

International Institutions in a New Europe

Katie Hoeffcker, McKenzie Miller, Niel
Skalican, Shannon Rockey, Katie
Vance, and Joe Brueggemeyer

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Amsterdam, bus to Den Haag, the Netherlands.

Day 2: Lecture at ICTY, Lunch and info Session at the Peace Palace

Day 3: Visit to the International Criminal Court

Day 4: Visit to the Netherland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and boat tour

Day 5: Free day (visits to Bruges, Brussels, and Paris)

Day 6: Bus Tour of Brussels

Day 7: Visit to the US Mission to the EU and tour of the European Parliament

Day 8: NATO SHAPE briefing and visit

Day 9: Visit to the EC central library and role-playing game at the Parlamentarium

Day 10: Visit to the European Commission and discussion at ULB

Day 11: Visit to the Council of Ministers

Day 12: Departure to the U.S

Day 1: First day in Den Haag.



Arrived in the city in the late afternoon. The day was mainly utilized to walk around and get a feel for the city/culture.

Day 2: ICTY, OPCW and the Peace Palace

We started our day learning of the work done by the ICTY. We then visited the OPCW and discovered what goes into the dismantling and prevention of chemical weapons. Finally, we were able to visit the Peace Palace and learn of its history along with that of the ICJ.



Day 3: Trial at the ICC

At the International Criminal Court we were able to observe a trial for *The Prosecutor v. Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Ble Goude*.

-Gbagbo and Goude are being tried for four counts of crimes against humanity reportedly committed in the Cote d'Ivoire, including murder, rape, attempted murder, and persecution.



Day 4: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Boat Tour

In the morning we spent several hours talking with two ministry workers. This was one of the best opportunities we had to ask specific questions on issues such as the refugee crisis and terrorism. We then took a boat tour through the canals of The Hague before getting on a bus to Brussels.



Day 5: Free Day!

Bruges is the capital of the West Flanders in northwest Belgium. It's known for its canals, cobble stoned streets and medieval architecture. The city is about an hour train ride from Brussels so it makes an easy and scenic day trip!



Day 6: Bus Tour of Brussels



As this was the first full day in Brussels for much of the class, the day centered around the three hour bus tour of the city in order for the class to get an overview of what the city has to offer.

The tour guide was very informative about how important historical aspects of the city are perceived today by the residents and government officials throughout the drive.

Day 7: US Mission to the EU & European Parliament

Visiting the US Mission to the EU was a unique opportunity on this trip because it dealt so directly with the US. We were able to learn about our government's role in the European Union.



In the afternoon we visited our first EU institution, the European Parliament. It was a chance for us to become familiar with the structure of the EU and how their different government branches interact.



Day 8: NATO SHAPE Command

We visited NATO's SHAPE campus and listened to various talks on the structure of NATO in regards to how they make decisions as well as how officers carry out their individual duties.



Day 9: The EC Central Library and Role-Playing Game

-On day 9, we were lucky enough to visit the ECC Central Library and to access further information on sources for our research.



-At the end of the day, we took a visit to the Parlamentarium, an outreach center designed to help EU citizens learn about the functions of the European Parliament. We debated tricky political questions, like public access to water and the government's role in tracking its citizens' movements.

Day 10: The Commission and ULB

At the Commision, we had three speakers who specialized in different areas of EU political study. The first speaker gave a general overview on the Commission's role in the EU. The second speaker discussed the EU's irregular migration policy. The last speaker spoke on the Economics and Monetary Union. We then visited the Université Libre de Bruxelles and got to hear a professor give a critical analysis on the current state of the EU.



Day 11: The Council



The last scheduled academic activity of the visit was to the Council of the European Union. At this point we were familiar with the EU as a whole, so the speaker focused on the procedure and hierarchy within the Council, while also giving one last opportunity to ask questions.

Day 12: Goodbye, Brussels!

The last day we all went our separate ways. Most headed back to the US but some continued to travel throughout Europe.

This was truly a fantastic experience for the class to gain first hand knowledge from EU and UN employees, among others. There were so many once in a lifetime opportunities that will stay with us, and give us better perspective on the day-to-day functions of international political institutions for the future.