

MEC Alicante 2008

On the 5th of March, our group of 2 teachers and 9 students left school in 5th lesson to go to the airport Karlsruhe Baden-Baden. Once arrived in Alicante a special bus brought us to the European School Alicante. There we had a short meeting, lunch and practised some of the voting procedures for the next day. We were introduced to students from other European Schools and to our fellow ministers. After that our host families came to pick us up. This was definitely one of the most exciting part of that day and luckily all host families turned out to be great!

After spending our first night at our host families, it was time for our first actual MEC day. The day started with a plenary session where all the countries had to introduce themselves and their goals with a brief opening speech. We were honoured to represent the delegations of Latvia and Ireland, and both heads of state did a good job. After the official opening ceremony was closed, there was some time for the press to ask questions to the different ministers. The press consisted of a group of students who brought out two newspapers a day and reported it immediately if a delegate made a slip. Therefore the ministers had to be really careful with the statements they made! It is a pity that our head of state Ireland was displayed on the cover of the 2nd newspaper, after admitting a lack of knowledge about a certain topic.



We were very pleased with the location of the MEC this year. It was held in the OAMI, the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market, which offered great debating rooms with professional equipment. For 2 days we felt like real ministers! The building of the OAMI was located at the coast which gave us an nice view in lunch break as we sat outside in the sun. After a first day of hard work, we all went back to our host families and prepared for the second day.



The second MEC day started off where we ended the day before. We discussed the different topics in the different committees. The delegates had the chance to make amendments to the resolutions, vote against or in favour of the resolution and to express their opinions about the matters. Also we had an open debate in the great assembly with all the delegations. One of the topics discussed was the legal age of alcohol usage. Because this was an open debate, lots of different countries participated and lots of opinions were given. Both countries Ireland and Latvia had a strong opinions on this topic and participated actively in the debate. At the end of the day when all

the topics were discussed, the final resolutions of the different committees were put together and the closing ceremony began. All the countries wrote a closing speech together with their companions or teachers in the council meetings and presented them at the closing session. After another day of exhausting debating and concentrated work, us students went back to the host families to enjoy the evening.

Luckily we were the only group who left Alicante on Sunday morning, instead of Saturday. Therefore, we had an extra day to explore Alicante, get to know the host families even better and feel the warm welcome of the Spanish sun. It was certainly hard to say goodbye to such a wonderful country and to its warm hospitality. As a student, I really enjoyed my stay in Alicante and strongly recommend other students to take the opportunity to experience the world of politics. (Monique and Valerie 6N)