



Generation Europe Debate

"Global Warming"

Date: 4.11.2008

Number of people: 10 students

On 4 November, I held a meeting in my university, in order to talk about Global Warming. In the meeting, there were 10 students from the Senior Year of the Department of IES. During the meeting, we started talking about climate change, the effects of the phenomenon and possible solutions to the problem.

The meeting lasted for an hour and a half, from 12pm- 13.30pm. With the assistance of the English Professor and another student, we read a few texts (Leaders and Revolutionaries, Bartholomew I, Things you can do for a Zero Carbon City, We should act collectively and effectively, Global environmental Governance). After that, a power point presentation was shown, which presented the meanings of Global Warming, the effects on humans, earth and animals, as well as possible solutions.

Following the presentation, the attendants were asked a series of questions, such as: Do you believe that religion should be limited in clerical activities only? As a president what kind of measures would you take against Global Warming? In the first question, the students gave two main points: a) that religion should be limited even if it helps in more social problems or b) that religion plays an important role, and therefore it should be let free to act in the public. On the second question, the answers varied and were given solutions such as: 'We should not drive cars inside the city', 'we should limit greenhouse gases', and 'we need to inform people through media'.

In the second part of the meeting there was a role play, which turned in to a debate. During that game, students were divided into two groups, those who were against 'green taxes' and those who were in favour of 'green taxes'. Specifically, they were all supposed to be employees of a multinational company that produces tobacco. Their company proved to be very profitable for the last years, with a gross of 30\$ billion every year. However the World Health Company, proposed to put green taxes on cigarettes, and that measure would reduce their productivity. Nevertheless, a major political figure in USA had promised to plead the case, in return for sponsorship.

Those who were in favour of Green Taxes proposed those arguments: 'everyone should help the environment and if big enterprises don't give money then who will', 'I believe that such a measure affects everybody's health and thus we should do it', 'global warming is a fact and we need to pose those taxes'. On the other hand, those who were against the measure said: 'if we are to put taxes then people will lose their jobs', 'we have an economic crisis and we cannot afford more taxes', 'we have that politician who is going to help us'. Afterwards there was a debate between the students. Last but not least, the day before, the attendants were given a test to complete about global warming, and the results of the test were given at the end of the meeting.

To sum up, during the meeting, the attendants found out about new things they did not know about, they talked a lot and answered questions and they took part in a game-debate which proved to be the most essential part of the meeting.