



Meeting in Stuttgart 21.11.-25.11.2013 – a student's impression

Last November, I was lucky enough to travel to Stuttgart with a handful of students from schools across Europe; from Copenhagen, Landskrona, Edinburgh, Rome, Budapest, Bucharest and Bad Tölz. As well as discussing our main topic of attitudes towards the European Union, during our 4 night stay everybody in the group was well entertained by many activities around Stuttgart, including a visit to the Mercedes Benz museum and a tour of the city, and we all got a taste of German culture in our hosts' homes.

Our first full day of the conference was actually spent not in Stuttgart, but in Strasbourg. We travelled by bus to the European Parliament there, where we were given a guided tour through the immense Parliament building, finishing in the main debating hall where we were given a short introduction to the European Parliament, before we had a more in-depth talk and discussion with one of the vice presidents. Mr. Wieland did very well to respond to many difficult questions on complex issues with the European Union, for example the entry of Turkey into the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy, which came from teachers and pupils from all countries. And even after that, he still had energy to show us some more of the Parliament building! We saw the printing press, a committee room and Wieland's office before thanking him for such an interesting visit, and leaving for a well-deserved afternoon off, to see the beautiful centre of Strasbourg.

The second and final morning of the conference itself was held in the school, where we were put into international groups to discuss our views towards the EU, as well as those of our parents and grandparents. Each group presented their ideas on posters, to be read by the other groups, who were all very interested to see the variety of opinions between generations and nationalities. The morning also included the judging of the logo competition (won by a student from Romania) and some presentations from school groups. The rest of the weekend was spent sight-seeing, bowling, ice-skating and generally having a great time getting to know everyone, before we all said goodbye to our new friends on the Monday morning and returned home, having had a very interesting and fun weekend in Stuttgart.

Sarah, Edinburgh