



## A Villain at VeUMEU?

*Mastrocola (NI) and Randazzo (The Left): the clash is coming*

Since 2013, migration has been a central issue both at the national and European level. The images of thousands who died in the Mediterranean Sea shocked public opinion. For several years the flux of migrants constantly increased and the terms “migration crisis” or “migration emergency” became very common in the news.

With the ongoing wars and climate change-related problems, it seems that migration will not decrease soon. And the European Union knows it. That’s why a new proposal for a Regulation on Migration and Asylum was brought to the front by the Commission.

Compliance with human rights; fair-shared responsibility; standardization of asylum procedure at the European level; reducing illegal migration and migrant stay in the union: these are some of the aims of the regulation, which presents a common legal framework at the European level, thus replacing the single policies of its member states.

This proposal now has to be discussed and accepted both by the Parliament and the Council, and any prediction of what will happen, above all in the parliament, is really uncertain and difficult to foresee.

On one hand, it has been understood that the present European policy towards migration and asylum has to be improved in order to save lives, to respect the rights of migrants and asylum seekers, and to have better and clearer coordination and regulation. On the other hand – and if we look at the public opinion it is very clear - from 2013 up to now, the sentiments of empathy were soon replaced with a fear that those people could be a threat for the social and economic stability. This led to a call for security and a stronger control at the borders, something that then became the core of many populist and nationalist parties’ propaganda, which rode and nurtured these anti-immigration sentiments, gaining broad consensus.

Mario Mastrocola: The Leader of the NI



Fausto Randazzo: the leader of The Left



## Letter from the Editor

After the months-long preparation for VeUMEU 2024, we are finally here and all ready to master the art of pushing one’s way into the political arena. Very soon both chambers are going to tackle some of the most important issues of the world and the continent of Europe specifically. The challenges and the controversies triggered by these issues will become a matter of debate and analysis among the MEPs and the ministers. At least, we hope so.

Today the Council of the European Union will dive into the incessant discussion about migration management. Even though the 27 member states are linked to each other with the similar values, purposes, and ethics, the differences in cultural memory, geopolitics, or certain courses of action leads to the divisive opinions among states that will probably be displayed and explained by our ministers.

Whereas the European Parliament will take over the initiative about empowering consumers for our better “greener” future. Here too, we have differing stances of parties prioritizing this issue and the factions deeming the same problem exaggerated or artificially pushed into the agenda. Therefore, today we are going to see what the different wings of the spectrum can offer us.

The press team has the honour of being the eyes and the ears of the whole simulation. So, make sure not to leave your role behind way too soon!

Welcome and, once again, enjoy!

*Editor in Chief,  
Lizi Bukhrashvili*

This is the case of the Fidesz, the Hungarian party, where the Prime Minister Viktor Orban comes from, which is among the seats of the NI (Non-Inscrits) parliamentary group, led by Mario Mastrocola, from Fidesz, who finds himself in total disagreement with the proposal. According to him, it is a huge over-control of the Brussels élite and an infringement of the member states' sovereignty, who should "decide for themselves who and how many people they want to enter the country". For those reasons, he affirms: "we are not going to back down from fighting against it".

In his view, Hungary, together with Poland, is a model that the European Union should imitate, if it wants to survive in the next decades. What does this model consist of? Hungary solved its migration-related problems after 2015: "instead of rewarding migrants we built defense, improved our border infrastructure, we built our strong, secure, legal order. Then we can count on two hands the number of illegal migrants who came across our border". Here is where he claims that the EU should direct the incentives, and not aim at such fair-shared responsibility and coordination.

These words summarize in a good way the migration policy that Orban undertook during his mandate, that also led ECJ to affirm that Hungary's policy was in violation with EU's international protection rules and was an obstacle for a rapid access to the asylum procedure. Orban's policy, in fact, requires asylum seekers to submit a pre-asylum request. Then, if accepted, it is possible to enter Hungary, if not, you are sent back.

When reminded about the ECJ, Mastrocola answers: "We reject this obligation. Fullstop. And we reject those norms and the rulings from the ECJ". Not to mention, if we broaden the view to the international law, that Hungary is also part of the Refugee Convention of 1951, which defines the status of refugee, his rights, and the obligation of countries of arrival to process asylum requests: without doing it, a state cannot send anyone back.



For Mastrocola however, everything seems to be a matter of legality – of course, the one of the Fidesz – and of the state sovereignty: "Our issue is all what concerns illegal migrants: we are totally in favor of those people that legally want to enter our beautiful union through the legal channels: if they are making application for asylum beforehand and they are approved." If not, he anticipates for European countries the risk of disintegration, as happened in Sweden or France.

These countries are criticized by Mastrocola to have "rewarded" the migrants, who instead are not willing to obey these countries' social contract, and have no interest in being integrated into the society. The European priority is somewhere else: "there is our EU identity, social cohesion, security and safety", he claims. Furthermore, "we have our people to take care of. We have the cost of living crisis, inflation, and we are dealing with climate change. First and foremost, we represent our constituents. I am representing the proud people of Hungary who repeatedly told us that they don't want mass illegal immigration and don't want any promotion of it, especially through this new pact that is proposed by the Brussels bureaucrats and the European Parliament". If this regulation is approved, Hungary will have to cope with a massive number of migrants sent here by the EU, that they don't want to accept. "We are against it", he repeats.

Here, it's important to underline that the opinions inside the NI are quite different since the far-left politicians are present as well. Nevertheless, even due to opposite reasons, the group finds cohesion rejecting the proposal.

Sitting in front of NI on the other side of the Parliament, there are the MEPs of The Left, a party that, as well as NI, will put obstacles to the proposal – though on different grounds. The leader of The Left, Fausto Randazzo, doesn't want to use the term "migration emergency", but "historically common phenomenon". However, he also recognizes that Europe is struggling. Here comes, in his view, the need for better migration management, and the attention that the commission showed towards that topic, is seen as something encouraging to him. However, "it is not enough", he states. "We need a broader improvement: here it is a matter of human lives". Furthermore, the improvement of asylum – related norms and the achievement of a better management of migration could also be essential in order to calm down nationalistic and far-right sentiments. The opposition to Mastrocola's perspective is clear.

The approach of Randazzo's group is essentially one based on human rights. While recognizing that the proposal could improve migrants' HR, the level is not enough for them. The article on extradition seems to be their biggest concern, since it sends migrants back to the countries where human rights are not respected. However, the infringement of HR can be experienced also once entered in Europe: "in this proposal there is a space for labor exploitation. Immigrants who arrive in Europe, sometimes work in non-regularized conditions, without a contract and in terrible circumstances. Mastrocola and Randazzo clearly explained their group's criticisms towards the proposal. Based on two opposing reasons, it is clear that they will at least ask for some amendments. Which line of thought will the proposal follow during the discussion? Will it be more in the direction of Mastrocola or Fausto? What role will EPP and S&D play in this? Are they going to be led by the strength of these extreme positions, or will they moderate those of the NI and

The LEFT? Is a compromise going to be reached? Nothing can be said yet, but we certainly won't be surprised if the clashes between The Left and the MEPs on the Mastrocola line will bring a lot of tension to San Servolo this weekend.

*Journalist Alice Fraglica*

## A. M. Boschin: Portrait of Commissioner

Our Commissioner, Alessandro Maxim Boschin, arrives prepared to his interviews. Very prepared. He has a prompt and well-formulated answer for every topic and could probably think of a few more questions on his own, leaving the interviewer fighting not to be relegated to the (quite relaxing) role of the spectator.



Alessandro Maxim Boschin:  
Commissioner

With a Bachelor of languages, a Master's degree in Comparative International Relations and multiple participations in simulations of European Union institutions, Boschin has a strong academic background and a profound fascination for human rights law and the European Union institutions and politics.

For VeUMEU 2024 he plays the role of Commissioner and has performed part of his duties by writing the proposal for a Directive regarding the empowering of consumers for the green transition through better protection against unfair practices and better information.

The Directive follows the goals set in Articles 169 and 114 on environmental and consumer protection. It proceeds in the wake of the European Green Deal and of the 2050 long-term strategies, addressing greenwashing and early obsolescence practices as well as the use of unreliable sustainability labels.

Boschin stresses that the proposal amends the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (2005) by adding the necessity of informing consumers, with the aim of enhancing their trust in sustainability practices, and by clarifying whether greenwashing practices can always be labelled fair or unfair. The directive also amends the Consumer Rights Directive (2011), which didn't require the seller to inform the consumer about the existence (or lack) of a guarantee of durability of a product.

The Commissioner is admirably precise, passionate and proud about his work, so much so that, even when answering

questions that usually bring people to talk about themselves, he manages to stay focused on his role.

For example, when asked if there's something he feels he ought to share, he says: "It's a technicality, but I think it's needed to clarify the difference between 'change' and 'delete'". (The first means operating a substitution, while the latter entitles a complete cancellation).

The Commissioner urges the delegates to be aware of the consequences that deleting a portion of the Directive might have on the totality of the text, and especially on the Annex. Interrogated on his stances on the Directive, he defines it as a solid and necessary work. He foresees that some passages will be controversial, especially in the Parliament, because the Directive indirectly affects producers and therefore national economies. He also expresses a personal wish that the definitions in Articles 1 and 2 won't be modified.

But Boschin's interest in VeUMEU isn't purely technical. This is the third edition he has taken part in, having dressed a role both in the Parliament and in the Council, and he talks about VeUMEU with genuine affection. Despite the previous editions clearly having a place in his heart, he has positive expectations for this year and predicts some interesting discussions and new learning opportunities. He also promises to do his part to ensure that new participants can have a first experience of VeUMEU as positive as his.

For them, he has a hearty piece of advice that goes against the tide: "Don't be too competitive". Even though some healthy competition can improve performances during the simulation, the Commissioner believes that a cooperative and friendly atmosphere can only heighten the constructive aspects of the experience.

*Press Coordinator for Parliament, Francesca Filippi*

## Migration Matters

*Insights from Ms. Indykova*

European Commissioner Valeria Indykova gives us her insights on the European Commission proposals and her role a few days before the opening of the VeUMEU 2024. We explore together the different expectations regarding the upcoming debates about Migration in the European Parliament and the Council. We thank Ms. Indykova for joining us in this conversation!

Valeria Indykova: Commissioner



**Firstly, according to you which aspects or articles of the proposal are going to be most debated upon or potentially amended in the upcoming session?**

I expect Article 4 to be one of the most debated due to the matter of EU involvement in Member States' policymaking processes and the allocation of resources.

Article 5 will most likely be discussed and amended in the light of mechanisms for assessing needs and contributions, at the extent of financial and operational assistance provided by the EU. Article 6 is also going to receive a fair share of debates. Such topics are crucial for assessing the readiness of both the EU and its member states in managing migration. Last but not least comes Article 7, where concerns about the effectiveness of diplomatic efforts, human rights implications, and the balance between cooperation and coercion may arise.

**What makes the topics discussed in the proposal particularly crucial to be discussed today? What are some of your personal opinions on the same?**

The European Union continues to face significant challenges related to migration. These challenges have various causes such as conflicts, political instability, climate change, and economic disparities in neighboring regions. As such, addressing these issues is essential for finding sustainable solutions and ensuring the effective management of migration. In the proposal, as migration patterns evolve, effective governance and monitoring mechanisms are essential for adapting policies and strategies accordingly.

The topic of migration management is very personal for me. Being an international student coming from a non-EU country, I have been faced with all the processes and issues connected to them myself. So, I strongly believe that addressing and improving existing governance related to migration and asylum-seeking topics are as essential as ever. I hope this simulation will help all participants to study the proposals and enable them to communicate within their framework for positive changes.

**How do you think the Parliament and the Council will analyze the two proposals differently? And why?**

The proposal I have been working on outlines asylum and migration management. Therefore, I predict that the Parliament will mainly focus on the aspects of human rights in the upcoming session, whereas the Council will be mostly concerned with more practical aspects of implementing the proposed strategies. Similarly, the proposal on the green transition, represented by my colleague, Alessandro Boschin, is more likely to be discussed in the Council within the economic aspects that come hand in hand with the proposal. Plus, the Parliament will, in my opinion, deal with consumer rights, environmental sustainability, and social justice in its analysis of the consumer empowerment proposal. The reason for this "phenomenon" lies in the fact that the Parliament often represents a broader range of interests, including consumer advocacy groups and environmental NGOs. In contrast, the Council, composed of national governments, tends to prioritize economic considerations and regulatory harmonization.

**Lastly, I would like to ask you about your role. What are the challenges of being part of the European Commission and the decision making process? And what are your feelings for the upcoming session?**

I have decided to apply for the role of Commissioner rather spontaneously, which does not happen to me generally, as I prefer to plan my future thoroughly. Yet, it has been one of the best and challenging experiences so far. I would like to express my gratitude for the legal advisor of VeUMEU, Sara Dal Monico, as her contribution and help have been extremely valuable to me. She and EPRS Experts have helped to manage the main challenge I have faced. Finding the right definitions and staying within the legal context were essential to me during this experience. I cannot wait for the simulation to take place. Seeing the team of passionate people organizing this event is truly fascinating. I hope everyone involved will find something for themselves there - a new passion, a new topic to investigate or a new friend. In either case, we are about to witness the most exciting student event of 2024!

*Press Coordinator for Council, Aqsa Ilmi*

## **Navigating the Role of the President of the European Parliament**

*Insights from the chat with Giovanni Gereschi*

The European Parliament stands as a cornerstone of democracy within the European Union, representing the voices and interests of over 400 million citizens across member states.

At its helm sits the President, a figure tasked with overseeing debates, ensuring the smooth functioning of operations, and representing the EU on the global stage.



Shayan Shojai: the Vice-President of the Parliament and Giovanni Gereschi: the President of the Parliament

In a recent interview, we had the pleasure to chat with this year's Venice Universities Model European Union Parliament President, Giovanni Gereschi, as we get ready for the beginning of the 2024 annual appointment.

Third year student at PISE Ca' Foscari of Venice, he's had countless personal records in the field of the European political environment.

The head of Parliament has academic and practical experience in European institutions and policy-making, making him well-equipped to represent diverse voices in the EU. He has chaired VeUMEU 2022, participated in Model European Union Strasbourg, and represented Germany at the UN General Assembly. He is currently writing his thesis on

European Foreign Policy. His commitment to advancing democracy and cooperation within the EU is evident.

The President of the European Parliament shoulders a weighty mantle of responsibilities. Foremost among these is the task of presiding over debates, ensuring that parliamentary sessions flow smoothly and according to established rules. Moreover, the President serves as a neutral arbiter, maintaining order and impartiality even amidst the diverse political interests represented within the chamber. Beyond these duties, he assumes a crucial role as the face of the European Union, representing its values and interests to the world.

Upholding parliamentary decorum and impartiality amidst diverse political ideologies is a real challenge for the role. Mr. Gereschi stressed preparation and commitment to order and rules, and, despite potential turbulence, Parliament's head is confident in MEP's ability to overcome challenges effectively.



Looking ahead to the upcoming session, the President expressed high expectations for participants, noting the strong candidates and their qualification for engaging in debates and negotiations. While specific topics for discussion were not disclosed, Mr. Gereschi anticipates robust deliberations and potential amendments to both the proposed regulation on "Asylum and Migration" and the directive on "Consumer Protection". Despite the uncertainties, there is a palpable sense of optimism and readiness to address the challenges that lie ahead.

The President praised the European Parliament Members, recognizing their varying levels of involvement and skill in debates. Moreover, he expressed confidence in all members' ability to contribute meaningfully. Emphasizing cooperation and diplomacy, he avoided naming specific factions, highlighting his impartial approach to governance.

In concluding remarks, Mr. Gereschi offered valuable advice to model EU delegates participating in the Parliament. Encouraging active participation and the utilization of diverse skills, the interviewee emphasized the importance of confidence and perseverance.

Acknowledging the initial challenges that delegates may face, he reassured them that every voice matters and that adaptation and growth are integral parts of the learning process:

"There are two advices that i can give: one of them is not to be afraid of standing out and participating, because all the participants are there to learn [...] so, do not be afraid to stand up and speak and express your opinion; but, there again, here goes my second advice: it is not only debating that makes the difference. You can express your talents and your personal predispositions at best also by owning different skills: alliance building, negotiating, interpersonal skills [...] and, of course, you have to have fun in the meantime, because at the end we're also there to have fun. Don't take it hard on the first day if you see that you haven't had the chance to speak. If you're shy or you feel like some people are better than you in some ways [...] remember, no one is better than anyone else, you just may need more time to get accustomed to the situation, so really, don't be scared and do your best".

In essence, the role of the President of the European Parliament encompasses a delicate balance of responsibilities, challenges, and personal experiences. As we glean insights from the interview, it becomes evident that effective leadership in such a role requires not only competence and preparedness but also a deep-seated commitment to democratic values and cooperation. As the European Parliament continues to serve as a beacon of democracy within the EU, the stewardship of its President remains pivotal in ensuring its continued success and relevance on the global stage.

Journalist Rebecca Basso

## More Pollutant than Green?

*The Green Party as leading force of the new labeling rules against greenwashing launched by the Commission*

The Alliance of the Green Party and European Free Alliance, which has been at the forefront of the fight for sustainability, is betting on the strength of will of the nations for a more sustainable world. A statement from Marija Mihajlovic, leader of the Party, interviewed just days before the directive is to be debated in Parliament.

The proposal, which has been divisive within the parliamentary committee, this time concerns the labeling of products, which would often hide ecological practices proclaimed through certifications, but which have nothing to do with sustainability. "Green lies" deceive or leave in doubt the consumer who unwittingly becomes a pawn in a system influenced by greenwashing. "It's time to face environmental issues. Nature has always been at our disposal; we must reciprocate with care and respect" - explains the Party leader. "The right question to ask is not whether it is possible to

implement renewable energy at the level required by the directive, but rather when we will begin to do so.”

The new law would help consumers make informed choices, cut off the legs of productions that proclaim to be environmentally friendly, but in fact, are not. The proposal would also represent a further squeeze on businesses that still “pollute water and the atmosphere, destroy the habitats of many animal species, contribute to their deaths, and continue to destroy green areas and deforestation”, claims the Party. The proposal can put “pressure” on companies by pointing to a more sustainable production process, that will potentially influence the Union's foreign partners as well, if they want to continue to trade with the EU states. As the Green Party argues, the environmental issue has no boundaries and is a global responsibility. But who will monitor the proper implementation? “The ecology ministries of the individual member states” - the party explains - “it would be inefficient to delegate control to a single body, the European Environment Agency. It is essential to have regulation on a local basis. The EU places universal regulation that the economies have to follow”. In short, those who should be controlled would become controllers, and the EU became the supervisor.

Marija Mihajlovic: the leader of the Greens



The party's workhorse to convince each party to implement its own regulations, specifically through product labels, will be the “willpower for more sustainability world,” which the party leader says is echoed especially in grassroots protests, such as those of the honking tractors in the European capitals. But this is precisely where we cannot stumble. Farmers' demands, related to the ecological imposes, were very different: the Belgium's protest was against the EU's requirement to leave 4 percent of the land fallow, in Poland against the EU's rules for restoring nature on drained wetting, in other states against the cheap imports or the diesel costs. Will the willpower be homogeneous enough to unite everyone's goals on the new directive?

Another open front is the issue of asylum and migration. EU member states' policies are reportedly still far from the ideology advocated by the Green Party, composed of five distinct European political parties, including part of the European Free Alliance (EFA), which has always been a human rights defender of stateless nations and political minorities. “EU member states are not doing enough. We continue to count the victims of migration and make our borders graveyards. A European pact on migration and

reception, which considers war and ecology as reasons to seek asylum, must be above all national policies” –the party leader argues - “thousands of migrants die during the Mediterranean crossing. We need a humane migration policy that allows safe passages.” A statement in contrast to the results of the poll published by “Ipsos for Euronews” in March, which shows the Green Party in last place, with 36% “priority,” on the issue of relevance related to irregular migration. Followed by the Left (37 %), S&D (49 %) and Renew (58 %), parties that the Greens feel particularly close to. It seems that the party's call for a “Green and Social Deal”, in which migration is closely linked to climate change, as well as to wars, political and human reasons, is losing attention. But if not by the Greens, by whom should these arguments be promoted?

*Journalist Niccole Petrucci*

## **S&D's determination for proposals approval**

One full weekend awaits us for debating the two proposals and the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) are determined to push both towards approval. We had the pleasure to interview S&D's leader Federico Claps. He made clear that S&D remains firm on their positions and goals and will fight to ensure both proposals pass.

The Socialist and Democrats have been a leading force in the European Parliament since their foundation and as the second-largest group, hold a significant power. Federico Claps remains relaxed at the burden of being the head of such a prominent group. “For now it was really smooth sailing, I have to say”, he recounts, letting us in on the inner workings of S&D. The key seems to be the harmony within the fraction, despite consisting of many members. Claps states: “The S&D is a very cohesive group and we will not stop doing that. We will be united.”

There is no doubt that S&D will play a crucial role in the debates. The centre-left group has been instrumental for the Green Transition Directive and previous legislatures regarding a green Europe. “We stand for the use of anything that can reduce the impact that we have on the climate and on the planet as a whole”, confirms Claps. However, he acknowledges that steering the EU in a green direction is not always easy, calling renewable energies and the 2030 Green Deal “one of the most ambitious goals for the future”. Claps's diplomatic leadership style aims to guide the EU towards these, reflecting his approach leading S&D. “If we can manage to find harmony between ourselves, then it's going to be much easier, definitely. And we will work for that.”

The S&D leader knows too well who disrupts this harmony not only in this directive, but also the regulation on asylum and migration management, anticipating opposition from both the left and the right. The proposal has been controversial not only within but also outside the parliament.

Federico Claps: the leader of the S&D



Over 160 rights organisations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have opposed the regulation, stating it would increase suffering, offer less protection and safety and violate human rights.

While being aware of the criticism, Federico Claps strongly refutes the NGOs claims, stating that the current living conditions of migrants are the true breach of human rights and that change in form of the regulation is necessary to better these. He further declares: “These claims fail to understand that migrants already want to migrate to other countries. Not so many of them actually want to stay in Italy, actually want to stay in Spain or in Greece, where they first arrived. Most of them actually would like to be in other countries, but they can’t right now, because of the Dublin regulation, which is absolutely inadequate. So this regulation is definitely a progress, no matter what the NGOs say.”

We are eager to see whether S&D can defend their positions and goals as firmly on the VeUMEU weekend and secure both proposals’ approval.

*Journalist Moana Jomchai Hemsuthipan*

## Renew Europe, Unite Europe

“What we really find important as the faction Renew Europe, is to approach the green transition in a transparent and affordable manner.” Federico Campagnolo, the leader of the Renew Europe, said in a recent interview with EUnow. The preceding sentence shows that Renew Europe is committed to the directive towards a green transition. “We wish to have Europe become competitive in the global market through specialization in renewable technologies and in technology for renewable energies. We also wish for the European Union to become the first superpower to become truly carbon neutral”, Campagnolo said.

Although the green transition is the most important matter, the idea of detailed issues was different even within the party. “We kind of have different views when it comes to where we should work with the green transition. For example, some of our members are seeking solutions to the issue of farmers that aren’t getting compensated properly.”

In terms of migration and asylum, Campagnolo said they are committed to the same principles.

Renew Europe agrees that this regulation is a good step towards a more united European Union. In addition, he thinks that the proposal is compatible with the current national policies. “This regulation is fully in line with the European laws with human rights and that is why our coalition supports this regulation”, Campagnolo said. “We are wholly interested in trying to uphold human rights and ensure that the asylum seeking and migration process is a safe and regulated as it possibly can also avoid the unnecessary loss of lives.”

Voices from the other parties were also expected to oppose their views. The leader of the Renew Europe expected most pushback to come from the ID party and the Non-Inscrits. “Our stance about migration relies on cooperation, solidarity, and shared responsibility, but it implies the institutionalization of a framework that is valid for all Member States of the EU. The ID and some of the Non-Inscrits may find this approach unsatisfactory on the basis that we are accepting migrants and asylum seekers in the first place”, he said. “They will surely try to push to have this regulation to not pass, allowing them to continue to pursue a racist national strategy which refuses all of these people, which may infringe on human rights”, Campagnolo added.

But he was not intimidated by the disagreement from other parties. He rather thought that being a centrist party, Renew Europe is more capable to reach compromises. “If we have a party within our faction that isn’t really happy with the way the directive or the regulation is worded, we may be compelled to ask them what they would like for us to amend to change. So we can adapt our proposals and try to get them voted into the directive or regulation in order to have them.”

Especially when it comes to the green transition, he said they need to persuade other parties from a more economic perspective view, because Renew Europe values small and medium enterprises. “I think that the perspective may help to get everyone together and agree into voting in favor of this directive”, he said.



Federico Campagnolo: the leader of the Renew Europe

Finally, Campagnolo expressed his ambition to participate in this VeUMEU. He already participated in the last year’s simulation, so he has bigger goals than simply learning the formal processes and improving his ability to present in front of an audience. “My goals are to try to get at least one amendment passed because that’s what I failed to do the last time. And another goal of mine is to try to win one of the awards. But the competition is fierce and I’m not confident that we’ll be 100 percent able to get one. So, we’ll see how it goes.”

*Journalist Hyejeong Yoon*

# A conversation with European People's Party Danagul Alimova

*Navigating Renewable Energy and Migration*

In a recent interview with Danagul Alimova, the President of the European People's Party (EPP), we had the pleasure to talk about the complex dynamics surrounding renewable energy implementation and migration policies within the European Union, as her party is getting ready to face the 2024 VeUMEU appointment.

With a focus on balancing the needs and concerns of all member states, the interview shed light on the challenges and strategies concerning these critical issues.

The conversation began with an exploration of the feasibility of implementing renewable energy to the extent required by EU directives. It was acknowledged that while renewable energy is essential for combating climate change, not all member states are equally positioned to embrace it fully. Countries like Germany and France are enthusiastic about transitioning to renewable sources such as solar energy. However, others, like the Czech Republic and Slovakia, face geographical limitations that make such transitions more challenging.

Miss Alimova emphasized the need for the EPP to consider the diverse needs of all member states in formulating a strategy for renewable energy adoption. While the party is supportive of renewable energy initiatives, it recognizes the importance of addressing the concerns of countries with varying resources and capabilities. Discussions within the party include exploring solutions such as energy storage technologies to accommodate different national contexts.



Danagul Alimova: the leader of the EPP

The interview also delved into the complexities of the European Union migration policies, particularly in the aftermath of geopolitical events such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The President highlighted the importance of striking a balance between welcoming immigrants and ensuring the security of EU citizens.

The EPP's stance on migration emphasizes the need for enhanced border security and stricter regulation to prevent unauthorized entry. However, the party remains committed

to welcoming immigrants who respect European values and seek to integrate into society. Collaboration with international organizations like the United Nations (UN) and UNICEF is seen as essential in addressing the root causes of migration and providing support to countries of origin.

A recurring theme throughout the interview was the necessity of fostering cohesion and collaboration among EU member states. The President stressed the importance of understanding the motivations behind migration and working collaboratively with both source and destination countries to address migratory challenges.

While acknowledging the bureaucratic hurdles associated with policy implementation, the Party's leader expressed optimism about the possibility of achieving cohesive and collaborative policies across Europe. Despite differing opinions within the EPP, there is a shared commitment to representing the interests of all member states and finding common ground.

As the EU navigates complex issues such as renewable energy implementation and migration, the EPP remains dedicated to finding solutions that balance the needs of all member states. By fostering cooperation and dialogue, the party aims to address challenges collectively while upholding the values of the European Union.

In conclusion, the interview provided valuable insights into the EPP's approach to key issues facing the EU. Through a commitment to inclusivity and collaboration, the party seeks to navigate the complexities of contemporary challenges and work towards a more sustainable and harmonious future for Europe.

With a deeper understanding of the perspectives and strategies of the European Parliament's EPP, stakeholders and citizens alike can engage in informed discussions and contribute to the development of effective policies that address the pressing challenges of our time.

*Journalist Rebecca Basso*

## Searching for the *Right* position.

When it comes to supporting strong opinions on serious topics, conservative and right-wing parties never miss the chance to showcase their cohesion and bold moral stances on the socio-economic matters fuelling debates in Parliament. Naturally, they displayed their confident spirit during the interviews with the parties' leaders about their position on the two important proposals presented by the Commission to the Parliament and Council: the directive on the green transition and the regulation on asylum and migration management.



As observed from the interviews with the leaders of the ID and ECR parties, the positions of the two groups on these topics are quite similar on several points. Regarding the regulation on migration management, one of the major objectives of the Commission is to establish solidarity measures that provide assistance to member states overwhelmed by a large number of asylum seekers. The aim is to create a fair responsibility sharing system to prevent certain members from bearing a disproportionate burden on the issue. This system should follow a more defined framework established by the European Union, rather than relying solely on individual member states. Both the ID and the ECR criticize the potential threat to the national sovereignty that this regulation could pose. They strongly believe that member states shouldn't be compelled to actively manage asylum seekers' integration in Europe, especially when they are already making economical contributions. They highlight the necessity of the strict eligibility criteria to ensure assistance to refugees and individuals in need, as the regulation doesn't specify which categories have priority in receiving assistance.

**Dea Xhafa: the leader of the ECR**



They believe that illegal immigration systems need to be discouraged, especially ID, which has expressed concern about the dangerous routes that migrants take to reach our countries, as if they were not aware of the risks when deciding to leave their homeland. Enhancing border security is, therefore, another firmly supported point among these two parties. Regarding the fair sharing of responsibilities, the ECR rejected the idea of burdening non-consenting countries with the weight that more welcoming countries already bear.

Their leader stated: "Each member state should decide whether to put its member quota regarding what it is actually their capacity to do that", emphasizing that some countries find it more challenging to welcome refugees and asylum seekers due to their lower economic stability. This is a solid statement, considering that member states that don't host many non-EU migrants are not appealing to their own citizens as well. In fact, countries that are less likely to host non-EU migrants, such as Romania, Bulgaria, and Poland, happen to have a high number of expats in other member states: this provides the already migrant-welcoming members of the EU with additional people to host within their borders.

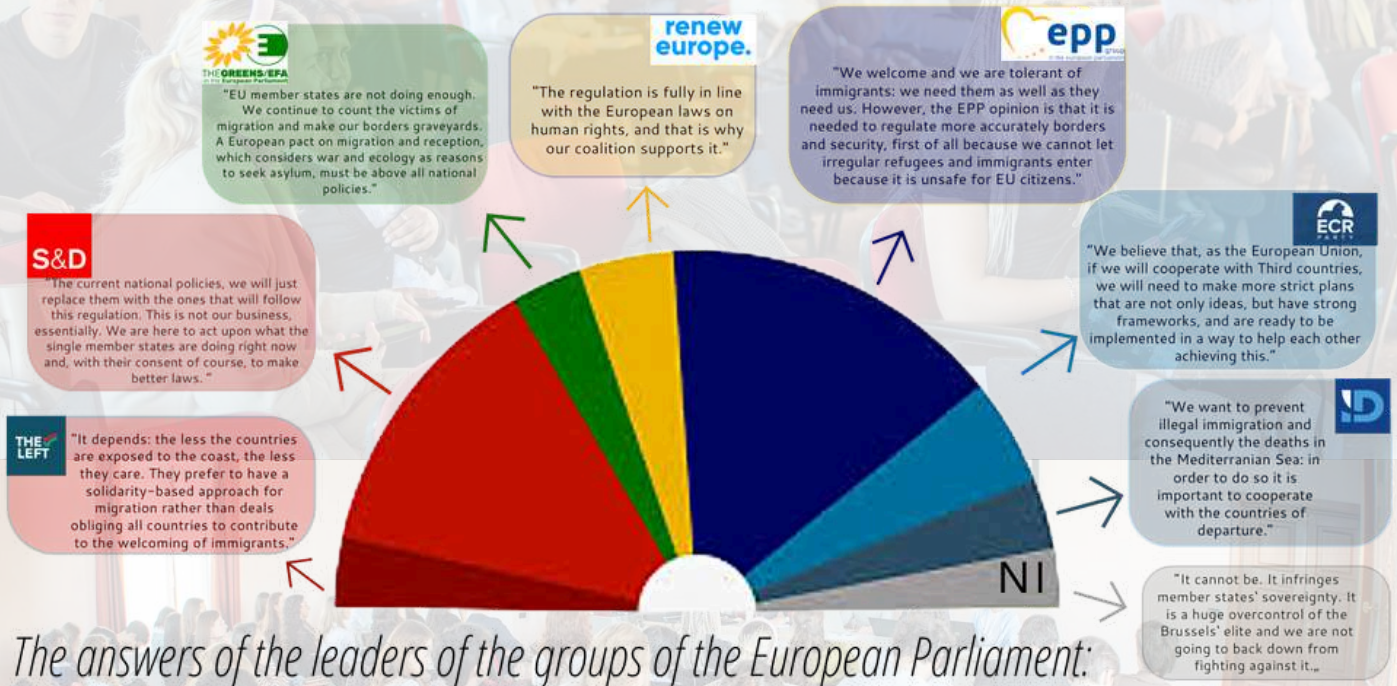
Finally, the two parties seem to agree with the regulation that a strong plan of cooperation with third countries is needed to better manage the situation, as it will provide an opportunity for migrants to stay in their homeland by focusing on building a more stable economy and infrastructure system.

The parties must have been inspired once again by their natural pragmatic attitude when answering the questions about the directive on the green transition. Both groups have indeed pointed out that the proposal is not practical enough. They have also highlighted how it undermines the national sovereignty of member states and their economies. The ID's leader' position was particularly fierce about the excessive bureaucracy presented by the Commission, stating that "the directive needs more common sense, we need to bring the directive down to earth." The ID has rightfully been vocal about the necessity of keeping prices affordable for consumers, fearing that newly imposed environmentally friendly procedures will force producers to raise their prices. Back on a more traditionally right-wing position, the groups are worried about the negative effect this directive could have on European companies and the competitiveness of their prices compared to those of non-European producers. The ECR has expressed concerns that "too many legislations can hinder the idea of a free market", noting that the demands of the directive regarding the early obsolescence of products could hamper industries that depend on products that need to be frequently replaced for security and performance reasons, such as blade razors. Being so concerned about the economy, the ECR shared their belief in the excessive importance reserved for this directive. They affirm that there are more important topics we should debate about, such as migration, technological development, and the stabilization of the economy, as if the climate crisis and the consequential necessity of a more sustainable lifestyle are not already considered urgent issues.

**Arianna Guida: the leader of the ID**



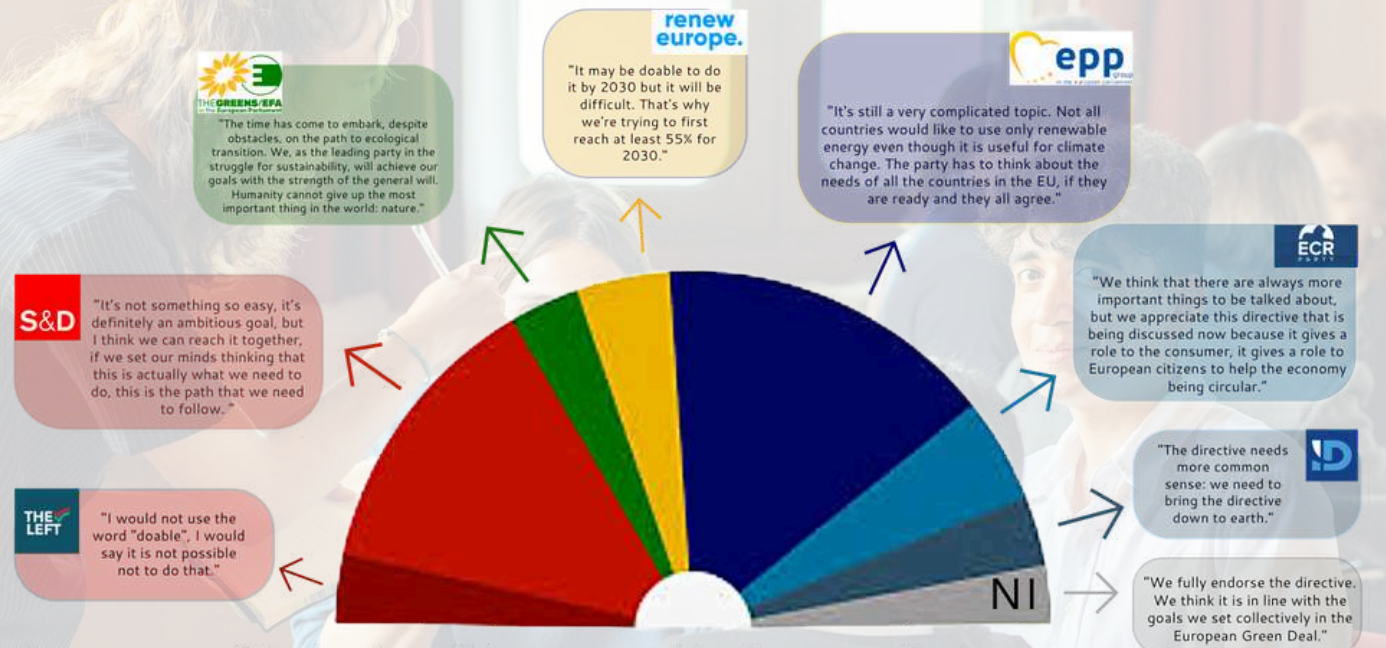
## Is the regulation on asylum and migration compatible with current national policies?



The answers of the leaders of the groups of the European Parliament:



## Is it doable to implement the use of renewable energies in the EU to the level required by the directive?



The answers of the leaders of the groups of the European Parliament:

## Let's Go Down to the Business

Quite a curious conversation took place with the minister of the second largest economy of the EU, home to 15% of the union's population, and thus, the one exerting a key weight among other member states. Both proposals were briefly discussed, and certain points emerged that seem worth paying attention to, especially for the countries considering the development of collaboration with France in this regard.

Provisions of both drafts are deemed highly important, and the raised problems are perceived necessary to be solved without any further delay. The minister repeatedly stresses the existing urge to take immediate action. However, what strikes the most is the ultimate reason for that, namely France's positioning of itself as the only actor profoundly involved in searching for the way out of a "complicated" situation regarding migration and greenwashing. The minister constantly throws accusations against other EU members for not doing anything and leaving France alone to handle the state of affairs. Particularly, it is expressed in the politician's ardent determination to promote human rights protection via both documents. Nevertheless, the question on the cases of the French police abuses instantly cuts the flow of words and establishes the sound of silence. We can witness the complete unawareness of the actual proceedings and severity of the circumstances, therefore, instead of describing the steps undertaken to fight the problem, the minister assumes the role of a psychologist and dives deeper into philosophical reflections on the roots of police officers' behavior. Probably the very same therapists' practice drives him not to give any exact remedies since the police violence towards migrants "is not what we are talking about now [during deliberations on the proposals]". Apparently, the minister is much more willing to bide colleagues with new restrictions (though not too "hard to swallow" ones) rather than to elaborate ways to guarantee their implementation in his own country. What can be said here: someone would better pay more attention to the plank in his own eye before pointing at a speck in the others'.

A similar approach is taken in contemplating the potential increase in discriminatory air inside the country. The minister tends to refrain from providing any clear solutions rather referring to the unpredictability of the problem's development due to its psychological character as if it was the acceptable justification for the government's failure to ensure success in tackling the issue. In fact, the interviewee openly affirms his fear of the consequences of the immigrants' influx and concerns about the citizens' unreadiness to welcome such a range of diversity.

Thoughts fly free all around the explanations of the French sentiments and various reasons for the crimes committed by immigrants, though not reaching a definite answer to the question asked. At a certain point, the speech takes such a passionate course in highlighting the isolation in which France finds itself, that the minister seems to take the deficiencies of others' inactions deeply personally.

That is certainly beneficial for the proper conduct of upcoming deliberations since we expect nothing less than a fire in the eyes of participants reaffirming their determination to make things work. It would be equally pleasant to observe, though, the same fire during the official sessions, or at least to see the official's eyes kept open.



Riccardo Anselmi: the minister of France during his stay in the Council

As for now, we lay our highest hopes on the minister not to fall down (or apart) in these intensive days and wish him to have his mind focused and to complete the promise to do whatever he can to pass the legislation under discussion.

*Journalist Aglaia Gulakova*

## At Odds with Data

### Interpreting Migration for the Finnish and Finland

"Finland was ranked second in the whole world of the migrant policy of 2020, so we know how to integrate migrants ..." was said exactly at the 2nd minute and 6th seconds of our interview with the Minister of Finland, Alexander Kraut, on Saturday, 27 April 2024. This statement marked the beginning of his confidence regarding the country's capacity to impose integration strategies from the ones dating to 2012 and the 2025 Integration Act which the country is actively preparing to introduce.

While he did not specifically state the scope of his confidence when it comes to integration, data from an OECD article published on 1 December 2014 showed that “Finland performs particularly poorly when it comes to integrating some of those migrants [re: Iraqi and Somali migrants] who face the most significant barriers to labor market entry.” The article’s emphasis on the labor market is one to underline as it highlights the evident societal challenges for these migrants in integrating with the Finnish labor market: discrimination and “a lack of clarity” in the country’s integration system.



In addition to this, his conviction regarding the country’s position on the issues surrounding migration remains staunch even when confronted with the country’s incoming election for the new government in which the Finns Party, the nation’s far-right populist party, is believed to attract the people’s vote.

One of its populist agendas concerns the public funding cutbacks which include social welfare programs that are financed by the public debt. This agenda responds directly to the problem that becomes the most pressing for the voters: the economy. This de-funding process seems to promise a bleak covenant for Finnish migrants and the immigration system which relies heavily on public funds.

In this regard, with the increasing numbers of migrants in the country in the near future, the bright statistical achievements that have placed Finland at the top of many components regarding social welfare seem to be at odds with the reality the country is trying to cope with its politics. The Finnish Minister stressed the funding slash as a disapproval-yet-needed measure for the country because he mentioned “If the EU would pay more, we could also give more money to the migrants,” underscoring once again the migrants’ lives at the margin of countless premises, conditionals and ifs.

Furthermore, there was an apparent dissociation between the country’s plan to host fewer migrants and his statement concerning the fact that “the Finnish demography is highly problematic. We have too few young people, so we need migrants, we need refugees to keep our social system alive because if not, it would just collapse ...”

This postulates a spectrum of definitions encompassing the migrants, what entails one as the desirable and what entails the rest as a burden. For this, the country appears to authorize its entitlement to define migrants, but with a wavering swing of a pendulum on the surface of a murky puddle; here also the minister’s confidence began to waver.

At the end of our interview, the minister drew his attention to migration issues with the specter of polarization within Finnish society that he believed to demotivate dialogs among “warring” perspectives.

The common grounds, he proposed, are actively accommodated in Finland through its top-notch education system which serves as possible solutions for many of the country’s societal issues. For this part of the interview, the minister’s remark was finally in accordance with the data.

*Journalist Boy Ertanto*



## **Drowned in the Idle Talk**

While the majority of ministers are particularly excited about the proposal on asylum and migration management, the one on the consumers’ protection against greenwashing is to a certain extent left out of the equation or simply neglected. The minister of the Netherlands serves as a vivid example of the trend.

The overall unpreparedness for the upcoming deliberations is striking. Indefinite answering characterized by the intonation mostly specific for interrogative sentences, as if the minister sought confirmation of the correctness of responses, is followed by a flow of haphazard phrases supposedly associated with the topic under discussion. The question about the distinctiveness of the country’s stance due to its belonging to the Green Growth Group is elegantly evaded, leaving an inquirer perplexed whether the minister is even cognizant about the existence of such.

The official willingly dives into reflections on the Netherlands' determination to achieve a lower emission goal. However, such willingness immediately evaporates when it comes to the consumer protection topic. Therefore, it remains an enigma whether the minister has informed herself of the exact provisions the proposal contains.



The unbreakable calm prevails in the tone of the interviewee though, which is not that surprising since the data on the country's failures in the consumer protection field seem not to have reached her. Despite repeated references to the crucial importance of people and stating new goals, the minister lacks any information on the ways the undertaken responsibilities are to be met.

It is a great fortune to observe the application of a technique the true politicians are prominent for, namely the burying of listeners with a torrent of words, enrapturing with the extent of ambiguity and vagueness of responses. Yet, we believe what hides behind the sophisticated, though not carrying much sense, phrases is nothing less than a well-thought-out plan and a brilliant strategy to be exposed in the following days. In any case, we urge the participants to take a responsible approach and get fully involved in the impending deliberations.

*Journalist Aglaia Gulakova*

## **Denmark's Immigration Policies: A Balancing Act within the EU**

Denmark's immigration policies have long been a subject of both domestic and international scrutiny. Located at the crossroads of Europe, Denmark faces the challenge of managing migration while navigating its relationship with Brussels. Denmark prides itself on its big and well-functioning welfare state which stagnates with rising immigrant numbers. So, while the right's words are national sovereignty and identity, the left's word is social cohesion.

Over recent years under both Social Democrat Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and her center right predecessor Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Denmark has embraced some of the strictest immigration policies in Europe.

Initially perceived as extreme by countries like the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Germany, Denmark's approach has influenced policy debates in many of these nations. Denmark's immigration stance has notably toughened over the last decade.

In 2023, the country garnered international attention when it revoked residency permits for Syrian refugees, stating that certain areas of the war-torn country were deemed safe for return. However, Denmark later reversed this decision following widespread criticism. Also, in 2022, Denmark signed a deal enabling the relocation of refugees to asylum centers in partner countries like Rwanda. Moreover, Denmark explored the possibility of detaining asylum seekers on a remote island, reflecting its increasingly strict approach to immigration management. Since then, the Rwanda talks have halted but still the Danes are calling for a third-party solution.

The Social Democrats have typically rejected any European collaboration, criticizing Brussels for its slow pace. In the meantime, the attitudes of other EU countries have sharpened and there is a possibility of wider agreement. Danish Immigration Minister Kaare Dybvad Bek Said. "But we believe a unified European solution will solve more problems, because you will also stop the people smugglers who today make billions from transporting people across the Mediterranean."

Denmark initially opted out of four areas of EU cooperation following the rejection of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992. These included the Monetary Union, Common Security and Defense Policy, Justice and Home Affairs, and Citizenship of the European Union. However, in June 2022, Denmark abolished its opt out regarding the Common Security and Defense Policy, thus joining the EU's efforts in this area as of July 1st 2022. Currently, Denmark still maintains its opt out from the EU's Justice and Home Affairs policy, allowing it to avoid adherence to certain EU laws regarding asylum standards. In this area, Denmark participates selectively, engaging only when rules are adopted by its government.



The Danish representative Laura Bravin says: "the Danish government, in spite of its own opt-out from the European JHA policy and its more recent stricter stance on the matter, is pursuing to join a number of the agreements contained in the new asylum and migration pact, yet leaving out some parts of it, including the forced redistribution of refugees that exists within the EU.

Therefore, in other words, even though Denmark is not covered by the pact due to our opt-out, the Danish government will join those parts of the agreement where Denmark already has parallel agreements or which constitute an extension of the Schengen cooperation, in which Denmark also participates." Also stating that the pact does not sufficiently address the problem of people smuggling and that it should be continued to be worked on.

Recognizing the flaws in the current asylum system, Denmark is organizing an international conference in Copenhagen to explore new solutions and strengthen partnerships between European countries and nations hosting refugees. But yet there is a considerable labor shortage that needs to be addressed.



That's why they recently entered into an agreement on foreign labor in the health service and elderly care, which means, among other things, that it will be easier for foreigners to come to Denmark and work in healthcare. In terms of integration, a new educational affiliation scheme is being introduced to allow certain foreigners training in high demand fields to stay and contribute to Danish society, acknowledging their potential contributions.

Denmark is on the forefront of the migration debate, it doesn't wait for Brussels but wants to come up with a multilateral comprehensive plan to tackle the issues, yet it still has an ace up its sleeve in the form of opt outs and isn't afraid to use it.

*Journalist Jona Budanko*

## Sweden's Shifting Approach to Asylum Seeker Support and its Green Leadership



Theo Hughes, the Swedish minister of the Council

Sweden's migration system balances humanitarian values and control through laws like the Swedish Aliens Act. Asylum seekers undergo rigorous evaluations overseen by the Swedish Migration Agency. Sweden provides essential support and integration programs, yet maintains deportation procedures for denied asylum seekers. Engaging with global organizations like the UNHCR, Sweden emphasizes solidarity. Integration policies prioritize labor market participation and social inclusion, with recent reforms aiming to address societal challenges.

Through the interview with Theo Hughes, the Swedish minister for the Council, we can reach the answers of the two related questions:

**What essential support does Sweden provide to asylum seekers, including accommodation, financial assistance, and healthcare access, and how are these services managed and distributed?**

Sweden's approach towards provisioning asylum seekers with financial, healthcare, and accommodation assistance is currently in a period of transition. Previously, Sweden adopted a generous model of providing subsidies, especially towards housing, for the purposes of integration, but since 2022 Sweden's overall migration policy has been undergoing a paradigm shift wherein financial aid is being re-evaluated; it is the government's wish that as many of these subsidies are removed or curtailed as possible owing to their evaluated ineffectiveness and strain on public finances.

**How does Sweden facilitate the integration of refugees and migrants into Swedish society through its integration programs, and what are the key components of these programs?**

Sweden’s traditional method of integration has been both a combination of the financial measures mentioned above combined with a sophisticated socio-cultural program wherein migrants and asylum seekers are introduced to and integrated into Swedish culture, such as through language lessons and instructions on social issues and more. This socio-cultural aspect of this approach was unfortunately curtailed during the 2010s due to the sheer numbers of incoming migrants during this period, but this has been found to have had ill effects, including but not limited to the furtherance of “parallel societies.” It is the current aim of the government to reintroduce these measures in full.

Regarding the second initiative, the proposed directive on empowering consumers for the green transition aligns with the European Green New Deal's vision of fostering sustainable choices. With a focus on education and awareness, Sweden aims to equip consumers with knowledge about environmental issues. Incentives like tax breaks for energy-efficient upgrades and subsidies for electric vehicles encourage sustainable behavior. Investment in infrastructure, including public transportation and electric vehicle charging stations, makes eco-friendly options more accessible. Sweden leverages digitalization to provide tools and services for sustainable decision-making. Robust policy frameworks promote sustainability across sectors, setting standards for environmental performance. Community engagement initiatives empower consumers to take collective action on environmental challenges, reflecting Sweden's commitment to sustainability.



**How does Sweden approach consumer empowerment during the green transition, particularly in terms of education and awareness initiatives to raise awareness about environmental issues?**

Sweden has benefited from a strong national consumer interest in sustainability measures, evidenced in the rapid local self-installation uptake of renewable energy sources in solar and wind and on the digital front, popular applications that can effectively track a carbon footprint of the individuals.

Furthermore, nine Swedish cities have subscribed to a framework wherein they shall become carbon-neutral without any prodding from the central government. In this way, Sweden has had the privilege of needing to only legislate on a larger corporate level (such as in forcing the uptake of biofuel), all to great success, such that Sweden is poised to take a leadership position in Europe’s green energy transition.

**Can the Council provide examples of comprehensive educational campaigns and partnerships with civil society organizations aimed at equipping consumers with the knowledge needed to understand the environmental impact of their choices?**

Of course! Recognizing the importance of mobilizing the youth, Sweden has enacted the successful Environment Action Program as part of a wider EU approach, which in Sweden managed to provide teacher training and educational material on the regional level in order to engage with 340,000 young people. It is less surprising then that a young Swede, Greta Thunberg, has put herself at the forefront of global climate awareness!

*Journalsit Maryam Kalhor*

**Pinpoint Statements from our Deputy General Director**

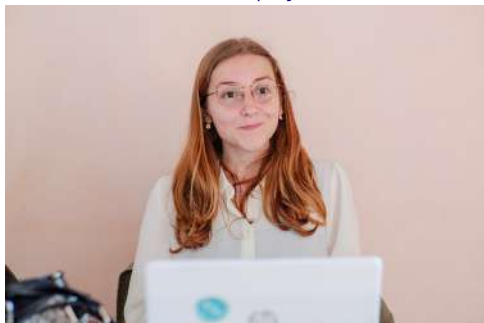
As we wake up into the day of the event, an interview with the Deputy Director General of the VeUMEU 2024, Ms. Kovacevic, will provide us with brilliant insights for the upcoming simulation. Ms. Kovacevic’s answers are key to underline essential aspects of the event and as the Deputy General Director, she kindly accepted to be interviewed by the press team. We are thankful to be granted the opportunity to interview her and are leaving you with her insightful answers for our questions dedicated to the event. Thank you for bearing with us Ms. Deputy Director General and we, as the press team, wish you best luck throughout the simulation.

**Could you briefly tell us what were your duties and responsibilities during the organization process of the event?**

I was the Deputy Director General and together with the Director General and Event Coordinator, we were the main organizers of the event. I was specifically in charge of first selecting the people for the chairs and the commission, together with other organizers.

Secondly, after the selection, we reviewed the list to see who would fit the best. After choosing them, we were given deadlines and tasks. In summary, we were the ones in charge of the structuring of the study guide and reminding people the deadlines. We were also the ones, in case, helping people with problems and issues. So, our job was pretty much making sure that everything runs smoothly.

Alesia Kovacevic, the Deputy Director General



**As the Deputy Director General, what was the most enduring difficulty that you've faced while preparing for the simulation?**

Cooperation! In the sense that everyone has his own way of working, his own time to do things, also the way that the things are done. So, I think that the most challenging aspect was reminding people about what has to be done, though not in the sense that they were not caring. It's more about operating within a bureaucracy where everyone has his own life apart from it. Reminding them things to be done, I think, was the hardest part.

**As far as I'm concerned, you've already taken part in VeUMEU as a participant, what would you say was the most exciting part of your experience?**

I think the simulation itself was the most exciting part, especially when people start to debate and nobody is able to stop them. Before the event, it seems like there is a lot of theory involved with all those mechanisms and the technical language that comes with it. It makes you feel like you are lost in the beginning. But once you get them, you start to become a part of the debate. Being a part of this debate in which people respond to what you are saying is a challenge. You feel challenged because not everyone agrees with you. What makes you feel challenged is this large debate in which people may say things that you are not expecting to hear at all.

**What are your expectations regarding the outcomes of the debates for the proposals?**

Honestly I am not sure, while following the workshop I was expecting a high participation from the people that we have chosen. I was quite amazed by participants' excitement and their willingness to raise their hands during the workshop, also by the fact that they always had something to say. It is kind of an excitement that they even could not stop asking questions and continued debating.

I am not sure about how the proposals are going to turn out to be and what is going to be changed or not, but I foresee lots of surprises. I don't know if we are going to be able to stop them from debating!

**Could you please tell us a bit about our honorable guests-EPRS experts? What is their role?**

Sure! This year we have three experts. First one is Ms. Apap, who is a member of the Strategy and Innovation Unit in the European Parliamentary Research Service. She acts as a strategic reason with the academia and think tanks. She mostly worked on human rights and external relations, migration and the Maghreb countries. As for the second guest, we have Ms. Del Monte. She is the head of the Citizens' Policy Unit with the members of the EPRS. She had also written some articles and reports in the field of better law making, constitutional and parliamentary law and transatlantic relations. Last but not least, we have Mr. Evroux who joined the CNRS headquarters as a lawyer. He is in charge of different aspects of human resources and scientific integrity. The role of our guests, as people are going to see, is to give further clarifications regarding the proposals. They are experts in this field and their role is mostly to let people see the proposals more in depth. They clarify things such as the implications and consequences of the proposals and how they can be understood in our European context.

**Do you have any advice for the participants of VeUMEU2024?**

My advice to them is to take this event both seriously and lightly at the same time. Take it seriously because it is a great opportunity, it is also a big event and there are experts who can help us understand better on certain aspects of the European Union. It is also a challenge at the same time. A challenge to yourself to see if you are for this field or not. Yet, take this event also lightly because it should be fun too. It is an event that has a more serious part and responsibilities, but it also grants us a moment during which people can challenge themselves and test their public speaking. The best way to do all this is also by having fun. You are more constructive when having fun. People are scared of failing and this fear of failure is what stops people from being their best version. It is through failure that we learn and develop ourselves to become the person that we want to be. So, I will let people fail as much as possible even if it sounds contradictory. Nobody is going to put them on trial for failing. By failing they can learn because they are among other people who are under the same situation.

*Thank you for your wise insights and comments, Ms. Deputy Director General. We are looking forward to seeing you performing your duties during the simulation and have no doubts that the simulation will run smoothly!*

*Vice-Editor in Chief Bora Askinoglu*