POSITION PAPER

Name	Elisa	*Surname*	Bello
School	*ISIS Malignani*	*Town*	*Udine*
Committee	AFCO		
Topic	***On 3 December 2015, Danish voters rejected the proposal to convert Denmark's current opt-out on justice and home matters into a flexible opt-in arrangement. Meanwhile, the British Government is trying to renegotiate the terms of the United Kingdom's membership in the European Union before the end of 2017, when a referendum on the UK's membership will take place. Should the EU's institutional architecture be reshaped, in order to avoid Member States moving away from the Union or leaving it?***		

On the 23th of June a referendum will take place in the United Kingdom to decide if it should remain or leave the European Union. This is not the first referendum and Britain is not the first country that may leave the European Union. Recently Danish voters rejected a proposal to convert Denmark's current opt-out on "justice and home matters" and chose a more flexible opt-in arrangement; Ireland, the United Kingdom and Poland have such opt-outs, too.

The European Union is trying to overcome a crisis (immigration) that has created divisions and tensions that accentuate contrasts between Member States which has revealed serious failings in the EU's structures and in its institutional set-up. European citizens are losing trust in their European Institutions and believe that the EU is not able to help them in solving this economic, political and social crisis. So far the European Union has taken some urgent economic measures to tackle this crisis, such as lowering interest rates and quantitative easing, but the people are questioning the transparency and reliability of these European Union actions.

Being a member state of the European Union should be advantageous, but not all member countries think the same. There are some disadvantages that could persuade some countries to leave the EU. First of all, there are considerable costs involved in being a member of the EU and not all the common policies and laws are practical and efficient as they should be. The currency issue concerning the success of the euro is also crucial. The single currency is not viable for all the countries. The central banks of the member states have less control over their own national monetary and economic policies; for example, they can not take decisions of their own: this must be carried out by the European Central Bank.

Secondly, I do believe that the European Union is good for the wellbeing of all its member states, in spite of the fact that it does not always work as it should. In fact, it guarantees stability, security and support to those member states which are in crisis: Greece has benefited from its membership and would have suffered far more had it left. It received massive financial support mostly coming from Germany, the EU's strongest member. My point is that European citizens do not always understand the importance of the EU and the great help that they receive from it. The best way to fight ignorance and fear is to promote awareness and provide more

information about the role of the EU, its political institutions, the way it works and look more closely at the opportunities it gives us.

Clearly it is a very complex matter and even our politicians and government officials have problems in understanding it fully and are also divided in their views about it. It is comprehensible that this is more difficult for the average person to understand. Some member states are afraid of too much European centralized control in strategic areas such as immigration, intelligence, security and defense, foreign policy, but it could be argued that it is precisely this centrality and the unity of the EU that guarantees its power and stability. The European Union can work well together applying the same rules and legislation that are less bureaucratic, more sensible and more sensitive to the wishes of its members. It needs to make some fine readjustments to its legislation to bring this about.

Furthermore, problems like the single currency, the Euro and the centralized monetary policy led by the ECB is disadvantageous for some states, and some members benefit more than others (i.e. Greece). For example, if the currency of a nation is stronger than the euro, that country will not temporarily profit, on the other hand states with a weaker currency will take advantage of the favourable monetary situation. I also take the view that there should be more equity in our current system of contributions and payments to the EU to avoid weakening some Member States or forcing them to leave.

In conclusion, the institutional arrangements of the European Union should be improved introducing policies that are more equitable, transparent and that offer more direct involvement of its citizens.

POSITION PAPER

Name	Ludovica Benedetta	Surname	Battaglia
School	I.S.I.S. "A.Malignani"	Town	Udine
Committee	ENVI		
Topic	*In 2013, Uruguay has become the first country in the world to fully legalize the production, sale and use of cannabis. In the United States of America, since 2012, four states have fully legalized the medical and recreational use of cannabis. Nevertheless, in June 2015, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction's chief has stated that no such discussion is taking place anywhere in the European Union. In light of these changes, how should the Member States tackle the issue of cannabis regulation?*		

In 2013 Uruguay had fully legalized the production, sale and use of cannabis. After that, many European countries reopened the debate concerning this substance and its use.

A well-defined legislation about the use of cannabis does not exist in Europe. Every member state has their own policies concerning the use of cannabis. It seems we have reached a point of no return: more and more people are asking for its legalization in order to take advantage of the large number of benefits that this plant can offer, such as numerous studies have demonstrated. The debate is not an easy one; the main issues which are being debated include cannabis' trade linked with crime, its use for medical purposes and health problems connected to its abuse.

Cannabis is the most widely used illegal drug in Europe on the basis of the European Drug Report 2015. Legalizing the use of cannabis in Europe could deprive criminal organizations and gangs of a primary source of income and weaken them considerably. Moreover, the legal production and sale of cannabis provides a good source of income to the Governments of those countries. This is the case in Washington and Colorado in the USA and in the Netherlands. Another problem related to cannabis consumption is the spread of criminality: the buyers become promoters of illegal actions and may become members of criminal organizations and gangs thus disobeying the spirit of the Lisbon Treaty (Articles 1-3) which mentions the well-being of the citizens of the EU.

Another important point to take into consideration is that some cannabinoids from the marijuana plant are of medical interest, in particular THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) and CBD (cannabidiol). They reduce pain generated by headaches, cancer, glaucoma or nerve pain. But there are some side effects of marijuana that usually do not last long, such as dizziness, drowsiness, short-term memory loss, euphoria or even more serious side effects like severe anxiety and psychosis. There are many ongoing studies with no definitive conclusion, so these kinds of medicine should be prescribed carefully. Yet banning this kind of research could be a grave mistake. Legal drugs addiction is killing record numbers of people, for example in the UK one million people are addicted to over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription drugs. That is more than the number of people addicted to illegal drugs. So cannabinoids give an opportunity to us to replace this kind of medicine on the pharmaceutical market.

The dilemma of most politicians, doctors and researchers concerns the effects of cannabis' use on our health. According to recent research the short-term use of cannabis can impair the ability to concentrate and conduct complex tasks, and can lead to tiredness and lack of motivation, while regular heavy use of cannabis can lead to development or worsening of mental health problems (including paranoia) and/or to heart and breathing problems. As for many other substances considered legal, such as alcohol or tobacco, cannabis has its disadvantages, but by making its possession and sale legal, it could be easier to control the consumption of this substance. By imposing the need to show one's European health insurance card (HIC) and prohibiting its sale to people under the age of eighteen, cannabis' sale and consumption could be regulated and the extreme cases of addiction that can lead to serious consequences could be reduced considerably.

In conclusion, it is time for the EU to take a stronger position about this crucial issue, because the EU need to have more clear legislation in this matter. Personally I would promote the legalization of cannabis and I would encourage the finance for more effective and reliable studies in the use of cannabis in our society.

POSITION PAPER

Name	Gloria	Surname	Driussi
School	ISIS A. Malignani	Town	Udine
Committee	FEMM		
Topic	*According to the European Commission's database on women and men in decision-making position, women in the EU are underrepresented in politics and business: in summer 2015, only 28% of members of the single or lower houses of parliaments were women; in April 2015, women accounted for 21.2% of board members of the Member States' largest publicly listed companies. In light of the fact that the Strategy for Equality between men and women has expired in 2015, which approach should the European Union take to tackle this complex issue?*		

It is commonly thought that the EU should make better use of women's recognised multi-tasking abilities and talents. More and more women should become part of the workforce to make Europe's political, economic and social life more equal and dynamic. Stability and prosperity, justice and democracy are successful where both sexes are recognized and respected. A good example comes from Nordic countries such as Sweden and Finland. Some recent statistical surveys have shown an increase in the number of women in the workforce as well as more representation in Government service.

However, gender imbalance in politics and business remains an important challenge for EU Member States. Sadly there is still a discrepancy between the high number of female graduates and their under representation in leading positions in society. In the labor market in most countries women tend to occupy low-level positions and get lower salaries. This is in contrast with the fundamental rights of the European Charter: "sex discrimination is against the principle of equality". Not withstanding the fact that women bear the children and often decide to remove themselves from the workforce in this period of child nurturing.

To lead a satisfactory life, we need to be economically independent. Statistics show that European women encounter more difficulties in achieving their own autonomy. To improve their economic independence, the European Commission must pass laws that support gender equality with a better system to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment for women. It must give higher quotas for the recruitment of women in companies or public institutions; it should prevent women from working longer hours or under unacceptable working conditions and it must ensure equal pay for women. A special body should be established to guarantee these conditions.

Economic policies need refocusing to achieve equality between men and women. Steps need to be taken to reduce pay differentials, to remove 'glass ceilings' and stereotypes on women's careers. The preconception that it is just the mother of the household that must balance work and personal life must be overcome, encouraging fathers to play their active role, offering improved paternity pay next to maternity leave, for fathers as well as mothers. This is already happening in some countries within the EU where the man is hands on at home as well as the woman. Unfortunately, the differences of culture in each member of the European Union are obstacles in the path of EU directives and legislation. This can be overcome in time and will be.

Reassured by the fact that the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU has put gender equality and women's empowerment as one of the main priorities in the EU development cooperation agenda, we believe that the empowerment of women is not just an aim in itself, but it is a key for the progress of any post-2015 European goals. To eliminate stereotypes on male predominance and female inferiority complex and consequent submission, we need to organize awareness campaigns to build individual confidence, self-esteem and the importance of conflict resolution through dialogue and hard work.

In conclusion, we think that the active and productive role of women is central for the future of the European Union and that all Member States must do their best to recognize their dignity and value in their future legislation. The common mission is to truly consider men and women alike and to place more and more women in positions of importance so that the spirit of our United Europe is embodied in its institutions, organizations and directive boards. Let us all work hard to see that this vision can become reality sooner rather than later.

POSITION PAPER

Si prega di compilare tutti i campi e di fare avere il documento al proprio docente referente, che deve provvedere a inviarlo a preselezione@eypitaly.org entro il **23 aprile 2016**. Il file va mantenuto nel presente formato.

Name	Simone	*Surname*	Ridelfi
School	Malignani	*Town*	Udine
Committee	SEDE		
Topic	*In the wake of Paris attacks, serious concerns have been raised on the failure of European security cooperation. In the conclusions of the European Council's meeting of December 2015, European Union leaders underlined "the urgency of enhancing relevant information sharing" between Member States, to be pursued also through "deeper cooperation between security services". Considering how intrinsically connected to national interests intelligence activities are, how should the European Union proceed with its commitments?*		

Have we thought enough about Europe into the future, its structure and its complex nature? Unfortunately, there are many things that are not working in Europe as they should.

First of all, we should remember that in 1992, the first twelve states that signed the Maastricht Treaty did so with the purpose of creating a strong Union of member countries willing to cooperate and follow the same laws. It was just a utopic dream: cooperation between Member States is clearly one of the weak points in Europe as proven by the terrorist attacks of the past few months in Paris and Brussels.

After the Paris attacks in November, the European Council gathered and took several measures trying to solve the situation against terrorism. However, it is clear we can not prevent any attacks as terrorists are among us and they act everywhere in an unpredictable way. Surely we ought to reduce the risk of being attacked and fight this war (it can not be called in another way) which is not any longer a religious war, in my opinion. To do that, we have to start again: we do not have to be proud and must understand the true meaning of being a Union, an attitude of sharing and caring, a policy of harmony among member states which goes beyond individual interests of profit, money, power and leadership.

Furthermore, I think that there are far too many organizations in Europe which are poorly structured. Information gets lost and too many people working in parallel only generates confusion. We need to rebuild our intelligence agencies with the help of the Member States that need to find more common ground in their separate Foreign Policy strategy, in the name of a common international policy. Member States should not be jealous of one another, they should share important and potentially life-saving information with each other. A specialized agency could be established and paid for by Member States that could hold regular meetings in order to share crucial intelligence information about potential terrorist threats and terrorists.

We also advocate the creation of a common data-base to facilitate the exchange of useful information and to provide a profile of all those people who come to live in Europe or join as new members of Europe. Moreover, I do believe in the need to reinforce border control but I find the reintroduction of the Customs control a mistake which will weaken the Union even more.

Last but not least, I think that each EU member State, including the USA, should change their energy planning. We should invest much more in renewable energy trying to become less dependent buying petrol from those countries who are against us and use our money to try to destroy our cities and our democracies. We need to find a way of preventing such human tragedy and loss of life as we have seen in these devastating ISIS attacks in France and in Belgium (more than 150 victims in France and more than 30 in Belgium).

Bearing in mind that Europe produces 25% of the world wealth, it has the resources to provide for a better future for mankind. The European Union must invest more money and human resources to establish and manage more effective political structures able to guarantee more security and make its citizens feel safer in their own countries. We all must become more actively involved in building a better European Union, a family in which safety comes before greed and where the free movement of goods and people is a priority for everyone. This is a challenge for all of us and it is a difficult journey but one that we need to take for the sake of our children and our future well-being.

POSITION PAPER

Name	Emanuele	Surname	Cricchi
School	I.S.I.S. A.Malignani	Town	Udine
Committee	LIBE – Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		
Topic	*The refugees' flow towards Member States is increasing, with 817,705 new asylum applications in the first three quarters of 2015 according to Eurostat. In May 2015, the European Union has issued the European Agenda on Migration, and later agreed on a "Hotspot approach" and a special refugee relocation system. In December 2015, the European Commission has presented a "Border Package", that would establish a European border agency. Which further actions should the EU take in order to give an effective and feasible response to this issue?*		

The present Migration crisis is unprecedented and has caused major problems within the European Union, where there is no clear unified policy to deal with the huge volumes of refugees. Migration flows have been taking place since the beginning of time, they are caused by civil wars, political and economic crisis in the countries where the migrants are coming from, and this has caused Europe many difficulties that are not easy to resolve. Most of these refugees are seeking a passage to Europe for their safety and security along with the opportunity of finding work and having a better life.

There are some hotspots, in Italy (Lampedusa) and Greece (Idomeni), where refugees are first identified and registered. In 2015, more than 446,000 refugees arrived. It is a massive influx of people that is almost impossible to deal with. The EU is trying to deal with this in a reasonable manner with its member states to accelerate the process of registration and seek agreement on distributing these migrants more equally.

The problems facing the EU are numerous, let alone the financial one. This is understandable, as nothing quite like this has happened since WW1. There is clearly a lack of organization and collaboration. Greece and Italy are receiving most of the migrants as they are geographically closest to the points of arrival of these refugees. Recently Finland, Russia and Austria have applied new strict rules to stop migrants from crossing their borders, but this will continue.

Each EU member state is now serving its own interests and without global involvement, that includes the United Nations and Non-EU countries, it will be impossible to solve this problem. At the same time it is clear there are also opportunists amongst these political refugees and economic migrants who have no right of stay. It is also dangerous as amongst this massive volume of migrants a few terrorists might hide.

One possible solution to the huge arrival of migrants on the continent of Europe is to act together and apply new measures of management to all member states, without forgetting the principles of the EU and the treaties that founded it. For example, taking into account the principles of solidarity and the Schengen free zone Area, it is fundamental to remove all customs control and allow free movement of people and goods. However, this inexhaustable flow has to be controlled otherwise the situation will become unsustainable. The first checks, registration and sorting should be done at European borders, where people arrive, like in Turkey. Then, each migrant must be registered on an international database.

Another important issue is the unequal distribution of these refugees in Europe. Countries where migrants arrive are often the ones where they also stay for a long time. It is necessary to create a new plan for the redistribution of refugees on the basis of the relationship between the total population and the number of Non-European people living in each EU country. States with a low ratio should receive an increased number of refugees, whereas states with a higher ratio should receive fewer refugees. An ideal ratio could be one migrant for every 3,000 local inhabitants. To host all of these refugees, requires the creation of new welcoming centres within Europe.

Furthermore, the ongoing sea rescue operation of refugees needs mentioning. Europe has adopted new rules for Border Control, empowering the Coast Guard for a more efficient sea rescue operation in the zones where most migrants are crossing. This should help to reduce the number of tragedies that are occurring presently with a great loss of life. Smugglers need to be dealt with severely and their boats destroyed or confiscated.

What also needs to be done is to ensure that the countries these migrants are coming from stop their wars and their Governments start to bring about more security and democracy within their territories. This can be financed by the UN and other International organisations as well as the EU. We are all responsible for ensuring that our World becomes a better place to live in for all of us, our children and the future generations.

In conclusion, I believe that Europe should act together as one and show a unified purpose in facing the global issue of immigration and the present crisis. The European Union needs to be inspired again by the values of co-operation and organization, non-greed and selflessness, in order to increase the efficiency of the entire immigration management system. The final step should be the creation of more concrete agreements with countries that are not part of EU but that are crucial for Europe's peace and security, countries such as Syria, Libya, Turkey, Iraq and others.

POSITION PAPER

Name	Davide	Surname	Pascutti
School	ISIS A. Malignani	Town	Udine
Committee	CULT		
Topic	*The use of technological devices in classrooms is increasing; students not only learn how to use these devices, but also study other subjects on them. adapting traditional curricula to these new instruments, and implementing new teaching methods, whereas others are still lacking initiative in this fi more digitalised education?*		

The use of technological devices in classrooms is increasing all around the world. Although Europe is generally well placed in the world rankings for Education, teaching methods based on technology are not as widespread as they should be.

The first step to be taken to digitalise the entire school system, after getting adequate funding, is to have numerous skilled and trained teachers. Unfortunately today not many teachers are familiar with this new technology as confirmed by the relative high percentage of junior students still deprived of technological devices and advanced teaching methods for learning. Therefore, it is important to underline the totally inequitable/unequal distribution of technological equipment in European schools and the fact that Europe is spending a lot of money on education where only a few benefit from it, whereas far too many are left out!

The first and most important issue for the European Union is to confront the low number of technologically skilled and trained teachers as shown by the High Level Group on the Modernisation of Higher Education in its report. Europe needs to train more technologically competent teachers, leave the conventional classroom methods and old fashioned school materials and to promote a more stimulating learning environment which may offer more studying opportunities for the younger digital natives.

To speed up the modernisation process in schools, new in-service training courses for IT (Information Technology) must be proposed to middle aged teachers so that they can explore new ideas and methods of teaching with the help of the new mass media and technologies. Moreover, it would be good if some training courses were activated as soon as possible to keep pace with other countries.

Another crucial problem in Europe is the high percentage of junior students (students with an age below 15) who have never come in contact with computers or other technological devices and the new communication strategies for learning. Probably, this gap is due to the incompetence of teachers and to the lack of technological equipment. A solution could be to turn teachers into digital experts or to invest school fundings on new technologies, especially in primary schools, in order to prepare the future generation of workers to easily join in the digital world, their inescapable reality.

Finally, the ratio of technological devices and people varies greatly between European countries. For example, in Italy there is one computer for every five people, in Norway, the ratio is less then one (it means that there are more technological devices than students). I believe that the only solution is to allocate more funds for schools especially in those countries that are less technologically developed. This is not entirely fair for the countries that are more advanced, but it is necessary to make a sacrifice to increase the equity balance of the European Union.

In conclusion, I believe that the European Union should also implement provisions to increase the general level of education, but I am not sure about the actual benefits that these 'technological improvements' could bring with them. All in all the digitalisation process is necessary to keep pace with this digital world where you cannot live without a PC. It is also important to keep the right ratio between traditional education (blackboards, sheets, paper books) and modern education (computers, the Internet, mass media) in order to use technology with detachment, to develop critical thinking and not to forget manual skills: a complete human being is well balanced, in control of the external world, in command of their internal emotions and instincts. Technology is an instrument in the hands of the individual, it must never become an obsession of the human mind!