



Report of the European Study Tour in Brussels

Monday 15th of October

After arriving to the hotel, the group had an introduction to EU and received some general information about the trip from Christine Roj-Larsen, youth consultant for FIC Youth, Marc Søgaaard, FIC Youth's chairman, and Claus Larsen-Jensen, FIC's Director. Afterwards, the group had dinner at a nice restaurant in Brussels' downtown.



Tuesday 16th of October

On Tuesday, the group were introduced to the European Parliament and participated in exciting presentations about the EU and the role of the European Parliament. After passing the security control, the group received insights on how the European Parliament work and how a typical day is



structured at the European Parliament. This was presented by Mikkel Bang Andersen, consultant for MEP Ole Christensen, and Anne Fønss Bach, assistant for MEP Jeppe Kofod. The group received more information on their interests and rights on the European Unions, the application process to obtain a job in the European Parliament. Afterwards, Louise Vølver, a specialist consultant in

Denmark's EU Representation in Brussels, discussed what is likely to happen to the EU, UK and Denmark when BREXIT process is accomplished by March 2019. After lunch, Jeppe Kofoed, MEP and head of the Danish Social-Democratic MEPs, gave a speech about his work at the European Parliament. He is Co-Rapporteur on money laundering and tax evasion at the Committee of Inquiry. Therefore, a large part of the speech was focus on the money-laundering scandal at Danske Bank



and how it affects the EU and EU relations. At the end of the speech, the group were on a guided tour in the European Parliament to explore how it looks like behind the “wall” and where politicians debate new laws. The day was ended with a visit to Brussels’ center and a pleasant dinner at a Greek restaurant.

Wednesday 17th of October

During the last day, the group have insights into the European Commission and its role as the EU’s politically independent executive arm. The group was welcomed by Isabella Malaise-Weckerle at the Charlemagne (CHAR) building, which is the Visitors’ Centre. Søren Toft, who is member of the Speakers’ team and the Directorate General Communication, explained the historical background of European institutions and how they are closely collaborating. He described the structure of the Commission, the distribution of power among the major European institutions, how the Commission propose new



laws, and how it implements the European Parliament and Council’s decisions. After this presentation, Lene Mejer from the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and Ida-Maria Fallesen from the Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, held a presentation about the European youth initiatives with a focus on the Erasmus+ program and the

Youth Guarantee. Then, Katerina Wolfova, who is Head of Sector and member of the Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs, gave a presentation about European migration and refugee policy. The lunch was hosted by the European Commission at the restaurant Kafenio. During lunch, Thomas Jørgensen, who is an Information and Communication Agent, delineated a possible future for Europe and the group discussed about how they imagine the EU in the future and how the EU should deal with different challenges, as increased migration, climate changes, BREXIT and much more. After lunch, Astrid Ladefoged, Head of Unit and from the Directorate General Environment, described the climate changes, environmental challenges and how Europe can become more and more environmentally-friendly. The trip was concluded with another interesting presentation about the EU trades and global perspectives, which was held by Matthias Jørgensen who is Head of Unit – Trade Relations with Latin America and from the Directorate – General Trade.

Josephine Svaneberg, 19/10/2018