

**YOUTH MEU MADRID  
EDICIÓN 2025**

**STUDY GUIDE**

**Committee: Council of European Union  
Topic: Climate Change and Natural Disasters**

## INDEX

1. LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS
2. INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
  - 2.1 OVERVIEW AND ROLE
  - 2.2 COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE
  - 2.3 VOTING PROCEDURES
    - 2.3.1 TYPES OF VOTING PROCEDURES
    - 2.3.2 AMENDMENTS
    - 2.3.3 EXPLANATORY NOTES
    - 2.3.4 HOW DOES THE COMMITTEE WORK?
3. CONTEXTUALIZATION
4. OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL
  - 4.1 LINK BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND NATURAL DISASTERS
  - 4.2 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES
  - 4.3 THE ROLE OF EU CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM (UCPM)
5. DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE POLICIES
  - 5.1 GROWING THREAT
  - 5.2 THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE LAW
6. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE COUNCIL
7. QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MAY ANSWER
8. RESOURCES

## 1. LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dear Ministers,

We are delighted to welcome you to the Council of the European Union at the Model of the European Union 2025. First and foremost, allow us to introduce ourselves: we are Vera Allue and Leyre Ramírez—your Chair and Co-chair respectively—and we will be guiding you throughout these three days of debate. Your participation in this edition of MEU will allow you to engage in an enriching, memorable, and stimulating experience, both for you and for us, as well as for the entire MEU team.

Your decision to take part in the discussions within this Committee reflects your commitment to understanding and addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing the European Union today. As the institution responsible for negotiating and adopting EU legislation, coordinating policies among member states, and shaping Europe's response to global challenges, the Council plays a crucial role in defining the Union's future.

During the Model, you will step into the shoes of government ministers from EU member states, engaging in high-level diplomatic discussions on topics of utmost importance. This year, the Committee will focus on safety procedures in case of natural disasters and climate change. You will have the opportunity to defend your assigned country's stance while striving to find common ground and negotiate practical solutions that align with the EU's core values of solidarity, cooperation, and progress.

We encourage you to approach this study guide and the debates with an open and analytical mindset, paying close attention to the complexities and nuances of the issues at hand. Your dedication, preparation, and diplomatic skills will be essential in ensuring that our Committee fosters meaningful discussions, promotes consensus-building, and results in well-crafted policy proposals. This will be the perfect setting to refine your public speaking, negotiation, and teamwork abilities, while also broadening your understanding of EU governance and international cooperation.

Finally, we want to extend our warmest welcome once again and remind you that we are always available to assist you in preparing for the Model. We look forward to meeting each of you, witnessing your engagement in debate, and seeing how this experience may inspire you in ways you never expected.

Sincerely, Vera Allue and Leyre Ramírez

## **2.INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **2.1 OVERVIEW AND ROLE**

The Council of the European Union, commonly referred to as the Council of Ministers, is one of the key decision-making institutions within the European Union (EU). Established in 1958 and headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, it plays a crucial role in the EU's legislative process, policy coordination among member states, and in defining the Union's approach to external affairs.

Together with the European Parliament, the Council forms the EU's bicameral legislative body, responsible for adopting legislation, approving the EU budget, and shaping policies in areas ranging from economic governance and security to environmental protection and digital transformation.

It has the following functions

1. Negotiate and adopt EU laws.
2. Coordinate member states' policies.
3. Develops the EU's common foreign and security policy.
4. Conclude international agreements.
5. Set the EU budget alongside the European Parliament.

### **2.2 COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE**

Unlike the Parliament, whose members are directly elected by European citizens, the Council consists of government ministers from each of the 27 EU member states, ensuring that national interests are represented in EU policy making.

The Council of the European Union works through configurations which are specialized meetings where ministers responsible for specific policy areas convene. This year we are simulating the Environmental Council (ENVI) that develops policies on climate change, biodiversity, circular economy, and environmental sustainability.

## 2.3 VOTING PROCEDURES

### 2.3.1 TYPES OF VOTING PROCEDURES

1. **Simple Majority** – Used for procedural matters. A decision passes if at least 14 out of 27 member states vote in favor.
2. **Qualified Majority Voting (QMV)** – The most common voting system, used for most legislation. A proposal is approved if:
  - 55% of member states (at least 15 out of 27) vote in favor
  - These countries represent at least 65% of the total EU population
3. **Reinforced Qualified Majority** – Used when a proposal does not come from the European Commission or High Representative. In this case, approval requires:
  - 72% of member states (at least 20 out of 27) vote in favor
  - They must still represent at least 65% of the EU population
4. **Unanimity** – Required for sensitive topics such as foreign policy, taxation, and EU membership changes. All 27 member states must vote in favor for the decision to pass.

In cases where less than four member states oppose a proposal, the population requirement of 65% is waived, ensuring that a small number of countries cannot block decision-making.

### 2.3.2 AMENDMENTS

Before a proposal is voted on, it can go through a process of amendments. An amendment is a modification, addition, or deletion of specific parts of a legislative proposal. Amendments can be proposed by member states, the European Parliament, or the European Commission, depending on the type of legislative act being discussed. The Council may debate and vote on these amendments before adopting the final text of a law.

- An amendment of **modification** will be the one applied when a Member of the Council of the EU wants to change the content of an article that is written in the proposal.

- An amendment of **addition** will be the one applied when a Member of the Council of the EU wants to add new content to the legislative proposal, which can take the form of a new article, or a sub point inside of an already existing article
- An amendment of **suppression** will be the one applied when a Member of the Council of the EU wants to delete an article or subpoint from the existing proposal.

### 2.3.3 EXPLANATORY NOTES

After a vote has been cast, a member state has the right to add an explanatory note to clarify its position. These notes may include:

- The reasoning behind the country's vote
- Any reservations or concerns about the decision
- A statement on how the decision aligns with national interests

If the vote results in the adoption of a legal act, the explanatory note is automatically made public. However, in other cases, the note is only published if the author (the member state that submitted it) explicitly requests its publication. This ensures transparency while allowing states to manage their public stance on EU decisions.

### 2.3.4 HOW DOES THE COMMITTEE WORK?

As delegates in the Council of the European Union, you will act as national ministers representing your assigned country. Your goal is to debate, negotiate, and amend the legislative proposal on Enhancing Safety Procedures in Response to Natural Disasters and Climate Change.

#### *Step 1: Understanding Your Country's Position*

- Research how your assigned country has dealt with natural disasters and climate change in the past and how it is dealing now and plans for the future.
- Understand whether your country supports or opposes certain measures in the proposal.
- Identify your country's priorities (e.g., more EU funding, stronger national control, specific disaster risks in your region).

### ***Step 2: Debate the Proposal***

- The debate will begin with the reading and discussion of the legislative proposal.
- Each country will have the chance to express their position on the proposal and highlight concerns or suggestions.
- For more information on how the debate works, consult the Rules of Procedure

### ***Step 3: Propose Amendments***

- Delegates can propose amendments (changes to the text of the proposal) to reflect their country's position.
- Amendments will be debated and voted upon by the Council.

### ***Step 4: Voting on the Final Proposal***

- After debate and amendments, delegates will vote on the final version of the proposal.
- Voting will follow the Council's voting rules (e.g., Qualified Majority Voting or Unanimity, depending on the topic).
- If the proposal passes, it will be considered an adopted directive. If not, further negotiations will take place.

## **3. CONTEXTUALIZATION**

Natural disasters are sudden events produced by the natural processes and dynamics of the Earth, which provoke negative impacts in society. Natural disasters can range from earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and avalanches to landslides, droughts, and windstorms.

In recent years, Europe has been experiencing some of the most catastrophic phenomena in history. According to the European Environmental Agency, Europe is the continent that experiences the fastest increase in temperature, with temperatures rising nearly twice as fast as the world average. Among the extreme weather conditions that Europe faces, heatwaves have been particularly noticeable in recent years. The summer 2024 was the hottest on record globally. For instance, the south of France saw temperatures over 45°C during the peak of the season, which led to water shortages, increased demand for cooling systems, crop failures and disruption in food supply chains, and cardiovascular diseases with consequent hospitalizations that added a burden to the healthcare system. Additionally, the extreme heat that Europe observed led to widespread wildfires. According to the European Environment

Agency, these wildfires destroyed over 370,000 hectares of forest in less than a year. The loss of forest areas accused the destruction of habitats to multiple species, while increasing CO2 emissions and deteriorating air quality.

Floodings are another example of natural disasters. In the past 30 years, floods have affected 5.5 million people in the EU while producing more than €170 billion in economic damage and human losses. Prolonged heavy rains lead to severe flooding, especially affecting vulnerable populations. In 2021, over 200 deaths were registered in Germany and Belgium due to flooding. In October 2024, the region of Valencia in Spain experienced unprecedented rainfall, which affected around 48,000 companies due to material damage or transportation disruptions, resulted in at least 224 deaths, displaced residents due to infrastructure losses, and raised public questions over governmental disaster response. The repercussions of floods extend across various sectors, including humanitarian, economic, agricultural, and environmental considerations. Fatalities, damage to infrastructure, reduction in tourism, soil erosion, and water contamination are a few of the consequences of this natural disaster.

Beyond economic damage, natural disasters are also linked with social and political implications. The communities that deal with frequent disasters have been proven to suffer from mental health disorders and stress. Among these communities, children and the elderly are the most vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters, due to the reduction of livelihood opportunities and health concerns. Natural disasters bring about social inequalities, particularly forced migration. The 2021 volcanic eruption on La Palma, a part of the Canary Islands in Spain, released unhealthy amounts of toxic substances that spread across the region, damaging plantations and infrastructure. Due to the extent of the problem, over 7000 people were evacuated from their homes. Likewise, schools, medical facilities, businesses, public spaces and other services were impacted, which resulted in severe disruptions to everyday life for citizens. Banana production, one of the largest GDP contributors to the island, as well as tourism saw an immense decline, with many businesses and families losing their jobs and investments. In response to the environmental, social, and economic crisis that La Palma went through, the EU facilitated financial aid for reparation. Nevertheless, the local population is still struggling to recover from the devastating consequences the volcanic eruption caused. This example underlines the urgent need for securing funding, ensuring equitable resource distribution, and harmonizing policies across member states.



All in all, natural catastrophes generate cross-sector repercussions that require complex mitigation strategies. Current EU frameworks, such as the European Green Deal and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, provide critical tools for disaster response, yet further action from the European Union is required. Leveraging cross-border cooperation and promoting sustainable development strategies are essential to mitigating the effects of natural disaster across the continent.

## 4.OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

The European Green Deal, launched in 2019, is the EU's strategic plan to transform its economy for a sustainable future. Its primary goal is to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050, ensuring no net emissions of greenhouse gases. This initiative encompasses various sectors, including energy, industry, agriculture, and biodiversity, aiming to decouple economic growth from resource use and promote a circular economy.

### 4.1 LINK BETWEEN THE GREEN DEAL AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Climate change intensifies the frequency and severity of natural disasters such as floods, wildfires, and storms. The European Green Deal addresses these challenges by:

- **Mitigation Efforts:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming and, consequently, the occurrence of extreme weather events.
- **Adaptation Strategies:** Implementing measures to enhance resilience against climate impacts, including:
  - Sustainable Land Use:** Promoting reforestation and sustainable agriculture to prevent soil erosion and manage water resources effectively.
  - Infrastructure Resilience:** Upgrading buildings and infrastructure to withstand extreme weather conditions.

### 4.2 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES

The European Green Deal faces both advancements and obstacles:

- **Policy Adjustments:** The EU is striving to balance its climate objectives with economic growth. Recent discussions suggest maintaining climate goals while easing certain regulations to support industries.

- **Financial Mechanisms:** Proposals for disaster-relief funds and public-private partnerships aim to address the increasing costs of natural catastrophes exacerbated by climate change.
- **Political Dynamics:** The future of the Green Deal is subject to political debates, with some member states expressing concerns over specific regulations, potentially impacting the initiative's trajectory.

### 4.3 THE ROLE OF EU CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM (UCPM)

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) plays a crucial role in coordinating disaster response efforts across member states. This mechanism enhances the EU's ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to natural and man-made disasters, including those intensified by climate change. It provides:

- **Coordinated Assistance:** When a disaster overwhelms a country's response capacity, it can request assistance through the UCPM, which mobilizes resources from other EU states.
- **RescUE Initiative:** Established to provide a reserve of emergency resources such as firefighting aircraft, medical teams, and temporary shelters, especially as climate-related disasters become more frequent.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Supports the development of monitoring systems for extreme weather events, including floods, heatwaves, and wildfires.
- **Cross-Border Cooperation:** Encourages collaboration between EU member states to develop joint risk assessments and disaster preparedness strategies

## 5.DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE POLICIES

### 5.1 GROWING THREAT

The European Union is increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters, including wildfires, floods, droughts, storms, and extreme heat waves, many of which are exacerbated by climate change. The economic and human costs of these disasters are rising, making disaster risk reduction, prevention, and response coordination crucial for Member States.

According to the European Disaster Risk Management framework, climate change is one of the biggest risk multipliers, increasing the frequency and severity of disasters. The EU's response includes:

- Strengthening early warning systems and risk assessment tools.
- Developing joint civil protection mechanisms to coordinate response efforts.
- Enhancing cross-border cooperation to manage large-scale disasters.

## 5.2 THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE LAW

The European Climate Law, which legally binds the EU to its climate neutrality target by 2050, establishes a framework for monitoring progress, adapting policies, and ensuring accountability. It requires Member States to:

- Develop national adaptation strategies to prepare for climate-related disasters.
- Integrate disaster risk management into climate policies.
- Strengthen emergency response systems in coordination with EU institutions.

This law provides the legal foundation for climate action, ensuring that disaster preparedness is not only a policy recommendation but a binding obligation for Member States.

## 6. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE COUNCIL

### **The Council of the European Union,**

*Having* regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 196 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

### **Whereas:**

1. **Climate change** has led to an increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters across the European Union, necessitating enhanced safety procedures and coordinated responses.

2. **The European Union** has committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, as outlined in the European Green Deal and the 2050 long-term strategy.
3. **The European Civil Protection Mechanism** aims to strengthen cooperation among EU Member States in the field of civil protection to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters.
4. **The European Environment Agency** emphasizes the need for coherent climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies to enhance resilience against climate-related hazards,

**Has adopted the following directive:**

### **Article 1: Objective**

This regulation aims to improve the European Union's ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from natural disasters by establishing a system of coordination of member states, resources and financial support.

The beneficiaries to this legislation will be the member states that founded the European Union, these being: Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

On the other hand, the benefactors, countries responsible of the financing and any other material burden, shall be the countries that joined the Union after the 2000s, these being: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Croatia.

Finally, the Countries that aren't the original founders nor the ones that joined the Union after the 2000s, these being: Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland, and Sweden won't be beneficiaries (receivers of any type of aid) nor benefactors (senders of any type of aid), they will simply not be included in this legislative proposal.

### **Article 2: Definitions**

For the purpose of this regulation:

1. Natural disaster refers to extreme events such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, storms, heatwaves, and other weather-related crises that cause significant harm to people, property, and the environment.
2. Emergency response teams are specialized units trained to provide rescue, medical assistance, and disaster relief.

3. The EU Disaster Response Fund (EDRF) is a financial mechanism dedicated to supporting disaster-affected regions.
4. Critical infrastructure includes transportation, energy, water, and communication networks essential for disaster response and recovery.

### **Article 3 – Creation of the EU Rapid Response Task Force (RRTF)**

1. The EU shall establish a Rapid Response Task Force (RRTF) with emergency personnel, equipment, and supplies ready to be deployed 2 weeks after the disaster.
  - a. The personnel that work for the Rapid Response Task Force must be men over the age of 16 that have been born inside of the European Union borders and have passed a certain physical test, but no test based on knowledge shall be needed.
  - b. The supplies that the personnel will be allowed to deploy 2 weeks after the disaster will be the following;
    - i. Food and water
    - ii. Construction materials such as but not limited to:
      1. Machinery such as tractors and cranes,
      2. Building material such as piping systems, concrete, and electrical infrastructure
  - c. The supplies that the personnel won't under any circumstance be allowed to deploy will be:
    - i. Materials of medical assistance
    - ii. Any type of material related to hygiene
2. The RRTF will consist of search-and-rescue teams, medical professionals, engineers, and logistics experts.
  - d. It is not required to have a college degree to be part of these professional teams, just goodwill is needed.
    - i. If someone that belongs to one of these professional teams owns a college degree in a matter outside of environmental disasters, they won't be considered for a position in these specialised groups.

### **Article 4 – Coordination Between Member States**

1. Each Member State included in the benefactors list must designate a National Disaster Coordinator (NDC) responsible for coordinating disaster response efforts with the EU.
  - a. People allowed to be National Disaster Coordinator must be women over the age of 30.
    - i. Candidates must have university studies and leadership experience.
    - ii. Candidates must pass an exam to be considered for the position.
  - b. It is forbidden for men to hold this position.

2. The EU Disaster Response Center (EDRC) shall be established to improve communication and coordination between affected countries and EU institutions.
  - a. This institution will be based in the United Kingdom, in order to ensure the impartiality of the center and to avoid favoritism with the state members of the EU.
  - b. The United Kingdom will have the power to decide if the natural disaster that has taken place in one of the beneficiary states is of enough importance to activate the EDCR.

### **Article 5 – EU Disaster Response Fund (EDRF)**

1. A new EU Disaster Response Fund (EDRF) will be created to provide financial assistance for emergency relief and reconstruction.
2. The EDRF shall be funded by EU Member State contributions that are included in the benefactors list.
  - a. The fund raised for this institution will be obtained through a new tax imposed on European citizens.
  - b. When a European politician is accused of corruption, whatever sum the courts have ordered them to pay, half shall be sent to the EDRF.
3. Financial aid must be distributed within two weeks after a disaster is confirmed.
  - a. Northern countries will have preference when receiving funds in case all Member States are in the same situation.

### **Article 6 – Emergency Relief Measures**

1. Member States receiving EDRF assistance must prioritize emergency shelter, food, clean water, and medical care for affected populations.
  - a. This assistance will be carefully managed by the State's government to avoid wasting the resources provided by all member states.
2. The EU will establish a stockpile of essential supplies (food, medicine, and temporary shelters) to be deployed in crisis situations.
3. The medical supplies, in accordance to article 3, shall be placed outside of the borders of the member state that has been affected and its citizens must cross the border to retrieve such materials.

### **Article 7 – Strengthening Disaster Preparedness**

1. Each Member State must develop and submit an annual disaster risk assessment report to the European Parliament.
  - a. The assessment must be realized by people of left leaning ideology if the natural disaster is regarding floods or droughts.
  - b. The assessment must be realized by people of right leaning ideology if the natural disaster is regarding earthquakes, tornados or heatwaves.

- c. People that want to take part in the assessment report but don't want to express their political standing will be specialised in any natural disaster related to temperatures below 0°C.
2. The EU will provide training programs for emergency responders and local authorities to enhance disaster preparedness.
  - a. To take part in the training program, the students must be over the age of 30 and must have at least 2 children.

### **Article 8 – Cross-Border Cooperation and Mutual Assistance**

1. Member States must assist each other in disaster response efforts by sharing resources, personnel, and expertise.
  - a. In case Spain is the affected state, France will not come for its aid, and vice versa.
2. The EU will facilitate joint emergency response exercises to improve coordination between countries.
  - a. Germany will coordinate these exercises, due to its importance inside the European Union.
  - b. Northern countries will not be forced to collaborate with the southern countries.
  - c. Southern countries must pass a coordination test within their own state before participating in these cooperation exercises with other member states.

### **Article 9- Monitoring and Reporting**

1. Member States shall monitor the implementation of this Directive and submit reports to the European Commission every two years.
2. The European Commission shall assess these reports and provide recommendations to ensure effective implementation.

### **Article 10– Entry into Force**

This regulation shall enter into force on December 31, 2050, after approval by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

## **7. QUESTIONS A RESOLUTIONS MAY ANSWER**

1. Should the Council propose stronger, binding regulations for national governments to improve disaster preparedness and response?
2. How can the EU ensure that there is a coordinated and rapid-cross border response to natural disasters?

3. How can the EU integrate climate change adaptation measures into urban planning and infrastructure development?
4. Should the EU establish a permanent EU-wide disaster relief force for quicker on-the-ground interventions?
5. Should the EU introduce stricter policies on climate change migration to prevent further environmental destruction and reduce the risk of natural disasters?

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**YOUTH MEU MADRID  
EDICIÓN 2025**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
Council of European Union**

## **INDEX**

### **CHAPTER I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Article 1. Scope

Article 2. Language

### **CHAPTER II. AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

Article 3. Board

Article 4. Powers of the Board

Article 5. Caucus of the Board

### **CHAPTER III. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Article 6. Delegations

Article 7. Observers

### **CHAPTER IV. PROCEDURE**

Article 9. Roll-call

Article 10. Quorum

Article 11. Setting the legal form.

Article 12. Choosing of the legal form

Article 13. General Speakers List

Article 14. Yields

### **CHAPTER V. POINTS AND MOTIONS**

Article 15. Points and Motions

Article 16. Points

Article 17. Point of personal privilege

Article 18. Point of order

Article 19. Point of parliamentary inquiry

Article 20. Motions

Article 21. Motion for an unmoderated caucus

Article 22. Motion for a consultation of the whole

Article 23. Motion for a Tour de Table

Article 24. Motion for a moderated caucus

Article 25. Motion to open the debate

Article 26. Motion to resume the debate

Article 27. Motion to suspend or adjourn the debate

Article 28. Motion to close the debate

Article 29. Motion to introduce a draft resolution

Article 30. Motion to introduce an amendment

Article 31. Motion to request a roll-call or nominal vote

Article 32. Motion to divide the question

Article 33. Motion to vote clause by clause

Article 34. Motion to reorder the draft resolutions

Article 35. Right to reply

Article 36. Order of precedence of points and motions

**CHAPTER VI. WORKING PAPERS, DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

Article 37. General considerations regarding documents

Article 38. Working papers

Article 39. Draft resolutions

Article 40. Amendments

Article 41. Resolutions

**CHAPTER VII. VOTING AND MAJORITIES**

Article 42. General provisions regarding voting

Article 43. Procedural vote

Article 44. Substantive vote

Article 45. Voting by acclamation or assent

Article 46. Voting by raised placard

Article 47. Roll-call or nominal voting

Article 48. Majorities

**CHAPTER VIII. PROTOCOL**

Article 49. General provisions regarding protocol

Article 50. Dress code

Article 51. Use of electronic devices

**COMPLIANCE DISPOSITION**

## CHAPTER I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Article 1. Scope

The present Rules of Procedure will be the only rules governing the *Youth European Academy Model European Union*. The interpretation of the Rules shall be reserved to the designated authorities.

### Article 2. Language

The official language of the conference will be English. During the sessions of the committees, participants shall use the language of their topic, no other language shall be used at any moment, including, but not limited to, unmoderated caucuses and consultations of the whole. During informal sessions, in case of agreement, Spanish could be allowed.

## CHAPTER II. AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

### Article 3. Board

The Board of the committee encompasses the Chair and the Co-Chair. The Chair will represent the Board and the committee before the Organization. Chair and Co-Chair will moderate the debate with a reasonable and similar division of workload.

### Article 4. Powers of the Board

The Board will guarantee the compliance of the present Rules of Procedure, exercising all the powers conferred to it by them, among which are:

1. Declaring the opening and closure of each session.
2. Leading and moderating the debate throughout sessions, taking into consideration the ideological and regional diversity of the countries asking to intervene
3. Guaranteeing the compliance with the Rules of Procedure.
4. Granting the right to take the floor.
5. Ruling in and out of order all points and motions, having the power to suspend any of them it deems appropriate (except the Point of Personal Privilege) until the Board decides to resume them.
6. Granting the right to reply.
7. Reviewing and ruling in or out of order the Draft Resolutions.
8. Adopting the needed disciplinary measures.

9. Signing, at its discretion, the adopted Draft Resolution.

When in use of its powers, the Board will foster the adoption of the needed measures or procedures by consensus of the ministers. Nevertheless, when such consensus is not reached, it can adopt any decisions discretionarily.

#### **Article 5. Caucus of the Board**

The Board reserves the right of suspending any procedure for a short time in order to have an internal caucus, in which the Presidency of the committee will debate about the application of the present rules.

### **CHAPTER III. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

#### **Article 6. Delegations**

The delegations will be made up of one Minister.

Members of each delegation will be referred to as “Ministers”. Ministers shall refrain from using the first-person singular when talking about the delegation they represent, and will, instead, refer to them as “our country” or “we/us”. Using first or second person singular will be strictly prohibited.

When referring to other delegations, second-person plural will be the appropriate form, as described above (i.e. “your country” or “you”).

#### **Article 7. Observers**

When the organization decides so, the committee shall host observing members which will not be allowed to vote on neither procedural nor substantive matters. They will not be able either to sponsor or sign draft resolutions or amendments. Neither will they be allowed to propose nor second motions. Nevertheless, they will be granted the right to take the floor without special restrictions.

#### **Article 8. Permission to approach the Board**

Any minister, exceptionally and when having to address a very delicate matter, may ask the Board for permission to approach the Board by sending a written request. The minister has to wait until the Board grants permission, which will be granted discretionarily.

### **CHAPTER IV. PROCEDURE**

#### **Article 9. Roll-call**

At the beginning of each session, roll-call is mandatory. Ministers must state whether they are *present* or *present and voting*. The latter means the delegation’s commitment to refrain from

abstaining when voting on substantive matters during such sessions, whilst with the former delegations preserving their right to abstain. Observers, if there are any, shall state present and observing in any case.

Ministers who arrive once the roll-call has started, shall send a note to the Board in order to be acknowledged. After doing so, the Board will publicly announce the presence of the delegation and new majorities. Until the Board receives the note, the ministers will not be taken into account for majorities or right to take the floor.

During the session the stated position shall not be modified.

### **Article 10. Quorum**

The session will be open once one third of the committee members are present.

The quorum will be regarded as reached by default, and must be explicitly questioned through the required point in order to suspend the opening of the session.

### **Article 11. Setting the legal form.**

At the beginning of the first session, and prior to the establishment of the General Speaker's List but after the establishment of the agenda, there will be room for a motion to set the legal form.

The minister presenting the motion must, at the time of doing so, specify the proposed legal form and the reason of choosing it. The motion must be seconded.

Once the motion has been presented, the Dais will allow up to two speakers in favor, and two against of the establishment of the proposed legal form.

After that, the setting of the legal form will be closed, and the legal form proposed will be put into vote requiring of simple majority to pass. If no motion to set the legal form is proposed, the legal form will be the one proposed by the Dais.

### **Article 12. Choosing of the legal form**

In the Council of the European Union, there can be directives, regulations, and decisions. It is important to state which one is to be chosen to, later on, be able to elect it.

A "directive" is a legislative act that sets out a goal that all EU countries must achieve. However, it is up to the individual countries to devise their own laws on how to reach these goals.

A "decision" is binding on those to whom it is addressed (e.g. an EU country or an individual company) and is directly applicable.

A "regulation" is a binding legislative act. It must be applied in its entirety across the EU.

Whatever the legal form chosen by the committee, the Council of the European Union during this edition will rely on the Maastricht Treaty and the Lisbon Treaty. Both establish the Council's right of legislative initiative. The ultimate goal will thus be to pass any of these legal forms that will be presented as a recommendation to the European Commission. However, the same concreteness in identifying problems and measures is expected as in any other type of resolution.

### **Article 13. General Speakers List**

The General Speakers List or GSL will remain open uninterrupted throughout the debate. The speaker's time for the GSL will be established for each session by default at 60 seconds. The Board could increase this time up to 90 seconds.

The General Speakers List will be followed always throughout the debate, except for caucuses.

Any delegation may request to be added to the General Speakers List by raising its placard when the Board requires the ministers to do so, or by sending a note to the Board at any moment.

Once the General Speakers List is exhausted, the debate will be automatically closed and the committee will enter immediately into voting procedure on any substantive documents already submitted to the Board.

### **Article 14. Yields**

Once the speaker has ended and the time has not been exhausted he may yield it:

- To the Board: No one may use the remaining time and no questions will be accepted. The next speaker in the GSL may use the floor.
- To questions: The remaining time will be used for questions. The Board will determine the number of questions accepted at its discretion. Only time used to answer the questions will be discounted of the remaining time.
- To another Minister: The remaining time will be yielded to another minister who may intervene for the remaining time. A second yield to another minister will not be in order.

There will be no yielding in caucuses

## **CHAPTER V. POINTS AND MOTIONS**

### **Article 15. Points and Motions**

Delegations may interact with other ministers and with the Board during sessions through points and motions or through parliamentary notes.

## **Article 16. Points**

Ministers may raise points before the Board to state a discomfort, communicate a fault, or request a clarification about procedures.

Points do not require seconds, and once raised will be immediately decided by the Board. Only the points mentioned in these regulations will be applicable during the sessions (see articles below).

Points may be, as well, introduced in written through the pager system to the Board.

## **Article 17. Point of personal privilege**

The point of personal privilege will be in order when the minister feels a personal discomfort caused by an external factor that affects or undermines its ability to participate in the debate.

A point of personal privilege must always be heard by the Board. Once presented, the Board will do its best to solve the discomfort that affects the minister.

This point will be in order even when the floor is closed, and can reasonably interrupt the speaker.

## **Article 18. Point of order**

The point of order will be in order when the minister wants to point out to the Board that a fault in the procedures has occurred according to the Rules of Procedure. This fault may refer both to the acts of the Board and to the acts of other ministers that have not been corrected by the Board.

A point of order must always be heard by the Board. Once presented, the Board may acknowledge and declare it in order, or deny and rule it out of order, ratifying its previous decision whether that had been express or tacit. The decision of the Board regarding a point of order will be unappealable and not subject to impugment through a successive point of order.

This point will be in order even when the floor is closed, and can reasonably interrupt the speaker.

## **Article 19. Point of parliamentary inquiry**

The point of parliamentary inquiry will be in order when the minister wants the Board to clarify any procedure stated herein. The point of parliamentary inquiry must always refer to procedural matters; using the point to make statements regarding substantial matters may be subject to sanctions.

A point of parliamentary inquiry will be heard at the Board's discretion, which, in case it rules it in order, will resolve the matter *ipso facto* creating jurisprudence.

This point will only be in order when the floor is open, and can not interrupt the speaker under any circumstance.



## **Article 20. Motions**

Ministers may raise motions before the Board to request the performance of a specific procedure.

Once the motion has been raised and presented the Board will ask for seconds. Seconding does not mean substantive support to the matter, but interest in discussing that matter in the requested procedure. All motions do require a second to be ruled in order, except those for which these rules demand a higher number of seconds.

Immediately forward, the Board will ask for objections. Objecting does not mean substantive opposition to the matter, but interest in voting the motion following the disruptivity order once the floor is closed.

If no delegations second the motion, the Board will consider that it has failed to pass and it will not be taken into consideration when voting the presented motions. On the contrary, if no delegations object, the motion will automatically pass without the need of voting on it.

Motions will only be in order once the floor has been open, unless otherwise specified by these Rules of Procedure.

## **Article 21. Motion for an unmoderated caucus**

A motion for an unmoderated caucus will be in order always when the floor is open and prior to the closure of the debate. The minister presenting the motion must, at the time of doing so, specify the proposed duration for the caucus (which the Board may modify) and the topic of it (which shall be a specific one). The motion will be passed by simple majority.

The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion. The unmoderated caucus may only be extended once, and for a duration no longer than half the original one, through the required motion to extend the previous caucus.

During an unmoderated caucus application of the Rules of Procedure (except for those regarding Protocol) will be suspended. The ministers may move freely always inside the room and establish informal discussions with their colleagues at their discretion.

## **Article 22. Motion for a consultation of the whole**

A motion for an unmoderated caucus will be in order always when the floor is open and prior to the closure of the debate. The minister presenting the motion must, at the time of doing so, specify the proposed duration for the caucus (which the Board may modify) and the topic of it (which shall be a specific one). The motion will be passed by simple majority.

The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion. The procedure may not be extended under any circumstances.

During a consultation of the whole application of the Rules of Procedure (except for those regarding Protocol) will be suspended. The ministers may discuss informally in a debate moderated by themselves in the manner they deem most appropriate, but they cannot move freely inside the room.

**Article 23. Motion for a *Tour de Table***

During a tour de table, every delegation in the committee will be given the word in alphabetical order. Delegations must then express their opinion about the matter that has been proposed with a maximum time of 1 minute. This time could change at the discretion of the Board.

This motion will be in order always when the floor is open and prior to the closure of the debate. The minister presenting the motion must, at the time of doing so, specify the proposed duration for the caucus (which the Board may modify) and the topic of it (which shall be a specific one). The motion will be passed by simple majority.

The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion. The procedure may not be extended under any circumstances.

**Article 24. Motion for a moderated caucus**

A motion for a moderated caucus will be in order always when the floor is open and prior to the closure of the debate. The minister presenting the motion must, at the time of doing so, specify the proposed duration for the caucus (which the Board may modify), the speaker's time (which the Board may modify) and the topic of it (which shall be a specific one). The motion will be passed by simple majority.

The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion. The unmoderated caucus may only be extended once, and for a duration no longer than half the original one, through the required motion to extend the previous caucus.

During a moderated caucus the right to take the floor will be conceded for the maximum time specified when passing the motion, under the criteria of the Board and with the purpose of enriching the debate always by raising their placard. Interventions not regarding the topic of the caucus will be ruled out of order.

**Article 25. Motion to open the debate**

A motion to open the debate will be in order once the floor is open immediately after the roll-call, only during the first session, or when the debate reopens in order to debate the second topic of the agenda, if there exists one. Once the motion has been introduced it will immediately be put to vote. The motion will be passed by simple majority.

The approval of the opening of the debate implies the start of the formal session and it will give rise to the motion to set the agenda.

#### **Article 26. Motion to resume the debate**

A motion to resume the debate will be in order immediately after the roll-call at the beginning of each session, previously suspended, and when the Board decides so. Once the motion has been introduced it will immediately be put to vote. The motion will be passed by simple majority.

The approval of the resumption of the debate implies the start of the formal session scheduled.

#### **Article 27. Motion to suspend or adjourn the debate**

A motion to suspend or adjourn the meeting will be in order always when the floor is open and with the purpose of suspending or adjourning the current session, usually due to logistical or schedule needs, and with the commitment of resuming it later. Once the motion has been introduced it will immediately be put to vote. The motion will be passed by simple majority. The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion.

The approval of the suspension or adjournment of the meeting only implies a temporal suspension of the debate, and does not mean the closure of the debate at all. The debate will be resumed in the next scheduled session of the committee. Due to extraordinary circumstances, the Board, the Secretariat or the Organization may suspend the meeting at any time and without prior discussion nor vote.

#### **Article 28. Motion to close the debate**

A motion to close the debate will be in order always when the floor is open and with the purpose of closing the debate on that topic of the agenda. This motion requires at least one second. Once the motion has been introduced, and whichever other motions, after application of the order of precedence, the Board will allow up to two speakers in favor and two against (there can not be more speakers against than in favor). After the speeches, the motion will be put to vote. The motion will be passed by qualified majority. The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion.

The closure of the debate implies the immediate suspension of all other procedures existing and pending and the entrance in voting procedure. No further discussion on the topic will be allowed, therefore all documents submitted to the Board at the moment will be put to vote.

#### **Article 29. Motion to introduce a draft resolution**

A motion to introduce a draft resolution will be in order always when the floor is open. Ministers may not refer to any document as a draft resolution until it has been formally introduced through this procedure; until then the document will be called a working paper. The motion will be passed by simple majority.

The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion. Prior to the introduction of the motion, the Board must have reviewed the document, including, but not limited to, the required

number of sponsors and signatories. However, the Board cannot modify the content of the document.

Once the motion has been approved, the Board will proceed to read the content of the draft resolution submitted for the committee at its discretion. Immediately, the Board will allow up to three ministers that belong to the sponsors of the draft resolution to come up to the podium and defend the draft resolution. Ministers will be subject to a question and answer period moderated by the Board. The total duration of the answers of such period will be determined by the Board, being always lower than ten minutes.

Once the procedure is over, the draft resolution will be assigned a number that reflects the topic, model and version of it, and the debate will resume with the General Speakers List.

### **Article 30. Motion to introduce an amendment**

A motion to introduce an amendment shall be in order whenever the floor is open and with the purpose of adding, removing, or modifying the content of the operative clauses of an already introduced draft resolution. Multiple amendments may be presented through the motion, but their voting will be done individually in the order they were introduced. The motion shall pass by simple majority.

The Board may, at its discretion, consider the motion out of order but cannot modify the draft resolution or the amendment. Before presenting the motion, the Board must have had the opportunity to review the content of the amendment and ensure it is in order, as well as confirm that it has the necessary endorsements.

Once the motion is presented, along with any others, following the order of precedence, the Board will read the content of the amendment to the rest of the committee. Following this, the Board will first ask the sponsors of the draft resolution to declare the amendment as friendly or unfriendly. If it is declared friendly by all sponsors, it will be immediately incorporated into the draft resolution. Otherwise, the Board will establish a list of speakers with a maximum of two delegations in favor and two against, each speaking for a maximum of thirty seconds to express their views on the amendment.

Next, a procedural vote will be taken to incorporate the amendment into the draft resolution, and it will pass by simple majority. If the vote is affirmative, the amendment will be introduced into the draft resolution.

Furthermore, once an amendment passes, all other amendments that pertain to the same point and are formally incompatible, as judged by the Board, or when, even if they do not pertain to the same point, are manifestly contrary from a substantive perspective, will be discarded.

### **Article 31. Motion to request a roll-call or nominal vote**

A motion to request a roll-call or nominal vote will be in order always immediately before the substantive vote for which it is requested. The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion, specially due to time constraints. Once the motion has been introduced it will immediately be put to vote. The motion will be passed by simple majority.

Once the motion has been passed, the Board will proceed with the roll-call or nominal vote according to the provisions expressed in these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 32. Motion to divide the question**

A motion to divide the question will be in order always immediately before the substantive vote for which it is requested. At the moment of introduction of the motion, the minister has to determine in which parts he/she wants to divide the draft resolution to be voted upon. The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion, specially due to time constraints. Once the motion has been introduced it will immediately be put to vote. The motion will be passed by simple majority.

Once the motion has been passed, the Board will proceed with the standard vote for each part according to the provisions expressed in these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 33. Motion to vote clause by clause**

A motion to vote clause by clause will be in order always immediately before the substantive vote for which it is requested. The Board may consider the motion not in order at its discretion, specially due to time constraints. Once the motion has been introduced it will immediately be put to vote. The motion will be passed by simple majority.

Once the motion has been passed, the Board will proceed with the standard vote for each clause according to the provisions expressed in these Rules of Procedure. The approval of this motion excludes the possibility of requesting a roll-call or nominal vote.

### **Article 34. Motion to reorder the draft resolutions**

A motion to reorder the draft resolutions will be in order always once the debate has been closed and the voting procedure has been entered into, but before any vote on any draft resolution has started. At the moment of introduction of the motion, the minister has to determine the order in which he/she wishes the draft resolutions to be voted upon. Once the motion has been introduced it will immediately be put to vote. The motion will be passed by simple majority.

Once the motion has been passed, the Board will proceed with the standard vote of the draft resolutions in the order approved, according to the provisions expressed in these Rules of Procedure.

### **Article 35. Right to reply**

When a minister feels that its personal or national integrity or dignity has been attacked or threatened during the debate by the statements of another delegation, it may request in written before the Board the right to reply, specifying to which delegation it wants to answer and the reasoning regarding the attack or threat. The Board may rule it out of order at its discretion.

If the Board rules it in order, the existing procedure will be suspended, and the right to reply will be performed. First, the offended delegation will be allowed to take the floor up to 1 minute; after that, the offending delegation will be allowed to take the floor up to 1 minute to explain or withdraw their statement.

### **Article 36. Order of precedence of points and motions**

Throughout the debate, and when there are on the floor two or more points and/or motions, the following order of precedence shall apply to determine the succession in which they must be taken into consideration and voted upon.

1. Motion to suspend or adjourn the meeting.
2. Motion to extend the previous caucus.
3. Motion for an unmoderated caucus (and, in case there are two or more, first the one for the longest caucus, and to equal duration, the first one introduced).
4. Motion for consultation of the whole (and, in case there are two or more, first the one for the longest caucus, and to equal duration, the first one introduced).
5. Motion for a *Tour the table* (and, in case there are two or more, first the one for the longest caucus, and to equal duration, the first one introduced).
6. Motion for a moderated caucus (and, in case there are two or more, first the one for the longest caucus; to equal total duration, first the one with the longest speaker's time; and to equal speaker's time, the first one introduced).
7. Motion to introduce a draft resolution.
8. Motion to introduce an amendment.
9. Motion to close the debate.
10. Other motions.

Once the debate has been closed, and the voting procedure starts, these motions will be in order, according to the following list:

1. Motion to reorder the draft resolutions.
2. Motion to vote clause by clause.
3. Motion to divide the question.
4. Motion to request a roll-call or nominal vote.
5. Other motions.

## **CHAPTER VI. WORKING PAPERS, DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Article 37. General considerations regarding documents**

The ultimate objective of the committee is passing a resolution for each topic in the agenda. Throughout the sessions the delegations may elaborate or subscribe working papers and draft resolutions, always respecting their official position and the interest of the State represented.

### **Article 38. Working papers**

The working papers are documents elaborated by the delegations encompassing the key proposals regarding the topic addressed at the moment, with the purpose of it becoming a draft resolution later. Their redaction is limited to operative clauses.

Since they are not an official document, they do not have to be sponsored nor signed, and neither have to be approved or reviewed by the Board. There is also no need for a motion to introduce them.

### **Article 39. Draft resolutions**

The draft resolutions are documents presented by the delegations that reflect the different proposals in order to be debated and, if decided, passed as resolutions. Therefore, they shall be elaborated complying with the required format for draft resolutions.

Prior to their introduction, draft resolutions must be presented to the Board in order to be reviewed and approved. The Board may, at its discretion, make any formal corrections. In order to make substantive corrections, the Board will request the signing delegations to amend them if they want to.

The draft resolution requires being sponsored and/or signed by 30% of the Member States present at the committee; the minimum number of sponsors and signatories required will be of 2 and 3 respectively (and there cannot be more sponsors than signatories). Sponsors are those countries who have effectively contributed to the drafting process and are committed to passing the draft resolution; signatories only show their interest in discussing it. To support a draft resolution, either as sponsor or as signatory, they will have to second the motion and sign the document at the top as sponsor/signatory. Each delegation may only sponsor one draft resolution per topic, whereas it can

sign as many draft resolutions as it wishes.

#### **Article 40. Amendments**

Amendments add, suppress or modify totally or partially the operative clauses of a draft resolution. Delegations may present amendments to whichever draft resolution they want if it has been introduced to the committee. Amendments require being sponsored and/or signed by 20% of the Member States present at the committee; the minimum number of sponsors and signatories required will be of 1 and 2 respectively (and there cannot be more sponsors than signatories). To do so they will have to second the motion and sign the document at the top as sponsor/signatory.

Amendments may be friendly or unfriendly. Friendly amendments are those which are supported by all the sponsors of the draft resolution. Unfriendly amendments are those which are not supported by all the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Prior to their introduction, amendments must be presented to the Board in order to be reviewed and approved. The Board may, at its discretion, make any formal corrections. In order to make substantive corrections, the Board will request the signing delegations to do so.

#### **Article 41. Resolutions**

Resolutions are official documents passed by the committee which reflect the consensus upon decisions and measures adopted for each topic.

For a draft resolution to become a resolution, it must be approved in a substantive vote. When it is in order, a minister may raise a motion to close the debate on the topic being addressed. In case the motion passes, voting procedure will be entered, all doors will be sealed and communications between ministers suspended. Amendments, first, and draft resolutions, later, that have already been introduced will be voted upon.

Draft resolutions will be voted upon normally following the order in which they were introduced, unless a motion to reorder draft resolution has been approved. Once it passes with a reinforced qualified majority, the draft resolution will be named and will have the consideration of a resolution.

### **CHAPTER VII. VOTING AND MAJORITIES**

#### **Article 42. General provisions regarding voting**

A delegation may only cast one vote, regardless of the number of ministers that make it up.

Delegations which are not present during the voting procedure, according to the Boards official recount, will not have the right to vote.

When a misvoting has occurred, whether appreciated by the Board or *ex parte*, such voting must



be repeated.

Delegations may not change their vote during the development of the voting procedure.

#### **Article 43. Procedural vote**

A procedural vote is voting on matters that do not affect the substance of the topics addressed by the committee.

No abstention is allowed during procedural voting.

The majority applicable to procedural voting, unless otherwise specified by these Rules of procedure, will be the simple majority.

#### **Article 44. Substantive vote**

A substantive vote is voting on matters that do affect the substance of the topics addressed by the committee.

Abstention is allowed during substantive voting. However, sponsors of documents subject to vote will not be allowed to vote against them or abstain, unless a modification of such documents has been passed without their consent.

During substantive voting the chambers will be sealed and communication between delegations will be suspended, including, but not limited to, the pager system.

The majority applicable to substantive voting, unless otherwise specified by these Rules of procedure, will be the simple majority.

#### **Article 45. Voting by acclamation or assent**

Prior to voting on any procedural matter, the Board may, at its discretion, ask if there are any objections to the matter subject to vote. In case there is any objection, the vote will continue through the standard procedure. In case there are no objections the matter subject to vote will be considered adopted by acclamation or assent.

#### **Article 46. Voting by raised placard**

Voting by raised placard will be the standard procedure of voting unless otherwise specified by these Rules of Procedure, or decided by the Board or the committee according to these Rules of Procedure.

The Board will ask, successively, to all the delegations voting in favor, against or abstaining (when it is allowed), to indicate their vote by raising their placard at each moment. Only one placard may be raised per delegation.

The placard must remain raised while the Board performs the final counting for each option, and may only be withdrawn once the Board specifically indicates so.

#### **Article 47. Roll-call or nominal voting**

Roll-call or nominal voting will only be in order when the Board or the Rules of Procedure determine so; or when the committee decides so through the required motion to request a roll-call or nominal voting, which will be in order always immediately before the start of the vote for which the roll-call or nominal voting is requested, and never once the vote has already started. Roll-call or nominal voting shall only be requested for substantive matters.

During the roll-call or nominal voting, there will be two stages.

In the first stage, the Board will be successively calling the delegations present following the official alphabetical order of the EU, and the delegations, when called upon, will state orally and loud enough the position for which they vote, choosing among the options *in favor*, *in favor with rights*, *against*, *against with rights*, *abstention*, or *pass*. No other options or formulas will be allowed.

Immediately, the Board will proceed with the second stage. The Board will call, following the exact order as before, the delegations that chose to state *pass*, to state their vote. During this second stage the delegations that passed are required to cast a vote, therefore no abstention, pass, or voting with rights will be allowed. The accepted options or formulas will be *in favor* or *against*. No other options or formulas will be allowed.

Delegations who have stated their wish to explain their vote (in favor or against) by using the formula of voting *with rights*, may do so immediately after the vote and prior to the announcement of the result of the vote. For that purpose, they can take the floor to give a speech no longer than 30 seconds.

Once the process is completed, the Board will announce the final result of the vote.

#### **Article 48. Majorities**

Both substantive and procedural votes, will be subject to the following majorities according to these Rules of Procedure:

- Qualified majority: there shall be two thirds (2/3) of affirmative votes of the delegations present, and able to vote.
- Simple majority: there shall be one more affirmative vote than negative votes are.
- Reinforced qualified majority: When the Council votes on a proposal not coming from the Commission or the high representative, the proposal is adopted if the so-called 'reinforced qualified majority' is reached. To reach a reinforced qualified majority if two conditions are

simultaneously met:

- 72% of member states vote in favour - in practice this means 20 out of 27;
- The proposal is supported by member states representing at least 65% of the total EU population.

The blocking minority must include at least four Council members. When the blocking minority threshold of four Council members is not reached the qualified majority is deemed attained.

For example, when all but three member states vote in favour, the qualified majority is also deemed attained, even if the 24 member states voting in favour account for less than 65% of the total population. In other words, when there are less than four Council members voting against, the percentage of population which the member states voting in favour comprise is irrelevant for the definition of the qualified majority.

## **CHAPTER VIII. PROTOCOL**

### **Article 49. General provisions regarding protocol**

When interacting with other ministers, as well as with the members of the Organizing team, the ministers shall conduct themselves with strictly formal and respectful manners.

### **Article 50. Dress code**

Ministers' attire must be at all moments appropriate to the relevance of the event and the role represented. 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 bow-tie, and formal shoes. Again neither sneakers nor cocktail clothes will be accepted.

Despite the above mentioned provisions, ministers shall wear, at their discretion, clothes, badges, accessories and typical dresses of the countries they represent, if they are appropriate for the occasion according to the protocol of such countries.

### **Article 51. Use of electronic devices**

No laptops, tablets, cell phones, or other electronic devices may be used in the committee room during formal debate or moderated caucus, unless the Board exceptionally approves otherwise. Computers may be used in the committee room during unmoderated caucus. Electronic devices need to be used with the sole purpose of reading, sharing or writing working papers, draft resolutions or amendments. Under no circumstances should they be used for research or other

purposes alien to the debate.

## **COMPLIANCE DISPOSITION**

Participating in the Model in general, and in the committee in particular, presumes the acceptance of all the aforementioned provisions and the General Policies of the Model as published in the website. The organization reserves the ability to modify these Rules of Procedure at any moment, with immediate notification to the participants.