



# FS 2019: European Council

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## 1 Introduction and Executive Summary

With the upcoming European Elections in late March in mind and Brexit looming at the very end of March, ETHMUN will spend this semester on asking ourselves: **'Quo vadis, Europe?'**

When addressing the fate of this continent, delegates will get the chance to take the wheel as one of Europe's heads of state or government in the **European Council**.

Contrary to last semester, there will be no bilateral agreements and progress can only be achieved in a consensual manner. During negotiations, we will therefore focus much more on convincing others to join the debate and finding a common denominator during debate. While delegates will not have the extent of crisis-style tools from last semester at their disposal, as head of state or government, they wield the power to decide on national policies and are more free to shape their country's and continent's future, than normal delegates. However, researching and staying true to the assigned position, core values of MUN, are still key to the success of debate.

To prepare yourself for debate, you should

- Research your position,
- identify your allies in the Council and
- find areas that are of interest to you.

As much as during any other debate, these Guides can only serve as introduction into the matter and do not exempt from individual research. During session, however, please rather participate in the debate than conduct further research, talk to each other and never forget to have fun.

## 2 The European Council [1]

The European Council (EC) defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union. It consists of the **heads of state or government** of the member states, together with its **President** and the **President of the Commission**. If necessary, the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of the Commission may also attend the meetings.

The EC is not a legislating body and is therefore not involved in the process of negotiating and adopting EU laws. Instead, it takes a broader approach by setting a general policy agenda for the EU and instructing the respective EU institutions with the implementation. At its meetings, the EC traditionally adopts *conclusions*, which identify main concerns and how to tackle them.

The conclusions of the EC require no special or distinctive format and are open for public access. A conclusion on a specific topic should both identify the current problems and outline the necessary steps to take in solving them. They are no legislative documents, however can set deadlines and instruct other EU institutions with certain tasks. In this way European leaders can influence the EU's political course. The European Council usually adopts its conclusions by consensus [2].

**N.B.:** The *European Council* is not to be confused with the *Council of the European Union*, with whom it shares a website (see [1]), as well as the *Council of Europe*, an international organisation of 47 member states that promotes democracy and human rights in Europe.

## 3 FS 2019 Weekly Sessions

### 3.1 General Introduction to Model UN Debate

*This is a very brief introduction to MUN. Anyone familiar with MUN should skip it. Anyone new to MUN will probably not understand everything, but should be prepared enough to follow debate and learn the rest on the go.*

Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the United Nations (or of any other political body, for that matter). By multi-lateral approaches, the participants debate and tackle various global issues from the perspective of a delegate representing a country/party/person of the respective body. In MUN, as in the *real* United Nations, a committee is headed by a chairperson, that directs the formal debate by granting delegates the right to speak, allowing delegates to raise motions and conducting the voting procedures.

Once in session, the flow of debate is controlled by the **General Speaker's List (GSL)**. It is a List of countries (*i.e.* people representing countries) wishing to speak, kept and controlled by the chair. The GSL is the core of every debate, if it runs out, the debate ends.

If delegates wish to further tackle an issue and an actual exchange of ideas, it is possible by deviating from the GSL into a **moderated** or **unmoderated caucus**. A moderated caucus is short (roughly 5 to 20 min) disruption of the GSL, during which countries get the chance for a quicker exchange. For that, a new speaker's list is opened. An unmoderated caucus may take up to roughly 30 min and delegates get the chance to move around freely and talk to each other. These unmoderated sections are the chance to find allies, negotiate and formalize (*i.e.* write down as a working paper) the results of the debate. Once a caucus has elapsed, formal debate is resumed and the committee returns to the GSL.

The goal of every debate should always be a **written document**. In classic MUN, as well as the United Nations, this would be a resolution. These formal documents have a clear structure and distinct choice of words, that takes a while to learn and to adapt. The process of creating a resolution, however, always begins with a simple draft of ideas, that doesn't require any formalities. If a draft is sufficient enough to be accepted by the chair, it becomes a working paper, which is properly introduced to everyone and can then be subject of debate. If it requires changes or other delegates wish to put in their (sometimes hostile) ideas, amendments can be introduced.

Debate ends, once the GSL has elapsed or a motion has been passed to directly go into voting procedure. In voting procedure, the committee votes on every amendment and every draft resolution (*i.e.* working paper, fit to be voted upon, chair will make sure of that) until at least one resolution is adopted.

*This very brief introduction into Model UN throws around a lot of notions and terms, that cannot be fully explained here. If something has been left unclear or you wish to further read into the matter, please refer to Reference [3], the ETHMUN Rules of Procedure or simply ask an MUN Veteran. Feel free to contact me at [ferdi@ethmun.org](mailto:ferdi@ethmun.org) or approach us during, before and after debate.*

### 3.2 Setup

As the Council is headed and chaired by its own President, our ETHMUN Chair will also assume the position of Donald Tusk. The other non-voting members, the members of the Commission (President Jean-Claude Juncker and—if necessary—the HR of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini), will be represented by other members of the Content Team, and will therefore also be able to advise the Council on certain issues and give an account of the current state of the Union, without casting a vote.

Participants will be acting as heads of states and governments and should therefore be addressed as such. Instead of the usual "Distinguished Delegates..." or "as the Delegate of France remarked...", the Council should be addressed with "Fellow Heads of States and Governments..." or "as President Macron remarked..." as my French Colleague remarked...". Although it may be unusual for Model UN, when acting as a Head of State, that is an actual historical figure, the first person pronouns "I" and "You", as well "We" and "France/Germany/Italy" are all in order.

For changes in the Rules of Procedure, concerning the voting procedure, handling of written documents and overall flow of debate in the European Council, please consult the specialized RoP.

### 3.3 Slack

As in previous semesters, we will be using Slack for our communication again in FS 2019. To join our channel, please follow [this link](#) and sign up with your university email address.

If you've already joined last semester's sessions you can relax and just login to your Slack account.

Once you've been assigned a country and have entered the Slack channel, please make sure to change your display name in the following manner:

Ferdinand (Germany) Stefan (President) Victoria (United Kingdom) <first name> (<country>)
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You may also change your profile picture to your respective head of state or government.

### 3.4 [www.ethmun.org/session-news/](http://www.ethmun.org/session-news/)

Here are some updates, small articles and—most important—study guides and dossiers on committee members and upcoming topics.

## 4 Our EC Agenda

Throughout the European Council will debate the EU reforms brought up by French President Macron. The proposals by President Macron include a plan for a eurozone budget, a common European fiscal policy. President Macron described many of his points in his Sorbonne speech in late September of 2017. On March 4 2019, the Élysée Palace released another EU-wide appeal titled "For European renewal". The roadmap was published in all EU languages, as well as in several major newspapers and is directed at European citizens and politicians alike. Both documents are quite

worth a read on their own, but also a very good preparation for the topic. [4] [5]

## 5 References

- 1 European Council: 'Website of the European Council'  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/>
- 2 European Council: 'European Council conclusions',  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/conclusions/>
- 3 bestdelegate.com: 'MUN Made Easy: How to Get Started with Model United Nations'  
<http://bestdelegate.com/mun-made-easy-how-to-get-started-with-model-united-nations/>
- 4 Emmanuel Macron: 'Initiative for Europe',  
<http://international.blogs.ouest-france.fr/archive/2017/09/29/macron-sorbonne-verbatim-europe-18583.html>
- 5 Emmanuel Macron: 'For European renewal',  
<https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2019/03/04/for-european-renewal.en>

