

Model European Council 2019

Frankfurt / ECB

March 28th & 29th

The Model European Council (MEC) is an annual event which brings together the European Schools for a role play simulation of a European Council summit. 'Countries' comprising 5 students cover areas of interest in council: Heads of Government, Foreign Affairs, Economics & Finance, Justice & Home Affairs and Environment.

This year we were the Commission and Austria. Each Commissioner had to write two proposals per council for amendment and guide them through the respective council. Austria was one of the 28 countries of the EU trying to amend proposals in their own interest. The MEC is two days of intensive debate including council sessions, urgent plenary debates, questions from three press teams and a social media team. Three newspapers per press team are produced during the MEC.

This year the MEC had a particular poignancy as the UK had been due to leave on the Friday (29th March) of the conference. The UK (from ES Munich) defended their position strongly and indeed, after the signing ceremony, left the MEC via the back door.

The ES Frankfurt organised the event and the European Central Bank hosted us. They provided us with excellent facilities and very impressive council rooms. Advisers had a trip up to the 40th floor of one of the towers to view the 'inner sanctum' of the ECB in which Mario Draghi holds the ECB meetings with representatives of the Euro area central banks.



Central Bankers' view of Frankfurt.

In the MEC, the students learn the nature of political compromise which they hope results in creating legislation. The simulation is remarkably real. Students enter into their roles very quickly and convincingly. The MEC is an absorbing experience and as such becomes a deep learning experience.

Students have a lot of time in the evening to socialise with students from other European Schools and as such the event becomes a very effective way of binding the disparate schools together. It's a big event and students leave with an experience – and like all affecting experiences it has its high points, low points and dubious points. Hopefully, the highs outweigh the lows.



Under the magic money tree of the ECB... Waiting for Autumn...



Austria, The EU Commission and some random guy hanging around...



Our Ecofin Commissioner, Sophie chairing a meeting.

The MEC is an amazing experience. If you want a taste of what it was like here are the MEC Media Team's links to their posts on social media.

Have a look...

Facebook :

https://www.facebook.com/MEC2019Frankfurt/?ref=page_internal

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/mecfrankfurt2019/>

Thanks to the students who made this MEC such a success.

Stuart Idell and Tomma Mesch