



REGIONAL SESSION GUIDE

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT ESPAÑA





Introduction

The Regional Selection Conferences of EYPE consist of three main parts: Teambuilding, Committee Work and the General Assembly. In this document you may find an explanation of the structure and functioning of an EYP Event and includes material to help prepare the event.

Every year, between 10 and 15 events are celebrated around the country, starting on Friday afternoon, and lasting for the entire weekend. The event is both an academic experience, but also an opportunity for students to develop their opinions and learn

The academics of the event

The delegates are the students, representing their schools and participating in the event. They will have the chance to choose a topic related to current European issues and be part of a **committee** with other participants, where they will be able to discuss their ideas about their assigned topic and elaborate a resolution.

This is an example of a topic:

Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO):

We the People: With the rise of populist governments and recent anti-democratic actions by Member States, European democracies have been backsliding over the past decade. How can the EU ensure that the integrity of democracy is protected across Member States?

Full example of a Topic List here: [Barcelona Topics.pdf](#)

Academic Team

An EYP session is a collaborative event during which each delegate works as part of a committee under the expertise of their committee **chairperson** (i.e. the role of a moderator). These chairpersons form a team of their own under the direction of the session board (i.e. the session president and two to three vice presidents). The role of the chairs on the academic side is to facilitate the work of the committee in drafting a resolution on the assigned topic and to provide factual, but neutral, guidance on the issues under discussion.



Each delegate will be assigned to a committee topic and ideally have received **topic preparation material** (e.g. in the form of topic overviews in a ‘Preparation Kit’) prepared by their chairperson.

You may find an example of a **Preparation Kit** here: [ACADEMIC PREP KIT BCN \(1\).pdf](#)

It includes a useful explanation of the functioning of the European Union

Teambuilding

In EYP we believe that trust in each other, motivation and the acknowledgement of the capacities and weaknesses of one another are the pillars for achieving a fruitful team. For this reason, before starting with the academic aspects of the session, the delegates will get to know each other through a series of **team dynamics**, different activities and solving problems. The goal of these activities is to create a stable team and make delegates aware of the need for working as a group when solving an issue in order to achieve a proper working structure during the Committee Work. This will take place on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.





Committee Work

During Committee Work, the delegates in each committee will have to collectively find, by working as a team, different and innovative solutions for the topic under discussion. Please note that delegates are expected to carry out some research prior to the session. This will allow them to debate and reflect critically on the topics proposed and contribute with their own ideas to the discussion.

Before the session, the delegates would have been given a set of **Introductory Clauses** (i.e.: ICs, statements which identify and state the problems that need to be addressed, highlight important past actions or provide background information on the motion topic) and by the end of Committee Work they should have come up with a **Motion of Resolution** composed of a series of **Operative Clauses** (i.e.: OCs, statements presenting the actions and recommendations that intend to solve the problems identified in the ICs), redacted in the style of the statements issued by the European Parliament.

During Committee Work the Chairperson of each Committee will moderate the debates, guide the delegates in the right direction of discussion and answer any doubts that may arise during the process. After Committee Work, the Chairperson will then go through the operative clauses making sure everything is in order and making any necessary changes. When all the motions of resolution have been checked, edited and accepted by the board, they are collected in a Resolution Booklet which is sent to all the delegates that same night. Please note that there is not a set time at which the Resolution Booklet will be sent. *This means that, if you decide to stay awake until it arrives, you may not get enough sleep. This is why **we strongly advise you to go to sleep and wake up early the following day.***





This is an example of a resolution

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (AFCO)

We the People: With the rise of populist governments and recent anti-democratic actions by Member States European Democracies have been backsliding over the past decade. How can the EU ensure that the integrity of democracy is protected across Member States.

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Aware of the necessity to toughen the EU's norms on the respect of fundamental democratic principles in the face of rising anti-democratic movements¹ across the continent,
 - B. Noting with deep concern the existence of political parties whose core principles do not comply with the principles stated in Article 2 in the Treaty on European Union (TEU)²,
 - C. Fully alarmed by the fact that media outlets often lead to the polarisation of public opinion regarding populist parties and their subsequent rise,
 - D. Deeply concerned by the existence of populist parties which defend extreme nationalist ideas that question the current system of shared competences between the EU and its Member States,
 - E. Noting with regret that populist parties often display their arguments by appealing to voters emotions, which contributes to the spread of misinformation at the expense of objectives facts,
 - F. Regretting the threat that the normalisation of extremist ideas among EU citizens poses to democratic values;
1. Requests the European Commission to amend Article 7 TEU³ by introducing a deadline decided by the Council for imposing sanctions to Member States in case of persistent violation of EU values;
 2. Encourages Member States to establish a sanction procedure for political speeches whose content goes against Article 2 TEU;
 3. Urges the European Commission to create an agency to guarantee the impartiality of media by revising TV and radio channels, avoiding the spreading of bias news;
 4. Calls upon the European Commission to develop advertising campaigns about the possible consequences of rising populist parties in order to inform the citizens with clear and historical facts;
 5. Further requests the European Commission to sanction political parties whose speeches fit in the definition of hate speech by the European Court of Human Rights;
 6. Further encourages Member States to implement periodic educational programmes in schools about the democratic values of the EU in order to set up a common background and promote the identification of extremist ideas.

¹ Anti-democratic movements are actions that threaten the promotion of values such as equality and the rule of law.

² Article 2 TEU states the values in which the EU is founded, which are the following: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

³ Article 7 TEU establishes a mechanism to suspend certain rights from a Member State that has been in constant violation of the values set forth in article 2 TEU.



General Assembly

The last part of the session, which will take place on Sunday, is the General Assembly (GA), where the delegates from every committee join together to deliberate over the resolutions obtained during the Committee Work. There will be a debate for each of the resolutions proposed (one per committee, each around 45 minutes long) and all of them will follow the same structure, mirroring that of a plenary of the European Parliament.



GA will be presided by the Board, composed by the president and two vice-presidents, who will moderate the debate. Each committee will be sitting together with their Chairperson. The Chairperson will have several placards which he/she will raise at different times during the debate to communicate with the board of the session.

The first placard, the one with the committee's name on it, is the **Committee Placard**, which the Chairperson will raise whenever their committee wants to speak. Other placards which are used throughout the session are the **Point of Information Placard**, which can be raised whenever a term or acronym which you do not know the meaning of is used; the **Direct Response Placard**, which will be raised if a member of the committee wants to make a direct response (explained later); and the **Point of Order**, which will be raised by the Chairperson if the board makes a mistake (your Chairperson will be in charge of monitoring the use of this last placard so you do not really have to worry about it).



Structure of the General Assembly

Reading of Operative clauses: One member from the proposing committee will read the operative clauses out loud, to the rest of delegates. In Spanish Regional Sessions this is normally done by the board or not done at all.

Points of information: Anyone who is not from the proposing committee can ask questions regarding meanings of words and abbreviations. In most cases no points of information will be raised.

Defense Speech: The real debate starts with a defense speech delivered by one member of the proposing committee (which would have been chosen by consensus the day before). In this speech you will have to explain to the rest of committees *why* did you decide on that particular resolution and *why* the solutions you came up with are the correct ones for the problem being addressed; explain why you believe in your resolution and why the rest should do so too. This speech should last *no longer than 3 minutes* and it should be prepared beforehand.

Attack Speeches: After the proposing committee has finished their defense speech, one or two other committees (depending on the amount of available time) will have the chance to attack the proposed resolution by having one of their members coming up to deliver an attack speech. Even though several committees may want to do an attack speech, the board will only choose a maximum of two per round of debate. Each speech lasts *no more than 2 minutes* and can be either prepared beforehand or improvised. It is very important that in your attack speech you do not simply argue *against one or two of the operative clauses but against the core and general idea of the resolution*. Use your attack speech when you *fundamentally disagree* with the resolution and to explain why the resolution is, according to your opinion, wrong or inaccurate as a *whole*. Nevertheless, regardless of how much you disagree, take into account the fact that the proposing committee put a lot of work into redacting this resolution so *make sure you are respectful all the way through*.

Response to attack speeches: A delegate from the proposing committee is given one minute to respond to the attack speeches made. This part is mostly improvised, as you do not know in advance which parts of your resolution will be attacked. Good knowledge of your



resolution as well as great confidence in it is therefore essential to be able to give a good response to attack speech. While the attack speech is being delivered, all the members of the proposing committee should be listening carefully and making notes on the points being made along with possible counterarguments to be passed on to the person in charge of the response to the attack speech.

Open Debate: This is fundamentally the main part of GA, where other committees can ask questions, raise points and make remarks about the proposed resolution. For each proposed resolution, there will normally be 3 rounds of debate. In each round, the members of each committee will have to let their Chair know when they want to make a point. By raising the committee's placard, the Chair will let the board know that there is a delegate in their committee who has something to say by raising the Committee Placard and, if the committee is acknowledged by the president, then the delegate in question will get the chance to stand up and contribute to the debate. Here, you can either ask a question to the proposing committee about their resolution (if you do not understand how some of the actions they proposed in their resolution could work), and/or explain what you would have done differently. When giving your opinion, you do not necessarily have to attack the proposed resolution. If you agree with it, say so and mention why you think it is a good idea. *Protip: If you did not get the chance to deliver an attack speech, this would be the perfect opportunity to share your arguments as different debate points.*

During open debate, you also get **Direct Responses** (DRs), normally two per committee per round of debate. These have priority so, whenever a committee raises their DR Placard, they will be immediately recognised by the board. Direct Responses are used when a delegate wants to say something that refers directly to the last point raised by another committee. The proposing committee can also use direct responses if they want to answer a point made during the open debate as soon as this is raised. If you want to use a Direct Response, let your Chairperson know *immediately* and he/she will raise the placard.

After several committees have talked, someone from the proposing committees can stand up and respond, answering all of the questions and points raised during the round of open debate. This is normally done by a different person each round. Make sure that, while the other committees are raising their points, you are writing them down and thinking of possible counterarguments. Next to each of the points, note down which committee they were made by so that the person responding can then address that committee directly.



Summation Speech: This speech usually consists of two parts and is performed by two different people. The summation speech consists of answering the last round of debate and making a conclusive speech as such. It must last 3 minutes in total so *make sure that the first person who talks does not use up all of the time*. The summation speech, as its name implies, will sum up the debate, go over the main points and encourage the rest of the delegates to vote in favour of the proposed resolution. In some way, the summation speech is the proposing committee's last chance to convince the rest of the delegates that their resolution is the most effective way of solving the proposed problems so you should not only refer back to the most important points that defend your resolution, but also use sentimentalism and plenty of rhetorical devices so that this speech has a real impact on those listening. This speech is normally prepared beforehand.

Voting Procedure: All delegates will have the chance to vote in favour, against or stand for abstention. Each delegate will communicate their decision to their Chairperson, who will then relay the committee's results to the board. Each type of vote will then be added up and, if there are more votes in favour than against, then the proposed resolution will pass.

TIPS FOR WRITING SPEECHES

- Always open your speech with the following: "Dear fellow delegates, honourable members of the board and distinguished guests..."
- We recommend you use formal English. However, do not use overly complicated words to ensure that everyone present is capable of understanding you.
- Make your points clear.
- Do not be redundant; you have a strict time frame to present your speeches so make every word count.

