

The Press Team Presents

Once IN ZANTE

The ultimate MEP experience

All the session updates and events

TRAN
EMPL

SEDE
ITRE

ENVI
LIBE

WHAT

WE TALK *about*

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MEET THE PRESS TEAM

FROM ALL OVER EUROPE WE
MEET IN ZANTE SO WE CAN
BRING TO YOU THE HOTTEST
NEWS AND UPDATES ON THE 7TH
MED MEP IN ZANTE,HELLAS



COMMITEE PRESIDENT NELLY KOULOURI

FROM ATHENS ,HELLAS NELLY IS
THE PRESIDENT OF THE HARDEST
WORKING AND UNDERVALUED
COMMITEE : THE PRESS TEAM . SHE
IS A SAGITTARIUS AND FUN TO BE
AROUND!



DELEGATE

LOLA VANHEE

LOLA IS A PROMISING DELEGATE OF THE
PRESS COMMITEE. WITH HER AMAZING
CAMERA AND HER AMAZING WRITING
SKILLS SHE IS A LOVELY CONTRIBUTION
TO THIS CURRENT MEDMEP. OH AND SHE
IS A PISCES



DELEGATE

KALLIOPI ILIAKI

FROM ATHENS TOO KALLIOPI JOINED
THE PRESS TEAM WITH LOVE AND
ENTHUSIASM TO TRY SOMETHING
KNEW.SHE LOVES EDITING AND IS AN
AQUARIUS



DELEGATE

MARKO KITINOV

FROM NORTH MAKEDONIA MARKO CAME
TO ZANTE WITH ONE GOAL: TO BE AN
AAWESOME ADDITION TO THE PRESS
TEAM ! WE ARE ALL EQUALLY EXCITED
FOR HIM TO JOIN US . AND HE IS A VIRGO!



OPENING CEREMONY





A sunny morning kicked off the session on the beautiful island of Zakynthos, where everyone gathered at Strani Hill, a place of historic significance, said to be the very location that inspired Dionysios Solomos to write Hellas's national anthem. There, we were drawn in by the remarkable voices of Mr Velissarios, prominent Greek tenor and Ms Athanasopoulou, an enchanting Greek soprano.

The day continued at the Municipal Theatre of Zante, where Madam President of MEP Hellas, Ms Esther Papanikolaou, delivered an inspiring speech, asserting that the younger generation is not merely the future — we are the present — and warmly welcoming everyone to the EuroMEP session in Zakynthos. Our beloved MEP President, Mr Gottfried Oehl, followed with a speech reminding us that war is never the answer. Highlights included a fascinating audio clip of Ancient Greek that, admittedly, no one understood, not even the Greeks, and a memorable reference to the Odyssey movie, encouraging each of us to reflect on the journey of Ulysses.

The opening ceremony featured a remarkable lineup of speakers, each addressing topics spanning from sustainability to history, politics and beyond. Particularly thought-provoking was the speech by President Mr Vaios Dionysopoulos, who prompted deep reflection with questions such as: "What kind of human beings do we want to remain?" He emphasised that having responsibility is a privilege, one we must never take for granted.

OPENING CEREMONY

Equally captivating, if initially puzzling, was the speech by Ms Sophia Defterigou, whose unique approach, with sign language, used empathy as a bridge to connect with young people.



Moving on to the Head of Delegation speeches, a highlight in their own right. The Head of the Hellenic Delegation delivered an informative and genuinely insightful address, historical facts included. Then came the classics: Austria, true to form, touched on Schnitzel and Mozart, though admittedly delegates had done their homework, weaving in Greek concepts such as *filotimo* and *parea*. Poland, meanwhile, made an intriguing reference to a Greek god (implying a self-comparison) and notably not one of the twelve Olympians. The speech from the Netherlands deserves special mention for its pleasant delivery, realistic cultural references, and one or two remarks that might raise an eyebrow in most EU member states.

An honorable mention must go to our special guests: the American brothers representing the United States, whose presence added a transatlantic dimension to the proceedings.

The day wrapped up following numerous speeches and a breathtaking performance by Ms Athanasopoulou and Mr Velissarios that left the entire room in chills. Afterwards, each delegation diligently and creatively struck their best poses for the group photos, before everyone made their way to lunch at the Musical School of Zante, where the first committee meetings took place.

MED-PORTS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

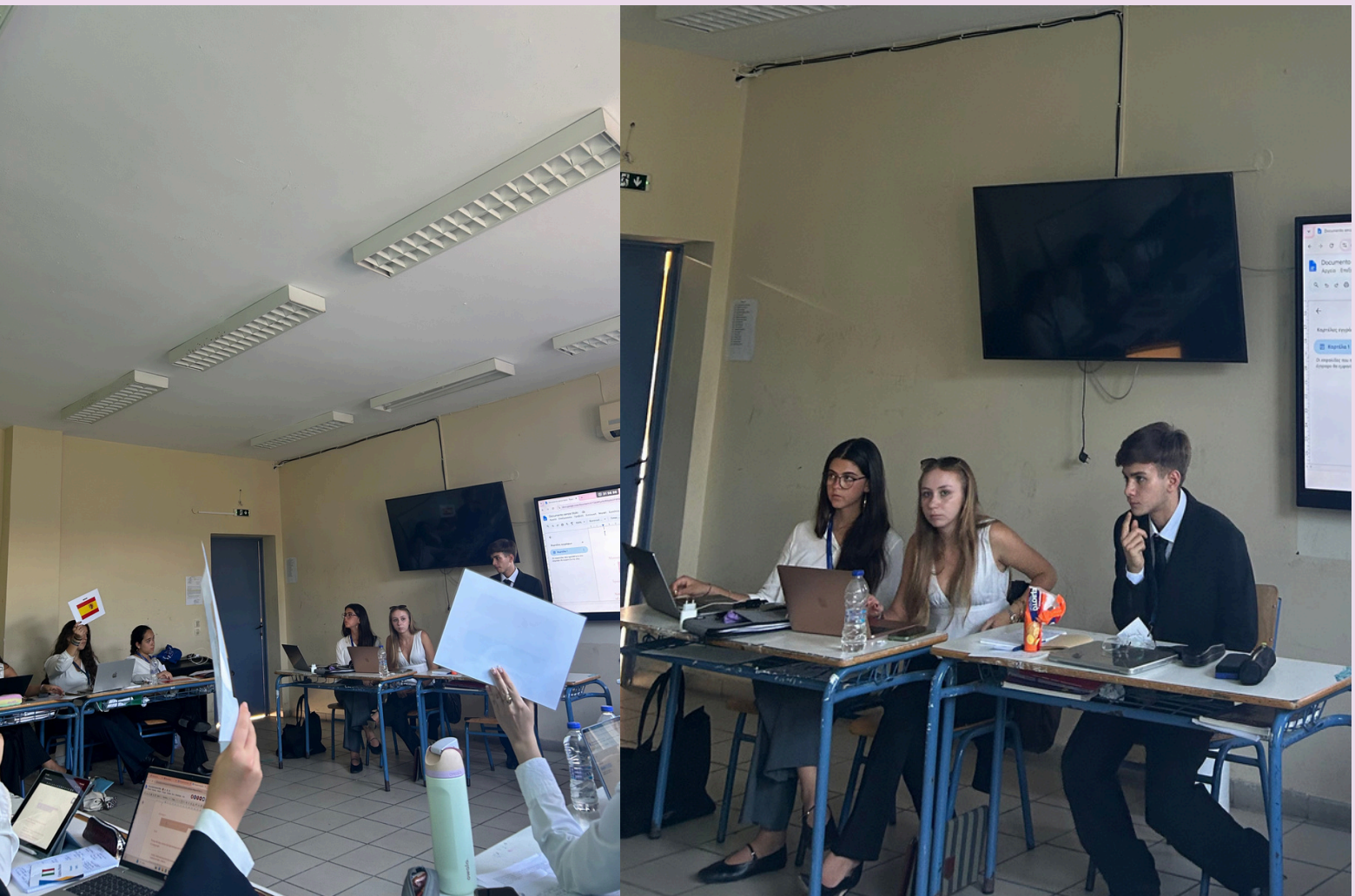
The TRAN committee began by brainstorming ideas before proceeding to eliminate, rephrase or preserve ICs one by one, as delegates carefully examined each proposal. Several nations stood out through their active participation, particularly the Netherlands, Hellas, Austria, Italy and Montenegro, whose delegates consistently contributed their perspectives and challenged existing ideas. As discussions progressed, disagreements emerged over the relevance and effectiveness of certain articles, with delegates questioning whether proposed measures truly addressed the issues at hand. Nevertheless, these differences often encouraged further debate and cooperation. A notable example was the collaboration between Belgium and Austria, whose delegates worked together to rephrase an IC and improve its clarity. Other nations, including Spain and the Netherlands, also did mergers in an effort to strengthen the committee's resolutions. Meanwhile, discussions surrounding marine security, disrupted shipping routes, rising insurance premiums and the financial difficulties faced by smaller shipping companies highlighted the challenges affecting European transportation. The reliable transport networks and cooperation between member states also became central to the debate. A highlight was the anonymous add of a text possibly created by artificial intelligence, however the identity of the perpetrator still remains a secret. Throughout the session, delegates demonstrated that reaching an agreement required not only convincing arguments, but also compromise and a willingness to consider alternative perspectives, as the TRAN committee concluded by voting 11 ICs.



MED-PORTS

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The EMPL committee started their day by brainstorming for the ICs, it is important to note that the EMPL committee is the definition of girl-boss energy, due to the fact that 99% of their members are female. Of course, we cannot disregard the only male CP from Malta, who is actually Italian, and between us he seems like a sweetheart. It is a committee which pleasantly has an optimistic number of ideas, good cooperation and broadcasts a willingness to find a solutions which indicates that the delegates actually know what they are talking about. However, the committee did go on a killing spree, striking out almost all of their ICs (probably without reason). A delegate asked what EURES service stands for and surprisingly the person who wrote the IC knew the answer but to their disappointment it got struck. To wrap up the day the committee ended up with 12 ICs, an attempt of making OCs and good vibes!



MED-PORTS

COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The committee SEDE is already working hard —impressively hard, in fact. With over twenty ICs on their plate, they were forced to start combining them. Their enthusiasm was so overwhelming that at one point, a full-blown argument broke out simply because no one could remember which ICs they'd agreed to merge, a classic sign of a committee that picked far too many topics and far too little sleep.

Montenegro proposed combining two ICs: the fraud committed by health insurances during a cyber attack, and the increasingly alarming trend of hospitals being targeted by hackers. Belgium, however, was having none of it. Their delegate swiftly pointed out that health insurance is fundamentally about money, while hospitals are about something far more precious, critical human lives. Cyprus nodded along solemnly, adding a heartfelt emphasis on those lives, because apparently someone had to.

On a more creative note, Belgium proposed enlisting the help of Psy Ops — a civilian organisation composed of psychology graduates dedicated to combating misinformation around cyber threats. Cyprus and the USA were immediately on board, though they couldn't resist suggesting that those who ignore Psy Ops should face punishment. Belgium, ever the voice of reason, reminded everyone that the organisation works precisely because it has no military ties keeping it blissfully free of political drama. A noble concept that the rest of the room slowly came around to. Conversations like these went back and forth several times, enough rounds to make it abundantly clear that Cyprus and Italy may be quietly forging an alliance. All in all, not a bad first meeting though a few delegates may want to consult a dictionary before the next session, as there were some colourful word choices made without the floor's permission. The committee wraps up with 15 ICs. Here's hoping they'll manage to produce their OCs on time and perhaps agree on what they're combining before the session begins.



MED-PORTS

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

In the ITRE Committee, there is a lot of discussion on topics ranging from solar panels to the energy consumption of AI. Bulgaria disagrees with the Netherlands and believes there is still plenty of space for solar panels. According to Bulgaria, agricultural land is available for these solar panels. Austria recognises that Romania has large gas fields. Denmark has substantial gas reserves, as it is one of the few significant gas producers in the EU. Hellas has considerable offshore potential, but its exploration efforts are slow. Austria regards this as a major problem and believes that something must be done about it.

The Netherlands ends a conversation with a worrying point. ITRE decided to say that they were deeply concerned about fossil fuels, but they also don't want clear energy, and that goes against each other.

After playing video games in secret, correcting more writing faults than IC's and delegates that did not always cooperate that greatly, this meeting came to an end. Despite the challenges, the committee managed to make some progress despite reportedly having 17 ICs which they hope to reduce, it will be interesting to see how the discussions continue in the next session.



MED-PORTS

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE, AND HOME AFFAIRS

How will the European Union balance migration management and fundamental rights ?
That's a question that the LIBE committee has to figure out !

The European Convention on Human Rights (1950) and the 1951 Refugee Convention established the key for refugees and their dignity to be protected, even so it remained a national responsibility. Half a decade later, during the Amsterdam Treaty (1997) and with the help of the Tampere European Council (1999) the foundations of CEAS (Common European Asylum Systems) were established . Today the problem is far from solved ! In 2024 the EU adopted the Pact on Migration and Asylum which has been applied since June of this year (June 12 2026) .

That does not mean that all its objectives have been achieved or that all concerns about fundamental rights have been resolved. There are still incomplete implementations, human rights concerns, unequal responsibility sharing and other political disagreements between the member states, lots of work for LIBE....

During the committee's first session, interesting ideas and beautifully phrased points were made. At one point the American delegation pointed out the immense immigration troubles that the EU is facing today which brought to light the Immigration and customs enforcement reference which of course led to a heated debate with the German delegation. It is important to point out the efforts of the Committee presidents to keep the situation under control and that the procedure was followed during the debate. At last the German delegation was able to pursue the committee in striking the OC from their resolution.

Despite the overall active presence of the committee the committee presidency would like to encourage all delegates to participate and they want them to know that they can always come to them if they have any questions about the procedure.

Overall I would like to congratulate the Committee for their work so far and I'm excited to see what's next to come -especially in the GA.



MED-PORTS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

The ENVI committee began by examining its proposed ICs, with delegates debating whether to keep, rephrase, merge or strike out different clauses. Throughout the session, several nations actively contributed to the discussions, particularly Italy, Netherlands and Spain, whose delegates challenged proposals and suggested ICs to improve their clarity and effectiveness.

Disagreements arose over whether certain ICs were specific enough, with several delegations questioning how the proposed measures would address the problems at hand. One notable discussion concerned Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), as delegates debated the need for better implementation, clearer designation and more effective monitoring to protect marine ecosystems from threats such as illegal fishing and overfishing. Belgium proposed rephrasing an IC to make its meaning clearer, while Italy emphasised the importance of addressing the European Union's role in monitoring these protected areas.

Another key debate focused on balancing environmental protection with the economic interests of coastal and fishing communities, particularly those whose livelihoods depend heavily on the fishing industry. The Netherlands highlighted the importance of considering these communities when addressing issues such as bycatch and restrictions on fishing.

Meanwhile, Bulgaria, Cyprus and other delegations questioned the wording and relevance of several proposals, leading to further rephrasals and voting procedures. Although reaching an agreement was not always straightforward, delegates continued to exchange ideas and seek compromises, demonstrating the importance of balancing public health, food safety and environmental. In the end the committee came up with 11 ICs, an attempt to make OCs and unlimited love for anything green-related.







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TO NEVER MISS A SESSION