

# Caesar und Cleopatra

A political simulation game on legislation in the European Union on action programs

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## Facilities and material

4,5 hours, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 9:30-16:30 (normally 13:00-15:00 lunch break)

3 rooms needed with a bigger one in which all pax are fitting

Each pax gets: role card + background info on legislative process, action programs, institution he/she is belonging to + hints if the person is president of her/his institution

9:30-10:30: Introduction to the topic and the process

10:30-13:00: Simulation 1<sup>st</sup> part (2,5 hours)

13:00-14:00: Lunch break

14:00-16:30: Simulation 2<sup>nd</sup> part (2,5 hours)

16:45-17:15: Coffee Break

17:15-18:30: Debriefing

18:30-19:45: Closing of the day

20:00: Diner

Document	To print
Plan	6x
A_Proposal	35x
B_Roles	1x
C_Hints-presidents	1x
D_Rules-amendments	4x

E_Group-profile	For each person, profile of his/her institution and of the political group
F_Timetable	6x
G_Name tags	

## Timeline

Time	European Parliament	Council of the EU	NGOs
10:30-11:00	COM presents the proposal during an event opened to members of EP, members of the Council and accredited NGOs (+ some informal time)		
11:00-11:30	1 <sup>st</sup> reading: discussion		Can attend the session
11:30-12:15	Break (deadline for amendments: end of the break)		
12:15-12:30	1 <sup>st</sup> reading: vote		Can attend the session
12:30-13:00		1 <sup>st</sup> reading: discussion	
13:00-14:00	Lunch break		
14:00-14:30		1 <sup>st</sup> reading: amendments, vote	Can attend the session
14:30-14:45	Break		
14:45-15:30	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: discussion	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: discussion	Can attend the session
15:30-16:15	Break		
16:15-16:30	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: amendments, vote	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: amendments, vote	Can attend the session
16:30-16:45	Presidents of both institutions sign the new regulation		

## Scenario

The overall budget of the EU stands. For the mid-term evaluation, however, it was decided that the orientation of individual programs should be revised regarding previous experience. Two action programs in the field of education and culture are on the agenda today. Both have had the same financial resources so far. One program (Caesar) is to promote training with a practice stay in another European country (+ Norway and Turkey), the other is to promote cultural experience of young people in another European country (+ Norway and Turkey). Some MS in the Council and political groups in the EP have very different ideas, which today must result in a compromise. The Commission makes a proposal to change the current 50/50 split into a 70/30 split in favor of Caesar. Many members of the Council and EP believe that this would mean that the EU would give up its cultural education; others emphasize employment and point to the high unemployment rates in the EU.

The majority finding in the organs is of great importance for the decision-making. It also makes sense for the members of the COM, the Council and the EP to know will go the vote

in the other two bodies. Through a personal conversation with one or the other member of the other organ can be clever to influence the voting result.

In the COM each member – each Commissioner – has one vote. It searches for a common position. Every member of the COM represents this common position externally even he or she has another opinion before.

The Council usually requires a qualified majority. This includes each represented country has one vote. 55 percent of all votes cast must be achieved. At the same time, these 55% of the voting MS must represent 65% of the 505 millions people in the EU. For this, it is necessary to know how many millions of people live in each MS: Germany 81,1 France 64,7 UK 62 Italy 60,3 Spain 46 Poland 38,2 Romania 21,5 Netherlands 16,6 Greece 11,3 Belgium 10,8 Portugal 10,6 Czech Republic 10,5 Hungary 10 Sweden 9,3 Austria 8,4 Bulgaria 7,6 Denmark 5,5 Finland 5,4 Slovakia 5,4 Ireland 4,5 Croatia 4,4 Lithuania 3,2 Latvia 2,2 Slovenia 2 Estonia 1,3 Cyprus 0,8 Luxembourg 0,5 Malta 0,4 The qualified majority is reached in the simulation if 65% of the population of the MS present is reached.

In principle, the absolute majority of votes cast in the EP is 50% plus one vote. Each member has one vote. In the EP, the political groups generally vote in a closed position, giving greater weight to the larger groups and their members.

## Opening speech

Dear Ministers,

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We will present you a proposal for the adaptation of the existing action programs Caesar and Cleopatra. You know, our action program Cleopatra has been used for years to promote exchanges between young people. Whether cultural, creative, social or recently also sporting events, Cleopatra is there for everyone!

And we have our program Caesar for the professional, school and university meeting of young people. A program that, with a clear objective, provide young people with experience in the training sectors that are important to them.

You asked us to look at whether the distribution of funds between the different areas of the EU action programs is still up-to-date and whether it can tackle more recent problems and achieve current goals. For example, the goal of our EU 2020 strategy is to promote social-inclusive growth. We would like to do that!

Well, after many discussions, we have come to the conclusion that it is time to redistribute funds between our important programs Caesar and Cleopatra. Without increasing the budget, we have to redistribute in an intelligent way.

Our proposal for a new regulation for Caesar and Cleopatra will be sent to you promptly. I would now ask you to start your deliberations and make appropriate choices for the good of the Youth of Europe. You can rely on the Commission's cooperation at any time.

# Background informations

## The ordinary legislative procedure of the EU

In Principle, the European Union adopts its legal acts/directives (directives and regulations) with up to three readings in the EP and the Council on the initiative of the COM in accordance with the procedure described in Article 294 of TFEU. First of all, the COM submits proposals for common laws, regulations (directly applicable legal acts) and directives (acts to be implemented by the MS). The proposals go to the EP and the Council. In the EP, 751 directly elected members of parliament work for 5 years in political groups. The Council is the representative of MS for the daily work of the EU. 28 specialist ministers from the national governments sit together here. Once the EP has adopted amendments to the COM's proposal, the council is invited to adopt, reject or amend the amendments. The first round of amending decisions is called First Reading. If both institutions do not consider changes to be necessary or the Council accepts the EP'S amendments the law may enter into force. If agreement is reached in the second reading on the changes, the law will now enter into force. If the EP and Council do not agree at all, the law can fail. Often, therefore, after the Second Reading, both institutions agree to convene a Conciliation Committee, which prepares a draft agreement for a third reading. The Conciliation Committee consists of all the members of the Council and as many members of the EP. If this attempt fails or if one of both institutions votes against the joint proposal in the third reading, the law has finally failed. In case of an agreement the presidents of the Council and the EP sign the law, which enters into force.

The presidency in the EP is elected by its members for 2,5 years each. The Presidency of the Council changes every six months so that each country can take on this task once. The COM is following a legislative proposal on all readings and delivering opinions on EP'S request for change. This significantly influences the decision-making in the Council. In the event of a negative assessment by the Commission, the Council can only decide unanimously on the desired change, in the case of a positive judgment a qualified majority is sufficient. In order to achieve this, since November 2014, a majority of 55% of MS representing 65% of the EU population is needed. The EP usually votes by majority.

## Action programs of the EU

The EU implements its policies with different instruments. In principle, it has been given decision-making powers by the Member States (MS) so that it can legislatively or through decisions for specific policy areas decide jointly and democratically on behalf of all MS and people of the EU. Articles 2 to 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) regulate the areas and the responsibility of the EU, the joint responsibility of the EU and the MS or only the coordination and support of the MS through the EU is allowed. Certain decision-making powers are also directly tied to individual EU institutions: for example, competition and state aid control by the COM, monetary policy by the European Central Bank (Art. 3 TFEU). In the areas of protection and improvement of human health; industry; culture; tourism; education, training, youth and sport; civil protection; and administrative cooperation, the EU is responsible "for the implementation of measures to support, coordinate or supplement the action of the MS (Art. 6 TFEU). This means that, in principle, the EU does not issue regulations for the areas but it does issue financial and other regulations to support the work of the MS. How this is done is governed by EU laws.

The EU can mobilize financial support as it has a budget. Budgetary policy, especially that of the EU, is not easy to handle especially in political education. The EU budget is relatively small as it only covers around 1% of the EU'S GDP. The budgets of European countries account for between 45 and 50% of their respective GDP. The annual budgetary procedure

is part of a multiannual financial framework (MFF). Currently this is the MFF 2014-2020. The individual items and the overall direction of the MFF are linked both to traditional EU tasks such as agricultural policy and to longer-term objectives. Above all, the EU 2020 strategy based on sustainable, socially inclusive and intelligent growth should be mentioned here. The large co-financing areas – joint investments between member states and the EU – are linked to the structural funds ERDF, ESF and EAFRD for regional, social and rural investment. However a small part in the so-called "action programs" especially supporting the areas referred to in Art. 6 TFEU. And here the EU acts directly towards civil society as well as government agencies such as schools, although otherwise it has no regulatory responsibility here.

The direction of the action programs is very diverse and will be through the co-decision procedure, so that the EP and the Council will decide jointly on a proposal from the Commission. "Erasmus+" is the new framework program that awards scholarships to students, teachers, trainers and trainees in the various sub-programs Comenius, Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig.

There are many aspects "in the fight against youth unemployment and in the fight for education, mobility and the growing together of Europeans" said the EP Rapporteur Doris Pack from the EPP group. Of course, the individual components are in a relationship that reflects both the Strategy 2020 objectives and other objectives such as international understanding and European integration through contact and exchange.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/de/press-room/20131118IPR25531/erasmus-unterstutzung-fur-mehr-als-4-millionen-junge-menschen>

There are quite a few other action programs designed to trigger environmental, cultural or group- specific positive effects. What is common to all programs is that they should be addressed to and support the people of the EU and beyond. Which EU priorities are pursued, will be discussed in the political dispute in and between the EU institutions.

**First reading by the European Parliament/Council of the European Union (delete as appropriate)**

**Regulation (EU) No 1234 / 2019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 on the reorientation of the action programs Caesar and Cleopatra.**

### **Action program Caesar**

The chances of young people finding skilled employment in the labor market are all the greater the more they have gained experience in other countries and other working cultures.

The EU has set itself the goal of providing employment for all young people (up to the age of 25). This objective is part of the Europe 2020 strategy, which is the guideline of EU policy for the years to come.

The program is therefore designed to promote the mobility of apprentices between EU countries (including Norway and Turkey). With the program, young people can receive a scholarship from the EU while absolving abroad an internship or training module as part of their education.

In the new funding period, the program will be equipped with significantly more funds. For this purpose, funds from the action program Cleopatra will be redeployed into the action program Caesar.

The new distribution corresponds to 70/30 Caesar/Cleopatra. An additional burden on the EU budget therefore does not arise.

### **Action program Cleopatra**

Cultural exchange between the EU Member States (including Norway and Turkey) is an important objective of European policy. Therefore, the EU wants to give young people (up to 25 years) cultural experience in other countries (eg. International activities, gatherings or festivals).

However, with the Europe 2020 strategy, the EU has set a clear economic policy focus for all activities in the coming years.

Therefore, funds from the action program Cleopatra will be redeployed in the action program Caesar.

The new distribution corresponds to 70/30 Caesar/Cleopatra. An additional burden on the EU budget therefore does not arise.

## **ROLES**



The European Commission (COM) is the executive power in the European Union. It is committed to the good of the Union as a whole and is responsible only in front of the European Parliament (EP). As an "engine of integration", the COM has been a key driver of the integration process since the founding of the EU and its predecessor organizations. In the EU, only the COM has the right to propose a law. Only you can submit proposals to the Council and the EP for the further development of EU's policies. Conversely, neither the EP nor the Council can act on their own initiative. If they see a need for action in a policy area, they must ask the COM to exercise its right of initiative. This puts the COM in a special position within the European institutions.

In the legislative process, an important function of the COM is to mediate between the different interests of each member state in the Council or between the EP and the Council. As so-called "Guardian of the Treaties" she is also responsible for monitoring the compliance with EU law. If there is a suspicion that one member state acts against one EU's law, the COM may bring it to the European Court of Justice.

The European Commission is composed of the President and currently 27 other Commissioners. Each Commissioner is responsible for a specific policy area. Decisions within the COM are taken by majority vote in the COM. As a rule, a consensus or the absence of vote "against" is searched. When a decision is taken, all Commissioners assume

and defend it towards external persons. Your term of office as Commissioner is 5 years, starting after the elections through the EP.





## Ariel Dunker

59 years old, German nationality, married, 7 children

President of the European Commission

As a daughter of a diplomat, you have moved and travelled a lot. That's why you speak fluently German, French and English. You studied physics in Germany and started your career in this country. You have always been member of the CDU party and took over responsibilities in regional governments before becoming a Federal Minister of Defence. In May 2019, you have been elected as the new president of the European Commission.

The EU 2020 strategy is to promote social-inclusive growth. A lot of countries within the EU are still suffering of the consequences of the financial crisis in 2008. Especially among young people, the unemployment rate is still high. As a new elected president and to reach the goals of the EU 2020 (which will end and be evaluated soon) you want to take action quickly and show what you are standing for. Soon, most of the policy frames are already set and there is no possibility to increase the budget. That's why you proposed to shift the repartition of funds between Caesar and Cleopatra. You hope that it will be a first sign of your action and a first success for European youth.

It is time to defend your proposal in front of the member of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union. Be prepared to answer their questions and find good arguments to convince them to vote for the proposal.



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## Marie van Bellen

45 years old, Belgian nationality, married

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Mobility

You studied law in Belgium. You had your first local mandate in the city council 15 years ago. After this, you have been elected in the European Parliament. You managed to get the head of the Belgian EPP-delegation and then of the EPP-group. After the last elections of the European Parliament you have been nominated as the Commissioner by your national government.

The EU 2020 strategy is to promote social-inclusive growth. A lot of countries within the EU are still suffering of the consequences of the financial crisis in 2018. Especially among young people, the unemployment rate is still high. To reach the goals of the EU 2020 (which will end and be evaluated soon) you want to act quickly and show what you are standing for. Soon, most of the policy frames are already set and there is no possibility to increase the budget. That's why you proposed to shift the repartition of funds between Caesar and Cleopatra. You hope to see a quick amelioration of the employment rates as a sign that the EU is working for the direct benefit of the citizens.

It is time to defend your proposal in front of the member of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union. Be prepared to answer their questions and find good arguments to convince them to vote for the proposal.



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## **Tibor Marionescu**

41 years old, Romanian nationality, married, 2 children

Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

You started your studies in political science just after the democratic transition in 1989. You have been following an academic career as a professor until you get elected in the national Parliament in 2010. After this, you have been Minister of Foreign Affairs until becoming Commissioner after the election of the European Parliament in Mai 2019.

In the beginning, you were against the proposal of changing the repartition of the funds from 50/50 to 70/30 for Caesar and Cleopatra. After many discussions, you have been convinced that it is a good solution to the high rates of unemployment of young people within the EU. As soon as it is getting better, you will act to go back to an equal repartition.

It is time to defend your proposal in front of the member of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union. Be prepared to answer their questions and find good arguments to convince them to vote for the proposal.

# Alexander von Zell



## Germany, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

You are born in 1971 near to Hamburg, Germany. You studied business administration and languages. You worked in the financial department of some big German enterprises before starting a political career. You have been member of the Parliament for two mandates since 2011. After the last elections you have been nominated as a Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

Germany has 83 million inhabitants.

Germany is clearly committed to the Europe 2020 Strategy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. This is also an important goal in the policy of the German government and has been quite successful for many years. For the future of the EU economy it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market. Therefore, you support the Commission's proposal to increase funding for the Caesar program.

Of course, cultural and youth exchanges are important. But the budget of the EU is restricted and if the EU wants to credibly and vigorously promote the Europe 2020 strategy, priorities must be set. And you see that clearly in Caesar. Nevertheless, in Germany there is also a lot of strong youth organizations which would not agree if the funds are cut too much in Cleopatra. You must take this into account.

You heard that some have the idea to put more money into the European budget so that there is no need to cut the budget of Cleopatra. Germany is the largest country in the EU and pays the most to the EU budget, which is already a big amount. That's why you want to be heard in this kind of discussions.



## Kim Iisund

### **Finland, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, President of the Council**

You are 43 years old and you were a professional ski racer before getting into politics. You have been nominated in 2017 to become the new Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of Finland. Currently you have big responsibilities because Finland holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1st July to 31 December 2019.

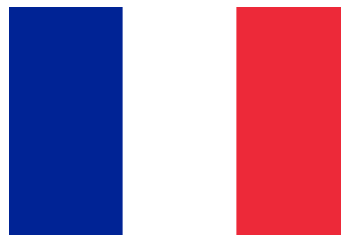
Republic of Finland has 6 million inhabitants.

In Finland it is important for the EU to make economic progress. Finland is doing well, and you want it to stay that way. This also has to do with the fact that the EU strongly promotes the economy. That is why you are glad that the EU, with the Europe 2020 strategy, places a strong emphasis on promoting the economy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market.

Cultural and youth exchanges, in your opinion, are no less important. The positive effect may be more noticeable in the longer term and not measurable in numbers. You are convinced that the good cooperation between the member states is a consequence of exchanges. Especially as a small state of the EU, you benefit from the experiences and ideas of others.

Many Finns have been abroad with Cleopatra in the past decades and have had very positive experiences enriching the Finnish society. There is a lively youth scene in Finland. They would hardly understand that Finland agrees to a cut in cultural and youth exchanges funds. That is why you are against the COM's proposal to redirect resources so radically.

# Nathalie Dupond



**38 years old, France, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**

You started your political career four 6 years ago, being first elected at the regional level. You made good contacts in Paris during this time so that you were chosen to be the new Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport at the beginning of 2019.

France has 67 million inhabitants.

France is fundamentally Europe-friendly and committed to the Europe 2020 strategy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies, For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market. European solidarity and cooperation are very important to you. European unification is only so successful because the cross-border exchanges has worked well and has been steadily expanded over the last few decades.

Cultural exchange, in your opinion, is no less important. The positive effect may be more noticeable in the longer term and not measurable in numbers. You are convinced that the good cooperation between Member States is a consequence of cultural exchanges. For example, refer to the Franco-German Youth Office which is supported by the French government.

That's why you are against the COM's proposal to redirect resources so radically. The culture also needs to be further promoted. Maybe not quite as strong as in the past but a distribution of 30/70 goes too far.

Maybe you can just deposit more money in the budget of the EU and "kill two birds with one stone"? Then one would not have to cut back on Cleopatra and could still increase the funds at Caesar. But you know that asking for more money is unpopular.





## Tomas Zammit

### **57 years old, Malta, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**

You are born on the island of Gozo in 1982. You studied Law in Valletta and after working few years as a lawyer, you started a political career. First, you have been elected in the Parliament. And since 2018 you are the youngest member of the Government as a Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

Malta has 500.000 inhabitants.

For Malta it is important for the EU to make economic progress. Malta's economy has grown steadily in recent years. This also has to do with the fact that the EU strongly promotes the economy. That is why you are glad that the EU, with the Europe 2020 strategy, places a strong emphasis on promoting the economy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market.

For Malta this goal must clearly have priority. That is why you support the COM's proposal to increase funding for the Caesar program. It would be even better if Caesar had more money available.

Cultural exchanges are, in your opinion, not so important. Since the EU does not have so much money, money must be moved. You would even save more money here. But it is not like culture is completely unimportant for Malta. For example, you know that Maltese young people are the ones who use the more Cleopatra for international exchanges and trainings all over Europe.


## Clemens de Coster

**42 years old, The Netherlands, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**

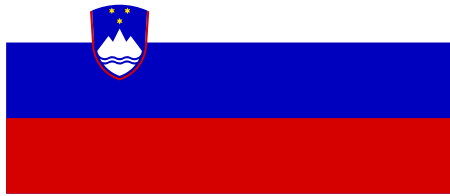
You are born in 1977. You studied to be a teacher, but you always have been engaged politically and you hold your first mandate with age 27. After being a member of the federal Parliament, then of the national Parliament, you are now member in the board of your party (Christian Democratic Appeal) and Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport since February 2018.

The Netherlands have 17 million inhabitants.

You are glad that the EU, with the Europe 2020 strategy, places a strong emphasis on promoting the economy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market.

Cultural exchange, in your opinion, is no less important. The positive effect may be more noticeable in the longer term and not measurable in numbers. You are convinced that the good cooperation between Member States is a consequence of cultural exchanges. Especially as a small state of the EU, you benefit from the experiences and ideas of others. Many Dutch young people have been abroad with Cleopatra in the past decades and have had very positive experiences enriching the Portuguese society. Therefore, you are against the COM's proposal to redirect resources so radically. The culture also needs to be further promoted. Maybe not quite as strong as in the past, but a distribution of 30/70 goes too far.

Maybe you can deposit more money in the budget of the EU and "kill two birds with one stone. But you know that asking for more money is unpopular. As a small country, the Netherlands definitely needs allies. Go therefore on the search.



## Lenka Karaková

**42 years old, Slovenia, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**

You are born in 1977 in a small village at the border with Austria. You studied political science and obtained a PhD at the University of Oxford. You are member of the Socialist party and Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport since January 2019.

Slovenia has 2 million inhabitants.

Slovenia is committed to the Europe 2020 strategy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. This is also an important goal in Slovenian government policy and has been quite successful for many years. For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market. For you the main objective of the EU is to promote economic development. That worked quite well in the past, you find. But it could have been even better if the EU did not deal with so many issues which has nothing to do with economy and growth. That includes the whole cultural area. Slovenian citizens do not understand why the EU is interfering here.

That's why you support the COM's proposal to increase funding for the Caesar program. It would be even better if the program Cleopatra would be completely abolished. If already Slovenian money is spent, then just for the economy.

You have heard that some have the idea of simply paying more money into the EU budget in order not to cut on Cleopatra. That is definitely not an option for you.

## Yente Boen



**51 years old, Belgium, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Against**

You are born in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium, in Leuven. You have always been involved in youth organizations and make later the step into politics.

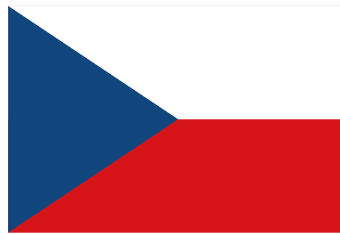
Belgium has 11 million inhabitants.

You are glad that the EU, with the Europe 2020 strategy, places a strong emphasis on promoting the economy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market.

Cultural exchange, in your opinion, is no less important. The positive effect may be more noticeable in the longer term and not measurable in numbers. You are convinced that the good cooperation between Member States is a consequence of cultural exchanges. Especially as a small state of the EU, you benefit from the experiences and ideas of others. Many Belgian young people have been abroad with Cleopatra in the past decades and have had very positive experiences enriching the Portuguese society. Therefore, you are against the COM's proposal to redirect resources so radically. The culture also needs to be further promoted. Maybe not quite as strong as in the past, but a distribution of 30/70 goes too far.

Maybe you can deposit more money in the budget of the EU and "kill two birds with one stone. But you know that asking for more money is unpopular. As a small country, Belgium definitely needs allies. Go therefore on the search.

## Katka Dvořáková



**61 years old, Czech Republic, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, In favor**

You are born in the City of Brno in 1958. You studied Physics and started late a political career. First, you have been elected in the regional Parliament. And since 2018 you are member of the Government as a Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

The Czech Republic has 11 million inhabitants.

For the Czech Republic it is important for the EU to make economic progress. The national economy has grown steadily since the admission to the EU. That is why you are glad that the EU, with the Europe 2020 strategy, places a strong emphasis on promoting the economy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market.

For the Czech Republic this goal must clearly have priority. That is why you support the COM's proposal to increase funding for the Caesar program. It would be even better if Caesar had more money available.

Cultural exchanges are, in your opinion, not so important. Since the EU does not have so much money, money must be moved. You would even save more money here. But it is not like culture is completely unimportant for the Czech Republic. For example, you know that a lot of Czech young people are the use the program Cleopatra for international exchanges and trainings all over Europe.

# David Sassoni



**41 years old, Italy, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**

You are born in the very South of Italy, in a remoted rural area. Aged 32 you started to be active in regional politics and had a quick ascension becoming part of the Italian Parliament. For 2 months, you are the new Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

Italy has 60 million inhabitants.

In Italy it is important for the EU to make economic progress. That is why you are glad that the EU, with the Europe 2020 strategy, places a strong emphasis on promoting the economy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. For the future of the EU economy, it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market.

Cultural and youth exchanges, in your opinion, are no less important. The positive effect may be more noticeable in the longer term and not measurable in numbers. You are convinced that the good cooperation between the member states is a consequence of exchanges.

Many Italians have been abroad with Cleopatra in the past decades and have had very positive experiences enriching the Italian society. There is also a lively youth scene in Italy. They would hardly understand that Italy agrees to a cut in cultural and youth exchanges funds. That is why you are against the COM's proposal to redirect resources so radically.

## Cristina Georghe



**35 years old, Romania, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**

You are born in the small city of Buzau close to Bucharest. After studying geographic, you worked few years in Brussels. You speak a lot of languages and know very well how politics are working in the European area. You are one of the youngest Ministers of the Government.

Romania has 20 million inhabitants.

Romania is clearly committed to the Europe 2020 Strategy. Securing employment for young people must be a high priority for EU policies. This is also an important goal in the policy of the Romanian government after the economic crisis of 2008. For the future of the EU economy it is crucial that young people get an opportunity in the labor market. Therefore, your support the Commission's proposal to increase funding for the Caesar program.

Of course, cultural and youth exchanges are important. But the budget of the EU is restricted and if the EU wants to credibly and vigorously promote the Europe 2020 strategy, priorities must be set. And you see that clearly in Caesar. Nevertheless, in Romania, there is also a lot of strong youth organizations which would not agree if the funds are cut too much in Cleopatra. You must take this into account.

You heard that some have the idea to put more money into the European budget so that there is no need to cut the budget of Cleopatra. A priori, this is not an option for you.

**Franziska Kellermann**



**Member of the European Parliament,**

**Political group: European People's Party (EPP)**

**National party: CDU/Germany**

The CDU is, in your opinion, the European party par excellence. You support European integration, no matter what. That is why you are often ready to join the European Commission's position if it is well founded. Ask again and again the Commission to explain and promote their very reasonable proposal.

You know that apprenticeship and training are good things. It would, of course, be better if all Member States were to develop such an apprenticeship system as it is already the case in Germany. For now, however, the EU's Member states obviously needs support to reduce their youth unemployment. For this period the budget should be moved to Caesar. As soon as fewer young people are unemployed, the repartition could be again 50/50. In principle each Member States should solve its own problems. The EU should only promote wider goals such as international understanding and culture. Perhaps an amendment to the Commission's proposal could strengthen this principle.





**Claude Delatour**

**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: European People's Party (EPP)**

**National party: Les Républicains/France**

France is fundamentally Europe-friendly. But the national interest of the Nation is always in the foreground for French politicians. The importance of being one of the most important member states next to Germany usually ensures that Paris seeks a solidarity with Berlin and tends to pay less attention to the interests of smaller Member States.

An agreement against France is from Parisian point of view completely unsuitable for the political and economic situation in the EU. You see France as exemplary for the European Union. You are always a bit skeptical towards the European Commission's proposals. On the contrary, you trust much more the suggestions of your German colleagues, if they also honor the French achievements.

Turning to the problem of youth unemployment France too has too many unemployed youths. But each country must take care itself on training and apprenticeship places. And if there were a more balanced relationship between the economic power of the Member States no EU projects for this would be needed. This is different with culture and the cultural exchange of young people. This has to be promoted by the EU, because national initiatives such as the Franco German youth initiative can only take into account individual group of states. At least in the long term, the relationship between Caesar and Cleopatra must be balanced. Perhaps one can fix this long-term adjustment by proposing an amendment.



**Alešo Adamčič**

**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: European People's Party (EPP)**

**National Party: Slovenska Ljudska Stranka/Slovenia**

Slovenska Ljudska Stranka is, in your opinion, the European party par excellence. You support European integration, no matter what. That is why you are often ready to join the European Commission's position if it is well founded. Ask again and again the Commission to explain and promote their very reasonable proposal.

You know that apprenticeship and training are good things. You are currently working on improving the Slovenian system on the example of the German one to solve the problem of high youth unemployment. For this reason, you agree on the proposal of the European Commission to increase the budget of Caesar. As soon as fewer young people are unemployed, the repartition could be again 50/50. In principle each Member States should solve its own problems. The EU should only promote wider goals such as international understanding and culture. Perhaps an amendment to the Commission's proposal could strengthen this principle.

**Yonka Dodev**



**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: Socialists & Democrat (S&D)**

**National party: Bulgarska Sotsialisticheska Partiya/Bulgaria**

You see the big benefits that Bulgaria has from the EU. You advertise again and again. But the social situation in Eastern Europe does not make things easy for you. Many people think that the EU should solve the problem of youth unemployment. You agree on that.

But in order for young people to feel to Europe they must have opportunities to come together informally. The program Cleopatra is very helpful for that. Anyone who knows another country can then find the courage to look there for a training opportunity. Therefore, you are against a shift. A 70/30 ratio looks like the economic problems of some Member States could be remedied only by an EU program.

Get involved in a moderate adaptation of the program. You do not want a ratio of 70 for Caesar and 30 for Cleopatra. Perhaps a change proposal from your group can prepare a reasonable compromise. Many of your related civil society organizations have been working successfully with Cleopatra funds for years. You think that this work makes sense and you do not want it to stop suddenly just because the funds are cut short-term.

# Marco Di Salvo



**President of the European Parliament**

**Political group: Socialists & Democrats (S&D)**

**National party: Partito Democratico PD/Italy**

All Italian governments and much of the population were always very European friendly. If EU solutions are available for a problem, they usually do not fail Italy. Nevertheless, given its economic weight, its state problems and its geographical location, Italy can certainly be a tough negotiating partner when it comes to safeguarding its own interests.

You stand behind the young people in Europe. You believe that the common EU labor market will offer many opportunities in the future. Employers have not yet sufficiently promoted the skills of young people in Europe. So now the EU must catch up.

If teens have been able to gain informal European experience casually, they are more willing to embark a European job market. You are convinced of that. Of course, it makes sense in the current situation where too many young people are unemployed to promote training experiences abroad too. But the experiences abroad which go beyond that, such as international exchanges, are in your view really important for young people.

A ratio 70 for Caesar / 30 for Cleopatra seems to you to deny this challenge. You do not want a world in which everything is supposed to be based on economic considerations.

Try to make a compromise that change less the relationship between Caesar and Cleopatra. Maybe even a gradual adjustment over several years in the direction of 70 to 30 is a viable proposition.

# Enya Camilleri



**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: Socialists & Democrats (S&D)**

**National party: Partit Laburista/Malta**

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**Niels Hansen**

**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: Renew Europe**

**National party: Venstre/Denmark**

The cultural contacts of the younger Europeans, of course, are important. You do not make any compromise. But they can also be caused by the fact that the young people who want to can afford go somewhere in European countries on holidays. This will even boost the economy, as tourism is very important in many EU countries. And it would not cost public funds. Deciding who makes a cultural event and where should not be done by the EU. From your point of view, that is almost a patronizing of free citizens. The Cleopatra program has always been a thorn in your opinion. Now you see the opportunity to abolish it.

But preparing for the job market is a sensible investment from the point of view of business and employers. If the economy does not have to finance this investment in its own, but the taxpayers do, it even strengthens the competitiveness of the European economy. The workforce can make valuable business connections in European industry if they have been able to make contacts during training.

You support the European Commission's proposal even though in your mind a ratio of Caesar to Cleopatra of 100/0 would be more appropriate. Try to get this option win the vote. Increasing the budget is for you a totally "no go".



**Konrad De Leeuw**

**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: Renew Europe**

**National party: Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie/the Netherlands**

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# Antonio Labura Fernando

**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: The Greens/EFA**

**National party: Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds ICV/Spain**

In principle, you support the EU's effort to make the continent's youth fit for the labor market. You also believe that the economic situation of many people and countries justifies all sorts of programs that help everyone to finance themselves and their families through meaningful jobs.

But that go definitely too far! How is this Europe to move forward when everyone is staring at the snake economy and forget that there are much more important values? People in Europe need to be able to get together even without having to think about a deal. Culture, nature, society are at least as important as economy, work and money.

You contradict the idea of the COM that one simply must move the relationships between the economy and society rightly and everything will run smoothly. The Cleopatra Program changed so much in positive sense until now that this proposal of cutting the budget is like an admission of bankruptcy. That is not OK. Fight against this proposal. If necessary, ask for an increase in funding to keep Cleopatra at the current level. You refuse a 30/70 rule.





## **Pavlina Němcová**

**Member of the European Parliament**

**Political group: The Greens/EFA**

**National party: PIRÁTI/Czech Republic**

In principle, you support the EU's effort to make the continent's youth fit for the labor market. You also believe that the economic situation of many people and countries justifies all sorts of programs that help everyone to finance themselves and their families through meaningful jobs.

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## **Carina Zuber**

**27 years old, Austria**

### **President of the European Youth Forum (YFJ)**

You always have been involved in your national organization of FIMCAP. Since 2017, after one mandate in the board of YFJ you are now the President.

YFJ is the platform of youth organizations in Europe. We represent over 100 youth organizations, which bring together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe. YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organizations. In the current uncertain political and social context that affects young people, they can be powerful catalysts for positive change and contributors of innovative solutions to Europe's challenges. To overcome the challenges faced by young people, the European Youth Forum has three main goals: Greater youth participation, Stronger youth organizations, Increased youth autonomy and inclusion

YFJ started to advocate on the proposal since the beginning of the first consultations. Until now, you did not achieve what you wanted. Indeed, you totally disagree with the proposal of the European Commission.

YFJ represents organizations that work with both programs, Caesar and Cleopatra. The young Europeans need both programs. In your point of view, the budget of both programs should be increased. This would be the perfect situation.

Try to convince the members of the European Parliament and of the Council of the achievements of both programs, what they are bringing to young people.

# Kalev Järvi

**23 years old, Estland**



## **Board Member of the European Youth Forum (YFJ)**

This is your first mandate in the Board of YFJ. Coming from a small country, you see it as a great chance to raise the voice of the young people of Estland.

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## Ville Muja

**28 years old, Sweden**

### **Policy Officer at European Youth Forum (YFJ)**

You studied European Politics and you landed by chance in the world of the youth organizations by finding an (paid!) internship at YFJ. You are an enthusiastic defender of youth rights.

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## **André Vicente Rodul**

**21 years old, Portugal**

**President of MIJARC Europe**

You come from a small village in Portugal and have always been very engaged in the local association, JARC, which is member of MIJARC Europe. Since 2017 you are the President of MIJARC Europe.

MIJARC Europe is an independent, democratic, youth-led platform for rural youth, by rural youth. Considering the Christian values, we strive for the personal development of young people through non-formal learning opportunities, in a sustainable and culturally sensitive manner. We encourage the participation of young people to build the Europe of tomorrow.

MIJARC Europe works since years with the Cleopatra program and gathered hundreds of young people, offered them to join an international activity for the first time and to learn many things such as interculturality, team work, ability to speak (in English) and defend their ideas. You don't agree at all with the proposal of the European Commission.

International activities that are made possible by Cleopatra are such an enrichment for the society. They maybe don't offered directly internships, but they help young people develop so many other skills that are indispensable for young citizens as well as for young workers.

Try to convince the members of the European Parliament and of the Council that it will be a great mistake to cut the program of Cleopatra.

# Naira Dibinyan

23 years old, Armenia

**Board Member of MIJARC Europe**



You are working in a PR agency in Yerevan. You are a volunteer in the Armenian movement of MIJARC Europe, FYCA. Since 2017, you are elected in the board of MIJARC Europe.

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## **Adelina Nuescu**

**25 years old, Romania**

**Policy Officer at MIJARC Europe**

You studied business administration and you always have been engaged in Agenda 21, the Romanian movement of MIJARC Europe. When a place went free in the staff, you candidate for it.

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## **Sophia Hermans**

**27 years old, Belgium**

**President of Don Bosco Youth Net**

You are a very engaged person. You always have been engaged in the local organization which is part of DBYN. Since two years you are very proud to be the president of DBYN. You live in Belgium and this a chance that you can easily join meetings and conference in Brussels and so expand the network of DBYN.

Don Bosco Youth-Net is an international network of Salesian youth work offices and youth organizations which work in the style of Don Bosco. The network assembles 18 organizations, +1.000 employees and +9.000 volunteers, who cater for over 125.000 children and young people in 16 European countries. The task of the network is to create and promote international activities for and by young. Next to that we create possibilities for our member organizations to share their good practices and start-up new projects together. Furthermore, we represent the voice of Don Bosco young people on European and international level through advocacy work. All actions which we carry out within the network are based on the pedagogical system of Don Bosco, a pedagogical approach with a tradition of over 170 years.

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## **Drago Marković**

**22 years old, Montenegro**

**Board Member of Don Bosco Youth Net**

Being part of the EU would be a great chance for Montenegro. For now, you are very happy to be in the board of DBYN and represent Montenegro at the European level and try to influence policies that will in the future, hopefully, apply in your country.

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**Claudia Paro**

**25 years old, Italy**

**Policy Officer at Don Bosco Youth Net**

You studied politics and have always been active in the local organization which is member of Don Bosco Youth Net. This a dream that you are now working for DBYN and making your passion your job!

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**28 years old, Spain**

**President of European Student Network**

You started to be involved in the ESN of the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos of Madrid after your went to Slovakia for one semester and get to know ESN there. Now, you are elected as the president of the Network.

ESN is present in more than 1000 Higher Education Institutions from 41 countries. The network is constantly developing and expanding. We have around 13,000 active members that are in many sections supported by so-called buddies mainly taking care of international students. Thus, ESN involves around 40,000 young people offering its services to around 350,000 international students every year. ESN works for the creation of a more mobile and flexible education environment by supporting and developing the student exchange from different levels and providing an intercultural experience also to those students who cannot access a period abroad ("internationalisation at home").

There is no such thing as staying and living in a country for some weeks or months. Young people learn to know the local culture, another way of life and the language. They discover themselves and grow up. They get more open, tolerant and develop a lot of skills that are useful for work and for being a thoughtful citizen.

On top of this, you are working exclusively with the program Caesar. That's you support the proposal of the Commission. For ESN, it is very ambitious to put the focus on Caesar and you are satisfied that there will be finally enough money to give every young people the chance to go abroad, from university to professional schools.



**Yan O'Connell**

**19 years old, Ireland**

**Board Member of European Student Network**

You will probably not do a semester abroad because you study medicines and it is difficult in this domain. But, you decided to "internationalize at home" and are involved in the European Board of the network.

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**Ekaterina Akdumová**

**25 years old, Slovakia**

**Policy Officer at European Youth Network**

You had the chance to spend two semesters abroad during your studies of Cultural Sciences. Now, you are very happy to have the opportunity to work for ESN in Brussels.

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## Hints for the President of the Council

You lead the meetings of your institution.

To do this, you give the floor to a person after they expressed the wish to speak. You can also ask all members to give their opinion in any form. You organize the votings and keep record of the results. You can also organize trial votes to check if a majority is reached. You write down all amendments in a new document which will be forwarded to the other institution. You check that the meeting fits in the planed time.

You represent the institution towards public and media. You represent the institution towards other institution and check that the rights and competences of your institution are respected.

The European Commission can participate in the meetings and has the right to speak. The Commissioner then sits next to the President.

Members of the Council can apply for a session break in order to discuss and find majorities.

Amendments are to be received in written form with the original sentence and the proposed change.

Vote takes place following the qualified majority. It means that the votes in favor should represent 55% of the represented member states representing 65% of the population.

Country	Population
Germany	83.000.000
Finland	6.000.000
France	67.000.000
Malta	500.000
The Netherlands	17.000.000
Slovenia	2.000.000
Belgium	11.000.000
Czech Republic	11.000.000
Italy	60.000.000
Romania	20.000.000

You can name or let vote on assisting persons (media person, secretary...).

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Members of the European Parliament can apply for a session break in order to discuss and find majorities.

Amendments are to be received in written form with the original sentence and the proposed change.

Vote takes place following the simple majority (50% +1). There are 4 political groups in the plenary session: EPP 3 persons, S&D 3 persons (one is you), Renew Europe 2 persons, The Greens/EFA 2 persons. So the simple majority is 6 votes in favor.

You can name or let vote on assisting persons (media person, secretary...).

# **Rules to propose an amendment**

1. Take one of the printed proposals of the European Commission
2. Use colours to mark the words you want to delete or add
3. Write your Country if you are member of the Council or your political group if you are member of the European Parliament
4. Give the sheet to the President of your institution before the start of the voting session

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4. Give the sheet to the President of your institution before the start of the voting session



## Group profile Council of the European Union

The Council is the assembly of representatives of the member states of the EU at ministerial level. The members of the Council deliberate and decide on proposals from the European Commission (COM) for legal acts. The same happens in the European Parliament (EP). In this way, Council and EP are in co-decision. Both partners decide with each other but represent different interests. The EP represents the citizens directly. The Council represents the interests of the member states. Depending on the topic, the different national ministries are coming together. In the case of youth policy, this is the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council configuration (EYCS) in which the Ministers of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport are sitting.

The presidency of the Council is held alternately by the members following the alphabetical order for one semester. For this semester (July to December 2019) the presidency is held by Finland. The members of the Council work usually friendly and collegial together.

The Council receives the proposals of law after the EP amended and voted it. The Council discusses the proposal, can amend it and votes. **The votes are taking place following the qualified majority which means that the votes “in favor” should represent 55% of the member states representing 65% of the EU population.**

In order for a new regulation to be voted, **both the EP and the Council have to vote in favour of the same text.** That's why it makes sense to look for a majority in your institution but also in the European Parliament.

## Group profile European Parliament

The EP is the Assembly of 751 MEPs directly elected by the 505 million EU citizens. For this reason, they represent the interests of the people. The members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are organized in political groups: European People's Party, Socialists & Democrats, The Greens/European Free Alliance and Renew Europe. The Parliament elects its president from its midst. Now, it is Marco Di Salvo from the fraction Socialist & Democrats from Italy.

The European Commission has the initiative right. It means that it proposes laws and regulations. The proposals are discussed in working groups and in the plenary session and voted. After the vote (and maybe amendments) in the EP, the text goes to the European Council which will again discuss and vote. The regulation is validated if both institutions agree on the same text. If not, a second reading (discussion + vote) takes place.

The European Commission can take part in the plenary session and has the right to speak.

The members of the political groups hold their own meetings and agree on how to vote.

For a law or an amendment to be voted, a simple majority is needed (50% of the members + 1).

Anyone wishing a change must submit an application for an amendment to the Commission's proposal. It is always important to prepare agreements with others and look for a majority. However, in addition to the European Parliament, the Council will also request changes in a similar process. Those who want to make sure that their own amendments can be successfully achieved should therefore also speak with the members of the Council.

## Fraction profile European People's Party

The EPP group is one of the two major political groups in the EP. Its member parties come from the center-right spectrum of European politics. The EPP regularly advocates pro-European solutions as it tends to weight the benefits of continental policymaking for the most part. But they are also MEPs in their ranks which emphasize the principle of subsidiarity. This requirement underlines the European principle that only topics which can be less well regulated by the local or regional level should be regulated at the European level. The EPP sees itself as a value-based fraction which above all defends the value of freedom against too much state interference. Therefore, the EPP is usually also very business friendly.

The economic recovery after the second world war in western Europe and the recovery in the east after the cold war are huge success stories. One important reason for that is the EU. Now it is your goal to make the successes felt for all people in the EU and of course that includes the younger generation! For many members of the EPP group cultural exchange is a guarantee of harmonious European development. Therefore, these members are in favor of promoting these exchange programs across Europe. But it also raises the question to some of your members, whether training or a vocational, school or student internship could not serve this purpose and at the same time increase the employability of young Europeans.

First of all, try to reach a common opinion in your group and then convince your colleagues in the EP of this position. Also, be sure to try to convince the European Commission and the members of the Council. A single opinion cannot change anything in politics.

Include your own amendments in the first and second reading or, if appropriate, support a motion from another political group. Maybe you could also prepare joint applications in the deliberations. An amendment in the proposal of the European Commission or of the Council is only possible if you find an absolute majority in the EP.

You know that changes are ultimately only possible through the cooperation of the major political groups. But listen carefully to the positions of the smaller fractions.

## Fraction profile Socialists & Democrats

The S&D Group is one of the two major political groups in the EP. Their member parties come from the middle left spectrum of European politics. This means that in addition to classic social democratic parties, there are also socialist and some regional parties in your group. The S&D regularly advocates pro-European solutions as it tends to weight the benefits of continental policymaking for the most part. But they are also MEP in the ranks who emphasize the principle of subsidiarity. This requirement underlines the European principle that only this should be regulated at a higher level which can be less well regulated by the local or regional level. The S&D sees itself as a value-based fraction which above all defends the value of justice against too much market inequality. As a result, S&D is generally both business and employee friendly.

The EU is a big topic for all parties on the S&D family. The economic recovery after the second world war in western Europe and the recovery in the east after the cold war are huge success stories. One important reason for that is the EU. Now it is your goal to make the successes felt for all people in the EU and of course that includes the younger generation! Cultural exchange is for many members of S&D a guarantee for a harmonious European development. Therefore, these members are in favor of promoting these exchange program across Europe. However, some of your members are also asking themselves whether an apprenticeship or a vocational, school or student internship could serve this purpose.

First of all, try to reach a common opinion in your group and then convince your colleagues in the EP of this position. Also, be sure to convince the European Commission and the members of the Council. A single opinion cannot change anything in politics. You need allies.

Include your own amendments in the first and second reading or, if appropriate, support a motion from another political group. Maybe you could also prepare joint applications in the deliberations. An amendment in the proposal of the European Commission or of the Council is only possible if you find an absolute majority in the EP.

You know that changes are ultimately only possible through the cooperation of the major political groups. But listen carefully to the positions of the smaller fractions!

## Fraction profile Renew Europe

Renew Europe is one of the medium-sized political groups in the EP. Its member parties come from the liberal spectrum of European politics. This means that in addition to classic liberal-democratic parties, there are also left-liberal, national-liberal and some regional parties in your group. Renew Europe regularly advocates pro-European solutions as it tends to weight the benefits of continental policymaking for the most part. But they are also MEPs in their ranks which emphasize the principle of subsidiarity. This requirement underlines the European principle that only this should be regulated at a higher level which can be less well regulated by the local or regional level. Renew Europe sees itself as a value-based group that defends, above all, civil rights against too much paternalism by the state. Therefore, Renew Europe is usually very business friendly.

The EU is a big topic for all parties of the Renew Europe family. The economic recovery after the second world war in western Europe and the recovery in the east after the cold war are huge success stories. One important reason for that is the EU. Now it is your goal to make the successes felt for all people in the EU and of course that includes the younger generation! Cultural exchange is for many members of Renew Europe a guarantee for a harmonious European development. Therefore, these members are in favor of promoting these exchange program across Europe. However, some of your members are also asking themselves whether an apprenticeship or a vocational, school or student internship could serve this purpose.

First of all, try to convince your colleagues in the EP of your position. Also, try to convince the European Commission and the members of the Council. A single opinion cannot change anything in politics. You need allies.

Include your own amendments in the first and second reading or, if appropriate, support a motion from another political group. Maybe you could also prepare joint applications in the deliberations. An amendment in the proposal of the European Commission or of the Council is only possible if you find an absolute majority in the EP.

## Fraction profile The Greens/EFA

The Greens/EFA Group is one of the medium-sized political groups in the European Parliament. Its member parties come from the ecological and bourgeois-liberal spectrum as well as the regionalistic European politics. This means that in addition to classic ecological parties, left-liberal and regional independence parties are also sitting in your group. The Greens/EFA has had members from many EU countries for many years. This makes it a self-conception of a pan-European group.

The Greens/EFA regularly advocates pro-European solutions as it tends to weight the benefits of continental policymaking for the most part. But they are also MEPs in their ranks which emphasize the principle of subsidiarity. This requirement underlines the European principle that only this should be regulated at a higher level which can be less well regulated by the local or regional level. The Greens/EFA sees itself as a value-based group which defends, above all, environmental protection and defends rights against too much paternalism by the state. There are business critical.

The EU is a big topic for all parties of The Greens/EFA family. The economic recovery after the second world war in western Europe and the recovery in the east after the cold war are huge success stories. One important reason for that is the EU. Now it is your goal to make the successes felt for all people in the EU and of course that includes the younger generation! Cultural exchange is for many members of The Greens/EFA a guarantee for a harmonious European development. Therefore, these members are in favor of promoting these exchange program across Europe. However, some of your members are also asking themselves whether an apprenticeship or a vocational, school or student internship could serve this purpose.

First of all, try to convince your colleagues in the EP of your position. Also, try to convince the European Commission and the members of the Council. A single opinion cannot change anything in politics. You need allies.

Include your own amendments in the first and second reading or, if appropriate, support a motion from another political group. Maybe you could also prepare joint applications in the deliberations. An amendment in the proposal of the European Commission or of the Council is only possible if you find an absolute majority in the EP.

## Timetable

<b>Time</b>	<b>European Parliament</b>	<b>Council of the EU</b>	<b>NGOs</b>
10:30-11:00	COM presents its proposal		
11:00-11:30	1 <sup>st</sup> reading: discussion		Can attend the session

11:30-12:15	Break ( <i>deadline for amendments: end of the break</i> )		
12:15-12:30	1 <sup>st</sup> reading: vote		Can attend the session
12:30-13:00		1 <sup>st</sup> reading: discussion	
13:00-14:00	Lunch break ( <i>deadline for amendments: end of the break</i> )		
14:00-14:30		1 <sup>st</sup> reading: amendments, vote	Can attend the session
14:30-14:45	Break ( <i>deadline for amendments: end of the break</i> )		
14:45-15:30	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: discussion	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: discussion	Can attend the session
15:30-16:15	Break		
16:15-16:30	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: amendments, vote	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading: amendments, vote	Can attend the session
16:30-16:45	Presidents of both institutions sign the new regulation		

All sessions of the European Parliament and of the Council of the EU are public.

## TIPS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE SIMULATION EXERCISE

Based on the experience we have had with the exercise we recommend to have only a brief intro especially for the legislation process of the European Union because this is something one really understands better when one experiences it. However, the intro to the programme / policy needs to be clearer in the sense everyone needs to understand why s/he is against or in favor. Two ways are possible to do this 1) The programme/policy is already introduced a day before and incorporated in the previous activities 2) Brief brainstorming with the group during the intro on what the programme means, what the impact is and so on.

- A few exercises to better get into the role, for example opening the simulation game with a speed dating (only two or three others) that everyone needs to introduce her/himself.
- One of the first tasks in the simulation game should be to have a strategic meeting (15minutes) with your group and concrete tasks (What is your communication strategy? How do
- It should be possible to have the first reading (of both EP and Council) during the morning and the second (EP and Council with two time slots like in the morning) in the afternoon.
- Provide some background information (unemployment rates in different countries, which organisation organises which kind of cultural programmes). However, at least the commission needs to have way more background information to be the expert for the proposal.
- a brief research guide on where to find helpful information especially for the member of the European Commission.