EUROPEAN COMMISION

Topic A: Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)
Topic Immigration Reform in the European Union

Chair: Justine Kim
Vice-Chair: Jacqueline DeWitt
Moderator: Isabel Salvador
Letter from the Chair:

Delegates of the European Commission,

It is my honor to welcome you all to the European Commission, the unique assembly of 28 member states that works towards improving European stability and also one of the most challenging committees at GBSMUN I. My name is Justine Kim and I am currently a senior at Glenbrook South and I will be your chair for this session of GBSMUN I. Although Model UN is one of my passions I am also a member of the Student Council and Glenbrook South’s all female a cappella group Solace. Also serving the EC dais are Vice-Chair, Jacqueline DeWitt and your Moderator, Isabel Salvador, both juniors at Glenbrook South.

As you well know, our dais staff has selected two incredibly difficult topics for you all to debate: the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Immigration Reform in the European Union. The committee will vote to set the topic at the beginning of committee and our dais has strived to pick topics that are not only pertinent to current events but also have the largest impact on the future of the European Union. It is your duty as delegates to represent your positions accurately no matter your personal beliefs but also as a body to come to a comprehensive solution to reform and resolve the problems that accompany these massive topics.

Only one resolution may pass per topic and simply having your name as a sponsor on the passing resolution will not be the do or die of qualifying for awards. As a fellow delegate who has been to many conferences, I understand the competitiveness and formalities a delegate must go through to pass a resolution that they believe is the most beneficial to their nation and the committee as a whole. That being said, I expect respect for one another’s ideas and compromise in order to bring Europe to its full potential. The “best delegate” is one who wholly understands the issues and their effects on the international community and is willing to compromise, while staying close to the position of their nation.

I view Model UN as a learning experience and seeing as though GBSMUN is a learning conference, we will take it slow at first to ensure that every delegate is aware of the procedures during committee. But for all you veterans, I hope that GBSMUN will be a last push at the end of the year to hone your debate and writing skills and I hope to create a committee environment where all delegates feel excited to be in committee, regardless of prior experience. I look forward to meeting you all on April 25th and should you have further questions, feel free to email the dais at gbsmun.ec@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Justine Kim
Letter from the Vice-Chair

Greetings fellow MUNers,

As a junior at Glenbrook South High School, I am honored to be a part of our committee, the European Commission. In addition to Model UN, I am the Assistant Photos Editor for our award winning school newspaper the Oracle and along with our chair, I am in South’s all-female a cappella group Solace. The secretariat is honored to host our first Glenbrook South Model United Nations conference. We are extremely excited to see the variety of countries you will be representing during debate. I expect you all to bring new thoughts to the conference and am eager to hear your perspective on the conditions of Europe and worldly affairs. I have no doubt you are a group of intelligent students and look forward to seeing your bright, smiling faces on the morning of April 25th.

Best regards,
Jacqueline DeWitt

Letter from the Moderator

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to the first annual Glenbrook South Model United Nations conference! We are pleased to have you all here. My name is Isabel Salvador, and I will be your moderator for the EC. I am a junior at Glenbrook South high school and this will be my second year in MUN. I look forward on making GBSMUN a learning experience for new and experienced delegates. The European Commission is a committee that represents Europe as a whole. My fellow dais members and I are excited to see delegates come prepared for advanced debate on the topics presented, their countries view on them and an immense amount of participation throughout all the delegates. Since last summer, the dais and I have spent time developing topic ideas and our own research about the European Commision. With the topics we have given you, I advise you to familiarize yourself with the topics and your countries view on the topic at hand. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. I look forward to meeting you all in the spring. Good Luck!

Sincerely,
Isabel Salvador
History of Committee:

The European Commission (EC) is defined as the executive body of the European Union (EU), responsible for representing the Union’s interests. Since 1958, the EC has been monitoring the executive body and decision making process for the EU. During the genesis of the EC, the people found it important to prioritize the level at which the European people’s interests were being heard. A few key goals were set in order to create a functioning, effective committee. First, the EC strives to play a crucial role in the development of the EU as a protector of the treaties and keeper of peace. The Commission vows to maintain principle and focus on values that are core to Europe’s identity. It was also important for the Commission to establish their independence from European politics as well as national conflicts, creating a non-biased group that works for the greater good of law.

The first Commission after the Merger Treaty of 1967, was headed by President Jean Rey; the Rey Commission established the EU’s first customs union, abolishing intra-Community customs duties in the 18 months ahead of the schedule designated by the Rome Treaty. The Delors Commission, led by President Jacques Delors, spearheaded the signing of the Single European Act (SEA) and the Maastricht Treaty; the Delors Commission was also responsible for the creation of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) which increased cooperation between the European states. However, all of the legislation that the EC was able to push through had to go through the EU’s standard decision making processes: “ordinary legislative procedure” or “codecision” in which the EC proposes legislation which must then be approved by the European Parliament and the Council

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of the European Union. Fifty years of decisions have been made by the European Commission alongside of the European Union, aiding one another in the complex process of decision making on a regional and global level.

Jurisdiction

There are twenty-eight members in the Commission, one representative from each state. The unique thing about the European Commission is that each representative is there to focus on the interests of Europe, rather than unilateral goals. It is the expectation as well as the responsibility of these Commissioners to decide how Europe can be a proactive presence in Europe and in the international community. The Commissioners have the obligation to ensure that EU laws are followed throughout the Union, preserving an organized sense of security. The Commission has the right to propose laws, known as the right of initiative, that have the potential to be adopted by the European Union and the European Parliament. The Commission is expected to meet the expectations and standards of the EU.

The EC is a legislative branch which is limited to solely proposing legislation, while other EU bodies are designated to approve and enforce the Commission’s proposals. The Commission has the

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right to deny the Council and Parliament’s requests to propose certain legislative items. After the legislation is passed, the EU takes on the challenge of ensuring the law is implemented and enforced in Europe. The European Commission is supported by individual committees and private lobbies belonging to different member states. In addition, the accordance of treaties is to be monitored by Commissioners, dedicated to fulfill their nickname as the “guardians of the Treaties”\(^5\). Separation into multiple divisions, allows for the Commission to manage a variety of issues in a general administrative sense or a specific mandate. This system creates a functioning committee which has the authority to keep countries in line.

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Topic A: Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

History

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) emerged as a preventative measure for Europe’s future after the decades of severe food shortages from and after World War II. Under Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome, the goals of the CAP are outlined “to ensure reasonable prices for Europe’s consumers and fair incomes for farmers, in particular through the common organisation of agricultural markets” and further conventions of the CAP were outlined at the Stresa Conference in July 1958 which included “single prices, financial solidarity and Community preference”. The CAP was established as a part of the EU’s efforts to build a common market, which requires the removal of tariffs on agricultural products. Although the CAP was established in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome, it took many years to fully implement the CAP due to the sensitivity and effects which resulted from the initial CAP proposal.

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Over the past several decades, CAP reform has been proposed by the EC during many meetings and summits, however, CAP reform is difficult to implement due to the large scale of the Policy and the details that must be formulated. One of the first efforts to reform the CAP was proposed by Sicco Mansholt, European Commissioner for Agriculture, when in December of 1968, Mansholt sent the “Memorandum on the Reform of Common Agricultural Policy” to the Council of Ministers\(^9\). The Memorandum, also known as the “Mansholt Plan”, emphasized the need to modernize agriculture and aimed to prevent the oversupply of products\(^10\). Mansholt’s original plan involved greatly reducing much of European land under cultivation resulting in a wave of farming jobs lost. His radical proposals were controversial among farmers and many of the politicians that supported his cause, which resulted in signing and ratifying a diluted version of his initial plan. Although more conservative, Mansholt’s final plan experienced initial success in enabling the self-
sufficiency of farmers: the Mansholt Plan also ensured that future reforms to the CAP had a strong foundation to build upon.\textsuperscript{11}

2012 marked the 50th anniversary of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), a social, economic, and agricultural policy that has been key in European integration. The CAP has yielded over five decades of constant food supply to the European people. The CAP was created so that Europeans could enjoy quality, affordable food while farmers earn a fair living and fifty years on, these aims are still valid. Over the years, the EU has adapted and reformed the CAP to fit the changing needs of society. The CAP has witnessed three main phases: bringing Europe from food shortage to abundance; it brought Europe away from food shortages and rose the region to an era of plenty; it changed and adapted to meet new challenges linked to sustainability and the environment; and it expanded the role of farmers in rural development beyond just food production. Three generations of farmers have worked the land and tended their animals since the CAP was set up and besides feeding a continent, these farmers now act on this committee’s behalf to conserve the countryside. They also play a central role in revitalising rural areas and the rural economy. The CAP

is constantly being reformed, however, the goal of strengthening the competitiveness and the sustainability of agriculture and rural areas across the EU still remains. Any reform proposals should respond to the economic, environmental and territorial challenges Europe faces today.

**Present Situation**

The CAP’s greatest gift to Europe is food security and without it, the Union would be dangerously dependent on other nations to feed Europe’s own people. Not only does the CAP provide the general public food, but also provides farmers with job and market stability: without the CAP, the global market would swallow local farmers up under multinational corporations.

Currently, CAP expenditures are split into two separate “pillars”: Pillar I funds market support mechanisms and direct payments, which are funded through the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) while Pillar II funds rural development initiatives, which are funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Much of Pillar I expenditures are spent on Single Payment Scheme (SPS) which was adopted in 2003 to give landowners direct subsidies, however to receive these direct payments, farmers must live up to strict standards relating to food safety, environmental protection and animal health and welfare.

European farmers receive CAP subsidies of around £40 billion each year. And although farmers represent 5.4% of the EU’s population and they engender 1.6% of the Union’s GDP, however, farmers receive 35-47% of the EU’s total budget through CAP handouts. €58 billion of Europe’s tax

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dollars go to the farmer minority and upbraiding of the CAP argue that such sizable amounts of money given to farmers does not make sense in times of economic hardship many nations have experienced as a result of the 2009 Eurozone crisis.\(^\text{15}\) Farm incomes have fallen because of increasing global food production, and higher yields following the application of incipient technology in the developing world, and incipient entrants into the market. Farm prices are profoundly unstable, largely because of supply shocks, such as poor weather and disease.

As a result of past CAP reforms, direct payments to farmers now account for much of the EU’s expenditures on its policies for agriculture and rural development. The controversial equity issue is that payment amounts vary from farm to farm. Operators farming a large area receive greater sums than smallholders because direct payments are currently made on a per hectare basis. Payment levels depend on the historical product mix and rates of past cuts in prices, so farms of equal size receive different amounts of payments, depending on the member country and region in which they are located. In particular, farmers in the new member states from Central Europe, not having been members at the time the direct payments were originally introduced, receive payments significantly below those granted in the older member states. In the Netherlands, the average payment per hectare is around €400, while in Latvia it is around €150 because of the chronology in which the two nations entered the Union.\(^\text{16}\)

As a result of the recent 2014-20 CAP Reform, the joint provision of public and private goods is the center of the Policy. Farmers will be rewarded for the services they deliver to the public, such as landscapes and climate stability and there is greater cohesion between the two Pillars. Member States

\(^{15}\) Ibid.
also have increased flexibility in the budgeting and implementation of Pillar I policies to ensure that the variety of agriculture and climates is fully taken advantage of. However, this flexibility will be limited by defined regulations and budget limits to repair the equity issues with single payments.

Possible Solutions

Because the CAP is so expansive, all propositions for CAP reform should be multi-faceted and attempt to solve environmental, humanitarian, economic, political, and agricultural ramifications that have resulted from past CAP reforms. The CAP in its current state is a culmination of regulations from the past five decades and maintaining the Policy as it is now is a present option. The CAP Reform of 2014-20 is a reform plan that is the result of three years of grueling debate within the Commission and the EU. It aims to create a more holistic and expansive agricultural policy, however, many farmers and critics are not satisfied with the most recent reformation.
To encourage the egalitarian distribution of payments and cultivation of land, some redistribution of CAP support from older Commission nations to recent members could possibly solve the equity issues that nations such as the Netherlands and Latvia experience. However, with the large scale of the CAP, it would be extremely difficult to ensure the proper allocation of those new funds within newer nations. While on the extreme end, complete redistribution of CAP support along with SPS reform, if enforced efficiently, would ensure that smaller and newer nations receive more payments.

Each nation has their own policy on various issues such as single payments and redistribution, however, nothing is black and white in the reformation of the CAP. With a challenge as great as the CAP, the committee must come to a compromise on the combinations of various instruments and economic strategies utilized to create a more prosperous Europe.

Questions to Consider

1. How will the CAP address the present and future threat of climate change on crop yields?
2. How will the Commission propose to change requirements for single payments to address the current demographics and new member states?
3. What is the best method to ensure a decrease of future equity problems in subsidies?
4. What is the best way to ensure a constant, secure flow of food into the markets?
4. How can we manage some farmers in their participation of illegal and corrupt actions in efforts to receive more subsidies?
5. How can we manage price stability in the agriculture business?
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Topic B: Customs/Immigration within the EU

History

As a result of the Treaty of Rome, any and all citizens of an EU member state have the right to move freely between Union states without a passport, encouraging the movement of goods and labor around Europe. All citizens and their families currently have the right to live and work anywhere within the means of the Union because of their citizenship while citizens of non-EU states do not have the rights established in the Treaty of Rome. However, in 1985 the Schengen Agreement abolished all internal borders within the Schengen area and all valid residence holders of the Schengen states can freely roam the Schengen area for tourist reasons and up to three months. Although the EU and the Schengen area share many nations, there are several European nations such as Norway and Iceland which are Schengen nations and not part of the EU, increasing the possibility of illegal labor in many nations.

Schengen Area as of January 1st, 2013

The Treaty of Amsterdam entered into force on May 1, 1999 and along with strengthening the Union and Commission as a whole, it integrated the Schengen Agreement into the legal system of the European Union.

18 Ibid.
institutional framework of the Union, putting it under the parliamentary and judicial jurisdiction of the Union. To ensure the effective integration of the Schengen Agreement and the EU, the Council of the EU incorporated the Schengen Secretariat into the General Secretariat of the Council. The most crucial part of the integration was to choose the regulations and measures taken by signatories of each side to make up the *acquis* (body of law) to ensure that there would be uniform law.\(^\text{20}\) With the completed legal integration of the two areas, there is free movement of labor throughout Europe, however, those who are citizens of the EU but not the Schengen area or vice versa are not eligible for the benefits of the latter.

With the formal free movement of Europeans, the EU’s largest ethnic minority, the Roma, are now able to move freely within the EU labor market with the recent inclusion of Romania and Bulgaria in the movement on January 1, 2014.\(^\text{21}\) Romania and Bulgaria were given access to the free labor movement seven years after their entrance to the EU as member states and make up 2.5% of Romania’s population and 4.4% of Bulgaria’s population.\(^\text{22}\) Up to date, European nations have never been able to integrate the Roma into “European Society”, causing cultural schisms when the migration of the Roma spread into nations such as France and the UK. Many EU nations have failed to properly address the negative attitudes their populations have toward the Roma and ignorance has prevailed within many governments.


Present Situation

The Schengen Agreement was proposed to encourage a free market economy, however, illegal immigration has increased within the last few years. Many of the illegal immigrants are smuggled through Mediterranean ports and cycled through the Schengen area. The Italian government has reported 14,000 illegal migrants entering its borders through their ports and Frontex, the EU border agency, reported that 42,000 illegal migrants had entered the EU within January through April of 2014.23

Many immigrants come on crowded ships from Africa or nations from the Middle East and the issue recently came to light when in October 2013, 300 African migrants died in a shipwreck of the coast of Lampedusa.24 However, majority of illegal immigrants are those who arrive by plane with a visa, and stay in Europe after their visa expires. According to Frontex's "Annual Risk Analysis 2013" report, 51% of migrants entering illegally via land and sea took an eastern Mediterranean route, with many crossing into Greece before continuing on to the western Balkans by land or through ferry links to Italy.25

24 Ibid.
Possible Solutions/Bloc Positions

The urgency of illegal immigration is becoming a hot political issue. British Prime Minister David Cameron has announced his intention to terminate social benefits for immigrants from fellow EU nations. Cameron has proposed a plan to charge newcomers an annual fee the use of the British national health care system which currently is free of charge. The creation of an advertising campaigns in Bulgaria and Romania that would discourage potential immigrants from making their way to England and other non-Roma affiliated nations, has been scrapped.26

In France, the extreme right has taken up the issue in an attempt to mobilize voters. The Socialist government of President Francois Hollande moved to expand the industries in which Romanians and Bulgarians are permitted to work within France. Romanians and Bulgarians looking to leave home for Western Europe have an opportunity open to them, and many have taken advantage of it. Around 1 million Romanians currently work in Italy while in Spain there are 900,000.27 Similarities in languages have attracted Romanians more so than other EU nations. According to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, there are 209,000 Romanians and 121,000 Bulgarians currently living in Germany.28 Although the portion of Roma is not documented, thousands of Southeastern European immigrants arrive in Western EU nations every month with some cities experiencing a six-fold increase since the entrance of Romania and Bulgaria into the EU.29

Many nations have also been concerned with preserving the cultural identity of their people. With the sudden increase in immigration not only within the EU but from Middle Eastern and

27 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.
African nations, governments fear the loss of their national identity. To completely address the issue of Customs and Immigration within the European Union, the Commission must examine this topic from an economic, political, and cultural standpoint.

**Questions to Consider**

1. How can we promote legal immigration for skilled people from non-EU countries?
2. How can we improve the accurateness of security at borders?
3. How can we regulate the materials being brought through borders?
4. What strategies could be implemented to prevent drugs and other illegal substances being brought into Europe?
5. In what ways can we increase the budget of the European border control known as Frontex? How can we more effectively allocate the budget of Frontex?
6. How can we improve communication between European countries in order to monitor immigration activity?

Many refugees and those seeking asylum enter the EU, what regulations should be reformed to either welcome or turn them away?
Works Cited


