

From December 3 to December 6, 2015, I had the honor to attend HamMUN 2015. I represented the Austrian Harald Vilimsky, a member of the European Parliament.

My overall impression of the conference was a very positive one. In the opening speech, Malte (one of the Secretary Generals) stated that we will get to know more people at the HamMUN conference than we would normally do during the whole semester. Personally, I doubted it a bit at first – but quite soon, I made the impression that Malte was completely right with his prediction. One more positive aspect are the various regions and countries the other delegates were from; it added some more flair of internationality.

Concerning the question if I was able to learn something from the conference, I want to remark three things:

- The most important thing I learned is being open-minded towards other opinions and finding a compromise with people who don't share my exact point of view. In several discussions, we found many solutions despite different opinions which is an important achievement.
- The second important thing I learned were the rules in the European Parliament. Especially the voting procedure together with the Council of the European Union in the final session was new for me.
- The third important thing is that I trained my Walzer dancing skills at the mask ball.

I particularly enjoyed the socials, of course. Meeting new people, getting to know them and listening to their experiences is always a nice thing to do. Especially hearing from their experiences in Germany were hilarious (“I was mispronouncing Steinstraße and he looked at me as if I was a complete retard”).

But of course, the sessions were enjoyable too. At this point, I want to thank my fellow delegate Nigel Farage for criticizing the EU in general in every single speech he gave once again.

All my positive impressions make improvement suggestions quite difficult. Since I was a Pub Crawl guide, I can say that two less stations would have been completely sufficient. In general, I really want to acknowledge the efforts made by the organizers and the staff. Next time, a bit less water bottles or buying them on commission would help avoiding Leo ending up with hundreds of water bottles he doesn't know what to do with.

Since I was in the European Parliament, I did not feel really prepared because I had insecurities with the different Rules of Procedure. The Rules Workshop held by the chairs wasn't very helpful due to time shortage. But in the end, it didn't harm because I was easily learning the differences during the conference.

Altogether, HamMUN 2015 was an impressive, funny and instructive MUN conference for me. I had a lot of fun, met wonderful people and it definitely encouraged me to take part in MUN conferences in the future.

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