

European Council Simulation



To give you a better grasp of how the EU actually works, we will be conducting a two-day simulation of a meeting of the European Council. The simulation is tentatively scheduled for Thursday and Friday, February 1-2. Each of you will be assigned to represent a different country and/or the EU Commission. In order to effectively represent that state, you will need to conduct some background research and decipher your country's position on key issues (see below). Most of this research can be conducted online and we will devote multiple class periods to this end. Your research will then be compiled into a "Country Report", a template for which can be found on the course website.

COUNTRY ASSIGNMENTS:		
EU COMMISSION PRESIDENT	Atkinson	Jon
AUSTRIA	Wegehaupt	Joe
BELGIUM	Zvarech	Adam
BULGARIA	Murnahan	Ethan
CYPRUS	Dombowski	Will
CZECH REPUBLIC	Feeney	Sean
DENMARK	McClellan	Christopher
FRANCE	Hamilton	Nicolas
GERMANY (PRESIDENT)	Goettel	Zoe
GREECE	King	Brad
HUNGARY	Spangler	Brian
IRELAND	Jesionowski	Adam
ITALY	Stephan	Amanda
LATVIA	Berry	Stuart
LITHUANIA	Wendel	Shaun
NETHERLANDS	Davison	Burke
POLAND	Reed	Kevin
PORTUGAL	Thompson	Aren
ROMANIA	Cummings	Ryan
SLOVAKIA	Mueller	Ben
SLOVENIA	Hale	Douglas
SPAIN	Hollingshead	John
SWEDEN	Lundstrum	Zeke
UNITED KINGDOM	Hutchings	Justin

Countries not represented: Estonia, Finland, Malta, and Luxembourg

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Who is in charge in your country (party/leader)?
2. What is your country's general orientation toward the EU? Very pro-EU and disposed toward deeper integration? Somewhat Euroskeptic and opposed to federalism? Pragmatic (i.e., you like the EU only as long as it brings practical benefits toward your state)?
3. What are your country's main concerns in terms of EU policy?
4. What are your specific stances or interests in regard to:
 - a. Reviving the EU Constitution
 - b. Turkey joining the EU/Further Expansion
 - c. Allowing full freedom of movement within the EU
 - d. Promoting the 'Lisbon Strategy' to increase EU competitiveness
 - e. A common EU energy policy

Big Q: What would be the #1 priority for my state in a European Council meeting? What do we want more than anything else? What would be the other issues that are important to your state

RESEARCH: You should be able to do all of the necessary research for this simulation online and all of the links on the course page can be useful. *Europa – Portal to the EU* is, of course a good starting point and offers lots of useful links.. The *BBC* is perhaps the best site for finding details about where countries stand on particular issues. *The Economist* is also particularly good for current issues and economic data. Other useful sites (many of which are linked on my homepage) include:

CIA World Factbook – for basic data

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – for economic data (see especially the publication 'OECD in Figures')

Wikipedia – look for 'Politics of _____'

Germany's Council Presidency Website

Websites of you country's Permanent Representative to the EU (not all countries maintain such sites).

National government websites