



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STUDY GUIDE

BOĞAZIÇI MUN 2020



Letter from the Secretary-General

Honorable participants,

I, as the Secretary-General, have the immense pleasure of welcoming you to the second edition of Boğaziçi University Model United Nations Conference. I am very thrilled and excited to be the Secretary-General of the conference I have always dreamt of. The story of this conference started in a bench of Boğaziçi University two years ago, and from that day on, BoğaziçiMUN Legacy has grown more and more with the precious contributions of all members of BoğaziçiMUN Family.

This year, as the Academic Team of BoğaziçiMUN 2020, we firmly plan to execute a unique academic event that is unprecedented in the history of MUN in Turkey. For this purpose, we have created eight breathtaking committees. I can promise that none of our committees are born out of necessity, but all of them are made with great passion. Our main objective in designing our committees is "realism." We are determined to provide you the most realistic simulation of the specific organs of the United Nations, other international organizations, and historical events. I have my endless faith in all Academic Team members that they will most successfully execute our vision in the BoğaziçiMUN 2020. I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Binici, for continually helping me in the making of this conference.

This committee, European Parliament, is brought to you by extremely ambitious and precious members of Turkish MUN Society. I believe that Mr. İkbâl Baş and his colleagues will provide the delegates with an exceptional academic experience in BoğaziçiMUN 2020. That's being said, I am grateful to them for planning this wonderful committee and for making this Conference a better one.

With sincere appreciation,

Egemen Büyükkaya

Secretary-General of BoğaziçiMUN 2020



Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Distinguished participants,

I sincerely welcome you to the second annual session of Boğaziçi Model United Nations Conference 2020. My name is İkbal Baş from Galatasaray University.

As is known, people had encountered many problems in their period, in short the past. Now, it is up to you, dear delegate, to restore order, to fight for justice, for peace. Keep in mind that you will be properly equipped with all of the tools you may find necessary when the time has come to tackle these kinds of issues. As the Under-Secretary-General of this substantial conference, I would like to emphasize that you have full authority to rise to the challenge of finding a solution to these conflicts as the members of parliament.

During the sessions, I, along with my academic assistants and will be here to guide and support you. I believe that, if focused and capable of individualistic improvement throughout experimentation. I am hopeful that the excellent MEPs of European Parliament will be responsible and fully prepared to deal with all issues to be addressed in the agenda.

I wish to welcome you once more, to BoğaziçiMUN'20.

Best Regards,

İkbal Baş

Under-Secretary-General responsible for the European Parliament



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II) Introduction to the committee: European Parliament

a. Functions and Powers of the European Parliament

The main functions of the European Parliament are described under the Article 14 of the 2010 Lisbon Treaty which reads: "The European Parliament shall, jointly with the Council, exercise legislative and budgetary functions. It shall exercise functions of political control and consultation as laid down in the Treaties. It shall elect the President of the Commission."

Under the legislative powers; the Council and the Parliament are responsible of adopting EU legislations in a wide range of issues such as economic governance, immigration, energy, transport, the environment and consumer protection while the budgetary powers authorizes the council and the parliament to constitute and monitor the implementation of the annual EU budget for its expenditures and revenues. Aside from these, the Parliament also has supervisory, appointing and monitoring authority over the European Commission, Council of Ministers and the Presidency of the Council; making sure that other institutions under the European Union are working democratically and plays an important role in the elections of the President of the European Commission as well.

b. The distinction between the European Parliament and the European Council

The European Parliament is the backbone of the European Union for political debates and decision-making and also serves as the second legislative organ of the EU. The European Council can be viewed as more of a cultural institution which mostly tackles humanitarian issues and concerned with spreading awareness. The Council of Europe has 47 member states; however, the European Parliament serves with 751 MEP's of 28 member states. While the European Parliament serves a structure that is directly under the constitution of the European Union, the Council of Europe maintains its sovereignty and is not to be confused with the parliament. The two have separate agendas and goals.

III) Organizational Structure of the European Parliament

The European Parliament firstly gathered as the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which consisted of 78 representatives from the original 6 member states at the time. The assembly first met on September 10th 1952 and had no legislative powers but over time, the institution has undergone extensive and thorough changes: evolving from an assembly which held no powers and consisted of assigned



members, to an elected parliament that is recognized as a political agenda-setter of the European Union.

The organizational structure of the European Parliament consists of: the President, Members, Political Groups, Committees, Delegations, and Political Bodies.

a. The President

The Parliament elects its President every two and a half years and can be re-elected. As its leader, the President represents the Parliament both within the European Union and internationally. Candidates are chosen either by one of the political groups or by a group of 38 MEP's. The elections are held in a secret ballot system. If no one wins after three rounds, there is one last round between the two candidates with the most votes. After elected, the President's duties are: chairing the Parliament's plenary sessions, ensuring that procedures are respected, representing Parliament in legal matters, and signing the EU laws and budget.

b. MEP'S

There are 751 Members of Parliament, representing 500 millionⁱⁱ citizens of the European Union and work at the European Parliament which is the equivalent of the national parliaments at European level. The elections to choose MEP's are held every 5 years. Each country can decide on their own election system but have to guarantee equality of the sexes and secret ballot.

While most of their work is done in Brussels, MEP's go to Strasbourg every month for part-sessions which includes intensive debates and voting.

MEP's can choose to be in a committee in order to have meetings with a smaller group of MEPs' around a specific theme such as: technology, environment, agriculture etc.

c. Political Groups

MEP's are grouped in political groups by political affinity and not nationality. There are currently 7 political groupsⁱⁱⁱ in the Parliament and while the most of the MEP's work within a political group, some of the MEP's are not affiliated with any of the political groups and known as "non-attached MEP's".

This section will be detailed more in the following chapters.



d. Committees

Committees meetings are once or twice a month and held in public, in Brussels. Committees debate about and amend the legislative proposals of the European Commission and start the negotiations with the EU Ministers. In addition to that, they draft resolutions on up-to-date matters. Three prominent committees are the ones for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and Budgetary Control.

e. Delegations

Delegations main focus is to preserve and develop relations with other parliaments which are not countries of the European Union. It mostly consists of raising awareness about human rights, democracy and equality.

f. Political Bodies

The political bodies within the Parliament are responsible of the internal organization of the Parliament and the procedures. The bureau (the President, 14 vice presidents and quaestors) makes important financial, organizational and administrative decisions on matters concerning MEPs as well.

IV) European Parliament for 2019-2024

The 2019-2024 legislature is the ninth term of the Parliament. For every term of the parliament, a list of members that serve in that term is drawn up. It is sorted by list position or in cases of multiple constituencies, an English perception of surname treating all variations as part of the collation key, even if it is not the normal practice in that member's own country. The 2019-2024 term began on 2 July 2019. the Parliament ordinarily consisted of 751 members (MEPs), intended to become 705 starting from the 2019–2024 legislature because of specific provisions adopted about 'Brexit.' To be in more detail, at the beginning of the 2019–2024 term, there were 751 members of parliament divided among the 28 member states, which would change after the infamous 'Brexit'. 27 MEPs will be seated after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (these elected but not seated MEPs will be shown separately) and inevitably, the number of MEPs would decrease to 705 after that. ⁱⁱ



V) Political Groups of the European Parliament

The political groups of the Parliament are also named as the parliamentary groups of the it as well. The European Parliament is unique among international assemblies in a sense that its members (MEPs), arrange themselves into ideological groups just like in traditional national legislatures. The parliamentary groups of the European Parliament are actually the formal representation of a European political party in the Parliament. However, there could be formed political coalitions of a number of European parties, national parties, and independent politicians. For a coalition to be recognized as a political group of the parliament, it needs 25 MEPs from seven different countries. Once recognized, groups receive monetary assistance from the parliament and are guaranteed seats on committees. As stated above, the Parliament consists of different parliamentary groups formed by MEPs. MEPs in Parliament are organized into eight different parliamentary groups including thirty members that are not attached to any group, known as non-inscrits.

Here is a list of the parliamentary/political groups of the Parliament: European People's Party (EPP Group), Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Renew Europe (Renew), Greens–European Free Alliance (Greens-EFA), Identity and Democracy (ID), European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), European United Left–Nordic Green Left (GUE–NGL), and Non-inscrits.

The two groups that have reserved the most seats in parliament are the European People's Party (EPP) and the Socialists & Democrats (S&D). These two groups have controlled much of the parliament's power the Parliament for much of its existence, always holding between 50 and 70 percent of the seats between them. However, a single group has never held a majority in Parliament.

- **The European People's Party Group (EPP Group)**

The European People's Party group is a center-right political group in the European Parliament consisting of MEPs from the member associates of the European People's Party (EPP). It sometimes inherits in its body some independent MEPs and/or deputies from unassociated national parties. The EPP Group contains politicians of Christian-democratic, conservative and liberal-conservative orientation.



The European People's Party was reportedly founded as a European parliamentary party in 1976. However, the European People's Party has appeared in the European Parliament since June 1953 in one form or another maybe not necessarily with the name it holds today, from the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community, making it one of the oldest European level political groups. It has been serving as the largest political group in the European Parliament since 1999.

The EPP Group is led and controlled by a collective formation (referred to as the Presidency) that distributes tasks. The Presidency is composed of the Group Chair and a maximum of ten Vice-Chairs, counting in its Treasurer. The every-day running of the EPP Group is conducted by the secretariat in the European Parliament, led by its own Secretary-General. The Group runs its own think-tank, the European Ideas Network, which brings together opinion-formers from all over Europe to discuss issues facing the European Union from a center-right perspective.

- [Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats \(S&D\)](#)

The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) is named as the parliamentary body in the European Parliament of the Party of European Socialists (PES). The S&D was officially founded as a Socialist Group on 29 June 1953 which makes it the second oldest political group in the European Parliament after the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group (ALDE). It adopted its present-day name on 23 June 2009. Center-left oriented, the group mostly consists of social-democratic parties. The S&D Group got involved in the Progressive Alliance with its official establishment on 22 May 2013 and currently serves as a member of the organization's executive board. The group was formerly associated with the Socialist International.

Until the elections of the 1999 European Parliament were held, it was the greatest group in the Parliament both in power and in size, but since the election, it has been serving as the head of large groups of the parliament following the EPP Group. During the 8th EU Parliament Assembly, S&D was the only Parliament group that had representatives from all the 28 of European Union's member states.

The group has a President and a Bureau of Vice-Presidents. It also has a Treasurer and a Secretary General.



- [Renew Europe \(Renew\)](#)

Renew Europe (Renew) is a pro-European and liberal parliamentary/political group in the European Parliament that has been recognized since the Ninth European Parliament term. The group is the successor to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) group which existed during the sixth, seventh and eighth terms from 2004 to 2019.

Because the group is the successor to ALDE, its visions and missions are similar to their predecessor's. To be more precise and dig into how Renew Europe will behave during the ninth term, we could look into ALDE's descriptive vision. ALDE was a group of cohesive, gender-balanced centrist Euro neutrals that cooperate most closely with the EPP, are ambiguous on hypothetical EU taxes and supportive of eventual full Turkish accession to the European Union. According to this information, we can expect Renew Europe's MEPs to act in pursuit of these standings.

- [Greens–European Free Alliance \(Greens-EFA\)](#)

The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA) is the parliamentary/political group in the European Parliament consisting of mostly of green and regionalist political parties.

Formed following the 1999 European elections for the 5th European Parliament, the Greens/EFA group now consists of three distinct European political parties, largely composed of European Green Party (EGP) and the European Free Alliance (EFA) and the smaller European Pirate Party.

The EFA is composed of parties representing stateless nations and minority political interests. The group has limited its membership to progressive parties. These European parties are joined by MEPs from non-aligned national parties, which have included the Dutch Europe Transparent (2004–2009) and the Swedish (2009–2014), German (2014–) and Czech (2019–) Pirate Parties.

- [Identity and Democracy \(ID\)](#)

Identity and Democracy is a far-right political group in the European Parliament founded on 13 June 2019 for the Ninth European Parliament term. It consists of nationalist, populist and Eurosceptic national parties from nine European nations. It is the follow-up political group to the Europe of Nations and Freedom group formed during the eighth term.



The group primarily lists its fundamental priorities as creating jobs and growth, increasing security, stopping illegal immigration and fighting EU bureaucracy. Political interpreters have variously described Identity and Democracy as nationalist, right-wing populist and Eurosceptic, despite the group describing itself as sovereigntist as opposed to “anti-European.”

- [European Conservatives and Reformists \(ECR\)](#)

The European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) is an anti-federalist and Eurosceptic parliamentary/political group in the European Parliament. The ECR is the parliamentary group of the Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe (ACRE) but also includes MEPs from four other European parties and thirteen MEPs without European party affiliations.^{vii} The group emphasized on reforming the European Union (EU) on the basis of Euro realism instead of totally rejecting the EU (anti-EU-ism).

The ECR was founded with the on-going persistence of British Conservative Party leader David Cameron after the 2009 European elections, upon the Movement for European Reform. In present-day, the ECR is fifth-largest group in the European Parliament with 62 MEPs from 15 countries. The group is considered center-right to right-wing.

- [European United Left–Nordic Green Left \(GUE–NGL\)](#)

The European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) is a political group in the European Parliament launched in 1995, and it consists of left-wing to far-left MEPs. The group is composed of political parties of socialist and communist outlooks.

The G1UE/NGL is a confederal group which consists of MEPs from different national parties. These respective national parties must have mutual and joint political objectives with the group as specifically touched upon in the group's constitutional manifesto. Nevertheless, those national parties regulate and control their MEPs and not the group, thus the group sometimes gets divided on certain issues. Members of the group hold regular meetings to discuss and elaborate on various ideas and to take votes on resolutions. The group also publishes reports on different topics.

IN GUE-NGL, MEPs and national parties may be full or associate members. Both scenarios come with pre-determined rules and regulations for the respective members.



- Full members must accept the constitutional manifesto/declaration of the group.
- Associate members don't need to fully do so, but they may sit with the full members.
- Full member parties must accept the constitutional manifesto/declaration of the group.
- Associate member parties may include parties that do not have MEPs, and are from states that are not a member of the European Union, or do not wish to be full members.

- **Non-Inscrits**

The Non-Inscrits are Members of the European Parliament (MEP) who do not involve in any of the already established parliamentary/political groups. These MEPs may be associates of a national party, or of a European political party, but for a political alignment to come into existence in the European Parliament there need to be 25 MEPs from seven different states. Being part of a group bestows access to financial subsidies and committee seats, but the group members must share common ideologies.

VI) About MEPs

a. The term 'MEP' (Member of Parliament)

The term MEP refers to a member of the European Parliament who is someone who has won the majority of the votes of an election to serve as a recognized representative in the European Parliament. The European Parliament consists of 751 Members that are elected as representatives from the 28 Member States of the enlarged European Union. The amount of MEPs for each member state is generally in proportion to its population, however, no country can have less than 6 or more than 96 MEPs.

b. Elections

When the European Parliament (then named as the Common Assembly of the ECSC) held its first meeting in 1952, its members were directly allocated by the governments of the respective member states. These appointed representatives had to be chosen from the ones that already had seats in their own national parliaments. However, MEPs have been elected by universal suffrage (the right to vote granted to all adult citizens, regardless of income, race, gender, wealth, social status, ethnicity, or any other restrictions) since 1979 to present day. Earlier European organizations that were predecessors of the present day European union do not have MEPs.



Elections for the MEPs are held once every five years. Voting of age is 18, besides Austria, at which it is 16. There does not exist a uniform voting system for the elections; rather, each member state chooses its own adaptation of a voting system guarantee equality of the sexes and a secret ballot and should check these three precise and nonnegotiable restrictions:

- The system must be a form of proportional representation, under either the party list or Single Transferable Vote system.
- The electoral area may be subdivided if this will not generally affect the proportional nature of the voting system.
- Any election threshold on the national level must not exceed five percent.

The allocation of how many seats should be given to each member state is based on degressive proportionality, which is a principle where while the allocation of seats in a state is proportioned to its population, smaller states are eligible to elect more MEPs than would be strictly possible proportion-population logic alone. As the number of MEPs to have in the parliament given to each member state has increased from treaty negotiations, there is no exact formula for the apportionment of seats. No change in this setting can occur without the unanimous consensus of all member states' own governments.

c. MEPs in the Parliament

MEPs are arranged as seven different international parliamentary/political groups, except the 57 non-attached associates referred to as Non-Inscrits. The two largest groups of the Parliament are the European People's Party (EPP) and the Socialists & Democrats (S&D). These two parties have had the dominant voice the Parliament for much of its existence. Since European groups are broad alliances of national parties, consequently, they have a very decentralized structure, thus are more alike with parties in federal governments like the United States or Germany than unitary and non-federal states like the general EU states. Although, the European groups, between the years 2004 to 2009, were actually more attached than their US counterparts.

Aside from working as participants of their own respective parties, individual MEPs are also guaranteed and granted some separate and individualistic rights and powers within the Parliament:

- the right to move the inadmissibility of a matter



- the right to put questions to the Council of the European Union, the Commission, and to the leaders of the Parliament
- the right to table an amendment to any text in committee
- the right to make explanations of vote
- the right to raise points of order
- the right to table a motion for resolution

d. Duties and powers of an MEP

All MEPs have an obligation keep in touch and carry out their duties within their home state aside from their duties as members of the European Parliament. Most MEPs return to their respective elected states on a Thursday evening to spend the Friday and often weekends dealing with individual districts, local establishments, national and local politicians, businesses, local councils, etc. The four-week break without parliamentary meetings during the year and the annual parliamentary recesses (four weeks in summer, two at Christmas/ New Year) could also be used for constituency tasks.

MEPs can also employ staff to assist them, they usually employ three or four assistants working split between their constituency office and their office in Parliament. MEPs have seats in the Parliament with less powers over particular subjects than their local and national parliaments such as in health and education, law & order or defense, but, they hold significant power over economic subjects (e.g. trade, consumer protection, employment law.)

MEPs also have a duty, according to a proposal by the European Council, to elect the President of the Commission, and; following the public hearings of the candidates, they ratify and confirm the appointment of the whole Commission. In addition, The MEPS may also dismiss the Commission with a vote of no-confidence if need be. The members of the parliament may also block particular Commission decisions in which there has been a delegation of powers to the Commission and may repeal such delegation of powers.

International treaties and/or settlements inhabited by the European Union (e.g. trade agreements, WTO, etc.) require the approval of the MEPs to become official agreements and documents. The annual budget of the European Union is adopted jointly by the Council of the European Union and the MEPs in the parliament. They also decide on the overall limit of



the EU spending by unanimous consensus of all Member States and a multilateral Financial Framework laid down by Council with Parliament's consent.

VII) Current Agendas of the European Parliament

European Parliament is a kind of international assembly, so there are several sorts of debates on the topics related to the Members of the Parliament. Firstly, it is important to know how to determine the agendas in the European Parliament.

For instance, the Parliament gathers between Monday, 16 December 2019 and Thursday, 19 December 2019 in Strasbourg, France. Before the sessions, the officials of the European Parliament specify the agendas considering the political groups and delegations. Following that the agendas are revised by the Presidency in order to announce to the international community. Lastly, the President of the European Parliament, currently David Sassoli, approves the agendas. The Under-Secretariat-General will announce the agenda of the Plenary Session of the European Parliament in Bebek, Istanbul.

Here are some parts of the agenda of the plenary session of European Parliament between 16 December 2019 and 19 December 2019 in Strasbourg:

Monday 16

- 1)** Commission statement: Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Romanian revolution of December 1989 (Vote: Thursday)
- 2)** JD (Joint Debate): VAT fraud and payment service providers
- 3)** JD (Joint Debate): Appointment of the members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank
- 4)** Fair taxation in a digitalized and globalized economy

Tuesday 17

- 1)** Commission statement: The rule of law in Malta, after the recent revelations around the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia (Vote: Thursday)
- 2)** OQ (Oral Questions) Conflict of interest and corruption affecting the protection of the EU's financial interests in Member States Commission
- 3)** Commission statement: EU disability strategy post 2020
- 4)** OQ: Enabling the digital transformation of health and care

Wednesday 18



- 1) Commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Lisbon Treaty and the legally binding the Charter of Fundamental Rights (followed by one round of political group speakers)
- 2) Award of the Sakharov Prize
- 3) Topical debate: Compatibility between the current EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement and the commission's proposal for a European Green Deal
- 4) Council and the Commission statement: An EU strategy to put an end to female genital mutilation around the World (Vote: February 2020)
- 5) Situation of Uyghur in China
- 6) Humanitarian situation in Venezuela and migration and refugee crisis
- 7) Situation of human rights and democracy in Nicaragua

Thursday 19

- 1) Debates on cases of breaches of human rights
 - a) Violations of human rights including religious freedom in Burkina Faso
 - b) Afghanistan, notably the allegations of sexual abuse of boys in the Logar province
 - c) The Russian "Foreign Agents" Law
- 2) VOTES followed by explanations of votes
 - a) Motions for resolutions (MRs) concerning debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law
 - b) MRs, Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Romanian Revolution of December 1989
 - c) MRs, The rule of law in Malta, after the recent revelations around the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia
 - d) MRs, Situation of Uyghur in China
 - e) MRs, Situation of human rights and democracy in Nicaragua
- 3) Commission statement: USTR announcement section 301 investigation regarding the digital service tax

VIII) Documents of the Parliament

European Parliament have lots of subcommittees which specialize on the several issues as the environment, immigration, finance, development, technology, education etc. by its nature. Therefore, there are several types of procedural documents that have been prepared



mostly by the rapporteurs. As the Under-Secretariat-General of the European Parliament in Boğaziçi MUN 2020, we would like to minimize the documents and to follow the procedure as far as possible.

a. Report in the form of a letter

Opinion in the form of a letter is a document that the Members of Parliament should submit to the Presidency of the European Parliament (Committee Directors) in order to express their thoughts and their perspectives or to ask questions to the parliament in written regarding current debate.

b. Press Release

Press Release is a document that announce the current situation in the Parliament to the international community. Press Release may be published by the consensus of a political group or by the decision of the Presidency of the European Parliament in order to announce current decisions or debates.

c. Report Quotidien

Report Quotidien is an official report of the Parliament which will be prepared by the Members of Parliament in order to report the day. MEPs will be determining about following agendas or votes regarding to the actualité. (Format will be published on the handbook.)

IX) Bibliography

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Renew Europe https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renew_Europe

European Conservatives and Reformists https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ECR_Group



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X) Annexes

a. Annex I : Example Report (Letter)

February 3, 2020

Strasbourg, France

TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

As the Member of the Parliament, I would like to

express.....

.....

Signature

Name of the MEP

(Political Group)



b. Annex II : Example Press Release

February 3, 2020

Strasbourg, France

P R E S S R E L E A S E

.....
.....
.....

Signature

Representative of the Political Group

APPROVED

President of the European Parliament