

CSMUN Newspaper 2020 - Digital Edition



Despite the fact that this year's CSMUN was done digitally, we, the Press Team, worked as hard as ever to bring you an MUN Magazine that would be as good as any other year's. Hopefully, we managed to do so, even if it is less visual. Other resources, such as the videos, will also be made available. We hope you enjoy reading this magazine!

Opening Ceremony of CSMUN 2020

For this year's online CSMUN, the Opening Ceremony happened via Google Meet. We had speeches by our headmaster, Mr. Rose, who was kind enough to welcome us all to this year's CSMUN conference. Then, the Secretary General Alexia Vogdanou made a speech and brought to the surface the positive aspects that COVID-19 has had on us, which was followed by Dimitris Alexopoulos the Deputy Secretary General who in his speech thanked all of the Secretariat members, the MUN Advisors; Mrs Salter and Mrs. Theoharopoulou, as well as the staff that took part in this year's MUN conference. Lastly Harry Ioannou, the President, made a speech and he too thanked all of the delegates, Student Officers, staff and the rest of the Secretariat members for putting together this year's difficult MUN conference. Finally, all committees were dismissed and the conference went underway.

Secretariat Interview

As every year, we interviewed the 5 members of the Secretariat to find out more about them and their MUN careers. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, however, We decided to send these questions to each member of the Secretariat in order to find out more about them. Read on to discover things about each member's MUN life!

A: Alexia Vogdanou, Secretary-General

H: Harry Ioannou, President of the General Assembly

D: Dimitris Alexopoulos, Deputy Secretary-General

K: Katerina Tsenekou, Deputy President of the GA

Y: Yannis Katsikis, Undersecretary-General



Q: How were you introduced to MUN?

A: I was introduced to MUN by my brother who mentioned that MUN was one of his interests, and so he encouraged me to participate in my first conference. However, he failed to mention the fact that he was the PGA of the entire conference and so I went to the conference only to find out that my brother was quite a big deal in the conference.

H: I have been participating in my school's Public Speaking club since I was 11 years old, but I actually joined MUN when my debate partner's mum forced him to join, sort of like moral support.

D: I was introduced by my MUN advisor Ms. Theoharopoulou.

K: They did MUN at my school and one of my friends was going to give it a try so I thought, why not?

Y: I was first introduced to MUN by Ms Theoharopoulou, who prepared me for my first Forensics Group Discussion, as well as my Y13 buddy at the time, Linda.

Q: When was your first MUN conference, and where?

A: My first conference was CSMUN2016 in Greece and it was an excellent conference.

H: CGS MUN 2017, very few people can remember the scared Italian delegate in ECOSOC, and I don't blame them.

D: My first MUN conference was CSMUN 2016.

K: CSMUN 2017.

Y: My first MUN was CSMUN in 2014 when I was in Year 7!

Q: How many conferences do you think you've attended?

A: Around 10 or so, I haven't kept count.

H: 13 conferences, looking forward to many more.

D: A few more than 10.

K: CSMUN 2020 is my fourteenth.

Y: I have attended 19 conferences, 6 online conferences, twice as part of the Secretariat (including this time) and 5 times as a chair!

Q: What advice would you give to starting MUNers?

A: The advice I would give is to always participate, because participation is the only way you can enjoy the conference. Do not be afraid to make mistakes, because as cheesy as it sounds, you always learn from your mistakes.

H: Relax. It's not as complicated as it seems.

D: Continue and persevere even if you do not get the position or award you wanted.

K: Don't be shy to express yourselves in the committee, trust me no one knows what they are doing any more than you do, all you need to do is study hard and have faith in yourself.

Y: The best advice I could give to someone starting off with MUN is just to put yourself out there. Go out of your comfort zone and grab any opportunity that passes by!

Q: What advice would you give to your younger self?

A: The advice I would give to my younger self is to be braver and to not be afraid to participate. I would also suggest to myself to not be afraid of the chairs, as they are there to help me and guide me.

H: Join MUN a bit earlier, and don't be afraid to try new things!

D: Relax, calm down, everything will fall into place and one day you will be able to achieve your MUN dream.

K: I would tell MUN beginner me that not everyone wants to see you fail. There are people out there that do love you and believe in you, but you have to believe more in yourself. Focus on yourself and soon your effort will be appreciated.

Y: Quality over quantity. Don't make a speech just for the sake of making it, take the time to plan it and elaborate on your points.

Q: What is your favourite thing about MUN?

A: My favorite thing about MUN is the mix of professional and social that it entails, as you work with many people but become friends with them also.

H: Although I appreciate it's academic side, I find the whole friend-making, fun side of MUN very unique.

D: The discussions and debates you have with different people.

K: How it brings people together and there are friendships established that go past the days of the conference.

Y: My favourite thing about MUN is the community and the skills you develop through it. It has helped me in all aspects of my life, academic, social and personal growth.

Q: What is your least favourite thing about MUN (apart from the food!)?

A: My least favorite thing about MUN is catching up from the homework I missed over the weekend, hahaha!

H: Glad you excluded the food, because in that case it's probably that ONE delegate. The arrogant know-it-all one. Confidence is key but overconfidence is annoying.

D: The long opening and closing ceremonies (even though I am partly responsible) and early morning starting times.

K: The rejection part, whether it is about a Secretariat or Chair position to Funny awards and Best Delegates awards.

Y: The initial awkward half an hour before lobbying!

Q: How do you feel about this year's MUNs being predominantly online?

A: At first I was disappointed because the vibe of a live conference is very different to the online but I was pleasantly surprised with the fact that despite not having physical contact, we managed to have fun and form friendships over the online platform.

H: Quite disappointed but I think that any conference can be as much of a real conference as we make it. If we decide that this is not an actual conference, it will end up being boring. So just be optimistic!

D: I feel sad that we have to do it this way but I am optimistic that things will work well and we will be able to preserve the MUN experience. I am also happy to see MUN evolve into new things.

K: To be perfectly honest I would have preferred them to be live, but safety is always first and we have to manage under these unfavourable circumstances.

Y: It was inevitable that amid the current circumstances, the MUN had to take place online. We had to adapt as per the government's directives and hence had to change everything in only 2 weeks. However, I believe that this MUN Conference was extremely successful. We all worked collaboratively, compromised and adjusted.

Q: What are your thoughts on the COVID-19 pandemic and how governments have handled the situation?

A: I believe that Greece's swift and decisive reaction to the pandemic was very effective and they managed to prevent a crisis which would have led to the collapse of our healthcare system. However, the pandemic is ongoing, so I am curious to see how Greece will react in the following months since the situation is worsening. I believe the USA government's reaction did not stress the importance of social distancing and quarantine enough and that their rules were not as strict as the ones of the European governments.

H: I believe that very few governments handled it appropriately but it's a first-time event so can we really blame them? Also it's better to cooperate with the government than just complain about them, at the moment.

D: I think that these are trying times. I am very proud to say that Greece and the Greek government has handled things well. Although I am disappointed with some of the community's response to the crisis in regards to not taking the proper measures to minimize and stop the pandemic.

K: I am in no position to express any expert opinion, but since Greece is genuinely considered one of the best countries to be Covid-wise I can only say that I am proud of the way we've handled things.

Y: The COVID 19 Pandemic, has greatly impacted all countries over the world. Some governments have dealt with it very well, others not. Every government took its own approach and had its own viewpoint on the matter. This makes it very difficult to come up with one answer that covers all countries in the world. Considering that the governments could not plan and had to deal with the problem abruptly, I believe that in many countries, the governments dealt with it well. However, I do believe that during these kinds of situations, it is up to each individual to make their own decisions and evaluate the circumstances.

Q: Are you planning to take part in any other digital MUNs this year?

A: No, unfortunately, CSMUN8 will be the end of my highly-enjoyable MUN career as it will be my final conference and my legacy.

H: Yes! You will probably be able to find me in most major conferences in Greece (and hopefully abroad), so come say hello, I love meeting new people once in a while.

D: Yes, although I do not know of any specific conferences right now, I will actively seek to participate in any way I can.

K: I am chairing in CGS MUN, but as far as other conferences are concerned, I haven't really made up my mind.

Y: I will definitely participate in more MUNs this year, I am already enrolled in 2!

As well as these serious questions, we sent the Secretariat some personal questions for a personality quiz. Which Secretariat Member are You?

1. What is your favourite movie?

- a. Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith.
- b. I don't think I can pick one, there are lots of great movies.
- c. I couldn't say.
- d. Mean Girls.
- e. Cheaper by the Dozen.

2. What is your preferred mode of public transport?

- a. Train.

- b.** Very specific question, but I think that (pre-corona) the subway has a certain charm to it.
 - c.** Walking.
 - d.** Metro.
 - e.** Buses.
- 3.** Where would you like to go on holiday?
 - a.** Spain.
 - b.** Ideally? Everywhere.
 - c.** Japan.
 - d.** Bali.
 - e.** The UK.
- 4.** What is your dream job?
 - a.** Owning a record label.
 - b.** Call me cheesy but I would not mind being the actual Secretary General (or PGA!) of the UN some day.
 - c.** It's too early to say for me.
 - d.** Lawyer.
 - e.** I haven't quite figured this one out, but I am definitely gearing towards Information Management at the moment!
- 5.** What kind of music do you like?
 - a.** RnB.
 - b.** Most of it, but I prefer songs I can personally relate to.
 - c.** Classic rock.
 - d.** Soul and '00s pop.
 - e.** Jazz.

If you got...

Mostly a: You are like Alexia Vogdanou!

Mostly b: You are like Harry Ioannou!

Mostly c: You are like Dimitris Alexopoulos!

Mostly d: You are like Katerina Tsenekou!

Mostly e: You are like Yannis Katsikis!

KARDITSA FLOODING

For those of you who don't know, on the 20th of September 2020, there was a disastrous monsoon that hit Karditsa and caused 3 deaths and several damages as well as floods, called Storm Ianos. There have been several people trying to help rebuild the damaged houses, businesses as well as fractured buildings. However, it is estimated that the damage will take years to recover, as the region is not very well-prepared for such intense weather conditions.



The Greek government has announced support measures including state aid and tax relief. There are not many things on the news about what is happening right now in Karditsa, but all we know is that we need to send



clothes, food, bed sheets, pillows and perhaps money to help all the people whose lives were ruined and went through this tragedy, and this is why we are raising money in this year's CSMUN. You can help directly or indirectly, and some Year 12 Campion students are running a donation project, both for money and items, so don't hesitate to contact the school and offer to help.

Real-world News

Finally, we all know MUN is about engaging with events and problems in the real world, so in keeping with more recent editions, here are some real world news stories from the days before the weekend. The relevant links have been provided.

[Covid-19: Trump in hospital as more allies test positive](#)

The President of the US tested positive for coronavirus on Friday morning (European time). Despite playing it down intentionally and saying that it wasn't that much worse than a flu, he has gone into quarantine and is currently in the hospital. Over the course of the pandemic, Mr Trump has been rejecting wearing a mask and not practising social distancing. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says that President Trump will make a "full recovery", though it should be noted that he is in the age group that has been considered high-risk since the virus was discovered. Mr Trump said on Twitter that it was all "Going well, I think!", and it has been confirmed that his symptoms include coughing, fatigue, and a mild fever.

[France's Macron vows to fight 'Islamist separatism'](#)

French President Emmanuel Macron has announced plans for tougher laws to tackle what he called "Islamist separatism" and defend secular values. Under French laws defending secularity, the government is separated from all religious institutions, in an effort to prevent conflicts between sects. It is meant to ensure that people of different beliefs are also equal before the law. These laws have been promised due to Macron's belief that Muslims place their own laws above those of the society they live in. The legislations will consist of stricter monitoring of sports organisations and other associations so that they do not become a front for Islamist teaching, an end to the system of imams being sent to France from abroad, improved oversight of the financing of mosques, and restricted home-schooling.

[Amazon tragedy repeats itself as Brazil rainforest goes up in smoke](#)

The Amazon Rainforest is suffering from wildfires in the same way as it was last year. Over the summer of 2019, there were about 6,500 fires raging across the rainforest, and this year, that number has increased by about 1,000. The President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, insists that the claims about the fires are lies, but since he was elected 20 months ago, celebrities and world leaders, such as Leonardo DiCaprio and Emmanuel Macron, have condemned Bolsonaro's increased industrialisation in the region and his inability (or some say unwillingness) to crack down on illegal gold mining activities.

[EU warns Turkey of sanctions over 'provocations' in Mediterranean](#)

The EU says it could impose sanctions on Turkey over "provocations and pressures" in a row with Greece over energy resources and maritime borders. Earlier this year, Turkey sent a ship into disputed territory to look for oil and gas deposits, which was something Greeks have worried about for years. This raised tensions between Greece and Turkey, which have long been held due to the history between those nations. In recent years however, there has been a heightened tension due to Turkey's desire to join the European Union, which Greece adamantly opposes. The ship that was looking for the deposits traversed an area of the Mediterranean claimed by Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus, and the Greek government called the move a "new serious escalation" between the two countries.

Thank you all for coming to CSMUN 2020! On behalf of everyone, we'd like to give a special thanks to Miss Theoharopoulou and Miss Salter for spending so much time on this project!

Joel Clark, Head of Press for CSMUN 2020