

“If it’s to be, it’s up to me”

While in Europe the election of Trump resonates in its member states, leaving many citizens in shock, in The Hague, young EU delegates got a message of hope and inspiration in the opening session of WEMEP 2016.

The first speaker was mr. Piet Hein Donner, vice-president of the Council of State. He argued that finding solutions between different people and their visions, is what politics is about. For Donner the key question is: ‘where do we want to be in 25 years from now? And how do we get there?’ For Donner diversity should not be looked upon as an obstacle, but as a strength. He ended his speech with the words: ‘ If it’s to be, it’s up to me.’

Next, the heads of the delegations of the Netherlands and Belgium took the floor. The last sentence of the Belgian speech was remarkable: ‘We hope that, on this MEP, we can make Europe great again’, a slogan that refers to the slogan Trump used in the American election campaign.

Mrs. Marietje Schaake, member of the European Parlement, told the audience that participation of the young generation is crucial for the future of the EU, and she encouraged the audience to take their role.

After the speech of Raphael Lepot, the chairman of the MEP for You Foundation, the UK delegation held their speech, which was highly anticipated. After the Brexit last June, how would the young delegates adress the issue? It was an emotional speech, emphasizing that the youth of the UK unfortunately had no influence on the decision to leave the EU.

The opening ceremony ended by a presentation of the upcoming events during WEMEP and a thank you note for the organisation of WEMEP 2016. The atmosphere after the opening ceremony was one of excitement, WEMEP has begun! We wish you all an amazing week.

Quote of the Day

“Guys, now I really need a quote”
- Chief Editor



WE ARE MEP



THE HAGUE 2016

Hunger Games: Build your own society



Directly after the opening ceremony, all the delegates and CPs had a teambuilding program. Not a typical teambuilding program, because this one was specially made for this MEP conference. The first exercise was to make a sentence, for example: The proverb warns that: “you should not bite the hand that feeds you”, but maybe “you should if it prevents you from feeding yourself.” None of the journalists have an idea what the real moral behind this quote is. After making the sentence every committee had to complete some assignments. We walked by Team Green and things were pretty emotional over there. Some of the delegates didn’t even know what makes them happy and others could only think about chocolate.

We interviewed two members of the committee of X, who were the representatives of Team Pink. CP Coen Wassink told us that he is afraid of robots and artificial intelligence. They created a society where humour is the religion, but delegate Annemijn de Vries admitted that she rather wouldn’t live in a society like this.

The goal of the teambuilding was of course to create a good team spirit and that certainly happened. Absolutely with the awesome ending of the teambuilding: a NERF war. We hope all of you enjoyed it yesterday!

Did you know that...

- this is the first of many WEMEP sessions. It is very special that you are a participant of this first edition?
- the teambuilding activity was custom made for the WEMEP delegates?
- someone had her skirt on backwards yesterday?
- the speech by the UK was so touching that it brought tears to peoples eyes?
- we saw the French delegation flirt with the Dutch delegation today?
- the Belgian delegation wants to make Europe great again?

What is culture?

Column by Niek Franzen

There doesn't exist a perfect definition of culture, everyone has a different interpretation of it. Some people assume that it is everything that is not nature, but then you can discuss about the bigger question: "What is nature and what is culture". One of the greatest philosophers of the last century had a completely new vision on culture; his name was Schopenhauer.

Schopenhauer presumes that culture can be compared to game. For example, the way we eat. As a human being you don't have to cook a meal and use forks, knives and spoons, to survive as a human being. But why? Assuming to Schopenhauer we do because of boredom. We changed our state of nature, to make things more comfortable and fun. We make a game of our lives.

"Boredom is just the verse side of fascination: both depend being outside rather than inside a situation, and one leads to the other."

I think this vision perfectly fits the way we should look to other cultures. There are no 'good' or 'bad' cultures, neither are cultures that different from each other. It is just the way each culture

fills in their nature state. All the humans on earth are playing the same game, the game of living, but everyone has their one rules: this is my vision on culture. So remember to be respectful during WEMEP, for everyone, every culture and try to understand their game.

Humans of MEP



"I'm from the UK, Scotland. Our delegation was very nervous for this MEP conference, mostly when we found out one of the themes that would be discussed was euroscepticism. But we're glad we got the opportunity to make

clear that the youth of Britain looks at the situation with another point of view than the results of the referendum show. It was not our choice.

Brexit is still a massive subject in the UK, some people still don't believe it's reality. The night when the results came out, I decided not to watch. I was completely sure Brexit would never become reality. When I woke up in the morning I looked at my phone and found out my presumptions were wrong. My family is quite liberal, so they were really devastated. Even though I'm Scottish, I want to get an Irish passport, just so I can still say I'm a part of the EU."

WE ARE MEP



THE HAGUE 2016

Long gathering days: coffee, coffee and coffee.

If you don't like coffee, that might be a problem for the next few days. Today there will be a day full of committee meetings, which you have to survive. Some tips of your journalists:

- Try to be a part of the debate and be active. Nobody survives a whole day of committee meetings, without doing anything. Besides that, you are the representative of a country, so don't act like you don't care about the topics.
- Don't start to complain about everything, don't keep waving your hands around in the 'hurry up' gesture. This gets on people's nerves and you don't want to be the sassy committee delegate which will be called Mr. or Mrs. Sassy at the end of the week.
- Practice napping without snoring or drooling before any scheduled meetings. Nobody will notice if you fall asleep.
- Say you are (half-) Spanish, then you're allowed to take your siesta.
- Oh, and remember the title: coffee, coffee and coffee

Let the committee meetings start!

Yesterday the first committee meetings took place. After the walk to the City Hall of The Hague, committees received lunch and went to their assigned rooms. After getting settled, the committee presidents took the leadership upon them and started explaining the rules. The meetings are very formal and not the time to joke around. After the rules were discussed countries got to state their opinions about certain matters. The opinions of delegates are also very important during the meetings. After creating the beginning of the resolutions, experts came by to give committees advice and to help them with their visions on the issues. Overall these first meetings were a very productive beginning of the ones to come.

PROGRAM SATURDAY

09.00 – 18:00 Committee meetings at various locations The Hague

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch at committee meeting locations

18.00 – 20.00 Participants have dinner with their own committees

20.00 – 22.00 Intercultural evening 'Bonte Avond'