors. A country can be a signatory to more than one draft Conclusion on the same topic.

d. If two or more draft Conclusions are complementary or fairly identical, the Board may request the sponsors of these drafts to combine them and re-submit them.

e. The sponsors of a Draft can request at any time to withdraw it from debate. If not all sponsors agree with the withdrawal of the draft, the sponsors who still wish for it to be introduced and voted upon will be given a reasonable amount of time from the Board to find new sponsors. If they do not manage to do so, the President will discuss with the remaining sponsors whether the draft will be introduced.

xii. Amendments on a Draft Conclusion

a. When a Draft Resolution is on the floor, amendments can be introduced. Before introduction they require the approval of the Board. Upon gaining the Board's approval, one of the sponsors may make a Motion to Introduce an Amendment. This motion requires a second and if received it applies immediately without being put into vote. After the introduction of the amendment by the Sponsor, the Board will entertain two speakers in favor and two speakers against the amendment for forty-five (45) seconds each. After the speakers have taken the floor and concluded their speeches the amendment will be put into voting. Note that amendments to amendments are out of order but an amended part can be further amended.

b. Voting on an amendment is a procedural matter and a simple majority is required for passage.

c. If an amendment is accepted, the draft Conclusion will be changed accordingly.

d. Amendments that do not comply with the following guidelines will not be accepted:

i. Writing Format: Amendments have to clearly define their scope and purpose.

ii. Sponsors: Each amendment needs to be sponsored by at least one-eighth (1/8) of the countries present or present and voting in order to be submitted.

e. If all sponsors of the draft document have signed and/or approved an amendment, then this action is considered a friendly amendment. A friendly amendment is automatically incorporated into the draft document. Amendments that do not have the support of all sponsors of the draft document are deemed unfriendly, and require the standard procedure. A friendly amendment can be further amended via the unfriendly amendment process.

f. Grammatical, spelling or formatting errors on a draft Conclusion will be corrected at the discretion of the two Presidents.

g. The sponsors of an amendment can request at any time to withdraw it from the floor.

xiii. Voting Procedures

In the European Commission, each participant has to cast only one vote during the final voting procedure on a Draft Communication in order to reach a consensus through a unanimous vote

In the Council of the European Union, decision on the Draft Directive is taken by qualified majority or else a 'double majority' rule (55% of member states, representing at least 65% of the EU population, vote in favor). The weighting of the 352 votes is listed below:

France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom	29 (each)
Spain, Poland	27 (each)
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Portugal	12 (each)
Austria, Bulgaria, Sweden	10 (each)
Croatia, Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Finland	7 (each)
Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Slovenia	4 (each)
Malta	3

a. Where votes are taken, they should normally be open and made by roll call in alphabetical order, according to the country name of the Ministers and Commissioners, and recorded by the Board. The Board will be the last called to vote. Voting will be verbal and expressed either as "Yes" or "No". Any member can abstain at any time during voting procedures. Once the voting procedure has been declared open, no one will be allowed to speak other than to cast his or her vote. No participant may approach or leave the room. Once all votes have been cast, the Board will count the votes and immediately announce the result. The decisions of the Board on the announcement will be final.

b. The following stipulations apply during the voting procedure: First a participant has to put in a motion to close the debate. This means that debates on the substantive issue stop and the forum moves into a voting procedure. In voting procedure participants have the opportunity to reorder the draft conclusions via a motion to reorder. If the Board does not want to change the order there is a possibility for a participant to put forward a motion to divide the question or a motion for a roll call vote. If no motion to divide the question or for a roll call vote is introduced the voting will be done by the participants raising their placards.

i. Motion to Reorder the Draft Conclusions: In the event that there are multiple Draft Conclusions on the floor, the forum will vote by default on Draft Conclusions in chronological order, i.e. the Draft Conclusion introduced first will be voted on first. Only in the event that the first Draft Conclusion fails, the forum will move on the second and so forth. A participant may request to vote on the Draft Conclusions in a different order. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

ii. Motion to Divide the Question: Prior to the start of the voting process on a Draft Conclusion, a participant may request a Motion to Divide the Question to vote on an individual or group of operative clauses. A participant must specify how he/she wishes to divide the operative clauses during his/her motion. Should there be more than one motion to divide the question on the floor, the forum shall vote first on the one that suggests the most radical division and continue in this descending pattern. The Board shall recognize two Speakers in favor and two Speakers against the first motion to divide the question for a speaking time of thirty seconds each. A simple majority is required to pass the motion. If the motion passes, subsequent motions to Divide the Question will be ruled dilatory and the forum will proceed to vote on the draft Conclusion in the manner suggested in the motion. If the motion fails, the remaining motions made will be considered in accordance with the above procedure. The divided section that fails during voting will be taken out of the final draft Conclusion; only those sections that have been passed shall remain. The forum will then proceed to vote upon the new final draft Conclusion as a whole after all the divisions have been voted on. If all operative clauses fail, the draft Conclusion, as a whole, fails.

iii. Motion for a Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Voting is only in order for voting a draft Conclusion as a whole and not for voting on clauses if division of the question exists. If this motion is made it is not put into voting and it only requires to be seconded in order for it to pass. It is at the discretion of the two Presidents to accept the motion with no possibility of appeal. If the motion is accepted the two Presidents will ask the Ministers/Commissioners to cast their vote in alphabetical order starting from a random country. The Board will place the Delegation that passed at the bottom of the voting list. A Delegation that has passed once during a voting sequence may not pass again but must vote definitively.

iv. Voting with Rights: A participant may request a right of explanation after voting. Voting with Rights is only in order when voting is held with a Roll Call Vote.

- c. No participant may vote on behalf of another participant.
- d. The Fora can pass only one Conclusion for the topic on the agenda.
- e. Once a Draft Conclusion passes, the drafts that have not yet been voted on fail immediately.
- f. During voting procedure on substantive matters, the doors of the forum close and no one is allowed in or out of the room apart from members of the Secretariat.
- g. Note passing is not allowed during voting procedures.

xiv. Closure of Debate

The Board will normally decide on the closure of a debate, but a participant may move for closure, and (if necessary) be given a maximum of one minute to explain his/her rationale. If at least two other participants second the motion, it will immediately be put to a vote and requires the support of at least a simple majority to be successful. The Board will declare the debate closed if the vote is successful.

xv. Judging and Awards

The members of the presidency along with the Academic Board of the Institute and the Organizing Team of the Athens EU Model will be involved in the judging deliberations. Participants are evaluated on their preparedness, accurate representation of country position, and use of diplomacy including correct use of parliamentary procedure, negotiating skill, and ability to make compromises.

4. Study guides – Simulation of the Council of the European Union

Topic: “Directive on increasing final energy consumption from renewable sources to 50% by 2030”

4.1. Institutional Framework

4.1.1. Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union-the third of the seven institutions of the EU as listed in the Treaty on European Union- is one of the main decision making and legislative bodies of the European Union. The Council is an intergovernmental body expressing the interest of the member-states and representing the member governments. It is the institution where national ministers from each EU country meet to adopt laws and coordinate policies in various fields, such as economic and fiscal policies, education and culture and employment policy. It exercises its powers and activities with the cooperation of the European Parliament and coordinates or defines the strategy and policy of the member-states of the European Union in every sector. Moreover, it develops the EU’s common foreign and security policy, based on guidelines set by the European Council, and along with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, it reassures the effectiveness and success of the EU’s external action. It also concludes international agreements, based on a proposal from the Commission, and adopts the final decision for the closure of the negotiations on an agreement, after the Parliament has consented and the Member States have ratified it. Finally, another responsibility of the Consilium is the adoption of the yearly EU budget along with the European Parliament.

The Council of the EU is both an institution with collective EU functions and the creature of member governments.¹ Its members are Ministers from the governments of the member-states, and which Ministers attend the scheduled meetings depends on the agenda item. The Council is in law a single entity, irrespective of which Ministers take part in it. As of autumn 2009 the Council meets in 9 configurations.

It is located in the Justus Lipsius building in Brussels, Belgium, with the exception of the months of April, June and October during which its sessions are held in Luxembourg. The Ministers who are authorized to participate in the session is dependent by the topic; for example, when discussing environmental policy the Council is formed by the 28 national ministers whose portfolio includes this policy area (with the related European Commissioners contributing but not having the right to vote).²

The Consilium has a rotating presidency which shifts among the EU member-states every six months.

¹ Wallace 2000, p.16

² Avrami L. & Chatzistavrou F. (2013) “Guide: The Greek Parliament and the EU”, Athens: Representation of the European Commission (in greek) [Available at http://ec.europa.eu/greece/news/2014/20140219_odigos_elliniko_koinovoulio_ee_el.htm]

The Presidency prepares the agendas and is responsible for the conduct of the meetings. To achieve a continuity in the Consilium's work, the Lisbon Treaty has initiated the method of 'trios'; a system that prepares an agenda with an 18-month vision and requires from each of the three countries to prepare its own program of action. The Presidency plans and chairs meetings in the Consilium and its preparatory bodies and also acts as the representative of the Consilium to the other EU institutions, working closely with the President of the European Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The General Secretariat of the Council is assisting the European Council and the Council of the European Union, ensuring the coherence inside the Consilium. The Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union is the Head of the Secretariat. Often the Council and the Commission have to work closely together to reconcile policy powers between the EU and the national levels.

The Council of the EU votes either by unanimity or by qualified majority (QMV) under which each member-state has a fixed (weighted) number of votes and needs the agreement of the 55% of the member-states a sum representing the 65% of the EU population. In policy areas where it operates unanimously it only needs the consultation of the European Parliament. The weighting of votes roughly reflects the size of population of each member-state. The total number of votes is 354 and a minimum of 255 votes is required for a decision to be adopted. Simple majority is used for non-legislative issues and requires 15 out of the 28 votes for an issue to be accepted. The Consilium may move to voting procedures on a legislative act 8 weeks after the draft act has been submitted to national parliaments for their examination and compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, in urgent cases, though, we might have an earlier voting. The President of the Council of the European Union initiates the voting procedure.

The Council of Ministers should not be confused neither with the European Council nor with the Council of Europe. The European Council brings together the heads of member-states or governments and it is responsible for setting the general political guidelines. The Council of Europe is a regional intergovernmental organization completely separate from the EU, set up in 1949 with the aim of promoting democracy, human rights, democracy and the rule of law within 28 member-states.³ The main difference between the Council of Europe and the European Union is that the former cannot legislate.

Policy-making in the European Union is considered a complex process as institutions are in flux, authority is sometimes contested and multiple levels of governance engage a variety of actors. To facilitate our understanding, we depict policy-making through a cycle that includes agenda-setting when an issue becomes important, policy formulation as the phase where specific proposals are presented, policy decision when a course of action is chosen, implementation of the policy and last but not least evaluation in order for a policy to be continuous, durable and ever-changing for the acquisition of better results.

4.1.2. Decision making process in the Council

The Council of the European Union, casually referred as Consilium, is the intergovernmental pillar of EU institutional apparatus. It is responsible for the negotiation and adoption of new EU legislation, the adaptation of the current one and the coordination of the EU policies. In a variety of cases the Council of Ministers decides along with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure, which is also known as «co-decision». The co-decision was first introduced in 1992, and its use was extended in 1999. After the Lisbon Treaty, the co-decision became the fundamental decision-making process in legislative issues. The aforementioned procedure is common in policy areas where the EU has exclusive competence or it shares it with the member states and as a result the Consilium legislates based on certain proposals

³ "Voting system, how does the Council vote?", Council of the European Union, 4 November 2015, retrieved from <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/voting-system/>, read on 3 March 2016

of the European Commission. Often the Council indicates earlier to the Commission that it would welcome a draft on a specific subject, and then the European Parliament acts as the co-legislator along with the Council. The policy outcome depends upon the interaction between the three institutions.

In specific areas, though, the Council takes decisions using special legislative procedures. Those are the consent procedure, in which the Parliament can accept or reject a legislative proposal by an absolute majority vote, but cannot amend it. The consultation procedure falls in the same category, where the role of the Parliament is limited and may approve, reject or propose amendments to a legislative proposal. This procedure is described in Article 289(2) of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union⁴ (TFEU). When the proposal of the European Commission is received by the Consilium, the 'reading' procedure begins and the draft document is thoroughly and meticulously examined-at the same time-by both the European Parliament and the Consilium. There are times when the Consilium-in order to speed up the legislative procedure and facilitate the agreement between the two institutions-moves towards the adoption of a 'general approach' offering to the European Parliament a hint pertaining to the Consilium's stance on the matter discussed and negotiated upon. However, the Consilium shall wait the Parliament's first reading opinion to reach a final position. Throughout the 'reading' phase the proposal passes by the working party (there are more than 150 parties and committees), the Permanent Representatives Committee (ambassadors' level) and the Consilium as a whole. Therefore, technical scrutiny and political responsibility is achieved.

On the phase of Consilium configuration, there is either the listing of the item as 'A'-when the Permanent Representatives Committee has finalized the discussions of the proposal and decision will come without any debate-or the categorization as 'B' section of the Agenda when the proposal includes sensitive political matters and as a result no decision has been reached in the previous levels. When the Consilium acts as a legislator, the votes of its Member States are made public. Sometimes, a Member State may wish to add a note to explain its vote, which is also made public in case a legal act is adopted.

4.1.3. Ordinary legislative procedure

According to Articles 289 and 294 of the TFEU, the co-decision process was renamed to ordinary legislative procedure and became the main decision-making procedure for adopting EU legislation; it applies to around 85 policy areas as well as to environmental issues. It has to be noted that most of the EU legal acts that are negotiated through this procedure, pass at the first 'reading'. This procedure includes two main legislators, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament, whereas the European Commission retains the right of the legislative initiative.

This procedure consists of four key-points that include:

- 1.** The submission of a proposal by the European Commission to the Council and the European Parliament
- 2.** Either at the first, or at the second reading the Council and the Parliament adopt a legislative proposal.
- 3.** In case the two institutions do not reach common ground, after the second reading a conciliation committee is convened.
- 4.** The legislative act is adopted, if the text agreed by the conciliation committee is acceptable by both the Council and the Parliament in the third reading.

In case the legislative proposal of the European Commission is rejected, or the other two institutions can-

⁴"Special legislative procedures: at a glance", Council of the European Union, 24 September 2014, available at <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/decision-making/special-legislative-procedures/>, read on 3 March 2016

not agree, the proposal is not adopted and the negotiation ends.

To present it briefly, the procedure follows the steps you can find below:

Legislative Proposal—First Reading—Second Reading—Conciliation—Third Reading

4.2. EU Regulatory Framework for Climate Change and Renewable Energy (2002-2020)

The European Union has set some targets on climate change and energy, commonly known as the Europe 2020 Strategy or the '20-20-20 targets'. Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. By 2020 the Union should reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared with 1990 levels, consumption deriving from renewable energy should be increased to 20%, and an increase of 20% in energy efficiency should be reached. The abovementioned targets are interconnected and support each other in order to be implemented.

Our main focus will be the growth in the consumption of renewable energy which might lead to fewer EU emissions. Renewable energy sources can be produced from a wide variety of sources including wind, solar, hydro, tidal, geothermal and biomass: Bio-energy can be produced from a variety of biomass feed stocks, including forest, agricultural and livestock residues, short-rotation forest plantations energy crops; the organic component of municipal solid waste and other organic waste streams. All member-states have increased their renewable energy share between 2005 and 2012, and the EU is now the biggest investor in the renewables' sector.

The renewable energy supply and consumption constitutes one of the main policy tools of government in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and energy dependence from fossil fuels. The deployment of renewable energy sources has also increased rapidly in recent years due to the development of green technologies, the prices of fossil fuels and the increasing energy demand.⁵ Additionally, renewable energy resources will reduce the EU's dependence on imported fuels and will create further jobs. It is true that the dependence on imported energy exposes the EU to price volatility and risk of supply shortages due to regional conflicts (e.g. Ukraine). Renewables play a key role in the EU energy system and will continue to be of major importance for the achievement of the goal of a low carbon economy. They share enormous potential to support diversification of EU supply sources. This also leads to the increase of competitiveness in the EU market and the reduction of prices for business and household consumers.

4.2.1. EU Policy and Targets

4.2.1.1. Kyoto Protocol (2008-2012)

Targets

The first steps for a safer future concerning climate change took place in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro where the respective Convention (UNFCCC) was signed. Preventing "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC which entered into force on 21 March 1994.

The ultimate objective of the Convention is the stabilization of greenhouse gas "concentrations" at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system⁶. It states that "such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic de-

⁵ IPCC, (2011), IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation, prepared by Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [O. Edenhofer, R. Pichs-Madruga, Y. Sokona, K. Seyboth, P. Matschoss, S. Kadner, T. Zwickel, P. Eickemeier, G. Hansen, S. Schlömer, C. von Stechow (eds)], Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 1075 pp. available at <http://srren.ipcc-wg3.de/report>

⁶ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Article 2, Retrieved 15 November 2005.

velopment to proceed in a sustainable manner”.

The Convention was of significant importance because:

- It recognized the problem
- It set a specific goal
- It urged the developed countries to lead the way towards improvement for the main reason that they were the source of most greenhouse gas emissions
- It directed new funds to climate change activities in developing countries
- It charted the beginnings of a path to strike a delicate balance
- It kept tabs on the problem and what’s being done about it.

In 1992 the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) adopted UNFCCC text. At the Earth Summit in Rio, the UNFCCC was opened for signature along with its sister Rio Conventions, UNCBD (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity) and UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification). The details of the historical background are presented here below.

Until the end of 19th century, the EU didn’t have a common goal for all its member-states on the protection of the environment. As a result, some member-states have started to act unilaterally. More specifically, in 1990 Belgium and Holland decided to decrease their emissions to a percentage of 5% by 2000, while Denmark and Germany were engaged to reach a decrease to a percentage of 20% and 25% respectively by 2015.

On 4 February 1991 the Council authorized the Commission to participate on behalf of the European Community in the negotiation of a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was later adopted in New York on 9 May 1992. The European Community ratified the Framework Convention by Decision 94/69/EC of 15 December 1993. The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1994.

The Convention made a large contribution towards the establishment of key principles of the international fight against climate change. In particular, it defined the principle of common but differentiated responsibility⁷. It also helped to make people more aware of the problems linked to climate change. However, the Convention does not contain commitments in figures, detailed on a country by country basis, in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

At the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Berlin in March 1995, the Parties to the Convention decided to negotiate a Protocol containing measures to reduce emissions for the period beyond 2000 in the industrialized countries. After much work, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted on the 11 December 1997 in Kyoto. The Protocol sets binding emission targets under international law for developed countries.

The European Community signed the Protocol on the 29 April 1998. In December 2001 the Laeken European Council confirmed that the Union wanted to see the Kyoto Protocol entering into force before the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (26 August – 4 September 2002). To that end, by Council Decision 2002/358/EC of 25 April 2002 the European Community approved the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and undertook the joint fulfillment of commitments thereunder. The Council by the aforementioned Decision approved the Protocol on behalf of the Community. The Member States were to coordinate their action to deposit their instruments of ratification at the same time as the Community, and as far as possible by 1 June 2002.

Annex II to the Decision sets out the commitments to limit and reduce emissions agreed by the Community

⁷The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Article 3(1) of the Convention. Retrieved 15 November 2005.

and its Member States for the initial commitment period (2008 to 2012).

In its first commitment period the Protocol set binding emission reduction targets for 37 industrialized countries as well as the European community. During said period (first commitment period) these targets add up to an average five per cent emissions reduction compared to 1990 levels over the period 2005 to 2012. More specifically it tackles emissions of six greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). It represents therefore an important step forward in the effort to tackle global warming as it includes binding, quantified objectives for limiting and reducing greenhouse gases. It was of course structured on the principles of the Convention by binding developed countries since it recognized that they were largely responsible for the high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere, a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity. It placed therefore a heavier burden on developed nations under its central principle: that of common but differentiated responsibility. Under this commitment period, the 15 countries which were EU Member States at the time, pledged to jointly reduce their GHG emissions by 8% compared to base-year levels. The second commitment period (2012-2020) is based on the Doha Amendment to the Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol is made up of essential architecture that has been built and shaped over almost two decades of experience, hard work and political will. The beating heart of the protocol is made up of: Reporting and verification procedures, flexible market-based mechanisms, which in turn have their own governance procedures; and a compliance system.

In brief, Kyoto has prompted governments to put in place legislation and policies to meet their commitments, businesses to make climate-friendly investment decisions, and the formation of a carbon market. Furthermore the Kyoto Protocol compliance mechanism is designed to strengthen the Protocol's environmental integrity, support the carbon market's credibility and ensure transparency of accounting by Parties. Its objective is to facilitate, promote and enforce compliance with the commitments under the Protocol. It is among the most comprehensive and rigorous systems of compliance for a multilateral environmental agreement. A strong and effective compliance mechanism is key to the success of the implementation of its policy.

While the EU-15 (15 pre-2004 member-states) had a target under the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period, the EU (28 member-states) does not, because the protocol was ratified before 13 countries became EU member-states in 2004, 2007 and 2013. Out of these 13 member-states, 11 have individual targets under the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period, while Cyprus and Malta do not have targets. These two latter countries became Annex I⁸ parties to the Convention in 2013 and 2010, respectively (UNFCCC, 2009 and 2011). Of the other country members of the EEA, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland have individual targets under the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period.⁹

All Annex I countries, with the exclusion of the United States, have participated in the first commitment period. 37 countries plus the EU member-states have agreed to the second-round targets of the Kyoto Protocol¹⁰. The United States have not ratified the Protocol, whereas Canada has denounced it in 2012. The EU climate change and energy agreements of December 2008 include a 20% reduction in emissions by 2020 compared to 1990, a 20% increase of renewable share in energy consumption by 2020 based on the national binding targets. Moreover, a 10% minimum share should be offered to renewable energy in the transport sector and the EU should achieve 20% energy efficiency by 2020 compared to business projections. The last target is not binding and is not synonymous to a cut in energy use as a whole.

⁸The Annex I includes industrialized/developed countries and economies in transition.

⁹ EEA Report, Trends and projections in Europe 2015 Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets, European Environment Agency, 2015, p. 67,68

¹⁰ These countries are Australia, all members of the European Union, Belarus, Croatia, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Norway, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

Policy framework

With the aim to achieve its emission target, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources (known as “RES”). The Directive concerned electricity produced from non-fossil renewable energy sources and the member-states which joined EU in 2004 should apply it. It imposed an obligation for them to reach a specific percentage of energy consumption from renewables within specific time limits. The historical sequences of the acts adopted by the European Community are shown here below:

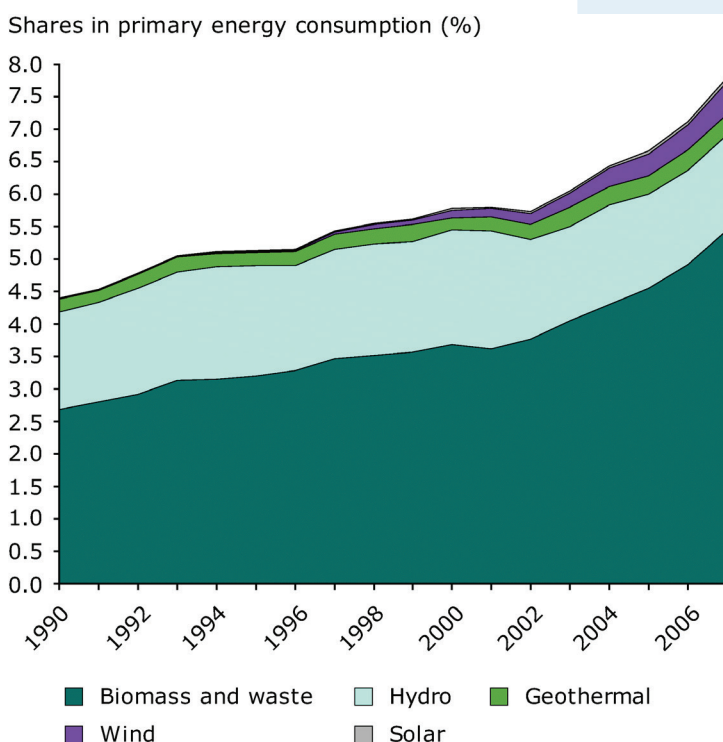
- **Directive 2001/77/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2001 on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market entered into force in 27.10.2001 with a deadline for transposition in the 15 member-states, 27.10.2003. This Directive refers to the promotion of electricity from renewable energy resources.
- **Directive 2003/30/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2003 on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport established definitions for different types of energy from renewable sources. This Directive refers to motor vehicles, reduces the environmental impact of transport and increases the security of supply.
- The first amending act of **Directive 2001/77/EC** was the act of Accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia entering into force in 1.5.2004 and
- The second amending act of Directive 2001/77/EC was the **Directive 2006/108/EC** entering into force in 1.1.2007 with a deadline for transposition in the Member States 1.1.2007.
- **Directive 2003/54/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity established definitions for the electricity sector in general. This Directive repealed Directive 96/92/EC. The Commission found-after the evaluation process that the measures were weak and thus it proposed a second package of legislation that required the unbundling of supply networks from energy generation.
- **Directive 2009/28/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable energy resources. This Directive amends the Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC and calls for the 20% of the energy sum consumed within the EU to come from renewables, a target to be achieved through individual national plans. Moreover, the Directive sets sustainability criteria for the production of liquid biomass, which is a key in the transport sector, and thus lead to the attainment of the goal saying that at least 10% of the transport fuels derive from renewable sources by 2020.
- **Directive 98/70/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 on fuel quality addressing the minimum target of 10% for biofuels for 2020. This Directive establishes technical specifications to be applied to biofuels used in road transport and relates to the quality of fuels amending the Directive 93/112/EEC

The Renewable Energy Roadmap – Renewable energies in the 21st century were introduced in the political arena of policy-making acts with the aim of building a more sustainable future, demonstrating that a 20 % target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources and a 10 % target for energy from renewable sources in transport would be appropriate and achievable objectives. A framework that includes mandatory targets should provide the business community with the long-term stability needed to make rational, sustainable investments in the renewable energy sector which are capable of reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels and boosting the use of new energy technologies. Those targets exist in

the context of the 20 % improvement in energy efficiency by 2020 set out in the Commission communication of 19 October 2006 entitled ‘Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential’, which was endorsed by the European Council of March 2007, and by the European Parliament in its Resolution of the 31 January 2008 on that Action Plan. To summarize, the Roadmap sets the European Commission’s strategy for the attainment of the goal of renewable energy inside the EU through the increase of energy supply and the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions. Studies indicate that more and more efficient use of renewables can be made; thus the Commission is in favor of setting a mandatory target of 20% for renewable energy’s share of energy consumption in the EU by 2020 and a mandatory minimum target of 10% for biofuels. At the same time, the Commission moves towards the establishment of a legislative framework that would enhance the promotion of and use of energy from renewable resources. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997. Due to a complex ratification process, it entered into force much later, on 16 February 2005. It is the first international tool focused on greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation involving as many countries signed under the UNFCCC (Annex I). It is the Protocol which made the Convention “operational” by committing industrialized countries to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions based on the principles of the Convention. The Convention itself only encouraged countries to do so without imposing obligations.

Evaluation

The share of renewable energy sources in gross inland energy consumption (GIEC) increased in the EU-27 from 4.4% in 1990 to 7.8% in 2007. The strongest increase came from wind (more than one hundred thirty-fold) and solar energy (eightfold). In absolute terms, biomass accounted for 79.2 % of the increase and wind for 13.1 %. Because the gross inland energy consumption of the EU-27 increased by 8.7% between 1990 and 2007, some of the environmental benefits (e.g. reductions in GHG emissions and air pollution) brought about by an increased share of renewable energy sources were offset. In 2007, the share of renewable energy in total gross inland consumption in EU-15 was 8%, hence a significant effort will be needed to meet the indicative target of 12 % share of renewables by 2010.



Source: European Environment Agency

4.2.1.2. Post Kyoto Period +

Targets towards 2020

Post-Kyoto negotiations refer to high level talks attempting to address global warming by limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Generally, being part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), these talks concern the period after the first “commitment period” of the Kyoto Protocol, which ended at the end of 2012.

Negotiations have been mandated by the adoption of the Bali Road Map and Decision 1/CP.13 (“The Bali Action Plan”). Developed country Parties to the Convention have agreed to “quantify emission limitation and reduction objectives, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, taking into account differences in their national circumstances.¹¹”

As of 2014 the EU has made significant progress towards 2020 goals. More specifically, climate change was seen to provide an opportunity to advance EU integration generally and to project EU leadership on the issue of the international stage. All that happened because of the renewed emphasis that the Kyoto Protocol put in energy policy and the rejection of the EU’s constitutional treaty in referenda in France (May 2005) and in the Netherlands (June 2005).

In March 2007 EU leaders already reached an agreement that 20% of the bloc’s final energy consumption should be produced from renewable energy sources. With the Energy Directive all Member States agreed to set a binding target of 20% final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. To achieve this, EU countries have committed to reaching their own national renewables targets ranging from 10% in Malta to 49% in Sweden. They are also each required to have at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.

The Accession Treaty of New members in 2004 set national indicative targets for the proportion of electricity produced from RES (RES-E) in each new Member State. The result was an overall objective of 21% for the EU-25. The evolution of the regulatory framework is presented here below:

Directive 2009/28/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and consequently repealing Directive 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC, mandates the levels of renewable energy use within the European Union.

In 2010, the EU submitted a pledge to reduce its GHG emissions by 2020 by 20% compared to 1990 levels, under the UNFCCC. The EU is also committed to raising this target to 30% emission reductions by 2020, compared with 1990 levels, provided that other countries step up their mitigation ambition as well.

In Doha, Qatar, on 8 December 2012, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was adopted. This launched a second commitment period, starting on 1 January 2013 until 2020.

The EU, its 28 Member States and Iceland agreed to a joint QELRC (Quantified Emission Limitation and Reduction Commitment), corresponding to a 20% reduction compared to the base year; they declared that they intended to fulfill this commitment jointly, under Article 4 of the Kyoto Protocol. Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are the three other EEA member countries which also agreed on QELRCs for the second commitment period. The Doha Amendments’ entry into force is subject to acceptance by at least three fourths of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

¹¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1 14 March 2008 Decision 1/CP.13 on Bali Action Plan, COP 2008, available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/cop13/eng/06a01.pdf>

In order to meet the targets, the 2020 Energy Strategy sets out five priorities:

- Making Europe more energy efficient by accelerating investment into efficient buildings, products, and transport. This includes measures such as energy labeling schemes, renovation of public buildings, and Eco-design requirements for energy intensive products
- Building a pan-European energy market by constructing the necessary transmission lines, pipelines, LNG terminals, and other infrastructure. Financial schemes may be provided to projects which have trouble obtaining public funding. By 2015, no EU country should be isolated from the internal market
- Protecting consumer rights and achieving high safety standards in the energy sector. This includes allowing consumers to easily switch energy suppliers, monitor energy usage, and speedily resolve complaints
- Implementing the Strategic Energy Technology Plan – the EU’s strategy to accelerate the development and deployment of low carbon technologies such as solar power, smart grids, and carbon capture and storage
- Pursuing good relations with the EU’s external suppliers of energy and energy transit countries. Through the Energy Community, the EU also works to integrate neighboring countries into its internal energy market

Climate change /Renewables targets 2020 are:

- Greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990
- 20% of energy from renewables
- 20% increase in energy efficiency

The main challenge that Europe faced towards the Conference of the Parties (COP21) was seeking a balance between decarbonization and industrial competitiveness. EU was undoubtedly a key player in achieving a historic agreement in Paris where 195 nations adopted the first-ever universal and legally binding global climate deal. With this agreement the EU aims to limit the rise in global average surface temperature to below 2 °C compared to pre-industrial times to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

Unlike Copenhagen, Cop 21 in Paris witnessed a different kind of international coalition-building where informal organizations comprised of developed and developing countries organically formed to ensure a successful conclusion.

The Union went to Paris with the most ambitious and down to earth climate action plan for 2030. On 2014 EU member states agreed on the adoption of a long term climate-energy goals for 2030. Those targets are:

- A 40% reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels¹².
- An optional target of a 27% increase in energy efficiency
- 27% renewable energy share in the EU’s energy mix

COP21—Following the “Durban Platform for Enhanced Action”, in 2011, parties to the UNFCCC decided to “develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties”¹³. The Durban and Doha meetings indicated that the efforts to hold global warming below to 2 or 1.5 °C compared with the pre-industrial level appear inadequate and not feasible. Therefore, in 2015, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC was organized in Paris, where the so-called Paris Agreement was adopted unanimously. The goal of the Agreement is to limit global warming to less than 2 °C, and enforce actions that would deny the rise to 1.5 °C and open the door to resilient and low-carbon societies and economies.

¹² European Council (2014), Conclusions on 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework, Brussels 23 October, available at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/145356.pdf

¹³ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1, Report of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol on its eight session, held in Doha from 26 November to 8 December 2012, 28 February 2013, available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cmp8/eng/13a01.pdf>

But what made Cop21 so important this year, so after 21 years of regional-science, technologies and annual meetings this Conference of the Parties (COP) to be ready to face the climate changes cancerous conditions?

- Was the largest gathering of the World's Leaders at any one global event, in which every one of them expressed their willingness to find a solution on climate change. The tone of the statements revealed that climate change was no longer simply a subject of scientific inquiry and predictive modeling.

- All heads of state came to Paris with a perspective to close a deal that would respect and accept. It is evident that world leaders have begun to view climate change as a reality

- Even the most watched and demanding country delegations were willing to engage in the give and take of compromise.

- The world community has come together in Paris in order to build the global response to one of the biggest challenges and opportunities of our time: the decarbonisation of the global economy. The Agreement welcomes the transformation of the global market economy, the exclusion of the fossil fuels and the use of renewable energies in order to build a cleaner and healthier world, taking into consideration the concepts of intergenerational and intragenerational equity.

In policy-building and decision-making, the precautionary principle is thought as a need to prevent adverse effects which cannot be identified scientifically or be predicted.

Policy framework

In compliance with the Directive all EU countries have adopted national renewable energy action plans in order to show what actions they will take according to their abilities and necessities for meeting their renewables targets. These plans include sectorial targets for electricity, heating and cooling, and transport; planned policy measures; the different mix of renewables technologies they expect to employ; and the planned use of cooperation mechanisms.

You can find also in the link below the action plan that each country has adopted: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy/national-action-plans>

The main EU legislation adopted by the EU after 2007 is the following:

Emission Trade Scheme's: Directive 2009/28/EC (the Renewable Energy Directive, mentioned previously) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system of the Community

Shared effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Decision No 406/2009/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020

Geological storage of carbon dioxide: Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the geological storage of carbon dioxide and amending Council Directive 85/337/EEC, European Parliament and Council Directives 2000/60/EC, 2001/80/EC, 2004/35/EC,

Energy produced from renewable energy sources: Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC

CO2 emissions from cars: Regulation (EC) No 443/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars as part of the Community's integrated approach to reduce CO2 emissions from light-duty vehicles

Fuel Quality directive: Directive 2009/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Directive 98/70/EC as regards the specification of petrol, diesel and gas-oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the specification of fuel used by inland waterway vessels and repealing Directive 93/12/EEC.

By using more renewables to meet its energy needs, the EU lowers its dependence on imported fossil fuels and makes its energy production more sustainable. Moreover, the productivity in all sectors is increased and the consumption of energy by renewable resources establishes a sustainable and everlasting economic system. Finally, economic incentives are given as investments in biofuels may sound attractive and a shift in the transport sector may be achieved. The aforementioned incentives and tools include feed in tariffs, use of biofuels and biomass in the transport sector, which are made from wood and waste and that do not compete with food.

In 2015 the Framework strategy for Energy Union was launched as one of European Commission's 10 priorities. The Energy Union commits the EU to meeting ambitious targets on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy and energy efficiency and also to reducing its dependency on imported fossil fuels and hence exposure to price spikes. Moderating energy demand to low carbon sources such as renewables, particularly in the heating and cooling sector can be a highly cost effective solution to respond to such challenges.

The security, affordability and sustainability of the EU energy system on renewables are therefore significant for the success of the Energy Union. The targets set by the European Commission are based on the need of integration of European energy markets, diversification of energy sources and bringing an end to the energy isolation some European countries face. Moreover: the internal energy market with all its benefits for citizens cannot become a reality without the physical infrastructure to link it up. Given the pressing challenge that climate change poses, we need to go further in working on securing an ambitious and binding agreement to keep global warming below 2°C. It will then be our job to deliver on our commitments and ensure that Europe's energy system is a driver for a transition to a low-carbon, secure and competitive economy.

Evaluation – Key future challenges

Member-states progress towards their 2020 energy efficiency targets¹⁴

Country	Primary energy consumption					
	2005	2013	2014 (proxy)	Linear target path (2013)	Linear target path (2014)	2020 target
Austria	32.6	31.9	31.9	32.0	32.0	31.5
Belgium	51.5	47.4	45.2	47.3	46.8	43.7
Bulgaria	18.9	16.3	17.0	17.8	17.7	16.9
Croatia	8.2	7.3	6.9	10.0	10.2	11.5
Cyprus	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2
Czech Republic	42.2	39.6	38.9	40.8	40.6	39.6
Denmark	19.3	17.8	16.6	18.5	18.4	17.8
Estonia	5.4	6.5	6.5	6.0	6.1	6.5
Finland	33.4	32.8	33.5	34.7	34.9	35.9
France	260.0	245.8	240.0	238.6	235.9	219.9
Germany	317.2	302.5	295.5	295.6	292.9	276.6
Greece	30.6	23.7	22.9	27.5	27.1	24.7
Hungary	25.4	21.0	20.9	26.1	26.1	26.6
Ireland	14.7	13.4	13.1	14.3	14.2	13.9
Italy	178.9	153.7	145.6	167.7	166.3	158.0
Latvia	4.5	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.4
Lithuania	7.9	5.7	5.5	7.2	7.1	6.5
Luxembourg	4.8	4.3	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.5
Malta	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
Netherlands	68.5	65.9	61.4	64.3	63.8	60.7
Poland	87.7	93.2	90.0	92.3	92.9	96.4
Portugal	24.9	21.3	20.3	23.6	23.5	22.5
Romania	36.7	30.9	30.4	40.1	40.5	43.0
Slovakia	17.8	16.2	14.7	17.0	16.9	16.4
Slovenia	7.0	6.8	6.6	7.2	7.2	7.3
Spain	135.9	113.8	112.2	127.3	126.2	119.8
Sweden	48.7	47.1	46.8	45.9	45.5	43.4
United Kingdom	222.8	194.5	181.3	198.7	195.7	177.6
EU	1 708.8	1 566.6	1 515.2	1 588.4	1 573.3	1 483.0
Norway	24.9	31.3	NE	NA	NA	NA

Source: EEA, 2015f; Eurostat, 2015b; Reported targets under Article 3 of the EED in 2013, including updates of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, based on their third NEEAPs submitted in 2014 (or based on separate notifications to the Commission).

The annual report of the European Environment Agency (2014) states that the EU is close to meet its climate and energy targets set for 2020. The report highlights the positive impact of key drivers, in particular:

- Steady roll-out of renewable energy;
- Decrease in the energy consumption in most EU Member States over the last decade. The positive effects of these drivers on emission trends outweighed factors generally responsible for emission increases, such as:
- Demographic and economic growth;
- Return to (more CO₂-intensive) coal in some countries.

As for the progress of Member States towards their individual climate and energy goals for 2020, the report highlights that, even though, the EU is on track, the Member States' performance varies significantly:

- 24 are on track to meet their GHG targets (all except Austria, Belgium, Ireland and Luxembourg);
- 20 are on track to achieve their renewable energy targets (all except Denmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom);
- 20 are on track to achieve their energy efficiency targets (all except Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden);
- 13 Member States are on track to deliver on their national targets in all three areas. This is an improve-

¹⁴European Environmental Agency (2014), Trends and projections in Europe 2015-Tracking progress towards Europe's climate and energy targets, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, p. 100.

ment on 2014, where 9 Member States were on track to deliver on their national targets in all three areas. Most Member States that were on track to their national target in 2014 remain on track in 2015. In terms of emission reductions – and the effectiveness of the agreement – countries party to the protocol globally surpassed their commitment reducing their emissions by 24%. While positive, this “overachievement” appears to be mainly due to the highly-criticized “hot air” – or the emission reductions that already occurred in economies in transition before 1997 – equivalent to 18.5% of total base-year emissions. Nevertheless, other developed countries would have complied even without the “hot air”, as they have globally seen economic growth coupled with declining emissions. This low carbon growth can be explained by better primary energy-mix, the continued expansion of the service sector, declining GHG intensity of industries and outsourcing the production of goods overseas. Despite a low need to use flexibility mechanisms, Kyoto Protocol countries actively embraced all of them.¹⁵

4.3. Points to be addressed

- Is it really necessary to implement the new targets (moving forward 2030)? Can we move towards more ambitious targets? Can the targets become milder?
- Do we have to focus on a better implementation of the existing framework? Is the homogenization of the targets possible?
- Do the new targets derive from a combination of the outcomes of the previous period or are they independent?
- Will there be any opt-out clauses on the new Directive, taking into consideration emergency cases (.e.g. economic and financial crises, natural disasters etc.)?
- Do we want the EU to be characterized as a leader by example or as an honest broker?
- If we evaluate and assess the existing policy on the matter, do we deem it efficient and effective?

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¹⁵ Romain Morel and Igor Shishlov (2014) , Climate Report, Ex-Post Evaluation of the Kyoto Protocol: Four Key Lessons for the 2015 Paris Agreement, No 44, pp 1 , Caisse des Dépôts. available at http://www.cdclimat.com/IMG/pdf/14-05_climate_report_no44_-_analysis_of_the_kp-2.pdf

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5. Organisers

5.1 The Institute of European Integration and Policy

The Institute of European Integration and Politics is an independent, non-profit research and educational institution. It was founded in 2002 under the auspices of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens.

Its main mission is to cover the teaching and research needs of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration in the fields of European integration and politics, to initiate teaching activities, to cooperate and exchange scientific knowledge with other academic or research centres in Greece and abroad, to organize seminars, lectures and to forge publications. For these purposes the Institute:

- Conducts research on topics concerning European integration and politics with emphasis on European economic policy and governance, institutional and political system of the European Union, external relations of the EU, energy and environmental policy
- Provides information and conducts scientific analysis on the abovementioned issues
- Organises summer school courses on contemporary issues related with European integration and politics
- Organises simulations of the EU institutions in order to enhance the familiarization of the students with their function
- Cooperates with national and international research institutes and networks
- Organises PhD seminars on methodology

More information at: en.eeep.pspa.uoa.gr

5.2. The Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration

The Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens, although founded in 1982, can trace its origins back to the beginnings of the University of Athens in 1837. It evolved out of the Chair of Political Science at the Faculty of Law (which was one of the first faculties of the oldest Balkan university) into an independent academic department. This happened a few years after the Chairs of Political Economy, which were founded in the late 19th century, evolved into the Faculty of Economics in the 1970s. This reform of the School of Law, which was then renamed the School of Law, Economics and Political Science, transformed it into a higher education institution awarding since the early 1980s, three separate degrees corresponding to the titles of its faculties. This change was a genuine expression of the tradition of the School, which was not only the center of legal studies in Greece, but also the centre of the emergence and cultivation of the economic and social sciences since the middle of the 19th century. The School preserved this role for more than a century, until the 1980s, when social science departments emerged in other newly founded Greek universities. It is within this School that the first chairs of political

economy have been created and retained their unique role until the 1920s. It is also within this School that one of the first chairs in sociology was established in the same decade. It is thus no coincidence that internationally renowned social scientists like Cornelius Castoriades or Nicos Poulantzas belong to the alumni. It is also extremely rare to find a democratically elected Prime Minister of Greece in the 20th century who does not hold a degree from the School of Law, Economics and Political Science, as it called now and to which the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration belongs.

5.3. The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is the largest educational state institution in Greece, and among the largest universities of Europe. With a student body of about 125,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students over 2,000 members of academic staff and approximately 1,300 administrative and secretarial staff and specialized personnel, the University of Athens aims at excellence in both teaching and research in a significantly varied range of disciplines.

The University of Athens, established on the 3rd of May 1937, was first housed in a neoclassical residence, on the northeastern side of the Acropolis, renovated today and operating as the University Museum. Initially named “Othonian University” after Greece’s first King, Othon, it consisted of 4 academic units and 52 students. As it was the first university in the newly established modern Greek state, as well as in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean region, its socio-historically significant role has been decisive for the production of particular knowledge and culture in the country.

Until the early part of the 20th century, the University of Athens was the only university in Greece that provided the Greek society with qualified professionals in medicine, in physics and social sciences, in law and economics, in archeology and in education as well as in the clergy. In its many years of operation, it has offered the country a centre of intellectual production, stimulating intellectual circles functioning inside and outside its premises. Moreover, it has and still offers important social services as its academic staff regularly serves on national and international committees, carries out educational and other research projects, plans and takes part in seminars for a variety of social groups, oftentimes in addition to their full-time work at University.

5.4. Organising team

Emmanuella Doussis

She is Director of the Institute of European Integration and Policy, Scientific Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module “Moving the EU Forward” and Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Athens. She is also member of the General Assembly and of the Internal Evaluation Committee of the above Department and member of the Coordinating Committee Master’s degree in Southeast European Studies. She is supervising PhD dissertations and she is teaching graduate and postgraduate courses on EU law, international and European environmental policy and law as well as theories and policies of international organisations. She disposes thorough experience in the organization of simulations of international and European institutions for over 15 years, participating either as a member of the scientific committee or as a coach of teams for participating in such simulations (Harvard World Model United Nations, ThessismUN, EUROFORUM, Oxford MUN, Phillip Jessup Moot Court Competition).

Dr. Antonia Zervaki

She graduated from the School of Philosophy of Athens University in 1995; she holds an MA in European Studies (University of Exeter/Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Rennes) (1996) and an MA in European Organisation and Diplomacy (University of Athens) (1998). In 2006, she was awarded a PhD on international organisation (University of Athens - Faculty of Law, Economics and Political Science). She was an EUI research fellow (2000). She worked as an EU projects advisor and manager at the Foundation of the Hellenic World and other private and public institutions (1997-2005). In 2005 she became Advisor to the General Secretary for European Funds at the Greek Ministry of Employment and in 2007 a Special Advisor on EU maritime policy at the Academic Centre of Analysis and Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of EU maritime governance issues. She has participated to the European Conference on the Integrated Maritime Policy of the EU (Portoroz 2008), the 25th General Assembly of the UNESCO Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission (Paris 2009) and several other experts and high officials’ meetings. She is a member of the interdisciplinary research group ONTOGEO of the National Technical University of Athens on maritime spatial planning (2011-present) and of the COST network of experts on the legal aspects of maritime safety and security. She is currently a visiting lecturer at the Postgraduate Programme “International and European Studies” of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration (Athens University) and at the Postgraduate Programme “Art, Law and Economy” of the International Hellenic University. She is also a tutor at the Postgraduate Programme “Management of Cultural Institutions” of the Hellenic Open University. She has also been involved in professional training: in 2008 she lectured in the training seminars for diplomats of the Diplomatic Academy of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in 2011 she was certified as an Adult Education Trainer at the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Governance. Her research interests include: International and European organization and policies; international and European governance; theory of international relations and organization; maritime governance; international protection of cultural heritage.

Dr. Lydia Avrami

She is project coordinator of the Jean Monnet Module “Moving the EU Forward” and postdoctoral research fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). She studied Political Science and Public Administration (BSc) and European and International Studies (MSc) at the University of Athens. She was awarded with distinction her Ph.D. in European climate change policy from the Univer-

sity of Athens (2015) and she was Scholar of the A.G. Leventis Foundation (2011-2014). She was Visiting Researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in Germany (January-May 2014) and received a short-term research scholarship from State Scholarships Foundation (IKY). She has also worked for communication, congress and event management companies (2007-2010). Her research interests focus on energy and climate change policy, European governance, policy effectiveness and the role of interest groups.

Efthymis Antonopoulos

He is a Junior Researcher at the Institute of European Integration and Policy and a graduate of the Faculty of English Language and Literature, University of Athens. He holds an MSc on International and European Studies from the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Athens. His research interests revolve around cultural studies, visual arts and their position in literature, the theory and the practice of international organizations, cultural heritage protection and management, peacekeeping operations, the protection of human rights and the elimination of crimes against humanity, the protection of the environment and sustainable development. He is Member of the Hellenic Model United Nations Organization (HMUNO), of the Organizing Team of the Athens and Thessaloniki Model United Nations (AMUN, TMUN) and he has participated in simulation conferences of international organizations in Greece and abroad. He collaborates with the Institute of European Integration and Policy – with a main responsibility the coordination and supervision of the Athens EU Model along with the Members of the competent Organizing Team – and the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights. He speaks English, French, and German. He aims at the establishment of a fair and inclusive society that would safeguard civil, economic, political and cultural rights for all.

Dafni Sachinoglou

(President of the European Commission)

She is a trainee at the Institute of European Integration and Policy and a graduate student of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens. She also studies Law in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in which she expects to obtain her second bachelor degree. Her areas of interest are related to International and Maritime Law, which she is hoping to follow at a Master's level. Apart from her passion with Law she enjoys taking part to university activities, such as organizing conferences and trying to improve the university society. For this year's Athens EU Model, she will serve as President of the European Commission and she hopes for a great experience, new knowledge and skills, fun and, above all, meeting fantastic people and creating long-lasting friendships.

Maya Alexiadi

(President of the Council of the European Union)

She is a trainee at the Institute of European Integration and Policy and a graduate from the French University Paris XIII, Sorbonne (Degree of Law). She is also an undergraduate student of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens. After graduating she plans to continue her studies in USA. Her participation to simulations of United Nations (MUN) started with Edinburgh's MUN, in March 2015. The exciting experience of public speaking and debating with different people coming from diverse cultures and the encouragement of participants to share their interests, dreams and know-how resulted to her participation to a number of UN simulations (ThessISMUN April 2016), Athens Model of United Nations March 2015 where she was a member of Administrative Staff. She believes that students

who are participating in the simulations not only are offered the opportunity of developing their skills and potential but also they are challenged to move forward in a world universally outgoing and unbounded. This was the reason why she is a Member of the Organizing Team of the first Athens EU model in cooperation with the Institute of European Integration and Policy of the University of Athens which is expected to be a very successful one.

Sofia Antoniadi

(Secretary-General of the European Commission)

She is a trainee at the Institute of European Integration and Policy and graduate student of the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens. She studies International Business as a scholar at the American College of Greece. Throughout her academic years, she has expressed her interest on the field of international relations, foreign policy and conflict management and resolution and she is planning to emphasize on these subject with a Master's degree. She had the opportunity to participate in both Thessaloniki Model of United Nations (ThessISMUN) and the Athens Model of the United Nations (AMUN) but also in the EuroMUN of 2015 in Maastricht. She has completed her internship at the administrative department of the US Embassy in Athens.

Dimitris Pavlidis

(Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union)

He is a trainee at the Institute of European Integration and Policy and undergraduate student at the Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration of the University of Athens. He also studies International Business as a scholar at the American College of Greece. During his undergraduate years, he focused on issues related to international relations and the external policies of the EU member states with particular preference for the economic dimension of the European integration and the minority rights. His interests include modern art, volunteerism, business strategy and entrepreneurship. He participated in various simulations of international organizations both in Greece (ThessISMUN, AMUN) and abroad (ScotMUN, Harvard WorldMUN). Last summer, he was selected as an intern at the Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University. He speaks English and French.

6. Useful Information

6.1. The City of Athens

The cradle of European culture

Athens is considered to be the historic capital of Europe as its values and its culture crossed the geographical borders of the city and spread worldwide (in the 5th century B.C.). Political thinking, theater, arts, philosophy, science, architecture and so many other human intellectualities reached their zenith in a unique time coincidence and spiritual completion. In this sense, Athens became the cradle of European culture and civilization, while many Greek words and concepts such as democracy, harmony, music, mathematics, art, gastronomy, architecture, logic, Eros, euphoria and many more, enriched various languages and inspired different civilizations.

Athens: back to the future

Athens is distinguished by its outstanding prestige, despite its long and rich history and various conquests. It can be said that Athens is a European capital where past “nourishes” the present and they co-exist harmonically. Since 1834, Athens has been the capital of the modern Greek state and it has developed into a modern metropolitan center of incomparable charm and great interest. Visiting Athens is a unique experience. It is a “journey” to a 6.000 years history in one of the most beautiful natural landscapes (“lacy” coastlines, beaches and mountains), enlightened by the bright sunlight of Attica sky. For a short journey to Athens’ history, [click here](#).

More information are available at www.cityofathens.gr/en/

Around neighborhoods of the historical center

The “core” of the historic centre is the Plaka neighborhood (at the eastern side of the Acropolis), which has been inhabited without interruption since antiquity. When you walk through the narrow labyrinthine streets lined with houses and mansions from the time of the Turkish occupation and the Neoclassical period (19th c.), you will have the impression of travelling with a “time machine”. You will encounter ancient monuments, such as the Lysikrates Monument, erected by a wealthy donor of theatrical performances, the Roman Agora with the famed “Tower of the Winds” (1st c. B.C.) and Hadrian’s Library (132 A.D.), scores of bigger and smaller churches, true masterpieces of Byzantine art and architecture, as well as remnants of the Ottoman period (Fetihie Mosque, Tzistaraki Mosque, the Turkish Bath near the Tower of the Winds, the Muslim Seminary, et al.). There are also some interesting museums (Folk Art, Greek Children’s Art, Popular Musical Instruments, Frysira Art Gallery, etc.), lots of picturesque tavernas, cafis, bars, as well as shops selling souvenirs and traditional Greek products.

6.2. TOP 10 things to do in Athens

1. Walk uphill to see the Acropolis
2. Visit the Acropolis Museum
3. Shop around Monastiraki's flea market
4. Visit the Ancient Agora
5. Enjoy the nightlife around Agia Eirini's Square
6. Take a stroll top-down Ermou Str. for shopping and take a break for a coffee at Thisio or Gazi
7. Have a coffee in a cafe at Karytsi Square
8. Taste the Greek traditional cuisine in Plaka and Metaxourgeio
9. Visit Syntagma square, the Greek Parliament, and the National Gardens
10. Visit the Attica Zoological Park in Athens

6.3. Before you travel to Greece

- Depending on your country of origin you might need a passport or a visa
- Call your bank or your credit card company to let them know that you will be using it in Greece.
- In order to have access to necessary health care, tourists from member states of the European Union (EU) wishing to visit Greece must be holders of the European Health Card (EHIC) or any other legal Community document issued by their competent social security agency. Tourists from countries other than the member states of the European Union must consult their social security agency for information before travelling.
- Contact your phone company in order to make sure that you can use your mobile phone in Greece.
- The international calling code of Greece is +30.

6.4. Information and emergency phone numbers in Greece

Ambulance Service: 166

SOS Doctors: 1016

Duty Hospitals and Clinics: 1434

Pharmacies: 1434

Open Line for alcohol drug Addiction: 210 3617089

Poisoning First Aid: 210 7793777

Police: 100

Tourist Police: 1571

7. Contact details

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