



European Union
Delegation to the
Republic of Mauritius



Ambassade de France



British
High Commission
Mauritius

*28 secondary schools of the
Republic of Mauritius will
participate in the event*

FIRST EUROPEAN UNION MODEL COUNCIL 2015 *MAURITIUS*

our world

our dignity

our future

*17 JUNE 2015
MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE, MOKA*

List of schools

Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College	Belgium: 	Pamplemousses SSS	Greece: 
John Kennedy College	Bulgaria: 	Rajcoomar Gujadhur SSS	Spain: 
Queen Elizabeth College	Czech Republic: 	Soondur Munrakhun College	France: 
Loreto College Quatre Bornes	Denmark: 	Forest Side SSS (Boys)	Croatia: 
Port Louis SSS	Germany: 	Doha Secondary School	Italy: 
Shrimati Indira Gandhi SSS	Estonia: 	College Ste Marie	Cyprus: 
Sir Leckraz Teelock SSS	Ireland: 	Royal College Curepipe	Latvia: 

List of schools

France Boyer de la Giroday SSS	Lituania: 	Droopnath Ramphul State College	Portugal: 
Sir A.R Osman SC	Luxembourg: 	Piton State College	Romania: 
Dr Maurice Curé State College	Hungary: 	Royal College	Slovenia: 
Port Louis North SSS	Malta: 	Universal College	Slovakia: 
Prof. Basdeo Bissoondoyal College(Boys)	Netherlands: 	Sodnac SSS	Finland: 
Hindu Girls' College	Austria: 	M.P Sharma Jugdambi SSS	Sweden: 
Gaetan Raynal State College	Poland: 	College de La Confiance	United Kingdom: 



Message of Mr. Aldo DELL'ARICCIA, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Mauritius

In the last decades, Climate Change and its negative impact on our environment have been receiving a universal growing attention. High-level scientists worldwide, particularly the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) established by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 1988, have carried out comprehensive studies to demonstrate how this phenomenon affects our environment, urging world leaders to take bold decisions to halt and hopefully reverse its effects. Individuals have also been called to assume their part of responsibility in the fight against the deterioration of the situation. Important actions have been undertaken to raise the conscience, especially of young people, on this matter.

In this framework, on 17 June, 84 students aged 15-16 from 28 secondary schools of the Republic of Mauritius gathered at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for the first "EU Model Council" organised in Mauritius. The event had two objectives:

- raise the awareness of the young people on the international Climate Change debate ahead of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC- (COP21), that will take place in December 2015, in Paris, France.
- give an opportunity to students to act as if they were the representatives of the EU 28 Member States and so become more familiar with those members States and with the functioning of the EU institutions

The event, conceived in the context of the European Year for Development, was part of the joint Climate Diplomacy activities that the Delegation of the European Union is organising with the French Embassy and the British High Commission in Mauritius.

I believe that the "EU Model Council" provides a lively platform for students to use their debating skills, and allow them to learn about the EU in an interactive way, while at the same time increasing their level of conscience about a critical international concern.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research shall be commended for its continuous and valuable collaboration in organising this first edition of the "EU Model Council".

We are confident that all the 84 participants in the first edition of the "EU Model Council" are now more informed citizens, better armed to play their role in the fight against global warming and more aware about the EU. We also hope that there will be other occasions for those schools that have not been able to participate this year, to be exposed to the EU, its Member States and the functioning of its institutions.

**Message of Mr Laurent GARNIER,
Ambassador of France to Mauritius**



Le changement climatique est une réalité tangible, notamment dans les petits Etats insulaires comme Maurice qui en subissent les effets directement. La mobilisation de tous et particulièrement de la société civile est déterminante.

La France accueillera en décembre 2015 à Paris la 21ème Conférence des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique, appelée aussi COP21. En tant que pays hôte, la France espère parvenir à conclure une « Alliance de Paris » qui permettra de maintenir le réchauffement climatique en-dessous de 2°C, et d'adapter les sociétés aux dérèglements causés.

Cette Alliance ne pourra voir le jour sans l'aide et l'engagement de tous les acteurs de la société civile. Ce sont eux qui sont source d'innovations et de solutions. C'est l'objet de l'agenda des solutions qui sera l'une des composantes de l'Alliance de Paris et qui permettra de mettre en avant les initiatives de tous les acteurs impliqués dans la lutte contre le changement climatique : ONG, citoyens, villes, entreprises, gouvernements.

Le dérèglement climatique nous concerne tous, y compris les plus jeunes. La France se félicite donc de participer à la première Journée européenne de la diplomatie climatique à Maurice, et de contribuer à la première simulation d'un Conseil de l'Union Européenne à Maurice, avec les élèves des lycées mauriciens, sur le thème du climat.

Enfin, l'implication des gouvernements est évidemment cruciale. L'Union européenne et ses Etats-membres sont engagés aux côtés des Mauriciens pour soutenir ses efforts dans la lutte contre le changement climatique et pour un développement sobre en carbone. La France va ainsi fournir une assistance technique, financée par l'Agence Française de Développement, pour aider Maurice à rédiger sa stratégie, appelée « contribution nationale » de réduction d'émission de CO2 à horizon 2025/2030.



**By Tevisht Kumar Juwaheer,
Chairperson (Latvia)**

Welcome to the First European Union Model Council. It's with great pleasure that I am addressing myself to you today. This Model European Union is based on the essence and principles that bring out the human in each of us; add to this the constant reminder that we have to play big and give our all when it comes to boosting our prestige and saving our world. You can understand the tremendous responsibility that lies on your shoulders. We have to be the agents who will propel our roots into the international playground. Throughout your actions, today, you will personify ideals that you deem best to your cause.

Relations between Mauritius and the European Union (EU) are very good having seen a continuous intensification over the years. Mauritius has been one of the countries that have benefited most from the EU-ACP cooperation and the EU has been closely associated to the development and diversification of the economy of Mauritius. This has graduated from a monocrop economy (sugar) around 30 years ago to a well-diversified and vibrant economy today (tourism, textile, financial services, ICT, sugarcane, seafood hub etc.). The EU has been part of projects in different fields including infrastructure, water and energy, social cohesion and employment, environment and economic reforms.

As we step into this Model Council, we are aiming to find concrete climate adaptation actions through your support. If you're reading this, you vow to honour this cause. Of course, this claim represents only an indication, which is, however, not unjustified, of the increasing threat of global warming on small islands, taking place globally. We must stand united in the face of adversity and forget our restrictions, our differences, and open up to healing the environment that surrounds us. We, as the European Union have proved time and again that we are committed towards shaping a better future and creating a safer present for the world population. It's all about creating a legacy for our children.

Council Members, coming to you now; several weeks of work are finally materializing into this one big conference we are all waiting for. Some of you are out of innate panic, others with the 'Bring-it-on' fiery spirit. Great! But, "Ministers", mostly it's THE experience you have at your fingertips to help you grow into what you never were. It is your chance to step out of any cocoon that's been nurturing you. Your day to shine! Show me what's stopping you, and I'll show you an opportunity to prove your real worth. Have a nice day, people. Don't ever forget to smile. I wish you all a very fruitful MEU 2015!

Time to step up!

By Dhruv Ghurburrin, Deputy Chairperson (Latvia)

Since the industrialisation in the 1800s, the world has not simply witnessed positive changes in the way people live across the world. Along with changing patterns of life, our environment has been affected in numerous aspects. Many species have become extinct, leading to the sapping of our planet's fauna and flora. Countries across the world have had to face more frequent storms and extreme weather conditions. Besides, with increasing emission of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the Earth's temperature started rising gradually, conducive to the melting of icebergs and rising sea level. This is a danger for specially low-lying coastal countries like Mauritius.

Previously, many scientists claimed that global warming was simply a natural warming up of the planet and nothing was alarming. Conversely, other school of thoughts recognised the gravity of this phenomenon after witnessing its trail of destruction. Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth" showed us tomorrow's world if we would continue neglecting our environment. The 2006 documentary film was also capital in raising people's awareness about climate change and spurred the world towards reenergising the environmental movement. However, despite the most powerful nations coming together in many summits like the Earth Summit (1992) in Brazil and in Kyoto (1997), global warming is still a big threat to humanity today. The Kyoto protocol in 1997 entered in force only 8 years later in 2005. Moreover, the Copenhagen summit in 2009 was a total failure. So, as long as there is no collective will from the part of the international community to act in one way, treaties and international conferences will be useless.

We need more actions than simply words. For instance, we could follow the lead of China, which, despite being one of the top carbon dioxide emitters, is the largest investor in renewable energy in the world. Mauritius has taken laudable steps by opting for green energy. Mauritius has already benefited from collaboration of other countries in its Climate Change Adaptation Programme. we can certainly expect future collaboration and assistance from other nations in a bid to meet our environmental challenges.

The fingerprint of climate change

By Lushida Aumeer, QEC (Czech Republic)

There's no planet B, But is there a plan B'? The weight of this ecological curse comprises of countless problems ranging from global temperature rise to ocean acidification. If its threats are not alarming to all citizens, they will soon be. It is forecast that Mauritius will glare in despair at the disappearance of half of its beaches by 2050. The stake holders of these vital signs of a sick planet are none than the products of their environment, men themselves.

War has been declared by the goodwill government of Mauritius against this peril. A time bomb has been defused by several national societal eco-friendly projects with the objective to make the island a world model of sustainable development, particularly in the context of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), by setting a target of 35% renewable energy by 2025. Along in the flow, Mauritius owns its place as participant in the Africa Adaptation Programme which injected \$3M worth money to tackle the problem at grass root level. The zeal to make these projects among others, for example the non- governmental organisation "Mauritius Wildlife Foundation", a success is tangible. They all operate on Simple little basis of reforestation, sensitisation campaigns, use of public transport and recycling which add up to the pile of green remedies. In its quest towards stability, the European Union has shown its support to the Government of the Republic of Mauritius. Their mission under the heading of 'European Development Cooperation' targets many sectors of the pillars of the country like the initialisation of a new Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two. In this framework, the EU has assisted Mauritius to advance and modernise its proceeds.

Ideas exist. but there is no magic bullet - Actions speak louder than words. The pulse of our beloved island relies on each and every one. If you cannot do great things, then do small things in a great way. You may never know what results come from your actions but if you do nothing, there will be no results.

European Union and Climate Change

by Keshav Joonarain and Monisha Ayadassen

(Press Unit of the MEU)

Mother Nature is a kind, celestial entity. Yet, one can be awed by the fits and tantrums she throws. She is, by time, icy cold but occasionally displays tender warmth. Her mood swings- characterised by temperature drops, changes in sea level, or melting glaciers- bear the name of 'climate change.' The sheer influence of such change compels us to stay in the good books of this omnipotent lady. So far, we have been pushing our luck. Way too far.

Climate change feasts on people of all nations and countries. Global warming implies that we all fall prey to environmental changes. Still, instead of uniting in combat, many countries waste time fighting over political power. However, nature does not care what economic bracket you're in. The situation seems clear: if existing governance structures cannot manage emerging global threats, expect them to evolve...or fall by the wayside.

Step in: The European Union (EU). A politico-economic union consisting of 28 member states, the EU takes a major stance in militating against catastrophic environmental hazards. Recent negotiations held in Paris about climate change reinforce the alliance's standpoint. The EU wants a robust Paris agreement that would ensure transparency and accountability towards fair and legally binding commitments from all parties. Such an agreement is needed to keep the world on track to limiting the global temperature rise to below 2°C; an objective that has been agreed by almost all countries worldwide in 1992 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Roadmap suggests that, by 2050, the EU should cut its harmful gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels through domestic reductions alone. It sets out milestones which form a cost-effective pathway to this goal- reductions of the order of 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2040. Additionally, workings show how the main sectors responsible for Europe's emissions- power generation, transport, buildings and construction, as well as agriculture- can make the transition to a low-carbon economy most efficiently. As it pans out, the EU does look set and committed to its initiatives and aims.

A threat looms above us.

We need to be ready.



For more information:

Website of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources,
Tertiary Education and Scientific Research: [http://ministry-
education.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx](http://ministry-education.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx)

Website of the EU Delegation:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mauritius/index_en.htm

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