



TEIMUN 2021

EUROPEAN CRISIS COUNCIL

TOPIC: THE EUROPEAN PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the European International Model United Nations. We are extremely excited to have you joining us for what will be for certain one of the most innovative and fast paced European Crisis Councils the conference has ever hosted. For many years TEIMUN has been a key area to push the boundaries of crisis and MUN, with this year being no different. With the pandemic finally abating (watch us swallow our words later) we are also extremely happy to be in person for the first conference since the start of the Pandemic.

However, we must not forget some of the key lessons and challenges we have faced across these past months, and this is something this council will indeed not allow you to do! Think your leaders had it too easy during the pandemic? Think that the European response was just too uncoordinated and slow? Sad you are not vaccinated yet? Well, this is your chance to have a go yourself. In this council, we will be combining all the action of the European Council (riveting) and the fast-paced activities that truly drove Europe during the months of the pandemic. You will have chances to discuss everything the leaders really did at the time, with all the stress, blaming, and backroom negotiations that they did. Because if Crisis is here to do anything, it's to throw delegates into the shoes of those with the decision making potential to change history.

History might not seem to be the right word to describe the events of the past year, but history it most certainly is. The effects of this pandemic will be felt for decades to come, even in ways we never thought possible. The increase of digitalization, growing inequality, political unrest, declining industries, power shifting, all will be dramatically affected by COVID and the decisions politicians made to tackle them.

We, the chairs of this European Crisis Committee, Mariya, Shane, Rizqi, Luis and myself, will be here to guide you through this exciting and unique committee. Throughout these few months, do not hesitate to reach out to us and query us incessantly, as if we are the EU staff helping set up these all important meetings. We look forward to meeting you in person, and cannot wait to help procure your change to history.

Kind regards,

Philippe Lefevre, Crisis Director of the TEIMUN 2021 ECC

Introduction

This committee will be very different in how it manages the European Council meetings. Delegates will each represent a head of government of the EU at the European Council, along with key institutional actors at the EU, and simulate the EC meetings across the months of the pandemic. Usually, EC meetings are 2 days long, and feature a huge range of topics from Russian aggression, to China, to Covid, to the Multiannual framework. What we will be doing is cutting that Agenda to one item, COVID-19. This means each day you will be tackling the topic of COVID-19 as if it were a new meeting each month, with roughly the same amount of time to come together and write a joint council statement as the real life members of the EC did. This will be an intense but rewarding experience, and give you a true insight into how the EC works. Unanimity is the name of the game here, and political bargaining will be rife throughout this simulation.

Our first day will be on March 25th, 2020, with each day propelling the EC one more month. In Between each day there will be a summary of the effects of your decisions the day before, and an understanding of this popularity in your own country. You must learn your country and its people to minute detail to understand their reaction and feeling to every aspect of the debate. Furthermore, the European Council, as the driving institution of the European Union, has a powerful role to play, what it says, happens. To that extent, delegates will be expected to produce a unanimous document at the end of each day specifying what actions they, as the European Union, have decided to take. This will not be easy.

At the same time, your home governments exist and are there to work with you and help you. Our crisis will feature a back-and-forth communication with your home countries to do as you

Title	Name
President of the European Council	Charles Michel
President of the European Commission	Ursula Von der Leyen
High Representative/Vice President	Josep Borell
Prime Minister of Belgium	Sophie Wilmès
Prime Minister of Bulgaria	Boyko Borisov
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic	Andrej Babiš
Prime Minister of Denmark	Mette Frederiksen
Federal Chancellor of Germany	Angela Merkel
Prime Minister of Estonia	Jüri Ratas
Taoiseach of Ireland	Leo Varadkar
Prime Minister of Greece	Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister of Spain	Pedro Sánchez
President of France	Emmanuel Macron
Prime Minister of Croatia	Andrej Plenković
Prime Minister of Italy	Giuseppe Conte
President of Cyprus	Nicos Anastasiades
Prime Minister of Latvia	Krišjānis Kariņš
President of Lithuania	Gitanas Nausėda
Prime Minister of Luxembourg	Xavier Bettel
Prime Minister of Hungary	Viktor Orbán
Prime Minister of Malta	Robert Abela
Prime Minister of the Netherlands	Mark Rutte
Federal Chancellor of Austria	Sebastian Kurz
Prime Minister of Poland	Mateusz Morawiecki
Prime Minister of Portugal	António Costa
President of Romania	Klaus Iohannis
Prime Minister of Slovenia	Janez Janša
Prime Minister of Slovakia	Igor Matovič
Prime Minister of Finland	Sanna Marin
Prime Minister of Sweden	Stefan Löfven

wish, ask for lockdown, request information, and more. This will be up to you the delegates to decide to what extent the action will occur, and will be an important part of this committee.

This background guide is here to set you in the scene of March 2020, and help explain what was on the minds of the leaders then.

Problem Specification

From the Plague of Justinian in the 540s AD to the Black Death during the Middle Ages to the Spanish Flu of 1918-1920, pandemics have been a part of human history as long as people have been congregating together. On November 17th, 2019, a 55-year old man residing in Hubei province in the People's Republic of China displayed the first detectable symptoms of COVID-19. While the exact origins of the virus and identity of 'Patient Zero' is still debated, this was the earliest example of symptoms flaring up in someone in the region. While doctors at the time did not realise that they were dealing with a new disease, by December 31st, 2019, health officials in China had informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about a cluster of 41 patients with a previously unseen form of pneumonia in Wuhan. Events escalated in early 2020, with Wuhan, a city of 11 million people, being placed under quarantine on January 23rd, the rest of the Hubei province followed days later. In total, 60 million people were affected by the lockdown, making this the largest quarantine in history until that point in time.

By the time of our Council meeting, it has become apparent that the lockdown of Hubei province came too late to prevent the disease spreading beyond its borders. By February 23rd, deaths had occurred in countries all around the world. The first death in Europe was recorded on February 14th in France. However, it was Italy that was the first EU Member State to experience the full effects of a deadly COVID-19 wave. On March 9th, the entirety of the Italian Republic was placed in a lockdown after the healthcare system in Lombardy in the North of Italy collapsed due to a large influx of COVID-19 cases.

The European Council met via video conference on March 10th to discuss how to coordinate a common EU-wide response to the unfolding crisis. President of the European Council Charles Michel outlined four key priorities which has been agreed upon by the leaders:

- limiting the spread of the virus

- the provision of medical equipment, with a particular focus on masks and respirators
- promoting research, including research into a vaccine
- tackling socio-economic consequences

This meeting was followed up a week later on March 17th with progress being made on the above issues, as well as an agreement being reached on cooperation with regards to aid for EU citizens stranded in third countries, making use of the Union's Civil protection mechanism where necessary. However, it is the European Council meeting which is set to occur on March 25th, 2020, that is to prove the most crucial for how the EU will navigate the pandemic. With almost every Member State in some form of a lockdown, European citizens are expecting a comprehensive and sensible approach to be taken to the crisis, unprecedented in its scale since the very inception of the EU itself.

Questions the Resolutions Must Answer

In each of the joint council statements of each day, three main issues will come to the forefront. These issues, whilst not the only ones relevant, will aim to form the main response to each day of the Covid pandemic, and reflect quite literally the approach taken by the European Council across 2020. For a closer look at how this will work in the Council, please refer to the Crisis Annex for more details. The responses to all three issues will change across the relevant days and this will be reflected in the makeup of each day's joint statement.

Initial Response and Coordination: The EC is highly influential in developing a common approach at the highest level and this will be critical in the EU response. Furthermore, the initial response should not be downgraded. This will often be a political but very influential response that will help shape the global narrative on Covid-19. See this as the political question to answer.

Testing and Vaccines: Here we look at the science of the pandemic, from testing to vaccine development. The EU and its members have some of the largest research budgets in the world, and strong scientific capabilities, but efforts must be made to share and improve them. See this as the scientific question to answer

Covid Recovery: With the devastation to the economy and global supply chains, a recovery will be needed. Negotiations for the Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU are already underway, and whilst there is no expectation for this to develop in this EC, how we tackle the economic recovery of Europe will be. See this as the financial question to answer.

Other questions may be addressed under an “other” section of a statement, but bear in mind the multitude of crises cannot be solved in one 6h session. Time is of the essence.

QARMA 1: Initial Response and Coordination

“I am convinced that the European Union can withstand this shock. But each Member State needs to live up to its full responsibility. And the EU as a whole needs to be determined, coordinated and united,” - Ursula von der Leyen, March 13th, 2020.^[1]

At the previous European Council meeting on March 17th, leaders agreed to focus on five key areas for the initial stages of the crisis, including a limitation of the spread of the virus, the promotion of research on treatment and vaccines and a substantive response to the socio-economic consequences of the lockdowns occurring across Europe.^[2] One of the most pressing issues raised was the urgent need for a sufficient stockpile of medical equipment to withstand the large influx of COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations occurring across the bloc. The medical equipment required can be divided into two general categories: firstly, personal protective equipment (PPE), such as surgical and cloth-based masks and respirators that are required in order to limit the spread of the virus. Secondly, critical hospital infrastructure such as ventilators are also needed to increase the capacity of Intensive Care Units and to avoid a collapse of the healthcare system similar to that already occurring in cities such as Bergamo in Northern Italy.^[3] In order to maintain a sufficient supply of PPE, 25 of the 27 European Council leaders have already agreed to a Joint Procurement Process. This delegates the responsibility of securing the necessary equipment to the European Commission, who will then distribute this amongst the Member States through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and rescEU emergency medical equipment stockpile.^[4] Any exports of medical equipment from the EU to third countries must be authorised by the relevant Member State authorities.^[5]

However, significant problems remain. In an effort to conserve supplies, some Member States, particularly those in the Eastern part of the bloc such as Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and the Czech Republic, have blocked the export of PPE to other

EU countries.^[6] It has also become clear that the current reserves in the strategic resceEU stockpile are insufficient and limited by bottlenecks in traditional supply chains. In fact, European Commission documents have now revealed that “internal estimates show that the ‘traditional’ supply will only be able to serve ca. 10% of the demand”.^[7] Of particular concern is the risk that this poses to medical workers who are dealing with COVID-19 patients directly; as a shortage of doctors and nurses poses an immediate threat to the functioning of hospitals and hence, the healthcare systems of Member States as a whole.

Other issues have also come to the fore with the outbreak of the crisis. In the age of social media, the twin obstacles of misinformation and disinformation are rife as European citizens panic over the rapidly escalating epidemiological situation and in particular over some of the unknown elements of this new disease. An EU document dated March 16th noted that the Russian Federation was engaged in a “significant disinformation campaign” against the West to worsen the impact of the coronavirus, generate panic and sow distrust.^[8] Misinformation spread on social media platforms, with or without intent, is leading to confusion and panic amongst significant portions of the European public and if the EU is to succeed in delivering an effective response to the crisis, this will need to be addressed. A clear and enhanced communication strategy as well as projects such as the EUvsDisInfo campaign could be expanded upon to educate the public and defend against disinformation threats.^[9]

There is also the question of European external and internal borders. External borders were closed to non-essential travel for a temporary 30 day period. This travel ban, agreed on March 17th, is the EU’s first major properly coordinated response to the health crisis.^[10] Internal border management is also becoming an issue: the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia have closed their borders to all foreigners (although Slovakia is still allowing Polish people to travel there). Many other Member States such as France, Germany and Spain amongst others have also shut their land borders with certain neighbouring countries.^[11] Coordination is particularly important with regards to internal border regulations, as while most Member States including Italy, France and Spain have opted for strict nationwide lockdowns, countries such as the Netherlands have taken a less restrictive approach, and it is this lack of a unified response that has led to the need for internal border checks.

While all Member States have de jure endorsed the Commission guidelines on border management measures, it has become clear that these have not been implemented by every Member State.^[12] According to the Commission, “recently recorded waiting times at certain internal EU borders went beyond 24 hours, even

for medical supplies”.^[13] Furthermore, the Commission has noted that as of March 25th, only three Member States had created ‘green lanes’ to allow essential goods and services to avoid the congestion caused by border checks.^[14] This will need to be addressed at the upcoming Council meeting, as delays in essential supply chains could have detrimental effects on everything from the availability of certain types of food and medicine to the provision of PPE and the free movement of medical staff.

“We need to ensure passage of medicines, food and goods and our citizens must be able to travel to their home countries,” - Charles Michel, March 17th, 2020.^[15]

Finally, the European Council agreed to focus on ensuring a safe repatriation of EU citizens currently in third countries. It has been proposed that the Union’s Civil Protection Mechanism could be utilised in order to achieve this aim where necessary. So far, approximately 1,400 EU citizens have been brought back to their home countries through this method, although many more citizens remain stranded, with as many as 300,000 citizens who may wish to return.^{[16] [17]} It is proving particularly difficult to repatriate citizens from Latin America and Southeast Asia due to a lack of information about EU citizens in these regions and a reliance on commercial airlines.^[18] It will be up to Member States to decide if they want to work with institutions such as the European External Action Service (EEAS) and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs on this issue or if they wish to repatriate their own citizens through national embassies only.

What is clear from the above issues is that a cogent and comprehensive response will be required to address the challenges brought on by the pandemic. While the various EU actors and institutions are calling for greater cooperation, not every Member State appears to be fully supportive of this, which will surely lead to some tense discussions at the upcoming Council meeting.

Questions the resolution should answer

- What is more important: EU solidarity in sharing PPE and other medical equipment in an equal manner, or ensuring that your country will have sufficient supplies? Can a compromise be found?
- How can the EU fight misinformation in the initial stages of the pandemic?
- How strictly should the EU enforce its external borders?
- Should European internal borders remain closed for the foreseeable future? How can Member States ensure the flow of essential goods and services is not interrupted?

- How can the EU ensure that its citizens in third countries can be repatriated safely? Should these citizens face a mandatory quarantine period?
- To what extent should Member States follow the lead of European actors and institutions such as the Commission and European Medicines Agency (EMA)? Should cooperation be a priority or should Member States pursue their interests independently?

QARMA 2: Testing and Vaccines

On December 30th, 2019, a document by the Medical Administration of Wuhan Municipal Health Committee issued an “urgent notice on the treatment of pneumonia of unknown cause”. Another notification, entitled “City Health Commission’s Report on Reporting the Treatment of Unknown Cause of Pneumonia” pinpoints this mysterious disease on the South China Seafood Market, pointing that the 1st patient to present the symptoms came from there. The first cases of the virus had patients showing fever, characteristics of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome, reduced or normal white blood cells in the early stages of onset, and also the reduced number of lymphocytes. Antibiotic treatment did not produce significant results.^[1]

By the next day, on December 31st, the World Health Organization (WHO) had been notified, and took immediate response on the following day, by activating its Incident Management Support Team (IMST), as part of an emergency response framework to better coordinate their own teams, on the Country, Regional, and Headquarters levels. The Chinese government started cooperating with the WHO, sharing what few information was available at the time on the “unknown pneumonia”, that still hadn’t taken any lives.^[2]

On the following days, Chinese authorities made a determination of a new coronavirus (CoV), which was identified on one of the patients in Wuhan. Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that ranges from the common cold to more severe diseases such as middle eastern respiratory syndrome (MERS) or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). According to the authorities at the time, the new virus in question could cause severe illness, and did not transmit readily between people, so no travel restrictions were applied.^[3] The Global Coordination Mechanism for Research and Development held its first teleconference on the new coronavirus, in order to discuss what they knew, how they could conduct the coming research and the next steps to take in order to contain the spread of this yet not fully understood virus.^[4]

Unfortunately, on January 11th, Chinese media reported the first death from the new coronavirus. And only two days later, a case of the same disease was identified in Thailand.^[5] On better news, WHO and its partners published the first protocol for an RT-PCR assay in order to diagnose the novel coronavirus. An RT-PCR is a “reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction”, which is a laboratory technique to determine the amount of a specific RNA (Ribonucleic acid) on a strand of DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid). The protocol also related the novel coronavirus with the 2003 SARS disease, and among many names, the nomenclature “SARS-CoV” is presented in the report.^[6]

On a WHO press-statement, it was said that further research needed to be conducted in order for harsher measures, and at the time human-to-human transmission was still unknown, all that could be done was standard SARS-related response, also issued by the WHO.^[7] The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, on January 15th, notified a case of the novel coronavirus in a citizen who had travelled to Wuhan, being the second case outside of the People’s Republic of China to ever be reported.^[8] January 20th brings the first reported case of the virus in the Americas, with a confirmed case in the United States of America.^[9] At this point in time, WHO’s research brought to light the fact that human-to-human transmission was a possibility, and issued another set of regulations for basic prevention.

The novel coronavirus reached Europe on January 24th, with France reporting three confirmed cases from citizens who had travelled to Wuhan.^[10] The following day, Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, the Regional Director for the World Health Organization in Europe issued a statement on the importance of being ready for the arrival of this unknown disease, and urging the countries to act together as one in order to contain the virus.^[11] A few days after that, and after some other countries had reported confirmed cases, WHO’s Director-General declared the new coronavirus a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). In that statement, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, attempted yet another way of advising the international community on what to do. Urging countries to come together to help others with weaker health systems, combat rumours and misinformation, and especially accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.^[12]

On February 11th, following their own guide on best practices on how to name a disease, the novel coronavirus disease was aptly named COVID-19 (coronavirus disease and the year it was discovered), and the virus was named SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2). The difference between the naming of the virus and the disease is due to the fact that viruses are named after

their genetic structure in order to facilitate diagnostics, vaccines and medicines, and diseases are named to enable discussion on prevention, spreading, treatment, and other topics.^[13]

The World Health Organization convened a two-day forum with over 300 scientists to discuss the new COVID-19 disease, in their headquarters in Geneva. The meeting discussed several pressing aspects, such as the viruses' history and diagnosis, its origin, studies regarding it, prevention and control, and once again, testing and vaccination. The forum helped develop a "road-map" for the international community to follow, and set expectations and share a plethora of research and studies.^[14] The actual roadmap developed by WHO's R&D division was published March 6th.

Recently, on March 18th, WHO and its partners launched the Solidarity trial to help find an effective treatment against COVID-19 disease. The trial evaluates the effects of drugs on three major outcomes: mortality, need for assisted ventilation and duration of hospital stay. The Solidarity trial's purpose is to compare treatment options from various hospitals and countries, and it has almost 12,000 patients in 500 hospitals in more than 30 countries.^[15]

As of yet there is still no vaccine or treatment available or published, and many different laboratories are currently analysing results and studying the SARS-CoV-2 in order to develop an effective response. Many countries have set up their own research teams and are currently donating and investing money and resources on finding a solution before the situation aggravates.

Questions a resolution should answer

- Where should the EU's priorities lie regarding investment in research?
- To what extent the members of the EU will cooperate financially and scientifically towards testing and vaccination research?
- How much coordination will there be with the international community and among members of the EU?
- How will the new discoveries regarding the new coronavirus affect response efforts?
- What should happen in case of no new developments in vaccination?

QARMA 3: Covid Recovery

At the same time, warring the immediate healthcare crisis does not mean that the problems are over: on the contrary, with the disease containment measures

introduced, the question of saving the economies became all the more apparent. The lockdown restrictions and closure of businesses, as well as travel bans, seem like a good immediate response to the spread of the coronavirus, bringing down the numbers and allowing for the hospitals to adjust for the increase of the patients; overall, these measures were introduced to deal with the immediate spread of the coronavirus. That being said, with no clear experience in the contemporary past with regard to dealing with the pandemic, meaning that the timeline for restrictions was impossible to estimate from the beginning. Although there were some lights of hope that the worst of the pandemic will be over by 2020^[1], at least for the most of the developed world, the deadline of resolution kept on moving further along^{[2][3]}, with no clear end in sight.

With the restrictions introduced to curb the pandemic, many of the sectors were forced into the closure or adaptation to comply with the governments' demands. Restaurants and entertainment industries were some of the first businesses to be forced into the closure, with many of the gig and temporary workers struggling financially and mentally due to the nature of the businesses and their contracts.^[4] In the attempt to prevent the international spread of the coronavirus and to promote the efficiency of the domestic measures, many travel bans were introduced. This had two substantial effects: on one hand, the airline industry, which is to include also the aircraft manufacture, refined oil production, airports and other aspects, was severely impacted by the pandemic, unlikely to make a quick recovery.^[5] On the other hand, the countries, in which the tourism sector represents a substantial part of their economy, were no longer receiving that cash inflow, affecting their domestic economies in a number of sectors and overall. In general, S&P Global estimated that the airlines, leisure facilities, oil & gas drilling, auto parts and restaurants were the most likely sectors to suffer most from the pandemic.^[6]

While the restrictions are the most likely culprits on the economic downturn, the slow-down of the economic activity and the change in consumer behaviour also played a substantial role in the economy.^[7] As such, with the looming uncertainty in the future, dramatically changing lifestyle for many, potentially reduced disposable income and spending behaviour, it is likely that not only individual industries previously discussed were affected. As such, with the economic slowdown, the change in the spending behaviour and the slowdown of economic activity in general lead to some grim predictions of the EU in general and the Eurozone area in particular to have the economic downturn of, according to some estimates, 10.2% – more than during the Great Depression in the 30s.^[8] Preliminary research suggests, that the strictness of the lockdowns (between 30 and 50 percent), quality of governance (between 35 and 45 percent) and heavy reliance on tourism (between 15 and 25

percent) are all the main factors, contributing to such negative performance in terms of GDP losses in 2020.^[9] The long-term impact of the pandemic and the restrictions is hard to accurately estimate at this stage, but it is likely to be substantial and lasting.

Besides the economic identifiers and closely correlated with the above-mentioned issues, equally threatening is the prospect of the rising levels of unemployment, homelessness, and poverty in the EU Member States.^[10] Some research suggests the rise of 9.4% in the headcount poverty index in Europe as a result of the pandemic,^[11] but it has the potential to impact households across the social ladder, as middle-income families are also suffering from the restrictions, loss of income, and unexpected unemployment.^[12] A large proportion of the measures to address these issues is likely to fall on the national governments, given the nature of the issues; at the same time, the issues mentioned above have to be considered in the EU context when it comes to the allocation of the recovery funds and when the decisions are made on the EU level with regard to fiscal and protectionist measures.

Because of the prominence of the issues, it can become a moral imperative for the EU to focus on problems of unemployment and poverty, and to find the solutions to the issue, on top of tackling the pandemic and addressing the healthcare crisis.^[13] One of the solutions proposed was the “General escape clause”, meaning giving additional and extraordinary fiscal flexibility to the member states with regard to their budgetary constraints, seeing the pandemic as such extraordinary issue.^[14] At the same time, it is necessary to bear in mind that the existing provisions of the European Union were passed with the Union in mind, meaning far-reaching and hard to predict consequences in case such extraordinary measures are invoked.

A stimulus package might be an answer to some of the problems outlined above, as allowing additional investment into the EU economy at the time of crisis might help to support those affected and to restart the economy. This brings up the question on the ways the recovery funds are sourced and on which basis they are distributed, both when talking about the state receiving the funds and the industries or groups benefiting.^[15] While the funds can be allocated to the individual member states or for particular purposes, it is also possible to see them given to the EU-level funds and programmes. Additionally, some see the funds as an opportunity to make the investments into the industries or causes they are most interested in, while for others it is seen as a leverage. That being said, the source for this funding has to be determined, along with the amounts and proportions.

Questions the resolution should answer

- What should be done on the EU level to ensure stable recovery of the

members' economy?

- How should the priorities in the economic recovery be set?
- Should all of the existing regulations on the EU level be upheld during the economic recovery? Should there be additional measures taken to protect the Single Market or the individual States' economies and industries?
- Should there be and under what conditions should the funds be distributed to Member States?
- Where should the support package funds be coming from?

Further Research

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Testing and Vaccines

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Annex I - Crisis

Overview

Crisis is very simply a form of MUN debating where real-world events are happening at the same time that affect and shape the debate. At the same time delegates, through directives, can seek to influence the real world behind them. It is a complex form of debating that means one must simultaneously be active in debate, and online, to try and balance the realities that leaders face. Crisis aims to peel back the closed environment of MUN and integrate it with some real-world existence.

The Crisis itself will be run using Slack. Slack is a free team-communications software akin to Discord, and will allow delegates to communicate to other delegates, set up group chats, and overall act as the “background” dealings and communications during the conference. On this slack during the whole of the week we will be posting links, updates, and more. We will be sending you all the details on logging into this slack “workspace” later, and might indeed hold a training session for it.

Directives (more information on what they are in the FAQs) will be run through Google forms. They constitute the “action” that you the delegates want to take. There will be limits to the amount of directives you can submit daily (currently set at 4 but can change during debate) and word limits of 200 words, to keep them active.

As a way to ascertain your position towards the communiqué each day, there will be an end-of-day form given to you, with the following questions:

- Based on the communiqué, how likely are you to instruct your government to follow it completely? (Scale of 1-5)
- How popular do you think this communiqué is to your home government / people? (Scale of 1-5)
- Any comments (general feedback)

This will affect the report on Covid in the following morning, and have an ongoing effect on your country and your population. Bear in mind these are your thoughts, and might not reflect the reality, heads of governments are often not as in touch as they may think.

Lastly, said report will be a daily briefing each morning and show the increase in cases and deaths from the previous month, economic indicators on how much the

economy suffered, and popularity of the responses in each member state. These will have an effect on the government and your views, and you should view these not as guidelines, but as necessary responses to your actions.

Annex II - Digital Crisis

Owing to the unfortunate situation that TEIMUN 2021 is moving back online, this Annex is here to provide you with some of the updates that will occur owing to this movement. Notably, some of the timeline has changed owing to the shorter conference

Timetable Update

Instead of looking at each day being 1 month in between, each day is now 2 months. This will simplify some of the debate, with each of the days being more or less focused on one main aspect of the discussion (QARMA 1, 2, or 3), though we are still going to expect a one-page document at the end of each day.

Date (TEIMUN)	Jul 12th	Jul 13th	Jul 14th	Jul 15th
Date (ECC 2020)	-	Mar 25th	May 27th	Jul 17th
9.45-10.15	-	Intro	Briefing	Debate
10.15-15.15	-	Debate	Debate	Debate + Drafting
15.15-16.15	-	Drafting	Drafting	Closing

On Using Gather.Town

As we'll be moving online, the software Gather.Town will be being used (subject to change), this will allow us to be digitally present as if we were in a real room. Use this wisely, and feel free to pop off at certain times to discuss issues in the "back room" when we're not in formal session, i.e. in an unmoderated caucus. We will try to use gather town as much as we can, and from experience it works well in these crisis settings.

Crisis Related Changes

Crisis will remain fundamentally the same, with few changes in terms of submitting directives (using the google form) and talking with the backroom. The only main

change would be using Slack much more during the conference itself in order to communicate with other delegates. You can do this at any time, only make sure to remain in focus when formal debate is happening, We will be sharing all events through slack too. Once it is all set up we will send you a little guide to slack for your own uses.

Morning briefings will also be reduced as such, meaning only one on the “May 27th” and “July 17th”. We also want to highlight that during the crisis you will also be able to “write” op-eds and publish them on the slack. Really be creative as best you can!

Crisis FAQs

What are Directives?

Directives are the main thing that separates a Crisis Council and all the other councils. In theory, directives allow delegates to be more creative with their problem-solving and if done properly would give any delegate an advantage in a debate. A directive is basically the dominant medium for taking individual action in committee by using your portfolio powers. Because you are taking the role of being the country’s leaders, a directive by definition is an official or authoritative instruction. In real life, the head of states would give a directive for their official staff to complete, in a crisis council you are sending instructions on what you want to do to the backroom. If the backroom approves of your directives, it is now in place, and you can use it as a leverage in your debate. In this particular council, there will be three main types of directive, which is instructions, request for info and as a messaging system.

Directive as instruction to your government can be useful, but also dangerous - especially when worded carelessly. Say you are concerned about the spread of the coronavirus, your neighbouring country currently has an increasing number of people infected, and in a moment of panic you wrote your directive stating: “Immediately close the land border to country x”. Congratulations, you now closed your land border however, as a result of the sudden closing of the borders, a million Euro worth of trade, goods and labour has been halted at the border. Your neighbour took this a personal offence and stopped sending PPE your way. In an effort to stop the spread of coronavirus, you have just lost access to vital equipment and now your supporters start having doubts about you.

Rest assured; we would never punish you as severely as this example. The Point is that the key to a good directive is to be as thorough as possible. You need to write

it in a way that we as the backroom cannot twist your words. There are four important points when it comes to writing your directives:

1. Give clear instructions

If we see in the previous example, just saying you want to close the border is not enough. To properly do anything, you need to set aside resources and manpower. If you want to create more hospitals, you have to consider where to build them and how many medical staff you want to appoint to it. Therefore, you can't just say you want something, you have to describe how you want to achieve it.

2. Get to the point

Although we said you need to be as detailed as possible, refrain from creating an essay as a directive. A long form directive is not only not allowed, it would also give room to misunderstanding. Therefore, you should immediately get to the point when you're writing a directive followed by your explanation. Be clear and concise.

3. One issue per directive

Don't try to cram too much into one directive. This allows you to be more concise in regard to the instruction because not only you can focus onto creating a better directive, the backroom will be able to monitor request easier, hence making sure your instruction is being followed through

4. Use exact number

This is one of the more complicated aspect of making a directive, especially if you are not too familiar with your country's resources. However, by giving an exact number of resources, manpower etc, you're effectively making sure the directive is being carried out the way you want. This is especially useful when it comes to economical directives such as lowering taxes, raising tariffs etc.

The second type of directive in this council is a request for information. As a head of state, it is your responsibility to know your country in detail. However, we do realize that no one can know everything, hence this form of directives provides you with a helpline to understand your country better. For example, on the second day of the simulation, you want to know if the policies you implemented yesterday were effective or not, you can send a directive and the backroom will inform you. With this type of directive, you would not have to worry about the monkey's paw effect

because you are simply asking for information. As the old adage goes “Knowledge is power”. The info you can get from the backroom can act as a massive leverage in your debates.

The last type of directive in this council is a message system. In crisis, you can ask for a private meeting with one or more of your fellow delegates. To do this outside of unmoderated caucus sessions, you have to go through the backroom. Why is this important? Because a private meeting with your closed allies is pivotal in crisis. You can make some off the records deal, strengthen your alliance, or simply giving you time to recalibrate with your allies. All of this very simple ideas can vastly change the way the debate goes. One backroom staff will be present in this private meeting, the backroom needs to know everything that is going on to ensure a smooth crisis.

What is the Backroom?

Several people in the MUN circuit have referred to the backroom as “human processor” and that is more less the truth. The backroom’s main function is to process directives. Although that is the main function, the backroom does so much more. Because Crisis is like making a movie, the delegates are the actor, the front room chair are the producer while the backroom is the director. The backroom ensures the delegates will have not only a good time in crisis but also to understand the situation. When everyone has an input in how the story will go, the backroom is the one to ensure everything makes sense and stays in the realm of possibility. This is why as mentioned before the backroom needs to be in private meetings because we need to ensure every change in the script is noted. In several cases, delegates tend to get mad at the backroom due to “not doing what they ask in the directives” however, just to make it clear. The backroom does not make anything up as we go along. Everything the backroom conveys to the delegate is as a direct result of the delegates directives. Therefore, again, be as clear as possible in your directives.

Timetable

This timetable is a rough overview of each day of debate, noting the month we discuss, and some of the basis of the debate. This timetable can and will likely be amended based on discussion in the council, yet is useful for understanding how the ECC will function. On the 1st day, as we have a short amount of time together, we will instead be meeting to clarify any questions, with a short mock debate and getting to grips with the crisis elements.

Date (TEIMUN)	Jul 12th	Jul 13th	Jul 14th	Jul 15th	Jul 16th	Jul 17th
Date (ECC)	-	Mar 25th	Apr 23rd	May 27th	Jun 19th	Jul 17th
9-10	-	Intro	Briefing	Briefing	Briefing	Debate
10-16	-	Debate	Debate	Debate	Debate	Drafting
16-17	-	Drafting	Drafting	Drafting	Drafting	Closing

This is a very simple timetable, with remarkably the same outline for each day, but it is just to highlight the difficulties of fitting everything in these times. The agenda for the days themselves will be decided by yourself, with the cooperation of the EC President and the President of the Council of the EU (Croatia until July, Germany for July). There will also be an excursion planned with the TEIMUN Secretariat that will take half a day, although the exact date is currently unknown.

Template of a European Council Conclusions

European Council Conclusions are important parts of the European Union. They constitute the broad political will of heads of governments. Normally, these conclusions are adopted at only formal European Council meetings, rather than informal meetings (April, May and June would technically be informal meetings), however, we do not have time to go into the deep political reasoning of documents, and so at the end of each day, we will be expecting a 1-2 page council conclusion, outlining the decisions of the day.

Examples of a (short) council conclusion can be found from December 2019 [here](#), this is a council conclusion specifically discussing the decision to trigger Article 50, leaving the EU, by the UK.

You can find this template [here](#) too in case it makes the copying and pasting of the document easier. It also lays out the template a little better



The Hague, [Day Month Year]

EUCO CD [Make up numbers]

CO EUR [Number of People]

CONCL [1 for 1st, 2 for 2nd, etc.]

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Conclusions of the European Council

Preamble in full sentences on the challenges being faced.

I. INITIAL RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

1. Something about the response
2. Something else about coordination
3. Etc.

II. TESTING AND VACCINES

1. Something about testing
2. Something else about vaccine
3. Etc.

III. COVID RECOVERY

1. Something about recovery
2. Something else about recovery
3. Etc.