

European Union General Affairs and External Relations Committee

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BUSUN 2009! I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) of the European Union. I shall serve as the President of this committee. I wish you all the very best in your preparation and I hope that our committee will be both efficient and fun!

Let me begin by briefly introducing myself. My name is Vaibhav Mathur, but I am more popularly known as Mat! I am currently a sophomore at Brown and I intend to major in Economics and Engineering. I hail from the southern part of India and I did most of my schooling in India. I spent my final two years of high school at a boarding school in London, England. My interest in MUNs started during my days in middle school and I have attended MUN conferences in India, Sri Lanka and England.

This background guide contains general information on the GAERC and information on two topics pertaining to the Joint Crisis at BUSUN. This guide is meant to serve as a starting point for your research. I have included some useful links in the Bibliography that I believe may be useful. In addition I recommend Google and Wikipedia searches as a starting point. Think carefully about the topics and about the different situations that may arise. Reading news articles and articles by journalists are also a great way of getting different perspectives on a particular topic. If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address mentioned below.

I hope you all are as excited as I am for BUSUN 2009 and I look forward to meeting you all in the fall!

Sincerely,

Vaibhav "Mat" Mathur
GAERC Chair
GAERC@busun.net

Introduction

The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC), formerly known as the General Affairs Council, is one of the oldest bodies of the European Union (EU). The council consists of Members of Foreign Affairs of the Member States. The council meets separately to discuss General Affairs and External Affairs respectively. Council

members meet once a month to discuss European Affairs, defense, development and trade and other items on the agenda.

During its sessions on General Affairs, the Council deals with matters concerning the Union's policies, such as negotiations on EU enlargement, preparation of the Union's multi-annual budgetary perspective or institutional and administrative issues. The Council prepares dossiers for and follows-up on meetings of the European Council. The GAERC exercises a coordinating role for the sector policies of the EU.

During its sessions on External Relations, the Council deals with matters regarding the EU's relations with the rest of the world. The Council is responsible for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), European security and defense policy, foreign trade and development and humanitarian aid.

The following is a list of all the members of the GAERC:

- Jan Kohout (President), Foreign Minister of Czech Republic
- Lulzim Basha, Foreign Minister of Albania
- Xavier Espot Miró, Foreign Minister of Andorra
- Michael Spindelegger, Foreign Minister of Austria
- Syarhey Martynau, Foreign Minister of Belarus
- Yves Leterme, Foreign Minister of Belgium
- Sven Alkalaj, Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Rumiana Jeleva, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria
- Gordan Jandroković, Foreign Minister of Croatia
- Markos Kyprianou, Foreign Minister of Cyprus
- Per Stig Møller, Foreign Minister of Denmark
- Urmas Paet, Foreign Minister of Estonia
- Alexander Stubb, Foreign Minister of Finland
- Bernard Kouchner, Foreign Minister of France
- Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Foreign Minister of Germany
- Dora Bakoyannis, Foreign Minister of Greece
- Péter Balázs, Foreign Minister of Hungary
- Össur Skarphéðinsson, Foreign Minister of Iceland
- Micheál Martin, Foreign Minister of Ireland
- Franco Frattini, Foreign Minister of Italy
- Māris Riekstiņš, Foreign Minister of Latvia
- Aurelia Frick, Foreign Minister of Liechtenstein
- Vygaudas Ušackas, Foreign Minister of Lithuania
- Jean Asselborn, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg
- Antonio Milošoski, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Macedonia
- Tonio Borg, Foreign Minister of Malta
- Andrei Stratan, Foreign Minister of Moldova
- Franck Biancheri, Foreign Minister of Monaco

- Milan Roćen, Foreign Minister of Montenegro
- Maxime Verhagen, Foreign Minister of Netherlands
- Jonas Gahr Støre, Foreign Minister of Norway
- Radosław Sikorski, Foreign Minister of Poland
- Luís Amado, Foreign Minister of Portugal
- Cristian Diaconescu, Foreign Minister of Romania
- Antonella Mularoni, Foreign Minister of San Marino
- Vuk Jeremić, Foreign Minister of Serbia
- Miroslav Lajčák, Foreign Minister of Slovakia
- Samuel Žbogar, Foreign Minister of Slovenia
- Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Foreign Minister of Spain
- Carl Bildt, Foreign Minister of Sweden
- Micheline Calmy-Rey, Foreign Minister of Switzerland
- Volodymyr Khandohiy, Foreign Minister of Ukraine
- David Miliband, Foreign Minister of United Kingdom
- Dominique Mamberti, Foreign Minister of Vatican City

Committee Format and Rules of Debate

Like all other crisis committees at BUSUN, the GAERC will continually debate several different issues as they come up. For the most part, the committee will interact in the form of a moderated caucus. The President of the committee will facilitate interactions between members of the committee and will act as the moderator. Should it be deemed necessary, by a majority vote, the committee may also break into an unmoderated caucus. Voting, in general, will be in the form of a simple majority among members of the committee. However, the President of the committee will reserve the right to veto the majority vote in the rare circumstances that the decision of the committee is in direct conflict with the views of several heads of state. Please keep in mind that the GAERC is a fast-paced committee and the committee will need to respond to issues as quick as possible. Therefore, it is important that you all come well prepared. The more familiar you are with the information on the topics, the more useful will be your contribution to the committee. However, I do not doubt that the GAERC will be an efficient and fun committee!

Topic 1: The Recognition of Kosovo

Background

Countries around the world have been divided on the recognition of Kosovo as an independent state ever since Kosovo's independence from Serbia on the 17th of February 2008. On the day of Kosovo's independence, the EU presidency reported from Brussels confirming that member states were free to independently decide whether or not they recognized Kosovo's independence. As of July 2009, a majority of the members of the EU (22 out of 27) and the NATO (24 out of 28) recognize Kosovo as an

independent state.

When the former state of Yugoslavia existed, Kosovo wasn't a republic but it did have special status. Kosovo had veto rights and a president in Yugoslavia's rotating presidency. Kosovo was well represented in all aspects of federal Yugoslavia. After the dissolution of Yugoslavia, Kosovo did not enjoy the same benefits, as it became a part of Serbia.

The region of Kosovo also has very different demographics compared to the rest of Serbia. In Kosovo the majority of people are Albanians, who remain an ethnic minority in the rest of Serbia. The Albanians have been subjected to open humiliation including claims that the Albanians only inhabited the Kosovo region recently. James Hooper of the Public International Law and Policy Group argues that, "Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica refuses to accept the Kosovo Albanians either as full citizens of Serbia or as citizens of an independent state."

Germany was the first country to recognize Kosovo's independence. The United Kingdom, United States of America, France and Italy also supported the new independent nation citing problems caused by the ethnic divide as a major factor in favor of the independence. Thousands of Albanians were forced to flee from the Serbian ruler's attempts "ethnically cleanse" the Kosovo region which has an Albanian population of over 80%. In 1999, the NATO bombed the Kosovo region in an attempt to suppress violence between the Serbs and the Albanians in the region. The aim of the NATO operation was, "Serbs out, peacekeepers in, refugees back". Kosovo had been under UN administration since 1999 but was still acknowledged as a part of Serbia.

Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Slovakia and Spain still do not recognize Kosovo's independence. The countries believe that Kosovo's independence is against international laws and fear that the recognition of Kosovo's independence could give weight to separatist movements around the world and often within their own borders. Cyprus, for example, fears that the independence may cause uprisings from the Turkish Cypriots who wish to divide the island into two separate nations. All these countries claim that Kosovo's independence is against Serbia's national sovereignty.

Among the non-EU members, the People's Republic of China, Russia and India refused to accept Kosovo's independence. China was initially outraged by the NATO's bombings in Kosovo in 1999. One of the bombs hit the Chinese Embassy and caused an outrage in China. The United States of America and the NATO later apologized for the attack claiming it to be a mistake but the attack only served to severe tensions between China and the NATO. In addition, China fears that Taiwan might be inspired to demand independence.

Russia and Serbia have been allies for several years. Russia thus decided to be on Serbia's side for strategic reasons. Russia also views the case of Kosovo as another attempt by the NATO to encroach on areas where Russia was influential. China and Russia intend to work together to prevent Kosovo from being recognized by the United Nations.

Questions To Consider

1. Should the EU as a whole decide to collectively acknowledge the independence of Kosovo?
2. Will the independence of Kosovo solve the underlying cultural problem of hatred between the Serbs and the Albanians?
3. By glancing at a map of Kosovo and Serbia, one can observe that geographically the Kosovo region is below the southwest border of Serbia. Had Kosovo been surrounded by Serbia on all sides, do you believe fewer countries would have recognized Kosovo's independence?

Topic 2: The Integration of the European Military

Background

The European Union (EU) has been known for being adept at peacekeeping. However, most of the members of the EU spend less than 3% of their respective Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense. A majority of the EU members are also part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and thus the EU in the past has relied heavily on NATO and the United States of America for defense. Several members of the EU are therefore proposing an integration of military in the region that will serve the common good in the event of an emergency.

France is one of the major supporters for the integrated military. The French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, has proposed the establishment of headquarters for the combined European military in Brussels. The British opposed this idea over fears that the idea might serve to weaken transatlantic ties with the United States of America. In addition, the British thought that the integrated European military would be redundant given the existence of NATO. Statistics show that over 50% of NATO's funding comes from the United States of America. This gives the U.S. an influential role in NATO, and in the past the United Kingdom has been obliged to act according to the wishes of the United States of America. Therefore, some analysts believe that the British might change their stance in the near future. Moreover several members of the EU feel that the U.S. has, in the recent past, been struggling to fight some of its own wars around the world and thus an

integrated European military may be necessary to reduce U.S. dominance of and dependence on NATO. The U.S. has welcomed the idea of integrated European military and has held the opinion that the integrated European military could work in parallel with NATO in the event of a crisis.

One major factor that is likely to deter the establishment of an integrated European military is the fear of sharing national intelligence. Many countries are concerned about sharing defense technology. Should such a military ever come in place and technologies be shared, then it is likely that some countries will refrain from sharing their "top secret" intelligence, which would defeat the purpose of the integrated military. It is also possible that certain countries may further reduce their already low expenditure on national defense due to the free exchange of information from countries with more sophisticated defense. Countries like the United Kingdom, Germany and France invest a lot on money in national defense and it is feared that they may become rather influential on the decisions of the integrated military should such a military ever come into existence.

Another argument against the establishment of an integrated military is national interest. It is very likely that some members of the EU will have internal concerns to deal with and in such events the integrated military would be forced to assist. However, this internal issue may not be threat to the EU as a whole and thus it may not be in the best interest of the other members to send members of their military to assist in the resolution of the problem.

Questions To Consider

1. Is the idea of an integrated European military wholly justified? Would members of the EU be better off by assisting NATO more than they currently do and thus continue to rely on NATO for defense?
2. Should such an integrated military ever come into existence, it will probably be a result of a consensus among all the members of the EU. What effect will the withdrawal of one the EU members from the integrated military have on the integrated European military?

Helpful Resources

- CONSILIUM - General Affairs and External Relations - <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/App/newsroom/loadbook.aspx?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349>
- "EU External Relations" - General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC), Publications, Israel Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. - <http://www.kas.de/proj/home/pub/24/2/year->

2009/dokument_id-15557/index.html

- A Grand Bargain with Europe: Preserving NATO for the 21st Century - <http://www.heritage.org/research/europe/bg1360es.cfm>
- EUobserver / Fear of US damaging EU-NATO relations, NATO chief says - <http://euobserver.com/9/23376>
- NATO Review - Vol. 49 - No 1 - Spring 2001 - <http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2001/0101-01.htm>
- NATO Head Criticizes Poor Cooperation with EU | Europe | Deutsche Welle | 30.01.2007 - <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,2331146,00.html?maca=en-rss-en-top-1022-rdf>
- EUROPE'S ROAD TOWARDS MILITARY INTEGRATION: - <http://www.bits.de/public/isisfin.htm>
- European HQ heads Sarkozy plan for greater military integration | World news | The Guardian - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/07/eu.france>
- BBC NEWS | Europe | EU splits on Kosovo recognition - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7249909.stm>
- EUobserver / EU fudges Kosovo independence recognition - <http://euobserver.com/9/25684>
- Why Kosovo's independence bid is unique | csmonitor.com - <http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0215/p07s01-woeu.html?page=2>
- Why Kosovo Divides Europe - TIME