

Fast Agreement on OCs in constructive meetings

The committee meetings have started and I took a sneak peek at the committee AFCO in ProDemos. There's been very active debating but everyone mostly agreed with each other so decisions were made very quickly. There were six OCs on the list, but this number was rapidly cut to one because all of them were combined. The solution was still a little vague, but in the General Assembly we will see if they are able to clarify their solutions.

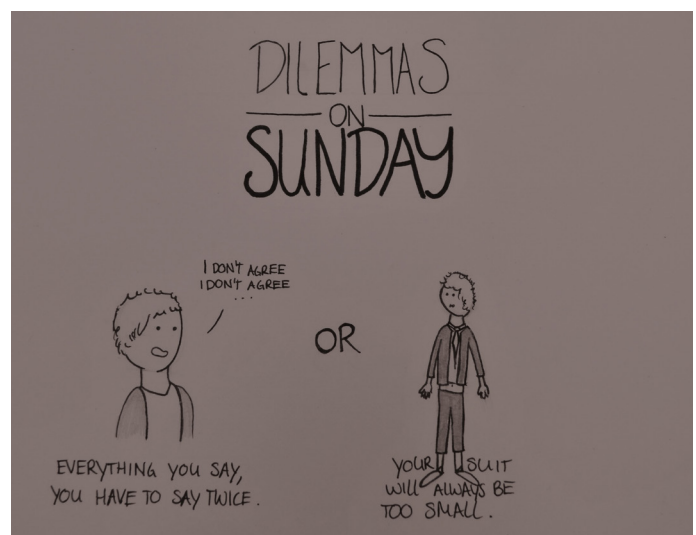
There was some contrast with the meeting at EMPL, who, when I came in, already had six OCs worked-out. The participants were very critical at the OCs and primarily Germany made some very sharp remarks.

The UK mostly paid attention to the way the OCs were formulated and corrected all the little grammar and spelling mistakes. Just like at AFCO everyone agreed with each other in general, which sped up the decision making. As you can imagine some people said more than others, but in general everyone contributed to the solutions so far. Let's go to the GA!



Quote of the Day

“Drop tastes like meat”
- Delegate of the UK



Shorter is better: How the EU can improve our privacy

column by Luna Heijndael

Privacy is a much debated subject. It is one of our human rights, but sometimes it seems we don't mind our privacy being violated. CentERdata showed that 1 out of 5 people accept privacy policy they actually think is unacceptable. Why are we crossing our (privacy) borders so easily? There is a lot of research to find on this subject. Because I need to accept cookies to see them, I decided to do a little research on my own about how teenagers handle the privacy policy, as a real investigative journalist. Do they sometimes accept a privacy policy while they actually think it is unacceptable? And why? I asked these questions to twenty high-school students of the Haags Montessori Lyceum.

Turns out: none (!) of the students had ever studied the privacy policies before they accepted them. So they do not even know if they are crossing their privacy borders by accepting them. The students told they did want to know more about the privacy they give away by accepting, but that the policies are way too long and too hard to read. So, one thing I think the EU should do is impose regulations on readable privacy statements. Sometimes shorter is simply better.

How to lobby

This evening, after all the hard work and long meetings, the lobbying will start. It may sound as just a relaxed form of debating, but it is as important as the formal meeting. During the lobbying you have to persuade each other of your beliefs and get them to support, for example, your resolution. Here are some tips and tricks:

1. First of all, know what you want to ask. Nothing is more annoying for the person you want to persuade than that you actually don't really know what you want to persuade him of.
2. Be interested in the other person. Don't just try to tell your story and walk away, you have to listen to the reaction. Because when he or she likes you, they are more likely to agree with you.
3. Believe in what you're saying, because when you don't believe in what you want to say, how is the other person supposed to believe it?
4. Thank him or her at the end of the conversation, even if they totally disagree with you. You never know when you might need them again!

After this tips and tricks people are likely to support you. And don't forget, you've worked hard for your resolution. So in one way or another there will be something right in it, you just have to let the other person see it.

Did you know that...

- to the Dutch and French delegates: denial is the first stage?
- the opinions about drop differs very widely?
- the journalists thought about the English word

- 'pepernoten' for a really long time? (Is there one?)
- two delegates were 2 and a half hours late yesterday?
- the Spanish don't have siestas as much as some delegates think?
- an English delegate was really annoyed about the fact that he can't have milk in his tea?

WE ARE MEP



THE HAGUE 2016

A museum used for debating

WEMEP 2016 is really lucky to have 3 beautiful locations to hold the committee meetings. First of all, we'd like to thank all the organisations involved for allowing us to use their beautiful venues! It's really much appreciated! We'll now tell something about each of the three locations.

Montesquieu Institute

The Montesquieu Institute is a multifunctional centre concerning democracy, politics and parliamentary decision making. It was set up by 5 different organisations. The Montesquieu Institute offers a meeting point for scientists, as well as an area for people connected to the European Union to work and think.

ProDemos

ProDemos calls itself the 'House of Democracy and Rule of Law'. It tries to explain the rules of democracy to people and also gives them tips to have a very big influence on democracy themselves. Their main goal is to motivate people to be a part of the democracy at municipal, provincial, national and European level.

Humanity House

The Humanity House is a museum that offers the visitor the ability to experience a disaster or conflict. In the exhibitions the visitors are offered a chance to get more detailed info about the disaster or conflict. It's a way of the city of The Hague to educate its citizens.



Humans of MEP



Raquel Ruiz Inciertis
Spanish delegate

"I think that WEMEP is an unique experience, an opportunity that most of us will not have in the future. I found out about WEMEP because I participated at the national MEP in Spain.

There they selected 20 people to go to international sessions. I'm really excited, because in my home country there aren't many competitions like these, at least not where I live. MEP is special, because we talk about big issues we would normally never talk about and meet people from all over Europe. At my host family my host sister and mum can even talk fluently Spanish, but there aren't actually any big culture gaps, because it's still Western Europe. Maybe a small difference in food, because that is quite a big thing in Spain. The committee meetings are going well, we are finding solutions that could be applied in real life. The language is sometimes a problem, but there are a lot of people here that are willing to help you. The General Assembly? I hope I will be ready for it. I'm actually not really anxious, just excited to tell others about our ideas and enjoy this unique opportunity."

WE ARE MEP



THE HAGUE 2016



A night to remember

Yesterday night was a night you will not forget very easily; the intercultural night, a.k.a. 'The Bonte Avond', held at Studio Dudok. It was an overcrowded room and it was way too hot, but that made it even more 'gezellig'. When everybody found their seats and sat down in their randomly chosen groups, the evening could begin, an evening full of quizzes. Actually very educational when you think about it. Because now you know how many cups of tea are being drunk in the United Kingdom and what the most common surname is in Germany. Right? Or did you already forget? It doesn't matter, because after a long day of discussing it is hard to remember anything at all. Due to the competition elements in the quizzes, there was a healthy level of competition in the room, because after all you wanted to know the right answers, or at least guess them right. Next to the questions, there were also little games and to be honest, some people were better in the games than others. After the final quizzes and the final cheers everyone gradually left the room, heading for their host families. We could say it was a successful night, especially the 'koekhappen'.

PROGRAM SUNDAY

8.30 Delegates arrive at the Haags Montessori Lyceum (HML)

08.45 – 10.15 Committee meetings

10.30 – 13.00 Delegates and CPs: Lecture & workshops 'Public Speaking'

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Delegation meetings & CP training

16.00 – 17.30 Free time

17.30 – 19.00 Dinner

19.30 – 21.30 Lobby session