

Excursion and Simulation Game:

*The European Council and the Conference Report on the Future of Europe
with consideration of European perspectives and a special emphasis on
“EU in the World”*

PROTEUS 2022

Brussels, 31. May – 3. June 2022

Final Report

Program of the PROTEUS-Seminar 2022

Tuesday, 31 May 2022	
07:10	Meeting at Cologne Central Station
07:42 – 9:35	Journey from Cologne to Brussels (Midi)
10:30 – 11:15	Arrival at the Representation of the State North Rhine-Westphalia in Brussels: Meeting concerning the Procedure and the Program
11:30 – 13:00	Time for preparation of the simulation game
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	Lecture and Discussion: “The European Council” by Andrea Sabatini and Eva Ribera (TEPSA - Trans European Policy Studies Association), (UoC students) Visit of the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU (TGU students)

Wednesday, 1 June 2022	
09:30 – 11:00	Visit of the European Parliament
11:30 – 13:00	Visit of the “Parlamentarium” (UoC students)
13:30 – 15:30	“Exam” in the representation of North Rhine-Westphalia (TGU students)
14:00 – 15:30	Visit of the „Experience Europe” (UoC students)
16:00 – 17:30	Lecture and Discussion: “The Conference on the Future of Europe” by Mr. Frederic Zinnicq-Bergmann (European Commission)

Thursday, 2 June 2022	
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome, Introduction and Warm Up by the Proteus-Team
10:00 – 12:30	Simulation Game I
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:00	Welcoming Speech by Mr. Jörg Singelstein, Head of Department, Representation of the State North Rhine-Westphalia in Brussels
14:00 – 15:30	Simulation Game II
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:15	Simulation Game III
17:15 – 17:30	End of Thursdays Program

Friday, 3 June 2022	
09:30 – 10:00	Introduction and Warm Up by the Presidency-Team
10:00 – 12:30	Simulation Game IV
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:15	Simulation Game V: Results and Conclusions
14:40 – 16:00	Visit of the European Council
16:15 – 18:15	Break
8:25 – 20:18	Return from Brussels (Midi) to Cologne

PROTEUS 2022

The interdisciplinary and international seminar PROTEUS, funded by the *Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfond*, was held in the summer semester of 2022. The seminar, which concerns the law and politics of the European Union, introduced the students to current European Affairs and was finalized with an excursion to Brussels, where students not only experienced the key institutions of the European Union (EU) but also simulated a summit of the European Council (EUCO). The simulation game became even more exiting, because we could meet in person again, and a group of excellent MA students of the Turkish-German University joined to the Brussels excursion.

The students took part in different lectures by Prof. Hobe, Prof. Wessels and experts from other Universities. Additionally, they organized themselves in small groups and wrote national position papers to prepare the simulation game.

The seminar was organized interdisciplinary. The "Institute of Aviation Law, Space Law and Cyberlaw" under the direction of Prof. D. h.c. Stephan Hobe and the "Center for Turkey and EU Studies" (CETEUS) under the direction of Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels worked closely together to coordinate the seminar. Each year, one of the institutes alternately takes over the direction of the seminar, with the CETEUS in charge this year.

Online Lectures

The first lecture was held on 14th April. Prof. Dr. Hobe gave the students an introduction into the seminar and the organizers introduced themselves. Besides that, the students were grouped in their different positions: A group of three were chosen as the presidency group of the European Union while the others were grouped in European Union Member States: France, Spain, Poland, Lithuania, Italy, Hungary, Belgium and Germany.

On 5th May, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels introduced the students to the subject. After some general information on the European Council, he emphasized the function of the European Council as a "key institution" of the EU and the different ways to find consensus in such a diverse group.

The third lecture was held on 12th May by Dr. Manuel Müller. He works as a research associate at the University Duisburg-Essen and focuses his research on European integration with its elections, emerging parties and more generally on the democratic legitimacy and the European public sphere. Müller gave an introductory lecture on the Conference on the Future of Europe with its history, structure, the different institutional interests and its potential outcomes. Due to our seminar's focus, he emphasised on the topic of "EU in the World" and especially discussed if the conference could lead to a change in treaties. On 19th May, the seminar met again online to discuss potential questions in the groups and to inform everyone on how the excursion is going to play out.

<i>Thursday, 14th April</i>	Introductory Session Prof. Dr. Stephan Hobe (University of Cologne)
<i>Thursday, 28th April</i>	Lecture on the European Council Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels (University of Cologne)
<i>Thursday, 5th May</i>	Lecture on the Conference on the Future of Europe Dr. Manuel Müller (University of Duisburg)
<i>Thursday, 19th May</i>	Consultation Meeting by the Simulation Advisors Harun Suratlı M.A., Christian Goldkuhle LL.M., Valentin Althoff B. Sc. (University of Cologne)
<i>Brussels, 31 May – 3 June</i>	Brussels Excursion and Simulation Game Harun Suratlı M.A., Christian Goldkuhle LL.M., Valentin Althoff B. Sc. (University of Cologne)

Cooperation with the Turkish German University

This year, we had the opportunity to cooperate with the Turkish-German University to include MA students from Istanbul to our Proteus-Seminar. This worked because we held the introductory session online but made it possible to hold a face-to-face session with students from both universities in Brussels. The cooperation enlightened our seminar through bringing perspectives that would be missing when the group would only consist of German students, and gave the students the possibility to reach out and connect with students they would normally not meet.

Excursion to Brussels: Visiting the institutions

The first two days of our excursion were marked by visiting European institutions, museums, and lectures by experts. Due to the general strike in Belgium, we could not use our planned direction towards Brussels and had to look for an alternative way, which not only cost us some precious hours but also made it impossible to join the lecture on the European Council by representatives of the think tank TEPSA. When we finally arrived in Brussels, we chose to use the time to inform the students on the coming days and give the students from both Universities some time to get to know each other in person and organize themselves in their groups.

Next morning, we started with visiting the European Parliament. Here, we first got a presentation by one of their staff members, who vividly explained the workings of the Parliament. In addition, he put some emphasis on its history, the legislative procedure and how it compares to other national parliaments. The presentation was enhanced by questions and discussions with our students. Afterwards, the students had the chance to visit the plenary room. Then, the group went next door to the *Parlamentarium*, which functions a museum for the European Parliament. The museum connects the history of the Parliament with important historic events in the member states and the rest of the world. Also, one could learn about the current political positions of the different factions in the Parliament and its leading members.

In the afternoon, we visited another museum, called “Experience Europe” which concentrates on the European Council. Besides information on Ursula von der Leyen and the Member States of the Council, the use of virtual reality stood out. In the museum, one was able to experience European development policy and practical climate policies such as extinguishing forest fires in an interesting way through virtual reality glasses.

We finished the day with a lecture by Mr. Frederic Zinnicq-Bergmann. The students heard another lecture on the Conference by someone who worked on it and was able to give first-hand information about the conference results. Afterwards the students and Mr. Bergmann had a discussion about not only the conference, but the general lifestyle of working for a European institution.

Simulation Game of the European Council

The simulation game of the European Council on this year's subject: 'The European Council and the Conference Report on the Future of Europe: With consideration of European perspectives and a special emphasis on "EU in the World"' was held on two days. The students were divided into groups at the beginning of the semester. Each group (besides the presidency of the European Council) represented one member state of the European Union. During the semester and the lectures given within the seminar, the students had to get familiar with their specific country, acquire deeper knowledge about their country's and its citizen's roles and perspectives in and on the conference as well as security policies. In the game itself, they had to cooperate with other countries to reach consensus without giving up their interests or positions.

On 15th May, each country team had to submit a draft on the position of their country. Based on those papers, the presidency produced an agenda for the meeting and the rules of procedures, which were sent out to the students before the simulation game. Based on this agenda, the simulation of the European Council meeting took place on 2nd – 3rd June.



Source: CETEUS, University of Cologne.

Presidency of the European Council	Ipek Maya Saygın
	Johanna Hatje
	Johann Neukirch
Belgium	Franka Stauth
	Gencay Mert Köse
	Zehra Gül Kılınç
France	Johanna Apelt
	Sophie Sauer
	Sıtkı Eren Sezgin
Germany	Madeline Trappmann
	Hatice Şahin
	Burak Özkan
Hungary	Simon Müller
	Karin Jackwerth
	Necva Taştan
Italy	Charlotte Sperber
	Shabab Hussain
	Hatice Zeynep Şen
Lithuania	Jan-Ulrich Dittmer
	Marc Friedrich
	Handan Kazancı
Poland	Eleonora Eck
	Çağatay İnanç
	Hilal Solmaz
Spain	Julius Konold
	Rachel Reitz
	Büşra Nur Yönev

Source: Own compilation.

The first day of the simulation game started with a speech by the presidency team. They started by giving the groups some more time to work out a small presentation on their positions. All the groups gave detailed information on their national interests on the matters of European Security policies and their citizens will that were observed in the Conference. When finally, all positions were established, the presidency team presented their draft for conclusions and every delegation's task was to find consensus on the draft. The draft itself was separated into three different chapters. What followed were passionate discussions on every sentence of the draft where all the groups would not easily give up on their positions but stayed constructive to find solutions that worked for everyone. The day was concluded with some progress on the first chapter, with two and a half remaining.

The second and last day, the simulation game began by concluding the first of the three chapters. Afterwards, the presidency team decided to split each group into two sections that would work on the last two chapters independently. Again, each group had vivid discussions and fought about every sentence of the draft, but were able to finish their chapters just in time. To conclude the game, the presidency showed the final draft to all groups, and it was accepted unanimously. Therefore, the task was mastered and consensus was reached.

After the simulation game, the following awards were rewarded to the following students:

Team prizes

- (1) Best representation
- (2) Best overall performance

Individual prizes

- (1) Best speaker
- (2) Best overall individual performance

The last point on the agenda was a visit of the European Council. Here, the students were shown through most of the building and could even sit in the chairs of the great conference room.

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