

European Ideas and Identities

„MY EU ID“



BRG/BORG Wien 15

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Dear reader,

On the following pages, you will find texts written by young students from Austria, France, Germany and Norway – who were all participants in a three-year Erasmus+ project called “My EU-ID”.

As part of the preparations for the final meeting in Vienna, they looked into four topics that will concern their common future, namely

- - foreign affairs
- - the environment
- - civil liberties
- - security and defence

These texts also form part of the groundwork for four resolutions that were debated and agreed upon in Vienna at our final project meeting on 20 April 2018.

Arne Birkeland
Eikeli Upper Secondary School (project coordinating school) Oslo, Norway

MY EU-ID

Un projet pour échanger,
Des échanges pour découvrir,
Des découvertes pour apprendre.
Observer, expérimenter et partager
pour mieux connaître, créer des liens et coopérer
en Europe.

Committee On foreign Affairs

In 2016 Trump became president of the US, he chose to resign the United States from the Paris Agreement, which Obama had signed in 2015. USA is a huge country, so this has a big impact on how EU will manage to reach their goal.

EU officials are furious and have threatened retaliation through their own set of import tariffs. Officials in Germany, which exports more steel to the United States than any other European country, were among the most vocal critics Friday. Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, whose criticisms of Trump have almost become routine, called the U.S. decision "unfathomable." "We will put tariffs on Harley- Davidson, bourbon and on blue jeans — Levi's," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said.

On the other hand The WTO has claimed that they are convinced that trade wars always damage the economies of both

countries. So if USA and EU changes the terms of international trade, it will influence the economies for both.

If the EU stopped lending money to the US and put tariffs on common American export goods they will regret putting tariffs on steel and aluminum. The US exports a lot of cars, car parts, oil and electronics to the EU and they earn a lot of money doing so, actually the EU is one of the country's biggest trading partners. If the union put tariffs on those goods, it would hurt the American economy and they may decide to redo their decision on putting tariffs on European steel and aluminum.

This stance can have a major impact on many American businesses. However, this does not have to be the case. Small business owners are the backbone of the economy, and have been for many years. This stance can ruin a lot of the owners who agree with it. Therefore they can, but shouldn't take this stance.

Climate change

We have all heard a lot about "Global warming" or "climate change" in media. But what does it really mean? What are the causes of climate change? These questions will be answered in the following article. As well as the measures The Union is willing to make to prevent further damage.

Climate change, also called global warming, refers to the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth. An overwhelming scientific consensus maintains that climate change is due primarily to the human use of fossil fuels, which releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. The gases trap heat within the

atmosphere, which can have a range of effects on ecosystems, including rising sea levels, severe weather events, and droughts that render landscapes more susceptible to wildfires.

Even small increases in Earth's temperature caused by climate change can have severe effects. Rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice caps (again, caused by climate change) contribute to greater storm damage; warming ocean temperatures are associated with stronger and more frequent storms; additional rainfall, particularly during severe weather events, leads to flooding and other damage; an increase in the incidence and severity of wildfires threatens habitats,

homes, and lives; and heat waves contribute to human deaths and other consequences.

I guess, by now we all understand what impact the global warming has and that we should prevent the expansion of it. But where does it come from? What causes climate change?

The primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere—primarily carbon dioxide. Other human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

The Union wants to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases up to 80% until the year 2020. In the treaty of paris in 2015 the european states decided that each member has the right to decide on their own how they want to reach the goal of diminishing CO2 emission and in which branches they want to save to do so. As well as to prevent an increase of temperature of 2°C.

The Union inserts itself that more renewable energy is used instead of for example fossil fuel. We want to invest into the development of innovative storage procedures to save the green energy better and longer.

Another important aspect we have to keep in mind is that the energy politics have to go in hand with the competition concerning the european industry. 20% of the EU BIP is going to be invested into processing trade until 2020. Our goal is to combine the processing trade with the climate and energy goals from the treaty of paris.

A possible solution is investing into electronic mobility like E-cars. They have less damage on our environment than usual cars.

Moreover the Union wants better energy labelling. If people want to buy f.e. a new fridge they get the information on how much energy this fridge needs. Then they have the opportunity to decide on their own which fridge they want to choose. The environmental friendly one or the one who needs more energy.

To sum it up, The Union wants to prevent climate change through reducing emission with renewable energy as well as energy labelling to inform the customers about the energy use. (Union, Germany)



Climate change

The term climate change is used to describe the melting of earth's northern and southern poles. Which leads to the flooding of many countries, cities and islands, as well as the worldwide increase of temperature.

Climate change is caused by pollution. This means that it is mostly caused by cars and industries, which use fossil fuels to get their motor or other machine parts running. The waste gas then proceeds to enter the air and hurt the environment. The most pollution to speed up the climate change is caused on the Asian continent, with the first placed country being China (about 30 percent)

But Climate change is not only caused by humans, but also by the eruption of earths vulcanos (for example on Iceland).

The climate change can be decreased/ slowed down by using public transport, riding on a bike or going by foot, instead of driving a car or any other vehicle, which causes a high amount of pollution. Countries also need to work together to overcome the effects of pollution and prevent millions of deaths, for example by setting limits on how much pollution a country is allowed to produce in a set amount if time. (Hermann E. BRGORG 15)

Civil liberties

Who should be responsible for the prevention of violence against refugees?

Governments should normally guarantee the basic human rights and physical security for citizens, for refugees. But when civilians become refugees, this safety net disappears. A refugee has the right to safe asylum, and this should be provided by the government, because they are the headmasters of the nation, and should be responsible for the people coming to their land. The refugees should receive at least basic help and the same rights as any other foreigner who is a legal resident. The government should provide helpful resources to organizations that help refugees such as UNHCR, Sunrise USA, Refugees International and so on. So when the government has a hard time to take responsibility for big groups of refugees, these kinds of organizations can help. Which can and will improve the life quality of many refugees. It's proven that 2/3 refugees does not have any kind of criminal record, but yet they're being judged because of their ethnicity and that they do not have a green card. In a lot of cases where there has been multiple suspects, refugees are often to be prosecuted over the legal resident. This is not what we call human rights, this is misjudging and not enough knowledge.

What actions should the Member States take towards anti-immigrant groups?

Fear and xenophobia is at most caused by lack of information. To spread knowledge and enlighten the population within the EU-countries is one of the most important isolated

requirement the governments can do. Here are some important acts:

- *Campaigns*
A public campaign is a great way to reach out to a wide spectrum of different people within a society. With a catchy slogan and some powerful pictures, it's almost impossible not to take a break from life and reflect upon the message the campaign represents. It's important to show that these refugees are fleeing from horrible conditions and that they deserve respect and equality. Brochures are great to be handed out as well.
- *Social Media*
A lot of the anti-Islamic statements in the society are being published online, and social medias are a great way to reach out to the people who spread the most hate. There is a thin line between freedom of speech and offensive hate-speech. With this in mind, it's deafening to know that most of us are exposed for social media everyday.
- *Media*
Media often encourages stereotypes and therefore it's essential that the media write articles in an objective and balanced way. Fake news are widely common, and they might lead to prejudice based on rumors and conspiracy theories.

Should all EU member states follow the example of Germany and legislate hate speech in social media?

On the first of January 2018, Germany decided that any Internet platform with more than 2 millions users is forced to implement more efficient and effective ways to report and delete potentially illegal content. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Google, YouTube, Snapchat and Instagram is obligated to show the reports on what the users have been writing of hate speech about racist comments.

It is a great measure, to control and decreasing hate speech.

All EU members should be following the example that Germany sets. There is no negative sides by making this change, and will hopefully lessen racists and negative comments so the immigrants and others, will feel protected on all platforms when they arrive to the new country their about to start a new and better life in.

What role does the media play in the current context?

In the refugee crisis the media has given the public an insight in the refugees situation. The media has a great amount of responsibility because of their privileged and influential position. The media plays a huge role in the public prescription of conflict and their coverage should be unbiased and clear. The media can affect how the public view the refugees and the willingness to support the refugees. If the media portrays refugees as a burden, the refugees will gain less support in the overall-population. Many journalists have luckily focused on telling the refugees' story, this helps the public understand their situation better.

Photos published by journalists have also made an impact on the publics' prescription of the refugee crisis. Photos of children that are dead from

the refugee crisis has been an eye-opener to a lot of people and helped people understand the seriousness of the crisis.

VCBO

The VCBO has great appreciation for all nations and their cultures, every accepted refugee is welcome in Germany.

Social variability is one of the biggest strength in our country. Integration means to be included in our society with all of our values, that means education, work and cultural participation. This applies to all people independent of their generations, their nations or their native countries.

Often people of different countries come to Germany. They are traumatized of wars and need help. We want to help people and give them a perspective for the future.

In the European Union every EU-Member has to take responsibility for the refugees.

We need more help for the crisis regions so that the people don't have to escape in other countries.

We should also focus on the safety of the ways the refugees have to take to come in our countries.

We have to build legal ways to escape so that every refugee, who has to escape, has the possibility to reach a safe country. (VCBO, Germany)



Refugees

I remember it very clearly. I was about eight years old. I couldn't sleep the night before my journey to Europe began. At that time, I never even expected to be in Europe, I didn't even know about Europe. I could hear the bombs falling like rain in the sky. I was frightened of going to the bathroom. The electricity was off, and the floor was cold. The next morning my father woke me up after that horrid long night and had a bag packed ready to leave. I had no idea where we were going but I knew we would never come back. I had to leave everything behind: my toys, my bed and my home. My home country, even. I had never seen my father so worried and anxious before. He was walking so fast I was barely able to keep up with him. I saw people running all around me, some that were trying to get their children out of a broken-down building, while others were screaming. Not very far away I heard the guns shooting. I thought I hadn't woken up yet and was going through a nightmare. We walked and walked till we got to places I had never been to before. Everywhere, people were dragging plastic bags with them. I was hungry but the only thing I got was an apple and a piece of bread. Now that I look back, I wonder how I had survived. We were all heading to the same goal but none of us knew what lay on the next page of our story. It was a very tiring and a long walk that took a couple of days before our arrival to our destination.

Eventually, we arrived at sea and a small boat was waiting for us. So, we got on and set off to the next part of our journey. The look on everyone's faces was desperate. The hunger didn't stop nor the crying of the

younger children beside me. I was excited because I had never been on a boat before, but I could feel that atmosphere wasn't supposed to be enjoyable. I asked my dad after a long silence where we were headed. "Don't worry Sammy my boy" he said smiling, "Everything will be alright", but I knew that it wasn't alright. In fact, I think my father didn't even know where we were going.

A big ship then approached us and the people got us on. My father was so happy and so was everyone. The people seemed different from us: they were dressed in nice uniforms with their clean hair and skin shining bright. They offered us food and a room to sleep in. I was feeling much better. These people seemed to be so kind, although I had no idea what they were saying. We then got on a boat again and arrived on land. My father held me in his arms, he was happier than ever. Tall and blonde men in uniforms, again, welcomed us to what was supposed to be our new home. What came next was too confusing for me to remember. I was standing there not having the slightest clue what would appear on the blank page of my future.

Now seven years have passed, and I still have no clue of my future. After all this time, imagining it to be in this home is still too strange for me. I got in a society that, despite its high standards of living, couldn't possibly give me the feeling of belonging. I always have the feeling that I am different and that, even with the many opportunities that I get, the native people don't quite seem to accept me. With all the efforts my father has done to get along with our neighbours, yet they still aren't the first to say good morning when we

pass them. Or if my father makes a mistake, they react in rage as if he meant to disrespect them. I wish I could make them understand that my father grew up in a society much simpler than this. It wasn't his choice to grow up in a poor way nor was it his choice to come to a country that is overflooded with rules. I now understand the burden that I have put on that tall blond man when I arrived. I am sorry for all of it but believe me when I say that if my father and I could at any moment return to our real home, to the place where we belong, it would be my pleasure to thank you for the support and say goodbye. (Lynn AL K., BRGORG 15)

My parents were refugees, too!

The picture shows a young man, who is holding his son. They are on a boat with other people. In the picture they look happy. I think they are happy that they can live in a country without war, but behind this picture there is a long story. Before they came on the boat, they had to see people who were lying dead on the ground or how their houses broke down, everything in front of their eyes.

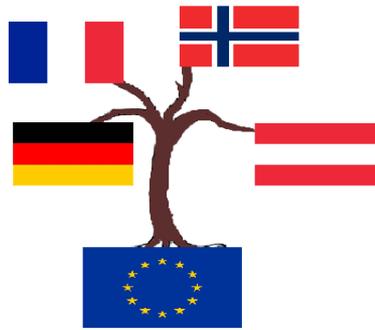
I think that this people know what luck means, because they can live happily in another country, of course they will miss their homecountry.

For me war is unnecessary. I mean, those people who die are innocent.

My parents were also refugees. My mother came 1994 to Vienna, my father after the Yugoslavia war in 1995. He was in the Croatian Army. Today he still has big scars. My dad's house in Bosnia was destroyed in front of him. (Suzana D., BRGORG 15)



Share, Cohesive and Solidarity for a United Europe



European environmental:

- Europe knows a worrying pollution alert
- factor : pollution
- environmental protection = very important for communities policies as agriculture, peach, transport or for the industry

European army:

- Problems: for several countries, in particular those of the former Eastern bloc, such a European army would be useless, because the United States protect them.
- objectives and solutions : To conclude our party is against an army because this supposes many cost an there are don't really have any use. But we are in favor a cooperation

between the armies of the different country in the Europe.

Relations between Europe and United States: - It is important to stay allied with this first world power that is the United States to assure us a cultural, economic and military preservation.

- In the face of this challenge, Europe has to strengthen its position and she also has to give himself ways, for example by increasing her budgets of defense, but also by finding certain economic dynamism. She must finally be ready to act on the international scene to defend her interests.

Refugees: problems : - more and more of refugees (OCBV, France)

Ecology:

Today, ecology is very important to protect our beautiful blue planet, we will propose some solutions that could start new goals. There are 3 topics to achieve this goal.

The first is energy. We can focus on nuclear energy and diesel. At the nuclear level, we need to change the system for a longer period of exploration, the security perimeter must also be larger and investments must be economically viable. To lower the diesel, it is necessary to develop the electric transport and to introduce a tax on the big cities if the people exceed the number of km, they will have to pay this tax. The goal with energies is to make an energy transition with new objects for the energy mix.

The second topic is sustainable development. We must continue to strengthen the protection of biodiversity (protected natural areas and endangered species). To do this, it is necessary to promote projects that integrate into the environment.

In addition, it would be necessary to integrate an ocean protection component (intensive fishing), and to respect the agreement of COP21 of Paris. In everyday life, it is necessary to have more bins in public spaces, to insist on the importance of sorting, to encourage companies that use natural resources and to promote the development of green projects. at local level.

The last subject is the animal condition. To improve it, it is necessary to strengthen the control of slaughterhouses and to improve the welfare of farm animals. To optimize

this improvement, we can highlight the sale of insects, limit the number of animals slaughtered per day and insert standards of "comfort" for animals.

Army:

We don't think a European army could be very useful. Indeed, the OTAN already exists does militaries operations and the United Nation is keepers help the population victims of conflicts. In our opinion these two armies already intermediate in wars and conflicts. That's why a European army won't be useful.

But if we have to build an European army, we could imagine every country sends one leader and an all of leaders votes for a one leader. Each countrie sends 10% of his army.

Furthermore, built this army would cost a lot of money because European countries would have to finance soldier and equipment like guns, tanks, and aircraft carriers.

All countries wouldn't be able to find an agreement to decide where, who, when the army would make the operations. We think it would be an important amount of money spent in a not very useful reason.

We also think that the Europe is a pacific organization and have an army is not a pacific goal.

However, we believe in European common goal as common decision taken by all the European countries. (The conservativ party, Léa, Cyril, Gregoire, Apoline, France)



If we are



ECOLOGY

Gardens on the rooftops

It's avoid the pollution

It's free for peoples who take care of gardens

It's gorgeous

feeditbag= It's a bag with seeds. He is disponible in different shops, you buy vegetables and you put your vegetables in the bag. You peel your vegetables. And you plant your seeds and peelings. And you have your vegetables in your garden!

electrolux = The mark electrolux was created for a plastic recuperation in the sea. People throw waste and it's harmful for the marine ecosystem. They recup the plastic to create hoovers.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EUROPE AND USA

Negotiation about cop 21

Exchanges with renouvelables energies

MIGRANTS

Creation of habitations or integration of migrants to put up them

A recuperation for clothes to dress them

The creation of gardens to feeds them

A restauration for migrants in works like the cleaning of cities (France).



Ecology

Nuclear : Larger security perimeter, modify the system for a longer exploration period, economically profitable investments. Diesel : Develop electric transport, if the number of km allowed in a big city is exceeded a tax must be paid.

Biodiversity : Strengthen the protection of biodiversity, protect the ocean, more bins in public spaces to promote selective sorting
 Animal condition : Limit the number of slaughtered animals, highlight the sale of insects.

Army

We do not think that a European army could be very useful. Each country will send a leader and each leader will elect a superior chief, each country would send 10% of his army. We believe in a common and European goal as a common decision made by all European countries.

International relationships

The arrival of Trump in power is a factor to be taken into account in the transatlantic policy. He appears as an inflexible leader especially in the field of trade and economics. (PPC, France)

Resolution

passed by the General Assembly
of the Project Forum MY EU-ID
from the European Youth Parliament

Foreign Affairs

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Aware of the fact that the average temperature on Earth is likely going to rise by 2°C by the end of this century,
 - B. Deeply concerned with the United States of America (USA) withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, initiated by Trump's disbelief in human contribution to climate change,
 - C. Alarmed by the possibility that the USA's resignation from the Paris Agreement lowers the international pressure on other countries such as China and India to join the world's fight against global warming,
 - D. Acknowledging that the USA, a World Trade Organisation (WTO) member, goes directly against the organisation's claim that trade wars are harmful for every participating country,
 - E. Conscious of the fact that the recently raised American tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminium (10%) are likely to cause the European Union budget to lose USD 2.6 billion,
 - F. Realising that said tariffs do not concern other countries such as Canada, indicating that the United States are directly targeting Europe and not just aiming to protect the domestic market as previously claimed,
 - G. Pointing out that the Chinese government's response to American actions was to increase their tariffs by 25% on 128 US imports, possibly starting a global trade war;
1. Appreciates the global environmental effort put into increasing recycling rates, lowering the usage of fossil energies, supporting environmental research, and initiatives that already exist in Member States;
 2. Supports the decentralised efforts of the states California, New York, and Washington within the Climate Alliance;
 3. Asks the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety to deliver a public speech to remind countries outside of the Paris Agreement of negative effect of climate change;
 4. Suggests that the WTO Director-General to underline the benefits of trading and the negative effects of trade wars;
 5. Urges the European Commission to raise European tariffs on US goods as a last resort;
 6. Encourages the High Representative of Foreign Affairs to initiate bilateral discussions with the US in order to arrange an agreement aiming to avoid further tariffs increases;
 7. Calls for a united European stance upon the fact that US tariffs under President Trump are only targeting certain nations;
 8. Further calls for EU Member States to take an active stance against trade wars, such as the one that is currently developing between the USA and China;
 9. Expresses its appreciation for American politicians who are in favour of sticking to the WTO guidelines.

Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind that members of anti-immigrant movements spread hate online, which is contributing to an overall negative attitude towards migrants,
 - B. Acknowledging the fact that hate crime is on the rise, with countries such as Germany experiencing nearly ten attacks on migrants every day in 2016,
 - C. Emphasizing the influence that the media has on people's opinions regarding the refugees crisis,
 - D. Conscious that the lack of education of children may lead to fear against refugees and create tensions between different cultures,
 - E. Deeply concerned that the current anti-immigrant movements, xenophobic mind-sets of employers, and language barriers prevent many refugees from finding a job;
1. Affirms the Member states to cooperate with social media platforms by:
 - a. spreading information about the dramatic journeys that the refugees have been through various campaigns,
 - b. introducing censorship of thoughtless and rough hate comments, whilst simultaneously implementing strict rules to prevent infringement on the freedom of speech;
 2. Calls upon the Member States to authorize the presence of the police and security in critical areas, such as refugee camps;
 3. Recommends the European Agenda for Migration to support the creation of a hotline to provide help for traumatised refugees;
 4. Requests that the Member States introduce a programme targeting offenders with violent and hateful behaviour against refugees that includes fines, imprisonment and social work hours with refugees;
 5. Encourages media agencies within Member States to provide more information about initiatives organised to help the integration of refugees;
 6. Supports Member States' governments in implementing history and ethics classes to encourage reflection in different political situations all over the world;
 7. Suggests that the Member States introduce a programme where volunteers teach the respective national language to refugees in order to facilitate easier education and work life of refugees;
 8. Appeals to Member States to integrate refugees in school classes to prevent discrimination later on.



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