EUS 4932: EU in Practice – Advocating the EU
Position Paper Guidelines

What is a position paper?

The position paper takes what you began with your preliminary pitch presentation, and develops into a more formal, structured, discussion of your actor's position.

The paper outlines your particular actor's position on REACH (broadly or narrowly defined depending on the scope of your actor's interest in REACH).

One way to approach the position paper is to think of yourself as the chief of staff or a policy advisor for your actor. You need to prepare your actor to advocate for your preferred position, including understanding the background, constraints, objectives, and where you are/are not willing to compromise.

The paper will include a general introduction, factors informing or constraining your choices (e.g. domestic context, upcoming elections, who your members are, economic outlook, etc.), who you are lobbying (i.e. who are you 'speaking' to during the pitch simulation), your objectives or goals for the pitch, areas of compromise, who are your allies in this negotiations, who might be lobbying against your preferences, and pre-prepared language you might like to see in the revised REACH.

The use of statistics, previous quotes regarding REACH given by your actor or language from key policies or laws are encouraged as these will help to strengthen your position.

Formatting

Regardless of structure, strategy papers should be between 2-3 pages, 12-point font, 1.5 spaced.

Please use footnotes for citations and be sure to use citations and provide references for sourced information/quotes.

Bullet points and other organization structures are acceptable in moderation, but should not constitute the majority of the paper.

Students can approach the strategy paper as a communication from the government to make sure all parties representing the government during discussions of the topic are well versed on the country's position. In many ways, you can think of the strategy paper as a policy memo to the head of government. It should be succinct and provide relevant information in an easy-to-ready format.

Content

Introduction

Introduce the topic, including main points under consideration and implications of the topic both for your actor and the EU more broadly.

Context – what factors inform or constrain our position

Situate the topic. What are the factors that might inform how your actors approaches not just REACH, but your strategy to achieve your objectives? What factors might constrain your ability to act?

Factors might include:

> **For Member States**: decision-making structure in the EU; consideration of political parties in power. If the government is a coalition, how might the head of government's position vary from other coalition partners and what might be the implications and compromises.

> **For Political Parties**: decision making structure in the EU; position in the EP (how many seats do you have and what does that mean for how likely you are to pass a given piece of legislation); upcoming elections; party platform; domestic party positions.

> **For corporate lobbies and NGOs**: organizational structure (how are decisions made); membership composition; decision-making structure in the EU;

Audience

Consider who you will need to advocate to, and how that impacts your approach.

Objectives, Goals, and Red Lines

Clearly outline the actor's goals. What are your actor's priorities? What areas are there for negotiation? What are the red lines that will not be open to compromise?

Negotiations and Allies

What actors will be your partners in the negotiation? Which actors (if any) have you worked with in the past on the topic? Where might you find common ground with your allies? Which actor's do you anticipate to push back on your priorities?

Pre-prepared Clauses *(optional)*

Considering your actor's position and priorities, consider drafting language to present to EU institutions (or your fellow institutional actors) for the REACH revision legislation.