

VICTORIA SHANGHAI ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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EUROPEAN UNION CHAIR REPORT

AGENDA: Re-Evaluating the EU's Role in
Global Affairs

CHAIRS:

John Chan

William Li

Introduction from the Chairs

To the esteemed delegates of the European Union,

We warmly welcome you to the eleventh iteration of Victoria Shanghai Academy Model United Nations. Whether it is your first, fifth, or fiftieth conference, we hope to help provide challenging yet rewarding debate as delegates participate in global geo-political discussion, find solutions, and draft resolutions about current real world issues.

As the chairs of the European Union, we greatly look forward to seeing delegates use and develop their public speaking and argumentative skills as they participate in meaningful and thought-provoking debate. We expect delegates to enter committee session with an enthusiastic mindset, and eager to challenge and cooperate with one another as the committee reaches an agreement on resolving one of the world's most contentious, controversial issues.

We hope that this report will be able to provide delegates with valuable insight and important context to the current status quo and past actions of the European Union regarding global affairs. However, this report should not serve as a substitute for individual research. Delegates should be adequately prepared by not thoroughly reading this chair report, but also further conducting external research. While position papers are not mandatory, they will play a significant role in the consideration of awards. The position paper should outline and explain your background research, political agenda, and political aspirations.

Should any delegate have any inquiries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the chairs for any further assistance, whether it is on position papers, the content of the chair report, or about the conference itself. We look forward to seeing all delegates and meeting everyone at the end of November.

Best Wishes,

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Agenda: Re-Evaluating the EU's Role in Global Affairs

Conference: VSAMUNXI

Forum: European Union

Chairs: John Chan and William Li

Introduction to the Committee

The European Union, born as a partial political and economic union between the war-torn nations of Western Europe, has since progressed into a full-fledged partnership between twenty-seven countries primarily in Europe, stretching from the Atlantic Coast to the Black Sea. The Union has a total area of over four million kilometres squared, and an estimated population of about four-hundred-forty-seven million. However, as tensions across the world increase and conflicts arise on her borders, the previously passive policy of the European Union must adapt to this ever-changing world to redefine the EU's stance on global affairs and protect the EU from issues abroad.

As of 2021, the European Commission has created multiple foreign policy goals. Such goals are as follows: to contribute to peacekeeping on a global scale, to promote democracy and human rights in developing and neighbouring countries, support global security, be a world leader in the fight against climate change and increase international trade. However, there are many points of contention amongst the member nations, as each country has their own individual approach to foreign policy & intervention. Additionally, it is widely accepted that different EU members have vastly different views and perspectives on how the Union should handle and respond to situations economically, militarily, and diplomatically in conflicts such as revolutions and wars, transitions in foreign governments, and humanitarian crises outside of EU borders.

Given the current status quo and aforementioned information, delegates should strive to reach a unified consensus and develop new long-term plans and approaches on how global affairs should be handled by the European Union, as to adapt to today's modern ever-changing political environment.

Key Terms

Interventionism	Governmental interference in affairs at home or in the political affairs of another country.
Isolationism	A policy of national isolation or abstention from alliances and other international political and economic relations.
Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)	A council responsible for the unity, consistency, and effectiveness of the European Union's activities and actions overseas. Such responsibilities include defense and security, trade, development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Further responsible for defining and implementing the EU's foreign and security policy. Composed of all foreign ministers from all EU member states.
The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)	The organised and agreed foreign policy of the European Union (EU), primarily focusing on security, counter-terrorism and defense diplomacy and actions.
European Economic Community (EEC)	A former regional organisation that aimed to bring about economic integration between member nations. Created by the Treaty of Rome in 1957.
European Monetary Union (EMU)	An umbrella term for the group of policies aimed at converging the economies of EU member states at three stages

Relevant Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
May 8th, 1945	World War II has ended, following the unconditional surrender of the Axis Powers. This marked the end of heavy fighting across the continent for almost six years, with total casualties amounting to 75 million, including military and civilians, accounting for 3% of the world population.
1950	The French government proposed the Plevin Plan, named after Prime Minister René Plevin. The plan called for the creation of a European army, to be placed under the

- supervision of a European Ministry of Defense. This addressed the concern of a possible German rearmament, as under this plan the future of the German army would have been completely embedded within the European army.
- 1951 Negotiations for the Schuman Plan took place, which provided the basis for the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which officially formed after the Treaty of Paris. Often regarded as “a first step in the Federation of Europe”.
- 1952 Proposal results in the creation of the European Defense Community (EDC) agreement signed on May 27th, 1952. However, despite ratification by Germany and Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg) nations, the treaty failed to pass in a vote in the National Assembly, owing to division in public opinion and a change in the government administration in France.
- 1954 A number of agreements are signed, resulting in Germany’s admission to NATO, German and Italian membership in the Brussels Pact, the creation of a Western European Union (WEU), Germany’s assurance is its abstinence in the creation of an atomic bomb, and a British agreement to station two British stations in Germany.
- 1963 The Youandé Conventions are signed by the European Economic Community and the bloc of post colonial african nations. Though originally a policy to (Francophone) Africa, following the EEC enlargement it was then extended to African members of the British Commonwealth, as well as other former colonies in the Caribbean & the Pacific. It is important as the first international treaty on trade and the sharing of knowledge for global development. It represents a major step in promoting democracy and pushing global economics forward
- Late 1980s The end of the Cold War takes place, as the trade union Solidarity won the elections in Poland, and the Iron Curtain

- separating Austria and Hungary fell. An increasing number of Eastern Europeans were entering Western Europe, as massive demonstrations took place across Eastern Europe. In Czechoslovakia protests resulted in the resignation of the entire Communist Party, as the Bulgarian Prime Minister Todor Živkov resigned. Opposition forces took control of the entire country in Romania, as dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu was captured and shot. The gates between East Berlin and West Berlin were reopened with the fall of the Berlin Wall, as the European Council (formerly the EEC) approved of German reunification. EEC leaders decided to summon an intergovernmental conference to establish the European Monetary Union (EMU), as to create an institutional structure to withstand the changes and strains.
- 1989 The Single European Act created the timeline by which the then European Economic Community would merge in their economy, representing a monumental shift as a key precursor to the establishment of the European currency and consistent foreign and domestic policies within the now EU.
- 1992 The Maastricht Treaty saw the further coalition between European states and the further planning of cooperation beyond the political scope. It represented major developments in economic unification. It was also the treaty by which the European Community transformed into the European Union, along with the creation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- 1997 The Treaty of Amsterdam led to major strides in accordance with the goals of the United Nations such as climate control and consolidating democracies. More weight was given to the European parliament in areas such as human rights and employment. It further introduced the free movement of European citizens within its original 15 members.
- 2007 The Treaty of Lisbon created a more streamlined process for member states to leave the union, further establishing

important foreign policy goals in areas such as justice and freedom. The union pledged to support democracies and human rights, further pledging to reach out to third world countries to improve global economics.

2008

The financial and debt crisis in Europe began with the collapse of Iceland's banking system, which then spread primarily to the economies of Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain.

2015

The Paris Climate Accord is a centralised effort based upon many different countries extending out of the EU. However, within the realm of the European Union, the accord ratified and approved binding climate goals for all member states, representing a major stride in the battle against climate change.

Discussion Points

Interventionism vs. Isolationism

Many developed European Union member countries, especially developed nations, would advocate for either increasing or maintaining intervention on foreign conflicts, improving welfare, fighting for human rights and continuing the efforts against climate change. However, developing nations and nations in economic, political or social recovery, turmoil or development may argue for increased isolationism to focus on domestic policies. Those suffering from large amounts of corruption or committing human rights violations may also argue for isolationism as the dominating doctrine moving forwards in the COVID-19 era.

Climate Change

Increasingly throughout the decades and perhaps most pertinent now, the issue of climate change may be a potential sparkpoint for discussion. Given several countries who are in need of domestic attention, it may be increasingly difficult for some to meet the pledged climate goals. Furthermore, there may be significant disagreement on the severity and the urgency to fight against climate change, with governments downplaying the effects of global warming and its effects.

Humanitarian Aid

The refugee crisis has been a continuous topic of contention amongst nations of the EU. With the crisis in Afghanistan at its peak, the amount of refugees expected may rise. Further synthesized with the COVID-19 pandemic, response in humanitarian aid and asylum seeking will be varied depending on a member states economic capabilities, social climate and the political agenda of the current government administration.

COVID-19

Different members of the EU community may hold different perspectives on how to both distribute vaccines and other health resources to fight the pandemic, and if financial and humanitarian aid should be provided for nations who may be struggling to fund their health infrastructures. Certain members may advocate for an increase in foreign aid, citing a global responsibility to assist those who are unable to sustainably support themselves, while other nations may argue that governments' who are receiving aid may not use funds wisely, and that obtaining higher vaccination rates and booster shots may be of a higher priority.

Key Bloc Positions

(Though not mandatory, countries are likely to take the approaches stated below).

Globalism-Focused

- Germany
- France
- Denmark
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- Finland
- Belgium
- Liechtenstein

Nationalism-Focused

- Hungary
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Czechia
- Latvia
- Bulgaria
- Romania

Neutral, May Swing

- Spain
- Portugal
- Italy
- Republic of Cyprus
- Croatia
- Greece
- Estonia
- Malta
- Lithuania
- Austria
- Luxembourg

Guiding Questions

- ❖ What kind of approach should the European Union take in foreign affairs?
- ❖ To what extent should the European Union aid in worldwide humanitarian affairs?
- ❖ How should the European Union respond to conflicts outside her borders?
- ❖ When and how should the European Union interfere with worldwide conflicts?
- ❖ How will funding be provided when the European Union engages in foreign affairs?
- ❖ Should foreign intervention be spread evenly amongst all European member nations?
- ❖ What are individual interests within member states? This can be informed by socio economic climate, ideology, political factors...etc.
- ❖ To what extent are EU nations, considering their past purpose as well as its trajectory in the future, obligated to provide international efforts and intervene in foreign affairs?
- ❖ How does one balance between a country's stance within the EU, the global stage and her domestic interests?
- ❖ How does a country balance between the responsibilities towards the United Nations and her own citizens?

Suggestions for Further Research

The Official Website of the European Union (https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en)

The Official Website of the Council of the European Union

(<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/>)

European Union Foreign Policy: A Historic Overview

(https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/theforeignpolicyoftheeuropeanunion_chapter.pdf)