

POL 2097 International Institutions Final Project



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Itinerary for Den Haag and Brussels

April 30, 2023: Arrive at AMS, bus to Den Haag, Boat Tour

May 1, 2023: OPCW, ICC, Welcome Dinner

May 2, 2023: ICJ, Peace Palace, MICT, Go to Brussels

May 3, 2023: European Commission, Bus Tour of Brussels

May 4, 2023: NATO SHAPE, European Council

May 5, 2023: European Parliament, House of European History

May 6, 2023: Parliamentarium, Free afternoon and end of program

Day 1- April 30, 2023: Arrival in Den Haag and Boat Tour

Day 1 consisted of landing in AMS, taking a bus to Den Haag, and being able to explore the city for a little while. We also went on a boat tour around Den Haag, in which we learned about and were able to see the area.



Day 2- May 1, 2023: OPCW, ICC, and Welcome Dinner

On this day we went to the OPCW where we learned about chemical weapons and the protocols that go along with them. Then we went to the International Criminal Court where we learned about the ICC from an ICC employee. But the best part of the day was the welcome dinner on the beach. This was a great way to end the day with a great group of people.



Day 3- May 2, 2023: ICJ, Peace Palace, MICT

On day three, we visited the Peace Palace and the International Court of Justice, where we learned about the history of the court and how it functions. We were able to see the rooms in which the judges prepare for hearings and deliberate over cases. We then visited the Mechanism, where we learned about the continuation of the ICTY and the ICTR, which was incredibly interesting. At the end of the day we took a bus to Brussels, where we would spend the remainder of our trip.



Day 4- May 3, 2023: European Commission, Bus Tour

On this day we visited the European Commission and listened to a speaker talk about how new European legislation is drafted. Later in the day, we went on a bus tour of Brussels. We visited some of the most popular attractions in Brussels, including the Atomium (World's Fair Expo 58).



Day 5- May 4, 2023: NATO SHAPE & European Council

On day 5, we visited NATO SHAPE and listened to a variety of speakers discuss the background of NATO SHAPE (what it is, the different branches/organizational structure, its functions, etc.) and its role in European security. Then, we went back to Brussels to visit the European Council. Here we had a group conversation about the Council's role in Europe (and different current European issues) and how it differs from other (similar) European bodies. After, we got an exclusive opportunity to see the meeting room for European Council members (it was cool!).



Day 6- May 5, 2023: European Parliament & House of European History

On day 6, we visited the European Parliament and House of European History museum. At the European Parliament, we listened to a talk and held a discussion about the framework, make-up, and role of Parliament with a speaker. After this, we were able to visit the actual room where the representatives meet. The House of European History was next on the agenda. Here, we walked through the museum to learn about the extensive history of Europe.



Day 7- May 6, 2023: Parliamentarium, Free Afternoon, & End of Program

On the last day of the program, we did a role playing activity at the EU Parliamentarium and then spent some time exploring Brussels before having a farewell dinner. The role playing activity was so valuable and realistic into having insight on what it would be like to design a policy with other countries who have differing views than others. The farewell dinner was so bittersweet and the perfect end to the trip!



Main Takeaways

On May 7, 2023, we departed BRU to head home to Cincinnati. The ending of this program was so bittersweet, and it is truly wonderful to look back on all the incredible memories we made.

This trip was unforgettable. Getting to see so many amazing international institutions was such an informative and interesting experience. We were able to learn so much about the EU and other institutions like NATO, the OPCW, the MICT, and many others. We now have a unique and new perspective on the purposes, policies, and inter-workings of these institutions. This is experience will be deeply valuable to the rest of our educations and our lives.