

# MSKMUENER MAGAZINE



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*Anna Papacharisi, Executive Member*  
*Iosif Iakovidis, Assistant Secretary General*



First Middle School Kifissia Athens



# MSKMUN

*Welcome to our second MSK MUN newspaper, "MSKMUENER MAGAZINE"! Here you can find news about our conference and the whole world. Also, there are some mini games and delicious recipes to spend your time during this tough period! We look forward to seeing you in our online seminars and of course in our conference! Stay safe!*

ANNA PAPACHARISI, EXECUTIVE MEMBER

## INTERVIEW

*We had the honor to ask Nikos Christodoulou, the president of G.A., some questions about his life and our conference. Nick, thank you for your time!*

*Hello Nick! First of all, we would like to thank you for your time. To begin with, tell us something about yourself*

Greetings! My name is Nikos Christodoulou and I have the privilege to be the G.A. President in this year's MSKMUN. I am 18 years old and I am to turn 19 just one day before the conference is conducted. I happen to be an open and ambitious guy. At the moment, I am a college student in the University of Peloponnese in the department of Social and Educational Policy. I also plan to take part in the Panhellenic exams of 2021, in order to try and get into a university that is closer to my interests. So, as you can tell, I invest most of my day over books hahah! Whenever I have personal free time, I either exercise or practice certain hobbies, such as volunteering and studying politics. Personally, I love taking part in MUN conferences, since my future plans are to get into diplomacy and geopolitics professionally. Who knows? Maybe in the future I 'll have the honor to see you again as a successful diplomat or ambassador! And just to

finish it off, you can already guess that I am a modest guy hahah!

*Why did you decide to take part in M.U.N.?*

That's actually a pretty interesting story. I used to go to a high school back in the day that didn't entertain any extracurricular activities or clubs, for example a drama club or an MUN club, and personally, I had a feeling that this was what our school was really missing. I thought that if we were able to convince our teachers and the principal to establish some of these clubs, the entire quality of our school would skyrocket. Also, around the same time period, the very first MSKMUN conference was being organized. To make it clear, I had a lot of acquaintances that had taken part in MUN conferences, here in Greece and abroad, and had so many exciting experiences to share. So, I thought to myself why not start from here. Our math teacher and I organized a small group of classmates that felt the same way and went on to represent our school in the very first MSKMUN... my first ever MUN conference. The rest is history.

*According to your MUN experience, I guess your favorite committee is Historical Crisis. Why do you find this committee so special?*

This committee started as a small project two years ago. More specifically, my fellow chair back then, Emmanuel, and I wanted to present something different in MSKMUN. We wanted to test the durability of a committee that combines both practical thinking and direct action, a committee that keeps the delegates always focused, regarding their decisions and the consequences that might follow. Both of us, being history enthusiasts planned and settled the details and, thus, the Historical Crisis committee was born.

This committee is not part of a known MUN category. To further explain the latter, imagine as if the entire room of the committee becomes a time machine. As soon as the delegates step in, they are no longer JUST a country's delegation. On the contrary, they become the very leader of the country they represent at the time of a well-known crisis of the past. This year, the challenge the delegates have to face and find a solution to is The Great War.

There are many reasons why the Historical Crisis Committee is one of, if not the most, interesting committee of our conference. However, if we are willing to give a short answer, this committee is a special one because the delegate has to combine diplomacy, political effort and strategy, in order to bring stability and peace to the world, by leading his/her country and allies to victory. Instead of resolutions and debating procedures, the delegates have to cope with events that "pop up" during the conflict and, at the end, they can witness in First Person how the negotiations, coordinated by the chairs, and the enormous Peace Treaty, following a great war like this one, would have been like.

I loved it since the first day it was "born" and all the delegates that have taken part in it in the past years have only got positive comments to add. It is only certain that those who decide to take part in the H.C.C. this year will be in for a truly unique experience!

*As a delegate, which country would you prefer to represent and in which committee?*

These past three years, I have had the honor to be a delegate twice. Once in the Security Council Committee, as a representative and ambassador of India and once in the Historical Crisis Committee, as the delegation of the People's Republic of China during the Korean War.

Living in Greece, I can say without a doubt that the Greeks and their society is heavily, if not entirely, influenced by the Western Powers (EU, USA etc.). Therefore, if I was a delegate in this year's MSKMUN, I would gladly represent someone from the "enemy's camp", the so-called adversaries of NATO and the EU. For example, Russia, China, Iran, even North Korea would have been in my list, in order to research their policies, further study their personal agendas and, most importantly, have a chance to get to know what opinions on the problems the modern world is dealing with the "Rivals of the West" have. As for the committee, I would have loved to once again be a part of the Security Council Committee, since it is the committee that is responsible for keeping direct threats under control and dealing with the most serious of situations.

*Do you feel anxious about your title in MSKMUN as "G.A. President"?*

The feeling I have about being the G.A. President is definitely not "anxiety". Someone feels anxious whenever he knows things are not under his control. On the contrary, I would say I only feel the necessary amount of stress that keeps a man active and dedicated to fulfil his goals. But to be fair, it just happens that I struggle sometimes to balance MSKMUN's obligations with all my other responsibilities, hobbies and "side-hustles" (University, Work, studying for Panhellenic Finals in June, Gym, Website Designer and Manager, Volunteering).

However, seeing how the executives, my cooperators Evelyn and Joseph in the GA and the chairs all work around the clock to make sure the delegates leave the conference with smiles on their faces and experiences to share is what gives me motivation to keep on going.

*Any advice for our delegates?*

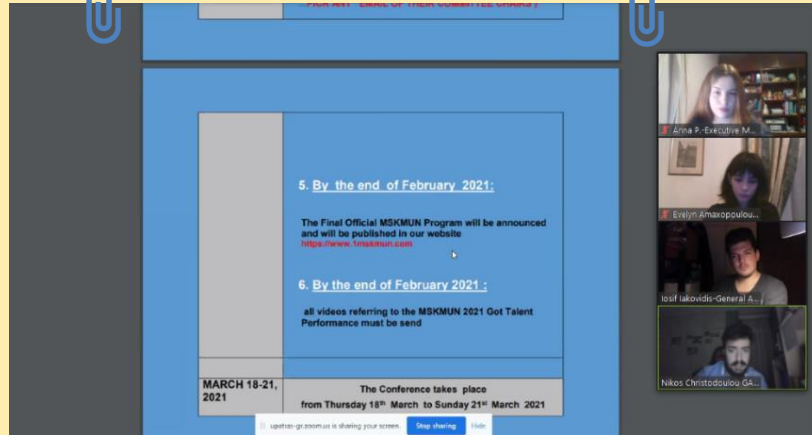
Always keep in mind that you are here to have fun and roleplay! If you are new to the MUN world, know that it is completely understandable to be a bit anxious or nervous at first. However, since you are here already, you should take whatever you can out of these four days and not let the conference pass without gaining something from it. If you have researched your country thoroughly, after the first time you hold a speech in front of your fellow delegates, you will notice that it is not that difficult after all. Be competitive and have strong arguments using facts. Defend your resolutions and support your allies'. Be a delegate that your committee will remember!





## MSK MUN TEAM – MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

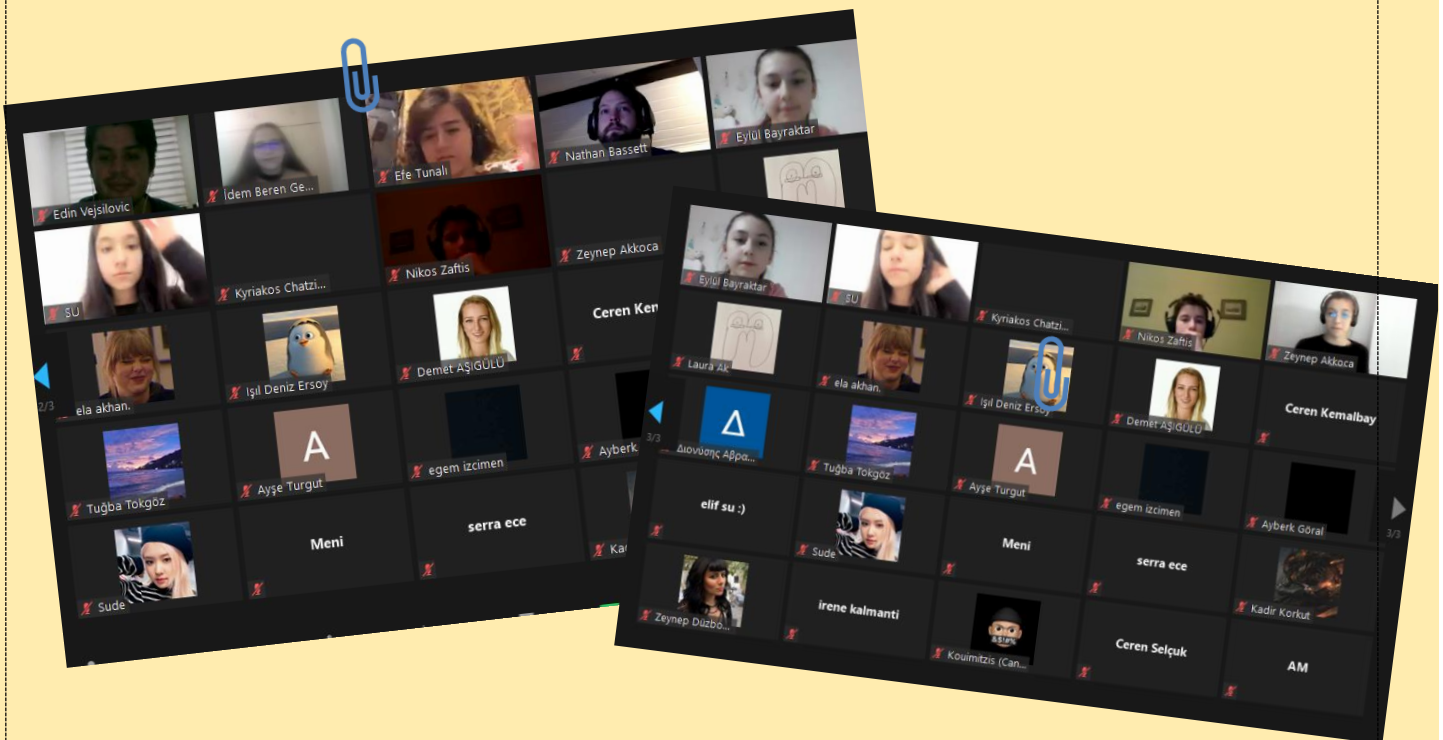
This Sunday's seminar went smoothly while the participation rates were quite high. The general assembly members made sure to prepare in advance as organization was our first priority. We have scheduled several more seminars until the main event and our intentions are to provide more information, advice and any other assistance before the conference in order for the delegates to be prepared.



We had participants from many countries. A great feeling took over us as we saw great interest from foreign countries. Their participation in the event is greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank you all for your participation!

*Iosif Iakovidis, Assistant Secretary General*



## CRISIS!

### XIAOMI AND OTHER CHINESE COMPANIES SLAPPED WITH US RESTRICTIONS AS TRUMP'S TERM WINDS DOWN

The Trump administration is inflicting even more damage on Chinese businesses — including smartphone maker Xiaomi — with just days to go before President-elect Joe Biden takes office. The US Defense Department on Thursday added nine Chinese firms, including Xiaomi, to a list of companies the agency claims are owned or controlled by China's military. Businesses on the list are subject to harsh restrictions, including a ban on American investment. The Pentagon's list also included the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac), a major, state-owned Chinese plane maker that the country wants to build up as an alternative to Boeing (BA) and Airbus (EADS). The Defense Department said in a statement that it is "determined to highlight and counter" the relationship between China's military and firms that "appear to be civilian entities" but which support the military with advanced technology and expertise. Beijing on Friday blasted the new restrictions as an abuse of power by the United States. American industry has a "long history" of civil-military relationships, Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters at a regular press briefing, accusing the Trump administration of "double standards" and "bullying." The US Commerce Department also put CNOOC, China's largest offshore oil producer, on another list that effectively cuts it off from American supplies and technology. The company was already on the Defense

*Let's see what happens in the world right now...*

Department's list. "CNOOC acts as a bully for the People's Liberation Army to intimidate China's neighbors," said Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in a statement, referring to the country's military. His agency claimed that CNOOC has been harassing and threatening offshore oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea by other countries, such as Vietnam. Xiaomi denied it was owned or controlled by the Chinese military in a stock exchange filing.

CONTINUE

READING:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/14/business/us-ban-xiaomi-cnooc-comac-intl-hnk/index.html>

### DUTCH GOVERNMENT RESIGNS OVER CHILD WELFARE FRAUD SCANDAL

The Dutch government has resigned amid a scandal that saw thousands of families wrongly accused of child welfare fraud. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced the Cabinet's resignation in an address Friday, saying that responsibility for the scandal "ultimately rests with the incumbent Cabinet and nowhere else." Under the scandal, around 10,000 families in the Netherlands were told to repay tens of thousands of euros of subsidies after being wrongly accused of child welfare fraud. Rutte made his speech in the aftermath of the publication of a report by the Parliamentary Interrogation Committee on Childcare Allowance, which he called "very tough, but fair." "On all levels throughout the political-administrative-legal system, mistakes have

been made that have resulted in great injustice to thousands of parents," he remarked.

CONTINUE

READING:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/15/europe/net-herlands-government-resigns-scandal-intl/index.html>

## CRISIS IN MSK MUN

Last year we had many crises in our committees. Fires, terrorist attacks, drones and other interesting things happened during our conference. Can't wait to see this year crisis! Until then, take a look from last year.





## IS ANYONE HUNGRY?

### TIME FOR **GREEK FOOD!**

#### TZATZIKI

##### INGREDIENTS

Serves 4 to 6 as a starter

½ a large cucumber

2 cloves of garlic

2 tablespoons quality extra virgin olive oil

1 x 500g tub of strained Greek yoghurt

1 small bunch of fresh dill

a few sprigs of fresh mint

1 lemon

Optional: 1 teaspoon dried mint

1. Slice the cucumber in half lengthways and cut or scrape out the seeds – this is where most of the water content is. Grate the remaining cucumber.
2. Place the grated cucumber in a sieve, rest it on a bowl and add some sea salt. Give it a stir, and leave to drain for a few hours, or overnight in the fridge. Stir now and again, helping it along by pushing the liquid out with a spoon.
3. In the meantime, peel and finely grate or crush the garlic, then combine with the oil in a large bowl. You can allow this to sit for a few hours to mellow out the pungency, but it's not essential.

4. When most of the liquid has drained from the grated cucumber, spread it out over a tea towel and pat dry. Combine with the garlic mixture, then stir through the yoghurt until evenly distributed.
5. Finely chop the dill and mint leaves, then fold through the yoghurt mixture along with a squeeze of lemon juice and the dried mint (if using). Season with salt to taste.
6. Serve with warm pita or Turkish bread and crudités, or alongside salad and grilled meats.

If you want to get creative, feel free to pep up your tzatziki with paprika or sumac, or and a punch with slices of fresh chilli. Dress with a flourish of the chopped herbs and a drizzle of olive oil.

