



Topic Preparation Kit

22nd National Selection Conference of EYP Greece

TOPIC PREPARATION KIT

1. Overviews

The overviews are written by the Committee chairpersons to serve as background material. They aim to identify the key issues at stake while synthesising the topic area. The objective is naturally to keep these overviews as balanced as possible, yet they may not receive unanimous consent. It should be noted that the EYP strongly encourages independent thinking so feel free to disagree!

2. Keywords

The non-exhaustive list of keywords intends to facilitate searching for information, may it be documents, news items or articles, with different types of search engines, news websites and encyclopaedias.

3. Research Links

As regards the suggestions for research links, the list is by no means exhaustive. Rather than citing individual links, we have preferred indicating links to websites where several relevant documents and articles can be found. Please note that EYP is not responsible for the contents on various websites; the texts reflect the opinions of their authors only.

We wish you successful preparation and interesting reading!

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President of the Session

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President of EYP Greece

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Head Organiser of the Session

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Smoking bans and alcohol restrictions: To what extent does the State have a role to educate and protect its citizens’ health and what strategy should it adopt?

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9. COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE I)

In light of recent French moves to repatriate Roma, what should be done to ensure that minority communities of Europe have equal rights all over Europe?

10. COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE II)

With rising concerns over increasing government control of Internet, how should Europe find the balance between freedom of expression on-line and the strengthening of Internet security?

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (AFET)

Chairpersons: Aspa Georgrakopoulou (GR), Ingrid Pechinger (AT)

In reponse to recent talks in the USA, how should Europe work with the international community to prevent further acceleration of instability and create a lasting peaceful settlement in the "New Middle East"?

Overview:

For more than 40 years since the Middle East war of June 1967, there have been many peace plans and many negotiations. Israeli and Palestinian leaders resumed direct peace negotiations in Washington in September 2010. Talks were suspended yet again when Israel began its offensive on the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip in December, in response to Palestinian rocket fire from the area.

As the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu supports the formation of a Palestinian state, but says it must be de-militarised, with an Israeli security presence along its eastern side, and it must recognise Israel as a Jewish state. Jerusalem, where the Palestinians want as their capital, must remain Israel's eternal, undivided capital.

The Palestinians, on the other hand, want a viable, independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, with their capital in East Jerusalem. They want the state's territory to be based on the land that Israel occupied in 1967, but are willing to accept a partial land swap, allowing some Israeli settlement blocs to stay in Israel in exchange for territory now in Israel.

The EU's goal is a two-state solution with an independent, democratic, viable Palestinian state living side-by-side with Israel and its other neighbours. The EU wants to see progress, not just process. It has repeatedly emphasised the need for a law and order improvement in Palestine to shape the basis for a democratic state. A long-term solution to the conflict will require not only the UN, US, EU and the international community cooperate closely but a solution that will satisfy the majority of the Palestinian and Israeli people alike.

There is little optimism from either side, but the international community is pushing hard for a deal. As it stands, PM Netanyahu has little room for manoeuvre as his current coalition includes strongly right-wing parties, which are strongly against even opening a discussion on the status of Jerusalem.

Mr Abbas' position is weak. His democratic mandate has run out - elections are due but cannot be held because of the feud between his Fatah party and the Hamas movement. The two factions are bitterly divided. Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, home to 1.5 million Palestinians, is strongly opposed to the negotiations. If Mr Abbas did reach an agreement with the Israelis, it would most likely be on terms Hamas would reject, although some of its leaders have suggested they might accept a deal if it was backed in a referendum. Furthermore, Israel does not recognise the Hamas movement as an official Palestinian authority but rather as a terrorist group.

Bringing peace to Palestine and Israel will stabilise the whole Arabic region and ease the tensions between Jewish and Islamic people. Yet, nearly two decades of on-off talks have not produced sustainable results. History has shown that both sides can be radical and choose violence over dialogue. To avoid an escalation of the conflict and another Middle-East war, which measures should the EU and the international community take to secure lasting peace in the region?

Keywords: New Middle East, International Community, Middle East Peace Process, UN Security Council Resolution 242

Links:

Introductory material

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_conflict

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Peace_Initiative

<http://www.awesomelibrary.org/MiddleEastConflict.html#history>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_National_Authority

Official sources

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

<http://www.gov.il/firstgov/english>

<http://israelipalestinian.procon.org/>

Newspaper articles and other materials

http://www.ted.com/talks/parag_khanna_maps_the_future_of_countries.html

<http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/>

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/middle_east/conflict/index.html

<http://euobserver.com/>

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AGRI)

Chairpersons: Gio-Maya Pan. (GR) and Sini Ventela (FI)

With the world demand for food expected to double by 2050, what role should the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) play in providing Europe's population in an affordable and sustainable way after 2013?

Overview:

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) provides a framework, common to all EU Member States, which deals with the production and trading of agricultural products. It does so both on a regulatory and a monetary level, providing guidelines and rules that should apply to the production process, as well as economic support to producers. Since 1999, it has been operating with respect to two main pillars: the 1st (Direct Aid) and the 2nd Pillar (Rural Development Aid).

Initially, the CAP was meant to ensure self-sufficiency to the EU in terms of food supply, to provide consumers with reasonable prices and to protect European farming products from competition.

The way CAP works though has evolved throughout the years; it started out as a system consisting of agricultural subsidies and programs designed to help the European farmers compete with the cheap products coming from outside the EU. However, the CAP has been subject to severe criticism over the way it interferes with the free market and the remarkable share of the overall EU budget that is allocated to it. It has also been common for the parties opposing the CAP to assert that it has introduced additional problems such as double standards for big and small farms, unfair competition for poor nations and a surplus of products. This led to a series of reforms that have been taking place since the 1990's. First in 1999 and then in 2003, attempts to decouple direct subsidies from the amount of production and the kind of crop grown or animal farmed were made, with the employment of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). Rather, payments were made conditional to the farmers meeting environmental standards and caring for animal welfare, a mechanism known as "cross-compliance". Production limits and the use of quotas have also helped dealing with "problematic" products, such as milk and sugar.

The years 2007 and 2008 marked a turn to a more market-oriented approach and a shift of funds to the aid of rural development. This reflects a change of perception: upon realising the challenges of the modern world and the way production has evolved, the EU shifted the focus of the CAP onto sustainably managing natural resources, protecting the environment and fostering development of the countryside on a long-term basis.

The CAP of tomorrow will not only have to face the problems stemming from the policies employed in the early years of the CAP and the elements that have been neglected or inefficiently managed by the previous reforms. Considering the global demand for food, which is expected to double by 2050, intensification of performance is needed. The Common Agricultural Policy also has to face the challenge of simplification and the merging of all different points of view: that of the farmer, of the consumer and of the tax-payer.

Bearing this in mind, how can a fair distribution of funds between the member states and individual producers be ensured? What measures should be taken in order to avoid distortion of the market and make the CAP budget more sustainable, while taking into consideration the challenges posed in the modern world?

Keywords: target price; intervention price; first and second pillar; free market; subsidies; tariffs; Single Payment Scheme; modernisation, set-aside policy; food mountains; cross-compliant; sustainable development; quotas; Dacian Cioloș; rural development

Links:

Introductory material

www.cap2020.ieep.eu

www.capreform.eu

<http://capreform.eu/what-has-changed-in-the-published-commission-communication/>

http://www.ieep.eu/publications/pdfs/meacap/WP6/WP6D4B_CAP.pdf

http://www.copa-cogeca.be/img/user/file/PAC_BROCHURE/7400%20VERSION%20E.pdf

Official sources

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/capexplained/cap_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/capreform/infosheets/pay_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/communication/com2010-672_en.pdf

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=IM-PRESS&reference=20100113IPR67224&language=EN>

http://circa.europa.eu/irc/opoce/fact_sheets/info/data/policies/agriculture/article_7208_en.htm

Newspaper articles and other materials

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4407792.stm>

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT)

Chairpersons: Jorg Körner (Vice-President, DE) and Marianna Georgidi (GR)

Making EU a competitive and knowledge based economy: How should the EU shape its post-Lisbon Agenda educational policies to further foster innovation?

Overview:

The Lisbon Agenda was an action and development plan for the economy of the European Union between 2000 -2010. The main aim was to make the EU “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion”. The term “knowledge based economy” refers to the use of knowledge technologies such as knowledge engineering and knowledge management to generate economic benefits and create new jobs. A crucial factor for developing into such a type of economy is education. Education can generally contribute to a competitive economy in three ways. Firstly, it increases the human capital inherent in the labour force, which increases labour productivity. It also facilitates the diffusion and transmission of knowledge which is needed to understand and process new information and to successfully implement technologies. Finally and most importantly, it can increase the innovative power of an economy and the knowledge on new technologies, products and processes. The EU has also identified education as one of the key factors in achieving its goals and accordingly created the “Education and training 2010” work programme including initiatives to improve exchange of best practices in education between Member States and finding a common benchmark process to measure success of educational policies. In this context the EU has expanded several existing and launched new programmes that encourage exchange of people and ideas like for example the Erasmus programme.

Although the Lisbon Agenda as a whole has been widely welcomed and seemed fairly promising, upon review in 2009 its goals have been characterized by experts as not successfully achieved. As potential reasons for the failure of the agenda experts name its vague nature lacking concrete measures and its non-binding character. One of the biggest obstacles the EU faces, when tackling the issue of education policies is the fact that matters of education are almost entirely within the realm of the sovereign legislation of the individual Member States. The EU is therefore more or less reliant on either providing incentives for Member States to act in the desired way, or - to a limited degree- on providing programmes with funding of its own.

Furthermore all EU Member States are part of the so-called Bologna Process, an initiative under the auspices of the Council of Europe and thus not directly an EU action. Together with 20 non-member states the signatory countries of the Bologna Declaration have committed to creating a common European Higher Education Area. The declaration entails the introduction of a three cycle system for higher education (bachelor/master/doctorate) and a common way of measuring workload (European Credit transfer system) and has as its main aim the increase of mobility for European students and workers. It is non-binding and its implementation and interpretation varies greatly between states.

As a follow-up on the Lisbon agenda the Europe2020 strategy for the new decade was introduced in March 2010. It builds on the aim of the “most competitive knowledge based economy” in the world, but it also identifies five key priorities and introduces flagship initiatives to reach this goal. One of the priorities is “To reduce the share of early school leavers to 10% from the current 15% and increase the share of the population aged 30–34 having completed tertiary education from 31% to at least 40%”. Is this enough or what other lessons should the EU take from the failures of the Lisbon agenda to ensure it actually reaches its ambitious goals during the upcoming decade?

Keywords: Lisbon agenda, Europe2020, Education and training 2010, Bologna process, knowledge based economy

Links:

Introductory material

<http://www.ehea.info/>

Official sources

http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/lisbon_strategy_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/vassiliou/headlines/news/2010/03/20100308_en.htm

<http://www.innovationeu.org/news/innovation-eu-vol2-1/0189-the-role-of-education-in-the-new-europe-2020.html>

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/general_framework/index_en.htm

Newspaper articles and other materials

<http://euractiv.com/en/education>

<http://www.ceps.eu/book/key-role-education-europe-2020-strategy>

http://www.businessweek.com/globalbiz/content/mar2010/gb2010035_390728.htm

<http://www.thebeginner.eu/europe/283-the-lisbon-strategy-and-europe-2020-education-as-a-key-factor>

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (DEVE)

Chairpersons: Kübra Kundak (TR) and Alexios Nompilakis (GR)

The year of the Haitian earthquake and floods in Pakistan: how should the EU organise itself to react most appropriately to future humanitarian crises?

Overview:

Every year, across the world, more than 300 million people are affected by natural disasters – earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, droughts, wildfires, tropical storms and epidemics. Lives are lost, fortunes are destroyed and communities at risk become even more vulnerable.

Recent surveys show that the majority of the EU population considers aiding victims of natural disaster important and thinks that the EU's funding in this area is crucial. There should be no doubt regarding the fact that the need of solidarity towards victims of humanitarian crisis is unquestioned. These natural disasters happen more frequently and devastate an increasing amount of people. For instance, the year of 2010 has witnessed two major crises, which were the Haitian earthquake (January 12, 2010) and the floods in Pakistan (in July, 2010). Since such events cannot be predicted and/or stopped, actions should definitely be taken in order to help the affected countries by providing humanitarian aid efficiently.

One of the biggest actors in providing funds for humanitarian aid is the EU. With a yearly budget of about €700 million, the EU provides half of the official international humanitarian aid, whether through the Commission or through bilateral Member State programmes. The responsible commission for distribution and organization of humanitarian aid is the Humanitarian Aid department of the European Commission (ECHO). Additionally, there's the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (December, 2007) and its mandate is to provide the victims of armed conflicts or natural disasters outside the EU with emergency assistance and relief.

Still, there are a string of issues which complicate the aiding procedures sometimes. Not everyone agrees that aiding is a necessity and/or the most appropriate way to help suffering people and countries. There have been cases in which local governments have refused to accept any help provided by western civilization. Was that due to the fear they might later get manipulated by other more powerful states? Another significant difficulty occurs when humanitarian aid is accepted by the locals but the distribution of goods and funds is complicated by too many organisations getting involved, inefficient structures and even corruption in the receiving country..

Let's see how humanitarian aid by the EU should be structured in order to wipe out all these problems mentioned above.

Keywords: Haitian earthquake, floods in Pakistan, EU, ECHO, humanitarian crisis, humanitarian aid, aid and adjustment

Links:***Introductory material***

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarian_crisis

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/what/presentation_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/what/history_en.htm

Official sources

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu/pol/financ/index_en.htm

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=1658&lang=en>

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/humanitarian_aid/index_en.htm

(Especially: - European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, - Instrument for Humanitarian Aid, - EU response to fragile situations, - Disaster risk reduction in developing countries, - Humanitarian Aid Office – ECHO, - Framework Partnership Agreement with humanitarian organisations)

Newspaper articles and other materials

http://www.eudevdays.eu/the_edd_en.cfm

<http://www.hapinternational.org/>

http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/resources/journal/18_2/special_section/5010.html

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-09-08-unhealthy-politicisation-of-aid-to-pakistan>

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS (ECON)

Chairpersons: Niklas Herpertz (DE) and Thanasis Saitis (GR)

With the European Commission proposing an enactment of new tax policies and bank resolution funds to tackle future economic crises, how should the EU seek to achieve long-term economic sustainability?

Overview:

“This is a difficult time for the country”, declared Brian Cowen, prime minister of Ireland, when he was formally applying for a rescue package to help his country cope with its financial crisis. Ireland is yet another example for economies worldwide threatened by the failure of their banking systems. By taking excessive risks and not securing them with enough capital, banks have entered financial distress worldwide. As banks supply companies with credits, they play a crucial role for economic growth. So, in order to prevent economic instability, governments need to jump in and save the endangered banks with tax payers’ money. These rescues are very costly and put pressure on public finances. In the case of Ireland, the rescue was even too costly, forcing Ireland to apply for international help. However, even states able to cope with their failing banks, plummeted into a recession in the aftermath of the financial crisis. Accordingly, it seems inevitable that measures have to be found to prevent similar financial crises.

The establishment of a supranational supervision agency in the EU is one proposal. It could work as an early warning system for risks in the financial system. Furthermore it could enhance cooperation between the national banking supervision agencies to improve the surveillance of individual banks. With the proposed “bank resolution fund”, the European Commission seeks to set up a fund for banks facing certain and imminent failure (not usable for bailing out banks in distress). The fund would allow the bank to go down in an orderly manner, and offer depositors and investors time to try and rescue their money. As banks would be forced to pay money into the fund, their money, instead of public money, would be used for rescuing them. This would imply smaller burdens for public finances. However, the establishment of such a fund would impose costs on banks, which could harm their international competitiveness, lead to decreased supply of credit and reduced economic growth. The regulations proposed by Basel III mainly attempt to tackle the problem of high leverage. Hereby leverage describes the ratio between a company’s debt and its “own money” (equity). By increasing its debt in relation to its equity a bank can increase its profitability, but in times of financial stress a high leverage ratio increases the risk of insolvency. Therefore Basel III requests a minimum level of equity in relation to debt. Financial transaction taxes and bank levies, designed to punish excessive risk taking in the banking sector were proposed by some EU countries at the beginning of 2010. Nonetheless an agreement for implementation was neither reached on EU nor on G20 level.

Fully aware that the topic represents a challenge due to its complexity, we consider thorough preparation as highly necessary. A proposed route of research could look as follows: An entering point could be research on the banking crisis to understand its causes and consequences, followed by research on the measures described in the paragraph above.

Keywords: financial crisis, bank resolution fund, Basel III, financial transaction taxes, bank levies

Links:***Introductory material***

http://www.economist.com/node/16889009?story_id=16889009

<http://www.bis.org/bcbs/basel3.htm>

Official sources

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication15887_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/focuson/crisis/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/bank/docs/crisis-management/funds/com2010_254_en.pdf

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0252:FIN:EN:PDF>

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EMPL)

Chairpersons: Sofia Zafeiriou (Vice-President, GR) and Larissa Akçetin (TR)

With over 20% of young Europeans aged 16-24 unemployed, what more can be done to ensure that this generation of potential workers does not become irreversibly excluded from the labour market?

Overview:

For the past few weeks university students in many European countries have been protesting, from Greece and Italy to the UK. Thus, it is clear that nowadays young people are more concerned about their future than ever.

Youth unemployment rate of Europe, having reached 20.6% in February 2010, has long surpassed the average unemployed rate of 10.10%. This number was only 14.7% maximum before the crisis in 2008. Moreover, the rate is rising more sharply compared to the average unemployment rate, during these times of economic crisis. This means that one out of five young people is unemployed, therefore at the edge of joining a new generation full of uncertainty.

One doubtless fact is that there are actually few job opportunities for young people. Even worse, if we take a closer look at these opportunities it seems that the majority of them have to do with insecure and highly-flexible forms of employment. Although precarious employment was considered to be a stepping stone for people to find a permanent job, this likelihood is rather low, as observed. Employers take advantage of the markets' instability by using internships or traineeships rather than regular employment. Current legislations and contracts of young employees show a major difference in terms of salary, work conditions and rights reasoned through experience deficit, but still caused by age differences.

One reason for the few available work places for young people is the unjust balance of more experienced employees from the older generation and young ones. High retirement-age causes a wide age-range of employees to be actively involved in the market at the same time.

The main obstacle though is the current economic crisis. Economic growth is needed to foster job creation. However, even if job openings are to boost in the near future, something that many factors doubt, economists expect future hiring to mainly benefit the high-skilled, thus seeing a massive need for skilled labour.

Lisbon Strategy's goals for a knowledge-based society are far but reached though. With a special focus on vocational training, educational systems and programmes need to be updated and improved, while taking into consideration the needs of the labour market. However, it is of great importance to ensure the academic identity of the educational institutions and programmes, which are not meant to be workforce industries.

The transition from education to work is a major challenge for young people, who are asked to choose a career pattern quite early. Also, different countries have different needs concerning their labour markets, with varying numbers of available jobs in specific fields.

The European Union has put a strategy for sustainable growth and jobs to achieve a balance; the EU 2020. The main initiative that has been launched to aid the youth aspect of EU2020 is "Youth on the Move", which aims to put forth a better prepared and "mobile" 16-24 aged labour force group. The initiative's success is still wary, since the drawn strategy plan highly depends upon the participation and cooperation of the Member States.

How can the differences in academic qualifications and job pre-requisites be balanced among the Member States in order to enable and promote mobility? What goals should the EU focus on in order to introduce active labour market policies and balance the risks of unemployment in terms of social security? Is the current welfare system really capable of responding to the rising rates of unemployment? Do the young people have the skills to make different career choices many times in a lifetime and the potential to adapt to the different needs of such unstable market conditions that do not always allow them to work on the field they studied? Is there really a perfect way to balance the needs of the individual and the needs of the labour market?

Keywords: flexicurity, lifelong learning, academic citizen, ageing population, age discrimination, job creation, precarity, gainful employment, social inclusion, mobility

Links

Introductory material

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Glossary:Youth_unemployment

http://www.ted.com/talks/geoff_mulgan_post_crash_investing_in_a_better_world_1.html

<http://www.goethe.de/ges/soz/dos/arb/pre/en1870532.htm>

http://www.oecd.org/document/47/0,3343,en_2649_37457_44849329_1_1_1_1,00.html

Official sources

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1724_en.htm

<http://europa.eu/youthonthemove/>

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Labour_market_sector_specialisation_at_regional_level

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Population_structure_and_ageing

Newspaper articles and other materials

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/meps-mull-plan-limit-youth-unemployment-four-months-news-496085>

<http://euobserver.com/851/31033>

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/unemployment-youth.2gy/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/aug/11/unemployment-and-employment-statistics-recession>

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/enterprise-jobs/eu-youth-job-strategy-under-fire-news-497858>

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (ENVI)

Chairpersons: Maral Simonian (GR) and Johan Wallin (SE)

Smoking bans and alcohol restrictions: To what extent does the State have a role to educate and protect its citizens' health and what strategy should it adopt?

Overview:

Alcohol and smoking-related harm is a major public health concern in the EU. Alcohol consumption, both moderate and excessive, is accountable for over 7% of all ill health and early deaths¹, while over half a million Europeans die prematurely every year due to tobacco use. It is an issue of great concern that the Youth of Europe is a target for tobacco and alcohol advertising, and is vulnerable to the ill health effects they cause.

Differences in Legislation between Member States

The legal age to drink and purchase alcohol in the EU varies between among its member states; this can range from no age, to 20 years, with the average legal drinking age being 18 years³. Likewise, implementation of the smoking ban varies between member states. Most, however, have a ban against smoking in public places.

Alcohol Advertising

Alcohol advertising is common in both traditional and non-traditional media such as mobile phones and the internet. The cost of traditional media advertising totaled more than € 2.5 billion among the top nine alcohol companies in 2004. Advertising campaigns are often targeted at the youth and evidence shows that these adverts are related to a positive attitude towards drinking among this group.

The research on the linkage between alcohol advertisement and increased drinking habits has been criticised and some say that a total ban on alcohol advertisements would not result in a significant change in drinking behaviour among youths. A total ban on alcohol advertising could potentially harm media industries, which profit from such ads.

Advertisement Legislation

The EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive, which went into force in 2007, is a set of rules for broadcasting and on-demand TV with the aim of protecting EU citizens, with an emphasis on minors. This directive expanded the existing ban on tobacco advertising to include newer forms of media.

The Tobacco Advertising Directive which includes a total ban on all tobacco advertising went into effect in 2005. It is well implemented in all member states and traditional tobacco advertising has ceased to exist in the European Union.

Health Implications of Alcohol and Tobacco Consumption

Any amount of alcohol consumption increases the long-term risk of heart conditions, liver diseases, cancers and dependence. In the short term, drunkenness often leads to road safety accidents and violence. Tobacco is the largest avoidable risk factor for ill-health in Europe, causing more health

problems than alcohol, drugs of abuse, and obesity. It is associated with a significant proportion of cancers, and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

This topic is very important since the impact of alcohol and smoking on the EU society is considerable. The most important aspects of the topic are the health implications, the different forms of legislation among member states and the advertisements of these substances. It is also important to research the Lisbon treaty to gain an understanding on the types of legislation the EU can enforce.

Keywords: Nanny State, ENSP, Smoking Advertising, SmokeFree, Health Implications of Alcohol and Tobacco Consumption, Alcohol Advertising

Links:

Introductory material

<http://www.eurocare.org/>

http://www.eupedia.com/europe/maps_of_europe.shtml

http://www.eupedia.com/europe/maps_of_europe.shtml

Official sources

http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/policy/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/policy/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/health/archive/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/forum/docs/alcohol_lib10_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/reg/tvwf/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/Documents/com_20080520_en.pdf

http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm

Newspaper articles and other materials

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/sep/08/ad-ban-devastate-media-industries>

<http://www.eph.org/a/1941>

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY (FEMM)

Chairpersons: Drazen Puklavac (Vice-President, HR) and Stella Merti (GR)

Living in an age on feminism: How can the EU strike a balance between protecting women's rights and avoiding discrimination towards men?

Overview:

Equal participation of men and women in all spheres of life is a crucial factor of guaranteeing and deepening democracy, a basic principle in the EU.

De iure equality of rights has mainly been already achieved, and the most important international declaration is the "Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women" (CEDAW), which was signed in 1980 and put into action a year later. Although legislation has a key role to play in securing women's rights, it has little value without the will, knowledge and capacity necessary to implement it in a manner consistent with women's rights.

According to the principles of modern feminism, equality must be rethought in the light of the inherent difference between men and women, the latter being responsible for child bearing and still, to a large extent, for child care. However, this necessary, vital and fruitful positive difference should neither be denied nor used to generate discrimination. On the other hand, there is a new trend of movements for men's rights (paternity etc), that should be also taken under consideration. Recently the focus of the debate about women's rights is not about making women the same as men, but making the genders equal and their differences respected.

Special attention should be paid in the following fields:

Governance and political representation: the stereotype of politics as a corrupt and male affair suggests that most women are neither interested nor fit for the job. However, without the ability to participate in politics women cannot influence policy development on any issue relating to their rights.

Social welfare: This area contains provision of health and child care, as well as the reproductive rights of women.(abortion etc).Reproductive choices and behavior are central to women's lives and influence their access to other rights, yet they remain vaguely defined in international and European humanitarian law.

Education: Education undeniably plays a fundamental role in this issue. Through education, awareness is increased and women are made familiar with the means they can defend their rights. Meanwhile, access to education is vital so that women have a chance to compete with men in any working position.

What further steps should be made so as to retain de iure and achieve de facto equality? How can the role of culture and tradition be redefined to better convey the new definition of genders? Where stands the border line between preserving women's rights while not undermining men's rights?

Keywords: women's rights, gender equality, discrimination, feminism, maternity

Links:

Introductory material

<http://www.actionaid.org/eu/index.aspx?PageID=4664>

Official sources

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committeerulesofprocedure.html>

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/human_rights/women/index_en.htm

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/euromed/women/index_en.htm

Newspaper articles and other materials

<http://euobserver.com/851/31087>

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/experts-eu-pension-proposal-will-hit-women-much-harder-men-news-494853>

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/mixed-emotions-womens-day-eastern-europe-news-309486>

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/women-catholic-eu-countries-go-abroad-abortion-activists-say-news-497212>

http://www.ted.com/themes/women_reshaping_the_world.html

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE I)

Chairpersons: Mariela Apostolaki (GR) and Elina Mantrali (CY)

In light of recent French moves to repatriate Roma, what should be done to ensure that minority communities of Europe have equal rights all over Europe?

Overview:

The French government is deporting Romanian and Bulgarian Roma from illegal camps across the country, provoking criticism from both within France and the European Union. The issue arose when a riot erupted by French Roma in July 2010 after a policeman shot and killed a French Roma. This led French President Nicolas Sarkozy to call an emergency ministerial meeting, where it was decided that around 300 illegal camps and squats would be dismantled within three months. The reason the government gave was that the camps were "sources of illegal trafficking, of profoundly shocking living standards, of exploitation of children for begging, of prostitution and crime", according to a statement from the President's office.

There is however also the suspicion that this is a discriminatory action against a racial minority, and several leading authorities – such as the Vatican and the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – have expressed concern regarding the matter. More specifically, France is possibly in breach of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and EU anti-discrimination laws if it is proven that the deportations were made on the grounds of nationality, race or ethnic origin. The most prominent face in this issue is Commissioner Viviane Reding, who has given a speech clearly demonstrating the EU's position on the matter.

The European Commission has asked France for more proof concerning its claim that the country's actions are not focused against the Roma before opening a case against France. Furthermore, the Commission has also set up a task force to examine how funds aimed at the Roma are being used.

The question to be asked here is not whether or not France is discriminating, but more about how the rights of ethnic minorities such as the Roma can be secured. Governments may need and may have the right to take certain actions to deal with specific situations, but these actions are often set forth on personal prejudices rather than facts. What can the European Union do to ensure that such actions do not cross the line from measures for security, to racial discrimination against ethnic groups perceived to be responsible for a given situation?

Keywords

Roma, France, EU, Infringements of EU law, European Immigration Policy, racial minorities

Links:***Introductory material***

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/search;jsessionid=6m2rrmutskt79.alice?database=1&title=Amsterdam%20Treaty>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_on_the_Elimination_of_All_Forms_of_Racial_Discrimination

http://www.hrea.org/index.php?doc_id=360

Official sources

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20100907IPR81450>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2010-0085+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Newspaper articles and other materials

<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article1818>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11323053>

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE II)

Chairpersons: Oğulcan Torun (President, TR) and Evi Christodoulou (GR)

With rising concerns over increasing government control of Internet, how should Europe find the balance between freedom of expression on-line and the strengthening of Internet security?

Overview:

Living in the Information Society, the Internet has, in countless ways, raised our access to information and allowed us to share ideas with the entire world. It rapidly evolved from a research and academic facility into “a global facility available to the public”, a powerful and positive forum for free expression. Today, governments, financial institutions and military corporations amass a great deal of confidential information (about their costumers, research, financial status etc.) which is stored on electronic computers and transferred across networks. Today, young people and children are some of the biggest fans of online technologies, using them for communication, entertainment and education.

However, while the Internet is hugely beneficial to all walks of society, it also brings opportunities to cybercrime, child pornography, spamming, racism and others. Governments are bound to forbid the publication of properly categorised state secrets, explicit content, and matters related to personal privacy and privilege.

Unfortunately, measures taken in relation to security can sometimes lead to violations of the provisions of freedom of expression as contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, Article 19). Some governments use content filtering and blocking techniques for censorship and surveillance of citizens. Quite a few countries are censoring access to certain websites through DNS (Domain Name Service) filtering in order to prevent “challenging” content from spreading (ranging from political opinions, religious information regarding ethnic groups in disfavor, women’s issues and gay/lesbian content, among others). The Internet is fast becoming a method of repression rather than an instrument of liberation.

Preserving the Internet’s open architecture is critical to sustaining freedom of expression. If laws can censor you, then the Internet’s incredible potential will go unrealised. This technological capacity, though, means little without sufficient legal protections. Because freedom of expression online is a right, not a privilege - but it's a right that needs defending.

Keywords: internet governance, censorship, digital rights, freedom of information, information society, internet security, Global Network Initiative (GNI), European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online (eNASCO), World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Links:***Introductory material***

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_information

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_censorship

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_governance

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Summit_on_the_Information_Society

Official sources

<http://www.intgovforum.org/>

Newspaper articles and other sources

<http://www.globalnetworkinitiative.org/>

http://www.cert.org/encyc_article/tocencyc.html#WhyCare

<http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2010/09/17/242901/Europe-calls-for-global-internet-treaty.htm>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

General rules

The wish to speak is indicated by raising the committee placard. The authority of the board is absolute.

Procedure and time settings

Presenting of the motion for the resolution (operative clauses, friendly amendments)

3 minutes to defend the motion for the resolution

3 minutes to attack the motion for the resolution

Points of information

20 minutes of general debate

3 minutes to sum-up the debate

Voting procedure

Announcing the votes

Friendly amendment

Last minute modifications of a resolution in order to improve it. Amendments are to be handed in on a specific form (distributed to the chairs) two resolutions before the resolution in question.

Point of information

Request for a brief explanation of the meaning of specific words and abbreviations. Note that translations are not points of information.

Point of personal privilege

Request for a delegate to repeat a point that was inaudible.

Point of order

A delegate feels that the board has not properly followed Parliamentary procedure. The placard is used by chairpersons after a request from a delegate.

Direct response

Once per debate, each committee may use the Direct Response sign. Should a committee member raise the Committee Placard and the "Direct Response" sign, the board recognises them immediately. The direct response sign is used to contribute to the point made directly beforehand.

RESOLUTION CLAUSES

Operative Clauses

- * Accepts
- * Affirms
- * Approves
- * Authorises
- * Calls
- * Calls for
- * Calls upon
- * Condemns
- * Congratulates
- * Confirms
- * Considers
- * Declares accordingly
- * Deplores
- * Draws attention to
- * Designates
- * Emphasises
- * Encourages
- * Endorses
- * Expresses its appreciation
- * Expresses its hope
- * Further invites
- * Further proclaims
- * Further recommends
- * Further reminds
- * Further resolves
- * Further requests
- * Has resolved to
- * Notes
- * Proclaims
- * Reaffirms
- * Recommends
- * Regrets
- * Solemnly confirms
- * Strongly condemns
- * Supports
- * Trusts
- * Takes note of
- * Transmits
- * Urges

Introductory Clauses

- * Affirming
- * Alarmed by
- * Approving
- * Aware of
- * Believing
- * Bearing in mind
- * Confident
- * Contemplating
- * Convinced
- * Declaring
- * Deeply concerned
- * Deeply conscious
- * Deeply convinced
- * Deeply disturbed
- * Deeply regretting
- * Desiring
- * Emphasising
- * Expecting
- * Expressing its appreciation
- * Expressing its satisfaction
- * Fulfilling
- * Fully alarmed
- * Fully aware
- * Fully believing
- * Further noting
- * Further recalling
- * Guided by
- * Having adopted
- * Having considered
- * Having examined
- * Having heard
- * Having received
- * Having studied
- * Keeping in mind
- * Noting with regret
- * Noting with satisfaction
- * Noting with deep concern
- * Noting with approval
- * Observing

- * Realising
- * Reaffirming
- * Recalling
- * Recognising
- * Referring to
- * Seeking
- * Taking into account
- * Taking into considering
- * Taking note of
- * Viewing with appreciation
- * Welcoming