



EUROSIM 2025 – Reflection Paper

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Alter Ego: EP Member
Katri Kulmuni

EuroSim is an annual simulation of European decision-making processes. It has been a great opportunity to participate and to take part in one of the most prestigious academic simulations in the world.

At the beginning of this experience, I encountered unexpected challenges. It was surprising to discover how much work is required for the perfect public speaking performance. The preparation made me question my ability to communicate, to negotiate and my image.

The preparation sessions for EuroSim were both enriching and challenging, providing occasions to develop critical skills relevant not just for the simulation, but fundamental for a career in the legal field.

At the beginning of the preparation, I encountered different challenges that tested my adaptability and problem-solving abilities. One of the main difficulties I encountered regarded public speaking. I did not start the preparation with a lot of confidence in my public speaking skills, if possible, the complete opposite. However, by following the precious advice of our very competent coaches, Norah Kibaka-Vibila and Dennis Traudt, I have been able to feel very confident to speak in front of many people and I believe I became a good public speaker, to the point of being awarded the Most Effective Debater prize.

Another early challenge concerned the simulation itself and its complexities. The research of very different personalities of the European Union politics and legislative body were fundamental in understanding the simulation itself and what was going to happen. The assignments for the preparation sessions, included research for different characters and personalities, that gave me the space to experiment as much as possible.

Active participation in mock debates and press conferences, proved invaluable in building confidence. Gradually, I became more comfortable with improvising quick and focused answers to the most unexpected questions. Moreover, the preparation sessions were useful to get acquainted and being able to use with confidence the parliamentary terminology and procedural formalities, which allowed me to focus on formulating substantive arguments during the simulation. This preparation improved my public speaking and negotiation skills.

Writing position papers, preparing formal speeches, and practicing negotiation strategies in simulated sessions were all part of the preparation process.

Feedback from mentors and peers was another critical factor in my improvement. Their constructive critiques highlighted areas for growth and motivated me to refine my approach. Moreover, all my fellow colleagues proved themselves unmatched energy forces, that challenged me in many occasions, thing for which I am the most grateful. By the end of the preparation period, I felt more confident, informed, and ready to take on the simulation.

The actual EUROSIM simulation was a thrilling and transformative experience. My preparation for the event consisted of a lot of research and reading. I look up on the internet the personality of my alter-ego: Katri Kulmuni. Her personal blog¹ and her social media gave me all the necessary information to play her in the most authentic way. She is a liberal with a strong attention to worker rights and marginalized territories of the European Union, with a strong environmental protection focus. It was easy to balance these two sides of her politics in the

¹ <https://katrikulmuni.fi/blogi/> [consulted in December 2024]

simulation. It allowed me to engage in active political debates and gain the confidence of the Parliamentary Committee ENVI I.

Additionally, I prepared thoroughly the main rules of the simulation, which came very useful in the actual simulation to obtain my goals. Knowing the rules, allowed me to use them my way to win over negotiations and debates. For instance, on many occasions I asked an unmoderated caucus, which were fundamental for obtaining the vote of the rest of the committee ENVI I on my amendments.

My preparation included the writing of amendments for the parliamentary group of which I was the leader, RENEW Europe. I researched also on their political standing and activity in the Parliament. Playing a liberal party demonstrated to be a very enjoyable position in the Parliament, as my party could swing the balance. This was important to play my character and guide my group in the most authentic and confident way.

When I signed up for EuroSim, I expected an intellectually stimulating experience, that would give me the opportunity to grow in many ways. These expectations were met and exceeded during the simulation.

The informal meetings with my parliamentary group were enriching and fundamental to coordinate a united action in both parliamentary committees. The meetings within parliamentary committee ENVI I were dynamic and intense, characterized by rigorous and fervid political debates. I encountered many brilliant minds to confront myself with, and some stubborn ones that made the political debate lively, by playing very well their alter-ego character. This required a lot of careful diplomacy and strategic compromises, seeking to form alliances with like-minded representatives while remaining firm on critical issues for my assigned party. My strategy focused on advancing my party's key priorities while remaining flexible enough to adapt to the shifting dynamics of the negotiations. This approach proved effective in several instances, as I was able to influence key discussions, getting my amendments passed and contribute to the drafting of resolutions. Before the joint parliamentary session, I was proactive in lobbying for support and building coalitions. The joint parliamentary session was the pick of my performance, where my amendment reached unanimous consensus.

However, not all our goals were fully realized: after fighting through the whole simulation to achieve an amendment that would change in the entire regulation the wording "clean up", to "restore", amendment that reached the unanimity in the parliament, in the trialogue session this amendment was put aside as a compromise that was not of the same relevance in my opinion.

Reflecting on my performance, I recognize that I could have been more diplomatic and less heated on some occasion. Additionally, refining my ability to think on my feet during heated debates would have enhanced my effectiveness.

Despite these areas for improvement, I am proud of my performance and the progress I made during the simulation. EUROSIM was a rewarding experience that not only deepened my understanding of EU governance but also enhanced my skills in research, negotiation, and public speaking.

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30/01/2025