



# Background Guide

*Committee: The European Commission*

*Topic: The European Debt Crisis & The Economic Reform*

## 2012年宁波模拟联合国大会

### Ningbo Model United Nations Conference 2012

宁波效实中学

宁波效实中学学生会

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# **The European Commission**

## **Update 1**

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## A.A Welcome Letter from the Dais

Dear Commissioners,

Welcome to attend the European Commission!

Europe enjoys a long history of prosperity, for the prominence of Europeans. Our critical thinking of the problem has always been insightful and profound. Our theories of politics, economy, society and forth have proved to be systematic and pragmatic by challenges, even some catastrophes. We have long held a positive attitude towards the future as long as there's a hope or a chance to survive. We have the bravery and persistence to sacrifice all we can for a shared goal until we reach it eventually. Efficient measures have been carried out after further discussion between the elites at the table of cooperation. That's why Europe is difficult to defeat, for we are a unity which is hard to dissolve. And that is what our precursors achieved. Now, it is our turn to pass on the legacy and make a difference in the widespread sovereign debt crisis around the eurozone.

From late 2009, fears of a sovereign debt crisis developed among investors concerning rising government debt levels across the globe together with a wave of downgrading of government debt of certain European states. Concerns intensified early 2010 and thereafter making it difficult or impossible for Greece, Ireland and Portugal to re-finance their debts. On 9 May 2010, Europe's Finance Ministers approved a rescue package worth €750 billion aimed at ensuring financial stability across Europe by creating the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF). In October 2011 eurozone leaders agreed on another package of measures designed to prevent the collapse of member economies. This included an agreement with banks to accept a 50% write-off of Greek debt owed to private creditors, increasing the EFSF to about €1 trillion, and requiring European banks to achieve 9% capitalization. To restore confidence in Europe, EU leaders also suggested to create a common fiscal union across the eurozone with strict and enforceable rules embedded in the EU treaties.

While the sovereign debt increases have been most pronounced in only a few eurozone countries, they have become a perceived problem for the area as a whole. Nevertheless, the European currency has remained stable. As of mid-November 2011 it was trading even slightly higher against the Euro bloc's major trading partners than at the beginning of the crisis. The three most affected countries, Greece, Ireland and Portugal, collectively account for six percent of eurozone's gross domestic product (GDP).

As Europe ushered in the New Year, the austerity policies closely related to the future economic situation and market structure in Greece is going through the voting procedure. The newly-formed government is struggling towards a balance between the rescue from EU and the domestic welfare as well as high unemployment. On the other side, a heated discussion among the European leaders led to partial agreement on fiscal policies and a growing dispute aroused by different status quo.

So what will be the final solution to the stagnation in Europe? What responsibility different members in EU ought to shoulder? Will the negotiation result in compromise or disagreement? It all depends on your performance inside and outside the conference room. Let's set off together, explore together, rise up to the challenge together until we the end of this conference! But remember, there will be no end on the road of research and critical thinking. You are not alone, after all. The following are the dais members who will make efforts all the way with you in the next few months:



## Ningbo Model United Nations Conference 2012 • Rise to the Challenge

Currently, Justin Berg works as an English Instructor at Xiaoshi High School, in Ningbo, China, where he has taught since 2009. Prior to his time in China, Justin taught music in the United States for several years, and performed recitals on pipe organs throughout America. Apart from his passion for teaching, his interests range from ancient Chinese thought, to various styles of music, and cooking.

I'm Sam Yin from Ningbo Xiaoshi Middle School. It's a great joy to meet all of you in EUC. It doesn't matter if you are a freshman or a senior in MUN. It's just a journey of brainstorm and critical thinking. First you have to enjoy the conference and the preparation, and then try your best to reach a consensus. But the result is not important. It's the process that counts more.

I am Scofield Fang, an active guy who will take the honor to be a member of the bureau in European Commission in NBMUN2012. This committee recalls the memory of the first time I have participated in a European Parliament. I can promise that EUC is where amazing happens, and you can see the sparkle of critical thinking. The efforts you make during NBMUN2012 will be the long-lasting memories. I hope you can rack your brains to face one of the most severe economic crises in modern history. I am looking forward your appearances in April.

Hey, My name is Yu Chen, or Cherry if you wish to run into my English name. I am now accepted by University of Virginia, Class of 2016. It is no exaggeration to say that the unexpected encounter of MUN changed my ordinary track of life. The unforgettable PKUNMUN2010 and the unique experience of Business Challenge drove me to embrace hundreds of excellent students who later became my friends and mentors. All the precious days and nights are now stimulating me to contribute at NBMUN, our own conference in Ningbo. If you have any problem during the following months of preparation, I will be available any time to help via email or cell-phone. Hope you will go all out and be awesome. Keep Trying!

Hello everyone! I am Rebecca from the high school affiliated to Fudan University in Shanghai. It's really a great honor and pleasure for me to being a part of The European Commission in NBMUNC. I am a talented and easygoing girl who also loves singing, reading (especially detective stories~) and watching movies. Economics is considered as one of my concentrations, along with music, history, politics and so on. As a senior two student, I have participated in six MUN conferences and gained a lot from them. To me, MUN is a place where you can share your opinions with others and show your shining points to all the other delegates. I am so proud and happy of participating in such a wonderful activity and hope with more MUN experiences can all of you enjoy this magnificent stage where can show your talents and make friends. Finally I hope that with the passion we have and the efforts we made, this MUN will be a really remarkable one!

Hello everyone! Welcome to NBMUN 2012. I'm Jeffery Piao. This year I will direct the Europe an Committee. I'm serving as the Head of JCMUN-community. I have participated in many MUN conference across China and U.S.A, namely MUNUC XXIII, HMUN-China, Fduimun and NKM UNC. Through my MUN career, I have served as delegate, Secretary-General, Chair and Assistant Director. Besides Model UN, I'm really active in many extracurricular activities such as soccer, music and literature. I'm the star striker in my school football team. Then, I'm also keen on percussion and piano since I have learnt music for 6 years. Model United Nations is a good way of education. Hope you will learn a little bit, think a little bit and gain a little bit. All in all, wish you will have an extraordinary experience in Ningbo, China.

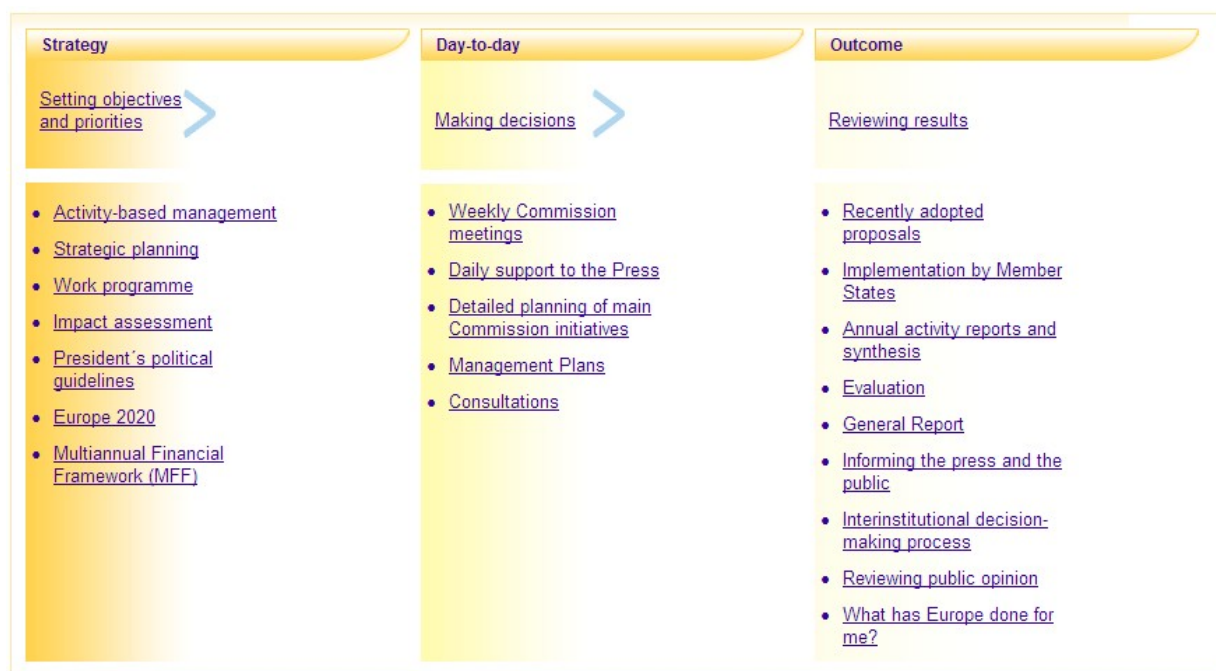
## B.A Brief Introduction of the European Commission

The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union. The body is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the Union's treaties and the general day-to-day running of the Union.

The Commission operates as a cabinet government, with 27 members of the Commission (informally known as "commissioners" ). There is one member per member state, though members are bound to represent the interests of the EU as a whole rather than their home state. One of the 27 is the Commission President (currently José Manuel Durão Barroso) proposed by the European Council and elected by the European Parliament. The Council then appoints the other 26 members of the Commission in agreement with the nominated President, and then the 27 members as a single body are subject to a vote of approval by the European Parliament. The first Barroso Commission took office in late 2004 and its successor, under the same President, took office in 2010.

The term "Commission" is used either in the narrow sense of the 27-member College of Commissioners (or College) or to also include the administrative body of about 23,000 European civil servants who are split into departments called Directorates-General and Services. The internal working languages of the Commission are English, French and German. The Members of the Commission and their "cabinets" (immediate teams) are based in the Berlaymont building of Brussels.<sup>1</sup>

The following diagram will guide you through the three basic stages involved in the organisation of the Commission's work.<sup>2</sup>



1. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Commission)
2. [http://ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm) (including the graph)

The following are some scripts from the GOVERNANCE STATEMENT(attachment1) that illustrate the principles of the European Commission. Try to form a basic understanding about the working system and other things related. The conference will follow the model set by precursors. Only when you get the hang of it will you be able to apply the rules to practice.

### **OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY: THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Commission is committed to working in an open manner. It endeavours to **communicate** actively about what it does and the decisions it takes. Before initiating legislation and policies the Commission must **consult** widely: the quality of EU policy depends on ensuring a wide participation of citizens, **civil society organisations** and all stakeholders throughout the policy chain. The Commission is committed to an inclusive approach when developing and implementing policies and has approved a set of internal **minimum standards for consultation of interested parties**.

The Commission believes that transparency is necessary to build citizens' confidence in the European institutions, as well as to ensure the legitimacy and accountability of a public administration. It has taken different measures in that respect, in particular to facilitate the **access to documents** held by the institutions, to provide a more transparent framework for its relations with representatives of interests (a register and a code of conduct), as well as to provide information on the beneficiaries of EU funds, always bearing in mind the need to protect sensitive and classified information.

The Commission also set up a **register of expert groups** to give a transparent overview of the advisory bodies that assist it and its departments in preparing legislative proposals and policy initiatives.

With the adoption of the **European Transparency Initiative**, covering a broad range of issues such as providing easy access to existing information about the beneficiaries of projects and programmes, the need for a more structured framework for the activities of interest representatives (lobbyists) and the rules and standards on professional ethics of public office holders in the European institutions, the Commission continues to work towards the highest possible standards of transparency in public life.

In all its dealings, the Commission is subject to specific legal obligations concerning the **protection of personal data** and the processing thereof.

### **BETTER REGULATION: MAKING LAW THAT BENEFITS CITIZENS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

The Commission has developed comprehensive policies and mechanisms to provide for a simple and high quality regulatory framework in the EU. This includes the following key actions and mechanisms of particular relevance for the governance of the Commission's work:

#### **Impact assessment**

An important part of making high quality laws is having a full picture of their impacts. The Commission systematically examines the economic, social and environment impacts of its proposals. Since 2003 an impact assessment is compulsory for all major policy initiatives and legislative proposals which are on the **Commission Legislative and Work Programme (CLWP)**. In addition, some other proposals, which are not featured in the CLWP but which potentially have significant impacts, may also be subjected to an impact assessment.

In November 2006, the Commission set up an **Impact Assessment Board**. The Board is composed of high-level officials from different Commission departments and works under the direct authority of the President. It provides independent quality control of draft impact assessments carried out by individual Commission services.

When an initiative or a proposal is likely to have an impact on the Community budget, the Impact Assessment is combined with a financial ex-ante **evaluation** in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

### **Collection and use of expertise**

The Commission has established good practices related to the **collection and use of external experts** at all stages of Commission policy-making (COM (2002) 713).

They provide that Commission departments should always seek advice of an appropriately high quality, be open in seeking and acting on advice from experts, and ensure that its methods for collecting and using expert advice are effective and proportionate.

### **Critical Thinking:**

- 1) What is the major concern of the EUC members? Are these aspects still playing crucial roles in the current sovereign debt crisis?
- 2) How to build the connection between theory and reality? Are there any paradox existing?
- 3) Should all the countries in Europe make policies and take actions under the same charter and shoulder the same responsibility? Or do you advocate privileges for some countries, especially in the crisis?



## **C. The brief explanation of The Rules of Procedure of EUC**

Dear delegates,

This time, the European Commission in NBMUN2012 will use a brand new rule system of European Parliament which can accord with the urgency of the situation. Considering the difficulty in reading a 21-page procedure, the dais will briefly summarize the main points of the rules of the conference. **HOWEVER, WE WILL ONLY GIVE YOU A CONCISE INTRODUCTION.** What we would explain here are the most fundamental ones. So we strongly recommend all the delegates read the original text so as to use the most exact words in the conference and your documents.(attachment 2)

### **The Forms of Debates**

**The conference will have three forms of debates: Speaker's list, moderated caucus and parliamentary debate**

#### **Dais' Duty**

1. The dais will process all power in the conference so as to keep the order. The dais will have the power to call a meeting, close the meeting, read the paper, response to the interpellation, confirm the documents, apply the procedure of the conference. Except for the summaries of the debates, the dais shouldn't participate in the debates. If the dais determine to join in, he/she will automatically give up the power, and hand it to the vice-chair.
2. The dais should take responsibility for organizing the conference and the seating charts. And the dais should respect the iReporters equally.

#### **The basic components of the committee and the voting section**

1. After the conference being convened, it will be started in the specified time and place.
2. Every EUC member have the right to submit amendments to the dais. The minimum quorum of voting will be 9. If more than 6 delegates motion in the section of setting the procedure, it will require more than 17 delegates to vote.
3. The approach to vote is putting the hands up. If more than 9 delegates are for, the dais will have a Roll call vote which only have two responses: Y/N. Legislation report must have roll call vote, and every delegate can abstain from voting.
4. The dais can act as EU members and participate in the vote, and dais' attitudes have no conclusive effects. The members of dais will not be consistent in voting.
5. The order of the vote:
  - 1) Grammar and spelling amendments.
  - 2) The documents and their amendments.
  - 3) Legislative reports' amendments.
  - 4) Motions for voting the Legislative reports.
6. If the result of voting is draw when setting the procedure, the vote will be passed. If it is draw when voting the committee document, the document will be re-audited.
7. Find the details in Rule 47 in the original test.

Setting the procedure

1. Before every conference, the dais will set the pre-procedure. These procedures will be adjusted according to the course of the meeting.
2. The delegates can motion for changing the procedure by putting forward the rocedural motions. You can find the details in the original text.
3. To close the meeting, the committee will have two members who are for and two members who are against to have a debate, and then vote for it.
4. With the procedure settled, the dais will not change it during this session. If the committee have done all the events in the procedure, the dais can end the session.

动议类型(由于本节涉及会议核心规则及文件写作，故给予中文简介)

1. 程序性动议，只可在制定程序(settingagenda)时提出，与联合国系统类似，需要简单多数通过。同时，如果某个程序性动议被否定，则该动议将不再被接受。任何程序性动议都需要一名同意和一名反对的成员进行简单辩论，各自不超过三分钟。结束辩论（包括进入投票环节）将可以在制定程序后提出。具体规则请参阅原文第 56 - 58 条。

2. 实质性动议，包括提出文件（此类动议如果在程序已定之后提出，其文稿只能散发全场，不能进行介绍。所以即使代表并没有完成文件写作，也可向大会提出介绍和进入辩论的请求，以便能够及时介绍自己的文件。主席团会根据文件上交审核通过的时间顺序来决定介绍文件的顺序），提议辩论主题，结束此轮辩论（需要陈述理由，并需要两名同意和两名反对成员进行辩论），加入发言名单等。

3. 紧急性动议：包括应对其他委员会质询等其他紧急事宜。该动议需要主席允许并由两名同意和两名反对的成员进行辩论。每名成员发言时间不能超过三分钟。如果通过，则立即执行该动议所述事宜。紧急程序可以由任何成员提出动议中止，即使没有任何实质性的进展。

4. 程序性问题：与联合国系统基本相似。请参考第 55 条。

5. 个人问题：若有任何离场请求，成员需要以 page 的形式传送给主席团。得到允许方可离开会场。

**立法及其他规程**

1. 所有法律应尊重欧洲联盟宪章，不得违宪。否则其法律地位将无法得到保证。

2. 本委员会有义务回复由欧洲联盟所咨询的一切问题（在会议中将有体现），并且可以根据实际问题需要起草委员会自发报告(Own-initiative report)。自发报告的动议需要由以下

部分组成：

- 1) 动议提出 ( 要求本委员会起草自发报告, 通常在决定议程或会议末尾时提出, 不作为程序性动议 )
- 2) 简单的报告提纲或简述
- 3) 解释性说明, 并应当有适当的开支报告(Financial statement)

**3. 立法报告 ( legislative report ) 应当由以下部分组成：**

- 1) 修正案全文, 并表明投票情况 ( 是否投票, 票数等 )
- 2) 法案原稿全文
- 3) 适当的预算报告

4. 立法报告的形成：进入立法报告环节, 第一节辩论将由本委员会组织代表讨论是否需要提出、提出哪一版本法令。此后, 会场将组织议会辩论, 鼓励代表参与讨论、质询提出修正案。该初稿将由主席决定是否直接通过 ( 不添加修正案 )。此决定若由 1 / 10 以上代表 ( 3 人以上 ) 反对 ( objection), 则需要在本委员会结束此节辩论之后进行投票。

5 :非立法报告(non-legislative report)应由以下部分组成( 作用类似于 working paper )：

- 1) 动议——提出法案
- 2) 解释性条款 ( 为何提出此法案, 简单的条款, 预算方面的信息 )

6. 自发报告(own-initiative report)是自由的文稿, 但它的作用非常灵活, 能够帮助代表提出在议题里没有涉及到的, 但与议题有关的话题, 提出研究型建议。本委员会鼓励各位代表起草此类文件, 并希望此类文件能够帮助代表们打开思路。注意：此类文件与非立法报告不同之处在于这些自发报告将不在最终法令的考虑范围之内, 因为它们与议题关联不大。但它们所反映的问题则可以作为制定法律的参考。所有自发报告都将进入议会辩论, **成功的自发报告将作为本委员会最终文稿的部分**。提交自发报告也需要提出动议。

7. 委员会意见(Opinions of committees)作用大致相当于联合国系统危机中的直接性指令(directive)。其操作方式大致相同。

**文件的形成**

1：最终文件将包括每位代表的投票情况。同时, 即使一些文件或意见未被采纳, 它们也应该在作者的要求下被写入最终文件中作为“参考意见”, 长度不能超过 200 字。主席团将有权力要求本委员会在何时完成立法报告的撰写。

2：立法报告的正文文字标准请参见原文第 24 条。

## D. Assignment

You may wonder why there are on contents covering the topic itself. Since the committee will adopt a new procedure which still calls for improvement, the dais decide to put forward it in the very beginning so as to give you enough time to digest.

So please read the rules of procedures above carefully and drop down some questions you have. The dais will initiate more documents to help you understand the rules better as well as to make explanation and adjustment to them.

At the same time, start your academic research and accumulate some basic knowledge on the topic. More information can be found in Update-II soon afterwards.

Join the QQ discussion group as soon as possible. Any question or suggestion by e-mail or QQ message is welcomed and will get the feedback in time.

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