



Think Global
Act Local



MODEL CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (Model Congress Co.E Local/Regional)

General Information

Representation: Pupils are invited to represent a municipality at the level of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in English.
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/congress>

Committees: Pupils representing European cities discuss the issues of everyday life that concern their municipalities, exchange ideas and make proposals to address problems based on a specific agenda.

The four Committees are as follows:

1. **Institutional Committee** (issues of local and regional democracy, monitoring and accountability of institutions and bodies)
2. **Committee on Culture and Education** (press, new generation, culture and education, sport, communications)
3. **Committee of Sustainable Development** (environmental issues, sustainable urban planning)
4. **Committee on Social Cohesion** (issues of individual and social rights, labor, citizenship, immigration, intra-Community relations, gender equality, social cohesion)

Each pupil may choose one (1) of the above committees to participate in. One (1) issue will be discussed in each Committee and one (1) final resolution will be produced which will include proposals on this issue. The Final Resolution of each committee includes only those proposals that have been adopted by a simple majority during committee work.

Chair / Co-chair: Chairs are in charge of regulating the discussion in the committee and enforcing the Rules of Procedure. The co-chairs responsibility is the recording of ideas expressed by Municipality Representatives. The Chairs and the Co-chairs collaborate in order to merge all clauses to create a resolution paper.

Agenda: The list of topics to be discussed during committee work which the Representatives have prepared/researched prior to the conference.

Clause: A clause is a suggestion on how the problem in question can be solved, according to the opinion of the municipality a speaker is representing.

Resolution Paper: A Resolution Paper is a collection of clauses created by each committee that aims to offer viable solutions to a problem. The Resolution is written by the Chairs and the Co-chairs using the clauses the committee members have decided are effective.

Municipality Representatives: They are all the members of a committee representing a municipality and are referred to by the Municipality name. e.g. "Would the speaker for the municipality of London like to deliver a speech?". The speaker must at all times represent their municipality and should avoid expressing their personal opinion on the matter.

Preparation:

A. Policy Statement: The Policy of a municipality is its opinion/position on a matter. Municipality representatives must be aware of their assigned municipality's Policy and stay true to it while the committee is in session. It is highly recommended that all Representatives prepare a Policy Statement, which will address the problem and the way it affects their City. The Policy Statement should include opinions on the matter, and what the municipality's position is on the topics of the agenda (100-200 words). Here is a **Sample Policy Statement** for you to examine and use as a guideline when you are writing your own.

Topic: *Pollution in areas of high industrial activity*

Policy Statement of: *The Municipality of London*

The City of London, the heart of the industrial revolution in the 1800s and currently the home of many thriving industries, is in recent years experiencing a rise in levels of toxins in the atmosphere and in the waters of its major river, the Thames. We believe that pollution is a problem which needs to be dealt with immediately in order for future generations to be able to enjoy life in this city, and for life in the area to be preserved and saved from extinction. etc.

B. Clauses: The Municipality Representative are advised to have researched the agenda topic and prepared at least five (5) clauses with solutions to the problem in question. It is advised that they have saved and brought their clauses on a usb stick.

Dress Code: Students are advised to be wearing semi-formal attire. Please avoid sweatshirts/pants and jeans. High heels should also be avoided.

Procedure

Roll-Call: After arrival the Municipality representatives are led to their respective committees. Once all members are seated, the Chairs call out the names of all the Municipalities. When each name is called the speaker representing the Municipality in question must raise the placard with the name of their city and state they are present.

Explanation of Rules of Procedure: After Roll- Call, the Chairs briefly explain the Rules of Procedure and accept any question regarding them. Once that is done, the committee will start discussing the topic in the agenda.

Delivering Policy Statement Speeches: The first stage is the optional *reading of Policy Statements*. In this part of committee work, each Representative will have the opportunity to read their Policy Statement, so the rest of the committee can be informed of the Municipality's position on the matter. All Representatives in the committee can ask a question about the Policy Statement directly to the

Municipality who has read their Policy Statement. Each Representative can answer up to two (2) short questions, or none if they do not wish to. This part of committee work must not take more than forty-five (45) minutes.

Debate: After Policy Statements have been presented the committee will move on to Debate. During Debate the Chairs allow the representatives to state their Municipality's opinion, ask questions and mainly suggest solutions on the topic at hand. Representatives are free to address the committee by raising their placards and standing to state their opinions. Also they can ask questions and comment on an issue. It is during this time that the representatives exchange views and collaborate under the guidance of the Chairs. The total duration of committee work is two (2) hours.

After all Representatives are done with their speeches and questions, suggested clauses are voted upon. Municipalities can vote either in favor or against each clause. If the majority of the Representatives vote in favor, the clause goes into the Resolution. If the majority of the Representatives vote against the clause, it does not go into the Resolution.

After all Representatives have proposed a clause and all clauses have been voted upon, all the clauses that have passed are edited and make up the Resolution Paper of the committee. Each committee has one Resolution, which is presented and voted upon at the General Assembly, where all committees present their resolutions together.

General Assembly (GA): The resolutions of each Committee are communicated during the General Assembly that will take place after committee work. The Chair of each committee reads the resolution of their committee, and then addresses one (1) Municipality Representative who has been elected by their committee to deliver a speech in favor of the resolution. The Representative who has been chosen undertakes to highlight the main points and to support the importance of the resolution and can accept up to three (3) questions from the members of the GA. The total duration of the GA is two (2) hours.