

EU

EU is not a single state but a supranational European union with 27 member states, all of whom are democracies. The population of the EU is approximately 447 million, compared to Europe's total population of 746 million. The European Council on Refugees and Exiles estimates that about 1.5 million refugees reside within the EU member states, which corresponds to about 0.3% of the total population.

Negotiation guidelines

The EU has a strong international voice thanks to the many countries that are members, which can be emphasized in negotiations. It is recommended to cooperate with the United States as you can jointly take a very strong position since you have similar positions on several issues. Regarding the question of family reunification, you can also cooperate with Colombia. In the context of the United Nations, it is very common for EU countries to act jointly even though each country always votes individually. In the MUN, the EU has a common voice so as not to dominate the vote. You disagree with China and Russia that human rights are the concern of individual countries and believe that it is something that must be implemented in all countries and then monitored by the international community. Be prepared to receive criticism for EU countries' failure to agree on how to distribute and accept the large number of refugees seeking protection in the EU. Several EU countries have instead decided to prevent refugees from entering and argue that this is necessary for the social authorities in the country to cope with the situation. Some EU countries also argue that they must be able to set a limit on how many refugees they will have to accept if they are to be able to guarantee legal asylum processes and offer housing, education, healthcare, and jobs to refugees. If you receive criticism for this, you


can argue that many EU countries have had a high intake of refugees for a long time. In other words, the European Union is far from unanimous on how to receive refugees. However, those representing the EU can still advocate a clear humanitarian line where you strongly advocate measures to protect children on the move, not least investments in SRHR. All EU countries have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since 2009, the protection of children's rights has been an explicit goal for the EU. Similarly, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights states that all children have the right to protection, care, and education. When EU law is applied, children's rights must be respected.

Family reunification

The EU considers family reunification to be very important, especially for children on the move. However, the right to reunification applies only to the closest family members, i.e., parents, partners, and children. When it comes to other family members, each individual country may make a separate decision on the matter.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

The EU considers SRHR to be very important. It is particularly important to make efforts to protect vulnerable groups, such as children on the move. This means investing in sexual education,



contraceptives, and care for girls, women, and infants before, during, and after pregnancy. EU member states would also approve abortion for several reasons, although there are large variations between the different members. Poland is a country within the EU that has received many refugees, but where girls' and women's rights to SRHR in many areas are inadequate.

Right to complain to the UN

In February 2023, 16 of the EU's member states ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child's third protocol, which allows children to complain if their rights under the convention have been violated. These are Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Lithuania, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Czech Republic, and Germany. In addition to these, four EU member states have signed but not yet ratified the protocol: Malta, Poland, Romania, and Austria. As the representative of the EU, you can cautiously advocate for more countries to sign. The EU believes that a special rapporteur for children on the move should be introduced, among other things to provide children with greater opportunities to complain when their rights are violated. The EU considers the procedure with the third protocol too bureaucratic as it currently stands, meaning that many complaints do not go through.

