



ODU European Union Simulation Conference

20 April 2012

In a first, ODU hosted the region's first European Union simulation, a one-day conference for regional high schools simulating the European Council of Ministers, the EU's highest decision-making body. Led by the ODU Model UN Society, the event was a path breaking success, engaging high school students in the politics of the European Union.

The event was made possible by support from the Delegation of the European Union (the EU's Washington mission), and AccessEU, the center of European activity at ODU. The simulation enabled high school students to experience the politics of the highest levels of the EU, introducing them to European perspectives, consensus decision-making and qualified majority voting. Topics under consideration at the one-day crisis simulation were:

- EU policy on open borders and internal migration
- Turkey's application for membership
- Unified responses to cross-Mediterranean migration

The simulation was chaired by ODU senior Kyle Mayo, in the role of President of the EU Council of Ministers. Also on the dais were ODU sophomore Garima Kaushal and junior Rachele Ampoyo. AccessEU staff contributing the event's success were ODU graduate students Sabine Hirschauer and Wiebke Lamar.

Legacies of the event include not just plans to hold future simulations, but also the dedicated website featuring rules and procedures to guide this and future simulations, and background resources, <http://al.odu.edu/mun/unday/modeleu.shtml> Participants received literature on the EU supplied by the Delegation of the European Union.

More than forty high school students and their teachers participated in the event. Their engagement left no doubt there is plenty of interest for similar events in the future. Award winning participants:

European Union Simulation Conference Award winning delegations

| School | Country | Position | Name | Award |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Norfolk Academy | Romania | Ambassador | Carter Hall | Best Delegate |
| Norfolk Academy | Romania | Foreign Minister | Yohance Whitaker | Best Delegate |
| Princess Anne High School | United Kingdom | Ambassador | Anna Marks | Outstanding Delegate |
| Princess Anne High School | United Kingdom | Foreign Minister | Stephanie Zazzera | Outstanding Delegate |
| Landstown High School | Germany | Ambassador | Jornel Torres | Honorable Delegate |
| Landstown High School | Germany | Foreign Minister | Emily New-Cruse | Honorable Delegate |
| First Colonial High School | Italy | Ambassador | Kevin O'Shaughnessy | Honorable Delegate |
| First Colonial High School | Italy | Foreign Minister | Scott Will | Honorable Delegate |