

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

EXPLORING EUROPEAN, FRENCH, AND PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACIES THROUGH MATHEMATICAL THINKING, POLITICS, AND LANGUAGE

**AGRUPAMENTO DE ESCOLAS GABRIEL
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06/05/2025 – 09/05/2025

REPORT



DAY 1: WELCOMING

We were welcomed by the fellow students and teachers from the Lycée on May 6th, 2025.

For the occasion, our hosting students and teachers had prepared a welcome surprise.

During the first day students had the opportunity to know each other and learn a few words in both languages.



DAY 1: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PLENARY



Plenary sittings primarily consist of times for debates and votes. The key debates are selected by the Conference of Presidents as being of major political importance. In plenary sittings, the 720 Members of the European Parliament meet in the Chambers in Strasbourg and Brussels. Citizens are welcomed in the visitor's gallery and can accompany the works.

During our staying week, the European Union held plenary sessions in Strasbourg. Students from both schools visited the Parliament together. In the afternoon, MEPs discussed several matters and presented some reports. Here are some highlights for this afternoon:

- Budget control;
- Greenland;
- Water Resilience Strategy.



DAY 1: MEETING A PORTUGUESE MEP

Hélder Sousa Silva, Portuguese MEP, had the kindness to welcome us in the Parliament. Our MEP introduced the several bodies of the European Union, the countries' entry into the EU, and its significance for Portugal. Statistical data from the EU and from the great power countries regarding population, territory and economy were presented and interpreted, correlating them with the challenges that the EU faces and the institution's role in the world.



Students asked how members are elected to the European Parliament, how candidates lists are drawn up in each country, and how the overall process is. The MEP answered all questions and spoke about his academic and professional background, and how the knowledge he acquired is important for his work on the committees. He also talked about the MEPs' tasks and how difficult it is to make quick decisions.

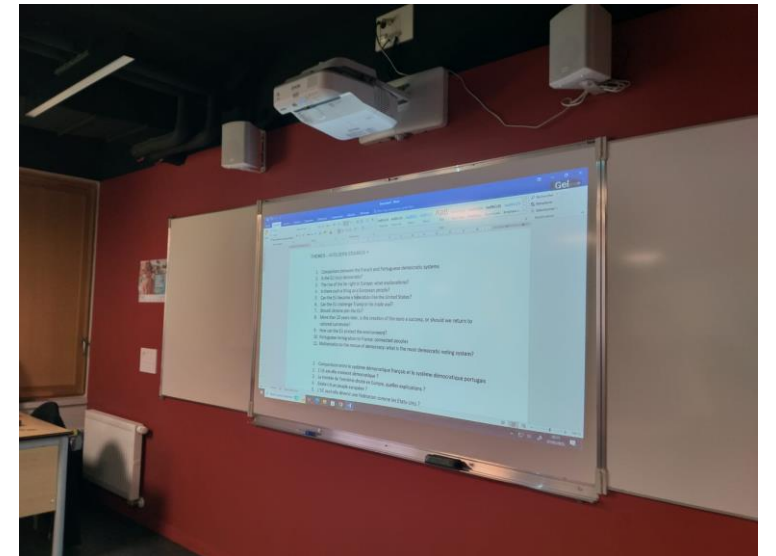
DAY 2: WORKING IN GROUPS

The second day was dedicated to working about European, French and Portuguese democracies. Each group had a question to ponder. Groups were composed of members from both schools / countries.



These were the questions worked in the class:

- 1) Comparing FR & PT democracies
- 2) Is the EU truly democratic?
- 3) Rise of right-wing
- 4) European people
- 5) Can the EU become a federation?
- 6) Trade wars
- 7) Ukraine & EU
- 8) € Euro
- 9) EU & environment protection
- 10) PT emigration to FR
- 11) Maths and voting system



DAY 2: FINDINGS & PRESENTATION



After the work done, students presented their findings

DAY 3: CELEBRATING V DAY, PLANETARIUM & EXPLORING THE REGION

May 8th is a national holiday in France. It marks the Victory Day, following the World War II. We associated ourselves with the commemorations and learned more about this major world conflict.

The victory day marks Germany's unconditional surrender on May 8th in 1945, thus ending the war, started in 1939. Today, it is also a moment to celebrate peace amongst nations. On this day, the Mayor of Strasbourg (France) and the Mayor of Kehl (Germany) meet at a symbolic moment that embodies Franco-German friendship.



The Planetarium is located in the University of Strasbourg and displays an amazing projection of the Universe. Students had the opportunity to learn more about astronomy.



*The day lead
us to the
fronteer!*

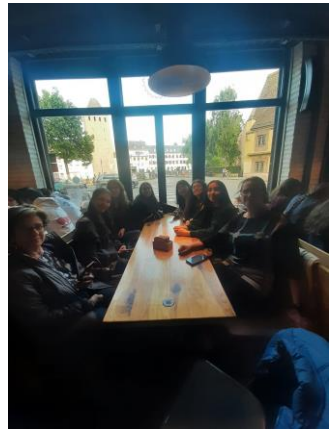


DAY 4: EXPLORING THE CITY & MUSEUMS



We've explored the main tourist attractions, and visited the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain and Musée Historique.

To mark the last day we've finished with a farewell dinner at a local pizzeria.



The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art offers a generous overview of artistic creation from 1870 to the present day. We appreciated the works of artists such as Gustave Doré, Monet, Rodin, Gauguin, Picasso and Kandinsky.

In the Historical Museum, students learned more about the city of Strasbourg, from the Middle Ages to the foundation of the European institutions.





THANK YOU!