

POLITICAL SCIENCE 137  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE

**EU PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

Overview:

Students will be assigned into a group that represents an actor's perspective on one issue area with current relevance for European integration. Each group will meet and work together to create the following components that represent their assigned actor's position through a proposed EU legislation dealing with their assigned issue area:

- 1) Draft proposal
- 2) Proposal presentation

Students may select their own groups to complete the EU Proposal. Each group may not exceed **four** students, however, group sizes may be fewer. Group requests must be made through completing the *EU Proposal Group Requests* form and emailing submissions to the instructor no later than **Friday, May 8**. One form must be completed and submitted for each proposed group (note: this does not mean that each student must complete their own form). Any student not represented on a submitted group request form will be assigned into a group by the instructor. Furthermore, group membership requests are approved at the instructor's discretion and are subject to change.

Actors:

Each group will be assigned to represent the interests/position of one European actor. There are a total of six actors, but each group will only be assigned one actor perspective. The available actors are displayed below:

- 1) European Commission
- 2) European Economic and Social Committee (sub-section determined by issue area)
- 3) European Parliament (committee assignment determined by issue area)
- 4) Government of France
- 5) Government of Germany
- 6) Government of the United Kingdom

Issue Areas:

There are a total of two issue areas that will be the focus of the EU legislative proposal. Student groups will be assigned into one of the following issue areas. Note: each of the issue areas has current relevance for European integration and politics. Details regarding each of the issues can be found in subsequent sections.

- 1) Common European Asylum System -- presented **Monday, May 18**
- 2) Climate Action and Common Trade -- presented **Wednesday, May 20**

### Draft Proposal:

The draft proposal must represent the interests of the group's assigned actor. For example, if a student group has been assigned the perspective of the EU Commission, their proposal must reflect the interests of the Commission, and not the opinions of individual member students. Student groups are to submit one draft proposal with each of the student member names written on the proposal. Each member of an assigned group will receive the same grade for the draft proposal.

The following are requirements for draft proposals:

- i. Must not exceed two typed pages
  - Two pages does not include a title page and bibliography (if applicable)
  - Student names should be presented on the title page
- ii. Overall objective must be stated at top of proposal
  - Include an implementation date where the proposal is to be effective
- iii. There must be a 5-point to 15-point plan on how to achieve the main objective of the proposal
  - Each point must be a single sentence and be in the form of an "action"
    - e.g. Action 3: Get EU police, legal, asylum and border agencies to help track down smugglers by stepping up cooperation and information-gathering.
  - Below each point should be a sub-section with description on how this point will be implemented and achieved in the EU
- iv. The proposal must not go against the *general* interests/position of a group's assigned actor, but should also be possible for other European actors to accept the plan.

### Proposal Presentation:

Over two class periods, groups will present their proposals. On each assigned class period, one of the issue areas will be debated through the presentation of proposals. Thus, approximately half of the class will be engaged as presenters while the other half will be the audience on each of the two days. The audience will act as Members of the European Parliament and can ask questions to the presenters and are required to cast a rank order vote of their top three preferred proposals. The use of the alternative vote will be used to determine the winning proposal for each of the two issue areas. The instructor will tally votes and will announce the "winning" proposal at the end of the EU Proposal assignment period once grades have been returned to students. Attendance for both class periods of presentations is required.

Each group will be given **5 minutes** to present their proposal with an open question and answer time for **2 minutes**. Each presentation must include a visual presentation in the form of slides that have been converted into a .pdf and emailed to the instructor **before the start of class**. Groups are responsible for determining which student serves in a given function in regards to the presentation. This means that one student may present the overall theme of the proposal, another presents the first half of the proposal's points, and another student is responsible for creating the slides. When emailing the .pdf of the presentation slides, the group must indicate the **presentation role** for each of the student members. Please note, each member is assessed individually for their role in the presentations.

### Grading:

EU Proposal grades are assessed out of a total of 100 points. The breakdown of these points are outlined below. Students are graded both collectively (draft proposal) and individually (presentation and attendance). Because attendance is required, it is a graded component of student's EU Proposal final scores.

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Draft Proposal        | 50 points -- graded collectively |
| 2) Proposal Presentation | 40 points -- graded individually |
| 3) Attendance            | 10 points -- graded individually |
| 4) Acceptance bonus      | +5 points -- graded collectively |

### Issue #1 Common European Asylum System:

Should the European Union create a unified asylum procedure for refugees and forced migrants? Currently, each member state has its own requirements for asylum status and rules for acceptance/rejection of migrants who are seeking refuge in Europe. This creates variation in asylum rules and the degree of difficulty for a migrant to seek asylum in a given European state. Two problems are worth noting with this system. First, southern states on the Mediterranean such as Italy argue that migrants who are seeking safety and opportunities in Europe come ashore at the closest point-of-entry. Thus, Mediterranean member states shoulder a greater share of the burden than the general European community. Second, once admitted to Europe, refugees are not legally permitted the freedom of movement available to European citizens in the Schengen Area. However, there is often little to stop refugees from moving throughout Europe. In fact, it is the responsibility of each state to fingerprint refugees and track their movement. States that more acutely feel the shock from refugees may be less apt to enforce these mechanisms to see the flow of migrants more evenly shared across Europe.

And finally, there are ethical and moral concerns with the deadly risks taken by refugees to cross the Mediterranean in order to come to Europe. Thus, cooperation on asylum may also mean protections for migrants including search-and-rescue, police activities, and action to stop smugglers, etc. The first task for proposals in this issue area is to create an objective/goal for common asylum. And then to formulate a proposal with several points of European action to see the objective/goal achieved through the implementation of the proposal by a specific date.

Committee/section assignments for this issue area are below:

- 1) European Commission
  - o Migration and Home Affairs
- 2) European Economic and Social Committee
  - o Employment, social affairs and citizenship section
- 3) European Parliament
  - o Committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs

The following resource may be useful for this issue:

[http://europa.eu/pol/justice/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/pol/justice/index_en.htm)

## Issue #2 Climate Action and Common Trade:

Should the European Union use the common trade policy to affect global climate action? The EU has taken great strides for environmental sustainability and climate change. Much of the work has taken place within the EU as the standards of emissions and energy creation have strengthened. But climate action is a global concern and an effective strategy must extend outside of the EU. Because the single market creates a common trade system for all EU member states, any decision to channel trade flows according to environmentally responsible partners has interdependent consequences. Thus, there requires agreement on two fronts among member states. First, what is the best strategy for climate action? And second, how much should trade flows reflect cooperation on the European strategy for climate action? If trade policy should reflect EU goals for climate action, this means that a state out of compliance must suffer a reduction in European exports/imports. For example, if China fell below EU requirements for responsible climate behavior (for a country in China's economic development class), should the EU respond by reducing economic exchange with China?

The general question of how climate action should reflect EU trade patterns can be addressed through 1) inaction, 2) sticks, and 3) carrots. The stick method of punishment would see a reduction in trade flows for states out of compliance. The carrot method would use inducement and rewards to entice states to move toward more compliant behavior.

The first task for proposals in this issue area is to create an objective/goal for climate action and common trade policy. And then to formulate a proposal with several points of European action to see the objective/goal achieved through the implementation of the proposal by a specific date.

Committee/section assignments for this issue area are below:

- 1) European Commission
  - Climate action
- 2) European Economic and Social Committee
  - Agriculture, rural development and environment section
- 3) European Parliament
  - Environment, public health and food safety committee

The following resource may be useful for this issue:

[http://europa.eu/pol/clim/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/pol/clim/index_en.htm)

### Example of (partial) Draft Proposal:<sup>1</sup>

The following is an example of a EU action plan. Please note, this is merely an excerpt of a much larger and more specific plan. Group proposals should be comprehensive in so far as outlining any actions necessary to meet the stated objective of the draft proposal.

### **EU Action Plan on Combating Terrorism**

Objective: To deepen the international consensus and enhance international efforts to combat terrorism.

Action 1: Support the key role of the United Nations in sustaining the international consensus and mobilizing the international community as a whole, in particular the General Assembly and the work of the Security Council, inter alia, through its Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Taliban/Al Queda Sanctions Committee, as well as the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime

- Specify ways to work in a more coordinated way in the General Assembly and, with and within the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee
- Establish and develop contacts between the CFSP Working Group on Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee
- Establish and develop contacts between the CFSP Working Group on Terrorism and the 1267 Committee

Action 2: Work to ensure universal adherence to, and full implementation of, the United Nations Conventions on Terrorism, and to agree Comprehensive UN Conventions on terrorism and on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

- All Member States to ratify 12 International Conventions against Terrorism and continue to lobby for this in third countries both bilaterally and at EU level
- Coordinated EU position on reservations to Conventions should be encouraged
- Promote the adoption of a Comprehensive UN Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

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<sup>1</sup> See full EU Action Plan on Combatting Terrorism