

MORE THAN A TALKSHOP

Regaining the *Assemblée Nationale du Liban* / مجلس النواب

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

More Than A Talkshop is a simulation of the Lebanese parliament in Beirut (similar to a MUN simulation) in **mid-March 2015**. The Conference will take place at **Haigazian University**.

Why is it so hard to make a decision within a parliament? Who are the constituencies politicians have in mind in their negotiations? What options do they have to seek compromise and consensus? **More Than A Talkshop** offers you an opportunity to discover the dynamics of political argumentation, negotiation and decision-making processes.

Moreover, you are more than welcome to express your opinion on these questions and on Lebanon's political system in general. You will have the opportunity of familiarizing yourself with current political issues and develop innovative, creative solutions. **More Than A Talkshop** thus wishes to be a platform for you to come together with other young people, express and share *your* views and thoughts – and watch your ideas grow in the interaction and exchange with others. Finally, you shall have fun and confidence when talking about those ideas – and realize that actually you have the power to bring about positive change.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

During the conference, we will be simulating four parliamentary Committees whose respective agendas contain two specific and carefully delimited topics.

On the first day, you will work in one of those Committees. The goal of the debate is to reach a consensus – so you will have to get into the art of negotiation and compromise while trying to remain firm on your stance.

On the second day, you will discuss all issues during a plenary session and vote on the draft legislations you have prepared in your respective Committees.

HOW MUCH PERSONAL COMMITMENT DOES THIS REQUIRE?

To be honest: quite a lot. First of all, you will have to do extensive research on the topics that will be discussed. But do not worry: your Committee Directors are there to help you – and they will get you started and facilitate your preparation by providing you with a Committee Guide.

Secondly, learning and competently applying the rules of procedure does not come overnight – but is something absolutely manageable. Lastly, you should be willing and able to take a weekend's time for the Conference as such.

WHAT IS IN THERE FOR YOU?

1. Fun. A lot of fun.
2. You will get to know the political system of your country and develop an understanding of political decision-making processes.
3. You will have the opportunity to express, to voice and to share your views and ideas with other young people.
4. You will of course receive a certificate of participation which details your personal efforts and commitment.
5. The results of our discussions will be published on the *hbs* webpage and promoted among our partner organizations.

WHICH COMMITTEES WILL BE SIMULATED?

Seeing that there are very many Committees, we will only be able to work on four of them. These are:

1. The Human Rights Commission
2. The Environment Committee
3. The Committee for Women and Children
4. The Media and Communications Committee

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

After a first general get-together with other participants and the Committee Directors in December – in the course of which you can ask any question on the project – here is what awaits you from January on:

- Together with you, we will discuss the range of topics pre-selected by the Committee Directors – of course you also have a say in that!
- You will be provided with basic documents that will be of use (Lebanese Constitution, Parliamentary Rule of Procedure etc.)

QUESTIONS? WHERE TO CALL WHEN I'M IN?

For any further information, please feel free to call **01 56 29 26** or **78 868 257**. You can also write an e-mail to carolin_dylla@msn.com or contact me via *facebook* (Carolin Dylla). If you are interested, we will send you an application form to fill in – a form that also requires you to write a short paragraph on why you would like to participate. We can unfortunately only take 30 to 40 participants – but we would be more than happy to have you on board.

Please hand in the application form until **Sunday, December 14th 2014** at the latest. A first meeting with all the participants will take place in the week after.