

## CROATIA

I. In the last several years' greenhouse gas emission has been at a high; these gases are toxic to our environment and cause the overall temperature of our planet to rise. With new research being done every day, as a society we are learning more about the harmful effects of these gases and with new developments in machines and stuff greenhouse gases are being able to be controlled. Croatia as a country itself does not produce that much greenhouse gases, creating much less greenhouse gases than other European countries. Even with the low amount of greenhouse gas produced by Croatia, the people of Croatia see the need to cut the amount of these harmful gases being produced. With Croatian industry revolving highly around agriculture and fisheries, manufacturing and the petrochemical industry, and shipbuilding, and the fact that in 2011 greenhouse gas production was 0.54% out of 100%. Croatia proposes looking at countries that emit high levels of greenhouse gases and finding ways to help lower their productions

II. Currently in Europe the employment rate is 64.9% as of 2014, in Croatia the unemployment rate is 17.5% rate as of 2015. When Yugoslavia broke apart Croatia as a whole was impacted harshly, industries once in business no longer were able to offer jobs to the Croatia people. To this day this loss of industry is affecting the growing population. Youth unemployment rates are particularly high in Croatia, the averaged about 45.5% in 2014. There is an obvious need to put into place a plan or system that will help increase employment rate all around Europe, with special attention given to the increasing number of youth that are becoming of age to begin working. In November of 2015 the Croatian government signed seven European Social Fund (ESF) contracts to help increase employment within the country, this will have a great affect on young men and women. Getting to this 75% all across Europe may be an achievable goal because it would require the current rate to increase by 10.1% in four and a half years.

III. Croatia as a whole believes that it is of vital importance that the European Commission help lower the amount of people who are in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion. In Croatia the uneducated and the elderly are at the highest risk for poverty, meaning that these are the groups that would need the most assistance. The European Commission can do more to offer scholarships that apply to underprivileged students who need extra help to continue in getting an education. Since one-fifth of Croatia's population consists of the elderly who are retired and receive less than half of the average salary, a system must be put into place to better manage and offer more to the elderly. This plan would be more effective than mindlessly giving money to those affected by poverty and those who are therefore socially excluded, because it offers a more secure solution to this growing problem. The country of Croatia believes that the topics of greenhouse gases and unemployment rates are tied directly to poverty and social exclusion. Once more attention and focus is brought to these problems, other problems will also be diminished because of the overlap with many of the problems discussed in the European Commission.

## CYPRUS

I. Cyprus's air pollution is stable with the worse being a rating of 67 still within the moderate category of the air quality index. Cyprus also follows EU standards of WPC law for controlling water pollution. Cyprus with its low population uses its resources efficiently and rarely has to increase the use of pollutants (ex. Coal)

Solutions to the problem of pollution is not difficult in concept but in implementation. We all know to think globally act locally reduce, reuse, recycle. Etc. But you can't force your citizens to do this, so monetary incentives/ general conveniences should be offered to encourage positive effects on the environment. An example of this is the HOV lane possible expansions could include a discount to cars using bio-degradable fuel and establishing more plants that reward people for recycling (ex. Paying 1\$ per pound of plastic). Furthermore we should revoke tolls from bike riders and pedestrians. This is already a standard practice to only charge vehicles going over toll bridges in most countries but in places where it isn't then we make it so. Finally we should offer discounts to bike riders and skateboarders simply by them displaying their bike/skateboard or their helmet. The cost of all these practices are insignificant as none would cost realistically more than 10,000\$.

II. Cyprus is currently meeting the European commission's goals for an employment rate of 75%. The last measured unemployment rate at the end of 2015 was 16.1% and all peoples falling under that statistic were supplied with the unemployment upon meeting EU requirements for this assistance (i.e. 26 weeks of unemployment). Cyprus has been able to maintain a good unemployment and rate and a low amount of poverty due to its low population. Cyprus is a nation in the 4th stage of the demographic model. This means that they have enough employment opportunities for all the people of Cyprus. Additionally because Cyprus has a stable population growth it is highly unlikely for them to have more people than they have resources and jobs to support.

Cyprus proposes a few basic policies for reducing unemployment and poverty rates. All nations in the EU's priority should be expanding education to all its citizens thus creating a populace capable of different tasks and promoting economic diversity. Secondly the EU should stimulate local economies by promoting local businesses expanding markets based on natural resources and encouraging trade not just between countries in the EU but on a global scale. Third the EU should try to lower population growth to a stable replacement rate of no more than two children per couple. This will decrease the amount of people countries need to support. As an example there is a national contest called food for nine billion in which entrants propose a way to feed nine billion in 2050 when they should be focusing on how to stop excess population growth.

III. Two hundred thousand Cyprus citizens are victims of poverty. This is in accordance with the goal established by the EU but relating it to percentages that's 30% of the population. As mentioned before in terms of the demographic transition there are jobs for these people and it is unlikely for the poverty percentage or unemployment rate to climb or fall drastically.

Cyprus recommends a very simple plan to promote economic growth and that is to stimulate the local economy of all nations within the EU. In the case of nations like Cyprus the first Corporations to receive support should be advertising. The reason why is to promote the country as much as possible because the end game is the tourism business. Tourists are the proverbial golden goose when it comes to increasing countries GDP. If more people learn about and want to visit Cyprus that increases business for airlines then new hotels will have to be built for the influx of foreign visitors. This increases employment in construction and the hotel industries. Finally local businesses will benefit through restaurants seeing more traffic and couples seeking romantic destinations such as a bed and breakfast. It is however the duty of all these industries to support one another example a patron at a restaurant needs a place to sleep that night an employee at the restaurant should recommend a nearby hotel or bed and breakfast. Meanwhile those hotels and bed and breakfasts promote those restaurants via pamphlets or employees giving good reviews, etc.

## GERMANY

I. As one of the world's leaders on climate change, Germany's focus – along with the rest of the European Union (EU) – centers on cutting greenhouse gas (specifically carbon dioxide) emissions. The German government's most important policy today that will decarbonize its economy is known as *energiewende*. The most basic goals of *energiewende* include cutting emissions 40% by 2020 (from 1990 levels) and 80% by 2030. Both are ahead of the EU's current goal to cut emissions 20% by 2020 from 1990 levels and 40% by 2030.

While critics of *energiewende* have argued that it is too ambitious, and doesn't focus enough on reducing the burning of coal, Germany has taken steps to ensure goals are met, and has a comprehensive plan for the future. Due to the German economy's heavy reliance on coal, Germany plans to cut emissions primarily in the energy sector by continuing its significant investment in renewable energy (from which it gets 27% of its electricity, making it a leader among large industrial nations). The power sector will also be addressed, with a cap being put on its emissions, and economic benefits (such as tax breaks) being reaped upon businesses that retrofit buildings. As for the transportation sector, incentives will be offered in order to get one million more electric vehicles on roads, and recycling will also be improved.

Germany's Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks was quoted as saying that the goals outlined in *energiewende* “show that we not only set goals, we also stick to them.” The fact that at the end of 2011, Germany had reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by 23% compared to 1990 levels and overshot its target in the Kyoto Protocol, offers evidence to this. Germany's commitment to climate change is a global commitment, which is reflected in its \$1 billion donation to the UN Green Climate Fund, its partnerships with countries such as Brazil and India in years past, and its leadership at the Paris Conference in December 2015. It would like to see more sustainable development and the expansion of renewable energy, allowing for the preservation of jobs and economies throughout Europe, while still cutting emissions.

II. Germany boasts the largest and strongest economy in Europe, as well as the 4th largest in the world. Stability during the euro crisis made Germany a popular investment destination, and stable is how the economy remains. A decade of reforms has steadily decreased unemployment rates and raised wages as well. As of the third fiscal quarter of 2015, 83.7% of Germans aged 25-54 were employed, along with 44.6% of Germans aged 15-24 (both considerably higher than European Union averages).

Germany believes that one of the most paramount issues that must be addressed when discussing this topic is Europe's migrant crisis. Germany has lead the member-states of the European Union (EU) during this crisis, accepting nearly 1.5 million migrants last year alone. As many countries in the EU currently face demographic crises with aging populations, Germany views the crisis as an opportunity for economic growth, as well as a humanitarian imperative. Thus, the German government supports measures to increase education and vocational training for citizens and migrants entering the EU, and has had success with implementing such measures at home (integration of Turkish immigrants). The migrant crisis is a prospect for fresh labor rather than a threat to current workers. Despite its past reluctance, Germany is now willing to make important deals giving money to financially-wrought Mediterranean countries such as Greece and Spain, in exchange for allowing more migrants in while administrating EU borders efficiently.

Germany is prepared for economic progress, and hopes to help build a clearer roadmap to the goal of employing 75% of working-age adults. It views its own economic policies as good examples of creating short-term economic success, while considering a more welcoming policy toward migrants a long-term solution.

III. With over 120 million people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU (24% of its population), leaders have pledged to bring at least 20 million out by 2020. In Germany, the issue of poverty and social exclusion is once more closely tied to migration. Immigrants face higher risks of poverty and ill health than non-immigrants. Policy initiatives such as the National Integration Plan, the Immigration Act, and the German National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion have all tried in the past to combat this issue. Increased education for immigrants, the expansion of health care, and more cultural integration have been part of the push to reduce the number of people at risk.

Germany is especially committed to defeating child poverty, which it hopes to accomplish by continuing to educate and create jobs in the EU. It is prepared to take action and share the burden of a problem that lies at the core of the EU, through fiscal and cultural effective policies.

## GREECE

I. The European Union has been making great strides towards a greener way of life through its implementation of the Europe 2020 goals. This document includes a revolutionary plan that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% (compared to its levels in 1990) over the span of a decade. With the creation of legislation that focuses on an introduction of renewable fuels to the market (Law 3468) and a decrease in energy consumption (Law 3661), Greece is now slowly making major progress towards its individual goal to reduce the emissions by 4%. While Greece fully supports the EU's goal to help minimize the harmful effects of global warming, it must be understood that these innovative developments place quite a strain on the economy.

The issue of global warming and its potentially disastrous effects on the planet is of utmost concern to Greece. Not only will shifts towards a green economy help the planet, it will augment the development of new technologies and skills, ultimately giving us a major advantage over our global competitors. In addition, improved energy efficiency and the reduction of harmful emissions will reduce both energy costs for consumers and the European Union's dependence on foreign fuel supply. However, in the short-term, the rising costs of fuel & electricity have forced major companies to lay off many workers. To remedy this issue, Greece would like to urge its fellow member countries to evaluate the advantages of their location and explore the various options of renewable energy that may work best for them. Based on Greece's location, wind energy has shown the greatest potential as a sustainable fuel source. In the span of 5 years, Greece has witnessed a 78% increase in its wind energy capacity (MW). Consequently, Greece would like to implement more institutions of this industry. Also, an increased effort will be made to heavily fine companies who choose harmful energy sources, while subsidizing those who rely on clean sources. To fund these endeavors, Greece would like to request an increase in finances towards the environmental sector until it can solidify its economic foundation.

II. Through their enactment of Europe 2020, the members of the European Union have been making a great effort towards enhancing the quality of life for many citizens. One of the main aims within Europe 2020 is to ensure that 75% of all adults are employed by the year 2020. The implementation of programs such as EURES, the network of European employment services, makes it easier for companies to recruit people from abroad, as

well as enabling people to work abroad. Furthermore, through its legislation, Greece is working hard to achieve its own goal of 70% employment by making it easier for its citizens to attain some form of employment. However, economic stress and the external financial stress of Syrian refugees are making it exceptionally difficult for Greece to attain these goals.

The current unemployment crisis is of high importance to Greece. In an effort to remedy this issue, a greater effort will be made to make it as easy as possible for citizens to acquire a job. For example, programs will be set in place to educate and train the youth, while filling in the gaps of those who are older too. Additionally, Greece's commitment to reduce emissions works hand-in-hand with this initiative. As Greece slowly converts to more wind-based energy sources, employment opportunities will arise with regards to the maintenance and care of these equipment. Although there is a long way to go, Greece is committed to putting forth their best effort in order to achieve these goals.

III. Since the financial crisis in 2008, there has been no recorded decrease in the average poverty level throughout the European Union. To combat this growing issue, one of the goals of the Europe 2020 is to reduce the number of people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million. However, given its financially strained condition, Greece has determined its national goal to be at least a 450,000 reduction. Initially, programs such as the Social Insurance Package (SIP) were meant to assist in streamlining each country's welfare systems and ensuring that their budgeting is as efficient and effective as possible, all in an evident effort to prevent an increase in poverty levels. While the efforts of institutions such as the SIP are greatly appreciated, Greece would like to emphasize that its rising numbers in poverty must be addressed as soon as possible.

Greece believes that the only way to remedy the growing crisis of poverty is to work together in order to find a lasting solution. Rather than the individual member states using their national budget to finance this monumental endeavor, Greece believes that it should be the European Union's funds that finance these initiatives. These funds would come from taxes on each of the member states that are proportional to the economic state of each nation. These finances would then be distributed based on who is in most need for it. Although this concept seems to be an unfair strain on the wealthier or economically sound countries in the EU, it is this idea that will ultimately help repair the bruises of our sluggish economy and bring us back to our original state of financial stability.

## HUNGARY

I. Combating greenhouse gas emissions is vital to keeping our earth a safe place. The levels of carbon dioxide emissions have exponentially increased since the industrial revolution. Scientific evidence has shown that if the global temperature goes 2 degrees celsius higher than it was in the pre industrial age it would have irreversible and catastrophic effects. Prevention of crossing this threshold is vital to live life as we know it. If no action was taken, intense storms, wider-ranging wildfires and increasing drought, among other things would occur. In 2010 the European Commission agreed that as a whole they would cut 20 percent of their emissions, with each member state having their own goal based on their 2005 levels of greenhouse gases to reach that overall outcome. Many, such as the Balkans, feel like this is not fair, and is a strain on their economies. Along with that, there have been concerns that even though this goal of 20% has been reached, some of the individual

member states feel that their goal is ‘unattainable’ and that the policies in place are too broad. The delegation of Hungary acknowledges these claims and believes that in order to reach our goal we must lay out a clear roadmap to a clean energy Europe, while looking closely at the negative side effects these changes will bring on individual states.

There are many solutions that we can bring to the table. We can expand public transportation, subsidize companies to move towards cleaner energy sources, and consider all sources of energy. Hungary for example has had great progress with geothermal energy mostly due to its location. Hungary proposes that the UN institute regulations that ask other member states to take into account their location and capabilities and use them to their advantage to find a clean source of energy that would work for them, such as wind, solar, or anything other source of renewable energy. Through this we could also create jobs for the maintenance and creation of the means of retaining the energy along with subsidizing power companies to use manual labor and clean energy. Along with that we could create jobs and reduce greenhouse emissions by encouraging public transportation. Also, Hungary would wholeheartedly support actions by the UN to set a limit on industrial pollution in nations with GDPs of over a certain set point. Overall, we must all work together and create clear guidelines while aiding those like the Balkans who are struggling to reach their goals. Through all of these means and more we can undoubtedly reach our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by twenty percent.

II. In Europe the 2008 financial crisis left millions of adults unemployed. It was reported that in 2014 under 65% of the population of the EU are employed. In 2010 the EU decided its goal of raising employment to 75% by 2020 when seeing that the Lisbon Strategy which was in place from 2000 to 2010 was as many put it, a failed agenda. It was intended to combat the slow economic growth of the EU through policy initiatives that were to be taken up by each member state. It was created on the ideas of innovation, entrepreneurship, and social and economic renewal. Basically they believed that by creating a strong economy and environmental reforms it would lead to an even stronger and productive economy than before. The Europe 2020 plan works off of the Lisbon Strategy by promoting progressive educational strategies to inspire entrepreneurship and programs to create youth jobs. However, some believe that with countries like Spain and Greece with unemployment rates nearing 50% the EU will not be able to reach its goal, along with the challenges of the Syrian refugee crisis and the side effects of the movement to new sources of energy. So far the unemployment rate has fallen flat to 10.4% in 2015 and is predicted to stay that way until 2017. The delegation of Hungary feels that it is necessary to take action and create “a new social market economy, a smarter, greener economy, where our prosperity will come from innovation and from using resources better, and where the input will be knowledge” that is sustainable and a top priority in the member states political agenda.

To raise employment rates there must be a series of short and long term solutions. Hungary proposes that all of the people who are unemployed and looking for work should register into a database that contains each of their resumes and then be matched with job opportunities throughout the EU. We would of course need employers to also register that they are looking for employees with certain qualities. On top of that we could subsidize employers to have a certain amount of workers so that we can make sure that there are jobs available for people-not machines. Also, we could create jobs through our efforts to reduce gas emissions. Whether it's solar or wind these mechanisms need maintenance and people to build them. And the expansion of public transit will also need workers for maintenance and such. The creation of jobs will not only aid in the creation of a better quality of life for the citizens of the EU but can create a better world.

III. By 2020 it is our goal to lower the rate of people at risk for poverty to 20 million or lower. Poverty levels in Europe have been at a record high since the 2008 financial crisis with 1 in 7 people and 1 in 5 children being at risk for poverty in the EU. Previous strategies such as the Social Investment Package are examples of member states attempting to modernize their welfare systems by creating opportunities for children, however this plan has been criticized for preventing poverty instead of actually helping the poor. Another concern between member states is burden sharing. Some states are significantly decreasing their poverty rates while others are seeing an increase. Those states that are not able to handle the increase of those needing welfare feel that their national budgets are being stretched thin feel that there is not enough burden sharing. The delegation of Hungary believes that in order to combat these levels of poverty we must take action and create a system of burden sharing so that each member state put in an equal amount of work to fight against poverty.

The delegation of Hungary proposes that the poverty epidemic in the EU must be solved through the efforts of individual member states itself and the EU as a whole. Ideally each member state will create programs to aid in not only preventing poverty but those in the situation as well. These programs will be for expanding education, libraries, transportation, etc. By doing this, the member state would be giving everyone an equal opportunity to excel and have the capability to learn. The EU as a whole would provide financial aid to the extreme poor. This would be to provide food, shelter, etc. to those who really need it most. Hungary itself attempted this as poverty rates in Hungary have risen from 7% to 17% from 2007 to 2012, resulting in the creation of the Family Homemaking Discount which gives families with 1 or more children house loans. This costs a lot of money and was a stressor on the national budget of Hungary. By making the EU in charge of all of the monetary funds we would be able to pool tax money from all member states and give it to whomever needs it the most. Also we could create jobs to help the poor through efforts to lower the release of greenhouse gases by giving them jobs for the maintenance of renewable energy power or public transit.

## IRELAND

I. Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide trap heat in the atmosphere and can have a very negative effect on our home planet. Reduction of these harmful effects has been a topic the United Nations has focused on in recent years. Ireland has worked hard since the goals were set in 2010 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its home country. However, Ireland is also a small country with a small population overall, therefore the nation has a whole has a minimal impact.

In order to solve this global issue, a few steps are necessary. Education to the public, regulations on corporations with high emission rates, and encouragement of environment friendly practices are all potentially beneficial strides toward achieving this goal. However, with all this, it is important to keep in mind that the harmful emissions come out of favorable and indispensable practices. For example, much of Ireland's greenhouse emissions come from its agriculture sector. Ireland's natural environment is very advantageous for agriculture and Ireland and its economy have become dependent on agriculture. Even though we are an agriculture-dependent country, we will work to reduce our greenhouse impact, specifically in other areas. In conclusion, if we, as the European Union, unite, together we can surpass our goal and maintain our superpower position in the world.

II. Unemployment is a very critical issue in Europe today. Ever since the global financial disaster in 2008, Europe has not had an easy time recovering, according to the EPA. Some countries are in a total economic crisis and employment rates cannot and will not increase without improvement of the economy. In addition, since the goals were adopted in 2010, little progress has been made.

Ireland has slowly been progressing since the severe blow in 2008 but has a large amount of progress remaining. In 2011, the government placed a Jobs Fund in addition to the numerous organizations already present to assist in creating and filling jobs. Ireland firmly believes that government support is the only way to get our workers back on their feet. Corporations cannot recover alone and will fail. Furthermore, there is a large potential in the young people of Europe and they may be the key to success. We strongly support apprenticeship and training of the young people to escort them into the jobs and improve our economy. Together we can sponsor these types of programs and spread them worldwide.

III. More than 120 million people in the European Union live in risk of poverty or social exclusion. The whole of Europe suffers from this and will be able to grow and prosper much more effectively when the problem is done away with. The European Commission has since put into place the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion. With a wide range of policies, this will help the EC reach their goal with actions including better use of EU funds with respect to social inclusion and delivering actions across the whole policy spectrum. Ireland is developing and its economy is strengthening but poverty is a rising problem. A survey by the Central Statistics Office in 2013 reported that 30% of its citizens experienced enforced deprivation, or lack of at least two essential items for life. This does not include the citizens' income and was a self-reporting survey, but even so, poverty in Ireland requires attention. Ireland has a National Anti-Poverty strategy which has been highly successful in the past. It focuses on the population areas at greatest risk and those who are constantly poor and creates institutions to ensure all departments meet their objectives in assisting those below the poverty line. This multi-faceted approach is similar to the one in place by the EC already and will end the suffering so the EU can achieve the goal of 20 million fewer people in or at risk of being in poverty and flourish once again.

## BELGIUM

I. The Kingdom of Belgium emphasizes a need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the country and meet goals proposed in the ratified Kyoto Protocol. Belgium is required to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by twenty percent by 2020 by finding renewable sources and improving energy efficiency. Belgium's three regions have adopted the Flemish Climate Policy Plan, Climate Decree, and Brussels Code for Air, Climate and Energy, as measures to improve climate conditions in the region. Belgium proposes the goals of phasing out nuclear energy by 2025 and investing in new methods of harvesting energy in an eco-friendly manner. The government provides subsidies and tax breaks to companies and households that rely on power that is friendly to the environment and helpful in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Reforestation and upgrades in infrastructure, including roads, waterways, and railroads, are encouraged by the Kingdom of Belgium. Belgium strongly advises European nations to balance the reduction of emissions while allowing their economies to continue growing. Setting high standards is often beneficial, but Belgium recognizes that the European Commission needs to be reasonable when considering its target goals.



II. The Kingdom of Belgium struggles with lowering its unemployment rate due to the increasing flow of migrants into the country, as well as regulations previously set up by the Belgian legislature. Belgium has a youth unemployment rate higher than that of the European Union. The issue lies in high minimum wage laws, vast separation between school and trade, and high education dropout rates. Belgian companies have limited capital to invest in the salaries of its employees, and thus favors more experienced, older individuals as workers rather than the youth. Additionally, many of the lesser-educated youth struggle with obtaining jobs due to their lack of skilled knowledge. The Kingdom of Belgium implemented the Youth Guarantee to aid in solving the issue of youth unemployment. Belgium encourages postponing the age for individuals to receive pensions and reforming the education system to result in a lower percentage of dropouts. Belgium reports paying the highest cost out of all European countries for its unemployed citizens at a staggering value of thirty-three thousand euros per person each year. Belgium suggests employing the youth or migrants in the house service and caretaking industries in order to provide more jobs, lower the cost of old-age living, and include the elderly in society. Europe requires a large number of caretakers to assist the elderly, and the new market would be suitable for unemployed youth. Belgium recognizes the need to reach the goal of employing seventy-five percent of its population, but only sees the goal as possible through delaying the age of those who receive pensions, reforming the education system, and integrating the youth and elderly into society together.

III. The Kingdom of Belgium recognizes poverty and social exclusion as coming from the same common root, influenced by unemployment rates and environmental factors. The most common form of poverty is the European Union is monetary poverty. It is likely a result of increasing prices on energy from the EU2020 climate goals, high taxes, and a lack of youth employment. Belgium suffers from one of the higher rates of poverty in the European Union at 15.2%. The most vulnerable groups affected by monetary poverty and social exclusion are often the children, migrants, young adults, and those with low education backgrounds. Belgium notes that the goals seemed feasible in the past, but much more difficult to reach after the recent influx of millions of migrants from Syria and the Middle East. As a result, the unemployment rates have jumped, causing poverty percentages to rise as well. Belgium reminds other European countries that the number of people below the poverty line might remain the same if radical and efficient reform is not taken. The Kingdom of Belgium suggests increased training facilities for young people, EU funded educational programs for migrants, and investing resources in job creation in order to widen opportunities. Belgium concludes that an appropriate balance is needed among greenhouse gas emission quotas, efforts to decrease unemployment, elimination of poverty and social exclusion throughout the European Union.

## LATVIA

I. During the last century, the mean average temperature has increased by 0,8-1,4°C. Statistically significant increasing trends in maximum and minimum temperatures were detected for March, April, July, August and annual values over the period 1951–2010 in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. At the majority of stations in these countries, the increase was detected also in February and May in case of maximum temperature and in January and May in case of minimum temperature. Part of the major climate changes observed in the Baltic Sea region during the late 20th century can be related to changes in atmospheric circulation— a direct result of global warming.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% will take a collective effort. The Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are great starting points and frameworks to base the European Commission's resolution on cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%. Latvian Prime Minister, Māris Kučinskis, has stepped forth Latvian efforts to cut back emissions—specifically GHG emissions. Latvia finds that all European countries, especially the larger countries, should adapt national goals that meet or exceed a reduction of 20% in greenhouse gases.

II. The 2008 financial crisis has had a detrimental effect on the European Union—leaving many working adults unemployed, to today where the employment rate is less than 70%. Latvia, a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), has ratified 45 ILO conventions. Latvia serves to protect the employment of its citizens. Currently, Latvia has an unemployment rate of 9.7%—the lowest since July of 2008, where over 90% of working adults in Latvia are employed. To protect its workers, Latvia passed a labor law, emphasizing the rights of its workers and also its employers.

Latvia believes that a specifically detailed plan, involving larger countries providing, as per the EU charter, monetary and financial assistance for smaller countries, such as Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus. Latvia urges the European Commission to expand upon its labour initiative for 2020—aiming to reduce the amount of unemployment to less than 2.5%. However, the EC should remember that the Sustainable Development Goals will have to be adjusted in order to compensate for the influx of refugees from the Middle East, especially Syria. Also, Latvia encourages the EC to revise its Economic Package to incorporate the Syrian refugees and to adjust for the impacts (both long-term and short-term) of 2008.

III. 1 in 7 persons in the European Union are at risk of poverty. The recent financial crisis of 2008 and the influx of the Syrian refugees has only exacerbated that problem. Latvia has a poverty level below 10% and a risk of poverty level less than 20%, making Latvia fairly stable, domestically, for risk of poverty. Furthermore, Latvia has provided protection through its labour laws for its 2 million citizens including national health insurance for citizens and noncitizen permanent residents.

The recent immigration of millions of refugees from the middle east is an important aspect of this topic that the European Commission needs to address. Latvia suggests the European Commission to adopt a policy similar to one that Latvia provides, a simple national healthcare plan that incorporates both citizens and noncitizens, but permanent residents. This would encompass not only the impoverished, but also the refugees that have been immigrating to Europe. Further, the SIP and the European Social Fund's 2020 strategy is ineffective for the future as it focuses on the symptoms, rather than the disease. Latvia encourages the European Commission to institute a monetary and fiscal policy, encompassing all countries that are in the European Commission and European Union, however focusing primarily on the countries stricken with the heaviest financial losses, such as Greece and Italy.

## NETHERLANDS

I. The scientific community has come to the consensus that the emissions from human beings are a major contributor to the current and out of the ordinary warming of the planet. The majority of these emissions come from post industrial nations here in Europe, as well as major contributions from nations like the United States and the People's Republic of China. It is important that we come together as a community to reduce these

emissions, most notably carbon dioxide. There are many sources of carbon pollution such as factories, transportation including vehicles, trains, and aeroplanes, and power production facilities that run on oil, natural gasses, and coal.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands believes the most effective way to reduce emissions in the long term is to invest in alternative energy solutions based on the demographics and geography of a specific country. Countries such as ours could be heavily invested in technologies such as offshore wind power and hydroelectric systems such as wave energy and the use of gravity fueled systems to generate electricity. Countries in the middle of the continent could use a mixture of terrestrial wind power as well as solar technologies (photovoltaic cells or mirror focusing of light on to a tower).

For countries that are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels as a main source of energy, the European Commission needs to increase carbon taxes and expand carbon trading between countries. This will allow for the overall reduction in emissions across the board. This would be a temporary solution to the problem, but it is still important that countries focus on becoming independent of fossil fuels for energy production.

For private citizens, countries should incentivise using alternative modes of transportation such as biking, walking, or taking mass transit which still emits carbon, but in much less quantities than of all people using it were in vehicles producing carbon emissions.

Overall, it is of the utmost concern for the countries of Europe to reduce our current carbon emissions and promote sustainable, alternative energy sources. This will create a better, safer future for generations to come, as well as being preventative steps to avoid disasters due to a warming global climate.

II. The economic recession of 2008 has hit not only the Kingdom of the Netherlands, but all of the European Union. Unemployment rates skyrocketed, businesses failed, and many more people were put at risk of poverty or into poverty. It has been evident that the Lisbon Plan failed to predict such a crisis, but the development of the Europe 2020 goals have been a step forward. Unfortunately, these goals have not been foolproof, as some countries within the Union still have staggeringly high rates of unemployment. Here in the Netherlands, the unemployment rates has gone down to 6.6%, with youth unemployment rates of 11.2%. Although this is a recovery and meets the overall goal of the Europe 2020 agreement, it still may not be enough. We have set an ambitious employment rate of 80% nationally, with 2012 employment percentages reaching 76.6%. It can be seen in the most recent unemployment rates that the Netherlands has surpassed this goal and is predicted to continue to have higher employment rates.

Although the Netherlands has surpassed both goals, many countries have not met the basic goal for the entire Union. This is of great concern, as countries are now being flooded with refugees and migrants through the Schengen Agreement. It is of concern that this massive influx of persons into countries along the Mediterranean will counteract goals of some countries that are already having issues reaching 75% employment. It is because of this, the Netherlands would like to propose that countries facing an influx of migrants and refugees help to divert most of them to countries that can handle the burden, such as the Netherlands, Germany, and possibly the United Kingdom. These countries should open their arms to accepting these refugees and migrants as they can provide many skills in the workforce.

Another solution to the problem of great unemployment, especially youth unemployment is to make it easier for young persons to attain access to higher educational institutions, as well as opening trade-based vocational schools for those who do not wish to participate in the realm of academia. These programs would keep youth in schools and training programs longer, thus increasing their skill set so they can be more employable when they enter the workforce.

Overall, it is the duty of the countries within the European Union to cooperate and address the issues of unemployment, especially youth unemployment.

III. After the economic crash of 2008, many people were plunged into poverty, or were put at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This has been an extreme problem in countries within the Union, especially those whose economies are not doing well. This problem is prevalent in all countries no matter their economic standing and needs to be addressed for the better of all people within our borders.

One major step towards fewer persons in or at risk of poverty is to increase the educational spending and more inclusive policies. These will allow more persons to increase their educational levels, thus allowing them to achieve employment in higher paying professions, or professions that have higher job security. With more persons having steady employment, they will have more security financially thus allowing the number of persons at risk or in poverty to decrease. To stimulate the creation of new jobs, countries within the European Union, countries should increase investments in fields and industries that have the most potential to create new jobs, such as alternative energy sectors, encourage young people to enter the market as entrepreneurs, as well as helping domestic production fields.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands proposes that countries, under the direction of the European Union, should implement a system of trickle up economics, whereas the poorer classes receive a tax break. Trends show that poor people tend to spend more money rather than save it, so thus they would pump money into the economy. This money would benefit middle class business owners who can create jobs for those lower-class persons that are either in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

To lower the number of people at risk of social exclusion, we should, as a body, enact legislation that will ensure people in all member states have a fair and equal chance to participate in society no matter their current social or economic standing. Laws that would end discrimination due to religion, sexuality, race, gender, etc. need to be enforced more stringently as to end any possible social exclusion.

In all, the European Union's member states have an obligation to their citizens to reduce the number of persons in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Countries should focus on creating jobs through more education and vocational training, as well as giving tax breaks to the lower classes so they can help to stimulate the economy, so all persons within the country can benefit.

## POLAND

II. As a member state of the European Union, Poland is currently cooperating with the European Employment Strategy. Poland combats and plans to combat unemployment through a series of steps. First, by boosting

demand for labor, and in particular guidance on job creation, labor taxation and wage-setting. Then, by enhancing labor and skills supply, by addressing structural weaknesses in education and training systems, and by tackling youth and long-term unemployment. Next, by better functioning of the labor markets, with a specific focus on reducing labor market segmentation and improving active labor market measures and labor market mobility. Last by enforcing fairness, combating poverty and promoting equal opportunities.

III. More than 120 million people in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion today. As a participant of the European platform against poverty and social exclusion, Poland is always working on destroying poverty in our nation. Actions such as delivering actions across the whole policy spectrum such as the labor market, minimum income support, healthcare, education, housing and access to basic banking accounts are very important to this progress. Poland believes that a free market with socialist and pro-worker elements is essential for this process. Laws especially fighting worker exploitation and raising the minimum wage. Poland does not, in any way, want to affiliate or comply with communist ideals or a communist economy.

## FINLAND

I. The fight against the destructive effects of climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time; Finland's long term objective is to become a carbon neutral society, this represents an enormous effort, therefore the Finnish government has set national targets on renewable energy, and it is committed to the EU's 2030 targets. Finland will increase the use of renewable energy by implementing the use of bio energy and bio fuels. However, other preparations are being planned, in which the main industry sectors and citizens will be involved too. Greenhouse gas emissions have reached their lowest level in twenty years. The entire production and service chain, in cooperation with the public sector, will be encouraged to adopt sustainable energy solutions and technological innovations.

Renewable energy use will rise to 50 % by 2020s, the use of imported oil and coal for the domestic needs will be cut. In transportation, measures will be taken, such as energy subsidies to improve the efficiency, incentives for citizens that acquire energy efficient vehicles, and new bicycling opportunities. The use of renewable transport fuels will rise to 40 % by 2030. In addition the clean technology industry will increase 15% and will be used for business; using biomass as a renewable source method to large commercial companies like KONE and Neste Oil.

### Employment for 75% of working adults

The employment goal may not be attainable by 2020, yet Finland tries its best by introducing new strategies that focus in improving the productivity of public services. The effective retirement age will be increase, the labor market prospects of young people and the long term unemployed conditions will be improved too. Finland is improving the labor force participation rate of young and old workers, and becoming a competitive economy in product and service markets. Finland is making adjustments on salaries and economic wages of the Finnish workers in order to attract international companies that innovate in the productivity sector.

The labor market prospects for young people is improving due to The Youth Guarantee , a program introduced, that has contributed to limit youth unemployment, after six months this increased to 89.6% of guarantee beneficiaries. Regarding the long-term unemployed, a new law has been adopted regarding a multi-

professional joint service. The public employment service would work together with the local authorities and the social security institution to ensure tailor-made approach and a more intensive follow.

II. Finland's priorities are reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion, consolidating public finances and promoting sustainable economic growth, employment and competitiveness. During monitoring period of the poverty target, the number of individuals with low income has slightly decreased. The Government will reduce unemployment of young people threatened by social exclusion, people with partial work ability and people with disabilities. The continuing poor trend in the Finnish economic growth has increased the short and long term challenges for social security: pension expenditure and the need for more nursing and care are rising. The Government launched an action program to create an operating model for the promotion of well being and health. The key objectives of the program are prolonging working careers and boosting service productivity. Recent structural reforms included:

A) Social inclusion were designed to accessing employment, staying at work and extending working careers

1. Support for people's employment and the prevention of their exclusion.
2. Improving the labor market position of the partially disabled to promote the employment of the partially disabled.
3. Legislative amendments to benefits including subsidies for disabled people under 16.
4. Improving the status of immigrants.
5. Implementation of the Youth Guarantee.
6. Participatory social security, to promote the well-being and working life skills of the unemployed job seekers.
7. Implementation of the Disability Policy program.
8. Reforms of the Social Welfare Act and the Child Welfare Act.
9. Reform of early childhood education and day care services.
10. Pupil and Student Welfare Act.
11. National Program to Reduce Long-Term Homelessness.
12. Reforms introduced to the system of housing allowances.

B) Pension policy measures to guaranteeing pension is to provide residents of Finland with a minimum pension by paying him/her guarantee pension in a situation when his/her other pension are not enough to secure reasonable livelihood.

C) Recent reforms in social welfare and health care policy.

1. Structure reform to improve the availability of consultation services and the treatment of long-term illness and self-care.
2. Housing for people with intellectual disabilities and related services.
3. Development of informal care, the need for support for family members.
- 4 Reform of legislation on disability, to ensure the equal services for different disability groups.

## MALTA

I. The issue of greenhouse gas emissions has always been one that is relevant to the Maltese government, as the tourist sector is one of the largest contributors to Malta's economy, but also one of the largest contributors to emissions. In recent years, Malta has seen some of the largest drops in Greenhouse gas emissions of any members of the European Union. This is due to the mainly to the initiatives of MEPA (Malta Environmental Planning Authority), that pushes for a more sustainable management of air pollution and climate change

through service aimed at the social, economic and cultural development of the country. Particularly unique to Malta is the program that attempts to decouple economic activity from emissions generators, through subsidized usage of green automobiles and low-sulfur fuels. All of these initiative stand in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has been a positive influence on the economy and culture of Malta, pushing our country towards the usage of sustainable alternatives, leading Malta to believe that such legislation would continue to be successful in the future, especially considering the flexibility of the program. There are ways in which additional protocols could be most helpful to Malta in particular, such as the continued push the tourist industry towards a more unilateral spread throughout the season, so as to reduce pressure on natural resources in peak seasons. In addition to this, though, Malta suggests a unilateral attempt at using low-sulfur fuels, an alternative to dangerous fossil fuels that affect the global environmental safety.

II. Unemployment in Malta is not a significant problem, the majority of the 5.6% total unemployed are the due to frictional and cyclical unemployment, with the third lowest rate of unemployment across the European Union. These are due to a government commitment to ensuring economic growth and creating work through concrete plans, especially targeting youth. Kunsill Nazzjonali Zghazagh (KNZ) are partners in the Youth Employment Program, which ensures Maltese youth are equipped to join the job market, and also lobbies the government for continued infrastructure for economic growth and employment opportunities. Malta believes that grassroots involvement is one of the most effective ways to lower unemployment, and conquers the problem via a more multi-lateral approach, rather than just expecting government policy to fix such a problem. That being said, the Maltese government initiatives are widespread, and includes a brand of government unemployment benefits, government-run job readiness programs, and youth job involvement incentives. The goal of 75 percent employment is has been achieved by Malta, but sustaining such a low level of unemployment could prove to be more difficult than originally thought, due to tensions among the validity of providing such a high level of assistance to the unemployed. This goal is also very achievable by the European Union, and Malta encourages all member states to consider perusing programs as it has employed for complete success.

III. 24% of people in Malta were considered to be at risk of poverty, meaning that 24% of the population are living in one of the three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived, or living in households with very low work intensity. The persons at risk of poverty after social transfers increased from 15.3% to 15.7; the persons severely materially deprived saw more than doubled, from 4.3% to 9.5%; and the persons aged 0-59 living in households with a very low labor intensity increased from 8.6% to 9.0%. This is affecting Malta particularly by creating an atmosphere of distrust of the government, and youth uncertainty of their futures. The European Commission has come up with initiatives that have been mostly helpful, but Malta proposes continued flexible solutions wherever possible, keeping in mind the varied economic abilities of member states. At this point, greenhouse gas emissions and unemployment remain mostly separate from the issue of poverty in the eye of the Maltese government. While poverty is a serious problem for Malta, this does not stem from unemployment, rather from an inadequate standard of living. To keep improving conditions that decrease the risk of poverty, Malta proposes a European Commission initiative involving raising the standard of living and minimum wage a proportionate amount, allowing for poverty to decrease in all member states, just variant on their current poverty levels.

I. Greenhouse gases have been a topic of heavy interest, due to the increased emphasis on slowing or solving global warming within the EC. The mean world average temperature has been steadily increasing by .8-1.4°C due to an increase in man-made emissions of greenhouse gases (Kyoto Basket). Slovenia's target to lower the 'Kyoto basket' of emissions is to keep the growth of their emissions below 4% compared with their 2005 emissions. The measures defined in the 2010 conference are a crucial part of the programme to transform Slovenia into a green and low-carbon economy which uses its resources economically. The investment measures in the programme will increase domestic demand for green solutions and present a great business opportunity. Although the measures are long-term, significant effects will be felt by 2020.

Slovenia supports the international vision of preventing the dangerous impact of climate change and keeping the global increase of temperature below 2 °C. It will actively contribute to making this vision a reality by shifting to an economy with growth based not on increased use of natural resources and energy, but on achieving greater competitiveness and promoting growth and employment through efficiency and innovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Slovenian government supports the EC resolution and encourages that all European countries, especially larger gas contributors, adapt national goals assigned to them allowing the EU to achieve a reduction of 20% overall in greenhouse gases.

II. The financial crisis of 2008 has heavily impacted employment rates within the EU, disrupting the steady growth of employment rates. Ever since the 70.3% employment rate in 2008, European Union employment has not exceeded 69% over the past 6 years. Slovenia has worked hard towards its goal of improving employment rates, maintaining 67.2% employment.

Slovenia is dedicated to improving the stagnant employment rates and has adopted a "Partnership Agreement" with European Commission in 2014 setting down the strategy for the optimal use of European Structural and Investment Funds throughout the country. The agreement paved the way for an investment of €3.07 billion in total Cohesion Policy funding over 2014-2020. Slovenia also received €837.8 million for rural development and €24.8 million for the maritime sector. The EU investments will help tackle the unemployment and boost competitiveness and economic growth through support to innovation, training and education in cities, towns and rural areas. They will also promote entrepreneurship, fight social exclusion and help to develop an environmentally friendly and a resource-efficient economy. Also Slovenia recommends incorporating the new Syrian crisis into long term employment impacts.

III. The recent financial crisis in 2008 and the recent Syrian refugee crisis have placed pressure on 2020 European Union goals of lowering poverty. Slovenia is under the EU average of people in or at risk of poverty with 20.4% compared with the 24.5% of the union. Slovenia has not addressed the problem specifically, but the economic policies and initiatives have spilled over into the current rate. However, even when below the EU average, Slovenia is still pursuing its national goal of a low 40,000 individuals in or at Risk of Poverty.

The Partnership Agreement made with the EC in 2014 has provided investments to work towards lowering unemployment and those in or at risk of poverty. But Slovenia would also like to address the recent refugees crisis very soon in this matter. Currently with the only open border with Croatia, Slovenia is experience a magnified version of these concerns. The SIP and the European Social Fund's 2020 strategy are ineffective in the future as they focus on the symptoms, rather than the disease. Slovenia encourages the European



Commission to institute new monetary and fiscal policies similar to the Partnership Agreement, encompassing all EU countries, however focusing primarily on the countries stricken with most financial losses.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

I. The European Union is working to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by at least 20%, by 2020. The most produced greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide. It has become the focus of Europe's approach to the issue of global warming; this gas causes 64 percent of man-made global warming. Activities such as burning oil, coal, deforestation, and increase in livestock farming. The EU announced that as of October 2015 they have succeeded in reducing Greenhouse gas Emissions by 20 percent. Multiple initiatives have accomplished this include heavy regulation, the establishment of an Emissions Trading System, and the European Climate Change Programme. The US has set up plans to reduce it by 40 percent by 2030. The EU has taken measures to ensure that pollution within the states nations apart of the EU will be reduced, but this presents the issue of unemployment caused by closing of manufacturing plants and other industrial buildings. The Czech Republic is working to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions by creating a limit to the amount of greenhouse gas produced by all airlines, as well as option to purchase allowances through trade with other airlines.

II. The nations that comprise the EU struggles with unemployment, recent events have contributed to the increase in unemployment rates. The refugee crisis caused an influx of refugees that need jobs and housing. The EU can't support all of the refugees coming in, this and overall causing a higher percentage of unemployment. The Czech Republic's main concern is the hours of work individuals are taking on. This creates a higher amount of part-time workers and a lower amount of full time workers. The Czech Republic is working to decrease unemployment. The UN has placed The Millennium Development Goals, to work towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Poverty can become an issue since relative poverty refers to those who experience disadvantages in employment; this is caused by Social Exclusion. People can be at risk of poverty, 1 in 7 people are at risk of poverty within the EU, 1 in 5 children reported to be at risk of poverty in 2008. The Europe 2020 strategy was developed to create a measure that ensures that 20 million fewer people will not be at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Work on promoting social inclusion, set aside funding from the European Social Fund, and coordinate policies among EU countries to create social inclusion in these countries. As a result, the Social Investment Package has been used to help member states with modernizing their welfare systems; it does this by guiding their social budgeting to be as efficient and effective as possible.

## ETHIOPIA

I. Ethiopia is looking to move past our past political ways towards a better market economy by boosting agriculture, education, health, water, transport and telecommunications. "29 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line. Ethiopia ranks 174th out of 187 countries on the United Nations Development Programme's human development index, and average per capita incomes are less than half the current sub-Saharan average"(Rural poverty in Ethiopia). Ethiopia would look to a better economy but is in need of the help of the United Nations to loan the nation money in order to build the crumbled infrastructure in order for us to build our nation back. Ethiopians have become poorer than they were in 2005; high food prices that improve

incomes for many poor farmers make buying food more challenging for the poorest. Starvation rates will increase which is why the nation of Ethiopia calls upon the European Union for a small loan in order to help the farmers of the nation start up their crops to feed their families, which also will jumpstart the Ethiopian economy. This not only better Ethiopia, but the world by not having to focus on supporting a whole nation.

II. If the EU does not wish to loan money it is the sole reason of bad feelings towards the Ethiopian past government. Ethiopia is trying to move past those times and must rebuild. It slowly is trying to westernize in order to become economically stable as well as socially in order to keep strong relations with the EU. However, it is recognized that culturally young domestic female workers are treated unfairly. It is necessary to build a stronger education in the minds of all Ethiopians to cease their prejudice. The main necessity in changing these views is because of the large amount of sexual abuse found throughout Ethiopia along with human trafficking. All though this segment has nothing to do with human trafficking, it is obvious that with a population which demeans females, sex slavery is found much more often. Of course this government wishes dearly to rid of this horrendous trade, which is why we wish to educate the populace of a stronger social equality to everyone.

III. The nation of Ethiopia is not very well-known for its problem's with climate change. However, climate change drastically affects the nation's people. With climate change there are many seasons with limited rain destroying farmers crops. Ethiopian farmers are already hungered and with climate change their lives can only be worse. The greenhouse gasses of Ethiopia are not the problem however. It is the rest of the world that is causing serious issues.

Nations such as Germany are taking the command in limiting the amount of toxic greenhouse gasses they omit, but now it is time for the rest of the EU to take control. In order for Ethiopia to not be hypocritical on this topic, the nation has made these laws: Improving crop and livestock production practices to improve food security and increase farmer's incomes while reducing emissions;

Protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including as carbon stocks;

Expanding electricity generation from renewable energy sources for domestic and regional markets; and

Leapfrogging to modern and energy-efficient technologies in transport, industrial sectors, and buildings.

(Ethiopia: Can it adapt to climate change and build a green economy). If the EU can come up with a solution to the continuing growing climate change, this would not only aid this nation, but all developing countries who depend on a steady supply of rain.

## ITALY

I. Global warming is an issue that all the countries have been trying to settle for years. The emissions of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere are affecting the world's environment in several ways such as: desertification, climate change, melting of snow and ice, and therefore, the rising of sea levels, all caused by the ozone layer depletion. These have led countries to set solutions in order to reduce such emissions without affecting each country's economy and environment.

Prior treaties, such as the Kyoto Protocol or the Copenhagen Agreement, have tried to implement objectives to reduce gas emissions and improve environmental care. The UN and European Union have been working on the reinforcement of climate change, with new agreements like the Paris Agreement to establish countries'

responsibilities to reach the goal. These institutions have created series of initiatives and regulations to cut the emissions of greenhouse gases, but there have been a lot of opposition towards them. Italy is fully committed and involved in the battle against climate change. We have widely participated on programs and initiatives to reduce gas emissions, with these being reduced by almost 10% in 2013 in the country.

Because Italy is part of the industrial sector of the European Nations, we are fully aware of the problem, and we suggest our fellow countries to contribute in the reduction of emissions by participating on the treaties and agreements stated before, and by considering the reduction of emissions on a 40% in the next two decades. This can be done by using the released gases and implementing electricity from renewable energy, improving its efficacy, so we can solve the problem without having severe damages on countries' economies. We can also apply the regulations of car usage in all cities, like it is working right now on the capitals. This can help to reduce the emissions from cars and inform people about the problem. We believe this goal can be reach if all the countries work together towards the common benefit.

II. Since the financial crisis of 2008, the European nations have been working on the restoration of each country's economy, with unemployment being one of the main concerns. The low employment rates have had a strong impact on individuals' standards of living, which reflect on a country's economy, forcing some of them to borrow money and therefore having severe restrictions on immigration and the increase of taxation on businesses. These entails violence and poverty among populations, which worsens the problem and heightens the importance of its resolution.

Several actions have been taken in order to reduce the rate of unemployment such as the Employment Package, the Youth Employment Initiative and the EU Skills Panorama by the European Union. In other words, countries have strengthen their national employment policies, improving communication to give skills to unemployed people, as well as creating an EU labor market to improve the matching of jobs to the unemployed.

Italy is now having problems with unemployment rates, as they have increased constantly in the last 7 years and having problems financially in the Eurozone, however the policies implemented have had positive results in the last 2 years. We trust that the European Nations will restore their economy from the 2008 crisis and make this possible by incrementing employment rates. Entrepreneurs should be supported with funding and training, so they can create more jobs for the job-seekers, and within years, the funding will be reimburse with taxes, that should be increased when the new companies have established and produced income. New companies, with the appropriate help, can be a source of new jobs and can help us to lift the numbers of employment.

III. In 2012, people in or at risk of poverty increased to more than 122.5 million people in the European countries, with alarming statistics having few changes, all due to the 2008 economic crisis. This problem leads to malnutrition, low education rates, severe health effects and exclusion among society. Unemployment is one of the main causes of poverty, and the closure of industries and businesses to help in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, has led to a percentage of it. These links three of the 2020 goals, making poverty rates, employment and the cut of gas emissions dependent of one another.

The Millennium Development Goals by the United Nations seek to eradicate poverty through sustainable approach. With the regulations and policies established, poverty has fallen 600 million since 1990. Poverty rates in Italy haven't show good results in the last few years, with a slow decrease in rates since 2013. Since

regulations prevent new entering of poverty on individuals, something should be done with the people currently on this state. New policies and reestablishment of priorities and plans needs to be done in order to combat poverty and reduce this problem that has affected countries for a long time.

## LITHUANIA

I. Lithuania proposes an initiative to put a cap on the acceptable amount of greenhouse emissions per country per year. As a country which thrives on agriculture Lithuania believes in the importance of preserving the environment. Were there to be a cap at 25 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per country per year, we could slow pollution down considerably. With the constraints placed on CO2 emissions countries can focus on finding alternative sources of energy. Lithuania creates the majority of it's greenhouse gas emissions through the production of cement and with a stipulation on gas emissions we as a country will be able to maintain our industry in a much more environmentally friendly manner.

Any amount of greenhouse emission passing the 25 metric ton cap would cost the country high tariffs. Any money gained through the taxation of greenhouse gas emissions will go to a commission established by the EU to find alternative sources of energy.

II. With the regulations put on CO2 emissions we will be able to open up new jobs for citizens within many different sectors of the workforce. With the increased necessity for new sources of energy the country will need more engineers as well as personnel to test out potentially ground-breaking alternative fuels. Lithuania will also be moving its industry more into agriculture and trade opportunities and away from our production of cement. By opening up more work fields Lithuania as a country will be able to lower our unemployment rate.

III. By creating these new jobs for our nation the poverty rate is guaranteed to go down as well. By providing more work for the nation Lithuania is placing an emphasis on the well being of the people and by lowering greenhouse gasses and opening up more opportunities in the work force our citizens will face much less exclusion based on their socioeconomic status. Ultimately Lithuania plans on opening up numerous opportunities for employment in order to better the social, financial, and physical well-being of our nations inhabitants by providing them with lucrative career opportunities.

Lithuania also plans on using the money we as a country get from our personal taxation of plants which exceed the legal limit for CO2 emissions that we deem fit, within the Union's guidelines, in order to raise the minimum wage levels among our working-class citizens. With these reforms Lithuania believe that our poverty levels could drop up to 10% in the next 5 years.

## LUXEMBOURG

I. Global warming is a major issue which affects all aspects of the human race's lives. The main contributor to global warming is the emission of carbon dioxide, which often results from airfare, cars, coal factories, and other high-energy industries. Luxembourg's main concern regarding carbon emissions is working on cutting down the use of cars, as Luxembourg has the EU's lowest fuel taxes. Low fuel prices make driving cheap and easy. By buying carbon offsets, Luxembourg has managed to meet its carbon emission goals. Environment

minister Carole Dieschbourg stated late last year that Luxembourg was “introducing other measures to discourage car journeys, increase bicycle use, and improve public transport”. Luxembourg has plans to introduce trams near the airport and light rail networks near the capital. Studies have also shown that lowering the speed limits can reduce carbon emissions and fuel consumption. Luxembourg and other able nations should lower speed limits and raise taxes on fuel. Nations should also implement campaigns encouraging carpooling and bicycle use. Furthermore, Luxembourg has the goal of installing 300 charging stations by 2017, and 800 by 2020. Tax incentives will also be given to people who purchase 100% electrical cars in an effort to reduce carbon emissions. In addition, in 2012, Luxembourg had the highest consumption rate of meat in the world, which is also linked to carbon emissions. While reducing meat consumption will be difficult, it must be encouraged to decrease meat production. Health classes in schools must provide education encouraging the consumption of more vegetables. Finally, several companies in Luxembourg have begun experimenting with clothing made from hemp and recyclable materials, including So Mountain. Tax incentives to clothing companies could further encourage this green practice. The high turn-over of clothes and the energy intensive process required to make cotton clothes are part of the reason why the clothing industry also makes an impact on carbon emissions.

II. Luxembourg has a strong economy and has recovered the same optimism and confidence from before the 2008 recessions. As of January, 2016, Luxembourg has a remarkably low unemployment rate of 6.5%, which is close to the healthy range of 4-6%. It has been declining since May of 2014, which had a rate of 7.3%. Part of this is because of the myriad of large companies in Luxembourg, which has long since been considered the tax haven of Europe. If more European countries were to pass business-friendly tax laws, more would be encouraged to settle in that country and bring jobs. Netherlands follows a similar tactic, and so it comes as no surprise that they also have a low unemployment rate of 6.5% (as of January 2016). Luxembourg has been providing huge incentives for corporations to move to Luxembourg since the 1970s, when their steel industry collapsed. As a result Luxembourg has immense mutual funds built up, resulting in a strong economy. Fewer people are receiving full unemployment benefits, simply because they do not need them. In late January of 2016, nearly 5,406 people received new jobs. In addition, 86% of companies in Luxembourg have expressed hopes of hiring, with 51% of workers considering changing jobs. The main reason for the desire to increase recruitment is the growth in activity. Employees desire mobility and progression. Wages in Luxembourg are also some of the highest in Europe. On the issue of refugees, Luxembourg has struggled to incorporate refugees into the job sector because of the language barrier. Many workers in Luxembourg are expected to speak Luxembourgish, French, and German. In addition, migrants face difficulty getting their credentials recognized in Europe. Government-funded night classes teaching these languages should be provided to refugees, and in the meantime jobs requiring less customer interactions given to refugees. Many of the unemployed are non-Europeans or people with little education.

III. In Luxembourg, 44.6% of single parents risk of falling below the poverty line, as opposed to just 22% of two-parent homes. This is well above the average risk in Europe, which is about 34%. Additionally, in 83% of these homes, a mother is the single parent. Furthermore, despite Luxembourg being one of the prosperous countries in the world, the wealth gap has been widening. Many experts blame temporary work contracts, which provide insecurity for workers. Women are more likely than men to work on temporary contracts. Temporary contract workers should also be granted benefits in the 6 months after their contract is terminated so they are able to manage expenses while searching for work. Half of all employees also face stress, bullying, and harassment in the workplace, which can have severe effects on the motivation of workers. Sudden changes in

income distribution can also add to the increase of at-risk poverty households. Fixed monthly tax bonuses are granted to families with children in Luxembourg, regardless of the parent's income. These bonuses are deducted from taxes. Special reductions are added additionally to single parents, widowers, and divorcees who have a lower income of EUR45,060 or less. This amount should be raised to a number that covers more at-risk households. More research should be implemented to learn more about who is at risk and what can be done to help the majority of these people. In the short-term, ADEM (Luxembourg's employment agency) should put people at risk of poverty as top priority when helping provide jobs and other benefits.

## PORTUGAL

I. Europe has some of the most unique environments in the world, ranging from Alps, to the Balkans, and from the Scandinavian fjords, to the Mediterranean beaches. Millions of people visit these sites annually, and marvel at their glory. However, since the start of the start of industrialization, European nations have been emitting harmful amounts of carbon dioxide, methane, and carbon monoxide in the atmosphere. And although in recent years agreements and organizations such as the Tokyo Protocol, and the EU's regulations have reduced these numbers, the Portuguese Republic believes something more must be done.

The Portuguese Republic believes it is absolutely essential to reduce greenhouse emissions. In recent years, the nation has experienced an increased amount of floods and wet winters which are attributed to the global climate change. Furthermore, if the greenhouse emissions are not reduced, scientists project that in the next century, summer temperatures will rise to 48 degrees Celsius. Environmental changes such as these would lead to a reduced economic output, as well as destruction to many of its famous coastal towns. Furthermore, rising sea levels will threaten Portugal's Azores and Madeira archipelagos. These are areas with centuries of important Portuguese history, and it would be a terrible loss to its national identity if they are lost.

To reduce its own emissions, the Associação Portuguesa de Direito do Consumo (APDC or Portuguese Association of Consumer Law) has partnered with various companies, such as HP, IBM, and Vodafone. These companies, as well as others, have agreed to use more effective transportation, and improve their emissions to protect and further the Portuguese economy. If there is an EU-wide agreement similar to this, it would reduce the emissions faster.

II. Since the recession of 2008, millions of Europeans have lost their jobs, and are still looking for work. The Portuguese Republic has been hit particularly hard by this recession, as the unemployment rate rose exponentially. It believes that it is necessary to raise the number of unemployed persons, however that is a very daunting task. One of Portugal's previous PM's, Pedro Passos Coelho, told its unemployed people to look abroad for work. The EU could implement this into its foreign aid, hiring European companies for the projects, instead of local companies. This would allow for a recyculation of money back into Europe which would boost its economy.

Furthermore, a proved method of reducing unemployment is lowering the minimum wage. This allows corporations to hire more workers at a lower cost, and has so far worked in Switzerland, where there is no national minimum wage. Instead, they have collective bargaining agreements which allow the employer and the

employee to negotiate an acceptable wage. As a result, the unemployment rate is 3.8%, well under the EU's unemployment rate of 9%.

III. In Europe, many countries are based on ethnocentric ideals. They continue to guide and form policies in Europe today. For example, the rise of the right in Germany and other Western European nations today can be attributed to the strong ethnic pride they have. Eliminating people from social exclusion will be extremely difficult, however it will create jobs, so Portugal supports it. Furthermore, we support it because we would like to ensure that our citizens in other European countries are protected, as we have a sizeable population working abroad.

## ROMANIA

I. Nowadays, all over the world, global warming is getting serious and dangerous. Global warming is usually described as the current rise in the average temperature of Earth's atmosphere and oceans. One of the highest concerns about the global warming is climate changes. Climate change causes lots of changes in human's lifestyle. For example, the glacier in the pole is getting melted. And it causes the sea-level rises. Polar bears are usually representing the "Global Warming". Human activities contribute to global warming by increasing the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is the process by which radiation from a planet's atmosphere warms the planet's surface to a temperature above what it would be without its atmosphere. If the planet's atmosphere contains active gases, the atmosphere will radiate energy in all radiation is directed towards the surface, warming it. Human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels and clearing of forests, have intensified the natural greenhouse effect. The result of global warming in Europe has led to more frequent heat waves, fires and winter flooding. These cause a great risk not only to the population of Europe, but also to the agriculture in Europe. Even if Europe Unions (EU) has succeeded in cutting its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent, the question is how it could be constantly working like so far. Since European policy against greenhouse gas emission is under the heavy regulation, these are succeeded. So that's why EU set up the goal to cut 20 percent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 in comparison to its figures in 1990.

Climate change affects the all over the world as well as Romania. Romania also gets temperature rise, sea-level rise, precipitation change, droughts and floods. Actually these phenomena happen not only in Romania but also in the all over the world. Romania is committed to fighting climate change and pursuing low carbon development. Romania has managed to cut by half its greenhouse gas emissions in recent years, despite the fact that global climate change continues to affect us through extremely high temperatures. According to environment minister, Gratiela Gavrilescu, Romania environment ministry has recently promoted a government decision meant to support local authorities in drafting and implementing air quality plans. We also are preoccupied with lowering the impact of PM10 in urban areas, in order not to expose the population to any risk. Romania remains one of the countries which have the most important biodiversity in Europe. However, even if Romania tries to curb the greenhouse gas emission, since these problems are on global scale, we should get helps from international social organization such as UN, NGO. That's why the government of Romania, through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), has requested the World Bank to provide advisory services to help meet this commitment.

II. After we go through the financial crisis of 2008 in the world, it causes great unemployment to the all over the world. Europe nations are also affected by the financial crisis of 2008. It has become one of the larger issues in

the European Economies. In the standard of December 2015, there are approximately 16.7 million who were unemployed in Europe. The rate of the unemployment is also 6%. In order to increase the unemployment rate, European Union set the goals which is for ensuring employment of 75 percent of working adults included new budgeting measures through the European Social Fund to support the facilitation of EU labor mobility, in addition to the promotion of progressive education strategies that inspire interest in enterprise as well as a push towards vocational education and training for the learning of valuable skills.

The rate of unemployment in Romania is below the average value of the rate in EU, 6.9%. In welfare of Romania, Adults are eligible for unemployment aid, the amount varying from case to case, but generally comparable to the minimum wage (800 RON, 194 USD). Unemployment aid may be granted if the applicant has contributed and if they can prove they are actively seeking a job. It is granted on a time-limited, individually determined basis.

## SPAIN

I. Within the Euro 2020 Goals to cut Greenhouse Gases, Spain is responsible for cutting 10% of its emissions from the 2005 levels. By 2012 we had exceeded our goals by 5.6% and our policies helped us reach our 2016 goals in the year 2010. Our use of the Strategy of Climate Change and Clean Energy sustain our energy efficiency, transportation, and renewable energy levels. As we have four years left in our timeframe, we believe keeping updated plans and strategies is the most efficient way to forge ahead. Our local governments work to promote climate change and we work in these smaller governments for our upkeep rather than hoping for a trickle down. Recently our renewable energy sources counted for 30% of our emissions, fossil fuels for 49%, and nuclear energy for 21%. Though we suffered through a financial crisis we were only on hold for a short while and were able to continue our goals on a smaller level, while introducing some taxes and cutting subsidies.

Spain has introduced a significant number of policies, programs, and laws that push us to our goals, already showing above the EU average. The Energy Efficiency Action Plans saved 35.5 Mtoe compared to our business-as-usual. We believe that constantly updating our plans is the only way we can continue at an upwards slope. Our plan for the new EEAD sees 50.6% of savings in transportation and 25.2% in industry. This updated plan will create a greater reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions. Some of our other programs include the Efficient Vehicle Incentive Programme, Aid Programme for Energy Renovation of Existing Buildings, 'Aire' Environmental Stimulus Plan, and more. Our Forest Plan protects existing trees and our target plan for planting 19.5m of new trees was reached by 2011. In the transportation sector we switched to new energy and replace cars from ten to twelve years, our goal being to replace 75,000 vehicles. Our regional governments also use grants as incentives for these types of programs. Our adaption continues to escalate as we convert our laws for protection and sustainability.

Our country believes that these programs have been the stepping stones to our success. Even though Spain suffered through a financial crisis that lessened our ability to succeed in other goals, we were able to push forward and still prosper in cutting greenhouse emissions. We believe that even with the hiccup of the economy, any country can still attain their goals. We succeeded but reducing some our goals such as the Forest Plan. We wished to plant 45m trees, but by reducing our goal to 19.5m, we were able to reach a different goal. The ability



to introduce taxes and reduce our tariff deficit was another step. Our economy has begun on the incline again, if slightly, but we still were able to propose updated plans and programs within our other goals. We believe each member state should take the initiative Spain has managed and continue updating their policies. In lieu of a financial crisis they should continue on and reduce their goals in measured amounts until they can continue as scheduled. We believe the Euro 2020 goals are reachable and even if a country does not succeed, they should continue planning for the future.

II. After the recent financial crisis, Spain reached 24% unemployment and 50% youth unemployment, but steadily those numbers have been decreasing. As of 2014, Spain has reached 59.9% employment. We believe that procuring a strong economic case for free trade will provide allocative and technical efficiency gains. A gradual liberalization and benefits shared by all economic agents will provide access to more growth and employment. We as the European Union and individual member states should enhance our international position. The development of fair, multilateral trading regulations will allow us to slowly emerge from our financial crisis.

In the short run we should strive to monitor recourse to protectionism but understand that growing restrictions will cause more risk after our financial crisis. A closed economy will not only limit us to our own resources but will keep us from gaining new capital. Instead we must open opportunities to high-tech products and improve the protection of property rights. We must be vigilant of anything that may harm our economy but keep our added restrictions to a minimum. Including strong environmental and social considerations will be the most effective way to achieve sustainable growth and employment. The added goals of the greenhouse emissions should be kept in consideration as it will create a greener and more competitive economy. In reaching a balanced, well-organized agreement in trade, we will boost our overall growth and employment. The European 2020 Goals will be fulfilled if we are able to achieve open trade and understand the risks and high regards from gaining new capital from our trading partners. Spain advises highly against a closed off economy. Spain focuses heavily on our future economic condition as we require more heavily structure government. Our labor market also requires more structure and a reformed benefits system. We believe an open trade system will create greater opportunity for Spain to produce exports and boost our GDP. This will, in turn, give more jobs and lower unemployment. There is a weak correlation between training and workforce requirements. A rise in vocational training and free trade will allow us to become more competitive in the world labor market. Long term educational and infrastructure is essential for growth and competitiveness. Though the Euro 2020 goals are not necessarily close, we believe that they could be fulfilled by opening trade, better governmental structure, and vocational training.

III. As the financial crisis raised Spain's poverty, PorCausa, a Spanish foundation, has analyzed data and highlights the UNICEF study. One in three of Spain's children lived in poverty or was at risk of social exclusion. Spain's additional taxes and cutting on education and poverty have only raised our levels and we see the drastic need for change. In 2012 Social Services helped 8 million people, 20% more than the year before. Red Cross has issued an appeal to raise money for Spain, and 82% of the people they help are below the poverty line. Current EU interventions have been ineffective at helping the issue.

As combined with the free trade policy, an exceeding and successful vocational training and early education would significantly decrease unemployment and therefore poverty. Children enrolled in early childhood education are less likely to abandon schooling later in life. The interconnection of reducing unemployment and

the risk of poverty are essential. The organization of MOVIDES forms a group to create and run business projects. We believe poverty is not the starting point for aids, but rather reached through other forms of aid. For example a greener and more competitive market would increase employment and vocational training, therefore slowly pulling families out of poverty. The majority of programs, projects, and activities directly or indirectly affect poverty or social exclusion.

Spain believes that by focusing on the levels of unemployment and cutting greenhouse gas emissions, we will be able to effectively reduce poverty. This includes setting up early education, workforce training, and improving the labor markets. Beginning at poverty will do little in the long run, and that is where we must focus.

## SWEDEN

I. Sweden has been an environmental pioneer with several moves since the 1960s. With the recognition of a loss of limited natural resources, Sweden was the first country to establish an environmental protection agency in 1967. Sweden was one of the first nations to sign and ratify the international climate change treaty Kyoto Protocol. Sweden continues to create momentum and is looking to intensify negotiations at international settings such as the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference. These several accomplishments had lead Sweden to be ranked as one of the most sustainable countries in a number of international indices and to have a combination of citizen engagement, high ambition levels and international solidarity.

To begin with, Sweden, recommends to its citizens to stop with the excessive use of super contaminant products exported of other countries. The mayor contaminant in the time is the carbon dioxide, produced by many human activities. And as in done in the past, Sweden could decrease the tax payment of industries that decrease their gas emission percentage. Sweden has decided to do more than other countries regarding to issues on energy and climate, since the majority of the energy produced is renewable. Sweden would be in favor to do what has to be done to accomplish the 2020 goals. According to current projections emissions will reduce by 2020 in a high amount but not enough to accomplish the goal, so in order to speed up the reduction, the government has to implement with more drastic measures.

II. The employment rate in Europe of people between 20 and 64 people is about 69%, but in Sweden 2014 the employment rate is in 74%, so it is not expected to be difficult to reach the 2020 goal. The crisis in 2008 affected many countries included Sweden which lead to many adults and young people without a job, but Sweden has implemented many ways to people to get jobs including Investment, inversions and support in education.

May seem to be an easy goal having in consideration the rates nowadays but if the Greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal is implemented, the employment rate may be decreased. Sweden is open to new investment and to support better and long lasting jobs to adults so this goal could be accomplished by 2020.

III. After the 2008 crisis in Europe there was 1 out of 5 people were in a poverty situation. Then in 2013 the scale decreased by 1 out of 7. Poverty and social exclusion comes with the unemployment, and by this circumstances in countries like Sweden, the life quality decreases and bring several problems to the country. Children are one of the groups more affected by these situations because of the lack of attention, education, and

more.

Sweden compromises itself to bring support and stability to its country and citizens by implementing jobs, education and higher quality life in its citizens. And is in favor of doing what takes necessary to accomplish the 2020 goal.

## UNITED KINGDOM

I. United Kingdom is fully aware that the greenhouse gas emissions represent an immense problem which affects all world population and needs to be addressed for the future generations to have a better quality of life. A number of protocols have been signed by the UK to reduce the levels of these emissions. An instance can be The Kyoto Protocol. As established in the Climate Change Act 2008, United Kingdom ensures that the net UK carbon account for all six Kyoto greenhouse gases for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline , avoiding dangerous climate change. United Kingdom further recommends other delegations to take actions in order to prevent climate change.

II. The unemployment rate in United Kingdom in the last two months of 2011 reached 8.5%; in November of 2015 the unemployment rate was at 5.1%. United Kingdom has created governmental programs for the citizens to have a job, regardless of age or level of education, and to decrease the unemployment percentage even though the delegation did not set any national target for employment. This delegation encourages other delegations to create programs for the citizens to have an opportunity of a better living and to create jobs that can lead to improve the current employment rates.

III. United Kingdom set national targets to reduce poverty and social exclusion of children. Existing numerical targets of the 2010 Child Poverty Act and Child Poverty Strategy 2011 – 2014, the delegation established as goals to combat relative poverty, combined low income and material deprivation, absolute poverty and persistent poverty. Combating the poverty and social exclusion represents an enormous challenge and United Kingdom is aware of it. The delegation is seeking for ways to accomplish: “1.7 million children or fewer live in qualifying households in the United Kingdom”.