

# REPORT OF THE 2ND DISSEMINATION EVENT



## **The 10<sup>th</sup> MUNLawS Model United Nations Conference 2022**

11 – 13 November 2022

Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana

### **Summary of the Proceedings of the simulation of the European Council on the topics:**

*EU's Approach to Nuclear Energy*

and

*Future Generations and Financially Stable Environmental Regulation*

**The simulation of the European Council was organised as part of the Central European Professors' Network, coordinated by the University of Miskolc - Central European Academy.**

The MUNLawS Conference, which is the largest and leading university-level Model United Nations (MUN) conference in Slovenia, was organized by the MUN Club of the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Professor Dr Vasilka Sancin, Head of the Department for International Law. The MUNLawS conference is structured so that each university and high-school participant in the simulation acts as a delegate of a particular Member State representing its position on a discussed topic in various bodies of international organizations and cooperates with other delegates in preparation of final documents that reflect the negotiated and agreed-upon solution of the addressed problem.

The 2022 edition of the conference marked a special milestone as it was the 10th annual MUNLawS conference. It was dedicated to the rapidly changing security environment in the

world, as well as certain environmental issues featuring also discussions within the 2022 Professors' Network, particularly within the European Council committee (see below) that has been conceptualized and designed to tackle the issues of concern of the 2022 Professors 'network theme.

The MUNLawS Conference is aimed at encouraging the discussion of topical matters of international law, international relations, international security, and diplomacy to broaden students' knowledge and understanding of current developments in the world, and helps them improve their skills of negotiation, communication and rhetoric. It encourages the delegates' critical thinking and strives to promote fundamental values of our modern society, such as the rule of law, human rights, and security. As the official language of the Conference is English, our delegates also develop their proficiency in spoken and written English while researching their topic, writing down the conclusions in a position paper, presenting them during the sessions and ultimately including them into the final document(s).

Prior to the conference, the participants at the conference were allocated to the desired committee where they represented one of the countries eligible to hold a seat in the allocated committee in real life. Additionally, delegates received study guides written by committee chairs that outlined the topics and explained what was expected for the committee's work. The delegates analysed the study guides, their country's official policy and other legal and non-legal documents, connected to the work of their committee. Then, they prepared a so-called position paper in which they included a summary of the agenda, their country's previous activities and proposals to resolve the issue under discussion. During both formal and informal debates that took place at the committee's session at the conference, the delegates presented the arguments of their country and argued for their official position to be included to the highest extent possible in the final document of the committee.

The main purpose of each committees' work is to adopt a final document that reflects all the agreements that the delegates made during formal and informal discussions. Firstly, delegates worked on so-called working papers that were then introduced to the committee. If approved by committee directors, they became draft final documents and were adopted by the simulated body, if they gathered the support of the prescribed number of delegates' votes. The goal of each committee is to adopt a document, which is comparable to those of real-life decisions, adopted by decision-making bodies of international organizations. Delegates that demonstrate the highest level of diplomatic and negotiation skills, preparedness for cooperation with other participants, knowledge of international law, international relations, international

security, and real-life policy of the assigned delegation, are awarded with the title of Best Delegate, Outstanding Delegate or Honorable Mention award.

The 23 delegates of the European Council, acting as prime ministers or heads of state of the EU Members States, tackled two topics, first being *The EU's approach to nuclear energy*, and second *Future generations and financially stable environmental regulation*. The delegates representing Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Latvia, Croatia, and Hungary were the ones that most actively participated in the discussions, raised motions, proposed moderated caucuses, sought consensus, and led unmoderated caucuses in an organised way.

The delegates debuted the discussion with the first topic, mainly because of its duality. They tackled the questions of energy security and EU energy mix, implications of nuclear energy on EU's external policy, the question of sustainability and the role of nuclear and renewable energy in achieving the goal of climate neutrality, the economics of nuclear energy, the process of building, decommissioning and overarching implications of security. The main speakers at this point were delegates representing Germany, Slovenia, Denmark, Hungary and Slovakia. The delegation of Germany was committed to the process of complete phase-out of nuclear energy, otherwise known as »*energiewende*«. The delegation of Slovenia formed an alliance with Croatia, regarding the Krško nuclear plant. Denmark reiterated their interest with renewable sources of energy production. The discussion expeditiously broke off into two blocs, one led by Germany and the other by Romania and Slovakia. Discussions resulted in two sets of Conclusions being unanimously passed, after reaching a common consensus. The first set of Conclusions was sponsored by the delegations of Germany, Austria, Italy and Hungary. Its focal points were investing in renewable energy and other alternative sources, using nuclear only as a transitional source, undertaking the EU's energy dependence on other countries, and initiating co-funding schemes to help the developing countries. The second set of Conclusions, sponsored by Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Latvia, swiftly passed after the first one. Its points of convergence were the handling of nuclear waste, re-opening of previously shut nuclear power plants, provided that they are deemed as safe, with the definite nuclear phase-out by 2035, increasing public transparency, renewing the legislation regarding nuclear waste deposits, phase-out of coal, and extra funding of research. Common ground among the delegates was reached during the amendment process. The delegates agreed on a complete phase-out of nuclear energy by 2035, but predicted its use *ad interim* until then.

Two remaining sessions were allotted to the second topic. Because of the time constraints, only a few main questions were considered, these being the taxation system, subsidies, switching from fossil fuels towards hydrogen, and investment schemes. Main speakers in the General Speakers List and Moderated Caucuses were the delegates of Latvia, Austria, Slovakia and Romania. The discussions resulted in a joint press release which was adopted unanimously. It addressed the questions of implementation of EU wide taxation on financial transactions, public transport, emission trading systems, special taxation schemes regarding renewables, tax fraud, EV, Hydrogen and Synthetic fuels to power personal mobility, implementing the Norwegian model of cutting tax and bringing more funding to European car manufacture. The last session therefore elapsed in a productive and effective way.

The simulation of the European Council was presided by students Marta Lipovec and Žan Gulič Nosan. The Best Delegate was Lana Simončič (representative of Germany). She did not only show a deep understanding of topic but spoke in diplomatic and sturdy manner and led the process of writing of the Conclusion documents. The title of Outstanding Delegate was awarded to Güneş Görpelioğlu (representative of Romania), for his active participation in the discussions, as well as leading the delegates and serving as the connecting tissue in reaching the consensus. Mohammed Kerraz (representative of Slovakia) received an Honourable Mention, mainly because of his creative and impactful inputs to the final Conclusion document.

During the discussions in this committee the delegates came to visionary and productive solutions. The simulated proceedings resulted in two sets of Conclusions and a Press release, being unanimously passed.

**VASILKA**  
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Prepared by Professor Dr Vasilka Sanin

I declare I have inspected the above text in terms of its linguistic accuracy and can confirm that it is written, to the best of my knowledge, in authentic English.

Linguistically inspected by Andreja Piškur Vodopivec, certified English language and literature teacher.

