

## Student from the Kantonsschule Wohlen in Leuven – EYP

*Aisha Pfund G3B*

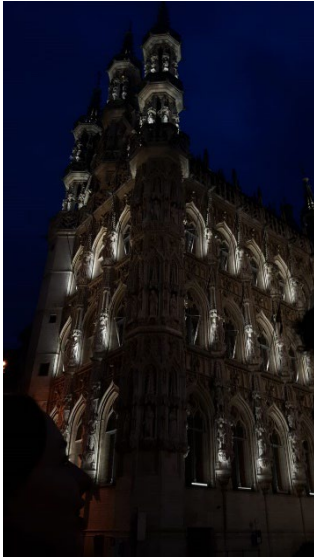
It was Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, when I, at last, arrived at the Zaventem Airport in Belgium. For once, nobody was on strike, allowing my trip to be quite enjoyable indeed. Due to my early arrival, I got the opportunity to go meet up with people that I grew close to during my last EYP Session in Belgium, which was almost precisely a year ago, namely Antwerp 2022. It felt good to see the people I formed deep connections with again; EYP really builds connections and makes friendships happen! Well, after the first few days of spending time exploring Belgium, the week and, therefore, the Session started.



Luckily, I got the opportunity to travel to Leuven, the city of this National Session, with another delegation. At this point, many thanks to the teacher and the students from Cardinal Mércier high School for adopting me so quickly. I would have gone lost without all of you (for legal reasons, I am kidding)! Only at the Session Venue itself did I see the other delegates from the Swiss Delegation, as we all came from different schools, one girl from Freiburg and one from the Hohe Promenade in Zurich. After talking to them and getting to know some other participants, team building started. Teambuilding is an event where you get to know the officials, including all the chair people, organizers, jury, editorial assistants, etc. You also get the chance to cross the border of your "getting-to-know-other-people-anxiety" through various fun activities. Once this is done, committee teambuilding starts, where we get the opportunity to get to know the committee we will be working with better. I personally was part of the committee SEDE (security and defense) and honestly was more than happy about that.

Our topic was fascinating, as we discussed the burning issue of the relation between Europe, the USA, and NATO during the next two days, also being obliged to figure out a solution that keeps our bonds with the US strong and at the same time holds up the EU's moral values of peace, democracy, and safety, a harder task than one may assume. The difficulty came from the controversy on the topic, as well as the preset and unchangeable opinions around that subject. Trust me when I say there were many strong opinions.





After all the hard work and the finishing of our resolution, we prepared our speeches and debate points the night before GA, General Assembly, an event where all committees get to present their topic, and everyone gets to openly discuss their resolutions. Honestly, GA was amazing, as we got the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hold our Assembly in the European Parliament itself! The atmosphere was optimal, we were prepared, and we felt accomplished after the intense rounds of debate.

As always, saying goodbye to everyone was a hard task, but I cannot wait to visit Belgium again, be it for the people or the amazing architecture of the city of Leuven, a student city in Belgium. This Session also made me think more about the possibility of actually studying there.

Since this was not my first EYP Session, I did talk a lot and definitely enjoyed it, especially since this will probably be my last time as a national delegate, as now I am planning to apply for official roles!

## **Kurzbericht EYP RS Zurich**

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My first time as an EYP Organizer began way before the Session started. I had been thinking about joining as an Official for a while, and I got the opportunity to when I heard the calls for Organizers of the Regional Session were out. To give you a rough time overview, it was about six months before the actual Session, which was from the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.

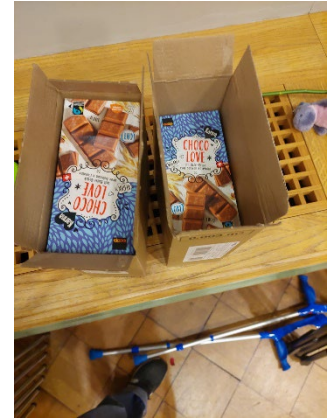


Filling out the application form was interesting; their questions are always highly thought-provoking. Waiting for an answer, though, was the real nerve-wracking part. To my joy and happiness, the answer I received was positive, and so I joined the Organizing Team of the RS Zurich 2023.

Good to know, is that a Regional Session is a Session before a National one, like a small preparation Session. These Sessions are smaller in size than National ones, as well as shorter, plus there are two every year. The quality is the same, though!



Organizing was a hard task, as it did take its time next to schoolwork. We all had different tasks pre-session; I was responsible for In-kind and partially for Cooperation Fundraising, which I did – I'd say- successfully. Actually, I am not completely sure what information I may write down here and what information I may not, but I can say that during Fundraising, you send many, many Emails, whereas more than half get rejected. What I learned, though, was how to talk to companies you want to collaborate with - be it on the phone after I just woke up or by mail - how to fundraise, and how to organize an event with over 100 participants. During the progress, you are, of course, supported. We had two very understanding and lovely head organizers, both experienced in the European Youth Parliament and ready to guide us while organizing the Session, still leaving us with enough freedom to be original, though.



The Session itself was, as an Organizer, quite stressful; I learned that one often underestimates the work of the Organizers. It consisted of taking care of issues, making sure the time schedule was kept, making sure everyone's needs were met, keeping people hydrated and full, providing a clean venue and (complete) transfers, and generally being the reason for a smooth session. Even though stressful, I loved the Session and my role as an Organizer, it taught me a lot of skills I would not have had the chance to learn elsewhere.

