

August 28, 2006

Dear Faculty Advisor,

On behalf of the European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh, I would like to invite you and your students to participate in the second annual high school Model European Union, to be held on the University of Pittsburgh, Oakland campus, on **Monday, December 4, 2006**. The conference will begin at approximately 8:00am on Monday morning with a lite breakfast, and will conclude at approximately 4:30pm with closing remarks.

The Model European Union is a simulation of a European Council summit. High school students play the role of heads of state of the member states and accession states of the EU to debate and resolve issues facing the EU.

The upcoming Model EU will simulate the Brussels Council, which took place in December 2004 during the Dutch Presidency of the EU. The purpose of the Brussels Council was to allow proper discussion of the many issues surrounding Turkish accession to the European Union. This year's simulation will consist of one meeting of the heads of government of all 25 Member States as well as the Commission President and President of the European Parliament. The major agenda topics addressed at the conference will be: 1) Cyprus relations; 2) Turkish and Greek relations; 3) Assessment of Turkey's human rights progress; 4) Timing and conditions of negotiations. Turkey will be included as an observer, and a participant in the discussion.

Please see the attached agenda for more information about the Brussels Council. Each member state delegation will include one delegate – a Head of State (Prime Minister or President). In addition, each delegate may be accompanied by an additional student, playing the role of a political attaché. This is especially recommended for the larger and more influential member states (ex: UK, France, Poland, Spain, Germany, etc.). They will not have a formal role in the debate but will be a vital asset for your delegates during informal negotiations.

You may consider sending additional students to observe the simulation, to document the simulation for your newsletter, or to assist the students participating in the simulation.

To register for the conference, please email Kathleen Puccia Ramcharran, Outreach Administrator, at kpuccia@ucis.pitt.edu by **Friday, September 29, 2006** with the following information:

- Number of delegations you wish to send (one or two students per delegation);
- Country preference, if any;
- Name, email, phone number, and mailing address of the faculty member who will help the students prepare for and attend the conference.

Depending on the response, we may limit the number of delegations that each school may send. We will try to accommodate your country preferences. Upon receiving a school's response, the country assignment will be made as quickly as possible. The University of Pittsburgh will represent the Dutch Presidency, which held the Presidency and hosted the meeting. We do not need the names of each student at this point; we will ask for that information in November.

On **Tuesday, October 10 at 6:00pm**, we will hold an informational session for all students and advisors participating in the 2006 Model EU on the University of Pittsburgh, Oakland campus. At the information session, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the issues surrounding the Brussels Council, the rules and procedures of a Model EU simulation, and the varied EU-related resources available to you for research. You will also have the opportunity to meet the intellectual organizer of the conference and to raise questions regarding any aspect of the simulation. Once you RSVP, you will receive further information about the October 10 information session, including location and directions.

We believe that the Model European Union enhances students' understanding of classroom learning and gives them a real sense of the challenges involved in the decision-making process of the European Union. We hope that you will participate in this unique opportunity for high school students.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Lund

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