



Interview with the Chairpersons of the ECOSOC Committee
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Today we are interviewing the chairpersons in the Environment and Human Rights Committees. Read more in pages 9



The IASIMUN OBSERVER



Second issue. Saturday, November 16, 2013



Putting MUN into gear



Human Rights pg.4

"Sparkling eyes, low, shy voices that become more and more determined, young adults firmly raising their placards to sustain their points of view. We are in the middle of the conference and everyone is steady on their positions(...)"



Political pg.5

"How can you take away people's fear of reporting certain crimes?" (delegate of Israel) "How do we decide which country is well developed and which one is not?" These were persistent questions in the debate." (...)



Environment pg.6

"Even when we make soap we use chemicals, we kill a plant or two and thus destroy a bit of the environment. Does that mean we should stop making soap? No. There is no way of maintaining the environment completely untouched." (...)



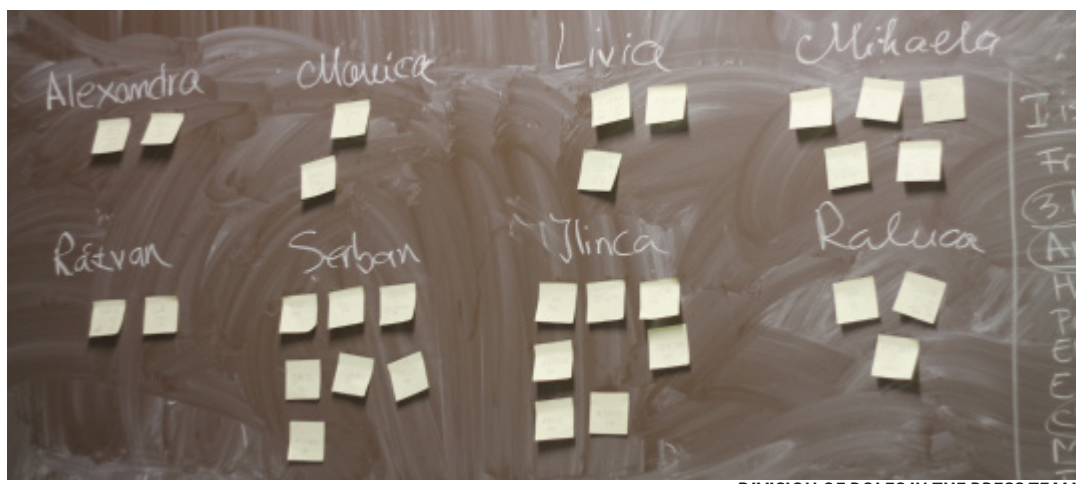
ECOSOC pg.7

"In some countries, such as Peru, people's lives are in danger every time they walk out of their houses. The delegate of Peru supported the idea that most of the people should be allowed to possess guns in order to defend their lives"(...)

EDITORIAL

To: IasiMUN From: Press Corps

THE PRESS TEAM



DIVISION OF ROLES IN THE PRESS TEAM
ILINCA ROMAN



CREATION OF THE PROMOTIONAL MOVIE OF 2014
GEORGE ADRIAN OPREA



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PEOPLE BEHIND THE PRESS
THE PRESS



FEATURES

Meeting the Italians Death Punishment: An Option or Not?

MIHAELA TRIȘCĂ

There we were, meeting our guests, the Italian students. As a welcome gift, the IasimUN crew, along with the head of the conference, Mrs. Victoria Sechelea, decided to simulate a short debate. After Mrs. Vice Principle made a short introduction, Ciprian described the activities from the conference. Since the beginning, the guests seemed

interested. The chosen topic was the "death penalty". Even though the people were relaxed, they all took it seriously.

The ice, regarding the topic, was broken by the delegate of UK: "It must be seen from the moral point of view: from the perspective of religion!", followed by the delegate of China: "60% of the

world population agrees with the death punishment!". Most of the arguments were against it. The delegates succeeded in catching everyone's attention.

"The death penalty is hypocritical!"

- The Delegate of Italy

In the middle of debating, due to the lack of time, the conference had to come to an end. It was followed by a short recital made by a small group of students from our college.

As a conclusion, the event was a success, which made an impression on our guests.



THE DELEGATES IN THE SIMULATION WITH THE ITALIAN GUESTS
ILINCA ROMAN



More Than a Simple Debate

RALUCA IRIMIA

"Present and voting!" The debates have now officially started in the Human Rights committee. Even after last night's social event, which consisted in a welcoming party for all the participants in the conference, all the delegates are up and about for a full day of "for" and "against" speeches. The excitement, commitment and devotion are not hard to notice on their faces.

The three issues that are going to be discussed on this edition of the conference are those of political refugees, communication privacy and last but not least, the right to clean water and sanitation. Nowadays, these are all major problems that the world confronts with and it is quite obvious that everyone is ready to stand up for their countries' position.

Starting with the topic of political refugees, submitted by the delegate of Bangladesh, the debates started in a quite intense manner. Whether offering full citizenship and support to the refugees is or is not the appropriate measure to take in this case, has been discussed during the first part of the day.

Strong "against" speeches have been developed by the delegate of China, who disagreed to the operative clauses that were included in the resolution, stating that "it doesn't tackle

the real problems of political refugees in affected countries, such as Egypt and North Korea, where abuse and organ trade are a common practice." The necessity of education offered to the inhabitants of a certain country, in order for them to learn to accept and help the political refugees, has also been an interesting approach to the debate.

Sparkling eyes, low, shy voices that become more and more determined, young adults firmly raising their placards to stay true to their points of view. We are in the middle of the conference and everyone is steady on their positions. And so are we, the Press Corps, to make sure you are on track!



DEBATE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

ȘERBAN STELEA



VIETNAM AND USA VOTING FOR IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

GEORGE ADRIAN OPREA



DELEGATES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

ILINCA ROMAN



POLITICAL COMMITTEE



THE DELEGATES IN DEBATE IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

ILINCA ROMAN

This resolution has passed! ...but is it the best solution?

ALEXANDRA ZĂVOI

Another promising day of the conference has passed. The delegates were more than ready to state and support their views on the topics discussed. Overall, it has been a fruitful debate, full of passionate speeches and interesting resolutions.

The day has started by discussing the first resolution on the topic "Which way for Egypt?". The delegate of Italy (the main submitter of this resolution) started his speech by saying that "Even if we have different opinions, we all agree on something: the situation in Egypt cannot remain the same." The whole debate on this topic was governed by repeated questions on Egyptians' religious views. Would they agree to have a democratic system? Is women's position in the Egyptian society suitable for such a regime? "What we want is not necessarily what we need", as the delegate of Jordan wisely said, in response to China's statement "Egypt needs democracy." This led to fundamental questions on morals, on our values and on our societies' status. "Is not giving people what

they want against human rights?" asked the delegate of Iraq. Maybe it is, we do not know this for sure yet. But what we do know, as the delegate of the USA said, is that violence is not the solution.

On a different tone, there sure were some funny moments in our debate as well. The delegate of Iran ended his passionate speech by proudly stating a wise and obvious fact: "Iran has the best system because it is perfect and it has no flaws."

Moving on to a different topic, the Kurdish problem, the debate became even more exciting. Numerous placards were being raised as the delegates wanted to hold more speeches, to entertain more points of information and to propose amendments.

The delegates argued that this is a matter of opinion and different beliefs. It is therefore a hard problem to tackle with, since they believe people's views are hard to change. "How do you convince other countries to accept an Autonomous Movement and respect the Kurds' human rights?" "Do we have the money to implement these changes?" These are few of the questions asked in this debate. The delegate of Sudan asked:

"Since when is more violence a solution to violence?"

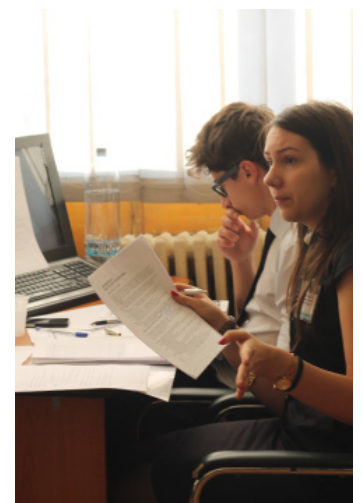
As always, there were some delegates who did not properly do their research. After holding a heartwarming speech, where she said "All of us are human, created from blood and flesh. We are all equal. This might not be the best solution, but it sure is a step towards finding it.", the delegate was not able to answer a certain question due to not having done enough research. Instead, she settled with gladly informing the delegates that "the Kurds are all over the place!"

Last but not least, the topic of transnational organised crime was also discussed. In her speech, the delegate of France stated that "We should take small steps in solving this issue. There's a famous saying <<Quality over quantity>>. We, young delegates, represent the future of our world." Following the same idea, the delegate of Jordan said that "We are tired of living ages of darkness and suffering. This complex problem tends to never end."

However, ways of solving this issue are hard to be found. The problem of money was raised, as well as the uncertainty of the solutions proposed. The delegate

of Qatar was afraid of a possible failure and did not believe in the success of this resolution.

"How can you take away people's fear of reporting certain crimes?" (delegate of Israel) "How do we decide which country is well developed and which one is not?" These were persistent questions in the debate.



POLITICAL COMMITTEE

ILINCA ROMAN

Therefore, this year, the Political Committee has raised to the expectations and even overcame them. Close wins, dramatic twists and unremitting clashes sure made this day worth remembering!



DELEGATES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
ILINCA ROMAN



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MONICA BÎLBĂ

“How can solutions be discovered if we don’t even know what the problems are?” (China)

MONICA BÎLBĂ

Yesterday’s debate started off as expected, with the resolution submitted by the delegate of Russia, on the topic of Shale Gas extraction. The main issue discussed was the lack of knowledge and, in fact, how little people actually know about the problems fracking causes or how easily they can be avoided.

“Effects are little, the profit is huge.” (Russia)

Throughout the next hour, different points of view were presented and countries suggested various ways of tackling with the issue. The delegate of Ireland, deeply concerned about the safety of animals, demanded to

know what would happen to species that live near shale gas wells. The delegate of China confidently replied that there are no studies to sustain Ireland’s worries. “Even when we make soap we use chemicals, we kill a plant or two and thus destroy a bit of the environment. Does that mean we should stop making soap? No. There is no way of maintaining the environment completely untouched.” After a few more speeches, it was clear that Russia and China had made their point, so their resolution passed with a clear majority.

The next resolution debated in the Environment Committee was the resolution on the topic of Agricultural Development and Food Security, submitted by the

delegate of Finland. Clauses were cut, kept and added, while delegates contradicted each other and kept challenging themselves to come up with new arguments. “Is it enough to raise awareness?” (China), “What makes the delegate of Finland believe that farmers would simply donate their products?” (Austria), were questions that the submitters had to face. However, as we all know it, the Chinese will always go to great lengths to get what they want and so did the delegate of China, who did not stop until she got half of the committee on her side.

All in all, Saturday was a good day and the debate held in the Environment Committee was quite fruitful. Next step: General Assembly.



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MONICA BÎLBĂ

ECOSOC COMMITTEE

Weapons: way to defend or homicide?

MIHAELA TRIȘCĂ

Right from the start, the debate was put into gear by the delegate of the USA. First of all, the topic regarding the Restriction of weapon usage was brought into discussion. The delegates thought about the problem of teenagers allowed to possess guns and use them from the age of 16.

The delegate of USA started to talk about the high rate of weapon usage among the citizens, without being taught how to use them and in which circumstances: "less restrictive measures will encourage legal purchase!".

The delegate of Argentina strongly supports the idea that teenagers should not be allowed to use weapons: "Would a parent feel safe to send his child to

a school where children are carrying guns in their pockets?", together with the delegate of UK: "At 16 teenagers are too emotionally instable to own a gun; 18 would be appropriate: at 18 people are conscious enough to make decisions on their own". The delegates also mentioned the use of weapons by people with diseases such as Alzheimer's: The delegate of USA: "They should benefit from special programs!".

"What if a person with semi-paralysis shoots, his hand shakes and he aims a baby's head?" – delegate of Argentina

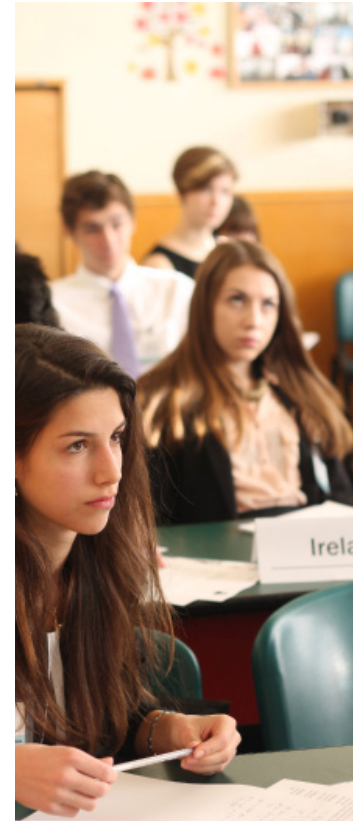
In some countries, such as Peru, people's lives are in danger every time they walk out of their houses. The delegate of Peru supported the idea that most of the people should be allowed to possess guns in order to defend their lives: "If you think gun

ownership is wrong, then you are not well informed. We must use weapons in an intelligent way. If you live in a country like Peru, you cannot leave your house without a gun, unless you are really brave or unwise!".

All in all, the issue of weapon usage was debated with huge enthusiasm, the delegates getting fully involved in the discussions, with the spirit of unity.

"You cannot whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

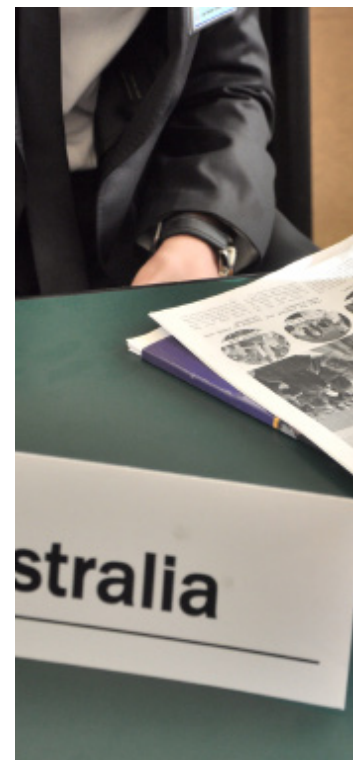
–the delegate of Morocco.



ECOSOC COMMITTEE
ILINCA ROMAN



THE DELEGATES IN THE ECOSOC COMMITTEE
ȘERBAN STELEA



ECOSOC COMMITTEE
ȘERBAN STELEA



Interview with the Chairperson of the ECOSOC Committee

Interview: codename "Arthur"

"Englishman in Iasi", isn't it? Tell us, Arthur, how come you're walking among us Romanians? "Well it started when I met a few Romanian students studying in England whom I became friends with, they told me about their lives in Romania and what they do. I heard about an NGO called Synergy Romania that was looking for volunteers to come help them out and I signed up for the experience. Now here I am!"

RĂZVAN RUSU

That's a nice story. Fancy telling us more about your best experiences here?

I have had the privilege of taking part in so many events and projects since I came to Romania. The stand out experiences though have been organizing an outdoor movie night on the roof of Moldova mall. I was the projectionist which was fun. Next was probably IasiMUN, a conference that happened a short while ago and a very memorable one for me.

Now, concerning IasiMUN, any feedback on the last years?

Unfortunately I haven't heard much of the previous years nor was I here for them so I cannot speak much about them. Only that what I have heard has been all positive and I am looking forward to making this next IasiMUN one of the best.

What exactly have you done and still do at the Press Corps?

I am their editor; I look over all their articles and make sure they are as grammatically correct as possible. It is easy to overlook small details so it's hard work but very enjoyable. I work with the team when I can also give them advice and help them improve their written English.

One thing to mention though is that I will also be a chairperson which is something I am very much looking forward to. I think it will be a real opportunity to contribute more with IasiMUN and have some fun with everyone.

Do you reckon your being here does more in terms of self-development than being in the UK would?

Oh yes definitely. In London I felt I didn't have very many opportunities which was holding me back in so many ways. Here in Romania I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm you all have for

not only volunteer work but also creating events for your communities. These either don't happen or I was not aware of them in England, I hope the latter but I fear the first. Coming here has been one of the best decisions of my life.

What do you expect from yourself and the others this year?

Well to work as hard as we can to provide not only an exceptional experience but to do our best to make it a thought provoking one too. IasiMUN is a chance to experience a simulated taste of how the adult world operates at the highest level. When we talk of success there really isn't much higher than being able to contribute in the United Nations. Through a MUN conference you can really imagine what it would be like to help the world improve and make your mark on it. I hope people really understand and embrace that idea.

We'll be lucky enough to have you around for many years to come, won't we?

Well my European Volunteer Service finishes at the end of May next year so officially I will have to leave then to make my reports and so forth. After that though I am free to return and work with you all as much as I like! Although after all I have experienced so far I don't think Romania will ever fully leave me no matter what I end up doing.

Any differences making the typical British student different from a Romanian one?

That's a hard question as I don't have nearly as much experience with the education system here. What I would say though is that education is prioritized far higher here than it is back at the UK. A diploma is not so essential and our attitude reflects that I think.

Secondly I would say that Romanian students are far more pro active in creating and arranging new things. There is a lot more emphasis on volunteering, faculty organisations and things like that. We really don't have that

much of this back home.

What do you enjoy doing the most?

Well that's a full question. I enjoy creative writing, playing video games, watching films, spending time with my friends. The usual things people enjoy to do I suppose but as for the enjoying the most? Probably sleeping... I have so much to do and I work frantically sometimes to get it all done. The few precious moments I get to sit down and rest or sleep are very welcome.

Anything else you'd like to tell us?

Yes, look into EVS or SEV if you want the Romanian acronym. It's a great way to see the world, travel, work

with young people and do amazing things that would never normally be a part of your life. Not enough people take advantage of the opportunity it presents which is a real shame; the government budget will eventually get smaller if people don't which would mean less opportunities for everyone.

So if you are interested in travelling and seeing more of the world before you settle into full time work then do look into European voluntary service. It's brought me here which is a very good example of the fun you can have doing through it!

Thanks, Arthur.

Thank you for the opportunity.



CHAIRPERSON OF THE ECOSOC COMMITTEE

GEORGE ADRIAN OPREA

INTERVIEW

Interview with the Chairpersons of the Environment Committee and Human Rights Committee

Let us see again what the chairpeople say about IASIMUN and the debate

MONICA BÎLBĂ
RALUCA IRIMIA**RADU PUIU**

1. You live in Botosani; what drove you towards applying to IasiMUN as a Chairperson?

I love enrolling into debating activities! And particularly, IasiMUN is an interesting opportunity to improve your social and analytical abilities. Moreover, I was a delegate during last year's conference; naturally, I wanted to participate again, but to have a different perspective on it.

2. What was the

delegates are really into debating and have quality materials to form their opinion. I do wish that today we will be part of a lucrative debate, one that keeps every delegate engaged and curious.

4. Did you know anybody from Iasi before you applied for the Chairing position? If so, in what circumstances did you meet them?

I applied for the IasiMUN Conference regardless of who I knew. It can be quite scary for some, but for me it is funny to go to a place where you do not know anybody. Although I knew some people from last year's conference, I also met some cool

ends, you will be relaxed like never before, because you know you gave your best. In the end, let me share a fascinating saying: "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." - Albert Einstein

SILVIU UNGUREANU

Silviu Ungureanu, former delegate and now chairperson of the Human Rights committee, has answered a few questions regarding his participation, expectations and future plans.

1. In your opinion, is this year's edition different in any way from the previous ones?

Seeing an event from "the other side" always implies differences, but I am pleased to

and enjoy it as much as I did.

3. What do you think of the delegates' opening speeches and what are your expectations for the next days?

The delegates' opening speeches showed a good understanding of the issues and their countries' stances on the topics. I expect to see the delegates successfully apply what they've proven to know and hold a high standard of debate.

4. Tell us about your work as a Human Rights chairperson.

Being a chairperson in Human Rights involves moderating the flow of the



DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
ILINCA ROMAN



CHAIRPERSON OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
ILINCA ROMAN

preparation for the conference like, considering the other Chairs were all from Iasi?

After I was selected to be a Chairperson, I started to get familiar with the position. Afterwards, we started doing serious research in order to come up with the three topics. However, I personally prepared for this conference by listening to some audio books in order to improve my English accent.

3. What expectations do you have for today's debate from the delegates in your committee?

As I witnessed today, the

people at the meetings with the Staff. All in all, I met some really fascinating people at the conference.

5. What would you like to say to all the delegates who will be reading the IasiMUN Observer tomorrow?

"Stay hungry, stay foolish" is a favourite quote of mine. You, the delegates, should be extremely curious about what others say, and should be really bold when debating. Sincerely, you should put aside every other part of your life, and be involved in this conference 100% both intellectually and physically! Think of that; when the conference

notice that this year's delegates seem to be as excited and serious as ever, as well prepared and as ready to debate. So, in all meaningful aspects, this edition is just the same as the previous ones.

2. What determined you to participate as a chair this year?

My previous three participations in IasiMUN as a delegate have been among the greatest experiences of my high-school life, and have helped me immeasurably. This year, I wished to take part in making sure that others discover the conference

debate, ensuring that each side is given adequate representation and, of course, that they follow all of the conference's rules and procedures.

5. Are you going to pursue a career in debating, or is it just a passion, a way of self-improvement?

Actually, I wish to work as a researcher in Computer Science so, for me, debating is a way to develop along another side. I especially enjoy the logical side of it, as few things are as rewarding as bringing a former opponent to your side through the use of well-placed arguments.

Let's see again what the chairpeople say about IASIMUN and the debate

Interview with the chair of the ECOSOC Committee - Andrei Coca

MIHAELA TRIȘCĂ

1. Why did you choose ECOSOC?

Because I find it a very interesting committee. I really enjoy this year's topics, actually, I have enjoyed all the topics being discussed in ECOSOC.

2. How would you describe the lasiMUN experience?

Being part of lasiMUN is a different experience than anything else I have done in my life.

3. Why do you recommend participation in lasiMUN?

People's lives should have diversity in them, and lasiMUN is really different from daily experience. Taking into account that the conference takes place once a year, this opportunity should not be missed.

4. What are your expectations from this year's debates?

I expect interesting and fruitful debates, and I expect delegates to be very active and dedicated. The topics are catchy and delegates could spend a really good time talking about them.

5. Do you see yourself the next year as still a part of lasiMUN? If yes, still as a chairperson?

"Yes, I enjoy being a part of lasiMUN. We talk, we laugh together, we are all like a big family. Yes, I would like to be a chairperson the next year too."



CHAIRPERSON OF THE ECOSOC COMMITTEE
GEORGE ADRIAN OPREA



IASIMUN

microphone

by *Livia Ciobanu* and *Șerban Stelea*

Distiguished delegates, it is time to answer a fundamental question: If your country were to be an animal, what animal would it be and why ?



It would be a cat, because it always gets what it wants.

Aida Iuliana Ghergu
Delegate of France – Political Committee

That is a good question! I think that it would be ... a tiger maybe. Even if Afghanistan is a poor country, it is a powerful one, with big ideas and inspiration and it needs to be recognized.

Alexandra Mihăilă
Delegate of Afghanistan – Political Committee



I believe it would be a wolf, because people in Jordan are as united as the wolves that are wandering in a pack.

Andrei Zugravu
Delegate of Jordan – Human Rights Committee

It would be an elephant, because it is very big.

Răzvan Gabriel Apostu
Delegate of Denmark – Human Rights Committee



I think my country would be an owl because it has great mentality and it makes wise decisions.

Ioana Cămui
Delegate of Norway – Environment Committee

My country would be a jaguar because it reminds me of luxury and wealth, words that perfectly describe Saudi Arabia.

Andrei Damaschin
Saudi Arabia – ECOSOC Committee



FUN

Another IASIMUN

Another opportunity for socializing

LIVIA CIOBANU

The first day of conference was, as expected, a busy one for everybody. Since IASIMUN also means communicating and making connections, the idea of a social event could not have been left aside. Therefore most of the participants gathered together for the "Welcome Dinner".

These kind of forgathers are offering the great opportunity to meet people

in a different, rather informal, context and even start a friendship. Maybe this can help during the official conference, by creating a more comfortable working enviroment, therefore a productive one.

Pleasant talks and laughs maintained a great atmosphere: people had the chance to meet and to begin to know eachother. After having discussed

their personal experiences of the first day, all of the members said that they are looking forward to the next days of the confrence. The dinner was followed by a very nice party. Some had lots of fun at trying to do karaoke. They all enjoyed themselves by dancing and relaxing after a full day. At the end of the party, everybody went home in a very good mood, smiling and waiting for the next

day. This is merely just a small part of the unique MUN experience: besides the skills that are gained by the end of this project, antoher advantage is learning how to stay professional and deal with a formal setting, but also to know how to have fun and make the best of your free time.



TEAM HAVING FUN IN KARAOKE
GEORGE ADRIAN OPREA



PARTY IN THE STYLE OF IASIMUN
THE PRESS CORPS THINKS IT IS GEORGE ADRIAN OPREA



PART OF THE IASIMUN CREW
ILINCA ROMAN