

General Assembly

Resolution AFCO

After the opening of the GA by president Fleur Peterse, the parliamentarians started off with the resolution of the Committee of Constitutional Affairs, about the rising euroscepticism. The Dutch delegate held a very strong opening speech, in which she emphasised the rising euroscepticism, the fact that the functionality of the EU is questioned and its bureaucratic exterior. The member states are losing their nationality and the committee assumes their resolution is the first step against Euroscepticism. She ended with: "A little is a little, but together a little becomes a lot."

The UK suggested an amendment to add the following clause to the resolution: "Urges member states to increase funding to promote organisations such as MEP through the use of social media and advertisements." With 31 in favour and 33 against the amendment was rejected.

The speech against the resolution was held by Germany.

Quote of the Day

"A little is a little, but together a little becomes a lot."
- Dutch delegate

He attacked the resolution on the low efficiency; the resolution wouldn't solve the problem and was just pushing the problem forward. "Would you put your own life at risk with this resolution? I dare you to vote in favour for this resolution."

The resolution didn't pass the GA with a voting of 26 in favour and 37 against, 0 abstention.

Resolution ITRE

With Coen Wassink as president of the third resolution, the Committee of Industry, Technology, Research and Energy submitted their resolution about the issue of outdated nuclear power plants. Again the opening speech was held by a Dutch delegate and he advised everyone that we have to protect ourselves from another Fukushima Daiichi, by leaving the science by the scientists.

Belgium suggested to add a new clause to the resolution, which was: "encourages the government of each member state to inform their citizens about the positive effect of consuming iodine tablets during the exposure to radioactive radiation."

Support by the Netherlands for informational part, benefit for the resolution, defended by the UK. "What would we achieve if, that costs money, is our motto?" They argued that the rest of the resolution already informs citizens sufficiently. The committee voted for the amendment, which was unexpected because of the disagreement they had several minutes before. With 54 votes in favour and 13 against, the amendment passed the GA and was added to the resolution.

The journalists didn't expect that the resolution would pass, because of the heavy debate about the safety of nuclear power, during and after its use. Let's hope the GA voted with certitude.

WE ARE MEP



THE HAGUE 2016

Resolution LIBE I

The president started the assembly by collecting the amendments and factual changes. In the opening speech, a delegate from Luxembourg started by explaining how many refugees there are and that many of them run to Western Europe for peace and freedom. The delegate then explained that proper shelter is crucial for the refugees. He ended his speech with “the refugees come to Europe expecting paradise, but they experience hell.”

The first, and only, amendment that had an objection was number 6. This amendment stated that refugees should receive special treatment in jail. After a debate, the amendment was rejected. The open debate was mainly about the amount of refugees countries should take in. The general assembly was concerned about poor countries taking in refugees. The committee had a solution for this problem: financial aid. OC number 8 was also discussed. This OC states that financial aid should go to the core of the problem (countries like Syria). Someone from the assembly stated that governments are corrupt in these countries and that financial aid will not go to the working man. But this delegate too, was put down fast. The concluding speech of the committee ended with “all for one and one for all, united we stand together we fall.” The resolution was passed with a vote of 34 in favour and 26 against.



Resolution LIBE II

Like the other committees, LIBE 2 started off with an opening speech. In this speech a delegate explained that countries have to share more information about terrorism and that there is a lack of sufficient communication. He made it clear that sharing information is crucial for a safer and more united Europe. Part of the General Assembly wanted to make an addition to the resolution. They wanted to create one big database in which governments and taskforces could look up any information regarding terrorists. The amendment did not pass. The committee made it clear that the big database would make the process of looking up information slower. During the open debate the issue of the collaboration between Facebook and the EU came up. A delegate pointed out that Facebook bought Whatsapp and that Whatsapp has recently encrypted all their messages. Facebook doesn't have access to any information from Whatsapp so how will the EU receive it? The committee went against this with stating that Facebook can get access to any encrypted messages if needed. Suspicious actions allow Facebook to do so.

After more debating and laughing about the “European Union”, the committee gave a very touching end speech. The speech was in memory of a 16 year old French girl who died during a terrorist attack. “A vote in favour is a vote for safety” the delegate said. With 24 in favour and 34 against, the resolution did not pass.

Did you know that...

- this newspaper is extra long?
- like 15 of us forgot to close their jacket when they were standing?
- something really sad happened between the French and the Dutch?
- some people didn't like the journalists? We still love you.



THE HAGUE 2016

Resolution EMPL

The last resolution with Fleur Peterse as president was during the resolution of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. Youth unemployment is one of the biggest problems in the EU and in some member states the ratio is above 50%. Unemployment leads to problems like the brain drain and criminality. "Ambitions must be found, we're the next generation, we are the future."

The UK suggested to substitute OC 2 by:
"Encourages EU member states to implement a quota law concerning enterprises requiring that at least 15% of other new employees are between the ages of 16-25 unless the enterprise requires employees to have an undergone extensive training."

The committee didn't defend the amendment and accepted to change the OC. Like expected the amendment passed.

There was an attack by Belgium, they had the suggestion to create laws for a general minimum age for when you can leave school, what would mean some countries would have to lower their minimum age. The committee only gave really contradictory answers. We just think: "what happened in this committee by creating this OC?"

After a quite light debate the resolution passed with 44 in favour and 16 against, 10 abstention.

ENDING

The official closing ceremony of WEMEP 2016 started at 5 pm. For the closing ceremony there were 2 guest speakers. The first speaker was the German Ambassador of the Netherlands mr. Dirk Brengelmann. He talked about the problems facing the EU. The rising euroscepticism and the refugee crisis were problems that mr. Brengelmann addressed that he thought should be tackled. He said that he was very happy to see here that there are still young people willing to come together and participate in European politics. The next speaker was Devika Partiman. She is a social activist in Amsterdam. She demonstrates against racism and for women rights. She felt that demonstrating has been made more effective due to social media. You can find people with similar views more easily. After this Manon van de Ven, conference manager, said a few words. She wanted to tell us that everyone did an amazing job. She also thanked everyone that helped us.

So, this is it. The end of WEMEP 2016. The day we have all feared and looked forward to. We have feared it because it is the end of one of the best weeks of our life. We have looked forward to it because we are all incredibly exhausted. Either way, it has come to a close.

Gossip and rumours

Column by Nicky Huijgenboom

Gossip: most of us have heard it, started it, and spread it. Gossip is mostly viewed from a negative angle but in contradiction, we all want to hear the latest of it. Rumours are a part of our society. Everyone has judgements about the clothes people wear, how people act and what people do. These judgements are not often kept to ones self. People want to share their 'scoop' hoping that others will agree or know more about it. Gossip can also make a person popular, if someone always has the latest information about a subject people will want to hear this person out. Not only do rumours spread fast, but they also tend to change. Why not make things a bit more exciting when you can? The exaggerations are greatly received by the public. If someone shares an observation, it can quickly lead to something bigger. Rumours are fun and give us something to talk about, but we cannot keep spreading things that never happened. This may go faster than you might think. Without your notice you have been talking about something untrue all week. We made an observation and you made it into something bigger. We simply saw a Dutch and a French delegate talk to each other, we put it in the paper and there you have a rumour that quickly spreads and turns into gossip. (Don't tell us you never believed it because we know you did).

HELP; the MEP GAP!

We had some amazing days, full of new people, successful meetings and a lot of fun. But all good things come to an end, unfortunately that's also the case with this first international MEP conference. Soon real life will start again, and to prevent you

from sinking into a deep depression we'll give you the necessary tips on surviving your MEP-gab!

1. #Imsoocial

Fortunately we've got social media to keep in touch. Exchange your snapchat, instagram and Facebook details to everyone you don't want to say goodbye to. For the Dutch and French delegation a phone number might be handy too.

2. Make yourself heard!

The ending of this conference doesn't mean you can't participate to politics anymore. Stay critical, stay active and make yourself heard!

3. Hug your family and friends

You might have been too busy to miss them, but you'll definitely be very happy to see your family and friends again. They will be the ones helping you to survive your MEP-gap.

4. Re-read our coverage!

All our reporting, including all the pictures and movies are available as a first aid kit for heavy MEP-sickness! Just take a look and you will feel better. Promised!

Don't be sad because we have great news for you: this last newspaper will be a special edition, that means there are two more pages. It was a pleasure writing your daily news! Greetings from your one and only WEareMEP Press, Luna, Niek, Kyle, Romy, Nicky.

WEMEP Awards

WEMEP 2016 The Hague has ended and that also means this is the last WEareMEP you will read. Hopefully you had some lovely days in The Hague at your host families, with your delegation and committee. We, as the journalists, hope that you enjoyed all our newspapers, daily movies and social media. We thought the last WeareMEP had to end spectacularly, so here are our awards:

Best dressed male/female



As usual there is a best dressed male and female. Aléa Ashraf from Luxembourg was wearing an awesome outfit Sunday during the lobby session. She was wearing a perfect combination, which made her even look longer. Coen Wassink was the best dressed male. We know that he isn't a delegate, but all of you male delegates can learn a lot from him.

Worst dressed delegation

To come straight to the point, the UK. Not everyone of course, but some of the British delegates were dressed so badly. Dresses have to be over/on the knee, but the British thought that it was: '20 cm above your knee'. NO! And if you're wearing such a short dress, please wear pantyhose. Finally: if you're wearing a summertop, keep your blazer on, it isn't summer anymore.

Best speeches during the GA

This award goes to two different speeches, but both opening speeches of a high level. The first speech of the GA was held by Annemijn de Vries, whose speech was about euroscepticism. Why don't we trust in the origins of the EU anymore? She kept

shooting questions like that to the assembly and public, which made a big impact. She ended with the words: "A little is a little, but together a little becomes a lot." The other awarded speech was from Cameron Currie, about terrorism in the EU. Nowadays citizens are afraid of simple things, like going to museums, because they associate these places with terrorism. We have to work together, we have to share and we have to prevent the loss of life, so tragedies like Paris and Brussels won't repeat themselves; "These are our values".

Biggest mistake during WEMEP



There were so many mistakes this week, it was really depressing for the journalists. During the GA around 16 guys forgot to button their button. But the biggest mistake we saw this week was wearing UGG's underneath an outfit. Ouch.

Cutest couple

This wasn't the MEP conference of love. Seriously, where is the love. No couples, no kisses, no awkward moments and no hook-ups. But, we've chosen a couple most likely to last. During the lobby session all of the sudden there was a fire around the piano. The journalist rushed themselves over to the piano and found the cause of the spark between the UK and Luxembourg.



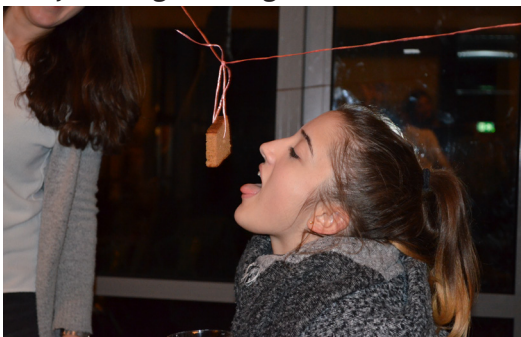
Wall of Fame



For everyone who was complaining about the weather. Even with weather like this, The Hague is still a wonderful city.



Committee meetings take a lot of time, but in a beautiful room like this, you should always love gatherings.



During the typically Dutch game "Koekhappen", the delegates tried to eat the sweets. Well, they tried.



WEMEP was not just debating, committee meetings and the GA. It was also a lot of fun. We all met a lot of new people, made new friends and most of all: laughed a lot.



But like everything, WEMEP ended, but our ending was quite awesome. The GA was in the old House of Representatives.



Last but not least, your WEareMEP Press team!