

Series of "HÈBE-DEBATES" CONCEPT*

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Continuing the successful Hêbe-Debates, the aim of the second series of three debates is to attract a wider community of people interested in debating on diverse topical issues. In order to generate a debating culture among young professionals in Brussels, we would like to offer the participants the opportunity to experience public interventions and to train their rhetorical abilities.

Date: September 28th, October 26th, November 30th

Time: 19:00-20:30

Place: European Parliament

RULES

- Topic is announced in the run-up to the debate.
- The debate is held in English.
- Timing, rules and procedures are controlled.
- The audience represents the jury. The winning team is evaluated on the basis of three criteria (argumentation, debating style and use of humour) and receives points in order to be counted in the “debating-championship”.
- Best teams will be confronted in the final of the debating league in 2010.

PROCEDURE/DURATION

- Topic is presented by the moderator in the beginning.
- Teams draw the **pro** or **contra position** and have one minute of preparation; meanwhile the moderation explains the rules to the audience.
- **Pro team starts** the debate
- Debate is organised in two big parts:
 1. The actual debate of the two teams
 2. Followed by an open discussion with the audience.
- **First part** is divided into four debating slots, including initial statement of 6 min; two questions times of 3 min; rebuttal minute after each question time and a final statement of 1 min.
- **Initial statement of 6 min** [2x6min]:
 - Each team has 6 min to present their first arguments. They can pause and pass the speech on to the opposing team whenever they like. This continues back and forth until both teams have used up their 6 min.
- **Question time I** [twice 3min + 1min]:
 - 3 questions taken from the audience. Each team has 3 min to answer the questions, but as one block (no passing on the speech); followed for both teams by 1 “rebuttal min” (countering) the other team's arguments.
- **Question time II** [twice 3min + 1min]:
 - The same procedure as for the previous set of questions is followed.
- **Final statement** [2x1min]: 1 min each team summarising their main arguments
- **Second part of the debate:** Audience votes, followed by the announcement of the results; open vote on the actual opinion of the audience on the topic discussed; time for round table discussion.