



# The Delegate

## The curtains go up

This Friday morning, the delegates filled the Conference Hall to attend the opening ceremony of the second annual ATSMUN. The delegates were inspired by the speeches which addressed principle issues regarding Globalization and Separatistic Discrimination. The first speech was delivered by Kyriakos Birbas, the Secretary General, who welcomed the participants with a promising message. During his speech he promoted critical thinking and highlighted the importance of raising our voice as part of being the coordinators of our own life. Then the floor was yielded to the Prof. Georgios Babiniotis, the President of Arsakeia Schools. Importing a radical model of education based on the principles of freedom and respect of human rights, he stressed that Arsakeia Schools

have adopted attitudes that promote students' developing problem solving skills while considering differentiation issues. He finally expressed his belief that education is the most profitable investment for the future of our country. Next, relying on a personal experience, Dr. Robert Stern, ICJ Coordinator introduced the theory of Aristotle, known as moderation. Making rhetorical questions he managed to stimulate the delegates about numerous topics such as the difference between the meaning of absolute and relative. Apostolos Katsifaras was next to speak. Mr Katsifaras stressed the benefits of MUN and elaborated on the significance of self respect. Finally, Nikolaos Karamanos urged all participants to seize the chance to become familiar with international issues of paramount importance during their attendance. Later on, Nikolaos Douros, the, Ambassador of Hungary, citing a poem that he wrote especially for the occasion of the ATSMUN, glorified the founder and of Arsakeia Tositseia Schools as well as their significant educational and cultural contribution



to Greek society. Additionally, Anastasis Kardamakis, MUN Co-founder, also focused on the opportunities MUN offers and advised the delegates by quoting 3 words "strive, attend and succeed". At the end of the ceremony Aspasia Kontogianni, Head of the English department and MUN director, stressed the main causes of separatism and segregation; fear for the different, fear for the unknown. She urged the delegates not to yield to fear or fear-evoked mentalities underlining that in the end fear does not separate us from the others but from our own heart. The closing video at the opening ceremony was really motivating and set the pace for the delegates' engagement in the MUN.

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## Student Officers

### **Giannika Maria-Eleni , Special Political and Decolonization Committee**

- Advice to new-comers: To deal with the stress and be well-prepared.
- Reason for choosing to serve as a student officer to the specific committee: The main reason for my choice was the agenda of the committee, because both topics involved are up-to-date and they can result into a very fruitful debate.
- ATSMUN vs the rest MUN conferences: ATSMUN is special mostly because of the interesting agenda and the friendly atmosphere that enables the delegates to feel confident and participate actively.
- A value absent from today's world: Humanity. The world rotates around money, which results in endless wars and degradation of democracy.



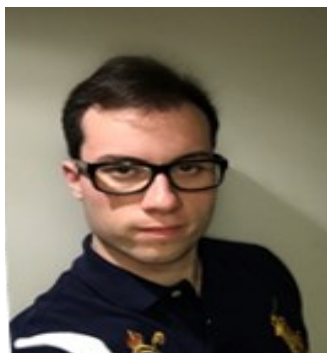
### **Georgia Aimilia Sarafi , Economic and Financial Committee**

- Advice to the new-comers: Be active! There is no better or simpler solution for the nerves of the newbie.
- To be honest, EcoFin wasn't in my list of preferences. However once I saw the issues to be debated in the committee I was surprised. They turned out to be extremely interesting and I am excited to see how the delegates will respond to the challenge of the debate.
- Kindness is missing from today's world. In the 21st century, competition and hostility are prominent in society.



### **Tania Papaefthimiou , Economic and Social Council**

- It is my first time chairing and I am genuinely excited for this conference.
- I believe that what makes the ATSMUN different from other conferences is its atmosphere. Last year's 1st ATSMUN had a truly friendly atmosphere and I felt that it embraced all the delegates and everyone who took part in the conference. That's what attracted me the most.
- My advice to the new-comers is not to be afraid. Instead, dare to take the floor, deliver your speech as if there is no one else in the room.



### **Thomas Antoniou , Economic and Financial Committee**

- My advice to the new comers would be to do their best and not disappoint themselves because this is all that matters.
- ATSMUN is very different from the rest of the MUN conferences as it introduces the authentic UN procedures in many specialized agencies and thus it gives everyone the chance to experience how it is to be a diplomat in a specialized agency.

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## **GLOBAL INTEGRATION OR SEPARATISTIC DISCRIMINATION?**

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, we are becoming aware of historic transformations of human society. For the first time since human beings inhabited this earth, it is possible to describe comprehensive networks of social relationships which include all human beings. Indeed, one of the principal ways in which we can identify a global society is by the development of global crises. It is our common experience of fundamental disturbances, and the need to shape common responses, which is helping to bring global society into being. These crises are experienced at every level of social relations. International relations can be seen as the prime example of a field which is incipiently global. The challenge to international relations is to move beyond the misplaced abstraction of state relations from the global whole.

Everywhere we look, we see differences in wealth, power, and status. This inequality in the system is what we call social stratification. In this unequal social system, there is often unfair treatment di-

rected against certain individuals or social groups. Discrimination can be based on many different characteristics—age, gender, weight, ethnicity, religion, or even politics. The more extreme forms of discriminatory practices include genocide, slavery, legislated discrimination (such as Apartheid), discriminatory immigration laws, and disenfranchisement. Discrimination can be confused with other terms such as prejudice and stereotype. As to the root cause of discrimination, there appears to be no clear or single theory of causation. However, it is generally admitted that discrimination often causes a chain reaction of disadvantages. For instance, it should be noted that there is a connection also between discrimination and social distance, given that it is usually psychologically easier to discriminate against people that one is not familiar with. Discrimination produces immense effects in the psychological, social, political, and economic domains. Whether intended or not, the effects are compounded by the loss of self-worth, a sense of al-

ienation from the wider society, political disempowerment, and economic inequalities.

To sum up, the only thing we can do about it is to raise our children in such a way so that they do not foster discriminating attitudes. Eventually, this could lead to less tension and fighting within people and groups.



## Student Officers

### **Vasileios Katsampas , Security Council**

Every new-comer should find the courage to speak and represent her/his country

Without wanting to devalue the other committees, it is my firm opinion that the Security Council is the most important committee, and the only committee that can really change the world into a better place.

Atsmun is different from the rest simulations, due to the fact that I am part of the student officers' team!



### **Aida Marinaki , International Court of Justice**

- Remember: practice makes perfect!
- I have participated in the ICJ twice and I firmly believe that it is a really challenging committee. Also the work conducted is relevant to my future studies since my ambition is to become a barrister
- A value absent from the today's world for me is Meritocracy
- This is the first time I am serving as a Student Officer and definitely not the last one.

## Brain Teasers

- A seven letter word containing thousands of letters.
- You will find me in the past. I can be created in the present. But the future can never taint me. What am I?
- What belongs to you but others use it more than you do?
- What English word has three consecutive double letters?

Answers : Mailbox , Your name , History , Bookkeeper



## **A little chat with the Secretary General: Kyriakos Birbas**

**Taking into consideration the march of the events that happen on a daily basis, how important do you consider the existence of the UN nowadays and why? Or how important do you believe the existence of the UN nowadays is and why?**

I consider the role of the UN to be more significant than ever before since it was established. As it is highlighted in the UN Charter, the founding principles of the organization is to safeguard peace and international security, to achieve international co-operation and constitute the arena for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends. In a world characterized by chaos and anarchy, the UN stands as a steadfast pillar of justice and stability, having as the core value of its actions the respect for human rights.

**Counting a lot of years and many more conferences when did the magical world of the MUN start for you? What was your incentive to attend your first conference?**

As you correctly described it, the MUN world is a “magical” journey, but please let me also use the word “influential” . It is an inspiring diplomatic expedition that allows you to consider the complexity of the world from a different perspective ; the point of view of a diplomat, a representative of a state or organization or a leader. Mainly, it gives you the opportunity not only to be a spectator of the world facts but also a critical thinker, capable of analyzing them and forming your own opinion. This was the incentive of my decision to attend my first MUN conference 5 years ago, and it continues to be the reason why I am still interested in such conferences.

**I would like to draw your attention to many controversial political events that take place in the international community. There are numerous examples to prove this claim; President Donald Trump, Marine Le Pen , etc.**

In my opinion the examples that you mentioned depict accurately the complexity of the arena of politics and diplomacy. The main goal of the UN and its related organizations is to assure the international community that security and stability are effectively safeguarded. If this fundamental principle is undermined, then such examples of political thinking become popular.

**As for the conference now, it is the second time the ATSMUN is being held, what innovations should we expect?**

Encouraged by the positive feedback of the first edition of the conference and confident about the outcome, we have worked diligently to ensure our tradition of substantive excellence. Our conference has some standard as well as some new and innovative committees of the United Nations and other International or Regional Organizations. Along with the five GA committees, the ECOSOC and the UN Environment Programme, we are the first Greek MUN simulating the IMF executive board and the League of Arab States. Additionally, for the first time, the ATSMUN Security Council will adopt the official functioning rules of the UN Security Council as its own procedural rules. Moreover, we are proud to include in our Agenda the Historical Crisis. Committee and the International Court of Justice, supervised by the renowned ICJ coordinator, Dr. Stern.



## Get prepared and ready to serve!

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of April two workshops were held. The first one was carried out by the organizing team addressing the student officers in order to give them useful guidelines concerning the conference and tips for dealing with problems that may arise. Dr. Stern was in charge of the second workshop, which only the judges attended. There, he shared important information about the upcoming trial.



## *Snapshot Time !*



