COMMITTEE TOPICS FOR THE 84TH INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT IN TRONDHEIM & RØROS 2017

1. Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

*21st Century Disenfranchisement*: Recent political movements across Europe and the world suggest that a significant number of people no longer feel represented by mainstream politics. Are there systemic problems causing citizens to feel left behind by modernisation and globalisation, and therefore support populist or radical views; or are the fractures emerging in modern society a social problem to be addressed? How can European countries deal with this rising sense of anger and fear amongst voters and ensure governments’ accountability?

*Learning outcomes*: Political mechanisms on national and international levels, political accountability, modernization, globalization, nationalist movements, populism

2. Committee on Foreign Affairs I (AFET I)

*“If you don’t shape the world, you will be shaped by it”*: Crises such as those in Crimea and Syria have once more highlighted the disparate and ineffective foreign policy of European states and their failure to form a cohesive response to critical events. How can European governments be a force that protects human rights and ensures security in the most vulnerable countries in need of assistance?

*Learning outcomes*: Foreign policy formation and enforcement, EU foreign policy, human rights, international obligations, security and defense policy, actors and issues in specific crisis areas and countries
3. Committee on Foreign Affairs II (AFET II)

*Lone Supporter:* Fifteen years on, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has made history as the first permanent international court, rendering landmark judgments and advancing international justice. Its advancement has been impaired by lack of international support, with major world powers still refusing to accept its jurisdiction, state parties refusing to arrest accused, and a recent wave of withdrawals from African countries. While European states have been supporting the Court since its inception, has the time come for them to reconsider their position? How best can they work towards ending international impunity?

*Learning outcomes:* The International Criminal Court, international law, international justice and judicial cooperation, the African Union, the UN Security Council

4. Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

*A Promise Unkept:* Despite an increased legal protection of indigenous people’s human rights, national and regional policies can often be contradictory and not fully implemented, and indigenous people still fall victims of industrial projects. The growing demand for non-renewable resources suggests that such activities are likely to impinge even more on the lands of indigenous communities living in countries with important resource reserves. How can Europe protect the rights and heritage of indigenous and tribal peoples, whilst still allowing industrial and economic growth?

*Learning outcomes:* Rights of indigenous people in Europe (e.g. the Sami, the Basque), corporate social responsibility, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, effective implementation of legislation on commerce
5. **Committee on Human Rights (DROI)**

*Out of Sight, Out of Mind:* More than 8 million children live in institutions and orphanages around the world, while 80% of them have one, if not both, parents alive. Institutionalisation perpetuates, rather than alleviates, the exploitation of vulnerable children. Faced with the rise in ‘for profit’ orphanages and the growing trend of orphanage voluntourism, how can European countries tackle the institutionalisation of children around the world, and ensure the child’s best interests are always protected?

*Learning outcomes:* Institutionalisation of children, child trafficking, forced labour, voluntourism, children’s rights, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the orphanage industry, ethical volunteering

6. **Committee on Economic Affairs (ECON)**

*Mind the Gap:* The poorest 20% of the European population has 5.2 times less disposable income compared to the top 20%, indicating an alarming tendency toward severe income disparity and social exclusion. With nearly one in four European citizens living at risk of poverty or social exclusion, how can European countries change this trend and improve the quality of living of individuals in the lower tail of the wealth distribution?

*Learning outcomes:* Economic and fiscal policy, levels of economic disparity across the world as well as within individual countries, wealth disparity, social exclusion, poverty in developed countries

7. **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)**

*The Future of the Workforce:* With an aging population across Europe, pension crisis looming in several countries and a rapidly changing employment market, European countries are called to rethink the foundations of the future workforce. Two out of every five young Europeans are willing to start their own business, while nine out of every ten entrepreneurship attempts fail within the first three years. Should European states support youth entrepreneurship or seek a different
approach to lowering youth unemployment? How can Europe enable future developments of the workforce?

**Learning outcomes:** How labour markets are composed and controlled, youth start-ups and entrepreneurism, risks of an imbalanced workforce and related policy

8. Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I (ENVI I)

*Welcome to The Post-Antibiotic Era:* Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is progressively reducing the effectiveness of modern medicine and the treatment of common diseases, accounting for one of the biggest threats to global health, food security and development today. With over 10 million annual deaths projected to be linked with AMR by 2050; how can Europe ensure the proper use, distribution and prescription of antimicrobial agents and products, without unduly damaging innovation and economic sustainability in the pharmaceutical sector?

**Learning outcomes:** Antimicrobial resistance, public health concerns and global public health responses, international cooperation, pharmaceutical and medical legislation

9. Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Health II (ENVI II)

*More than Meets the Eye:* Mental health issues are by far the largest contributor to chronic conditions afflicting the population of Europe, with over 27% of Europeans aged 18 to 65 having experienced at least one of a series of mental health issues in the past year. While significant progress has been achieved to improve the quality of life of those affected by physical disabilities, people dealing with invisible disabilities benefit from little to no legislative protection, a general lack of understanding of their conditions, stigma and lack of adequate support services. What measures should European states take to ensure support, care and social integration is afforded to those struggling with mental health issues?

**Learning outcomes:** Invisible disabilities, equality and anti-discrimination legislation, mental health, social integration of the mentally handicapped, social care
10. Committee on International Trade (INTA)

*Money and Morals:* European negotiations of economic and trade partnerships with Canada and the United States (CETA and TTIP) have led to clashes between civil society and European institutions on the appropriate approach to foreign investment. How can Europe live up to its demand for investment from abroad, requiring legal certainty and an attractive investment climate, while preserving domestic (European and/or national) regulatory policy space, to accommodate social and environmental standards?

*Learning outcomes:* International trade agreements, the World Trade Organisation, trade, tariffs, customs unions, foreign investment, disparities between legal standards for products and services internationally, privatization

11. Committee on Industry, Research and Energy I (ITRE I)

*Beneath a Steel Sky:* Since humanity began exploring beyond the atmosphere, it has been leaving behind scrap and debris in orbit around the planet - from stray flecks of paint to lost gloves to entire dormant satellites. With even the smallest objects capable of destroying satellites and the volume of debris capable of growing exponentially, humanity's ability to exploit space is now under threat. What action must the international community take to protect Earth's orbit from debris and ensure that space remains accessible?

*Learning outcomes:* How space is used to support technology, space debris and the risks it poses, international agreements on space and space travel, international obligations and international law

12. Committee on Industry, Research and Energy II (ITRE II)

*Sustainable Fossil Energy Production – A Utopian Dream?* All European countries have agreed to the same terms of Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement to fight climate change.
What measures should European countries with dependency on fossil fuels and fossil industries take, and to what extent should European states support regions within and outside of Europe in achieving their commitments under the Paris Agreement for the common goal of a sustainable future?

*Learning outcomes: Dependency on fossil fuels and measures to restrict their use, climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, alternative energy sources*

**13. Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs I (LIBE I)**

*“Everything is fine”:* Recent calls have been made towards a more regulated press, following allegations of media privacy invasion and phone hacking, fake news, and even accusations of corporate interests and lobbyists manipulating headlines. However, the international community admonished Poland for its move to bring media under state control. How should European countries ensure the media is able to fulfil its regulatory purpose on both private and public enterprises, informing people in an accurate and professional manner?

*Learning outcomes: The relationship between a free press and a democracy, approaches to press regulation across the world, media ownership, freedom of the press and plurality, risks to free speech, propaganda, censorship*

**14. Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs II (LIBE II)**

*“The dangerous genders”:* Transgender and gender-diverse people are among the most targeted groups for hate speech, discrimination and violence. The Trans Murder Monitoring has since 2008 reported over 2 000 murders of transgender and gender-diverse people in crimes from 68 countries worldwide, numbers still deemed as the “the tip of the iceberg” due to underreporting and lack of prosecutions. How can Europe ensure the safety, dignity and quality of life of transgender and gender—diverse people? How can the protection, reporting and prosecution systems be improved?
Learning outcomes: The difference between sex and gender, gender identity, discrimination and challenges faced by the gender-diverse, equality and anti-discrimination legislation, gaps in existing legislation that fail to provide protection

15. Committee on Fisheries (PECH)

Troubled Waters: European Aquaculture is struggling with social acceptance of its operations, and is under pressure to prove sustainable and to meet the public ideal of low impact fish farming. Considering the contribution fish farming has to modern food production and the possibilities of large scale offshore farming, how can Europe combine a stable food production together with meeting the goals of the EU Water Framework Directive by 2021?

Learning outcomes: Access to clean water and pollution, aquaculture, sustainable food development, environmental legislation, implementation of an EU directive at a national level and how these implementations can be guaranteed