

Philosophy, Economics and Politics: Current Debates

Jaromír Baxa, Vilém Semerák (IES FSV UK)

About this course

Simulated negotiation of the resolution of one of the current events.

The purpose of this game is to

1. understand the obstacles of negotiations of political and economic agreements.
2. learn negotiation techniques.
3. broaden and deepen understanding of the EU affairs
4. learn how to write short policy papers

About this course

Three parts:

1. Four lectures
2. The game
 - a. Formation of the teams + formulation of the strategy
 - b. Position papers and voting of alternative proposals to be elaborated
 - c. Policy proposals and voting of the final solution
3. Follow-up: Debrief and short essays.

Topics for 2020

1. Climate Change: Shall the EU countries adopt the European Green Deal?
2. Brexit: Which EU-UK Trade Deal? Single Market, Free-Trade Agreement or the “Australia Agreement”.
3. EU Security screening: Shall the EU decide on investors in key sectors (i.e. infrastructure) with regards to security and policy?
4. Shall the EU harmonize the corporate tax among the EU member states?
5. Shall the EU impose the digital tax?

More on the topics [here](#).

Groups

1. European Commission + European Parliament (organizes the negotiations)
2. Selected EU countries
3. Reuters agency (Teachers)

Group members selected by the teachers

Roles within groups:

- Analysts (prepare the analytical report and provide decision makers with necessary facts and background knowledge)
- Decision makers (responsible for voting and negotiations between groups)
- Chair of the session (role associated only to European Commission group – responsible for chairing the sessions)

Structure of the game

First round: Position papers

- Elaboration and presentation of position papers
- Review of position papers by other groups
- Voting on a set of potential solutions

Each alternative proposal is accepted if not vetoed by any other group. Note that at this stage the group does not have to accept the alternative as such but it can express conditions upon which any alternative could be accepted. The veto shall be used if and only if the proposal is clearly unacceptable for the group. Each group must vote for “yes” or “no”, no neutral position possible.

Other voting rules are possible as well if they gain unanimous support.

Structure of the game

Second round: Policy proposals and final decision

- Elaboration and presentation of policy proposals
- Review of policy proposals by other groups
- Voting on a set of potential solutions

The proposal is accepted if not vetoed by any other group.

Hence, the solution has to be accepted unanimously.

Evaluation

Graded activities	Points
Position paper	0-20
Voting on the position paper (10 - losing the vote; 15 - proposal of a group elected)	10/15
Policy proposal	0-20
Voting on the policy solution proposal (10 - losing the vote; 20 - proposal of a group elected)	10/20
Written personal assessment - short essay	0-15
Compliance of the final deal with group's main goals	0-10
Bonus points for extraordinary performance (Excellent presentations or policy proposal & Identification of invalid arguments of other groups.)	0-10

Previous years

2018/2019: Migration in the EU: Shall countries that do not accept migrants receive less EU funds?

2017/2018: Brexit negotiations, in particular the arrangement of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

2016/2017: Italian banking crisis and the obstacles of the EU-wide resolution mechanisms of banking and fiscal crises.

Previous years

2016/2017: Italian banking crisis and the obstacles of the EU-wide resolution mechanisms of banking and fiscal crises.

Fictional bankruptcy of a second-largest bank in Italy was announced, with a risk of loss of savings by many ordinary citizens in Italy. The nationalization of the bank was effectively blocked by strict EU fiscal rules, and Italy was not willing to accept the austerity programme as a pre-condition of the EU-wide resolution mechanism, rather, it declared a willingness to breach the EU rules.

The EU countries and the European Commission negotiated creation of the “bad bank” that would accumulate the underperforming loans mainly from the EU-South to rebuilt liquidity of the banking sector in Italy, Spain and in other countries as well.

Previous years

2017/2018: Brexit negotiations, in particular the arrangement of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The EU accepted the withdrawal under the condition that the UK will propose a technical measures on the Irish border that would assure that the EU Single Market would be protected.

The EU and the UK negotiated participation of the UK within the single market but with an option to set quotas on inflow of new incoming workers to the UK after the Brexit.

The UK accepted the validity of the decisions of the EU courts.

Previous years

2018/2019: Migration in the EU: Shall countries that do not accept migrants receive less EU funds?

Negotiations of the new multiannual financial framework. Game setting: Sweden and Denmark decided to block adoption of the new MFF if the Dublin is not replaced by a new system that would assure more equal redistribution of refugees among the member states and that the new system would be effectively enforced.

Result: The budget on cohesion and common agricultural policy will not decrease, but the enforcement of common rules enforced. A country that does not obey the Council decision shall lose access to the EU funds, two-thirds voting would be sufficient, but it has to be confirmed by the European Court of Justice.

Voting on the topic for 2019/2020

On-line form, until Wednesday, February 19, 8 PM.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVVqke_PbM1uWOPD65FyE1CWtx00VYxmirWGz-W_YMWMSoag/viewform?usp=sf_link