

European Parliament - Simulation Game

European Parliament's draft resolution on migration and refugee crisis in Europe

The European Parliament,

having regard to the desperate situation at EU borders,

having regard to heated public debates in Europe concerning the flow of migrants and refugees,

having regard to the incapacities of some Member States in dealing with the crisis,

having regard to the security of the EU external borders.

A. Whereas, as a consequence of persistent conflicts, regional instability and human rights violations, an unprecedented number of people are seeking protection in the EU; whereas the number of asylum applications increased horrendously since last year; whereas the summer period has demonstrated once again that migration is not a temporary issue and that the surge in refugee numbers looks set to continue, highlighting once more the urgent need to do everything possible to secure the livelihoods of citizens of Europe, and the fact that the Member States should do everything what is in their power to maintain internal stability;

1. Calls for rapid and decisive measures resulting in temporal introduction of border controls within the Schengen Zone. At the same time we call for increased cooperation and coordination between European and national border control agencies and immediate intensification of relocation and return operations.

2. Calls for deployment of European Gendarmerie Forces, which would assist in preventing disorderly behaviour in refugee camps. At the same time calls for development of procedures that would lead to automatic expulsion of all refugees, who do not comply with the European and national laws.

3. Urges the European Commission to abandon its undemocratic and unfair permanent relocation mechanism, which obliges the EU Member States to admit fixed quotas of refugees. Instead we call for making return policy and strengthening of external borders of the EU the biggest priority.

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

Roles:

1. **Chairman of the Committee** – the main responsibility is to organize, moderate and manage the discussion, so that it can lead to adopting the resolution. Chairman may comment on the proposal at any point of the discussion. He decides who is allowed to speak and in what order. MEPs can always invoke their right to speak. The Chairman is also responsible for keeping track of proposed amendments and changes to the wording of the proposal. [Chairmen may choose party affiliation while preparing their Position Paper.]
2. **Directors of the Agencies/INGOs** – they lobby for their own institution. Directors can call for extra powers, money, political statements (basically everything what they need in order to carry on with their institution's agenda). [Position Paper should be written on the basis of institutional, personal and country position. Here, country position is the least important, but you can use it to strengthen your message.]
3. **MEPs** – They discuss and vote on the final version of the proposal. MEPs represent their political group, Member State and themselves. You have to choose which level is the most important, however remember that you have to write a report to the leader of your political group, explaining your arguments, and justifying your conduct during the Committee proceedings. [Position Papers are prepared on the basis of political group, Member State, and personal positions.]

Position Paper should include (1000 words maximum):

1. **Introduction** - you should describe in a few words the topic of the resolution, mentioning in brief the background context that helped you understand it.
2. **Political Group's Position** – use your group's policy in order to analyze and frame the debated problem. You can refer to specific resolutions brokered by your party, political programme, policy papers, statements of prominent politicians, etc. Try to convince the reader that your group's position is the best one.
3. **Country's Position** – can be mixed with the Group's position to strengthen the message. You can refer to your country's historical, political, cultural context/ heritage. It is always good to use some examples of policies or political statements given by your Prime Minister, or representatives of the government.
4. **Personal Position** – It is all up to you. You can add some personal experience, made up experience, belief, or a story that would make your position more relatable.

Please, make your Position Paper more about facts than emotions. Show that you did the

research and you are familiarized with all the aspects of your position. Remember, all your arguments have to be in compliance with your Position Paper.

Rules and Procedures

1. Chairman presents the proposal and frames the discussion - 5min
2. Experts present their positions (FRONTEX, Amnesty International) – 5 min each
3. MEPs present positions on behalf of their political groups– 3 min each
4. Break – 10 minutes (up to the Chairman)
5. Q&A session with the Experts (each Expert answers 3 selected questions) – 20 minutes in total
6. Discussion session (changes, amendments, etc.) - 2h in total

Remember, if you want to present your argument/ask a question, you have to raise your hand and wait till the Chairman allows you to speak. The Chairman may decide to speed up the discussion and move to another point without hearing you out. The Chairman's responsibility is to manage the proceedings in a way that allows every party to argue for their own position. During the discussion session, every MEP will have approx. 1 minute to present his/her argument/ ask a question.

Baseline for evaluation of Position Papers and active participation in the simulation game:

1. Student shows proper understanding of the underlying economic, social, and political impact of the proposal (whether for or against), understands the main parts of the proposal, refers to the facts correctly in the debate and in the Position Paper.
2. Student successfully uses the group's and country's policy in order to argue for his/her position, is active during the debate, engages MEPs from other groups, has cultural intelligence, defends his/her group's and country's values but is willing to compromise, is active regarding the amendments. If deviates from the political group he/she is associated with, is able to explain his/her reasons.
3. Produces convincing arguments with a clear purpose, well structured, interesting to be remembered, presents coherent argumentation with examples and evidence, correct body language, appearance, audible and articulated oral delivery.

If your country's policy is against your group's policy, always prioritize political group. For Experts, FRONTEX and Amnesty International should be considered as "political groups".