

WE ARE MEP



THE HAGUE 2016

EDITION 1

NOVEMBER 17 | 2016

Meet your journalists!

And here they are: your journalists for the coming 5 days. They will watch you everywhere you go and report everything you do. No, just kidding; they'll see and report just most of it. Please let us introduce ourselves, so you know who you have to tell the latest gossip...

LUNA HEIJDENDAEL

I'm Luna Heijendael, I live in the village Pijnacker. I love to sing, blog and to play the guitar. Some typical Dutch things I like are pancakes and Sinterklaas. Hopefully when I'm a grown up I will write for a newspaper during the American elections (writing for the New-York times would be a dream come true). My favourite movie is 'All the President's men' and I have no pets.

JONNA STROINK

I'm Jonna Stroink and I'm living in Arnhem. I like to make music, preferably in a band. Stroopwafels is something typical Dutch you have to try the coming 5 days. Besides that, I hope that in the future I will be better at playing music and I will have a great job. My favourite movie is definitely 'Dear John' and I have two cats (Moos and Jazz).

NICKY HUIJBOOM

I'm Nicky Huijboom, I live in The Hague with among other things my dog Daan. I like to play hockey and take photographs. Something typical Dutch I like is the 'kroket', you have to try it. For the future I hope that I will find that one study I like the most and hopefully life will not get too tough. My favourite movie of all time is 'Bridget Jones'.

KYLE HASSING

I'm Kyle Hassing, I live in Alphen aan de Rijn and I love to play soccer, to game and to write. And: I'm a Dutch cheese lover! In the future I'd love to become a sports

journalist, preferably abroad. First I'm going to study Communication Science at the University of Amsterdam. I'll see from there where it takes me! I have a dog and a cat (Kean and Buddy). My favourite movie is definitely 'Inception'.

NIEK FRANZEN

I'm Niek Franzen and I live in Arnhem (with a cat as pet). I like to hang out with friends and to work in the supermarket. What I really like about Holland is that with birthdays we sit in a circle (pretty strange if you think about it). I hope that in the future I will be able to work around the world, travelling is a true dream of mine. My favourite series are 'Modern Family' and 'How I met your mother'.

ROMY HARINK

I'm Romy Harink and I live in Raalte. I totally love the typical Dutch candy 'drop'. I love to make my own (animation) movies and I have pets (2 rabbits). My favourite movie? I'm addicted to watching movies... I guess Little Miss Sunshine, Back to the future or Spirited Away are my favourites. My dream for the future is to change the world in one way or another (you have to dream big, right?).

RENÉE DOUVEN

I'm Renée Douven and I will be chief editor this week. I'm currently living in Maastricht where I am studying medicine. I really love watching series (maybe a little much), travelling, listening to music and last but not least MEP'ing. I like the typical Dutch dish 'stamppot', it's actually just mashed potatoes with some vegetables. I'm not really planning my future out, first I have to finish my study and I'm just really enjoying the present. By the way, I have no pets.

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Do you want a look behind the scenes? Or really want a feel for what a day of a WEMEP participant looks like? Follow us on all our social media! We will be using all these social media actively during the conference!



Do you want to see EVERYTHING at the conference? Exclusive content that will not be published on other social media can be seen here! Add us on Snapchat! Snapchat: WEMEP (Or add us by scanning the snapcode to the left!)

Do you want to see pictures and general information and updates about the conference? Head to our facebookpage: MEP Western Europe (<http://www.facebook.com/mepwesterneurope>)



Do you want to see exclusive conference pictures? Follow us on Instagram! Instagram: @wemep (<http://www.instagram.com/wemep>)

The SDPL list

SDPL? Yes, Stuff Dutch People Like! For the next few days you will be staying in the Netherlands. Beside the fact that the Netherlands is a beautiful country, we have our own culture, including some really weird stuff:

- Gezellig(heid)
there is no nation in the world with a translation for 'gezellig(heid)'. Close to the meaning comes the English word 'cosiness', but ask one of your fellow Dutch parliamentarians to explain!
- Bicycles
not some bicycles, a lot of bicycles. Even when it is storming outside, Dutch people will pick up their bike. If you don't own a bike or even worse, can't cycle, you aren't a real Dutch inhabitant. Oh, and a tip: do never walk on the cycle track, Dutch people don't stop.
- Sinterklaas en Zwarte Piet
We don't only celebrate Christmas on December 25th with Santa Claus and presents, we celebrate Saint Nicolaas with presents on December 5th. Just a different interpretation of the same story about an old man, giving away presents to children. One big difference, the supporters of Saint Nicolaas aren't elves, but Zwarte Pieten.

Do's & Don'ts

1. Always bring 4 extra tights with you. If you don't need them, you can always make some new friends by helping someone (who has broken pantyhose) in need.
2. Watch out for journalists! Before you know it, there is a photo of you with a tired face online.
3. To all the boys: Never button the bottom button of your jacket, and unbutton your jacket when you sit down. Also make sure you have got a jacket with an easy button. No one will be happy when there is a 5 minute break every single time you stand up.
4. Dress to impress!

1. Do not wear a skirt that is so short that it could also be a bandana for your hair. If you have to pull your skirt down, it is too short.
2. Seeing ankles sprain is not very nice, make sure you do not wear high heels that are more than 10 centimeters.
3. Never be late. The judging faces from your committee members are not very conducive for your MEP career.
4. If you want to get serious, do not wear Happy Socks underneath your suit.
5. Do not forget to turn off your phone, unless you want to see a 100 angry faces towards you.

“Give me a break in The Hague”

Got some free time on your hands in your busy program during your stay in The Hague? You might just want to sit down and grab a cup of coffee. Lucky for you, we found the nicest coffee bars in The Hague!



1. 'De Huiskamer'

De Huiskamer (translated: the living room) is a cosy café upstairs The Hague central station, decorated as a living room, and it really makes you feel at home. The seasonal coffee is highly recommended! Also, De Huiskamer is ideal for getting work done, because of the many plug connections and writing desks.

Location: The Hague central station

2. Eigenweiss

Eigenweiss is a small lunch shop for the most delicious stay and take-away sandwiches and coffees. The lunchroom is located at the Weissenbruchstraat, which is almost directly next to the Haags Montessori Lyceum. Therefore, the owner of Eigenweiss totally focuses on students, so you can take advantage of big discounts!

Location: Weissenbruchstraat 18, 2596 GJ The Hague

3. Hometown

Hometown is an Espresso en slow-coffee bar. Not only their coffee is well-known, but also their smoothies which are perfect for breakfast, are very popular (in case you are still hungry after your host family's breakfast).

Location: Buitenhof 4 2513 AG The Hague

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Dear participants & other readers,

With the appearance of this first MEP newspaper, we would also like to introduce ourselves. The people above are six of many who have worked the past year to make the dream of a WEMEP session reality.

The guy who is standing awkwardly on the left side is Mart Jongeneel. He is the type of man that knows a lot about money and about how to spend it. He is, of course, our treasurer. The one with glasses on Mart's right side is Tim Vervenne (we do not know what he is doing with his hand). Tim is responsible for all your beds, so give him a great "THANK YOU" when you see him, because without him you probably would have slept on a Dutch street.

Then there is Maartje Joosten. She has a lot of experience with other MEP sessions and that is why she was one of the responsible people for the (busy) program you have this week. Together with Fritzi Reijerman, the second girl, they are the two most creative people on our team. That is the reason why Fritzi is responsible for our teambuilding. Together they came up with the idea of an intercultural evening. The boy between these girls is the lucky one in this picture. His name is Henk Janssen (the most typical Dutch name you will hear this conference), he will be responsible for the public relations and be the one who works with the journalists this week.

Finally, there is the tall guy on the right. He listens to the name Manuel Quaden. He is our chairman and will have one of the most important roles this week. He is known for his endless phone calls. Calling and cycling are by the way things Manuel always does at the same time.

There are many more people who helped building this MEP session. Two of them are particularly important, but were too late for the picture above. Their names are Niek Blok and Manon van de Ven. Niek is a teammate of Tim and made sure you will get an impressive goodbye. Manon is our conference manager and she will support Manuel and the rest during the week. They introduce themselves in the programme booklet.

We hope you will have a lovely conference,
The organisation of WEMEP 2016

PROGRAM THURSDAY

18.00 Arrival of delegations in The Hague

*Haags Montessori Lyceum
Nassau Bredastraat 5, The Hague*

Delegates will be picked up and spend the night in their host families

18.30 – 22.00 Committee Presidents:

*Dinner and briefing Montesquieu Institute
Lange Voorhout 86, The Hague*