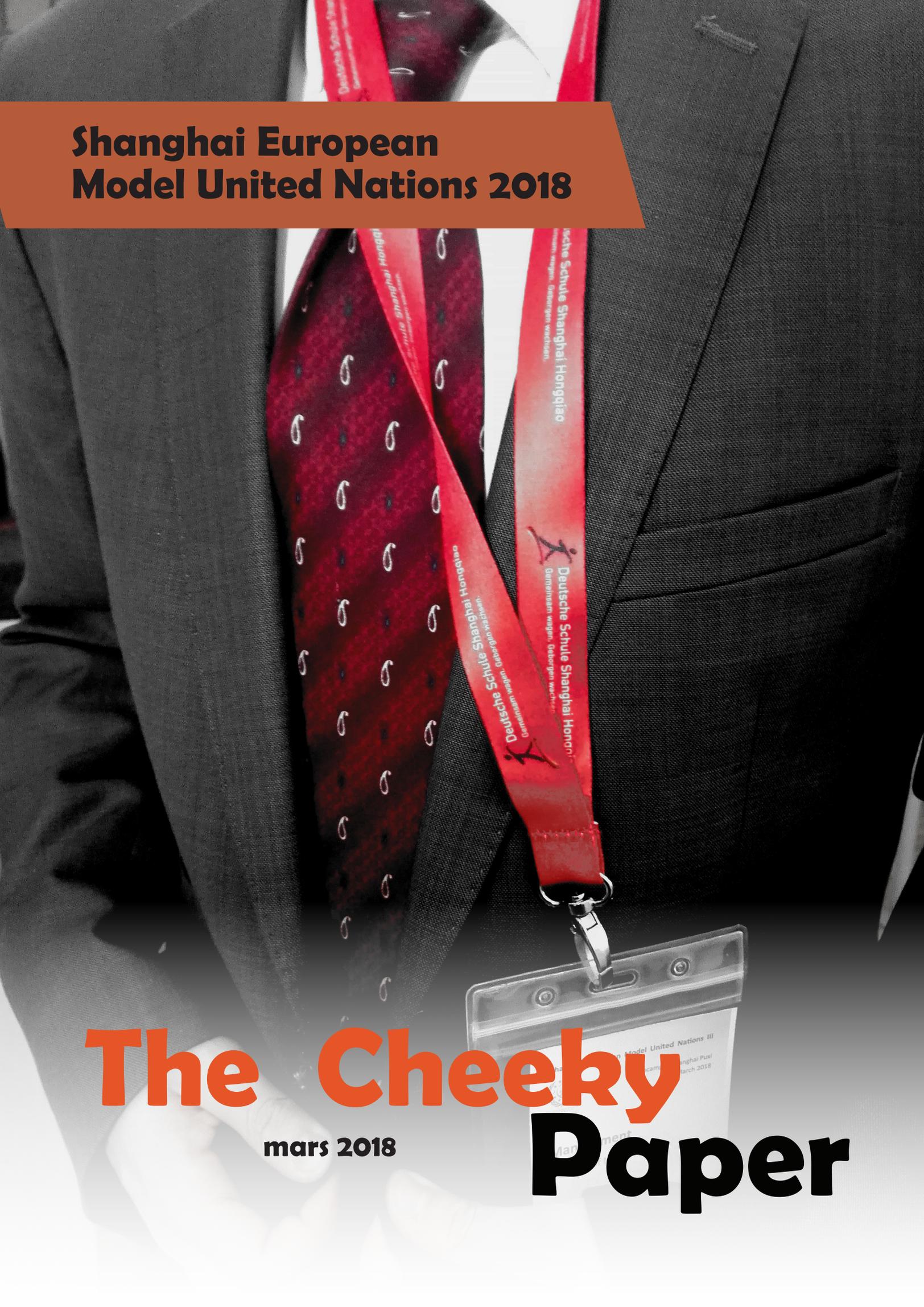


# Shanghai European Model United Nations 2018

# The Cheeky mars 2018 Paper





# Editorial

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Born from the cooperation between French and German students, this press release has, just like the European Model United Nations itself, contributed to strengthening the friendship that defines the Eurocampus. During this process, we have learnt to overcome our differences, work together and share our divergent views, not only to offer you this unique edition of the Cheeky paper, but also to show that MUN is much more than heated debates and endless resolutions, it is about people.

Some often argue that the simulations that take place today are nothing but useless. But, although the fact that these exchanges will not change anything to the current order or comfort them in their position, they forget that the future starts with us. Tomorrow, it will be our turn and our responsibility to deal with international issues. MUN is probably one of the best ways to prepare us. Indeed, it fosters the development of skills often regarded as crucial in our fast-evolving world: cooperation, leadership, communication, the art of debate... Acquiring these skills is an absolute necessity; a prerequisite for a sustainable world.

Dear delegates, chairs, esteemed guests and directors, on behalf of the EUROMUN secretariat, the EUROMUN press team would therefore like to thank you for your participation and sincerely hope that you had a meaningful and enriching conference on the Eurocampus.

François Vibert  
Kevin Li

# What is EuroMUN ?

Kevin Li

EUROMUN or Shanghai European Model United Nations is a simulation of an United Nations' meeting in which students act as delegates and debate openly on relevant topics. It is held at the euro campus in Shanghai, located in the QingPu District. This session will mark the third time the campus has organized an MUN conference with the active participation of both French and German students, which form the two sides of the euro campus. As always, students were fully responsible for the organization of the conference (with occasional help from professionals).

From the 3rd to the 4th of March 2018, over a hundred international students coming from all over the city will have shared their perspectives and solutions on a variety of subjects from 4 different committees, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, the European Council and the Economic and Social Council. This year, the secretary generals decided to focus on "Eurasia, exploring the political, social and economic relations", thus making Europe and Asia the primary focus of this two-day conference. With topics such as "combatting corruption in Southeast Asian countries" or "examining the Myanmar ethnic cleansing and preventing future massacre", the delegates engaged in fruitful and thoughtful discussions that

contributed to an overall progression in the debate.

One of the main goals of MUN is informing the students of current problems that the world is facing today and pushing them to find efficient solutions to deal with these issues. But, MUN is an ideal experience because it allows the students to learn more about the different states that constitute the world and to have an overall better understanding of their countries and on how the world works especially since one area of focus concerns you since you are living in it: Asia.

What is so unique about MUN is that, even if it is a simulation, it does not feel like it is at all. On the contrary, it resembles the real United Nations meeting to the point where it actually is real, at least from my perspective. In my first MUN experience as I am certain for many others too, I was generally very timid and afraid to intervene because I felt the pressure from the room's atmosphere and thought that one wrong word could turn the whole classroom against me. In the end, there is no shame about sharing your ideas because people generally appreciate an active session. As Rob Brown once said: "If you can speak, you can influence. If you can influence, you can change lives."





## Interview

with the French secretariat general,  
Thais Fondeville and Lena Li

**Q:** So, we can start this interview with introductions. Could you also give a brief history of your MUN experience?

**Thais:** My name is Thais, this is my fourth year in MUN, I have been a delegate and a judge in IST.

**Lena:** My name is Lena. It's my third year in MUN. I have been a delegate, staff and well this year I'm the deputy Secretary General... No judge however. I have attended several interesting conferences and have really enjoyed my MUN experience so far.

**Q:** Why have you chosen to manage EUROMUN?

**Lena:** Mostly because it is nice to attend other conferences. Organizing one of your own makes you see MUN from another perspective.

**Thais:** Yes, well, I have been delegate, judge, oh wait... I was also chair, so why not SG. I did every role in MUN haha.

**Q:** What do you think MUN can accomplish for students, like what can it bring them?

**Thais:** I think one of the most important traits that I can bring out is confidence. But there is also open-mindedness and teamwork.

**Lena:** It reinforces the ability to say more extreme ideas, ideas that do not fit with the student's own norms. It makes the delegates deal with big problems, and think about other social problems...

**Q:** Why "EURO" MUN?

**Thais:** It's basically the French and Germans cooperating to organize a MUN conference, which first debuted three years ago.

**Q:** As secretariat generals, what is your role during MUN?

**Lena:** One of the most important challenges was to find a way to connect with the German side. But during MUN, our main role is to deliver speeches for both the opening and closing ceremonies.

**Thais:** But a Secretary General is generally in charge of organizing the conference. This involves talking to directors, organizing food, drinks, flags...

**Lena:** We have to know what's happening, make sure the chairs understand their roles, what procedures to follow, make sure everyone's coming and pays. And

the list goes on and on...

**Q:** What conditions is necessary for an ideal MUN experience?

**Thais:** I think one of the conditions would be that everybody constantly speaks English because communication is obviously important. And if the students were supported more by their teachers and chairs, it would give them more confidence.

**Lena:** Also, everybody needs to take part in the debate because we usually have delegates of small countries doing all the talking while delegates of big countries are shy even though they need to make the big decisions.

**Q:** How do you assign big countries to the student?

**Thais:** Yes, we actually have a specific criterion for that. We try to assign more experienced students to big countries so that they could lead discussions. We encouraged teachers to choose students with many years of MUN experience, and that are more mature.

**Q:** Do you think MUN experience could be improved? If so, how?

**Thais:** Well we already have a pretty small conference so I think we are good, but more involvement would be generally appreciated.

**Lena:** Yes, it's a really small conference. If there were more people involved, it would be harder to manage but would make it more enjoyable.

**Q:** Finally why Eurasia?

**Lena:** Well... we wanted to make a play on words. Because Eurasia, sounds like "Your Asia". We wanted to focus on relations with Europe because this is a conference organized by the French and German schools, but also on Asia, because it is where we are living right now. And Asia has a big potential especially economically...

# The Belt & Road Initiative : China's approach to revive Eurasian relationships

So concretely, what is it?

Often regarded as one of President Xi's major foreign policies, the One Belt One Road initiative consists of China deploying several billion dollars of infrastructure investment along the traditional Silk Road linking Europe with Asia. The ultimate aim of the project is to foster a new world order, based on the Eurasian region that would rival the current transatlantic one.

Envisioned as three main routes connecting the two continents (through Central, Western and Southern Asia), the 'OBOR', although much discussed, will undoubtedly shape the global economic and geopolitical landscape for the upcoming years.

Why?

First, the economics. The Silk Road encompasses more than 65 countries which will all benefit from the investments. Thus, it offers new possibilities of development to countries such as Uzbekistan or Tajikistan, both of which are affected by terrorism and social unrest. But more importantly, the

strategy - centered on resource-rich countries - will profit the Chinese economy.

Putting in place a new growth dynamic, its gross domestic product will quite literally double in the next decade, eventually catching up with the U.S. in 2030.

Additionally, most of the funding will come in the form of loans; that is to say that if Kazakhstan, for instance, is unable to pay back the loans, China could seize many of its mines, power plants etc. Thereby, the Belt and Road project might create real ties of vassalage in the Eurasian world.

This directly relates to what is perhaps China's real motivation in the story : its quest for greater global influence. The OBOR is in reality a means for Xi's country to extend its power, and to strengthen its position as a regional leader.

Should we fear it?

At a time that in which the US has turned inward-looking, the rise of China's leadership has several implications for future world order. On one hand, it will challenge American influence in Pacific Asia, which the former has often seen as its backyard; and on the other, if this initiative succeeds, China -being even more credible- will be able to export its model elsewhere, eventually extending its political and ideological web of influence on an international scale.

Our position on such questions generally depends upon our own political views. However, we must admit that the Belt and Road strategy, grounded in the idea of cooperating nations, will contribute to worldwide prosperity and, above all, peace and stability.



Francois Vibert

## Sneak a peak into EuroMUN



The day started out great in the Security Council with all delegates taking part in a friendly mock debate: “India versus Pakistan”! Delegates got the occasion to warm up to each other while coming up with logical, creative and sometimes hilarious arguments. The whole room erupted into laughter when the delegate of Kuwait controversially stated that “Cows are Holy”.

The Security Council then moved on to more serious business, its first resolution tackling the subject of nuclear armament. The delegate of China stated that he supported the regulation of nuclear weapons, but refused the harsh sanctions imposed on North Korea on the grounds that they infringed on the human rights of the North Korean people. The delegate of the Ivory Coast went on to state that “The people are starving anyways, one way or another”.

In the European Council, the plight of refugees really struck a cord with a number of delegates. The debate was at times very emotional, and delegates spoke with passion. All the countries were eager to find common ground on the issue, which isn't a small feat considering the radically opposing points of view of the different European countries.

At the end of a fruitful first day of debate, delegates were ready to go home and tuck into bed!

Esther Devillers







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