

WE ARE MEP



THE HAGUE 2016

EDITION 2

NOVEMBER 18 | 2016

Win a treat for your Committee!

You might know that you can follow the WEareMEP Press on Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram. We really love our followers, so it's time to give them a treat. Take your most original MEPfie (MEP selfie) and post it on Instagram. Tag our account (@wemep) for a chance to win a special treat for you committee. We will announce the winning committee on Sunday morning. You've got two days to make sure your committee wins.

Pssst. Have you already seen our video of day 1 on Facebook? Every evening we will post a video on our Facebook with shots that describe the whole day!

Bienvenida, meet Pablo, Rodrigo, Lucia, Antionio and Raquel

One of the first delegations that arrived at HML to be picked up by their host families was Spain. Shocked by the cold and wet Dutch weather, they made it to The Hague. Raquel had been in Holland once before and visited our capital Amsterdam. "I really loved the canals and canal houses, it is something magical"

Even though the Spanish delegation members don't live close to each other, they have a very good team spirit and know each other from the Spanish MEP. 4 of the 5 delegates even used to be in the same committee during MEP Spain! Their team spirit might be so good because of the Spanish way of living, including the siesta (little nap during the hottest moment of the day).

They feel honoured to be a part of the first Western Europe MEP session and are excited for the coming days. Oh, I almost forgot; they taught me some Spanish; 'bienvenida'. But unfortunately my Spanish pronunciation wasn't that good.

P.S. If one of your fellow Spanish delegates falls asleep around 14:00, don't wake them up! They're just having their siesta.

Quote of the Day

"Huh, is it possible to hold the European flag upside down?"

- chairman WEMEP

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Say hi to the CPs

“No, season 6 of Suits really sucks.” was the first thing I heard when I walked into the Committee Presidents briefing. No, I’m not joking, for the first 30 minutes they were talking about Netflix, series, movies, (handsome) actors and so on. But then the pizza arrived and the subject changed into WEMEP 2016. First all the CPs had to introduce themselves. Then they started to talk about you, the delegates. One of the most discussed things was the level of debate they were expecting. So to all the delegates: make your CP proud! And if you need some advice about your topic, debating tips or just another question, your CP will be your contact point during the whole conference. Some important keywords to remember during the committee meetings are: formality and balance.

Today was the official start of WEMEP The Hague 2016. The opening ceremony was held in the Provincial House and in the afternoon all the committees had a teambuilding session. Luckily for one of the CPs of Belgium: you didn’t have to basketball, so you didn’t break one of your fingers again.

And the CPs already want to give you some advice for the GA: “We don’t want general criticism.” That means: make sure your critical attitude is relevant to the issue. Don’t say something, just to say something.



Did you know that...

- the flag of the European Union has a top and a bottom?
- the Spanish delegation hates the Dutch weather?

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- the French delegation loved the goodie bags?
- Luxembourg missed their train?
- one of the CPs of Belgium broke his finger during basketball?
- what happens in Nieuwspoort, stays in Nieuwspoort?
- a member of the Dutch delegation has a particular interest in a member of the French delegation?

Lyceum. Here the delegates had to wait before their host families picked them up. They also had to sign up there, as well as they had to receive their badges. The WEMEP organisation had also composed some incredible goodie bags, consisting of a bottle of water, an apple, a pen, a notebook, the first issue of the *WEareMEP* paper and much more! The bag itself is also pretty noteworthy, as it is a custom cotton bag with the WEMEP logo on it! Definitely a collector's item! Today WEMEP will officially start and the committees will start to debate. The committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Constitutional Affairs, Industry, Research and Energy and Employment and Social Affairs will discuss all the current

Welkom, bienvenue, wilkommen.

Yesterday was the day that all MEP-participants had seen either the inside of a train or a plane. It was the day of arrival! The delegations of Turkey, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg, the UK, Germany, France and the Netherlands were finally on their way to the Hague for the West-European MEP conference of 2016. The Spanish came by plane, as well as the Turkish, the Scottish and two of the Germans. The rest of the delegations came by train. At every point of arrival, there was someone of the WEMEP team waiting to welcome the travelling delegations. The 80 delegates were welcomed at Schiphol, Den Haag Centraal and Den Haag Holland Spoor and they made their way to the Haags Montessori



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Humans of MEP

Mattias and Olivier
(Committee presidents):



“We are both from Belgium. We do not live close to each other but we know one another from previous MEP conferences. We are most excited about the meetings and the informal part of the week such as gatherings before and after long days. Meeting new people is the best part about MEP. All the different cultures are fascinating. It will also be nice to get to know the city, especially the host families. We will be staying in the same house and hopefully we will get to do activities with them, it is interesting to see the city through their eyes. Our biggest fear about this week is having communication-errors. Everyone speaks different languages and it is hard to say what is on your mind during debates when you are not speaking your native language. It is also a shame when participants do not speak up. Quiet people often have great ideas and they should not be scared to share them. Things like language should not be a barrier, everyone is doing their best.”

PROGRAM FRIDAY

9.00 – 10.00 Official opening of the 1st session of the Western European Model European Parliament

10.15 – 13.00 Teambuilding activity

13:30 – 16.30 Committee meetings

Delegates have lunch at City Hall

16.30 – 17.30 Expertmeetings

17.30 – 18.00 Meeting Committee Presidents

18.00 Participants and committee presidents head back to their host families