



UNIVERSITY
OF COLOGNE



Excursion Report

European Council Simulation Game: "The EU's Strategic Agenda"

27.05. – 30.05.2024

Rapporteurs:

Meltem Soydan (ILWR)

Anuschka Windisch (CETEUS)

Introduction

The interdisciplinary and multinational seminar PROTEUS (*Programm für einen Orientierungskurs in Recht und Politik des EU-Systems*), taught by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dr. h.c. S. Hobe (ILWR, University of Cologne) and Prof. Dr. W. Wessels (CETEUS, University of Cologne), was conducted during the summer semester of 2024. This captivating seminar, focused on the law and politics of the European Union (EU), provided students with a comprehensive understanding of current European affairs. The seminar reached its culmination with an exhilarating excursion to Brussels, offering the students an immersive experience within the key institutions of the EU. Moreover, the students had the unique opportunity to actively participate in a Simulation Game about the Strategic Agenda of the European Council. A group of MA students from the Turkish-German University also joined the Brussels excursion, enriching the overall academic atmosphere.

Throughout the seminar, the students were exposed to a variety of enlightening lectures delivered by esteemed professors such as Professor Hobe and Professor Wessels. These lectures provided valuable insights and fostered intellectual discourse. In addition to the lectures, the students organised themselves into small groups, collaboratively preparing papers to enhance their engagement and preparation for the Simulation Game. The seminar itself was meticulously organised in an interdisciplinary manner. Meltem Soydan, Mag. iur., research assistant at the *Institute of Aviation Law, Space Law, and Cyberlaw (ILWR)*, and Darius Ribbe M.A., research fellow at the *Centre for Turkey and European Union Studies (CETEUS)*, joined the excursion as organisers. They were supported by Anuschka Windisch, student assistant at CETEUS.

The excursion was funded by the *Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfonds (KGSF)* and the University of Cologne as part of the *Cologne Summer Schools (CSS)* program. The excursion was co-organised by ILWR, CETEUS and FEU (*Fördergesellschaft für Forschung und Lehre zur Europäischen Union e.V.*), which supported the excursion with funds from the *German-Turkish Youth Bridge (DTJB)*.

BRUSSELS PROGRAMME

13:00 – 14:30 **Permanent Delegation of Germany to the EU**
Similar rules to airport security checks apply!

Tuesday, 28 May

10:00-12:30 **Visit to the European Commission**
Units A1 and F2

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 15:00 **Visit House of European History**
*Rue Belliard 135, 1040
Bruxelles, Belgium*
Permanent Exhibition

15:30 – 16:30 **Visit of the European Parliament**
*Rue Wiertz 60, 1047
Bruxelles, Belgium*
Visitor Centre

16:00-18:00 **Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU**
*36 - 38 avenue des Arts,
1040 Brussels*
Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı, Permanent Delegate of Turkey to the EU

Wednesday, 29 May

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome and introduction into the proceedings of the summer school**
*Room D1.08.
VUB Campus*
VUB Campus: Bd de la Plaine 2, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

10:15 – 11:45 **Introductory lecture: EU Law by Professor Hobe (University of Cologne)**
(NOTE: Please bring a (digital) copy of TEU/TFEU)

11:50 – 13:00 **Simulation Game: The Strategic Agenda of the European Council**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 20:00 **Simulation Game: The Strategic Agenda of the European Council**

Thursday, 30 May

09:00 – 11:30 **Simulation Game: The Strategic Agenda of the European Council**
*Room D1.08.
VUB Campus*
VUB Campus: Bd de la Plaine 2, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

11:30 – 12:00 **Adaptation of the conclusions**

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 – 14:00 **Evaluation and ‘tour de table’**

18:00 **End of the Summer School and Departure**

Excursion to Brussels: Visiting the Institutions

The excursion in Brussels commenced with a visit to the Permanent Delegation of Germany to the EU. This visit provided the students with valuable insights into the role and functions of Germany's representation within the European Union.

The following day, the students visited the European Commission, where they discussed the EU's Strategic Agenda. After this informative session, they toured the House of European History to view the Permanent Exhibition and later explored the European Parliament's Visitor Centre. The day's activities concluded with a visit to the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU, where the students had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı.

The next day began with an introductory lecture on EU Law by Professor Hobe. Following the lecture, the students engaged in a Simulation Game focused on the Strategic Agenda of the European Council, which continued into Thursday. They worked on refining the conclusions from their discussions and participated in an evaluation and 'tour de table' session to reflect on their experiences and share insights.

Overall, these visits provided the students with a comprehensive understanding of the functioning and dynamics of the European institutions, significantly enhancing their knowledge and contributing to their academic growth.



Our students at the meeting with Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı. Brussels, 28.05.2024.

Simulation Game

The European Council summit simulation game was an interactive exercise designed to replicate the dynamics of a real-life EU summit. Participants assumed the roles of European leaders and engaged in negotiations and discussions on various pressing issues facing the European Union. These topics could include matters such as economic policy, immigration, security, and foreign relations.

Throughout the simulation, participants, including students from both the TDU and the UoC, worked as a homogeneous group after the written phase. They had the opportunity to experience the complexities of decision-making within the EU, including balancing national interests with the broader goals of European integration. They also had to navigate the diverse viewpoints and priorities of the member states, requiring diplomacy, compromise, and strategic thinking. After long and fruitful discussions, the presidency team skilfully led the simulation game, resulting in a strategic agenda that addressed the most pressing challenges facing the European Union. This demonstrated the importance of effective leadership and collaboration in shaping the EU's policies and priorities.

The simulation provided a valuable learning experience for participants, allowing them to gain insights into the functioning of the EU institutions and the challenges of multilateral governance. It also fostered teamwork, communication, and negotiation skills, essential for effective leadership in the European context.



Our students after the Simulation Game. Brussels, 30.05.2024.

Overall, the European Council summit simulation game offered a dynamic and immersive way for participants to explore the complexities of European politics and policymaking, culminating in a successful outcome guided by the presidency team's leadership and the collaborative efforts of students from both universities.



Our students in front of the European Parliament. Brussels, 28.05.2024.

Contact

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