Guidelines for Model EU Position Papers

Each delegation should submit a position paper that addresses the three issues on the agenda. Teams or individuals who do not submit their position paper by **Monday, February 6, 2017** will not be eligible for consideration to receive an award. At the end of the event on Saturday, February 25, 2017, judges will recognize the top position paper. Please submit position papers to Shane Killian at **STK19@pitt.edu**.

Position papers should be written from the perspective of the member nation you represent. Papers in both paragraph form as well as detailed outlines will be accepted. The use of statistics, quotes and dates are strongly recommended as these help to bolster your position.

**Suggested Outline:**

I. **Introduction:**
   - A general overview of the background or history of the issues
   - Importance/relevance of the issues to the EU

II. Proposal/Agenda Topic #1
   - Application: (i.e. The situation in Austria)
     - Why is this issue important to your country? Or why not?
     - How is your country affected by this issue?
   - Resolution: (i.e. Your nation’s approval/disapproval of the proposal)
     - What elements of the Commission’s proposal does your nation support?
     - What elements of the Commission’s proposal does your nation not support?
     - Optional: What concessions does your country need from other member nations to make a resolution? What concessions is your country willing to make in order to come to a resolution?

III. Proposal/Agenda Topic #2
   - Repeat the “Application” and “Resolution” sections for each proposal/agenda topic.

IV. Conclusion/Closing Remarks

V. Citations
   - There must be at least three sources cited for each topic. No specific citation format is required.

**Format:**

- Heading:
  - Your Name(s)
  - Your Country
  - Your University/College
- Please save your position paper with the following file naming convention: Country_University
- The length of the paper should be two to three pages (single spaced, 11 or 12 pt. font)
- All agenda items should be addressed in **one document or file**
Sample Position Paper – Italy
*Please note that the Model EU agenda and suggested position paper outline have been modified for 2017. The sample position paper below is from a previous year.

I. Preliminary Address

The Italian delegation would like to call to attention the serious matters that this Union currently faces. However, we would be remiss to not acknowledge the progress and successes this Union of European states, as well as the great significance that the European Union symbolizes in terms of past continental rifts, and future regional and international cooperation. The recent economic, political, and humanitarian crises of the past five years lead us to our present predicaments this Council is tasked with tackling during this conference. The future of Greece's place within the European Union hangs in the balance as terms of austerity continue to be negotiated. As the Union deals with Greece, a fundamental question that runs parallel to the question of Greece arises: how much power should the central government of the European Parliament have in this situation, and how will it effect the future of the EU's consolidation of power? In the mean time, both the governments of Greece and the European Parliament find it difficult to tackle these economic obstacles in the wake of the continued humanitarian crisis, in which Greece continually becomes burdened with ever increasing numbers of refugees washing up on its shores.

Recent revisions to the Dublin Agreement have yet to show signs of progress as the Union continues to face the relentless tide of foreigners who increase possible security obstacles that threaten the integrated and open status of the European Union. We not only need to ensure the stability of the Union in order to help those people that arrived to Europe, but we must extend our compassion to those gambling their lives in hopes of a better life for their children. Daesh represents the tangible, concerted effort of fundamentalists in the Middle East that embody the call to jihad. Although the physical defeat of Daesh is possible, and very well probable, the essence of the fight transcends national borders; the evolution of the jihadi spirit was alive during the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan and the United States' involvement in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and continues today outside of Syria and Iraq, emerging in the power vacuums of Afghanistan and Libya. In order to confront each of these issues, there must be a strong inclination on the part of the member states in their entirety to presently remedy past injustices and policy failures in order to ensure the security of this Union.

II. Italian Application

A). Migrant Crisis

Immigration patterns of people to the European continent from neighboring Africa and Central Asia date back centuries, from the Moorish conquest of the Iberian Peninsula to the Ottoman control that stretched well into the Balkans. The numbers slowly began to climb during the beginning of the 21st century as destabilization of the MENA countries came to a head during the Arab Spring of mid-2011. The implications of the regional social and political upheaval wasn't felt until 2014, when the “Central Mediterranean passage connecting Libya to Italy was the most trafficked route for Europe-bound migrants,” (CFR**) with more than 170,000 illegal border crossings into Italy reported. In response to increasing number of migrant deaths near its shores, the Italian government launched Operation Mare Nostrum in 2013, which served as a search and rescue operation along the various Straits of the Mediterranean, as well as the waters close to Africa (more specifically the Libyan coast). In response
to the ever-increasing number of migrants, Frontex, the EU agency to protect its external borders, took control of the operation, launching it as “Triton.” Italy’s Mare Nostrum is credited for saving more than 100,000 migrants; however, Triton’s operating capabilities are significantly smaller due to decreased funding (CFR**). Many of those migrants seeking asylum originate not from the Middle East, but Nigeria, Eritrea, and sub-Saharan countries. The first half of 2015 showed that more than 91,000 illegal border crossings occurred (CFR**), steadily increasing as conflicts proliferate throughout the region.

The migration of asylum seekers within the confines of the EU operate under the guidelines of the Dublin Regulation, which dictates that the country in which asylum seekers first encounter must be the ones to process them through fingerprints and video; those migrants are then able to be transferred back to the country that processed them. Due to the exuberant costs associated with the opening and maintaining large amounts of processing centers, Italy has been forced to reduce the amount of centers from thirteen to a mere five still in operation today (Fusion.net).

B) Greece's Place in Europe

The European Union strives to maintain solidarity between European countries. In doing so, it must remain by Greece’s side during difficult economic times. However, while it must remain by Greece’s side, it cannot do so without some economic reforms. The European Union is enacted some austerity measures in order to assist Greece in their economic reform.

Italy historically has gone through some economic strife. In 2008, Italy was hit hard by the European economic crisis which lead to the ousting of a prime minister who chose to isolate Europe and European politics. The prime ministers who followed, Mario Monti and Enrico Letta, gave more importance and followed such guidelines presented by the European Union. Such policies eventually lead to the decrease in public debt and paved the way for Matteo Renzi to take over as prime minister of Italy. Italy changed structural ways by implementing the Stucchi-Buttiglione Law which assisted in integrating EU policy with Italy by providing the legal guidelines for Italy’s participation in making decisions for the EU (Bindi). Such system expedited the process for the Italian Parliament to address issues that previously remained unresolved. Thus, making Italy more aware of EU policies. This transparency allows Italy to follow guidelines that EU creates in order to stabilize the economy.

Italy was also forced to accept an austerity plan in 2010 that had severe economic measures for Italians. Such measures included increased taxes, salary freezes for public workers, cuts to regional spending and healthcare, and cuts to pensions (Roscini). These austerity measures are similar to those that Greece must enact in order to receive aid. Therefore, given that Italy and other countries have had to go through austerity measures to get economic aid, Greece should also have to go through some degree of austerity measures in order to get their economy back on track and make sure it remains stable.

C) Foreign Policy Challenges

The rise of foreign fighters such as the Daesh has been a rising issue for everywhere in the world including Europe. Particularly considering the group committed various attacks on European soil such as the suicide bombers who killed 97 in Ankara on October 10, 2015. And the attack in Paris on November 13, 2015 that killed 130 people. France being a country that shares a border with Italy, this hits our country hard. The security threat from North Africa and Libya is a particularly big deal. With thousands of migrants coming from Libya weekly—
either legally or illegally— the threat of foreign fighters is significant. As of December, Italy has expelled 64 suspected Islamic extremists and continues to monitor at least 90 foreign fighters (Voice of America). This is a clear indication of the threat that foreign fighters has on Italy. Daesh has also produced a video stating that Rome is a target for the extremist group. This is due to the fact that Rome is the capital of Catholicism. This puts Italy on even more of a high alert. Italy has assisted in the coalition fight against these forces by providing training to forces in Iraq and working to counteract financing to the terrorist group (Matteo Renzi, UN General Assembly). Italy clearly considers the extremist group to be a threat to their security, but they believe the coalition forces need to expand scope of security forces to North Africa as well.

III. Policy Solutions

A) Migrant Crisis

In order to quell the flow of migrants into the EU, this delegation proposes that the Union acts in solidarity, forming a comprehensive migrant policy that address the external and internal destabilizers. The recent deal between the EU and Turkey to stem the flow of migrants will help Greece, Bulgaria, and those of Eastern Europe. However, that deal does not help alleviate those migrants originating from Nigeria, Eritrea, and sub-Saharan Africa. Not only do these migrants compose the majority of those illegally entering Europe, but further destabilize the Libyan port of departure. This delegation proposes increased funds to southern border of the EU, including Italy and Malta, to subdue the flow of immigrants.

The allocation of funds from the central EU government would be dispersed across various operations that deal with the construction of various contention centers around Italy, as well as Greece, Bulgaria, and Croatia. There also needs to be greater efforts to patrols larger areas of the Mediterranean, Adriatic, and Aegean Seas, ensuring the safe passage of immigrants into these centers. The ultimate goal of the Union should be to facilitate and regulate the migration of these asylum seekers. The oversight of the EU will allow for a more concerted effort to control where the immigrants go, and how they are processed. The only way to stop the flow of migrants is to tackle the problems of political and economic instability they face in their respective countries. There must also be some incentive to begin avenues of stabilization in the Maghreb, which will go to the root of the problem.

B) Greece’s Place in Europe

Italy would like Greece to comply with the austerity measures given to them by the European Union since other countries have also had to comply with such austerity measures.

- Greece must eliminate early retirement and increase the retirement age to 67 by 2022.
- Greece must also phase out the ‘solidarity grants’ for all pensioners, as soon as possible, eliminated by the end of the decade
- Greece must also ensure pensioners increase contribution towards healthcare
- Greece must also begin a three-tier system in regards to value added taxes in which bottom rate is six percent for common items, 13 percent for basic food consumption, and 23 percent for all else.
- Lastly, Greek citizens must pay a common tax rate, there will be no value added tax exemptions or modified statuses for the poorer populations
- Italy is also in favor of a Deposit Guarantee Scheme for Greece in order to protect Greek depositors and prevent severe economic crises
- It is important for Greek to follow the same austerity measures that other countries had to go through in
order to stabilize their economies.

C) Foreign Policy Challenges

- Italy believes that the fight against Daesh is an important one, but the coalition forces are focused too much on the Middle East.
- Italy proposes to expand focus to Libya since their is a growing presence of Daesh forces and the trip it is not too difficult of a trip to get from Libya to Europe.
- The growing presence of extremist in the origin countries of migrants calls for a shift in policy away from strictly dealing with the Middle East, and a more concerted effort in North Africa.
- Italy also proposes to continue to assist in counter-finance of Daesh
  - Italy also proposes to continue to assist in the training of forces in Iraq to help defeat the Daesh.

Bibliography

Migrant Crisis:


Francesco Guarascio, "EU-Turkey Migrant Plan Blocked by Italy", Reuters, 14 January 2016, retrieved February 3, 2016.


Greece’s Place in Europe:


**Foreign Policy Challenges:**


