



# CHRONICLE

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THE FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SEASON OF THE PRAGUE STUDENT SUMMIT IS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

**MGR. KATEŘINA VALACHOVÁ, PH.D.**

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

## Due to the migration wave, we will realize our duties again

*In what respect is the current migration crisis unique? Might the European Union fall apart as a result of the crisis? Who would benefit from such situation? We discussed these and also other questions with PhDr. Michael Romancov, Ph.D. from the Department of International Relations and European Studies, Metropolitan University Prague.*

Last year more than one million people immigrated to Germany. How special is this intensive mi-

gration compared to other geographical regions and historical periods?

I think that it is special in terms of Germany because there were so many migrants who emerged there at the same time. However, Germany has already been used to accept migrants for a longer time but there is a difference between older federal states and the new ones. It means that former East Germany is less experienced in this respect but otherwise it is not such a special situation.

For example, the United States have been accepting one migrant every 30 seconds for a couple of years now. Most of the time, it is illegal and economically motivated migration. The people cross the land border between Mexico and the United States and head for the states which are right behind the borders, such as California or Texas. They want to stay there and do not want to spread across the rest of the United States. So, I am of the opinion that yes, it was a shock for Europe. However, if we look at different parts of the world, we realize that it is not so special. What is unique is the high number of people going to one place. The people knew where they wanted to go. Moreover, it was not enough to cross the closest border to get there.

For example, when people went to Spain in the past, they just had to cross the Strait of Gibraltar or just go to Ceuta or Melilla (*Spanish enclaves, author's note*). Or they entered Italy through Lampedusa and stayed there. Nowadays, it is mostly, on the contrary, a flow of people who go to the country which is quite far from the place where the movement began.



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**Jakub Janik**  
Chief Coordinator

# Due to the migration wave, we will realize our duties again

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

all five preparatory meetings are over and the 21<sup>st</sup> season of the Prague Student Summit is reaching the home straight which is, of course, the final conference. It is the place where you have been heading for since the last autumn. Just for these upcoming four days you got up on Saturday mornings and put on your suits and formal dresses. The conference is the moment when you will utilize everything what you have learnt during the preparatory meetings – factual information, rhetorical skills, persuasion skills and maybe even some influential connections with other delegates. In the last months you have been high school and university students. Now, you will become professional diplomats for few days. You will sit in your bodies and models and decide on international issues, human rights, security, economics, culture or global environment.

Just one last event is waiting for you before you will be able to embark on negotiation – the opening ceremony. It is the last opportunity to listen to pundits, interesting and important personalities from all areas of public life. With the exception of plenary speeches during the preparatory meetings, the delegations will get the first opportunity to speak about their stands on burning problems of today in front of the audience numbering more than four hundred listeners.

For the upcoming days, we would like to wish you success in your negotiations and efforts to enforce as many points as possible to the full satisfaction of your states. Do not forget that Summit is here for you, so do not sit quietly in a corner, be active in the negotiations. Remember, the more you contribute to discussions, the more it will enrich you.

» continuation from page 1  
**Are there any examples of such an intensive exodus of people to culturally different regions which have taken place without any larger conflicts between the local people and the newcomers?**

Actually, yes. From the historical point of view, we can look at the Russian emigration after 1917 when 2,5 million people left imperial Russia as a result of its breakdown and the Bolshevik victory. These people simply belonged to different culture and civilization than people in Western Europe. Huge communities emerged especially in France, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Many may argue that a Russian is something different than a Syrian but the clash with a new reality was also very tough in the accepting countries.

**In your opinion, how likely is it that the refugees will collectively return to their country of origin after the end Syrian war?**

A part of them will want to come back. However, we have to firstly ask when will the fights stop and, secondly, when will the conditions in Syria change enough so that these people will be able to return with no threat of further persecutions. The next question is who will be in power in Syria and whether the country will remain in the same shape as it is now. Nevertheless, the desire to come back showed up strongly in all similarly motivated cases of migration. Therefore, I do not doubt that it will happen also in case of those who flee now or at least a part of them. Of course, I do not dare to estimate how large the group will be.

**Let's assume that the war would last for a longer time and Germany would become ethnically mixed country. In the extreme case, would it be possible that the diversity would cause similar problems as in the Balkans in 1990s?**

I do not think so because the populations in the Balkans were used to live next to each other for decades and centuries and yet, it did not prevent them from fighting against each other. If you look at the Caucasus, you will realize that local

highlanders have a similar way of life in terms of traditions, cuisine, clothing, a sense of honour or the status of men and women in the society etc. Yet, they are able to wage wars which, however, are fought for different reasons, for instance religion – Christians vs. Muslims. If we thus talk about a cultural proximity, we can ask what people mean by this term. However, the cultural proximity itself cannot prevent from conflicts. People are not identical. I will intentionally exaggerate saying that it is also a question to what extent southern Bohemians and northern Moravians are culturally close to each other. You would find out that there are differences even between them but these differences do not mean that the people are at each other's throats.

**My question primarily aimed at the religious cleavages...**

I am sure that if Germany will be able to enforce the German rules (and it will have to), then there is no reason for religion or ethnicity on their own to be reasons for a conflict. The conflict will, of course, follow the traditional cleavages, the poor vs. the rich etc. Therefore, we cannot assume that all who come will economically prosper. Not only in Germany but everywhere in Europe, the law has to be complied with. This is by the way, in my opinion, the most positive aspect of the migration wave. Even our society will realize our duties again. We have talked about rights too much and we thus have forgotten that each right is counterbalanced by a duty.

**When I mentioned the Balkans, let's stick to the topic. Do you agree with the German political scientist Hefried Münkler that Angela Merkel decided for opening the borders from the simple reason to relieve the Balkans and avoid potentially worse reactions which could have possibly emerged there?**

Honestly, Germany is a country which, except the Baltic Sea border, does not have any other border than the Schengen one. Strictly speaking, the refugees should not have even reached Germany if the

countries between Germany and the places where the people had set off were able to fulfill their commitments resulting from the Schengen Treaty – it relates primarily to Greece. So, I think that the German chancellor acted very responsibly in this respect. She did something that relieved the countries under pressure of the incoming people.

**Despite this fact, what would be, in your opinion, responsible policy? Do you think that the crisis might, even indirectly, dissolve the European Union?**

I hope that it cannot. However, the possibility is, of course, here. Then, we have to ask ourselves not whether there is a possibility of the European Union's breakdown, but who would benefit from such dissolution. The answer is, I think, clear-cut. It is not the United States who would like to see Europe to break down – as some voices say that the migration crisis is organized by the Americans. The one who would benefit the most if the European Union would have disappeared is Russia.

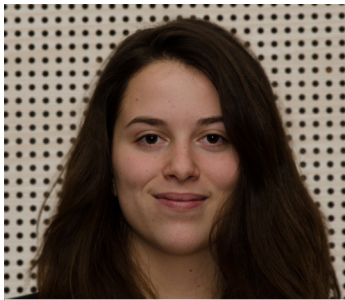
**Does it mean that you agree with the current voices saying that the Russian activities in Syria are motivated primarily by the effort to provoke larger migration pressure on Europe?**

It is not the motivation. There are so many motives. Russia has many interests in Syria and it will be satisfied if it will be able to assert at least some of them. If Russia managed to dissolve the European Union, it would be a grandiose success. I hope it will not happen. Besides that, Russia has also other interests unrelated to Europe in Syria, especially security interests.

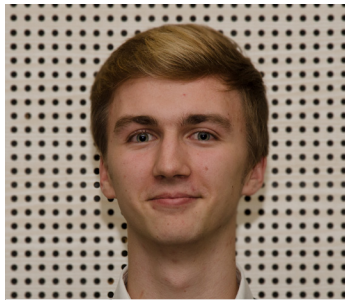
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# View of the delegates

„Do you consider a proposal to reduce the age limit of criminal responsibility as appropriate?“



Nina Djukanović  
USA, HRC



Petr Louda  
Sudan, UNESCO



Romana Grajcarová  
Luxembourg, EU



**NINA DJUKANOVIĆ:** Although we can nowadays hear from media and from many indignant citizens that reducing the age limit of criminal responsibility is a must, I personally do not agree with such stance. From my point of view it is not only about protecting honest citizens against dangerous criminals but also about actual and true remedy of the children – prison is no youth detention centre or educational institution. Once we lower the age limit, part of the population will be already considered “adult”, however, it will not be true in all cases. Do not let us put little children into prisons.



**PETR LOUDA:** First of all, I would like to mention I am against reducing the age limit of criminal responsibility as a whole. Nevertheless, it might be possible, and I find it quite handy, to adopt it for especially serious crimes such as murders. Youth detention centres cannot give the young people such a strong lesson as prisons can. I admit it may not be very appropriate for the children’s psyche yet it will teach them better than detention centres.



**PETR LOUDA:** I believe this is a common issue of our today’s society – to set numerous boundaries and benchmarks which are the same for everyone without taking into consideration the uniqueness of the individual. Unfortunately, these borders are and will be necessary due to lack of capacities of the state to judge each case individually in such detail, as we would have liked. I think that lowering the age limit, especially for the serious crimes, should scare and discourage the children from the wrongdoing. It could be sufficient enough to decrease the number of these crime acts drastically.



**ROMANA GRAJCAROVÁ:** I personally think that an intellectual maturity of the child up to fifteen years of age varies dependent on case-to-case basis. It means that every child develops differently. Therefore, I see an artificial setting of any age limit of criminal responsibility as a negative thing. A child in his or hers thirteen might be similarly or even more advanced than a youngster in his or hers sixteen. Such a child can be fully aware of the acts he or she commits and of their seriousness. I suggest considering each case individually under the profound supervision of psychiatrist.



**NINA DJUKANOVIĆ:** I am afraid that until there will be more emphasis given on re-socialization of children in the Czech Republic, an imprisonment cannot be a solution. On contrary, I would put more focus on upbringing and thorough education or, for example, bigger crime responsibility for the parents. In truly serious cases the child can be emancipated, as is the case in other matters.



**ROMANA GRAJCAROVÁ:** I fully agree there is a need of a borderline yet I would put a greater emphasis on the judgment of psyche and maturity of the responsible youngster and on this basis an adequate sentence shall be imposed. It is also true that in some cases a parent’s fault may be recognized. However, this is not an ultimate excuse. Conclusively, we must devote a considerable attention to our youths and when a deviation is observed, we should work systematically on re-education.

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PhDr. Michael Roman-cov, Ph.D., Metropolitan University Prague

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# How Models of United Nations united the world

*MUN. Three letters that speed up the breath of the acquainted and cause raised eyebrows of those that hear them for the first time. But in fact, it is so simple – let's, for a moment, be someone else, move to a different time and do decisions that change the course of history from the safety of high schools and universities, supervised by our teachers and lecturers. After all – who did not want to rule the world at least once? To make it either a better or a worse place, but especially to prove that I can really make it? That I can persuade, create and destroy coalitions? Because once you play the game of MUNs, you win or you die.*

## WHAT IS AN MUN, ACTUALLY?

MUN or in other words Model United Nations is a simulation of the functioning of one of the most important international organizations. MUNs developed, just like UN itself, from its predecessors – the Models League of Nations, which were supposed to explain how the international system works and to promote the idea of united work towards the preservation of the world peace. With time, MUNs built up prestige and different schools from various places on Earth send their teams of the most talented young diplomats. The principle is fairly simple – only when you find out how hard it is to negotiate something in a group of different opinions, you will realize how fragile and precious peace is. No wonder that so many of former MUN participants started to get involved in peace movements, politics or diplomacy.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

MUNs are like a drug. If you try it once, you will never want to stop and it is going to be hard to say goodbye. Model UNs are here for all high school and university students that want to develop and overcome the barriers of their skills. Of course, MUNs are often organized on an international level, so apart from improving language skills, the main benefit is getting to know other people from different parts of the world and different cultures. There is often nothing better than when a peer from India explains to you what the real situation in the country that you represent is like. In relation to the increasing popularity of MUNs, there are sometimes other organizations simulated, which in some ways interact with the original

bodies. Human rights issues may look clear from the point of view of the Human Rights Council, but in real life, it is also necessary to



take economic, security and social concerns into consideration, which often creates insoluble dilemmas. Thus, the participants have to learn how to cooperate and coordinate, so that the particular delegation does not advance contradictory interests in different bodies.

## WHEN AND WHERE DID MUNs BEGIN?

Model United Nations phenomenon has started in the United States even before 1920, when the first simulation of the League of Nations took place. This simulation prefigured the idea of MUNs being prepared by students themselves for their slightly younger fellows.

The student's environment is very closely linked with MUNs, therefore there is no wonder that the Harvard Model is considered the oldest one. In 1927, Harvard organized the first Model League of Nations conference, followed by Model United Nations conference in 1953. With rising prestige, rivalry rose as well and escalated to every major university having at least a small MUN. Therefore, Berkeley Model UN celebrated its 64th birthday this year with over 1.500 high school students from all

around the world attending the conference. One of the models fighting for the title of the oldest Model United Nations is also Yale, which will be hosting its 43<sup>rd</sup> season next year.

## EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE

Because the love for MUNs does not end with graduation from high school, there is a plenty of models for university students as well. One of them is the Haag International Model United Nations which was established early in the year 1968. This is one of the reasons why it is such a prestigious conference, with over 4,000 students from the whole world participating. Another one

is the American National Model United Nations, which has a tradition of 47 years. The oldest model in Europe, intended solely for university students, is TIEMUN. TIEMUN was established by American students who wanted to present the MUN culture to their European friends during their exchange program in Haag in 1987.

In the last decades, MUN conferences experienced a big boom and so the simulations have spread to Asia and Africa. Besides the domestic MUN production in these regions, there are models which are organized by participants and organizers of big established branches, such as the Indian International Model UN, Harvard MUN and THIMUN. Students with experience from organizing of such events advise their local colleagues and participate as organizers themselves. For example, the Ivy League Model UN, which is a part of the University of Pennsylvania Model UN, arranges conferences for high school students in India and China. The Indian International Model United Nations has become very important, because this way, it shielded the organization of more than 100 conferences all over the world.

## IS SUMMIT AN MUN?

After all, once, in an ancient history, the Prague Student Summit itself began as a MUN. Specifically as a simulation of a negotiation of the Security Council during the Czech membership in this body (a quiz question for you, young diplomats – which years were those?). It was attended by a group of students of the University of Economics, and organized by students, too, as an imported good from an American student staying in Czech Republic. For long years to follow, the predecessor of today's Summit was a MUN by name, because it presented itself as the Prague Model United Nations or PMUN. Of course that nowadays, Summit has overgrown the term MUN by far, nevertheless, the Model UN stays the biggest and constitutes a basic pillar, on which the whole Prague Student Summit stands.

## A DIFFERENT REGION, A DIFFERENT MUN

MUNs are not globally organized, therefore every MUN has its own rules and differences. Based on their benefits, these spread together with organizers and participants into all corners of the world, and as a result, simulations of other organizations or parliaments emerge. MUNs differ in the length of negotiation days, the presence of preparatory meetings as well as in their themes. There are historical MUNs, fantasy MUNs and sci-fi MUNs, too. Every MUN is unique in millions of details, but stays the same in its philosophy: to have fun, meet, learn and to enjoy the membership in the global family of MUNers. So the next time a lady in a tram turns to you in astonishment, why do you call your peers by names of states, remember that the same situation happens to hundreds of students all over the world every day. Hundreds of students who at one point realized that it is necessary to focus on the world around them and on their role in it. Because you never know when you will arrive to work and find that the person on the other side of the table is a MUNer who is not used to give in to just anyone.

MICHAL ŘÍHA,  
MICHAELA ŠNAJDAROVÁ

# Delegates' duel



Jan Mašek  
Poland, HRC

## How should the concerned states react to the waves of refugees?



Šimon Vedl  
Saudi Arabia, HRC

The Polish nation is aware of its obligation towards the people in need. Sympathy and help is what the Christian belief preaches to us and even the conscience knows that millions of Polish people live outside of Poland. We are ready to accept a certain number of refugees from the war zones. But we strongly stipulate our right to select the immigrants based on our criteria in such a way which would ensure the easiest integration into society and the risk of extremism was at the lowest possible level. Our country is throughout Christian; the Catholic belief is a part of our national identity. We therefore recommend to reconsider, although accepting the European solution of crisis even by the quotas, to what extent is Poland a suitable destination for Muslim refugees. Everybody has right to seek a better life but the preference must be given to those escaping the war and after that to the economic migrants. We advocate more involvement of the EU and NATO in Syria, where the presence of Russian troops strengthens the position of Bashar al-Assad. He is the main cause of Syrian exodus, and the current position of Russian Federation on the international scene. Both is unacceptable for the EU as well as for Poland.

Saudi Arabia considers itself as a state affected by the refugee crisis because we have, despite many allegations, accepted more than five hundred thousand Syrian refugees since the beginning of the conflict. But compared to the European Union, our country is not threatened by the collapse because of that reason. We claim that Europe has suffered from its sophisticated but excessively bureaucratic legislation which caused the gathering of masses of foreign applicant for asylum at the state borders and who couldn't be made to stay at those borders. The most serious problem is that the main source of European refugee law, Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, is an outdated document reflecting the situation after the Second World War. We believe that there should be a new document adopted in the United Nations Human Rights Council which will be more suitable for modern era and which will be consequently submitted to the to the UN General Assembly for negotiation. At the same time we would like to appeal to the European states to provide a religious education to their citizens and prevent the demonization of Islam and consequent religious discrimination of Muslims.

## Evaluation of plenary speeches

HUNGARY	★★★★☆	The speech was not executed from the position of a diplomat but resembled more one of a political glossarist. Most of diplomats would not violate the ethical decorum and the diplomatic codex in such a manner and presenting this harsh critique. Rhetoric of the speech was good, we also appreciate the eye contact and natural gestures and pose.
ETHIOPIA	★★★☆☆	The speech was overwhelmed with numbers and figures at the expense of ideas. From the execution of the speech it seemed that the speaker was not fully oriented within the text herself. We also felt that the pose, seemingly relaxed, was most likely done to fight with nervousness and therefore lowered the level of quality and formality of the general impression.
JORDAN	★★★★☆	The content of the speech was of a very high quality, however, the speech felt monotonous and executed in a very slow manner without adding any appeal and changing the voice adequately for the passages that required so.
CANADA	★★★★☆	The gestures of the speech felt unnatural and slightly disruptive. The content of the speech was very good, however, the opening and closing note, although creative, felt too informal and brought down the quality of the speech a bit.
UNITED KINGDOM	★★★★☆	Enjoyably executed speech which was, however, brought down by illogically structured concentration of too many facts and information.
VENEZUELA	★★★☆☆	Despite the aggressive rhetoric of the speech being authentic with official Venezuelan diplomats, the speech contained too many informal and inadequate formulations. Some of the facts did not seem to entirely add up.
CHILE	★★★★☆	The speech would largely benefit from faster rhetoric in which case it would be fine speech for the opening ceremony. However this way the rhetoric felt too slow and hard to follow despite it being good in other ways. We also recommend avoiding some less formal and inadequate formulations.

# Human rights, and what next?

*Should human rights develop together with the developing world, or should they stay in their current limited form as a firm point of last resort? And are we even ready to extend their content, when even the current ones are not respected everywhere and without exceptions?*

Sufficient nutrition, clothing, housing, the possibility of going to the toilet, a peaceful development of society – for us Czechs, Europeans, all of that is a matter of course. However, these are rights which were neglected for a long time, and only lately the international community strives to reach the situation in which these things which are obvious to us will be a human right of all. Elaborate discussions are led about them (mainly in the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly), and, as always, are followed by a clash of at least two major ideological streams.

The first one is the outlook that the list of human rights is not closed, and should be (and will be) complemented in the future. For simplicity's sake, we can imagine this group as human rights activists pursuing a list of human rights as broad as possible. Their counterpart is a group of conservative politicians and their ideological supporters which consider everything beyond the first generation of human rights (civil and political rights) to be a second-rate category which cannot be regarded as human rights in their true sense.

The main problem of determining what is a right of every human being and what is just an unnecessary extension lies in inconsistencies of individual agreements, which often have regional character. The second problem is the form of international documents which are either not binding (declarations and resolutions of the General Assembly, etc.), or are binding, but also so vaguely formulated that it is questionable what rights they actually cover.

To understand why these disputes are led, it is necessary to look into the past. The first document outlining the form of human rights is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the year 1948, which was later specified by two subsequent international covenants (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). Since then it has been possible to observe three paths of the human rights development. The first path involved specification of already existing rights (Convention on the Rights of the Child). The second one aimed at extending and developing of existing rights through interpretation (commentaries of Human Rights Committee). The third path laid in implementation of new rights, which were not established yet (a right to develop-



**“While we’re on the subject of basic human rights, are we all aware that the coffee machine in the hall is broken?”**

Royston-Robertson (zdroj: pinterest.com)

ment). In this article, we are about to focus on the two latter and often less mentioned categories, and we bring a small taste of these new rights, too.

## THE RIGHT TO PEACE

The first and the most discussed question of new human rights is the right to peace. Norms concerning international peace occur in many documents, firstly in the United Nations Charter, the first article of which sets keeping of international peace as its main goal. However, this right, or rather a commitment, takes place at the international level. The right to peace as a right of every individual appears for the first time in a resolution of the UN General Assembly from the year 1984, which establishes a “sacred right to peace” to every individual (“... that the peoples of our planet have a sacred right to peace”). The resolution remains at this austere

sentence, the content of which was never specified. In following resolutions a similar sentence occurs, but there has never been a detailed definition of the right to peace.

A turnover came in the year 2010, when the Advisory Committee started to work out a draft of the Declaration on the Right to Peace, comprising eleven areas. The most important of them are peace as a right of all people, disarmament, resistance against oppression, peacekeeping operations and interests of victims and vulnerable groups. But this declaration has not been adopted yet, because a large portion of states (e.g. states of the EU, US, Canada) take the view that the right to peace has no legal basis; and that it is rather a goal to achieve than a separate right.

development. This point is of course, also connected to prohibition of any discrimination. The last but very important point is, that besides everything said above, states have the right to a full sovereignty over their natural resources.

Retrospectively, it is clear that this declaration has not brought the solution to the problems the world struggles with. Since the adoption of this document, a stormy debate prevails whether it truly is a basic human right, a “second-rate” right, or no human right at all. Although the debates were many, they have not brought any result and so the right to development stays in certain grey zone.

## THE RIGHT TO UNPOLLUTED ENVIRONMENT

Not much attention has yet been directed at the issue of the right to unpolluted environment at the international level. By a recent resolution, HRC ordered to the UNHCR for Human Rights to work out an analysis about the issue of relation of the environment and human rights. This future analysis was also determined to be a springboard for further steps.

The international community has not taken any specific steps so far, and it is therefore going to take some time until we find out whether the unpolluted environment is a right of every human, or just a goal towards which the world should head. It is now apparent that it will not be a simple question and that, once again, we will be able to observe opposing lines of thoughts. From this brief list it is clear that the development of human rights is still quite a hazy question. Regardless of future progress, it is necessary to remember that these are the basic human rights. They all have the same weight and function as a firm border, protecting the most precious things a human has, or can pursue. It is therefore desirable to keep their numbers limited and not let them become an endless list of everything the international community calls for. On the other hand, it is apparent that the world is evolving, that human rights must not stay behind, and that they require a certain update. The progress, however, must be most cautious.

# Brain drain

*Imagine a small village, relatively isolated from the outside world. A few hundred people live there and just several of them have a medical education. However, one doctor, let's call him Brian, decides to leave the village on his own and move to a different, more prosperous town.*

**S**tories like this happen all the time, everywhere. The most educated and skilled workers leaving their developing countries for the more developed ones. It actually happens so much that there is a specific term for it – brain drain. Or brain gain, if your country is on the lucky side.

Now, it is obviously a complication if Mr Brian leaves. The other doctors will suddenly have to take care of all of his patients, potentially creating a very risky health environment. In other words, we have seen a loss of intellectual capital and resource of the country.

This phenomenon has some bad implications especially for the poorest parts of the world, such as many countries in Africa. For example, there are now more African engineers working in the USA than in Africa itself.

Naturally, the United States is the most favourite destination. That is especially thanks to high salaries, low taxes, fewer language barriers and the consequent prestige. It is not only the developing countries

losing their “best and brightest” to the US, though. Even France has been estimated to be losing billions of dollars through this process.



hetq.am

## REMITTANCE ECONOMIES

Back to the story, though. It is crucial to notice that Mr Brian left his family at home. On one hand, that is pretty sad. But from the economic point of view, he will now be able to send a part of his higher salary

back home, thus supporting the local economy of the village.

Such flow of money is called a remittance and in terms of numbers, it is a big deal. After India's 72.2 billion and China's 63.9, the Philippines is third on the list of top remittance-receiving countries, having received 29.7 billion USD from abroad only last year. That equals about 9 % of their GDP. Hence no wonder the Philippine go-

also beneficial to the community. Apart from the capital flow, the migrants come back enriched with skills and possible innovative ideas.

## STUDENT DRAIN

During the course of the year, we have advised you on how to get to a university abroad or how to have your language abilities certified. When moving abroad for this reason, you are essentially becoming a part of the process outlined here as well.

The thing is that there is a reason so many developed countries try to attract university students from other countries. The chance that a particular “brain” will be keen on staying in a particular country is much higher when the brain had been nurtured there. So when contemplating whether to study abroad and what to do next, remember that impacts of such decision on the society should be a part of the equation too.

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ŠKODA AUTO a.s.

## United Nations Security Council – UNSC



been evolving within 5 preparatory meetings, during which you dealt with crises in Yemen, Libya and the UNSC reform. Even though the 21<sup>st</sup> season is reaching its peak, there is no need to worry – the UNSC presidency will always be there for you. Firstly, let us reflect on our past meetings and remind ourselves that this year was everything but boring. The first meeting took place on November 7. While some of you had met before, for the rest it was their first time. Nobody stayed in the shadow, though! The next meeting focused on the negotiation skills training, which was set in the era of Versailles Conference. Despite a fruitful debate, you all agreed that peace conditions

that were not satisfying all attendants were not to be considered as a good outcome. Therefore, starting another war was way better than a counterproductive peace settlement. During the last two meetings you also worked hard which resulted in discussing your own draft resolution – the Model's presidency could not be prouder of you. Your progress was equally apparent in terms of excellent handling of the historical crisis. At this point, we cannot do anything but wish you best of luck and strong nerves. We are looking forward to seeing you at the final conference!

LENKA TOMEČKOVÁ

Several months have passed since the beginning of the preparatory part. Only you, dear delegates, can appreciate the

amount of work you have dedicated to maintenance of international peace and security – and you have done a great deal of work! It has

## Disarmament and International Security Committee – DISEC

The final conference with unstopable pace caught up with delegates of the Committee on Disarmament and International Security too. A few weeks ago, preparatory part came to a head and we now look to the three days of intense negotiations which will certainly be in the spirit of fruitful opinion exchanges and many approved documents.

### UNDER THE SIGN OF THE RECAPITULATION

The fifth preparatory meeting in DISEC happened under the flag of preparations for the final conference. Participants in the form of two entertaining games went through the themes either from the points of the



agenda or from the circle of general knowledge about international relations and diplomacy. We must say that we were surprised by the extent of knowledge that delegates of DISEC had demonstrated. Later we switched to discuss the order of the points of the agenda. This negotiation is traditionally very tense, however, we were sur-

prised by the speed of delegates with which they reached an agreement, so the order was approved by a compelling vote. In this meeting, we particularly highlight the delegate of Vietnam, who was the submitter of the approved proposal. Furthermore, we shall not omit the delegates of Germany and Japan, who enriched the negotiation with

very constructive exchange of views.

### AND WHAT LIES AHEAD?

During the preparatory part the participants became familiar with a variety of security topics, listened to presentations from a number of unique guests and got ready for the final conference negotiations. And now it is up to them how their acquired knowledge and skills will be used. Members of the DISEC secretariat believe that at the conference participants will fully approximate to the actual conduct of the First Committee.

JÁCHYM VINTR

## Economic and Financial Committee – ECOFIN



It surely does not seem to you like 5 months have passed between the first preparatory meeting in November and today, the start of the conference. Well, until you count it to be sure. And even though it also might not seem apparent, you have come a very long way through the 5 months – and the 5 preparatory meetings.

### THOROUGH PREPARATION

Here at the Economic and Financial Committee, we have tried to prepare you for the upcoming conference, but also to show you something that you will use even outside of the diplomatic simulation. Our main task was to introduce you to the thrilling world of international economic cooperation, to the con-

ference agenda, to teach you how to correctly represent your state, how to follow the rules of procedure, but especially how to utilize its dark sides to your own benefit.

We also thought of the skills you can make use of not just during Summit's heated negotiations but anywhere else. We hope that we helped you in improving your soft skills like rhetoric, negotiation skills, argumentation, and critical thinking.

### NEGOTIATIONS' CHALLENGES

Still, you will have the biggest space to apply all of what you have learnt during the upcoming days full of strenuous conference nego-

tiations. The thing is that you could have already convinced yourself that the problems and questions of international financial criminality, increasing financial services accessibility, and global value chains are complicated and complex and that you can approach them from all sorts of perspectives. To agree on their international solution will then be a tough row to hoe. Nevertheless, we believe that you will negotiate at least as successfully as at the last preparatory meeting about the situation in Zimbabwe.

JAKUB KOPŘIVA

## Human Rights Council – HRC

With a tear in my eye, I have to say that the last workshop is now behind us. Yes, no more brilliant lectures from the chairmen, no more games, no more practicing of negotiations. What is awaiting us is a sharp diplomatic battle in which all of you will show what you got. You will have to bring all of the information and experience you have gained during workshops and dress them up to a suit or a dress and then show them in their full strength behind the lectern.

### RECAPITULATION AND WISH FOR THE FINALE

But first, little flashback on what we did last time. At the beginning,

we were talking about how the conference will look like, what is the best way to get there, what to wear as not to attract any mean glares from the chairmen (yes, the chairmen can give a really mean glare indeed), and then you got to know one of the most important diplomatic techniques, the CARROT. After astonishing finding that behind the letters UPR is hidden a name of the Universal Periodic Review, we talked about what it actually means. We were discussing it not only because of the fact that it is an important part of the work of the Human Rights Council, but also because of the fact that we will do it at the beginning of our conference negotiations. We were choosing the



"grilled" country and we chose brilliantly, because Brunei is an ideal country for the UPR.

Today, enjoy the opening ceremony. Let the number of excellent guests inspire you and if anybody of you have a speech, I will have my fingers crossed for you. Enjoy the great feeling of standing in the spotlight and speaking in front of the

full beautiful hall. For the end, little bit of pathos. I would like to thank you for your amazing cooperation during the workshops. Now, we will only look at your efforts to advocate your state priorities into the final resolutions.

TOMÁŠ OPAT

## United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO

Five preparatory workshops are behind us and we are now reaching the final zenith of the Prague Student Summit, the conference. I believe I can say, on behalf of all the chairs, the delegates have worked very hard during the whole year and they managed to improve their skills so that during the opening ceremony and the negotiations they can show us their best.

### HOW THE TIME WENT

All the five preparatory meetings were designed in a way that the delegates gain a good insight into how the body, state and diplomat they represent work. Our attention



was also focused on the traditional nomination of monuments, this time the cultural and natural UNESCO heritage. The first negotiation day will be about the finalisation of the nomination process, precisely the defending and voting on which monument will and which will not be added on the List of UNESCO

World Heritage.

### AND WHAT ABOUT THE CONFERENCE?

During the last preparatory meeting, the delegates discussed the order of the points of the agenda for the conference. The first one will be the nomination process of the monuments

as was already said. The second point to be negotiated is integration of refugees into educational system and last but not least is the dynamic topic of protection of cultural heritage in cases of armed conflicts. The program is hereto outlined and I can only wish all the delegates on behalf of all of the chairs to enjoy the opening ceremony and draw from its inspiring atmosphere. Because as soon as tomorrow morning we will be looking forward to sharp negotiating which is unlikely for us to be avoided.

ANNA GANTNEROVÁ

## United Nations Environmental Assembly – UNEA

5 In words five. Exactly this number of preparatory meetings we have endured and we are inevitably heading towards the grand finale. All of you have improved. Whether you are an experienced veteran or a newcomer, you have done a great deal of work and now you are facing the greatest step forward. You will apply everything we have taught you in practice. I would describe the upcoming negotiations with a quote from the House of Cards series: "If you don't like how the table is set, turn over the table." It is only up to you, and no one else, to push through what you need to. And you can make it!

### FINALE?

There is only the final part ahead of us – the stylish opening ceremony with tasty food and then three days of negotiations. You are going to spend hours by negotiating, writing documents under pressure, and dealing with handwriting of quickly written amendments. Nevertheless, if you want to succeed, you have to face it all. And a final piece of advice – remember that if you want to achieve your goal, the time assigned to the negotiations themselves is not the only time that counts. What drives the politics in the real world outside the Prague Student Summit? The backroom agreements! Do not be afraid to use the backstage negotiations.



### YOU HAVE CHOSEN

During the three days, you are going to negotiate about three agenda items. How typical. You agreed on the order last time. The Cameroonian proposal was, in spite of lively debate, adopted. Twenty-two delegates were in favor of the proposal, six were against and three abstained. You are thus going to start with

negotiations on waste management. The second day you are going to protect the marine ecosystems and the last day is going to be dedicated to emission permits.

Good luck!

VOJTĚCH VRABEC

## NATO Model



What a season it has been for the Model NATO so far this year! Starting off with a massive number of applications, we ended up with the 28 best,

who are proving workshop after workshop that our choice of participants simply could not have been better. The plan for this year's preparatory

meetings was quite straightforward: there was always focus on one factual topic & one soft skill we would work on. With that being said, our topics were NATO – Russia relations, Ukraine Crisis, Readiness Action Plan, Hybrid Warfare and Syria. The soft skills activities were mainly focused on the correct argumentation, critical thinking, and principles of negotiation, which are vital for our committee, since all the decisions are made unanimously.

Our goal was also to work in smaller groups as much as possible – and we believe we succeeded in that as well. The Ambassadors seemed to enjoy very much all the activities with only five or six people in each

group.

We were also honoured to be joined by three guests – Kristina Soukupová, who has a PhD in War Studies from Kings's College London; Matthew Loken, counsellor from the Canadian Embassy; and Vojtěch Bahenský, an expert on hybrid warfare. To mention the side events, we headed to Strakonice army base for our annual trip & had an atrium party with many interesting people from the defence & military field prior to the conference.

Oh, conference! How could I forget about that – we are just getting started!

JAN KOTARA

## EU Model

The last preparatory meeting of the European 28 (minus those that did not show up) took place in light of the preparations for the Final Conference. Now it is up to our Ministers to show what they can do with the acquired skills and knowledge.

### IN FRONT OF THE CONFERENCE'S GATEWAY

The afternoon part was opened by Dr. Novotná with a lecture on our last point of agenda – the common “Safe countries of origin” list. We proceeded with a test by the Metropolitan University Prague. The Minister of Belgium chose a very level-headed approach – she will probably not win in terms of speed,



but definitely in terms of the number of tests received! Afterwards, the Ministers enjoyed a session of “dancing” in pairs and thanks to that we now know which gentleman are looking forward to having their paternity leave. The whole programme was then concluded with

a pre-negotiation of the first point of agenda, the Energy Union, to which we will get back right after the Opening Ceremony of the Conference.

### PRAGUE – STRASBOURG – PŘÍVRAT – PRAGUE

The five months were beautiful. The

participants have come through the shy beginnings, gradually finding their feet, they enforced some extra time, had dinner in Brussels, glanced into Juncker's suitcase, got to know each other much better on a common trip to the European Parliament and as a one big awesome group they enjoyed an unforgettable weekend at a farm in East Bohemian village Přívrát. Writing on behalf of the chairing board, I would like to thank you all for the range of experiences and funny memories and to wish you good luck in the upcoming speeches and negotiations.

VÁCLAV VLČEK

## V4+ Model



From March 29th to April 4th, 30 delegates from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia meet

in the city of Prague to determine the future course of the Central European region. In a single sentence, the Model V4+ is a week-long pro-

ject for students from the heart of Europe taking place in the heart of Europe.

To ensure that this year's delegations will be of the highest quality, the students had to present their knowledge of Visegrad+ relations during the application process. Besides a mandatory letter of motivation, each applicant was required to share his thoughts in an essay on the topic “The Role of Central European Cooperation in the Face of Present Challenges”.

The selected participants face an uneasy task. Not only do they aim for a beneficial agreement with their foreign peers, their role also requires to communicate intensely within their national group. We cannot

wait to see which participants will become the most persuasive both inside and outside of their delegations.

In the preparatory part, the students got to know various faces of the Czech capital city. Our delegates had the possibility to experience tours around the city, educational workshops, presentations and entertainment activities. We now believe that with their batteries recharged, their tongues will be sharp as never before, and that in the negotiations on energetics, defence cooperation and the digital agenda, they will show the best they have to offer.

MARTIN HAMMERBAUER

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