

**Interdisciplinary elective:
Study Trip to the EU Institutions in Brussels
2 – 13 November 2026**



Victoria Pirker | Introduction, organizational issues
and study trip to Brussels
Markus Frischhut | content related issues

Organizational information

Title of course: **“Study Trip to the EU Institutions in Brussels”**

Lecturers: Mag. Victoria Pirker, Jean Monnet Prof. Dr. Markus Frischhut, LL.M., Mag.

Workload: 5 ECTS | 3 semester credit units

Semester and year of study: winter semester 2026/27

Type of course: interdisciplinary elective

Language: English

Learning Goals

- To **identify the main EU institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament)** and **understand the decision-making process** within the European Union.
- To understand the **interaction between** them and the policy **impact EU decisions** have on our daily lives.
- To elaborate upon **the concept of interest representation (“Lobbying”)** and to understand how it shapes decision making.
- To **identify career perspectives within the EU Institutions in Brussels** and beyond and understand the importance of networking in the EU.

Organizational information

Type of assessment & evaluation criteria: **participation and 2-3 page report** (approx. 1.200 words)

- **Report:**
 - Submission date (for report): **1st December 2026** (23:55h, local Innsbruck time, via Sakai)
 - Content: summary and **reflection** of what you have heard from the speakers during the excursion and what you have experienced yourself (in week No 2), **based on** what you have learned in the week before (i.e. week No 1).
 - Your work, not AI: you are **not** allowed to use **ChatGPT** for this task. In addition, we don't expect general information about the EU, but your personal summary and reflection!
- **Participation:** questions, deliverables and contributions during excursion in week No 2.
- **Weighting** of assignment: **85** points for report and **15** possible points for active participation.

Type of review in case of absence:

- In case of absence in week No 1 obligation to study the relevant topics and to collect all the provided information yourself.
- In case of absence in week No 2: more extensive report (15 pages, approx. 6.000 words) also including 5 high level academic sources.

Type of examination in case of a negative first attempt: report (15 pages, approx. 6.000 words) that is based on 10 high level academic sources (5 of them to be determined by lecturers). **14th December 2026**

Agenda week 1 | 2 - 6 November 2026

Monday, 2.11.2026

Tuesday, 3.11.2026

Wednesday, 4.11.2026

Thursday, 5.11.2026

Friday, 6.11.2026

**“Kick-off” and
briefing on
organizational
issues and pre-
readings**

Q&A

Self-study

Self-study

**Introduction to
the EU, Q&A on
organizational
issues and pre-
readings**

Self-study

Pre-reading on EU law

- Frischhut, M. (2017). *What one should know about the European Union (EU): A quick introduction to EU law* (4th edition). NWV. | Also available as [eBook](#).

Videos on EU law to be prepared

- **Law | General Introduction**
- **Justice | Fairness**
- **EU Law | General introduction**
- **EU History**
- **EU Law | Non Discrimination**
- *Law and Time*
- *EU Law and Morality*
- *EU Law and Ethics*
- *EU Law and Religion*
- *EU Values*
- *Fundamental freedoms (part 1 & 2)*
- *Research of EU legal documents*

Videos on decision-making to be prepared

- Live-stream EP ([Streaming agenda - Multimedia Centre](#))
- EP video, <https://youtu.be/clmSKbV5Z9w?list=PLHQxK2YVsFVtjrQMoj1NQ-WYmfu7GOQK8>
- Council website (info and video), <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/decision-making/>

Guiding questions on pre-readings

- Which EU institutions do exist?
- Which interests do they represent?
- In which way are they involved in the decision-making process in the EU (i.e. of creating or amending EU secondary law)? What is EU secondary law as opposed to EU primary law? How is in charge of creating or amending the latter?
- How does inter-institutional communication look like?
- Is EU decision-making complex and if yes, what is the reason for it?
- What is lobbying?
- Who can (and actually does) lobby the EU decision-making process? How can these actors be clustered? Which role do EU citizens play?
- Is lobbying legal? And: apart from this, is lobbying ethical?

Agenda week 2 | 9 - 13 November 2026

Monday, 9.11.2026

Arrival
and possibility of sightseeing in the evening

Tuesday, 10.11.2026

Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU

European Parliament Visit to hemicycle
Introduction
Expert talk
Participation in plenary session

Representation of the European region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino in Brussels

Wednesday, 11.11.2026

European Commission

Council of the EU

Networking with EU interns & staff

Thursday, 12.11.2026

House of European History

Parlamentarium

Friday, 13.11.2026

Travel back

N.B. Program refers to previous study trips and is subject to changes

Monday, 9 November 2026 | arrival day

Hostel [LATROUPE Grand Place](#) (tbc)

Address: 159-163 Boulevard Anspach, 1000, Brussels (Belgium) | [Google Maps](#)

- **Important information:** While the agenda is organized by the lecturer, the **students must pay for travel and accommodation**. The MCI services will perform a group booking for accommodation in Brussels for four nights (approx. costs 250 Euro), travel arrangements will be done individually by each student.
- The lecturer will try to organize some financial sponsoring covering parts of travel and accommodation and restauration. Nevertheless, no legally binding guarantee for funding can be made at this stage and students will need to fulfill certain conditions (e.g. group bookings) to order to receive it. **Previously the MCI has been granted 150 Euro of financial funding.**

Please note, that the official program (required presence) of week 2 starts on Tuesday, 10 November 2026 at 9:00 and ends on Thursday, 12. November 2026 at 17:30.

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

- 9:15 Arrival at the [Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU](#)
Avenue de Cortenbergh 30, 1040 Brussels
- 9:30-10:00 Welcome and group picture
- 10:00-11:00 General introduction to the work of the Permanent Representation by
the Visitors service
- Expert discussion
Vinzent Rest, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care
and Consumer Protection

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Tuesday, 10 November 2026

- 15:15 – 16:00 Arrival at the **European Parliament**
PHS building, PAUL-HENRI SPAAK visitors area (GROUP & HEMICYCLE VISITS), Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels
- 16:00 Welcome by the Visitor's Service European Parliament
Introduction to the work of the European Parliament
- 16:30 – 17:00 Meeting with Members of the European Parliament
- 17:00 – 17:30 Visit of the Hemicycle – Participation in plenary session - Q&A
Group picture and end of the visit

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Tuesday, 10 November 2026

18:00 [Representation of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino in Brussels](#)
Rue Pascal 45-47, 1040 Brussels

Welcome and Introduction by Dr. Richard Seeber, Head of the Representation of the State of Tyrol in Brussels

Panel discussion on „**Lobbying and interest representation in the EU**“

Speakers:

Sarah Bruckner, Social and Labour Rights, Gender Policy, Consumers, Lobby Transparency, Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour (AK EUROPA) Brussels Office

Maximilian Henning, freelance EU correspondent writing about digital topics (netzpolitik.org, Tagesspiegel Background, EUobserver, iafrikan.com and others)

Benedetta Baldini, Senior Policy Advisor, European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

19:30 Sandwich reception sponsored by the Representation of the State of Tyrol in Brussels

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Wednesday, 11 November 2026

9:25 [European Commission](#)

09:25 – 09:45 Arrival at LOI 102, Rue de la Loi 102 - 1049 Bruxelles

09:45 - 10:45 The European Commission: the political executive of the EU

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:00 Expert discussion on:
Climate action , Digital economy and society , Environment

12:30 End of the information visit in the European Commission

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Wednesday, 11 November 2026

14:30 Visit of the [Council of the European Union](#)
Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels
Accreditation, **Please arrive on time due to security check**

15:00 **The European Council and the Council of the EU**

16:30 End of visit

18:00 **Informal dinner with EU institutions interns and staff**
(sponsored, € 25 per person, by ÖH MCI Innsbruck)

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Thursday, 12 November 2026

- 09:30 – 12:00 Visit of the [House of European History](#)
135 rue Belliard, 1000 Brussels
- 12:00 – 14:00 Lunch at [Maison Antoine](#)
Typical Belgian fries “Friterie”
Place Jourdan 1, 1040 Belgium
- 14:30 – 16:30 Visit of the [Parlamentarium](#)
- 16:30 – 17:30 Debrief of the study trip (mandatory)

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Content related questions (min. 3 questions/group)

**Permanent Representation
of Austria to the EU**

Group A

European Commission

Group C

**Representation of the European
Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-
Trentino in Brussels**

Group E

European Parliament

Group B

Council of the EU

Group D

Networking dinner EU interns

Group F

Social Media

Further assignments per group:

- Instagram stories incl. voice over the during trip
 - **Testimonials, reels and recap of each programme point**
 - 2 to 3 short videos (minimum 3 seconds) per group (see slide 15)

Important: please tag relevant partners (Europaregion Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino, European Commission, European Parliament, Council etc.)

In order to be able to access all premises of the European institutions and to receive financial contribution, please carefully read and comply with these measures:

- **A valid identity document (national ID card or passport) is required to access buildings.** If you registered in advance and you provided your ID document details, you must bring this **same [!!!]** document on the day of your visit.
- All visitors and bags are subject to **airport-style security checks** before entry. Firearms, explosive or inflammable substances, pepper sprays, sharp items and other objects that could be considered weapons are prohibited. In accordance with national legislation, certain prohibited items may be handed over to the police.
- **No trolleys, suitcases, or other large luggage are allowed into the buildings.**
- If an access pass has been issued, visitors must visibly wear it whilst in the buildings.
- **Photography** and **filming** are permitted inside the visitor area, but are prohibited in the security area and in the Hemicycle gallery during plenary sessions as well as in restaurants and bars. For more information, please consult the [Rules Governing Recordings on the Premises of the European Parliament](#).
- If the fire alarm goes off, leave the building immediately without running and follow the instructions given by the security staff and evacuation volunteers.
- Some areas are subject to video surveillance in accordance with the [European Parliament Video Protection Policy](#).
- If you feel unwell, please stay at home and postpone your visit. We will be happy to welcome you back when you are feeling better.

During the visit

- **Please dress and behave adequately as the group officially represents the MCI.**
- An official from the Visits Service takes the group to the room where the lecture will take place.
- Please note that the **group must stay together at all times during the visit.**
- In accordance with the security rules in force, visitors are **not at any time during their visit authorised to move around in the building unless accompanied by an official.**
- School groups must be accompanied by at least one adult for every 10 pupils.
- **Audio or video recording of the information session is not authorised.**
- The Visits Service reserves the right to have the group removed from premises in case of misconduct, such as disrespect of security instructions or staff or disruption of the information session.
- At the end of the visit, the Visits Service official will accompany the group to the exit.