



# EU

## European Union

**Committee:** European Union (EU)

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## I. Crisis Committee

### a) What is a crisis committee?

A crisis committee differs greatly from traditional MUN committees; they follow different protocol and participants have no previous knowledge of the topics being discussed. Typically, a crisis committee consists of 25 participants and is led by three Chairs who are responsible for monitoring the flow of the debate.

Unlike traditional committees, crisis committees are affected by real-time decisions and events that take place in the outside world. While in session, the debate may be interrupted by breaking news bulletins, special guests or the introduction of new evidence. Participants must be able to utilize their critical thinking, leadership and speaking skills because a decision made during one session could alter the course of the debate and create new problems.

During ISRMUN, participants in crisis committees are referred to as representatives. These participants represent their nation and take into consideration the country's culture, economy, religion and foreign policy.

## **b) How does a crisis committee work?**

A crisis committee is divided into two types of sessions: moderated and unmoderated. Crisis topics are introduced and built upon during the moderated caucus. Representatives have the opportunity to view and question evidence and resources during this time. This part of the committee is moderated by the Chair and representatives must raise their placards to speak. Proposals to solve a crisis are negotiated during the unmoderated caucus. This section of the debate is timed but allows representatives to speak freely amongst themselves to reach a consensus.

## **II. History of the European Union**

### **a) What is the European Union?**

The European (EU) was established in 1993 by the Maastricht Treaty. It is currently composed of 28 members. Prior to the creation of the EU, the European Economic Community (EEC) was founded in 1957 by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany. This format acted as a model for the organization of the EU (A Peaceful Europe, EU, 2018). The EU was created in order to promote "inclusion, tolerance, justice, solidarity and non-discrimination" across Europe (The EU in Brief, EU, 2018). While the EU began as a political union, it has since developed a unified currency called the euro which is used by 19 nations. Over 513 million people live within the EU and they are free to migrate to other member nations without being stopped at passport inspected borders. In 2012, it received the Nobel Peace Prize for having "contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy, and human rights in Europe" (The EU in Brief, EU, 2018).

The EU is composed of three main governing bodies: the EU Council, the Parliament and the European Commission. The EU Council represents each member state's national government. It proposes policies and new legislation. The Parliament is elected by the people of the EU and approves the laws proposed by the Council. The European Commission is made up of the staff who work directly for the organization. In order for the EU to operate, each member state is required to contribute 120 billion euros each year (Amadeo, The Balance, 2019).

## **b) The European Union' relationship with the United Nations**

The EU has a close working relationship with the United Nations (UN). In 2011, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution A/65/276 which granted the EU observer status. This means that EU representatives can speak on behalf of its member states and participate in the general debate each September (The EU at the UN, EU, 2018). Moreover, this has enabled the organization to work closely with other UN-affiliated regional bodies such as the African Union. Each year, the two organizations host a joint summit that is facilitated by the UN. At this summit, leaders from both continents discussed topics such as: "economic opportunities for youth, peace and security, mobility and migration, and cooperation on governance" (5th African Union - EU Summit, EU, 2017). Currently, the EU and UN are working on peace and conflict prevention and resolution, climate action, migration, counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (The EU at the UN, EU, 2018).

## **c) The European Union' current issues**

The EU has recently experienced a series of crises. Since 2010, several nations using the euro as their currency have suffered from crippling debt. This, in turn, resulted in a rise in unemployment, public discord and a decline in the standard of

living (Erlanger, The New York Times, 2016). There has also been an increase in ultra-right-wing nationalist groups across Europe as a result of the large waves of migrants fleeing poor living conditions, conflict and oppression in Africa and the Middle East. Since 2015, millions of migrants have entered the EU and conflict has arisen between governments over whether to allow illegal migrants to claim asylum or not. In connection, there has been widespread support for populist politicians across the continent. This phenomenon, which is also referred to as the “fracturing of liberal democracy” by the World Economic Forum, has led to right-wing governments in Austria, Italy and Hungary (Palacio, WEF, 2019). Finally, in 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the EU. This process, known as Brexit, was initiated by a referendum, with 51.9% of UK citizens voting in support of severing ties with the organization (Erlanger, The New York Times, 2016).

### III. Quorum

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece

- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Sweden

#### **IV. Topics of Interest**

Formal position papers are not required of crisis committee participants. However, in order to prepare for the simulation, representatives are encouraged to research the following topics:

- Russian military intervention in Ukraine
- The rise of the Identitarian movement
- Groups designated as terrorist organizations by the European Union
- Repatriation of the children of Islamic State fighters
- Corruption within the European Council

## V. Resources

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Amadeo, Kimberly. "The European Union, How It Works, and Its History." The Balance. Dotdash, 18 Jan. 2019. Web. 22 Nov. 2018. <<https://www.thebalance.com/what-is-the-european-union-how-it-works-and-history-3306356>>.

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"The European Union at the United Nations, fact sheet." European Union (EU). European Union, 21 Sept. 2018. Web. 22 Nov. 2018. <[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/9875/european-union-united-nations\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/9875/european-union-united-nations_en)>.