

Groningen, Friday the 22nd of January 2021

Dear Members of the TEIMUN Community,

As the Netherlands continues to wage its battle with the third wave of the coronavirus pandemic, the Dutch government announced further restrictions on public life this Wednesday. These new measures will be in force until at least the 9th of February 2021, and their primary aim is to minimize the spread of the British (B-117) variant of the virus in the country.

In times like these, it is our number one priority to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our delegates and staff. While we have been working to organize a physical GrunnMUN conference with the highest degree of proactivity in this area, we no longer feel that we can guarantee it, especially in light of the most recent predictions by senior experts at the Dutch Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). Furthermore, as a Foundation we want to take responsibility for curtailing the spread of the virus, and want to encourage our delegates and staff to do the same.

The government's measures do not directly affect the hosting of a physical GrunnMUN conference in Groningen on the 11th of March 2021. Nevertheless, the above-mentioned reasons have motivated us to take the difficult decision to shift this year's edition of GrunnMUN to a fully online format. Please note that while the date of the conference remains unchanged, we will adjust the attendance fee downwards to reflect this new setup.

We are disappointed that we will not be able to welcome you in Groningen in person. Nevertheless, we feel that hosting GrunnMUN online for the very first time offers a lot of opportunities to all of us.

First and foremost the theme, councils, and topics of the conference all remain unchanged, promising the same quality of debates as a physical conference would. Secondly, this format allows us to welcome delegates from beyond the Groningen area, and even from outside the Netherlands. Last but not least, it provides us with an opportunity to get accustomed to large-scale online conferences, which will only become more common in the coming years.

Please note that we are still working towards hosting our TEIMUN conference in July in The Hague in person.

We trust that you share our concerns and would like to thank you for your understanding in this matter. Please continue to consult our website and social media channels for updates regarding the lowered attendance fee and other relevant information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via our social media channels, or by sending us an email at info@teimun.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you all (virtually) at GrunnMUN 2021!

Sincerely,
The TEIMUN Board of Directors 2020/2021

