

DILEMMA 1: UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

You are the European Council, and must find an answer to the dilemma below. Because it is an important decision, the parliaments of all member states (i.e. the other students) must all agree with your solution.

The European Union began as a collaboration among independent countries. Some countries believe that this is not enough. To compete successfully with large countries such as the USA and China, the EU should form something like a (supranational) United States of Europe. Other countries want the European Union to remain an (intergovernmental) collaboration among independent nations.

Current situation: The EU is currently structured to include both supranational and intergovernmental elements. Countries wish to retain their independence (sovereignty). The United States of Europe is currently not a concrete proposition.

DILEMMA: SHOULD THE EU CONTAIN AS MUCH SUPRANATIONAL REGULATION AS POSSIBLE, OR SHOULD THE MEMBER STATES REMAIN AS INDEPENDENT AS POSSIBLE?

Answer the following questions:

1. List as many arguments in favour of supranational collaboration in the EU as possible.
2. List as many arguments in favour of intergovernmental collaboration in the EU as possible.
3. What solution will you propose to the other member states? Write down your group's chosen solution, and the arguments supporting it.

DILEMMA 2: EUROPEAN UNION EXPANSION

You are the European Council, and must find an answer to the dilemma below. Because it is an important decision, the parliaments of all member states (i.e. the other students) must all agree with your solution.

In its early days, the European Union was a European collaboration among six countries. It currently counts 28 member states. Some people believe that the European Union is big enough already, and that there is no room for more countries.

Copenhagen Criteria

To be eligible for accession, each country must first meet the Copenhagen Criteria. The EU has the right to decide if and when candidates meet these three criteria. Countries may only join the EU if all current member states agree.

New member states must:

1. have stable institutions that safeguard democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for minorities;
2. have a functioning market economy and be able to compete within the EU; and
3. accept the obligations of membership, adopt the EU community laws and regulations, and subscribe to the intentions of the EU.

Current situation: Accession negotiations are currently underway with Turkey, the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. Iceland was once a candidate, but officially withdrew its application in 2015.

DILEMMA: SHOULD THE EUROPEAN UNION CONTINUE TO EXPAND, OR IS 28 COUNTRIES ENOUGH?

Answer the following questions:

1. List as many arguments in favour of expanding the European Union as possible.
2. List as many arguments as possible for keeping the European Union at its current size.
3. What solution will you propose to the other member states? Write down your group's chosen solution, and the arguments supporting it.?

DILEMMA 3: TURKEY IN THE EU?

You are the European Council, and must find an answer to the dilemma below. Because it is an important decision, the parliaments of all member states (i.e. the other students) must all agree with your solution.

Turkey expressed its interest in joining the EU in 1987, and the negotiations are still underway. It is uncertain whether Turkey will ever become a member. To be eligible for accession, each country must first meet the Copenhagen Criteria, which were set in Copenhagen by the EU member states. For example, new members must adopt the laws of the EU, be a democratic country and respect human rights. In Turkey's case, there are also other arguments and considerations.

Copenhagen Criteria

To be eligible for accession, each country must first meet the Copenhagen Criteria. The EU has the right to decide if and when candidates meet these three criteria. Countries may only join the EU if all current member states agree.

New member states must:

1. have stable institutions that safeguard democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for minorities;
2. have a functioning market economy and be able to compete within the EU; and
3. accept the obligations of membership, adopt the EU community laws and regulations, and subscribe to the intentions of the EU.

Current situation: Turkey is officially still a candidate country. However, in July 2017 a large majority in the European Parliament called to cease Turkey's accession negotiations, as the country drifts further and further away from European democratic values. This was mainly prompted by a referendum held in Turkey on 16 April 2017 regarding a new constitution that grants current president Erdogan more power. And the negotiations on several topics had not even begun, as the EU is demanding that Turkey realise free movement of goods with Cyprus, and acknowledge the Republic of Cyprus. Both of these requirements remain unfulfilled.

DILEMMA: SHOULD TURKEY BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THE EU OR NOT?

Answer the following questions:

1. List as many arguments as possible for allowing Turkey to join the EU.
2. List as many arguments as possible for why Turkey should not be allowed to join the EU.
3. What solution will you propose to the other member states? Write down your group's chosen solution, and the arguments supporting it.

DILEMMA 4: AN EUROPEAN ARMY?

You are the European Council, and must find an answer to the dilemma below. Because it is an important decision, the parliaments of all member states (i.e. the other students) must all agree with your solution. Europe currently has no joint army. Many European countries are members of NATO, which guarantees support from other countries in the event of an attack. Canada and the United States are also NATO members.

Some believe that, for its own safety, the European Union should be less dependent on the United States. They believe that the European Union needs its own army for an active foreign policy. Others are against the idea of a European army, as European countries do not always agree on foreign policy, and they say that NATO is more than enough. Current situation: Currently there is no permanent EU army. Whenever necessary, individual countries provide troops for disarmament and humanitarian operations, military recommendations and support, conflict prevention and crisis-management missions.

DILEMMA: SHOULD THE EUROPEAN UNION HAVE A JOINT ARMY OR NOT?

Answer the following questions:

1. List as many arguments as possible in favour of a joint EU army.
2. List as many arguments as possible against a joint EU army.
3. What solution will you propose to the other member states? Write down your group's chosen solution, and the arguments supporting it.

DILEMMA 5: ONE OFFICIAL EU LANGUAGE?

You are the European Council, and must find an answer to the dilemma below. Because it is an important decision, the parliaments of all member states (i.e. the other students) must all agree with your solution.

The EU currently has 24 official languages, all of which are also official working languages. This means that all European laws are drawn up in these languages, that all Parliamentarians can use them during debates, and that all citizens can write to the EU in any language on the list. Translator and interpreter fees cost each EU citizen around 3 euros per year.

Current situation: There are currently 24 working languages in the EU, with no plans to reduce the number. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union states: 'Every person may write to the institutions of the Union in one of the languages of the Treaties and must have an answer in the same language.'

DILEMMA: SHOULD THE EU ADOPT ENGLISH AS ITS OFFICIAL WORKING LANGUAGE, OR SHOULD THE 24 CURRENT LANGUAGES REMAIN?

Answer the following questions:

1. List as many arguments as you can in favour of abolishing the 24 official languages and instating one official language instead.
2. List as many arguments as you can in favour of keeping the 24 official languages.
3. What solution will you propose to the other member states? Write down your group's chosen solution, and the arguments supporting it.