

YOUTH MUN MADRID

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Study Guide

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Topic: The response of the European Union to the Ukraine crisis

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1. ABOUT THE MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS

The Model of the European Union is a simulation of its main legislative bodies: The European Parliament and the EU Council. Both committees, together, will try to solve, through the debate, two problems that especially concern the EU at the moment. You will be playing a role inside one of the committees, so remember to be loyal to what your country or political party defends when the sessions start.

The objective of this research process is that the delegate can identify their country's or political party's position on the issue, in order to build policies and workable solutions. To achieve this, the participant must study history and topicality, its legal framework (treaties, resolutions, agreements, etc.), positions and decisions that have arisen for or against this, groups or blocks that have been created, proposals and solutions that have been presented, among others.

The debate will focus on two topics: EU's response to the Ukrainian issue and Integration of refugees in the European Union. You will discuss the causes, consequences and possible solutions, to get to your proposals. You also must take into account documents from other organizations that work in this topic. The resolutions must be signed by both the European Parliament and the EU Council, so negotiation will be key in order to end up with a proposal that includes your position

2. ABOUT YOUTH MUN MADRID

Our mission is to empower tomorrow's leaders sensitized to the problems of the world through Model United Nations.

This initiative, promoted by the Social Promotion Foundation, was born in 2017 with the aim of raising awareness of global education amongst young people in the Community of Madrid through their participation in the United Nations Models.

The project arises from the need to promote Women's Empowerment so they could be "agents of change" for sustained economic growth, political stability, and social transformation of our country. For this reason, it currently relies on non-profit associations and educational centers with this concern.

The general objective is to favor the construction of a global citizenship aware of the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the engine of universal, inclusive and transversal change that promote the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The position paper can be sent until **3 May 2022** to the following address: youthmunmadrid@promocionsocial.org

Important: Send a word document titled with the name of the committee and country you represent, e.g. 'HHRR USA'; 'ONU MUJER ALEMANIA'. The subject of the email should contain the same title ('HHRR USA'; 'ONU MUJER ALEMANIA').

Please note that you can consult the rules of procedure and other supporting documents for submitting the position paper and preparing the Conference on the online platform to which you have access: <https://online.youthmunmadrid.com/>.

Dress code:

Delegates' attire must be at all moments appropriate to the relevance of the event. Therefore, compliance with the so-called Western Business Attire is mandatory.

Female: full suit or blazer, with blouse or dress or formal shoe. No jeans or sneakers are acceptable. Cocktail dresses will neither be accepted.

Male: full suit or blazer and formal trousers (no jeans accepted), shirt, tie or bowtie, and formal shoes. Again neither sneakers nor cocktail clothes will be accepted.

3. ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament based in Strasbourg (France), is the only European institution which is selected by the population through a process of elections. It represents all the European citizens and with the other 2 powers (the EU Council and the EU Commission) has the very important task of legislating.

The 705 deputies that form the parliament are elected democratically through a voting process in each country every 5 years, where European citizens give their power to their representatives in each country, and each and every one of them has a porcentual representation in the camera. Nowadays there are 8 majoritarian political groups represented in the European Parliament with a wide spectrum of opinions.

The history of the European Parliament is extensive, due to the major changes done to the initial treaties of the first European agreements, such as the European Coal and Steel Community or the European Economic Community that later on converged into the actual European Union.

Through treaties like the Amsterdam treaty or the Lisbon treaty (that structured the parliament and its functions as they are in this day and age), the European Parliament went from being a consultative organ, to a fully elected and powerful body, which plays a huge role on the European decision making process by being able to pass or block decision that could have a huge relevance on the future of the European Union



4. ABOUT TOPIC:

Historical context

Ukraine is a country located in the far East of Europe, but it's not a member of the European Union and/or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It officially declared itself a sovereign state on 24th August, 1991, shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union. It shares borders with Belarus, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Russia.

According to the CIA World Factbook, Ukraine has a population of 43.7 million people (as of July 2021), and a GDP (PPP) of \$516.7B.

In order to address the topic properly we must have a look at the historical background first, which is why we are going to mention the first disagreements and international conflicts that have led us to the point where we are today.

The consolidation of the current sovereign state of Ukraine took place in the early 1990s, after a wave of pro-independence protests took place all across the country.

On 21st January 1990, over 300.000 Ukrainians organized a human chain for Ukrainian independence between Kyiv and Lviv, in memory of the 1919 unification of the ancient Ukrainian People's Republic and the West Ukrainian National Republic. Ukrainians took to the streets forming chains by holding hands, in support of unity.

On 16th July 1990, the parliament adopted the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine. This declaration established principles such as those of self-determination, democracy, independence and the priority of Ukrainian law over Soviet law. Effectively, the aim of the protests was the separation from the Soviet Union.

On 24th August 1991, the Ukrainian parliament adopted the Act of Independence, which officially declared the country's independence. After voting, more than 92% of the electorate expressed support for the Act of Independence and general elections were held shortly afterwards.

Russia, on the other hand, is the largest country in the world and it has historically had numerous phases, going through tsarism, communism and finally a democracy. Their actual president is Vladimir Putin. He has been in power for more than 15 years, and his political life has always been surrounded by controversies:

The first one is undoubtedly the second Chechen War, a conflict that took place between 1999 and 2009 and had a lot of opposition due to the serious war crimes that were committed, overlooking the existing treaties and policies that protect civilians and combatants from inhumane treatment.

This was not the only controversial military action taken by President Putin; later on, in 2014 the European spirit became notorious against the Ukrainian president's actions closing postures with the Russian regime, and the Ukrainian population took to the streets and

Independence Square of Kiev (which became a symbol of resistance against the Russian influence). Putin did not ignore this social movement and to face it, took military action.

In February 2014, there was a revolution which ousted Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich which ultimately led to a political crisis in Crimea. After a night-long meeting with the Russian Security Council, Vladimir Putin stated that they had to “start working on returning Crimea to Russia”. Shortly after, a wave of pro-Russian sentiment started to become evident.

On 27th February, Russian special forces seized the building of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the building of the Council of Ministers in Simferopol. After a potentially illegitimate recount, it was finally decided to give Crimea greater autonomy.

After a brief mobilization of troops, and the establishment of certain security checkpoints, the Russian troops managed to effectively cut Ukraine off from Crimea.

Crimea was officially annexed by the Russian Federation on the 18th March 2014, after more than one month of military conflict.

The social movement that the Ukrainian population created was later denominated as Euromaidan, during this movement as it was previously stated, the Ukrainian population started massive protests in the whole country but more centralized in the capital, Kiev. The main reasons for these protests taking place were the pro-European sentiment of the population, and the move away from the pro-Russian position shown by the policies of President Yanukovich.

This popular feeling of a closer relationship with the occidental values, led later on (with president Zelensky on power) to closer relations and treaties with the EU and some other international organizations like NATO.

This emerging European sentiment in Ukrainian society would lead in the coming years to a rapprochement with European and Western institutions specifically the rapprochement and possible entry into NATO perceived by Russia as a threat to national security, therefore the Kremlin deployed Russian troops in the Ukrainian border and ordered them to begin with military maneuvers.

Current situation

Another important organism which has great relevance in the conflict is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO.

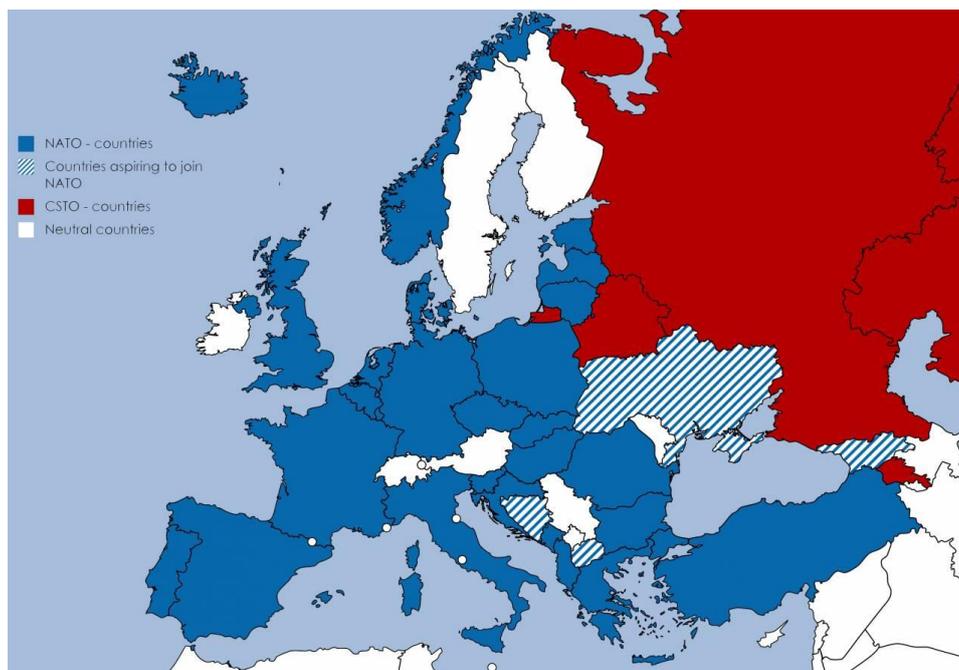
Since the beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian tensions, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has firmly adopted a firm stance, completely in support of the Ukrainian side of the conflict.

The dialogue and cooperation started when Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991 and the Partnership for Peace programme in 1994. Relations were strengthened afterwards with the signing of the 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, which established full cooperation between Ukraine and the alliance.

In response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, NATO has reinforced its support for capability development and capacity-building in Ukraine. According to NATO: “The Allies condemn and will not recognise Russia’s illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea, and its destabilizing and aggressive activities in eastern Ukraine and the Black Sea region”.

In 2017, Ukraine adopted a constitutional amendment that committed itself to NATO membership. It was later stated that Ukraine was becoming increasingly interested in becoming an official member of the organization.

On the other hand, from the Russian point of view, NATO has undergone “five expansion waves” and it has been feeling increasingly threatened by the apparent relentless expansion of the alliance. Due to this, it has begun taking more active measures to stop new potential members from joining.





Faced with the already undoubted humanitarian and diplomatic crisis where thousands of Ukrainian civilians are being forced to leave their country, it is the international community's responsibility (which includes the European Union) to be the one in charge of proposing solutions and agreements to resolve the crisis.

From the European point of view, what position should the EU (particularly the European Parliament) take regarding the following problems?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Possible actions:

1. Is military action a possible option within the European Union considering that Ukraine is not a member of the EU?
2. Can the shipment of weapons be a potential solution?

2. Possible sanctions:

- a) What economic sanctions could this committee apply facing Russian dependence?
- b) Is the exclusion of social events (such as the elimination of any international sport competition) a good measure ?
- c) Should there be any other social sanction implemented ? (banning russian citizens to visit other countries f.e)

3. Diplomatic actions:

- a) What can the EU do to ensure international law and the sovereignty of states is respected ?
- b) What response would the EU give if Russia considers them enemies because of the measures taken?

4. Humanitarian point of view:

- a) Are there any measures that could be applied to reduce the high amount of lives lost?
- b) How could humanitarian corridors be established or negotiated?
- c) What role do NGOs play in this conflict and what else could be done with their help?
- d) How can this committee assure that civilians or wounded soldiers are given the minimum medical aid?

SUGGESTED SITES

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Ukraine. Cia.Gov. March 14th, 2022, from <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>

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