

The ingredients for a great debate

Yesterday the delegates learned the final things for the General Assembly. Before the workshops began, there was some spare time. What do debaters do with spare time? Singing. Yes, Singing. Fortunately they could sing very well and we heard a couple of songs from delegates from all over Europe. During the first workshop Eugène Sutorius told us all the ingredients we need to be a great speaker: ethos, pathos and logos. Emotions are more important than we used to think. It's not a weakness, it's a strength. Besides that, charisma and charm is important. It's funny, because we always trust the argument and believe the bridges that are being built by the speaker. In reality however, we follow the story and believe it, because basically our whole life is

one big story. Next to that Sutorius taught us that you have to know your audience. You have to know what they feel, so you can adjust your words to it. Last but not least you need to have integrity and be authentic. That is more difficult than you think. You easily play different roles in different situations. You have to be authentic in order to have the credibility of your audience.

Hereafter the group was split. The first group talked more with Sutorius about ethos, pathos and logos. He explained how populism uses the three elements in order to convince others of their opinions. In the second group they talked about the way you present yourself to others. They did some practical exercises to find out what kind of person they are; charismatic, capable, unique or trustworthy. It was amazing to see that just little adjustments to your posture or even your hair made a huge difference on how people saw you. The workshops were perfect for dotting the i's and crossing the t's of the speeches. Now the delegates know everything they need to know to experience the perfect General Assembly.

Quote of the Day

"Je t'aime!"

- Dutch delegate



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Debate, doubts and finally unanimity?



While supervisors were busy getting the resolution booklets printed and stapled in time, delegation members met to start their meetings. We chose to report on the meeting of the Belgian delegation. The teacher opening the meeting stressed that questions should not be too informative. The resolution on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs was

discussed first. After reading the resolution the question round began. The idea to organise an information evening with refugees and citizens of Western Europe raised a lot of questions. But the committee members were well prepared and answered the questions without hesitation. The Belgian delegation was quite positive on the resolution. The more detailed questions were answered with the notion that certain issues had to be addressed by the individual member states, not by the EU. After that, the resolution on Industry, Technology, Research and Energy was addressed. Even though the Belgian delegation had some doubts, the overall feeling was positive. There was although some fear the German delegation would be able to obstruct the resolution. The discussion went on for quite a while in a concentrated and participative mood. After these meetings the lobby sessions will commence, where it will become apparent if one can persuade each other to vote for the different resolutions and agreement can be reached.

Did you know that...

- you lobbied in the same place as the Dutch parliament does?
- you now have to stick to the Nieuwspoor code just like them?
- some Dutch delegates were dismissed from their committee meetings because they were laughing too loud?
- some people are not only good at debating,

but also very good at singing?

- a UK delegate has been flirting with a German delegate?
- the delegation was very satisfied with the fact that they could have milk in their tea at the cafe where their delegation meeting took place?
- we have heard that the French delegation is really determined to find out who the rumours are about?
- some delegates mixed up the terms MEP and MES (Model European Songfestival)?

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The anxious road to bridge the gap

In 'de Nieuwspoort' the lobby session took place, where a good atmosphere was created by the Dutch delegation playing the piano. The other delegates merrily sang along with all the songs that were played. Milos Labovic, EU lobbyist, took the stage and gave all the delegates some useful tips on lobbying. "Don't be too easily impressed", was the message that he tried to convey. "That way, you'll reach your goal much faster", according to Mr. Labovic. With this golden tip in their pockets, the delegates began convincing each other of their resolutions. Some clearly needed to get used to this. 'I find it scary to just go talk to people, I don't really know where to go or what to say' was what one delegate of Germany told us. A totally different story could be expected when hearing a delegate of Belgium, who passionately tried to convince everyone of her opinion. "I'm from the committee on Industry, Technology, Research and Energy. During the committee meetings, Belgium and Germany had really different opinions on energy. We thought nuclear energy shouldn't be completely shut out of the resolution, but Germany only wants green energy, so that was kind of an issue. We see a very heavy debate coming up, so I'm trying to ease the delegates of Germany, but that isn't very easy. I had no succes so far, let's hope that will be improved at the end of this evening." Not only Belgium is doubtful about the General Assembly tomorrow, also Turkey isn't quite at ease: "We have a little trouble with the English language sometimes, which makes it harder to defend our

opinions during debates. We're very nervous."

While the little snacks were put on the table, the blue, yellow and red forms made their way to be signed by many. It was quite a night, which raises the bar for tomorrow!

Humans of MEP



Ignas Verheyen
delegate of Belgium

"Why we utilised a Trump quote in our speech? It's simple. We wanted to make an impression. 'Let's make Europe great again' is a great way to get people talking. With all the division in the world right now,

that's also driving the EU apart, we want to get Europe back together and make Europe literally great again. Brexit and even Trump's election into the White House has sparked quite a lot of controversy. Populist politicians like Geert Wilders in The Netherlands en Marine le Pen in France have been able to get a pretty big following. These politicians are trying to get their countries out of the European Union. We are supporting the European Union, so the quote practically shows our views. We are lucky that an extremely right or extremely left party can't grab all the power in Belgium (unless they get more than 50% of the votes, but that never happens!). We know that the quote could have led to discussion, but luckily most delegates got our point. It was quite dangerous, I've got to admit, because the first impression is everything. But nevertheless I truly believe that slightly changing the controversial quote really got our point across."

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Tips to TRIUMPH

Some may be excited, others are scared to death, but everyone may need some final tips for the General Assembly.

1. Be the argument. Know what you are going to say, stand behind it and believe it. Show the people you have confidence and they will believe you, whatever you say.
2. Distinguish yourself. There are so many delegates out there in the General Assembly, if you're not different – in a positive way – you will just merge into the mass. So just stand up, speak, in your own style, with your own words and make the rest wonder why they thought you were wrong.
3. Don't panic, because you have a plan: your resolution. Everything you need is in there.
4. Show that you're having fun, people like to see speakers who are passionate about what they are doing. Or at least pretend to be having fun.
5. Remember: it's just a game. The GA is actually nothing more than that, so play smart. Don't put all the cards on the table at once, save some arguments for a surprise attack.
6. Last but not least: enjoy your moment of fame.

Life of a journalist

You've probably saw us walking around. Always casually dressed, armed with cameras and notebooks. Trying to follow you around, filming every step, recording every word. While you were enjoying your dinners, we were stressing to make the final deadline, to post our newest video online or finish the latest newspaper. Being a journalist is not something you should take lightly. Being at the location before the delegates arrive, leaving after

they leave. Follow them around all over the city, cycling with a skirt and moving the printer from one location to the other. Just to make sure everything is perfect. But honestly, I would not have had it any other way. Being a journalist might seem lonely, but believe me, in the press room it's always fun. We actually have the whole package, we can easily walk backstage and see how things work, but we also have a feeling of how it is to be a participant. Being a journalist is hard work, really intensive and working late in the night, but it is also rewarding. And this last day of WEMEP we love to make the final video and the final newspaper especially for you.

PROGRAM MONDAY

8.15 Participants and teachers are present at the Parliament building

9.00 Start General Assembly

9.00 – 10.15 Resolution 1

10.15 – 11.30 Resolution 2

11.30 Speaker

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 – 13.15 Resolution 3

13.15 - 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 15.30 Resolution 4

15.30 – 16.45 Resolution 5

17.00 – 17.30 Closing ceremony of the 1st session of the Western European Model

European Parliament

18.30 – 23.00 Dinner and farewell party