

## Gossip + Tweets

- The delegate of USA questioned its head of state's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement #COP23 #ScarletWizard
- Chair 1: "This is also long"  
Chair 2: "That's what she said"  
Chair 3: "Not to you though" #sheeeesh #sassyChairtraining#BerlinMUN17

## Quotes

"People from Spain don't speak proper Spanish" – *Santiago Escobar*

"Humans are basically very fancy rats" – *Alfonso Cabrera*

"The UN costs you about as much as a dinner without wine" – *Franz Baumann*

"The EU has more potential than NATO, we have a bigger toolbox because of our diversity" – *Richard Kühnel*

Regarding Brexit: "The best we can get is minimising damage, there won't be any success" – *Richard Kühnel*

## Events

- Committee Dinner 8pm followed by drinks at *Mauersegler Berlin – Bernauer Str. 63-64, 13355 Berlin*

Directions: 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Google Maps

## **Introduction to the Secretaries General**

by *Emma Vermunicht & Lorcán Hyde*

So here we were, after months of preparation we can still barely believe that this is actually happening. Thousands of skype-calls, millions of emails and many long nights later we find ourselves in the pretty city of Berlin. In our SG cave somewhere in this mysterious building, we are proudly thinking of the great work our kiddos (read: Secretariat) are doing at this very moment. We are sure that you will appreciate the hard work they already have done over the past months. You might not always see us but we will be flying around and our eyes and ears are everywhere. Btw here is an inspiring quote for your first day:

*"as a wise man once said celery is 95% water and 100% not pizza."*



That aside, once, a long long time ago, we also started off as delegates, and we know it will sometimes take courage to stand up and say what you want to say but at the end we can already give a small sneak peek about the end of this experience: you will go home with a feeling of fulfilment and inspiration (or at least that is what we aim for). You probably have seen us already around but some of you might wonder what those two human beings are actually doing at this conference. So here you have a little overview of what our job consists of:

1. we get up
2. we dress nicely
3. we have breakfast...

Not but really, our job all started almost 8 months ago, when you were still blissfully unaware of the happening of BerlinMUN 2017. First both us discussed which committees and which theme we would select for the conference. Thereafter, we were the bulldogs who chose the wonderful Chairpersons who are now in your committees plus of course the Editors and we made sure you have the best and most qualified people there are for the job. We ensured good communication with the chairs and organisers and assured that you received qualified Study Guides to enable your work leading up the conference. In the upcoming week, we will continue our bulldog rule in Berlin and observe the topics you will be discussing as well as critically correct your work in the committees. Besides that our job is to keep our Secretariat satisfied and give them all the love they need.

We hope we can make this conference an unforgettable experience for you. Even though you will not always see us in committees we will be always present behind the scenes and more than present at socials. Having said all of this, feel free to approach us whenever you want with all your questions, remarks and compliments.

We hope to see and speak to all of you and we will end this column with this cute image of a dog duck.



## The Arctic Council

by Karina Blommen



**Who owns the Arctic? At the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of BerlinMUN, the ambassadors of the Arctic Council will come together again after four years to strengthen cooperation to combat the effects of climate change.**

The Arctic Council consists of eight member states, six working groups and six indigenous permanent participant organisations listed by the Ottawa declaration of 1996. The work of the Council is focused on environmental protection missions, reducing pollution effects and the improvement of the conditions of the Arctic communities.



The first topic will be the Commercial Shipping Routes through the Arctic Region. Delegates will focus in their debates on issues such as the future of the already existing legal framework, environmental protection and the prevention of conflict in the future.

Moreover, the Council will concentrate on minority rights and the related Arctic environmental protection. The discussions will tackle issues such as the effects of displacement on the indigenous population and the conservation of its cultural heritage. Furthermore, the aim is to question the success of the soft law decisions that have been made during the past years.

The representative of the Inuit Circumpolar Council Nils Steinhäuser is worried "about the obvious effects of climate change that we face every day. The opening of the shipping routes might bring economic benefits but will leave us with uncertain consequences for our land and our people."

## Security Council

by Océane Gougeon

The highly coveted Security Council, will be one of the most exciting aspects of this sixth edition of BerlinMUN. Indeed, this SC will be a historical one and will address the deeply interesting topics of the Cyprus dispute of 1974 and the Rwanda crisis of 1994. The role of the UN Security Council has always been to try and find a peaceful resolution to international and national conflicts in the world. The Historical Security Council is special in the way that it tries to simulate a different resolution for a past conflict and see if such a resolution was ever reachable. The expectations for the HSC are high as usual, and the focus there will be to end the violence in Rwanda and to find an equitable solution for Cyprus. High hopes are placed in the HSC to find a peaceful solution to the Cyprus conflict, where a UN mission has been since 1964, and prevent the first genocide since after the Cold War in Rwanda.

## What to Expect When Expecting the ICJ

by Katharina Keuken



The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is a special committee. It is composed of 15 judges: permanent members from China, France, Russia, UK and US, three from Africa, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, three from Asia, 5 from western Europe and two from Eastern Europe. Including one ad hoc judge and the Secretariat.

The delegates in ICJ are independent judges and do not represent countries like in other councils. Present at ICJ BerlinMUN 2017 are two defendants of Iran, one defendant of USA, Judge Ronny Abraham (France and president of the Committee), Judge Joan E. Donohue (USA), Judge Christopher Greenwood (UK), Judge Kirill Gevorgian (Russian Federation), Judge Xue Hanquin (China), Judge Julia Sebutinde (Uganda) Judge Mohamed Bennouna (Morocco) and Judge Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil).

The ICJ has two main purposes: it is the jurisdiction of the member states when international law is affected and to answer (general) legal questions. This year's topic is: Our responsibilities for future generations - certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran vs. United States of America). The beautiful chairpersons are Carmen Hernández Conzález from Spain and Amelia Nichols from Australia.

We are looking forward for great speeches, passionately discussions and honourable judges. In that sense: Let the court begin.

## Play Hard, Work Less

by Scarlet Wizard



Young leaders gathered at the first official social of BerlinMUN 2017 - International Night. As innocent as it seems, the event was only about partying. People met and engaged in friendly small talk, but mostly steered clear of more serious discussions on policy. Getting to know where a delegate came from and their favourite music were the main questions asked by majority if the attendees of the event. Some got excited when they found out someone from the same council as they are, but it stopped there. Further talks barely touched the topic.

Seeking perspectives from what an international dinner supposedly is, it was invisible from the outside. Some Highlights were however the methods of diplomacy used by some delegations, like "alcohol diplomacy" or as they call it in Brussels "soft diplomacy". Instead of thinking of global issues, they resorted to winking and flirting. Hopefully we will see more serious conversations at the Committee Dinners tonight, as young diplomats do not get their salary for drinking!

## Storm "Emma" Approaching Europe

by Aurora Hamm

A storm, feared by some experts to reach speeds of up to 90mph is currently approaching Europe over the North Sea. Coastal cities all over northern Europe are preparing for some of the worst weather extremes of the last 20 years. Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands are on "high alert" and are urging residents to prepare for "Emma", before the storm hits Europe late Tuesday or early Wednesday morning. It is yet unclear how this will impact trade in Europe's biggest ports of Hamburg and Rotterdam, but similar storms have caused up to 200 million Euros of damage in trade alone. "Emma" serves as yet another reminder of the urgency to stop climate change in order to protect European and international trade and welfare.

