

## **Cambridge University international Model United Nations 19th session**

*'From this place, we gain enlightenment and precious knowledge'*. This official motto of the Cambridge University revealed itself to us when we took part in the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Cambridge University International Model United Nations from the 29<sup>th</sup> of November to the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013. This year the University of Graz sent a delegation of four students, including our head-delegate Christoph Cede, Stefan Dreisiebner, Manuela Fröhlich and me, the humble author of this article, Boris Putrih. After an exhausting journey we used the little time we had left before the official schedule started to explore the beautiful and honorable city of Cambridge visiting all the impressing sights like King's College and its chapel, Round church and diverse pubs.

This year's conference was the largest so far in Cambridge with over 400 delegates from the shores of America to the coasts of Indonesia. There were 12 committees that, after a very cordial opening ceremony with great guest speakers such as Sir Richard Dearlove, former Chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service (known as MI 6) or Witold Sobkow, the current Polish Ambassador to Britain, started their work all across the town in the wonderful rooms of different colleges.

Our head-delegate Christoph was in the Crisis committee. Their topic was the French Revolution and especially its aftermath, the bloody Jacobin trials. After two and a half days of intrigue, conspiracy and bloody murders Christoph, who represented the King's brother (Louis-Philippe, Duke of Orleans), managed to get himself crowned king of the newly declared Constitutional Republic of France with a new flag that included a potato.

Stefan took part in the Security Council where he represented the Kingdom of Morocco. The Security Council had to face the problem of the highly disputed (and very legal) R2P doctrine that challenges the rules of the current international law. Their second topic was the ongoing unrest in Egypt. Unfortunately the idea of separating the Egyptian state into 15 Special Administrative Regions and distributing these regions among the Security Council members was not approved of.

Manuela was part of the World Health Organisation (WHO). She represented the interests of the Kingdom of Morocco when it came to the question of quality and availability of medical treatment worldwide. She also stated her opinion concerning the topic of establishing suitable international care standards, where one of her fellow delegates quoted original Chinese poems in order to convince the other member of his committee of his opinion.

As part of the Historical Council, I had the honor to negotiate the Peace of Westphalia at the congresses of Münster and Osnabrück once more. Representing the Most Serene Republic of Venice I did my best to defend Venice's interests at my first MUN conference. After tough negotiations our conference was capable of setting up a peace treaty that would ensure a stable peace in Europe. And even though I was only supposed to act as a special mediator I managed to gain a voting right and sign the peace treaty document.

Apart from debating and arguing we had the pleasure to attend a variety of social events such as an exclusive black-tie drinks reception at one of the city's finest hotels, a club night at a very popular venue of the city and a delicious formal dinner in the halls of Robinson and Newnham colleges. At these evenings we had the opportunity to meet and talk to all the delegates who took part in this year's Cambridge MUN conference. And due to these evenings we experienced the true spirit of the MUN conferences. It's about young, motivated students coming together from all over the world, getting to know and understand each other and trying to solve problems in a particular situation on a basis of a respectful and targeted dialogue. For me it was a fantastic experience that I would like to repeat and that I can only recommend to everybody.