Delegates' Preparation Kit

The 2nd Tbilisi City Session
European Youth Parliament – Georgia

1. Overviews
The overviews are written by the Committee chairpersons to serve as background material. They aim to identify the key issues at stake while synthesizing the topic area. The objective is naturally to keep these overviews as balanced as possible, yet they may not receive unanimous consent. It should be noted that the EYP strongly encourages independent thinking so feel free to disagree!

2. Keywords
The non-exhaustive list of keywords intends to facilitate searching for information, may it be documents, news items or articles, at different types of search engines, news websites and encyclopedias.

3. Research Links
As regards the suggestions for research links, the list is by no means exhaustive. Rather than citing individual links, we have preferred indicating links to websites where several relevant documents and articles can be found. As where has been possible, links to websites in French language have been listed. Please note that the EYP is not responsible for the contents on various websites; the texts reflect the opinions of their authors only.

Wish you successful preparation for the 2nd Tbilisi City Session!

Tinatin Janjghava
President of the session

AFET – Committee on Foreign Affairs

Chairpersons: Mariam Takaishvili (Vice-President), Giorgi Gvenetadze

---

After 18 years of bargaining, Russia is now set to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). According to the Russian-Georgian Agreement on Custom Administration and Monitoring (signed 9.11.2011, Geneva), international monitors will be allocated at the Georgian-Russian border.

Will this Agreement serve as a security tool in the breakaway regions? What should the governments and international actors do in order to improve political and economic situation in the occupied territories of Georgia?

Topic Overview:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) deals with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

A Russian negotiator announced that Russia had reached an agreement with Georgia that would clear the path for Russia to join the World Trade Organization after 18 years of delay.

Because accession to the trade group is a consensus process, Russia had to gain the consent of Georgia, a member, overcoming the hostility that has divided the two countries since they went to war in 2008. Russia has built military bases in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, two separatist enclaves that make up a large portion of Georgia's territory, and Moscow has recognized them as sovereign nations.

In exchange for its consent, Georgia sought transparency of trade on its border with Russia, a delicate issue because two sections of that border abut Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Russian leaders said Georgia's demands were political, and urged Western governments — in particular, the United States — to pressure Georgia into giving its consent.

The trade monitoring proposal put forward by Switzerland would station observers in three places: According to the agreement, it sets three trade corridors. One crossing point is in Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia, another one into so-called South Ossetia [Tskhinvali region] and the third on undisputed segment of the Georgia-Russia border. International officers are not yet selected, but according to the agreement, they will be monitoring trade at both ends of each corridor.

In the United States, the House speaker, John A. Boehner, Republican of Ohio, said that the White House should not support Russia's accession until it respected Georgia's borders, including withdrawing troops from Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Keywords: WTO; Russia; Georgia; International Actors; Monitoring; Transparency; Borders With Russia.

<u>Useful Links:</u>

1. **Introductory materials and Official Sources:**

- World Trade Organisation (WTO), official web-site - www.wto.org

- Russia and the World Trade Organization - http://www.wto.ru/en/newsmain.asp

- *WTO | Accession status: Russian Federation* -

- http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/acc_e/a1_russie_e.htm

2. **News Articles, papers and other materials:**

- Why doesn't Russia join the WTO? - http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_Aslund.pdf

- Russia Declares Deal to Join Trade Group - http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/03/world/europe/russia-says-it-will-join-wto-in-deal-with-georgia.html?_r=1

- Russia set to end 18-year wait to join WTO - http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/03/us-russia-wto-georgia-idUSTRE7A26ZK20111103

- Russia's WTO accession a rare plus for global growth - http://www.investmenteurope.net/investment-europe/feature/2125359/russia-s-wto-accession-rare-plus-global-growth

- Georgia signs trade deal opening Russia's way to WTO- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15585652

- Russia/WTO: what's in it for Georgia? - http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2011/11/02/russiawto-whats-in-it-for-georgia/#axzz1f0HtXpYg

SEDE – Committee on Security and Defense

Chairperson: Tornike Zuarabashvili, Sophio Konjaria

> **In the changing post-Cold War world, NATO is increasingly viewed as an organization losing its relevance due to the rise in divergent security perspectives in Europe and the world.**
>
> *How should the next generation of American and European leaders cooperate to ensure the security arrangement that can accommodate myriad of interests and create lasting peace for the 21st century?*

Topic Overview:

Some believe that The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) enters the second decade of the twenty-first century as an essential source of stability in an uncertain and unpredictable world. Looking ahead, the Alliance has ample grounds for confidence. The democratic principles that initially brought it together remain valid. The Cold War rivalry that once stirred fears of nuclear Armageddon has long since disappeared. They claim NATO's role in maintaining the unity, security and freedom of the Euro-Atlantic region is ongoing. Its status as the globe's most successful political-military Alliance is unchallenged. Yet NATO's past accomplishments provide no guarantee for the future. Between now and 2020, it will be tested by the emergence of new dangers, the many-sided demands of complex operations, and the challenge of organizing itself efficiently in an era where rapid responses are vital, versatility critical, and resources tight.

However, the question whether with its old purpose dead, and the individual and collective behavior of its members altered accordingly, how does one explain NATO's survival and expansion?

Lots of people expected NATO dwindle at the Cold War's end and ultimately to disappear. In a basic sense, the expectation has been borne out. "NATO is no longer even a treaty of guarantee because one cannot answer the question, guarantee against whom?"- Questions appeared. Institutionalists stated that purpose of organization may not be the most important one. Once the organization is created it can find something to do and it gets harder every day to get rid of it.

Most dramatically, the 9/11 and subsequent attacks demonstrated the deadly connection between technology and terror, triggering a response that has drawn NATO troops far from home, illuminated the need for timely intelligence-sharing, and complicated planning for defense. Further, the global nuclear non-proliferation regime is under increasing stress; incidents of instability along Europe's periphery have revived historic tensions; innovative modes of gathering, sending and storing information have brought with them new vulnerabilities; the security implications of piracy, energy supply risks and environmental neglect have become more evident; and a worldwide economic crisis has spawned widespread budgetary concerns.

However, while talking about the NATO expansion we should stress out the weak points. It's often asserted that the reasons for expanding NATO are weak. It extends its military interests, enlarges its responsibilities, and increases its burdens. Not only do new members require NATO's protection, they also heighten its concern over destabilizing events near their borders. Thus Balkan eruptions become a NATO and not just a European concern. In the absence of European initiative, Americans believe they must lead the way because the credibility of NATO is at stake. Balkan operations in the air and even more so on the ground exacerbate differences of interest among NATO members and strain the alliance.

Overall the question if NATO succeeds to achieve the aforementioned goals of maintaining the peace and security within Europe and whole world, still remains open for harsh discussion floor.

<u>Keywords:</u> Post-Cold War, NATO, relevance, Europe and the world, American and European leaders, security arrangement, lasting peace.

<u>Useful Links:</u>

1. Introductory material:

- NATO home page, <u>http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm</u>

2. Official Sources:

- NATO's Developing Role in Collective Security, <u>http://www.sam.gov.tr/perceptions/sampapers/NATOsDevelopingRole.pdf</u>

- Analyzes and recommendations of the group of experts on a new strategic concept of NATO , <u>http://www.nato.int/strategic-concept/expertsreport.pdf</u>

- Structural Realism after the Cold War, <u>http://www.columbia.edu/itc/sipa/U6800/readings-sm/Waltz_Structural%20Realism.pdf</u>

News Articles, papers and other materials:

- The War for NATO's Credibility,

  <u>http://www.isreview.org/issues/07/nato_credibility.shtml</u>
- Libya civilian deaths 'sap NATO credibility,

  <u>http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2011/06/2011620144740151623.html</u>
- NATO bombing of Serbia, <u>http://www.kosovo.net/natobomb.html</u>
- Peace and Security Achievements and Failures, <u>http://www.ejil.org/pdfs/6/1/1306.pdf</u>

- In the post–Cold War era, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has renewed relevance in training Afghanistan's security force, http://ntm-a.com/wordpress2/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/20110701-Proceedings_Helping-the-Afghans-Help-Themselves.pdf

- Future Role and Relevance of NATO, http://atlanticsentinel.com/2011/05/future-role-and-relevance-of-nato/

- Does NATO have a purpose any longer? , http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2011/jun/12/nato-usa

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization - NATO and the post–cold war world , http://www.americanforeignrelations.com/E-N/North-Atlantic-Treaty-Organization-Nato-and-the-post-cold-war-world.html

Chairperson: Asmati Naskidashvili

Concerns regarding the EU's energy dependence have increased over the last decade. Due to the declining production of energy resources within Europe, up to 75% of oil and gas will have to be imported by 2030. Only a limited number of countries will be the suppliers and many of those pose threats to energy stability.

What measures should be undertaken by the European Union to assure gradual decline of the Union's dependency on the import of energy resources?

Topic Overview:

Energy Security has become one of the most actual and acute topic nowadays. Demand on oil and gas has constantly been raised all over the world. Leaders of the states not possessing their own resources have been facing the dilemma: satisfy need of their state on energy resources for reasonable price and at the same time act according to desirable political interests. On the other hand states owning energy resources often use them as a tool for gaining influence in foreign policy.

The issue of Energy Security is faced with quite cautious approach in European Union and it is recognized as one of the most vital challenge for European Security in the document of European Security Strategy 2008. Nevertheless, according to the data the EU's dependency on *gas* imports from Russia is more than 40% and on *oil* imports – 33%. Total dependence on Russia represents 54%. In addition to this, the whole European Union possesses only 2% of gas and 0.6% of oil of world reserves.

Today it is often argued that one of the most important issues for Europe is nonexistence of common energy policy. Russia as the main supplier of the EU has separate agreements with the EU's member states such as North Stream with Germany, South Stream with Italy, etc. Political experts perceive such situation as a good effort of Russia to increase Europe's dependence on its gas and oil.

Russia has a significant role in the European energy sector as the largest exporter of oil and natural gas to the European Union. But everyone remembers gas disputes between Ukraine and Russia In January 2009. This disagreements resulted in supply disruptions in many European nations, with eighteen European countries reporting major drops in or complete cut-offs of their gas supplies transported through Ukraine from Russia. So this perspectives of potential cut-offs should not seem to be satisfactory for the EU.

EU's annual expenditures only on oil is 250 billion dollars, what represents 2.3% of its GDP. As an alternative for energy imports today stands development of its own renewable energy sources (Bio, Sun, Wind, and Water Energy) which represented only 8.5% of total energy usage in the EU. Nevertheless, it should be mentioned that the EU has been trying to somehow increase this data.

Bearing in mind the importance of this issue for the whole continent, the talks on the need for diversification energy imports and development of own renewable resources have been on daily agenda of the EU officials.

Keywords: Energy Dependence, Energy Security, Energy Policy, North Stream, South Stream, Nabucco, Gas Disputes, Renewable Energy Sources, Russia, European Union.

Useful Links:

1. Introductory material:

- Energy Production and Imports: Statistical findings
  http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Energy_production_and_imports

- European Union's Energy (In)security - ; Dependence on Russia
  http://www.defenceandstrategy.eu/cs/aktualni-cislo-2-2007/clanky/european-union-8217-s-energy-in-security-8211-dependence-on-russia.html

- Europe's Strategic Dependence on Russian Energy
  http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2007/11/europes-strategic-dependence-on-russian-energy

2. Official Sources:

- Energy Strategy for Europe http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.htm

- Beyond dependence: How to deal with Russian gas
  http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/russia_gas_policy_brief

- Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (2007-12)
  http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/energy/energy_efficiency/l27064_en.htm

3. News Articles, papers and other materials:

- EU plans new energy deals to cut dependence on Russia
  http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/3448247/EU-plans-new-energy-deals-to-cut-dependence-on-Russia.html

- How Dependent is Europe on Russia
  http://www.energypolicyblog.com/2008/11/18/how-dependent-is-europe-on-russian-gas/

- EU's Energy Dependency and Russia's Commercial Assertiveness
  https://docs.google.com/a/eyp.org.ge/viewer?a=v&q=cache:3QDkJ2MwoS0J:www.ecipe.o

rg/publications/ecipe-policy-briefs/europe2019s-energy-dependency-and-russia2019s-commercial-assertiveness-what-should-the-eu-do/PDF+&hl=en&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEESiOmj7jW3QCihMlLcMSE45aJqj8ttYT_xsRaxNy5N3UMhuOYWXzWg0151pOc9N7pskBphDk76WYMibehJ_ndVIkQIK1ZfVn_jueyCUtVH85nGVLzPnLydUQFV7RrTfdeOOICGBV&sig=AHIEtbTMRR3zM_xPka1O0OvNLW513PKYSA

- European Union's Energy Security Challenges
  http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=9&ved=0CHMQFjAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fas.org%2Fsgp%2Fcrs%2Frow%2FRL33636.pdf&ei=K1nSToKdBpC8-QaVqNnFDg&usg=AFQjCNGDnwzgL9KffyPz0kEuspsNchv8kg

- Leading article: Dependence on Russian energy places Europe at risk
  http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-dependence-on-russian-energy-places-europe-at-risk-1229945.html

- Europe Should Reduce Dependence on Russian Energy and Develop Competitive Energy Markets http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2009/01/europe-should-reduce-dependence-on-russian-energy-and-develop-competitive-energy-markets

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE II)

Chairpersons: Irakli Chikava (Vice-President), Nana Maisuradze

> **The European Union seeks to lower the share of people who never used Internet. Having access to new technologies and skills to use them for employment opportunities have become vital.**
>
> *What strategy should the European adopt to achieve the "digital inclusion" in order to overcome the challenges and provide future opportunities?*

Topic Overview:

The skills to use new technologies will become an increasingly essential prerequisite for European citizens to participate in society and to have opportunities on the employment market. Accessing various media and information sources, shopping, banking, communication, the search for jobs or education programmes, various consultation services (health, legal, etc.), government services or even voting: many of these online services have become daily routine for many of us. In the future, some might not even be accessible anymore without being online or only be conventionally available at very high costs. In light of these developments, the current figures of internet access for EU citizens are a reason for concern: 30 % of all EU citizens have never used the internet 1 and only about 60 % use the internet regularly. In comparison, in the United States almost 80 % are already online People excluded from the digital world are often living in remote areas or are affected by poverty or unemployment.

The process of giving people access to the internet and the ability to use it is often termed 'digital inclusion' or 'e-Inclusion'. The European Union has defined a set of goals in various fields to address the problems outlined. In the field of digital inclusion, amongst others, the EU seeks to lower the share of people who never used the internet to 15% by 2015. Also, political decision makers are committed to initiatives for raising skill levels amongst young and old Europeans.

While the goal of further achieving digital inclusion might not be disputed, debates rather circle around the right policy initiatives. Some of the central questions include: How to provide high speed internet access to rural areas? How can high speed access be made affordable? How can people be equipped with the skills to become aware of potential risks of internet usage? How can it be ensured that young as well as older people acquire the skills to benefit from the opportunities of being online?

In the field of access and its affordability a central question is whether the state should pay for the expansion of networks funded by general taxes or whether the telecom industry should be required by law to provide high speed access at normal tariffs to everyone whichin turn might result in higher prices for all users. With several operators competing on the European market, setting the right policy in this area without creating major market distortions is not an easy

task.

The question of skills for internet usage might even be a more difficult one. In this field the EU entirely builds on the Member States' national initiatives and still plans to develop indicators and recommendations, for example in the field of education.

In conclusion, the central question will be whether Europe is able to close the 'digital divide' in its society. This might be an important cornerstone to meet the challenge of creating a European society of equal opportunities to become one of the world's most competitive knowledge based economies.

Keywords: Information Society, Digital Access, Digital Inclusion, e-Inclusion, Digital Agenda, Digital Literacy, E-Skills, Digital Divide

Useful Links:

1. Introductory material:

- About Digital Inclusion, http://www.ukonlinecentres.com/corporate-pages/background/about-digital-inclusion.html

- Internet Usage Statistics, http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm

- Digital Inclusion Initiative, http://www.digitalinclusion.net.au/

2. Official Sources:

- Analysis of e-Inclusion impact resulting from advanced R&D based on economic modelling in relation to innovation capacity, capital formation, productivity, and empowerment – Summary Report (2010), http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/library/studies/docs/composite_index.pdf

- eInclusion public policies in Europe – final report (2009), http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/library/studies/docs/einclusion_policies_in_europe.pdf

- Digital Agenda for Europe 2010 – 2020, http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm

- *Division of Governmental Studies and Services Digital Inclusion, http://dgss.wsu.edu/di/*

3. News Articles, papers and other materials:

- Media Coverage/Debates „"EU asks who will pay for high-speed Internet" (03.03.2010),

- http://www.euractiv.com/en/infosociety/eu-asks-who-will-pay-high-speed-internet-news-301230

- "Digital Agenda: Commission outlines action plan to boost Europe's prosperity and well-being" Press

- Release (19.05.2010), http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/581

- Enhance e-skills as part of the Digital Agenda, http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/pillar.cfm?pillar_id=48

- *Delivering Digital Inclusion: An Action Plan for Consultation,* *http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/deliveringdigitalinclusion*

LIBE – Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Chairpersons: Tinatin Janjghava (President), Sopho otiashvili

> **Human trafficking is considered be among the most common forms of modern slavery and the fastest growing criminal industries in the world.**
>
> *How can the European states, NGOs, youth and other actors work together to address this problem in the countries of origin, as well as within the boundaries of the European Union?*

Topic Overview:

Migration flows from the poor East to the wealthy West of the European continent have increased to unprecedented levels. There are several push and pull factors behind migration. People leave their country for reasons of economic deprivation, high unemployment levels, lack or bad quality of social services such as medical care and education, a lack of social order and control leading citizens to feel unsafe, etc. Western countries are often perceived to be rich and full of opportunities.

Trafficking in human beings (hereafter THB), one of the most lucrative organised crimes in Europe, yields about $3 billion a year for criminal groups6, who control more than 140,000 persons at any point in time and subject them to sexual exploitation or forced labour (UNOCD report). With the volume and value of the market in mind this modern form of bondage is not only a threat to victims and to those related to the victims but also an ever-growing force which weakens legitimate economies, fuels violence, jeopardises public health and safety and disrupts the potential for social prosperity. THB, social consequences to a side, is the ultimate violation of fundamental human rights from freedom of a person in general to the free choice of employment and to just and favourable conditions of work.

According to Europol's June 2009 report on THB, the European Union's exposure to organised criminality has increased further still since the enlargements of 2004 and 2007. As a direct consequence of the increase of internal, external and sea borders, major source countries for trafficking such as Moldova, Ukraine and etc. The likelihood of THB remaining a problem for the EU, along with Europe as a whole, is high.

Not much data is available on the number of victims of trafficking. There are several reasons for this. First of all, there is no centralised registry or agreed on methodology in countries for collecting and analysing the incidence of trafficking. Secondly, and more importantly, most victims do not report to the police or seek assistance.

Ukrainian state statistics are based on Ukrainians who leave the country for employment purposes. Available research reveals that Ukrainian women are a popular and valuable ethnic group in the sex market. It was found that women at risk of trafficking have a more pessimistic perception of their living standards as well as of the economic prospects of the country. In

addition, the study revealed that the women's migration decisions can be based on false information, in large part due to an inactive mass media, and are influenced by aggressive recruitment methods used by traffickers. Romania, for example, is a source and transit country for victims of trafficking coming mainly from Moldova and Ukraine to Bosnia, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Greece, Italy, and Turkey (US Department of State 2003).

Many protocols and action plans have been set forward primarily by both the European Council and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to prevent and combat transnational trafficking in persons by organised criminal groups; to protect and assist the victims of exploitation and to promote cooperation among countries in this domain.

Regardless of many efforts, Blue Heart Campaign of UNOCD raising awareness and inspiring people, Daphne Program of European Parliament acting as the starting point of many NGOs combating violence towards women and children including sex exploitation, what role should European Union take to further combat human trafficking? Shouldthe NGOs, signatory states and the youth better analyse the root causes and resolve the problem from the starting point? What can be learned from past experience in the area of combating THB and what can be further endorsed?

Keywords: THB (Trafficking in human beings), modern slavery, European State, NGOs, youth, countries of origin, Daphne Program, Blue Heart Campaign

Useful Links:

1. Introductory material:

- Human Trafficking, http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html

- Human Trafficking
  http://www.pnyv.org/index.php?id=34&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=45&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=8&cHash=f4ac7f61bc

2. Official Sources:

- Website of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Convntn/default_en.asp

- Europol Report- June 2009,

  http://www.europol.europa.eu/publications/Serious_Crime_Overviews/Trafficking%20in%20Human%20Beings%20June%202009.pdf

- Protocol against the trafficking of people,
  http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/fight_against_trafficking_in_human_beings/l33700_en.htm

- Daphne Program,

  http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/human_rights/fundamental_rights_within_european_union/l33062_en.htm

- Blue Heart Campaign, http://www.unodc.org/blueheart/en/campaign-tools.html

- International Labour Organization, http://www.ilo.org

3. News Articles, papers and other materials:

- Europe's Modern Slave Trade,
  http://www.newnations.com/specialreports/humantrafficking.html

- Local reference – Wales, http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-11371717