

The European Union

MADMUN XIV





Hello Everyone! My name is Akina Souphakdy and I will be one of your chairs for the EU this year! I go to Monona Grove and will be Junior this school year. I have been in MUN for 3 years now as a delegate and this year will be my first time chairing MADMUN. In my time in MUN, I have been in every committee type possible and have had so much fun with all of them! One of my favorite committees I was in was the IPD at the Chicago International MUN where I was able to interview almost all the committees! I met so many people from all over the world at this conference and will never forget my time there. MUN for me is always an experience never want to forget and I want to make sure all of you have such a good time with this November.

I am looking forward to meeting you all at MADMUN and am super excited to work with you all!

Hi! My name is Sammy Ross and I am honored to be one of your chairs for MADMUN 2023! I am a senior at Madison West High School, and cannot wait to work with you all this year.

I love studying mathematics and history because they promote critical thinking, one of the same reasons I love Model UN! A few of my other hobbies include Tae-Kwon-Do, Chess, and Super Smash Brothers. Through everything I do, I love tinkering with my techniques or strategies, always making sure my next move is interesting whether it becomes a blunder or accidental genius. Out of everything I enjoy, I value novelty the most. My favorite movie is “The Tale of the Princess Kaguya”, which I mention as I believe everyone should watch the movie at least once in their life. It has profound character depth and beauty, but the experience of watching it is truly indescribable. This is my third year in both MADMUN and Model UN in general, and it is my first year as a chair. Although I am new as a chair, I am very familiar with the other side of the committee and my fun experiences as a delegate inspired me to take on my position.

Feel free to reach out to me or either of my group members if you have any questions! We cannot wait to see you all at MADMUN!





Hello European Union delegates! My name is Colin Corr, and I will be the sim for your conference this MADMUN cycle. I am currently a Junior at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee. This year is my second year involved with Model UN, and I am excited to work as a part of the leadership for my school's club of delegates this year. So far, MADMUN this year will be my third time participating in a Model UN conference, and I am more than excited to work with the staff because of how much I personally value MADMUN. Last year's MADMUN was my first ever Model UN conference, and everyone involved in my committee showed me just how amazing Model UN really can be. Even though I entered the day not even knowing parliamentary procedure, I left with an award win and the conference experience to win recognition at MUNUC in February. My point is to urge all of you to branch out this conference cycle. Don't be afraid to speak, and share your ideas. Not only does it help the conference move, but it's also pretty fun for everyone involved. Now, I wish everyone luck in preparing for MADMUN this year, and I'm so excited to work with you all in November!

Letter to delegates:

Hello, fellow delegates, we would love to welcome you to the European Union committee of MADMUN XIV! Your chairs are so thrilled to be able to run this committee and would like to tell you some things to expect from this conference. For one we will start with the fact that we understand that many of you might be new to Model UN or haven't done many conferences yet but we want to let you know that your chairs and sim will be there for you whenever needed.

Extensive knowledge of the issues covered in this committee and your position will be of utmost importance to make the most of this experience. Your role as delegates will be to form connections and create committees to resolve the crises facing. We are here to guide and support you throughout the conference. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

Akina and Sammy

Introduction to the European Union:

The European Union was established in the aftermath of World War II to promote peace and prosperity among its member nations. Through the past half-century, the EU has grown from 6 to 27 member states and has evolved to tackle complex issues such as conflicts surrounding climate change, immigration, international trade, and much more. The EU has had a significant impact on all of its member states, ranging from providing emergency humanitarian aid in times of crisis, to preventing armed conflict between member states.

Understanding the EU's principles and decision-making processes is crucial for the success of this committee. As representatives of the European Union, you will be responsible for legislative decisions that will have an undeniable impact on the world stage.

Topic 1: Ukrainian Refugees in Italy

The Russo-Ukrainian War, formed through rising tensions birthing chaos, forced emergency action on the part of many members of the UN to ensure the protection of Ukrainian civilians and refugees. The war brought into question what sacrifices members of the EU would make in support of Ukraine, and what would be needed to prevent further escalation. According to the Washington Post, the European Commission would announce plans to call for a 40 percent reduction in the EU's fossil fuel consumption - intended to punish the Russian economy. Members of the EU, most predominantly

Germany, France, and Italy have combined provided a total of more than 35 billion [Euros](#) worth of financial aid to Ukraine.

Beyond the direct conflict is the refugee crisis created by the war, requiring mass spending throughout the EU to address said issue. Various states have opened their borders to Ukrainian refugees through emergency policy developments to accommodate Ukrainian refugees. In Italy, almost 150,000 Ukrainian migrants were granted temporary protection, however, the influx of new immigrants adds tension to Italy's migrant crisis.

Italy has been known as an immigrant state for most of its history - today about a twelfth of both the population and workforce are foreign. By the end of 2021, Italy hosted over [165,000](#) refugees and asylum-seekers, predominantly hailing from Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mali, Somalia and Gambia. This vast amount of refugees in Italy has created conflict over resources, exacerbated by the lack of an effective asylum system. As of 2022, only 16% of the [45,000](#) asylum application decisions were answered positively, with many applications going ignored. Italy has also been criticized for its cooperation with Libyan government officials in intercepting migrants and returning them to Libya in exchange for economic aid - in particular, the human rights of said migrants are not accounted for by this deal. Furthermore, the increase of nationalist and xenophobic movements in the past few years has launched Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni into power and led to much harsher restrictions on immigration.

Recent coalitions have enacted policies actively fighting against immigration from North Africa and the Middle East as xenophobic sentiments become easier to capitalize off of. As of April 2023, Italian ministers have called a six-month state of emergency in response to a rise in migrant numbers crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa. In spite of attempts by Italy's right-wing coalition government to diminish immigration, rates of migration to Italy from the Mediterranean have sharply increased. However, significant exceptions are being made to the harsh immigrant policy to ensure space for Ukrainian refugees at the expense of others.

Today, the problematic treatment of immigrants and the allocation of resources remains an issue. The Italian Police continue to [prevent asylum seekers](#) from countries other than Ukraine from lodging claims, leaving hundreds homeless and destitute. PM Meloni continues to force more asylum seekers to immigrate illegally and increase punishments for said immigrants. Anti-immigration sentiments among the Italian population damage the integration of asylum seekers and the humanitarian treatment of refugees. It is vital to ensure both immigrants from Ukraine and other countries are provided with adequate resources.

The crisis in Italy is representative of the larger immigrant crisis in the EU. Immigrants from various countries face harsh discrimination and unfair allocation of resources. Increasing nationalism and anti-immigrant sentiment throughout the EU brings the livelihoods of millions of immigrants to risk.

Representing the European Union, your task is to determine the role Italy and the rest of the EU must play in the treatment of asylum seekers in the context of the larger Ukraine Crisis and other crises:

- What actions, if any, should Italy and the EU take to alleviate the ensuing refugee crisis?
- In what ways should its member states expend their resources on attending to the needs of asylum seekers?
- How should they address the overlap between the Ukrainian refugee crisis and other migrant crises?

Topic 2: AI in the workforce

As a part of the European Union's goal of being climate neutral by 2050, they want to transform their AI technology and new technology to a more innovative form. In the EU AI Act, their goal is to regulate AI to ensure better technology in the future for transportation, businesses, and consumers.

Artificial intelligence is the middle line between humans and robots. We wouldn't be as far as we are in our society if it wasn't for our mechanical workforces being AI. It has always been feared by society that machines could be smarter than humans but on a counterpoint, artificial intelligence is what is making our intelligence so much better.

While we tend to view AI as a relatively new development, the history of Artificial intelligence actually dates back all the way to the Second World War. While this old "AI"

may not have been able to write an essay for you, it could still run complex calculations and form models of things like the nucleus, for example. The idea of Artificial Intelligence entirely coincides with the development of computing and technology as a whole. As technology progresses throughout history, so does the Artificial Intelligence that comes with it. Since AI is defined very loosely, its historical significance varies depending on who you ask. However, without a doubt, AI has been a lasting development since the days of early computers, and today is more significant than it ever was prior. So much is still unknown about AI and its potential, and issues with AI will be on center stage in world political affairs for many years to come, making the decisions you make in this conference that much more important.

The most significant recent development with Artificial Intelligence in Europe is the EU parliament's new AI Act, which was proposed in 2021 and is set to be finalized potentially sometime within the year 2023. As of June 2023, the EU adopted a negotiating policy on the matter, agreeing to discuss a policy of regulating AI across the European Union. The primary focuses of these regulations would be to ensure public safety by categorizing the risk of any produced AI. This legislation would also aim to make a clear distinction of what AI is and should be, making it easier to be regulated in the future, as well as completely banning AI that includes things like biometric scanning, predictive policing, and emotional recognition. Such regulations could acknowledge the benefits that AI could have on a modern society, while also detailing how they can remain safe and protect the rights and well being of EU citizens. "We want AI's positive

potential for creativity and productivity to be harnessed but we will also fight to protect our position and counter dangers to our democracies and freedoms during the negotiations with Council,” said Italian MEP Brando Benifei after the vote in June. With the creative potential of AI being weighed against its dangers, many interesting ideas and visions for the future are sure to come as this specific situation develops further.

In the buildup to this conference, it will be crucial that you do two things in your research. Primarily, as in any committee following current events, stay up to date with the latest information on the subject. All the way up to the due date of your position paper, knowing what has been happening before the conference not only helps out everybody else by encouraging more relevant and nuanced discussion, but it will also help ensure that you know just as much as the delegates you will be working with. The second thing is learning how both AI itself as well as AI regulations can affect Europeans in the workforce. Know what benefits and risks it might have, and understand how it applies to laborers in your country specifically, as well as how it would generally affect the EU as a whole. If you can remember to do those two things well, you are on your way to being well-prepared for this topic at our upcoming conference. The following are some more questions you should consider in your research:

- How relevant is the issue of AI in your country?
- How might your country’s relations with other countries be affected by problems with either AI or AI legislation?
- What resources does your country have with regard to AI?

- How might certain actions regarding AI affect your country's citizens? Its economy? Its infrastructure? Its education?

We advise you to research your country's positions thoroughly for the conference to be as smooth as possible. Here are more general resources we implemented that can be used to start your research.

Sources Implemented:

Topic 1:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65235579>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-prepares-plan-take-175000-ukrainian-refugees-draft-decree-2022-03-18/>

<https://data.europa.eu/en/publications/datastories/ukrainian-diaspora-italy>

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/italy>

<https://integrazionemigranti.gov.it/it-it/Dettaglio-approfondimento/id/44/Emergenza-Ucraina#dati>

[Immigration Policy in Italy: Problems and Perspectives on JSTOR](#)

[Italy | UNHCR](#)

[Ukraine CONFLICT UPDATE on JSTOR](#)

[Immigration Policy in Italy: Problems and Perspectives on JSTOR](#)

[Human rights in Italy Amnesty International](#)

Topic 2:

[European Parliament's AI Act](#)

[History of AI - European Perspective](#)

[History of AI - Harvard Perspective](#)

[Stanford HAI perspective of EU AI Act](#)

[Potential applications for AI](#)

[White House report on AI in the workforce, EU and USA](#)

If you have any questions feel free to email us!

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