

2017





**5-7 May 2017**

**Venice International University, San Servolo, Venice**

**Organized in collaboration with:**



**Ca' Foscari University of Venice** was born as the first **business school in Italy** and the **second in Europe**. Today it provides several courses in various departments, such as **Languages, Management, Environmental studies, Philosophy, Science, Humanities, International Relations** and more. Just like the city that hosts it, it is a crossroad of cultures, fields of research, ideas and creativity; a modern university that keeps abreast of things by realizing, within its **eight departments**, advanced research projects and innovative study programs that guarantee an excellent educational experience. Through its **five interdepartmental schools**, Ca' Foscari works with cross-cutting and integrated educational approaches. Whoever studies in Venice can this way acquire a wider range of and more articulate skills: economy interfaces with cultural heritage, languages intersect with economics, restoration meets science just to cite a few examples.

**For further information:**

<http://www.unive.it/>



**Venice International University (VIU)** is something unique in the international academic environment: a **group of 17 Universities** from all over the world sharing a common Campus on the **beautiful Island of San Servolo**, in the Venice lagoon. These Universities collegially devise study programs to prepare their students to face today's global challenges: **Sustainable Development, Ageing and Welfare, Global Ethics and Cultural Heritage** are central topics of VIU programs. Students who choose to spend a term studying at VIU are taught to move across disciplines and through cultures with a flexible approach, an open mind and creative thinking. VIU offers its support for research programs involving the various Universities that form its network, and develops specific programs for advanced training.

**For further information:**

<http://www.univiu.org/>





The **Venice Diplomatic Society (VDS)** is a **non-profit organisation** founded in 2015 by students of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy. Its main aims are rising awareness and giving students and citizens the chance **of acknowledging the complex functioning of the greatest international organizations**, introducing them to their inner dynamics, organising workshops to train them to speak in a foreign language in front of an international audience, debating on the hottest topics of the planet's agenda – from current geopolitical crises to environmental issues, but also the theme of refugees, the allocation of foreign investments and violations of international law, gender equality, on-going conflicts and wars, human rights issues. It also puts students in contact with the reality of Model United Nations (Model UN or MUNs), which are extra-curricular activities where students play the role of Delegates of the United Nations and simulate the inner proceedings of UN committees. After the first VeUMUN on 2016, Venice Diplomatic Society is glad to announce the first edition of the simulation of the European Union, VeUMEU 2017, with the collaboration of their new partner **Bringing Europeans Together Association, BETA Italia**.

**For further information:**

<https://www.vdsviews.com/>

[https://www.facebook.com/Venice-Diplomatic-Society-290760707714434/?notif\\_t=page\\_fan](https://www.facebook.com/Venice-Diplomatic-Society-290760707714434/?notif_t=page_fan)



**Europe Direct** is a **European Commission information network** designed to inform citizens about the activities and opportunities offered by the European Union. Europe Direct aims to **reinforce citizens' sense of attachment to the European Union** by involving them in the process of

building Europe. The Veneto has a Europe Direct information relay, set up by the City of Venice - as leading figure - and 18 institutional partners: the Veneto Region, the Prefettura di Venezia, the Provinces of Venice, Belluno, Padua, Rovigo and Treviso, the Venice Chamber of Commerce, the Eurosportello of Unioncamere Veneto, the Cities of Bassano del Grappa, Chioggia, Jesolo, Padova, Thiene and Valdagno, Università Iuav di Venezia (Architecture and Design), ESU of Venezia (Students' Union) and USR (the Veneto Regional Schools). 32 centers in the region support citizens in accessing information relative to the areas of activity of the European Union. Since 2008 the information relay has also hosted **Eurodesk**, providing young people and youth workers with information on the sector-opportunities offered by the European Union and the European Council.

**For further information:**

<http://europa.eu/contact/>

[www.comune.venezia.it/europedirect](http://www.comune.venezia.it/europedirect)

Email: [infoeuropa@comune.venezia.it](mailto:infoeuropa@comune.venezia.it)





**BETA Italia - Bringing Europeans Together Association** was created by young Italians with a specific purpose: to **contribute to the achievement of a European citizenship**. Young people represents the core value that will permit the success of the integration project of the European Union. Nowadays Europe is undergoing a Post-Truth period, so the diffusion of a **correct and truthful information** on the issue of **EU functioning** and **on the rights and the duties** its citizens can enjoy has to be considered a fundamental goal. For these reasons, starting from 2016 BETA-Italia saw the light as a part of a widest network created by BETA Europe and it is starting to collaborate with other associations which shares the same core values.

**For further information:**

<https://betaitalia.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/betaitaly/>

[mail: infobetaitalia@gmail.com](mailto:infobetaitalia@gmail.com)

### **Contact Information for the Venice Model European Union 2017**

For information about the **preparatory workshop and VeUMEU contents** write to: [veumeu@vdsviews.com](mailto:veumeu@vdsviews.com)

For information about **organization and logistics** write to: [shss@univiu.org](mailto:shss@univiu.org)



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# Welcome Letter from your Director General & Deputy Director General

Dear Participants,

We are honoured to welcome you to the Venice Universities' Model European Union 2017, the very first edition of the VeUMEU, a dream come true! The dream of two young organizations of creating a MEU in Venice – the Venice Diplomatic Society (VDS) and Bringing European Together Association Italia (BETA Italia) has finally taken form. After the huge success of the first edition of the Venice Universities' Model United Nations (VeUMUN), organized last year by VDS - also in partnership with Ca' Foscari University and the Venice International University - we now have the joy to present to you this new project. Our team has been working on it for months and we do hope you will make the best out of this experience and that you will enjoy the fantastic location, on San Servolo Island – Venice. Venice has always been characterised by an international dimension, with a leading role, throughout its glorious history, in international relations, commerce and diplomacy. Its ties with the EU are strong, emphasised by the presence of the headquarters of European institutions such as the Council of Europe and Europe Direct on the Venetian territory and numerous European projects promoted by the local schools, universities and NGOs, both in the private and public sector.

The two main **topics** that we will work on over the weekend are related to the most challenging difficulties that the EU is facing nowadays: on the one hand, in a Europe divided by the threat of terrorism, that is building walls and fences, we, as EU citizens, try to find solutions for a more inclusive society, focusing on **EQUAL TREATMENT** (topic 1) policies; on the other hand we, as young Europeans and the leaders of tomorrow, try to safeguard our environment developing green strategies to enhance the use of **RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES** (topic 2). In a moment of great uncertainty for the EU, while some have already expressed their distrust in its institutions and as Brexit has already begun to put pressure on them, we stand here united in the belief that there can be a better future for Europe if we all enforce its core values and laws, if we start to get actively involved in creating a better, greener and more inclusive future for our region. We strongly believe in the importance of putting human rights first, in underlining the ideals that unite us and overcoming the differences and fears that divides us. We believe we all share the responsibility of safeguarding our planet and we would like to say see you at the simulation, leaving you with the following two quotations in mind:

- “We were all humans until race disconnected us, religion separated us, politics divided us and wealth classified us.” (Pravinee Hurbungs)
- “SAVE THE PLANET! THERE IS NO PLAN(ET) B!” (GreenPeace)

Best Wishes,

*Melissa Pirri & Alexandra David*



# Director General's Profile



Welcome Participants!

I am **Melissa Pirri** from Modena, currently a student of Asian languages (Japanese and Economics curriculum). My South-American origins made me travel all around the world, and my passion on international and social issues took me to work in different volunteer projects like in Taiwan and Japan.

I participated in the RomeMUN 2016 with the Ca' Foscari delegation, representing Ecuador in the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Ex-AIESECer,

Minister of France at the Model European Union in Strasbourg in 2016 and member of the Bringing Europeans Together Association. After the European simulation, with other former participants I founded the Italian branch of the Bringing European Together Association (BETA Italia) and I am currently the Vice-President. Guided by the cooperative spirit of BETA Italia and the Venice Diplomatic Society, we joined forces and began planning the first MEU in Venice for university students.

I am deeply honored to be your **Director General** in the Venice Universities' Model European Union 2017. I strongly believe that international projects and simulations will spread understanding and tolerance throughout the world as well as help people to take the next step towards a more egalitarian society. Our strength may be found in our cultural diversity and we have the duty to defend and preserve it. My Dear Participants, learn as much as possible, debate with all your passion and begin to take action to bring about what you want to see in our world! Enjoy!



# Deputy Director General's Profile



Dear Participants,

Welcome to the first edition of the VeUMEU! I am **Anca Alexandra David** and I am honored to be your **Deputy Director**. I am one of the founding members of VDS and Counsellor of the Board. At the moment, I teach English, both as a job and as a volunteer in a high school in Mestre – where I am a tutor for dyslexic children. I strongly believe in the importance of equal treatment and for this reason I chose to concentrate on Directive 1. However, I also have environmental issues at heart and hope that the young generations will become promoters of a greener, more sustainable future for Europe and the world. I come from Romania and, in moving to Italy as a teenager, I started to

acknowledge my European identity. I now have double citizenship, but I feel European above all. I am actively involved in rising awareness on the European values and my main interests regard European enlargement and the protection of the fundamental human rights, in Europe and worldwide. My Bachelor's Degree dissertation focused on the Eurasian Union, conceptualized in parallel with the EU and considering the issue of their overlap in the Eastern European region. In fact, I am specialized in Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet Space. I hope I will be able to help you to address the most pressing issues in the two Directives and I look forward to meet you all!



# The Venice Universities Model

## European Union 2017



The **Venice Model European Union 2017** focuses on **sustainability** and **equal treatment**. During the Model EU the delegates will be asked to **discuss** the following **Commission's proposals**:

- Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation- COM (2008) 426  
→ **DIRECTIVE 1**
- Proposal for a Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2016/0382 (COD)) → **DIRECTIVE 2**



# Workshop Schedule

Saturday, 8 April 2017



	Parliament	Council & Press
09:00 – 09:30	Registration	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome	Welcome
10:00 – 11:30	EU legislative institution, Definition of directive Ordinary Legislative Process	EU legislative institution, Definition of directive Ordinary Legislative Process
11:30 – 12:15	Directive 2	Directive 1 and Q&A
12:15 – 13:00	Directive 1 and Q&A	Directive 2
13:00 – 14:00	BREAK	BREAK
14:00 – 14.30	Brexit case	Brexit
15:00 – 16:00	Parliament Workshop	Council and Press workshop (Press will meet in another room)



# Conference Schedule

## Friday, 5 May 2017

	Parliament	Council
09.00 – 09.30	Registration	Registration
09.30 – 11.30	Welcome	Welcome
11.30 – 12.00	Roll Call & Commissioner's speech on Directive 2	Roll Call & Commissioner's speech on Directive 1
12.00 – 13.00	Opening speeches	Opening speeches
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	Lunch
14.00 – 16.00	General debate	General debate
16.00 – 17.10	Amendments' debate	Amendments' debate
17.20 – 17.50	Press Conference	Press Conference

## Saturday, 6 May 2017

	Parliament	Council
09:30 – 10:30	Roll Call & Amendments' vote	Roll Call & Amendments' vote
10:30 – 11:00	Commissioner & Council Speech on Directive 1	Commissioner & Parliament speech on Directive 2
11:00 – 11.15	Faction Meetings	Opening speeches
11.15 – 12.00	Opening speeches	General Debate
12:00 – 13:00	General Debate	General Debate
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	General Debate	General Debate
15:30 – 17:15	Amendments' Debate	Amendments' Debate
17:20 – 17:50	Press Conference	Press Conference

## Sunday, 7 May 2017

	Parliament	Council
09:30 – 10:15	Amendments' vote	Amendments' vote
10:15 – 11.45	Commissioner and Council Defense	Commissioner and Parliament Defense
11.45 – 12:30	General Debate	General Debate
12:30 – 13:00	Final Vote	Final Vote
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Press Conference	Press Conference
14:30 – 16:00	Evaluation Focus Groups and Networking, including group photos	Evaluation Focus Groups and Networking, including group photos
16:00 – 17:50	Closing Ceremony	Closing Ceremony



# Location



The **Venice Model European Union 2017** will be held on the campus of Venice International University, on the island of San Servolo, Venice.

## ***How to reach San Servolo island:***

The **n°20 vaporetto** (public transport) connects the island with the city center in a 10 minute journey. It departs from **San Zaccaria**, the waterfront adjacent to Piazza San Marco. The landing dock for the n°20 vaporetto is "San Zaccaria Monumento" in front of the Londra Palace Hotel.

Remember to arrive a few minutes before departure time.

Link to **Line n°20 timetable**: <http://www.univiu.org/line-20-boat-timetable>

### *- From Piazzale Roma or the Train Station to San Servolo :*

ACTV Public water bus no. **1, 5.1, 4.1** (only from Piazzale Roma) or **2** direction "Lido", getting off at San Zaccaria. From here make your way to the S.Zaccaria – M.V.E. stop, **line 20** for San Servolo (see above).

Link to ACTV waterbus timetable: <http://actv.avmspa.it/content/orari-servizio-di-navigazione-0>

### *- From Lido to San Servolo:*

From Lido take **boat n°1, n°2, n°5.2 or n°14** to San Zaccaria boat. Change to line n°20 which leaves from "San Zaccaria Monumento" boat stop opposite the Londra Palace Hotel.



- *Arriving by train:*

Venice has rail connections with every major city in Italy and the rest of Europe.

The main train station, Venezia Santa Lucia, is on the Grand Canal in the northwest of the city.

## **Public Transport: ACTV tickets & prices**

### LAND SERVICES

€ 1,50 - ORDINARY TICKET FOR *LAND SERVICES*, 75 MIN

€ 14,00 - ORDINARY TICKETS BOOKLET (10 tickets) FOR *LAND SERVICES*, 75 MIN TRIPS

Allows using the land services of Lido island and the mainland city of Mestre (to Piazzale Roma), Tram and People Mover for 75 minutes from stamping, with transport means change allowed.

### NAVIGATION SERVICE FARES for “VENEZIA UNICA” CARD HOLDERS

€ 1.50 – 75 MINUTE “RETE UNICA” TICKET and € 2.00 – 100 MINUTE “RETE UNICA” TICKET

or € 3,00 – 75 MINUTE *ON-BOARD* TICKET FOR “RETE UNICA”

RETE UNICA TICKET BOOKLET (10 tickets) – € 14,00 FOR 75 MIN TRIPS and € 19.00 FOR 100 MIN TRIPS

Allows 75 or 100 min. travel from the moment of validation on urban network (Navigation services, Lido, Mestre, Tram and People Mover). The validation process must be repeated at each change of travel means. The ticket does not include ACTV navigation routes 16, 19, Alilaguna services and buses travelling to and from the Marco Polo airport.

Monthly Rete Unica (Lagoon services, Lido, Mestre with Aerobus, Lido, Tram, People Mover)

Ordinary € 37,00, Students € 25,00

Car Park + Rete Unica € 51,00

“VENEZIA UNICA”– IMOB CARD can be requested by people resident in Venice (additional cost: €10), in the Veneto Region (additional cost: 20€) or outside Veneto region (additional cost: €50) at any ACTV main ticket office, and is valid for 5 years.

### NAVIGATION SERVICE FARES *without* “VENEZIA UNICA”– IMOB CARD

- € 7.50 – 75 MINUTE TICKET and *ON-BOARD* TICKET

Allows 75 min. travel from the moment of validation on urban network (Navigation services).

The price includes a luggage not exceeding 150 cm (three sides total sum).

- € 5.00 one way, or € 10.00 Return ticket CROSS Service

valid only for short journeys, between San Marco (San Zaccaria) – San Servolo stop.

For more information: <http://actv.avmspa.it/en/content/prices>



# The European Commission

## Role of the Commissioner

At European level, the European Commission holds a central role within the decision-making process, since it is responsible for proposing legislations.

The Venice Universities Model European Union has the purpose of simulating such processes. Therefore, participants will be already provided with two proposals for a Directive: one regarding the promotion of renewable energy sources; the other one regarding equal treatment.

The role of the VeUMEU Commissioners will be: proposing the directives to the participants at the beginning of each day, by underscoring what matters to the UE as a whole; proposing amendments and influencing the course of the discussions in accordance with the objectives and principles of the European Union, specifically of the European Commission. On the second day, in fact, Commissioners will present the already amended directives, and they may explain what modifications are still needed.

During the simulation, participants can ask for the help of the Commissioners by proposing a motion to call the Commissioner, and in that occasion they can ask for clarifications, or they can ask them to state the position of the Commission on that particular matter. However, Commissioners are not obliged to help or guide participants as the Chair does, because they play an active role within the simulation.

Also, Commissioners will be involved in the Trilogue meetings, which are meetings with exponents of the Council and Parliament, where they will be updated on the proceedings and informed on the development of the discussions.

Commissioners will also be present at the Press Conference (at the end of every day) to comment the work in progress.

Commissioners will have the last word on the directives and amendments, declaring whether they have been accepted by the Commission or not before the final voting on the last day of discussion.



# Commissioners' Profile

## Directive 1



Hello, dear participants!

I am **Filippo Schena**, and I am really excited to be your European Commissioner for the First Directive – Equal Treatment.

Currently, I am at the 2nd year of my Master's Degree in Comparative International Relations at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, concentrating on International Relations Europe - East Asia. Also, I am deeply interested in the world cultural heritage, especially Greek art history and photography.

Thanks to a scholarship offered by the Ca' Foscari University, in February I had the great pleasure to go to Boston and participate in the Harvard National Model United Nations 2017, representing Singapore in the Disarmament and International Security Committee, the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee of the General Assembly. It has been one of the most enriching experiences I have ever had in my academic career so far, both on a personal and cultural level. For this reason, I decided to join Venice Diplomatic Society and take part in the VeUMEU as an organizer: I simply couldn't miss this opportunity!

The European Union is undoubtedly experiencing hard times today, with several important problems to tackle, and we all, as European citizens, need to do our best and take on our responsibilities. But I am very positive: I

resolutely trust the power of youth and our fresh minds, and I believe the VeUMEU is a perfect

*milieu* where, working together, we could give our contribution and ameliorate the current situation.

I can't wait to start and really look forward to meeting all of you!



# Introduction to Directive 1

**Introduction to the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council amending Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons, irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, amending Directive 2004/113/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services and amending Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation**

## **Proposal Overview**

This proposal attempts to implement the principle of fair and equal treatment on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation outside the labor market. Also, it aims to lead to equality in practice and establish a uniform minimum level of protection within the European Union for people who have suffered such discrimination. The term 'discrimination' encompasses direct discrimination, indirect discrimination and any form of harassment.

Member State representatives shall designate independent bodies in charge of promoting the principle of equal treatment. These bodies should provide assistance to victims, conduct independent surveys on the matter, publish reports and make recommendations dealing with the issue. Also, Member States shall be in charge of spreading information about all the provisions concerning the proposal, by appropriate means, across their territory and shall foster dialogue with institutions having interest in contributing to the same scope. (art. 10, art. 11, art. 12).

Although Member States, at their discretion, shall take necessary measures to ensure the respect of the principle of equal treatment, the European Commission is strongly committed to cooperating and collaborating with them all, in order to guarantee uniformity in protecting the principle of equal treatment, notwithstanding the diversity of European societies, with a double and multilevel approach, from the point of view of the Community and of each single nation.

In conclusion, it is fundamental to bear in mind that this proposal dates back to 2008. Over the years, the natural evolution of the debate based on this Directive has lead the focus of the European Commission to gradually shift to the importance of equality in gender and sexual orientation specifically. Although the grounds mentioned in art. 1 are vital in defining a fair and equal treatment, attention shall be paid to the following final aspect: overcome discrimination on the grounds of LGBTI, gender identity and gender equality.

## **Limits of the Proposal**

1. The relevant scope of the directive: equal treatment outside the labor market (art. 1, art. 3)



The focus of the Directive is the prohibition of discrimination outside the labor market, be it direct, indirect or any form of harassment. The reason of this very statement stays in the implementation of the previous directives. As can be read below, in the history section, discrimination inside the labor market is an already dealt with issue. Therefore, the prohibition of discrimination shall apply to all persons, both in the public and in the private sector, as for social protection, social security, healthcare, social advantages, education, access to and supply of goods and other services available to the public (only professional or commercial activities are covered).

## 2. Disabilities (art. 4)

Although the directive aims to apply equal treatment to all people, persons with disabilities have been given a special attention. It also addresses the need for reasonable accommodation, whose denial is considered discrimination: to avoid the limit of disproportionate burden, better explained in section 5, it encompasses the idea of providing a service with alternative means.

## 3. Minimum standards (art. 6)

It is essential to underscore that the efforts of the European Union to set minimum standards to guarantee an equal treatment for all means that firstly, each Member States is free to guarantee more favorable conditions if it believes so, and secondly, a Member State should not lower the already set level of protection.

## 4. Legal Protection (art. 7, art. 8, art. 9, art. 13, art. 14, art. 15)

Victims of discrimination should be able to use administrative or judicial procedures to enforce their rights and obtain protection against retaliation with the help of associations, organizations and other legal entities. For instance, a difficulty victims have often faced is the burden of proof, or obtaining the evidence necessary to prove their case: this is the reason why, to all cases alleging a violation of the equal treatment principle, the shift of burden of proof can be applied. Furthermore, Member States are in charge of abolishing any administrative provisions, regulations and laws against the principle of equal treatment, laying down rules on effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions; adopting laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive.

## 5. Limits and exceptions

Although the Directive is based on the prohibition of discrimination, the concept is not supposed to be considered *in toto*, because it is crucial to respect other fundamental rights and freedoms such as protecting private and family life, freedom of religion, and freedom of association. Therefore, we recommend a list of exceptions that should be taken into account:

- Depending on the product, the use of age or disability by insurers and banks to assess the risk profile of customers is not necessarily considered a form of discrimination. However, it shall always be based on data and statistics;
- Differences of treatment based on age may be lawful, if they are justified by a legitimate aim and by the appropriate means;
- Measures of reasonable accommodation should not impose a disproportionate burden or require major changes to the product or service;
- Member State are not obliged to amend its present laws and practices;
- The Directive does not affect: a) national measures based on public security, public order, the prevention of criminal offences, the protection of health and the rights and freedoms of others; b) national rules governing the activities of churches and other religious groups or their relationship with the state;



- This Directive does not cover: a) differences of treatment based on nationality; b) national laws relating to the secular nature of the State and its institutions, to the status of religious groups; c) matters related to marital and family status, which include adoption and reproductive rights; d) transactions between private individuals acting in a private capacity (only if the subject encompasses the competences of the Community).

### **History of the Proposal and Previous Legislation**

The defense of the principle of fair and equal treatment and the fight against discrimination are major priorities to the European Commission. Not only is the value of equality one of the basic human rights, that the European Union attempts to protect and promote, but it also constitutes a universal right recognized worldwide.

The previous legislation against discrimination is composed of three directives: 2000/43/EC, 2000/78/EC and 2004/113/EC. Directive 2000/43/EC on racial equality has been dealing with the fight against discrimination based on race and ethnic origin; Directive 2000/78/EC on employment equality deals with discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in the workplace; Directive 2004/113/EC aimed to implement gender equality in accessing and supplying goods and services.

This proposal builds upon the Amsterdam Treaty, aiming to contrast discrimination in the European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs and the objectives of the EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process.

Another relevant document for the proposal is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed by the Member States and the European Community, which encompasses the principles of non-discrimination, participation and inclusion in society, equal opportunities and accessibility.



# Commission Notes on Equal Treatment

## Sexual Orientation (art. 1)

The 2015 Eurobarometer on discrimination shows that almost 60% of EU citizens see discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as widespread, and 71% of respondents support equal rights for LGBTI people. This is the reason why currently the Commission is fully engaged in assuring equal treatment and fighting discrimination against sexual orientation. Initiatives aiming to stop discrimination, prejudice and hate are in the foreground: in fact, recently the Commission has defined a *List of Actions to advance LGBTI Equality* that shall be implemented in the period 2016-2019.

## Equality in practice (art. 2, art. 5)

One of the main objectives of the Commission is to initiate the implementation of the affirmed principles, focusing on the immediate adoption of said provisions at national level. It is not sufficient at all the guarantee of a formal equality, because measures shall be put in place both in public and in private sectors to provide genuine social inclusion and full participation in civil society. The impact assessment report underscores that there are differences across Europe in applying measures of non-discrimination, even though the principle of non-discrimination is widely recognized to be one of the fundamental values of the EU. In this view, we consider the support of intermediary actors and organizations with a legitimate interest in giving their contribution to combat discrimination, such as NGOs and equality bodies, of vital importance.

## Education (art. 3)

The implementation of the previous legislation matters enormously to the Commission. In particular, as far as education is concerned, the directive 2000/78/EC focuses on the prohibition of discrimination in access to vocational training. Since it does not encompass education, the Commission is committed to extend the principle of equal treatment even in this field. Notably, Member States shall focus their efforts on disadvantaged children and with special educational needs.

## Raising awareness (art. 10)

The Commission is strongly committed to raising awareness across Europe, in order to succeed in spreading the principle of equal treatment. There are many initiatives taking place on the European level: debates, exhibitions, workshops, seminars, conferences. Notably, it is essential to mention the campaign *For diversity. Against discrimination* and the *European Year of Equal Opportunities for All*. Also, the dissemination of information and social dialogue activities are necessary to make human rights known, used, understood and respected by all: legal protection, taking action against discrimination, receiving help in the promotion of the principle of equal treatment, and assistance in judicial or administrative procedures after a complaint should be guaranteed to each and every person, at national and international level.



## Elimination of inequalities

Although in art. 1 of the proposal there is no mention of gender equality, so it goes beyond its scope, nothing prevents Member States from discussing it seriously. The promotion of equality between men and women, especially because women are victims of different types of discrimination, is an issue the Commission has particularly at heart: dating back to 1957, it is one of the founding values of the EU. However, the path is still so long to achieve the full application of the principle. This is the reason why on December 2015 the *Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019* has been published.



# Commissioner's Profile

## Directive 2



Hello everyone!

My name is **Sara Dal Monico**, I am 24 years old and currently, I am studying International Relations (Cross Cultural Curriculum) at Ca' Foscari University.

Last year I took part in the first Venice MUN, where I represented the United States of America in UNCHR and gained the prize as Best Delegate.

This year I was offered to challenge myself even more, as I have been involved in the organization of this first VeUMEU, participating as European Commissioner.

Some of my deepest interests regard human rights and the environment: as a matter of fact I will help you deal with the Proposal for a Directive on the promotion of renewable energy sources.

I strongly believe in the importance and effectiveness of such projects and simulations, which in a way compel us to have a deeper understanding of our institutions as well as other cultures, even if sometimes we wouldn't want to. This is one of the best (and funniest!) ways to fight intolerance, indifference, and ignorance. I am honored to be once again part of something like this and I hope you will all enjoy and learn as much as possible!



# Introduction to Directive 2

## **Introduction to the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council amending the Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources**

The proposal of the Commission for the amendment of the Directive 2009/28/EC aims at improving the efforts to fight climate change through the implementation of Renewable Energy Sources and at strengthening the commitment that the EU has so forth displayed. As a matter of fact, a further attempt of the Commission is to stress the engagement to increase the EU level binding renewable energy target up to 27% by 2030, in light of the commitments undertaken in the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and as agreed by the European Council.

It is believed that Renewable Energy Sources (RES) are essential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which are among the main causes of climate change. Moreover, RES give a significant contribution in improving citizens' health and in protecting the environment, and also creating job opportunities throughout the European Union. For this reasons, the European Parliament has called upon the Commission, to further increase the EU level binding from 27% to 30%, by 2030.

The model on which this proposal is based is the 2020 climate and energy package, which has been updated after the Paris Agreement, and changed into the 2030 climate and energy policy framework. This framework has proposed a set of three main targets, which will contribute to achieve decarbonisation by 2050. The targets basically are: 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption, and at least 27% energy savings.

The impacts will mostly affect the energy sector, as well as in agriculture and land use, transport and industry, health and social welfare, ecosystems and environment. Thus every Member State is asked to be fully involved in the process of decarbonisation and climate change mitigation. Since environmental issues do not fall under the exclusive competences of the European Union, but also under shared competences, States can implement the necessary means in order to achieve the targets set forth by the 2030 framework, to reach the ambitious political priority of the Commission defined by President Juncker, of EU becoming the world's number one leader in the renewable energy sector.

According to the Commission, a fundamental step in reaching the 2030 targets regards the promotion of transparency and the participation of investors and other economic operators. By doing so, it will be possible to reduce the economic burden for Member States, so as to bring limited budgetary and administrative consequences for the public authorities of each European country. Moreover, in order to reduce costs and to comply with the Union targets, Members are asked to cooperate and exchange energy produced from RES.



According to the Commission, the choice of a Directive that has to be implemented by each Member State is the best instrument to comply with the aims of the Union. Indeed, Directives clearly define the objectives that are to be reached, while leaving to the Member States enough flexibility and space of action in order to act in the way which suits their national situation best.

## LEGAL BASIS

- 1.1. **Article 194(2)** of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides the legal basis to this Proposal, while ensuring to the Union the competences to take measures with regard to renewable energies.
- 1.2. The **subsidiarity principle (art. 5 Treaty on European Union)** is fundamental to the EU decision-making process. It is mostly relevant in the sphere of shared competences of the European Union, as it aims at determining its righteous level of intervention in case of the aforementioned competences. According to this principle, the European Union can intervene only if it is able to act more effectively than the Member States themselves, at a national or local level. Regarding this Proposal, EU action might be needed according to the Commission, since several barriers to public and private investments could be tackled, addressing the lack of coordination at national level and among the countries. Moreover, the development of bioenergy has some cross border features, which could be more efficiently addressed through the EU action. Thus the Proposal complies with the subsidiarity principle.
- 1.3. The **proportionality principle (art. 5 Treaty on European Union)** concerns the sphere of competences of the European Union as well. Its aim is to set the intervention of the Union within specific bounds: as a matter of fact, its action must be limited only to what is necessary in order to achieve the objectives set out by the Treaties. The Proposal complies with this principle, since it establishes the actions that the Union has to undertake in order to meet the 27% target for the 2030 framework. Nonetheless, the Member States are granted flexibility so as to address the issue at their best and to develop the renewable energy sector according to their national situation and capability.

## Limits of the Present Directive 2

### 2.1 The need to enact policies both at national and European level to comply with 2030 target

It has been estimated that if no policies are put in place rapidly, the already existing policies at EU and national level won't be sufficient, since they would only lead to approximately a 24.3% of renewable energy consumption. Consequently, it would undermine both the 27% target and the 30% target auspicated by the Parliament, and also the Union ambition to become a world leader in renewable energy. Thus, both the need for a regulatory framework involving Member States and the institutions of the Union and the need for cooperation are essential, so as to avoid the risk that only the best performing Members will continue and strengthen their commitment in renewable energy consumption, while those who are lagging behind will not find an incentive to increase their policies. As previously mentioned, States will be granted some flexibility to suit their situation at best.



## **2.2 The need for transparency and guarantee of origins**

It is believed by the Commission that the 2030 framework established by the European Union can only be effectively achieved through a high level of transparency. The energy sector not only involves energy produced within the borders of the European Union, but also energy imported from abroad for those countries that are unable to produce it from renewable sources themselves. In order to comply with the 27% target, it is possible for those countries to exchange energy with other Member States or with countries outside the Union; thus the need for transparency and guarantees of origin (GO) is crucial in order to avoid illegal procedures or use of energy, which has not been actually produced by RES. Nonetheless, the Proposal widens the guarantees of origin system also to renewable gas and makes it mandatory for the energy, heating, cooling and transport sectors. Member States shall designate a competent authority, which will then supervise the issuance, transfer or cancellation of the GOs.

## **2.3 The heating and cooling sectors**

The heating and cooling sectors are considered as fundamental in accelerating the process of decarbonisation, and previsions have estimated that by 2030, 40% of clean energy within the Union will come from these two sectors, if adequate policies and infrastructures will be set in place. The lack of such policies so far has led to slow progresses in such sectors and large discrepancies among Member States. Nonetheless, the Commission has recognised their potential through the deployment of renewable energies and energy efficiency. States are required to increase the share of renewable energy supplies for these sectors at least by 1% nationally each year, so as to comply with the goals set by the Commission.

## **2.4 Sustainable biogas, bioliquids and biomass fuels**

The majority of current biofuels are produced from food crops. The Commission believes that these alternatives will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly, thus what the Commission auspicates is to send a clear signal of innovation in one of the most “carbonized” sectors, by encouraging the production and development of such fuels. Criteria of transparency and rules are to be issued by the Commission in order to achieve such goals effectively.

## **HISTORY OF THE DIRECTIVE AND PREVIOUS LEGISLATION**

The commitment of the European Union to promote RES dates back to the oil crisis of the 1970s. The Union and the previous European Community have always been concerned with the matter, and have also strengthened their involvement internationally throughout the years.

After the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, binding the European Union to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, the Union adopted the *Directive on Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources (2001/77/EC)* in 2001, which aimed at increasing the consumption of renewable energy sources up to 12% in 2010, and a further increase up to 20% in 2020.



The 2001/77/EC was then abrogated in 2009 with the *Directive on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources (2009/28/EC)*, which provided a set of common norms on the use of RES, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote more environmental-friendly transports.

The Directive fixed national binding objectives for each Member State, in order to reach the 20% target for 2020, 10% of which specifically involving the transport sector. The Directive stressed the importance to guarantee the origins of the electricity, heating and cooling produced from renewable sources.



# Commission Notes on RES

Main purpose of this proposal (art. 1, 3)

The proposal by the Commission is to set a new ambitious target after 2020, with regard to the implementation of Renewable Energy Sources and renewable self-consumption, the adoption of sustainable biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels, which will lead to the overall goal of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Commission hopes to achieve at least a 27% use of RES by 2030, which could be further increased to 30% if joint efforts and policies are to be issued. These are also fundamental in order to avoid a gap in target achievement between Member States.

In relation to this topic, a point of discussion could concern the proposal on the Energy Union Governance, including (I) planning for each Member State to formulate suitable and sustainable plans, (II) reporting and (III) monitoring.

Information and transparency (art. 14, 18)

The burden of ensuring transparency and objective licensing lies upon each Member State, in order to avoid discrimination and illegal practices. Nonetheless, it is also their duty to remove all barriers, which could impede cooperation, purchase or uptake of RES. Transparency and accessible information are considered to be crucial to allow a fair development and to avoid gaps between Members.

A rather interesting point of discussion should regard campaigns for raising awareness among citizens, in order to help them to take responsible and informed decisions and to notify the benefits and practicalities coming from the use of RES. It has been recognised that the role of citizens regarding the promotion of clean energy is crucial, especially initiatives undertaken at educational levels with children. Children hold the future of each country, thus their contribution is ever more needed, and the involvement of school initiatives as well.

Guarantees of origin (art. 19)

The Commission holds guarantees of origin as essentials in favour of the 2030 target: their aim is to guarantee that the electricity supplied comes from renewable energy sources, thus they can only be issued if the criteria of objectiveness, transparency and non-discrimination are met. Each unit guaranteed with such certification shall be of the standard size of 1MWh and, most importantly, each unit shall be issued with only one guarantee of origin. Member States are required to designate competent bodies, or to supervise the issuance themselves, together with the transfer and cancellation of the guarantees;

however, the procedures will be supervised by the Commission as well, especially with regard to third countries. Although, an interesting confrontation may regard the establishment of a permanent body at Union level regulating and taking care of the issuance and annulment of guarantees of origin.



#### Heating and cooling sector (art. 14, 23)

These two sectors hold a great potential with regard to the exploitation of renewable energies, though in order to achieve this goal a discussion is needed, so to ensure a cost-efficient contribution to the target. It is desirable that Member States undertake at least a 1% increase in the share of renewable energy in these two sectors. Thus, each Member shall encourage the use of renewable energy heating and cooling systems in the construction sector, for instance, by using eco-labels or standards developed at national or Union level. Fundamental is the sharing of measures and efficient suppliers, so as to reach the increase auspicated and to promote transparency and clarity.



# The European Parliament Chairs' Profiles



Hello everyone!

My name is **Thomas Triangeli** and I will be the President of the European Parliament here at VeUMEU.

I am at the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of my Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, International Studies and Economics here at Ca' Foscari. Furthermore, I am attending two courses with the Venice International University, focusing on Economic Growth and Economic Crisis.

My interest for international affairs grew stronger when I decided to attend my fourth year of high school abroad, in Sweden. That experience broadened my view of the world and gave me the chance to get to know

one of the most interesting culture of Europe!

Last year I had the chance to participate at the first VeMUN here on San Servolo Island. I was the delegate of Angola in the SOCHUM Committee and I was appointed as "Best Delegate". The experience at VeMUN was very important to me as I understood that my academic path will focus on diplomatic studies and international relations. Moreover, I am very pleased to be part of the Venice Diplomatic Society and I strongly encourage you to become a member of this fantastic association!

The MEU experience will be very important to you, as you might understand whether you are interested in a field you did not take into consideration before this amazing experience. This is why I encourage you not be scared, just take a deep breath and act as a member of the European Parliament. I am sure you will do a fantastic job and each of you will make this experience memorable for everyone.





Hello! My name is **Rebecca Ciattini** and I will be the Vice-President of the European Parliament in this year's VeUMEU. I am currently attending Ca' Foscari University of Venice, where I study Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, in particular Arabic and Persian. Since I would like to major in Persian language, I spent a month in Iran studying at the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad. I have chosen this field of study because in the future I would like to work for the promotion and preservation of human rights in the Middle East. Because of my interests in international politics, last year I joined the Venice Diplomatic Society. I took part in two Models United Nations, one in New York, where I represented Albania at UNHCR and won the Best Delegation Award, and one in Venice, where I represented China at the Security Council. Furthermore, I was part of the team

that organized two conferences in Montebelluna, one about the Syrian Conflict and the other one about the nuclear program of Iran.

I cannot wait to be your Chair, and I hope this experience will be inspiring and mind-opening for all of you. This MEU may only be the first step of a long path, so make the best out of it! One day your passion, your enthusiasm and your efforts will make the difference.



Hello!

I am **Alessandra Biscaro**, I am a third-year student of the course in Languages, Civilization and the Science of Language with a specialization in International Politics. I study English, French and German. I have spent two months in Corsica (France) as an au pair and a month in a university in the south of England. In addition to this, I have collaborated on a twinning project between my town and Normandy.

I am interested in European law and human rights and in the future I would like to work in this field. I am writing my final dissertation about the jurisprudence of the ECHR and the IAHR regarding women's rights and I hope to graduate in July.

Last March I had the chance to take part in the

Rome Model United Nations representing Turkey in the General Assembly. It was a great experience because I got in contact with many students from other countries and we learnt how the UN work.

I believe that the VeUMEU will help you understand the importance of our institutions as well as other cultures. I'm looking forward to see you at our Model European Nations in Venice. I hope you will be enthusiastic and passionate as we are!



# Role of the European Parliament

## **The European Parliament, an Overview.**

The European Parliament was established in 1952 as Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community. Later, in 1962, it was appointed as the European Parliament where the first direct elections were held back in 1979. It is located in Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium). It is composed of 751 MEPs (Members of the European Parliament), and the current president is Antonio Tajani. The main roles of the European Parliament are three:

1. Legislative: it passes EU acts based on the EU Commission's proposals; it has the main voice on international agreements according to the TFEU; it reviews the Commission's work program.
2. Supervisory: it monitors the democratic scrutiny of all EU institutions; it examines citizens' petitions and sets up inquiries; it discusses monetary policy with the ECB (European Central Bank).
3. Budgetary: it approves the EU budget.

## **How does it work?**

The work of the European Parliament entails two stages:

1. Committees: they prepare legislations. The Parliament relies upon 20 committees which examine the proposal for legislations, and the MEPs may amend or reject these proposals.
2. Plenary sessions: their aim is to pass legislations. This important passage occurs when all the MEPs vote for the proposed legislations to be passed.

The number of Members of the European Parliament is 751 and they are grouped by political affiliation.

## **The European Parliament at VeUMEU 2017**

During VeMEU 2017 there will be the same political groups as in the real Parliament. The only difference is that, due to the reduced number of participants, the MEPs will not be 751, but 71. Each of the MEP will belong to a specific party, thus everyone is representing the idea of the party and the faction he/she belongs to. In our model, we will have group leaders, which are expected to represent the faction in the conferences and during the sessions.

Moreover, the main work of all the MEPs will be taking place during the plenary sessions and the faction meeting, a crucial moment for our model. During this important debates, MEPs are expected to come up with amendments which will be discussed during the plenary session. So, each party/group (say, all the GREENS from the different countries) will be expected to gather and write amendments they believe crucial during their faction meeting.



### **The plenary Session of the European Parliament**

The plenary session of the VeUMEU EP will be chaired by the President and the Vice-President: they will be in charge of guiding the meeting through smooth and effective debates. Both the President and the Vice-President will be MEPs, as in reality, BUT they will not take part in debates, nor votes during the session.

The importance of the plenary session is to create an effective and working environment for the amendments to be passed/rejected. Under the plenary session, each group will have to present its own line of argument: it will be used to reach consensus (or majority) in the Chamber. The work of the MEPs is to shape the Parliament's general position on the topics we will be discussing. During the plenary session, the talks will go through debates in which the position of each group will focus on the "topic of the day". No other topics will be discussed during the session, due to the lack of time (be prepared not to waste time during the meetings by talking about completely other things! Remember that inappropriate speeches will be cut off by the President of the EP).

### **The Faction Meetings at VeUMEU**

The main purpose of the faction meeting is to give MEPs time to debate and form their position within their groups. There will be no other part sharing that moment, as it is a "private time" for the groups' MEP. The faction will be chaired by the group leader. The main goal of the private meeting is to agree on the line of the faction's argument: this is to say that, during the faction meeting, all the MEP are free to propose their opinion (of the party they are modeling). This is why it is crucial to know what is the point of view of the party you are presenting (your personal opinion is not important now!).

The faction meetings will be taking place during the Parliament conference as a way to define which is the group's argument's line! Yet, group leaders shall be very effective in paving the path for the success of his/her own group. Here, the role is to be aware that some MEP might disagree on something and the standpoint of the faction might not be reached immediately: if so, the leader might use a voting system inside the faction to define the viewpoint.

Negotiations with other factions should be reached ONLY AFTER the group has fixed its own ideas.



# Position of Factions for Directive 1

*Dear Participants,*

*Here you will find a brief description of the Factions' positions in the Parliament regarding the topics of discussion. Please, keep in mind that, however, the following statements are to be considered as general remarks about the policies or political trends of the States: they can guide you in understanding how to better represent your country and develop ideas and positions accordingly. If you happen to have any doubt, do not hesitate to ask the Commission.*

*Best of luck to all of you,*

*The Parliament Team*

## **GUE/NGL**

It believes in fighting for more and better jobs and educational opportunities, for social security and social solidarity in order to improve the European integration process. It supports equal rights for women and men, civil rights and liberties and the enforcement of human rights. Anti-Fascism and anti-racism are also a vital/meaningful part of the tradition of left movements in Europe.

## **S&D**

It is engaged in opposing unfair competition at worker's expense, guaranteeing a minimum equal pay and a decent minimum wage in every country. In addition to this, it is committed to guaranteeing a stronger law for equal value, common quality standards for apprenticeships or internships, a renewed health and safety strategy within every European workplace. It also believes in a project for a real progress on the European Youth Guarantee.

## **GREENS**

Its priority is the promotion of a fair and just society, where anyone is treated equally and enjoys the same rights. It is committed to protecting the rights of citizens, the minorities and all Europe's diverse communities. Moreover, it stands for an open and just society that accepts all forms of love and that respects its minorities.

## **ALDE**

It has constantly been at the forefront of acknowledging pressing issues within the area of social policy such as gender equality, the right to marry for same-sex couples and the pressing challenges of demographic change in Europe. It is strongly/firmly engaged in ensuring gender equality, equal pay, equal job and the



parental leave. Moreover, it has always responded to the developments and challenges that have threatened freedom, equality and human rights across Europe.

#### **EPP**

It promotes inclusive and active employment policies. It wants to promote innovative education system for all citizens as well as modern and life-long learning training systems in order to provide access to high-quality jobs. It is committed to improving childcare, education and health system, and the integration of marginalized communities to ensure the well-being of Europe's citizens.

#### **ECR**

In the Reykjavik declaration, it claims its commitment to individual liberty, national sovereignty, and parliamentary democracy. Also, it stands for the equality of all European democracies, regardless of their size or international associations they belong; in addition, it recognizes the equality of all citizens before the law, regardless of ethnicity, sex or social class, and rejects all forms of extremism, authoritarianism and racism.

#### **EFDD**

It believes that Europe is focusing on gender neutral classification and evaluation systems and on fighting against discrimination. It also accuses Europe of being contradicting because the EU is promoting the introduction of statistics and sanctions on EU level, penalising private companies.

#### **ENF**

It states that the EU cannot deal with differences because it does not want sovereign nation states.



# Position of Factions for Directive 2

## **GUE/NGL**

GUE/NGL has been active in all the most important international climate change conferences, promoting the protection of Europe's biodiversity and renewable sources. It strongly believes Europe needs urgent and strong measures in order to tackle climate change, and that the future of Europe lies in renewable sources such as wind power, wave power and solar energy. Furthermore, GUE/NGL underlines the necessity of helping developing countries face with temperature increases.

## **S&D**

S&D stands for a greener Europe which can be achieved through greater energy efficiency, by renewing the European industry and by completing the transition to a sustainable and carbon-free energy. They propose a new Energy Union that includes a decarbonised economy based on smart infrastructures and affordable energy, with a particular emphasis on the job creation. S&D marks the importance of a renovation of European industry based on renewable sources, and promotes ambitious research programmes to solve the environmental problems that affect Europe.

## **GREENS/EFA**

GREENS/EFA is one of the most fervent advocates of a Green energy revolution that shall include the preservation of biodiversity and the promotion of a sustainable use of resources. The group underlines the importance of protecting humans and the environment as the only responsible path to take, and strives to make Europe the global leader in this field. It promotes the necessity of using energy wisely, reducing energy waste and improving efficiency.

## **ALDE**

ALDE believes Europe is promoting weak climate package deals, seeing as Member States have put national priorities ahead of European interests, and underlines the fact that these measures will be damaging for the environment, harm Europe's credibility in this field and delay the investments in renewable energy.

## **EPP**

EPP believes in the potential of a green and sustainable growth in a social market economy based on environmental sustainability, and this cannot be achieved by individual states alone. EPP underlines the fact that the European Union must focus on renewable energy sources and phase out unsustainable energy production, striving to protect the environment, stop its degradation and the loss of biodiversity. EPP emphasizes the need of a common energy policy that provides energy security and efficiency. It believes all the countries have to adapt their lifestyles to the demands of a smart green growth.

## **ECR**

According to ECR, the results of the European policies are not satisfactory, and what these policies promise is not realistic and cost-efficient. ECR underlines the fact that doubling the CO2 emission reductions is not realistic and that it is a road to reduce the competitiveness of European industry.



**EFDD**

EFDD recognizes a big discrepancy in energy prices that arises from Europe's over-commitment to expensive renewables, while its competitors, like for example China and the USA, rely on cheap coal and cheap gas. In EFDD's opinion Europe's problems cannot be solved with new initiatives, new policies, but that can be solved by unwinding the damaging policies of the past. EFDD's priority is to make Europe competitive in energy production and to adopt a policy that delivers secure and affordable energy.

**ENF**

ENF strongly condemns the idea of creating a global rule for environment that puts the global interests ahead of the national interests. It argues that its new ecology movement is based on nationalism and patriotism. ENF is also opposed to international negotiations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promotes nuclear energy.



# The Council of European Union Chairs' Profiles



My name is **Gabriele Mariani**. I am currently attending the second year of the course in “Philosophy, International and Economic Studies” at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice and I am also enrolled in the Venice International University Spring Term 2017. I come from Senigallia, in central Italy, but I moved to Venice in 2015 to attend my university courses and be more involved in the university life. My main interest is Sociology and I would like to pursue a career in this field. One year ago I had the possibility to participate in the Venice Model United Nations 2016, which was my first MUN, and I enjoyed that experience so much that I decided to apply, together with other ten students, for the scholarship offered by the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice to participate in the Harvard National Model United Nations. We managed to win the scholarship and last February we flew to Boston to attend the HNMUN 2017, a demanding but unique experience. Meanwhile, I have started my

collaboration with the Venice Diplomatic Society which has led me to hold the role of President the Council of the European Union in the VeUMEU 2017. I am excited for this new experience and I am looking forward to seeing you in San Servolo!





Hello everyone! My name is **Marco Gfall**, I am from Vicenza and I am currently studying “International Relations” at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, where I have previously obtained a degree in “Modern and Contemporary Languages and Civilizations”. Foreign and public relations, together with the different cultures and languages of the world, have always fascinated me and I would very much like to pursue a career in this field. In 2014 I had the chance to work in Australia as a teacher assistant, and I recently spent a semester in Ottawa, Canada as part of an exchange program. I am currently working at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice as an English language tutor, and for the last two years I have held the position of student representative in the Interdepartmental School of International Relations. Since 2013 I have participated as a delegate in four different MUNs, and this will be my first experience as Vice-President of the Council of the European Union in the upcoming VeUMEU 2017. I cannot wait to meet you and share this beautiful experience with all of you, I am sure we will have a great time!



Hello everyone and welcome to VeMEU, My name is **Silvia Dal Soglio** and I will have the honor of being your Secretary in the European Council. I am a second year Philosophy, International and Economic Studies student and I fell in love with MUNs after taking part in the Venice Model United Nations 2016. After that, I participated in the Cambridge MUN, Birmingham MUN, the Warsaw MUN and Rome MUN and I have won Best Delegate in the latter two. I have had the luck to be sponsored to attend Asia Pacific MUN conference this June. Up to this day, the Venice MUN has been the best and most rewarding experience, opening the door to a new world of experiences. I am here to help you become part of this global community, where we all cooperate and discuss to overcome problems because we all have one goal: creating a better future. I am looking forward to working with you all and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any doubts!



# Role of the Council

## **The Council of the European Union**

The Council of the European Union was established in 1958 and is located in Brussels (Belgium). Together with the European Parliament, the Council has the role of negotiating and adopting EU laws.

The Council is formed by the government ministers of each EU country: ministers have to report to their governments the content of the discussions held during the meeting, and governments are compelled to respect the decisions taken during the meeting.

Each time the Council meets, being formed by ministers in charge of a specific matter, it assumes different configurations depending on the issue.

With the exception of the Foreign Affairs Council, which is always chaired by the elected EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (currently Federica Mogherini), the chairperson varies depending on the country holding the EU presidency in that precise moment: the EU presidency rotates every six months.

Discussions and decisions in the Council are public; in order to pass, decisions require a qualified majority (55%, namely 16 countries out of 28), a simple majority, instead, is required for procedural votes.

The Council of the European Union must not be confused with:

- European Council, where EU leaders meet to set the broad direction of EU policy making
- Council of Europe, not an EU body



# Position of Ministers for Directive 1

*Dear Participants,*

*Here you will find a brief description of the Member States' positions in the Council regarding the topics of discussion. Please, keep in mind that, however, the following statements are to be considered as general remarks about the policies or political trends of the States: they can guide you in understanding how to better represent your country and develop ideas and positions accordingly. If you happen to have any doubt, do not hesitate to ask the Commission.*

*Best of luck to all of you,*

*The Council Team*

## **Austria**

In Austria Art.7 Section 1 of the Federal Constitutional Act enunciates the general equality principle among a series of equal treatment measures included in labor legislations. Moreover, with the implementation of Directives 2004/113, 2000/43, and 2000/78, the material scope of equal treatment legislation has been extended to cover various forms of discrimination related to ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religion and ideology. Most forms of discrimination, however, lack an explicit prohibition in the current national legislation.

## **Belgium**

Article 10 and 11 of the Belgian Constitution prohibit discrimination: they can be applied in a general manner, requiring that the principle of equality must be respected in relation to any ground, situation or context. However, the general nature of their formulation even represents a limit, as it causes such articles to be rarely invoked in private relationship and often failing to protect individuals from private forms of discrimination. The major anti-discrimination measure was achieved with three Federal Acts adopted in 2007. The issue of religious symbols, however, is still very controversial (the wearing of the Islamic veil, for instance).

## **Bulgaria**

The Roma, refugees and migrants, Muslim, Jews and non-traditional religions, Macedonians, Turks, people with disabilities and LGBT+ groups are all to be considered vulnerable groups in Bulgaria. Discrimination, hatred, in the forms of hate crimes and hate speech – especially carried against the Roma – are frequent, pervasive and largely unsanctioned. Violence against such minorities is promoted by officials themselves and therefore goes unpunished; most of these



groups lack any form of recognition or representation, with frequent episodes of exclusion, segregation and disadvantage in education, employment, services and general participation.

## **Croatia**

In the last 25 years, the position of the Croatian Government regarding discrimination has shifted from a strongly nationalistic approach in the early 90s to a more egalitarian one in the 2000s. According to the Constitution, rights and freedoms have to be guaranteed regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, political beliefs, national or social origin, property, birth, education and social status (disability, age and sexual orientation are 'implicitly' covered under the 'other characteristics' section). Since August 2014 the Same-sex Life Partnership Act regulates the legal status of same-sex relationships. In some areas where the Roma population is particularly numerous, Roma children are often put in separate Roma-only classes; the education level of such classes is considered to be of an inferior level, yet the phenomenon still seems to be widespread.

## **Cyprus**

Cyprus appears fundamentally split into three ethnic groups: the Greek-Cypriots, the Turkish-Cypriots and the Roma. The Turkish-Cypriots gradually moved into enclaves and the Roma were put into specifically designed settlements, often left in a state of dereliction, exclusion and vulnerability. Very few NGOs are active in the field of non-discrimination, and none of them focuses on the rights of the Turkish-Cypriot and the Roma minorities. Only a couple of NGOs are dedicated to the rights of asylum-seekers and immigrants, and LGBT+ associations only emerged in the last few years. Sexual orientation discrimination is still rather extensive in the Cypriot society, and a number of neo-Nazi movements have recently appeared and said to have allegedly been involved in a series of racial crimes. However, new laws have been adopted in order to legally recognize civil unions among same-sex couples.

## **Czech Republic**

In Czech Republic, a number of special measures in education and employment have been introduced to counterbalance disadvantages that Roma minorities might encounter; However, this has been perceived by the public as giving them an unfair advantage based on ethnic origin. Moreover, guaranteeing equal access to standard education for Roma children is rather problematic, and episodes of discrimination are still very frequent. Discrimination on the ground of age, then, is present and justified as a market economy-related necessity, and equal treatment in this regard would be seen as unfair. Overall, a general discriminating attitude towards disadvantaged minorities in the Czech society is still an issue, and it has been noted that a simple transposition of European directives would not be sufficient to solve such a deeply rooted structural problem.



## **Denmark**

According to the Danish Constitution, no Danish subject should be deprived of their liberties based on political or religious beliefs and ethnic descent; in addition, no person should be denied the right to fully enjoy civil and political rights due to their birth or descent. Regarding both the public and the private labor market, discrimination is explicitly banned on the grounds of race, skin color, religious and political beliefs, sexual orientation, age, disability, national, social or ethnic origin, in accordance with the Act on Prohibition of Discrimination in the Labor Market; the Act on Ethnic Equal Treatment, however, only prohibits racial and ethnic discrimination in civil law. In Danish Civil Law, in fact, discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, disability or beliefs is only covered in relation to the labor market.

## **Estonia**

The Estonian Constitution institutes the explicit forbiddance of any kind of discrimination through Article 12: it is possible to directly apply this against natural persons as well as public or private legal ones. Based on this Article, it would be desirable to create a flexible and comprehensive instrument addressed at protecting people from discriminatory behaviors. Discrimination based on sex is prohibited by the Gender Equality Act, which covers all spheres of public life; moreover, discrimination on the ground of ethnicity, race, color, beliefs, age, disability and sexual orientation is prohibited by the Equal Treatment Act. The institution that deals with cases of discrimination by public bodies on any ground is the Chancellor of Justice.

## **Finland**

In Finland a number of national minorities are present: the Roma, Jewish, Tatar, and Russian minorities and the indigenous Sámi people. Moreover, part of the Roma minority comes annually from Bulgaria and Romania, whose social and economic conditions are considerably inferior to those of the Finnish Roma. Religious minorities, such as Muslims and Russian Orthodox Christians, are present but very modest when compared to the Evangelical Lutheran Church (circa 73% of the population). Regarding sexual orientation, a change in the Marriage Act recently came into force thus allowing same-sex couples to legally marry. People with disabilities are guaranteed specific services under a traditional social policy approach, although a focus on equal treatment is still lacking. In addition, it is important to notice that discrimination on the basis of age is still rather frequent, especially in the workplace. NGOs dealing with various discrimination grounds in Finland reported to have encountered a generally good level of cooperation.

## **France**

The French Republic's history of non-discrimination dates back to the Declaration of the Human and Civil Rights. Article 1 of the Constitution of 1958 states that: "[France] shall ensure the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction of origin, race or religion. It shall respect all beliefs". The constitutional provisions cover race, origin, religion, opinions and sex, but not disability, age and sexual orientation. National law prohibits discriminations against real or assumed origin, appearance of origin, national and ethnic origin, race, sex, physical appearance, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion, political and religious convictions, sexual identity and place of residence.



## **Germany**

1. There are several provisions that protect human equality in the constitution, the most important being the guarantee of human dignity. Since the constitution is legally binding, this is reference point for all non-discriminating laws. Some states have laws banning all forms of discrimination in their constitutions. In those states, hate speeches based on both sexual orientation, disability, religion etc. are prohibited

## **Greece**

The Greek Constitution contains a specific and general non-discrimination provision that explicitly protects all people, Greek citizens and foreign nationals, men and women, old and young. However, there is no legal definition of religious belief, age or sexual orientation in the Greek legal system. Law 4443/2016 was implemented in 2016 and although it does not provide more protection of vulnerable groups, it clarifies the legal work by specifying definitions and adding extra grounds.

## **Hungary**

Article 15 of the 2011 constitution contains an open ended list of protected grounds, however age and sexual orientation are missing from the list. The Hungarian government has blocked a draft to tackle homophobic and transphobic discrimination, stating that 'Hungary is not in the position to agree with the list of actions to advance LGBTI equality'.

## **Ireland**

The Irish Constitution protects against discrimination of religion, age or sexual orientation (articles 40 and 44). Ireland was one of the first EU Member States to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of age.

## **Italy**

Discrimination on religion or belief, age or sexual orientation is prohibited by national law and the constitution. However, due to the absence of a general law on the freedom of religion, there are continuous negotiations with national and local authorities on issues such as places of worship.

## **Latvia**

The principle of non-discrimination is enshrined in article 91 of its constitution, which states that 'All persons in Latvia shall be equal before the law and the courts. Human rights shall be observed without discrimination of any kind'. However, disability is defined as a long-term or non-transitional and is divided only in three possible degrees, leaving out many cases.



## **Lithuania**

Protection against discrimination and promotion for equality can be found in the constitution of the country and many laws have been implemented on the matter. However, the protection is guaranteed mainly in the workplace, with the existing Law on Equal Treatment that does not explicitly state social protection, social security and healthcare.

## **Luxemburg**

The Criminal Code covers discrimination based on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation, as well as gender. With the Laws of 28 and 29 November 2006, discrimination based on belief is explicitly forbidden, in civil or commercial cases, administrative conflicts or in respect of work relations.

## **Malta**

Equal treatment is guaranteed in Malta by its national Constitution. During the years, the legislation has adapted to provide equal treatment also to specific categories, in particular LGBT+ people. Both direct and indirect discrimination is prohibited in national legislation and the implementation of further legislation regarding discrimination is currently being discussed by the Government. Positive action is allowed by national legislation, although it must be noted that, due to a general cultural rejection, it has often been difficult to implement positive action in Malta.

([http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge\\_country\\_reports\\_d1/2016-mt-country\\_report-ge-final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge_country_reports_d1/2016-mt-country_report-ge-final_en.pdf))

## **The Netherlands**

Discrimination in the Netherlands is prohibited by various acts, including The Equal Treatment Act which regulates discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race, sex, nationality, heterosexual or homosexual orientation or civil status and The Act on equal treatment on the grounds of disability or chronic illness.

([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2015/519227/IPOL\\_IDA\(2015\)519227\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2015/519227/IPOL_IDA(2015)519227_EN.pdf))

## **Poland**

In Poland people are protected from discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, denomination, beliefs, age, disability or sexual orientation. Before the country's entrance in the EU, Poland introduced some amendments to its Labor Code in order to establish a precise definition of direct and indirect discrimination and of sexual harassment as gender discrimination. However, some NGOs criticize the fact that the implementation of such provisions by the government is not sufficient, especially under the current far-right government.

## **Portugal**

The Portuguese Constitution prohibits sex discrimination as part of a general principle of non-discrimination and the Labor Code provides further directives with regard to equal treatment, including those related to sexual orientation, identity and reassignment, level of education,



disability and others. Measures of positive action are accepted as a normal tool in the Portuguese legal system in the area of employment with regard to non-discrimination in general and to gender discrimination.

([http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge\\_country\\_reports\\_d1/2016-pt-country\\_report-ge\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge_country_reports_d1/2016-pt-country_report-ge_final.pdf))

### **Romania**

The Romanian Constitution protects its citizens from discriminatory behaviors. Moreover, in 2010 the Government adopted an anti-discrimination statute which included an open-ended list of grounds of discrimination such as sex, race, disability and sexual orientation; discrimination due to gender reassignment is not explicitly prohibited but is protected in principle.

The implementation of laws regarding sex discrimination in Romania has faced some difficulties, in particular because of the different interpretations of the law adopted by tribunals case by case.

([http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge\\_country\\_reports\\_d1/2015-ro-country\\_report\\_ge\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge_country_reports_d1/2015-ro-country_report_ge_final.pdf))

### **Slovakia**

Discrimination is prohibited by the Constitution and the Antidiscrimination Act of 2004 forbids discrimination on the basis of sex, disability, sexual orientation and other categories.

A category which, as evidenced by some studies, is particularly affected by discrimination is that of Roma women; in this sense no measures have been adopted by the Slovakian government so far.

([http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge\\_country\\_reports\\_d1/2016-sk-country\\_report-ge\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/ge_country_reports_d1/2016-sk-country_report-ge_final.pdf))

### **Slovenia**

Two laws adopted before the entrance of the country in the EU guarantee equal treatment in Slovenia: The Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act and the Implementation of the Principle of Equal Treatment Act. Serious concerns regard the efficiency of those institutions aimed at helping women in reporting cases of discrimination, especially after the cuts on public expenditures undertaken as part of the austerity measures which followed the economic crisis.

([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/510010/IPOL\\_STU\(2015\)510010\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/510010/IPOL_STU(2015)510010_EN.pdf))

### **Spain**

Despite the fact that Spain institutionalized gender equality only after the end of the dictatorship in the 1980s, progress in the field of equality has been remarkable, in particular in the first decade of 2000 when the Spanish government approved various reforms including The Law on Effective Equality which expressly established and clarified the content of the right to non-discrimination on the ground of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/583112/IPOL\\_STU\(2016\)583112\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/583112/IPOL_STU(2016)583112_EN.pdf))



**Sweden**

The Swedish Discrimination Act regulates discrimination in Sweden. The kinds of discrimination regulated by the legislation are those related to gender, transgender identity or expression, ethnic origin, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation and age.

([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/510011/IPOL\\_STU\(2015\)510011\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/510011/IPOL_STU(2015)510011_EN.pdf))

**United Kingdom**

Following the EU Equal Treatment Directives, the Parliament of the United Kingdom adopted the Equality Act in 2010 in order to sum up the diverse regulations which protect British citizens from discrimination in the access to public and private employment on the basis of sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership. Since the implementation of the Equality Act was prompted by pressures from the EU, some political analysts think that Brexit might discourage further implementation of similar measures; however, the general agreement among the political parties on such issues suggests otherwise.



# Position of Ministers for Directive 2

## **Austria**

In Austria, a specific feed-in tariff is responsible for supporting electricity produced through the use of renewable sources; in addition, subsidies support the construction of photovoltaic panels on roofs and hydroelectric power station of limited size. In accordance with the general legislation on energy and with non-discriminatory principles the electricity produced by renewable sources can access the grid. Numerous incentive schemes have been created in order to support the use of renewable source-produced energy, whether it comes in the form of electricity, heating or cooling, both at state and federal level; alongside these incentives, a specific quota system regulates the use of renewable sources in transportations, whose research is generally funded by investment grants.

## **Belgium**

In Belgium the promotion of the use of renewable sources for producing electricity is based on a quota system regulating the trade of certificates. Generally, only offshore wind and hydro-power plants are regulated at the national level, together with tax deductions addressed at companies that decide to invest in renewable sources for their cooling and heating systems. Renewable sources in Belgium, in fact, are a matter of federal competence: each region (Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia) has a different set of support schemes, which are generally based on green certificates, investment assistance and quota systems, alongside giving priority to renewable sources in using and connecting to the grid.

## **Bulgaria**

In Bulgaria feed-in tariffs generally promote the use of renewable sources in electricity production, but renewable energy plants do not benefit from priority access to the grid. Heating and cooling systems powered by renewable energy are incentivized through subsidies regulated by the European Regional Development Fund, loan schemes and tax exemptions; a quota system, then, is responsible for regulating renewable sources in transportations, together with a number of fiscal advantages for promoting the use of biofuels instead of traditional carbon-based fuels. In addition, professional training programs for people working with renewable energy sources have been established.



## **Croatia**

Premium and feed-in tariffs are the preferred incentive systems addressed at promoting the use of renewable source-produced electricity in Croatia; these tariffs are allocated through tenders, but because of a series of delays in the adoption of the necessary legislations they still have to be properly organized. Preferential loans and subsidies are another utilized form of incentive; in addition, renewable energy source installations are given priority. Training programs have also been established as a form of further promotion.

## **Cyprus**

In Cyprus the main form of promotion of renewable energy sources is the use of subsidies; electricity produced by renewable energy sources is allowed to access the grid in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination, and is also given priority. Heating and cooling powered by renewable energy sources are also promoted through subsidies: enterprises and households are offered separate and specific support schemes. The promotion of the development of renewable energy sources installations is also being carried out through a growing number of specific policies.

## **Czech Republic**

Green bonuses and feed-in tariffs are the main instruments addressed at supporting the use of renewable energy sources in Czech Republic: plant operators are given the possibility to choose one of those options. Renewable energy sources-based plants, then, are given priority in using and connecting to the grid; in addition, heating plants running on renewable energy sources are granted exemption from real estate taxes, and are also supported through dedicated subsidies.

## **Denmark**

In Denmark, tax exemptions and premium tariffs are the main incentives for promoting and helping the production, supply and consequent use of renewable energy sources. Biogas, in particular, is supported by a direct tariff if used for heating purposes or sold for transport purposes; moreover, the use of renewable energy sources for transportations is supported by a quota system. Once again, electricity produced by renewable energy sources is granted access to the grid in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination, and is also given priority in its use. The encouragement of the development of renewable energy sources establishments is aided by the implementation of specific policies.

## **Estonia**

The use of renewable energy sources in Estonia is promoted by premium tariffs, together with a number of investment supports specifically addressed to finance renewable energy production projects: such investment supports are dedicated both to electricity production and heating production. Support schemes and measures have been recently adopted to promote the use of renewable energy sources in the transport sector, such as encouraging the purchasing of electric cars or the implementation of bio methane-based fuels. Electricity produced by renewable energy sources is granted access to the grid in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination.



## **Finland**

Premium tariffs appear to be the preferred incentive system addressed at the promotion of the use of renewable source-produced electricity in Finland; these tariffs apply to electricity produced through wind, biogas and biomasses. Subsidies are also used as a form of support to investments made in the field of renewable energy sources. The heat produced with renewable energy sources – such as wood fuels or biogas – is also supported by a mechanism based on particular bonuses; a quota system, then, is utilized to regulate renewable energy sources in the transport sector.

## **France**

France promotes the use of energy from renewable sources through many tariffs and primary production of renewable energies is on a long-term increasing trend: between 1990 and 2015 it increased by 184 %. France announced in 2016 that it was raising its renewable energy goals and would become the first country to issue "green bonds" to fund projects which benefit the environment. The first pack was sold in January 2017 for 7 billion euros, going beyond the government's expectations.

## **Germany**

On Sunday 15 May 2016 renewables supplied nearly all of domestic electricity demand in the country. The German policymakers have put great emphasis on green energy since 1998 and has now reformed its much-lauded Renewable Energy Act (EEG), casting aside the feed-in-tariffs credited with the rapid rise in renewable energy sources since 1990. This aims at keeping a steady hand on how much capacity is added each year and introduce market-based elements to support renewable energy investment.

## **Greece**

The Greek scheme to support the increase of renewable energy was launched in the 1990s as an incentive for independent power production and to attract new investors. A new law was implemented in 2014, called the "New Deal", so as to bring back some special levies for renewable energy source producers. However, with the threat of exit from the euro-zone in 2015, investments and for major projects were frozen. The government is now working on a local policy so as to involve small communities and the private sector.

## **Hungary**

The renewable energy sector is relatively new in Hungary, and the direct investments in renewables cover at best 62% of the amount needed to reach the target of 14.6% renewables share by 2020. The rate of renewable energy did not increase between 2013 and 2014. For this reason, in 2016 the Hungarian Parliament accepted a new renewable support scheme, METAR, which may help to achieve the above ambitious aims.



## **Ireland**

The country aims at becoming low-carbon by 2050 and have issued the White Paper, an energy policy update, describing the actions the government intends to take in the energy sector up to 2030. Although investing heavily, by 2013 Ireland had met less than half of the 2020 16% renewable energy goal .

## **Italy**

The use of renewable sources of energy has increased rapidly in the last years in Italy. In 2015 40.5% of the total electrical production in Italy came from renewable sources and approximately 34% of the country's demand for electricity was satisfied by renewables. However, according to a report on renewable energies by Dentons, the political situation of the country creates instability for this sector and the lack of direct policies has slowed the process down.

## **Latvia**

Latvia, thanks to its high hydroelectric energy potential, has set one of the most ambitious goal among the EU countries, namely, to increase the renewable energy sources share up to 59.8% by 2020 (as compared with 44.9% in 2005). According to Energy Development Guidelines 2016-2020, a new national support mechanism for electricity production from renewable energy sources should be developed by 2018.

## **Lithuania**

In 2015, the share of renewable energy resources in the total energy balance of the country reached up to 25,86 %. With the National Renewable Energy plan, the country aims at promoting the use of renewable energy sources as a matter of exclusive priority so that renewable energy sources would become the most important part of the country's primary energy sources.

## **Luxembourg**

According to the Renewable Energy in Europe in 2016 Report, renewable energy is less than 5 % of gross final energy in Luxembourg. This is partly caused by the fact that Luxembourg is a small country and located between Belgium, France and Germany, and therefore is a transit country for the transportation of goods and people. With the signing of the Climate Pact, the government has given more independence to communes to structure their renewable energy policies.

## **Malta**

Malta has one of the lowest percentages of energy usage from renewable sources in the EU, only 4,5 % of the total consumption of energy. The country's target for 2020 is to reach a 10% rate of energy from renewable sources. Since 2004 the country's usage of energy from renewable sources has increased from the 0,1% to the current 4,5%.



### **The Netherlands**

The percentage of consumed energy which derives from renewable sources in the Netherlands is low and still far from reaching the EU objectives for 2020; in particular, the country's objective is to reach a 14% by 2020. The Netherlands' dismal performance may depend on various factors: for example, its morphological configuration does not allow the country to generate hydro-energy, moreover the Dutch government is less supportive of renewable energy resources compared to other governments.

### **Poland**

Poland's target for 2020 is to reach a 15% consumption of energy from renewable sources. In 2010 with the National Renewable Energy Action Plan the Government proposed a strategy for the development of renewables before 2020. However, Poland has already failed to achieve the 2010 objective and the 2020 one looks even more arduous to reach. A system of obligatory quotas in combination with trading green certificates is currently employed in Poland to favor investments on renewable energies.

### **Portugal**

In 2014 27% of the country's total energy consumption came from renewable sources, close to the 31% share which Portugal committed itself to reach before 2020. Portugal is a positive example among EU countries: 95,5% of its electricity demand comes from renewable sources and in 2016 the country was able to run for 107 hours only on wind, hydro and hydropower energy.

### **Romania**

In the last years the country was able to attract a number of investors interested in the renewable sources market, consequently Romania was able to reach its 2020 objective of 24% of used energy from renewable sources much in advance, in fact in 2013 its share of energy from renewable sources was equal to 24%. Romania employed a system of obligatory quotas and trading green certificate to support investments on renewable energies.

### **Slovakia**

The country has pledged to increase the percentage of energy from renewable sources to 14% by 2020. Some economic measures, such as price ceilings, have been adopted by the Government to favor investments in the renewable energies' market and the country has received financial support from the European Union in order to jumpstart the sector. Despite of this, the country is still heavily relying on non-renewable energy sources, including nuclear energy.

### **Slovenia**

Slovenia has set as its 2020 goal to achieve at least a 25% share of renewable energy sources in its gross final energy consumption. The Slovenian government implemented the National Energy Program (NEP) to determine the long-term development goals in order to reach such goal. The NEP identifies feed-in tariffs and trading green certificates as possible means to reach the objective.



### **Spain**

The country's target for 2020 is to fulfill 20% of all its energy needs with renewable energy. Spain is currently at 17,4 %, a percentage that is expected to increase; in the last years, in particular, the renewable energy market in Spain is experiencing a positive trend, and in 2016 half of the energy produced in Spain came from renewable sources, a result which was achievable, and which is certainly ameliorable, thanks also to the country's natural assets.

### **Sweden**

Sweden managed to reach its 2020 goal of reaching 50% of renewable energy share many years before its deadline. The most recent data figure 52% for renewable energy, the highest in the EU. The government introduced trade green certifications in 2003 and compelled electricity retailers to buy a proportion of 'green electricity' as part of their supply. Moreover, Swedish power market is considered an example by international standards, and many Swedish companies, such as IKEA, are investing in renewable energies.

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom has the target to reach a 15% share of renewable sources energy in its total energy consumption by 2020. Renewable energy currently makes up 25% of the country's energy production and 8,3% of its consumption. However, there are grounds to fear that the United Kingdom will not be able to achieve its 2020 target; in the last years its Conservative government has ended subsidies for onshore wind causing a drop in investments in such sector and, according to the inquiry by the Energy and Climate Change Committee (ECC), there is no clear plan proposed by the ministers on how to meet the target.

Resources:

[www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com) (Eastern Europe)

[www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com) (UK)

[www.sweden.se](http://www.sweden.se) (Sweden)

Online articles



# The Press “EU NOW” Journal Editors’ Profiles



Hello, I am **Timothy Norris** and I will be your Editor in Chief in this edition of the VeUMEU. I am a student of international politics at Trento University, and I am specialized in European Union Law. I work as a freelance journalist in the field of medical science. I collaborated with international specialized periodicals such as Retina Today, Eye World and Ocular Surgery News and I am also business associate, copy and medical writer for the medcom agency Etcetera Communication. I collaborate also with the independent online blog Daily Revolution, where I wrote several articles about international and national politics together with other authors. I joined Venice Diplomatic Society as a collaborator one year ago.

I am a native English speaker and I have both British and Italian citizenship. Amongst my passions, music (I am a singer) and national and international politics. My deep interest in the European Union led me to join the VeUMEU team and use my skills to organize the press team.

It will be great to work with you, we will be a great editorial staff. Brace yourself, it will be maybe stressful or demanding, but I, Samuele, Kristina and Laura will be there to help you. Join in and it will be a great experience for everyone! See you at the VeUMEU!





Hello everybody, I am **Laura Gaspari** and I am a graduating student of the Master's Degree in International Relations here in Venice. I am 25 years old and I was born in Verona, but I have lived here in Venice for four years. I am the Vice President of the Board of Venice Diplomatic Society. I was a trainee at the Council of Europe office of Venice and at ALDA (Association of Local Democracy Agencies) office in Brussels last year. Right now, I am writing my final dissertation on the issue of protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking. I am also interested in refugees and asylum seekers issues, international politics and human rights, especially in the West Balkans and West Africa. For this edition of VeUMEU, I will be your Vice Editor in Chief. In my real life, I write articles on an online Italian blog called Daily Revolution, of which I am Editor in Chief. I love writing articles about my interests. I am a passionate (and amateur) photographer. Sometimes, I define myself as a EU lover and for this reason I decided to take part in the organization team of the VeUMEU.

I cannot wait to work with you, we will be a great team!

Do not be afraid to interview MEPs, take notes, run all over San Servolo, write the best articles you have ever written. The information material of the VeUMEU is up to us! See you in San Servolo!



Hello everyone!

I am Kristina Caushaj, and I will be your European Parliament Coordinator.

I was born in Albania 20 years ago, and when I was 4 years old I moved near Venice with my family.

I am currently studying "Philosophy, International and Economic Studies" at Ca' Foscari University and I am attending the Spring Semester at Venice International University.

Ever since I can remember, I have been interested in international affairs and diplomacy. For this reason, when I began university, I started working with Venice Diplomatic Society as a collaborator.

My biggest passions are travelling and meeting new people. This is the main reason why I have chosen to work together with my colleagues at VeUMEU.

For sure, all together we will make a great experience! The main aim of the PRESS team will be delivering an amazing daily magazine to which any participant can dearly hold on.





Hello everybody,

My name is **Samuele De Tomas Colatin** and I will be the Press Coordinator for the European Council during the VeuMEU 2017. I am 26 years old and I just graduated in International Relations Master's degree at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. My final dissertation dealt with the United Nations Security Council and the international law stalemate in the context of the Syrian crisis.

As one of the Founding Member of the Venice Diplomatic Society, I am very excited to be part of the Model European Union held in the amazing landscape of San Servolo island.

I am interested in International Law and History of International Relations. In 2016 I undertook an internship in the Italian Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. From March to June 2016, I had the privilege to cover the implementation of the debated EU-Turkey deal on the resettlement of Syrian refugees. Moreover, while collaborating with the Political office of the Italian representation, I could deepen aspects such as Turkey-Russian relations in the context of NATO alliance and Turkey's interests in the Syrian crisis. This

experience enhanced my analytical skills and improved my knowledge on Turkey, a crucial actor in this peculiar historical momentum.

VeuMEU 2017 represents a big opportunity to relaunch European values in a moment in which some Countries find it easier to leave the boat. The Press body should represent a real asset during this Model, as it should aim at reporting the best and the most quality news. Do not forget to be curious and interview with no mercy. I am looking forward to meet you all and have an amazing time with you! See you at VeUMEU!



# THE ROLE OF THE JOURNALISTS:



The role of journalists is that of **collecting information** over the course of the day with the end goal of making daily an interesting and informative article for the **newspaper “EU NOW!”**. **Professionalism** and **omnipresence** are the keywords for the journalists that will be selected.

Journalists will have the **chance to do interviews** with MEPs, Chairs and Members of the Council and they have to be present at the social events. However, it is also crucial that journalists remain in their role even during the coffee breaks as they will be able to gather the best, perhaps more elusive information from other participants. The journalists are the eyes and ears of the conference and they do not have to miss anything. Indeed, they are expected to keep all participants informed of any advancement in the debates.

**Nine journalists will be selected**, **four** of them will be assigned at the **Council** and **five** at the European Parliament. Every morning they will have a meeting with their respective Coordinators. There will be **two coordinators**: one in the Council and one in the Parliament. This way, journalists can always count on their coordinator’s support if they have any doubts.

Each article that they will write will be collected during the day in the Journalists’ Drive (see explanation above) and will be examined by the Editor in Chief and the Vice Editor in Chief. For this reason Journalists will be constantly challenged to write the best articles they can. When writing an article, you can either write a political one or, sometimes, they can be light-hearted informative pieces on the dynamics between all the participants.

When working on political articles, **journalists can feel free to express their political preferences** but in that case they have to be coherent throughout the whole experience.



Moreover, **journalists can ask for interviews** in order to gather information from individuals or factions and will try and throw participants off during the daily afternoon press conferences challenging the MEPs and Ministers.

During the press conferences journalists should make sure that everyone is prepared and they are in charge of adding some realistic pressure. For this reason, **a good journalist is the one that will be able to scrutinize and quote in both the good and the bad every single participant, making them feel the urge to give 100% at all time.**

An incredibly fun aspect of being a journalist is **gathering questions and information** for the press conference at the end of each day at VeUMEU. This is the moment when you can put all the information you have gathered and use it at your own will; you will be given the opportunity to question members of the Parliament and Council, and they, in turn, to retort. You will have the opportunity to take pictures or record short videos. For this reason, your own equipment to write articles and research information is required, namely laptops, cameras, recording devices, pens, notebooks and so on. Furthermore, below you will find some useful information about the organization of our press team and the case study about Brexit.

*Are you ready?*

#### **FIRST ARTICLE FOR JOURNALISTS:**

In order to get familiar with the journalist job, you will be required to **prepare a small article** before the VeUMEU 2017 of **one page maximum** about the **case study illustrated in this study guide**.

This short article will be useful for the staff to evaluate your skills and to help you focus on some aspects of the case study in order to be prepared for the first press conference. Further indications will be given **during the workshop on the 8th of April 2017**.

**The deadline for the submission of this first article is on the the 23rd of April 2017.**

#### **PRESS CONFERENCE**

A **press conference** is a meeting in which a person or organization makes a public statement and reporters can ask questions.

We will have **three thirty minutes long ordinary press conferences at the end of each day**, the first day about the **Brexit case** (see below) that will last for fifteen minutes. During press conferences you will have the opportunity to ask MEPs and Ministers about their statements or daily facts. You should take notes, be ready to ask whatever you consider appropriate, even if it is unpleasant for MEPs and Ministers. You should arrive at the press conferences with clear ideas about all that happened during the day, both in Council and in Parliament. Listen carefully, ask questions, record statements and answers because after the press conferences you should produce articles that will be issued in our newspaper EU NOW.



In the case of the first press conference about Brexit, you will have the opportunity to ask questions to the interested MEPs and Ministers about the case study for about fifteen minutes. After the Brexit press conference some articles will be appeared on EU NOW.

### EU NOW!

**EU NOW is the official newspaper of the VeUMEU 2017** and it will be prepared entirely by you. More or less, it will be **4 pages newspaper**, and it will be filled with the articles approved by the Editor in chief for that day. During the debates, you have to catch all the significant moments or events that happen and send an abstract to the Editor in Chief in the press headquarters. Each edition of EU NOW will have at least one article per journalist, so be sure to produce more than one abstract a day and make your best! **Make interviews** (also during lunch breaks or coffee breaks) to **MEPs, Ministers and Chairs in order to collect as much material as possible**: photos, videos, audio recordings, quotes etc.

**EU NOW will be divided into 4 sections**: the first page will have a special around 1200 words and it will be possibly done on the most remarkable event of the day (e.g. opening ceremony, big scoop of the day, award ceremony, a MEP that goes crazy etc.) and it will have a short editorial of about 350 - 400 words by the Editor in Chief or the Vice Editor in Chief. The second and the third pages will be dedicated to articles about the Parliament and the Council of 600 - 800 words. Not only articles will be issued but also Tweets, quotes, and photos. The last page will be dedicated to the press conference and your eventual short opinion articles.

### DEADLINE FOR EU NOW

If during the debates you send an abstract to the Editor in chief and he approves it and tell you to do an article about that issue, you should be ready to work on the article and send it before the press conference.

**The press conference lasts 30 minutes**: the first and the second day is from 5.20 pm to 5.50 pm and the last day it will be from 2 pm to 2.30 pm. All the material collected during the press conference should be re-elaborated after in the Press Room in half an hour - one hour at maximum. **The articles will be edited and published on EU NOW! before 9 pm**. A **pdf version** will be issued on Facebook pages, groups, mailing list etc. A **paper version** will be ready the day after.

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES: GOOGLE DRIVE

**The editorial staff will work exclusively on Google Drive and Google Docs.** Once you will have access to Google Drive folder “**VeUMEU 2017**” you will find three folders: **ARTICLES, PICTURES and EDITORS**.

**ARTICLES**: This will be the folder to your articles and it will contain two folders inside: one for the Parliament and one for the Council. You will upload the abstract of your article as soon as possible in the right folder, renaming it with your surname and keyword of the article (e.g. NORRIS\_crazyMEP). After the



uploading, you will send through the Whatsapp group a message to the Editor in Chief and staff, and they will evaluate your abstract and contact you if it is worth of an article.

After the approval, you will write down your article and communicate to the staff when it is finished through Whatsapp and the article will be proofread and uploaded in the folder **EDITORS**. These articles will be published on EU NOW.

**PICTURES** folder will contain two more folders called “Council” and “Parliament”. Every photograph you will take will be uploaded inside these folders.

### WHATSAPP GROUP and FACEBOOK PAGE

At the workshop the staff will ask you to give them your phone number in order to create a **Whatsapp** group the day before the starting of the VeUMEU 2017. The group will be used **ONLY** for communications among you and the staff, not for spam or other unuseful stuff. The same is for the Facebook page.

### TWITTER

A **special Twitter account** for the VeUMEU 2017 will be created. An intense activity of live tweeting will be done by the journalists and the staff: every statement, quote, every last minute scoop, etc. For example, if a MEP wears the mask of Angela Merkel and dance inside the Parliament room, it will be pretty much appreciated to know it as soon as possible.

### ADVICE FROM THE STAFF

**To be a journalist is not an easy issue.** You have to interview a lot of people, pay attention to everything, catch every scoop or interesting piece of news etc. This is a game and we have to play together. We are here to have fun together and learn how journalism in the EU works. You are very important for the simulation because you have the responsibility of the information of the whole event. Be curious and do not be afraid to be pushy, punctilious, to ask questions, to talk personally with MEP, to become their friends, disturbing them while they eat. Do your best, we are here to help you in all the steps of this wonderful experience. Here some final tips by the staff:

- **Read carefully the WHOLE study guide. You need to know the two Directives chosen.** Obviously you have to know what they are talking about. You have to know the rules. If a MEP breaks the rules, you can write about it.
- Listen to tips and pieces of advice of the Editor in Chief and the staff, they are here to support and help you. Not to judge you. Try to build with them a encouraging and respectful environment, and everything will be all right.
- **If you have some problems, of every concern, talk with the Editor in Chief and the staff.**
- It will be stressful and demanding sometimes, but **we are a team!** We can do it!
- Last but not least... it is a role-playing game and you are a journalist! **HAVE FUN!**



# BREXIT CASE STUDY

On March 29, Theresa May, UK Prime Minister, notified to the President of the European Council Donald Tusk, that Great Britain was invoking Article 50. Triggering Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, means that UK is intentioned to start a separation process from the EU. According to Article 50, Treaties agreed between a European Union Member who starts the process of separation are valid until two years from the notification referred to the European Council. This means that UK has 24 months to try and find a way to negotiate a huge amount of treaties (about 43) with Brussels as well as all the EU Members, in order to ensure a smooth and painless exit. <sup>(1)</sup>

The ambiguity of the path for leaving the EU started with a referendum campaign launched on October 2015 by the *Vote Leave* organization. Many political leaders backed the movement, whose aim was to regain a monetary and political sovereignty. Those in favour of leaving the EU considered it as an erosive factor which affects UK's borders' sovereignty and economic independence. The Brexit campaign has been widely covered by the media, which seemed to encourage and pave the way for a referendum which would have decided over a possible withdrawal from the European Union. People in UK were brought to think that EU membership costs were far heavier than the benefits.

David Cameron, former UK Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party, announced on February 2015 that *"The choice is in our hand"*, setting the date of the Brexit referendum on 23 June 2016. <sup>(2)</sup> Basically, he was quite sure that people in UK would have chosen Remain, despite his initial tendency to a Euro-skeptical vision. In fact, during his second mandate, he tried to negotiate with Brussels about issues such as migration control, borders issues and fiscal support regulations for those who are not using Euro currency. Despite his efforts, the results of the Brexit voting process have been the following: England voted for Brexit (53,4% to 46,6%), Wales voted for Brexit (52,5%) while Scotland and Northern Ireland voted for stay, with respectively 62% and 55,8%. The day he lost the referendum, Cameron announced that he would resign, leaving the space to Theresa May, a character in the Brexit "electoral campaign play" which would have supported the Remain option, but never played a main part during the rallies. On 24 March 2017, people realized that UK was entering a non-reversible process, constituting the first case of coming out from the European Union. While the EU Council made it crystal clear that UK cannot enjoy a single market "a la carte", the Britain Government was firm in its decision to renegotiate every single treaty with the EU if necessary. <sup>(3)</sup>

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<sup>(1)</sup> INDEPENDENT, *This is what will happen once Article 50 is triggered*, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/article-50-triggered-theresa-may-brexit-brexiters-europe-donald-tusk-what-will-happen-resign-a7653711.html>

<sup>(2)</sup> BBC, *EU referendum: Cameron sets June date for UK vote*, available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35621079>

<sup>(3)</sup> INDEPENDENT, *Brexit: UK cannot have 'single market a la carte', say EU leaders*, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-uk-cannot-have-single-market-a-la-carte-say-eu->



Unfortunately, several reasons behind the referendum outcome have been driven by a strong UK nationalist rhetoric supported by parties such as UKIP (United Kingdom Independence Party). The Vote Leave movement largely attacked the EU and used symbolisms to address directly to the people in Great Britain. One example, is the NHS bus. This vehicle has been considered as the *Vote Leave movement battle bus*. The label on the bus surface implied that UK sent £350 million a week to the EU. According to the parties who supported the Leave option, if the UK would have been able to take back control over this outflow, it would have been able to reallocate it in favour of the National Health System. <sup>(4)</sup>



There is no doubt that UK economic frustration has been the main factor which drove the dynamics of the Brexit decision. Many voters have been convinced that, by voting Leave Britain could have been able to regain any amount of money directly delivered to the EU. Populist claims made a strong rhetoric around this issue, harshly criticizing the EU distributive role of funds among Member States. These voices were particularly focused on hitting the EU Structural and Investment Fund. This money would have been used to recover the National Health Care System or other formulas to fund agriculture, science research and poor regions. Among the so called minor regions there is an example which perfectly describes the two weights of the referendum: Cornwall.

[leaders-a7109141.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexiters-condemned-for-not-backing-350m-nhs-amendment-to-eu-withdrawal-bill-a7570336.html)

<sup>(4)</sup> INDEPENDENT, *Brexiters condemned for not backing £350m NHS amendment*, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexiters-condemned-for-not-backing-350m-nhs-amendment-to-eu-withdrawal-bill-a7570336.html>



Cornwall voted for leaving the EU with the 56.5%, without considering the fact that the County was significantly benefiting from European Union funds. In fact, small businesses on Britain's West Coast, such as Cornwall and West Wales are strongly supported by large amount of funds coming from the EU Structural and Investment Fund. EU allocates resources in order to promote sustainable economic development while reducing wealth disparities, especially in regional and local realities.

While this "guilty" fund was harshly criticized by the populist voices in the UK during the whole Brexit campaign, many studies claimed that the whole UK economy would experience a hard blow following the exit from a common market and the withdrawal of EU funds. <sup>(5)</sup>

Cornwall received 60 million pounds each year by the EU to develop infrastructures, businesses, universities and even Internet connection: now that article 50 has been triggered, Cornwall must say goodbye to that huge amount of money, even if Leave campaigners assured Cornish people that this would not have happened after the departure of the UK from the EU. Now, Cornish authorities requested the Government 10 million pounds to replace EU funds. The Government refused, leaving Cornwall in a situation of uncertainty. <sup>(6)</sup>

Amongst the many other concerns raised up before and after the EU Referendum there is one of relevance considering the future of UK expats who actually live in the EU.

According to the Office of National Statistics there are 1.3 million UK citizens scattered mostly in Spain, Ireland, France, and all the other 24 countries of the European Union, favoured by European policies of free movement of workers, project Erasmus and the increasing interdependence of the internal market. <sup>(7)</sup>

Post Brexit issues for Britons living abroad will surely regard dual nationality in countries where it is not recognized, forcing them to swap passport denying themselves the right to freely access Britain's borders.

There are concerns for pensions too, already reduced by the collapse of sterling, and that are at stake if things are not settled before triggering article 50. Healthcare will be another greater issue, especially for pensioners, considering that UK citizens were allowed to freely access foreign NHS and health support by being European citizens.

Brexit negotiation will be obligated to take care of these matters and to stipulate treaties with EU countries in order to protect the rights of UK expats in EU, whatever the outcome is going to be, only time will tell.

Of course, for all UK expats the EU Referendum outcome had been a matter of dismay and confusion: many of them did not even had the right to vote for a Referendum that affected mostly their life. As a matter of

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<sup>(5)</sup> THE TELEGRAPH, *Mapped: Where in the UK receives most EU funding and how does this compare with the rest of Europe?*, available at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/01/mapped-where-in-the-uk-receives-most-eu-funding-and-how-does-thi/>

<sup>(6)</sup> INDEPENDENT, *Cornwall wanted guarantees it wouldn't lose £60m EU funding after Brexit*, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/cornwall-lose-eu-funding-uk-government-replace-brexit-latest-dclg-request-down-julian-german-a7603921.html>

<sup>(7)</sup> EXPAT INFO DESK, *Voting Rights*, available at: <https://www.expatifodesk.com/expat-guide/nationality-specific-information/british/voting-rights/>



fact, UK citizens who had been abroad for more than 15 years automatically lose any right to vote: EU referendum included.

Legal fights aiming to change this disposition of the EU Referendum act, as the case of the 94 years old WWII veteran Harry Shindler, were rejected by the Supreme Court. <sup>(8)</sup>

One of the harshest counter arguments about the EU Referendum outcome is exactly the lack of democracy in denying to UK citizens who actually benefitted from the EU policies of free movement to really decide if leaving the EU was a valuable option. Whereas supporters of the Leave party claim the democratic value of this result, many Britons abroad had to stand by helplessly as their future was determined by UK residents.

On the 16th of June 2016 Labour Party Member of the Parliament Jo Cox was brutally murdered in Birstall, West Yorkshire. The victim was shot and stabbed multiple times in a premeditated homicide for political and ideological causes; according to witnesses, the attacker shouted “Britain First”, “this is for Britain” and “keep Britain independent” while committing the crime.

Thomas Mair, a 52 years old local unemployed gardener, was arrested with charges of murder, possession of a firearm with intent to commit an offence, possession of a dagger and grievous bodily harm to a second victim, the passerby Bernard Carter Kenny who desperately tried to defend the MP. Mair was then found guilty of all charges and sentenced with life prison. Evidence gathered during investigations showed a profile of the murder as an alt-right white supremacist, obsessed by Nazi propaganda and apartheid notions.

The crime was directly associated to the EU referendum, committed during the campaign in which Jo Cox was passionately rallying for Remain and just one week before the decisive polling day.

Although politicians such as Scotland’s Prime Minister Nicola Sturgeon were assuming that Jo Cox’s murder “*will inevitably affect voting decisions in the Referendum*” due to a sympathetic distancing from the poisonous and intolerant campaign, final results beat all odds as the tragic event left the electorate propensity unaffected.

Soon after the EU referendum results, UKIP MEP and Leave campaign leader Nigel Farage claimed victory “*without a single bullet being fired*” and was accused of being crass and insensible for his very bad tasteful statement. <sup>(9)</sup>

While Article 50 has been triggered, Theresa May’s government strives for a stable process to end the European legislation in Great Britain. David Davis, the UK Brexit Secretary, clearly stated that a plan to replace all EU laws already exists. <sup>(10)</sup> However, there are serious concerns over the toll to pay. London

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<sup>(8)</sup> THE GUARDIAN, *British expats lose legal battle for right to vote in EU referendum*, available at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/apr/28/british-expats-lose-legal-battle-right-to-vote-eu-referendum>

<sup>(9)</sup> THE GUARDIAN, *Jo Cox killed in 'brutal, cowardly' and politically motivated murder, trial hears*, available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/14/jo-cox-killed-in-politically-motivated-murder-trial-thomas-mair-hears>

<sup>(10)</sup> EURONEWS, *Brexit, Transizione morbida e stabile. Il governo prepara il Great Repeal Bill*, available at: <http://it.euronews.com/2017/03/30/brexit-transizione-morbida-e-stabile-il-governo-prepara-il-great-repeal-bill>



should meet its obligation to pay a bill worth tens of billions of euros, which comprehend what UK has already committed to pay in order to honour its commitments with the EU. <sup>(11)</sup>

The process to Brexit will take at least two years and several issues will come up on the table as negotiations move forward. Brexit is one of a kind, there is no precedent and it will end once the Great Repeal Bill will be approved, soon after the conclusion of the negotiation process. <sup>(12)</sup> This legislation will be necessary in order to annul the 1972 European Communities Act, which marks the moment when UK entered the European Community. As soon as Britain will leave the European Union, the Parliament will regain the supremacy inside the country, instantly converting all EU requirements into British law according to the provisions agreed during the negotiation process.

Guy Verhofstadt, the Chief Brexit coordinator of the European Parliament, in a Press Conference on 29 of March, outlined that the security of EU citizens should not be endangered by the negotiations between London and Brussels. A week after the Westminster attack, there is no doubt that the fight against terrorism needs a common commitment based on cooperation and sharing of intel. <sup>(13, 14)</sup> Moreover, UK Government should focus on giving protection upon EU citizens who are living in Britain, guaranteeing their rights before the law. In this respect, Sadiq Kahn, the London mayor called for the British government to offer a “cast-iron guarantee” to EU nationals on their right to remain in the UK after Brexit. <sup>(15)</sup> Verhofstadt backed Kahn’s vision and remarked the fact that citizens should represent the priority for the European Parliament during the two-years’ Brexit process, as they should not be the victims of this political turmoil between EU and the UK.

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<sup>(11)</sup> INDEPENDENT, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/brexit-european-commission-negotiator-uk-settlement-bill-michel-barnier-theresa-may-a7477911.html>

<sup>(12)</sup> INDEPENDENT, UK faces Brexit settlement bill of up to £50 billion, sources say, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/great-repeal-bill-brexit-law-eu-law-theresa-may-david-davis-a7343256.html>

<sup>(13)</sup> INDEPENDENT, *We cannot deal with Islamist terrorism alone*, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/brexit-article-50-security-services-islamist-terrorism-mi6-interpol-europe-european-arrest-warrant-a7658486.html>

<sup>(14)</sup> INDEPENDENT, *Brexit negotiator Guy Verhofstadt attacks Theresa May's 'threat' to weaken EU security commitments*, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-theresa-may-free-trade-threat-security-guy-verhofstadt-response-a7656761.html>

<sup>(15)</sup> THE GUARDIAN, *Sadiq Khan: give EU citizens 'cast-iron guarantee' they can stay in UK*, available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/mar/28/sadiq-khan-give-eu-citizens-cast-iron-guarantee-they-can-stay-in-uk>



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