

EUROSIM



EUROSIM 2025 – Reflection Paper

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Simonas Gentvilas

Introduction

Participating in EuroSim 2025 as Simonas Gentvilas, Environmental Minister of Lithuania, was an incredibly rewarding and eye-opening experience. Stepping into this role allowed me to deeply engage with environmental policymaking and the complexities of international negotiations. From the moment I began preparing, I realized that this simulation was not just about debating policy but about learning how to navigate political dynamics, persuade others, and compromise to achieve tangible results.

One of the most fascinating aspects of my role was the challenge of defending and promoting my country's position in a highly technical and politically charged debate. I had to carefully craft arguments, propose amendments, and negotiate with other delegates to gain support for my proposals. Through this process, I gained a much deeper understanding of the topic at hand and the intricate decision-making processes within the EU. However, what I hadn't anticipated was how difficult it would be to convince others to adopt my perspective. Each delegate had their own priorities, and I had to continuously refine my approach to make my proposals more appealing—an incredibly difficult but valuable skill to develop.

Despite the challenges, I am proud to say that two of my amendments were successfully passed. This was a major achievement, considering the complexities of coalition-building and the need to continuously adjust my proposals to accommodate different viewpoints. Beyond the policy discussions, EuroSim also provided an opportunity to connect with participants from across Europe and the United States, exchanging ideas and building friendships along the way.

Looking back, this experience pushed me far beyond my comfort zone. It tested my ability to articulate complex ideas, adapt my negotiation strategies, and improve my public speaking skills under pressure. Most importantly, it reinforced my appreciation for diplomacy and the art of policymaking.

Preparation Phase

The preparation sessions for EuroSim 2025 were both fascinating and incredibly helpful. They not only provided me with the knowledge I needed about the simulation's structure and topics but also prepared me for the practical challenges I would face in Antwerp. Thanks to these sessions, I arrived at EuroSim feeling well-prepared and confident, fully aware of what to expect. It was also during these sessions that I truly noticed the difference in preparation levels between our university and others—we were trained to handle the complexities of negotiation, persuasion, and EU politics in a way that many others weren't.

What I appreciated most about the preparation was its variety. We had different types of sessions designed to equip us with essential skills for EuroSim, from deepening our understanding of the policy topic to practical exercises on negotiation tactics. One particularly interesting aspect was learning about psychological strategies for persuasion, as well as the importance of body language in political discussions. It was eye-opening to realize how non-verbal communication could influence negotiations just as much as the words we used.

A highlight for me was the role-playing exercises. In almost every session, we were assigned different roles, which allowed me to step into the shoes of various political actors. This was invaluable because it helped me understand diverse viewpoints, anticipate potential arguments,

and develop strategies to persuade different stakeholders. When I encountered similar personalities at EuroSim, I was able to recognize their perspectives and tailor my arguments accordingly, making my approach far more effective.

Beyond improving my knowledge of EU politics and key decision-makers, the sessions also helped me sharpen my public speaking and debating skills. My colleagues frequently asked me challenging questions, forcing me to think quickly and respond convincingly. I genuinely enjoyed this aspect, as it made the sessions both engaging and intellectually stimulating. Additionally, after each session, we received feedback, which was crucial for improvement. I paid close attention to this feedback and actively worked on refining my responses, adjusting my communication style, and improving my ability to think on my feet.

At the beginning, adapting to this political setup was difficult. I was stepping into discussions on topics I wasn't deeply familiar with, and it felt overwhelming at times. However, this challenge pushed me to research more, to understand the mechanics of EU politics, and to refine the way I spoke and presented arguments. Over time, I noticed significant growth in myself. I became more confident, more strategic in my communication, and better at handling conflicts in a diplomatic way.

Looking back, the preparation sessions were instrumental in shaping my EuroSim experience. They not only helped me succeed in the simulation but also equipped me with skills that will be valuable beyond this event, in both my academic and professional future.

Simulation Experience & Outcomes

My preparation for the simulation started with an in-depth study of my alter ego, Simonas Gentvilas. I researched his political stance, past actions on environmental policies, and the key concerns Lithuania faces regarding microplastic pollution. I analyzed his speeches, interviews, and debates to understand how he communicates—his tone, gestures, and persuasive techniques. This helped me not only embody his role effectively but also refine my strategy in negotiations. Beyond that, I delved into the topic itself, exploring the causes and consequences of microplastic pollution, the actions taken by governments and companies so far, and the realistic measures that balance environmental protection with economic interests.

A crucial part of my preparation was thoroughly reading and analyzing the proposed regulation. I highlighted sections that seemed problematic from Lithuania's perspective and drafted several amendments before arriving in Antwerp. However, I quickly realized that to gain support, I had to be flexible. Once the discussions began, I adjusted my proposals to make them more appealing to other delegations while still preserving their core objectives. This strategic approach was essential in ensuring my amendments had a realistic chance of passing.

When I first signed up for EuroSim, I wasn't fully aware of its significance. It was only later that I realized how well-known and respected this simulation is. Representing my university at such an important event was a source of great pride, and I was determined to contribute meaningfully to the discussions.

In my working group, the debates were dynamic and sometimes intense. I began by carefully observing the personalities in the room, assessing how they approached negotiations and where their interests lay. Almost every discussion saw my active participation—I made sure to present

my views clearly and concisely, ensuring that my arguments were easy to understand and persuasive. Outside the formal sessions, I took advantage of unsupervised meetings to personally approach delegates, explain my amendments, and build support for my proposals. These one-on-one conversations were crucial in securing votes, as they allowed me to tailor my arguments to each delegate's priorities.

Through this strategy, I was able to build strong connections with many participants. I proposed several amendments, and I am proud to say that two of them were successfully passed. Additionally, I teamed up with a colleague from my university who shared a similar perspective, and together we drafted a joint amendment. With the support of our unit, we successfully pushed it forward, and it was ultimately adopted. Reaching my goal of passing amendments was incredibly rewarding, as it showed that my negotiation tactics, adaptability, and persistence paid off.

I truly enjoyed playing the role of Simonas Gentvilas. He was a fascinating character to embody—pragmatic yet passionate about environmental issues, persuasive yet strategic in his approach. I liked how his stance required me to strike a balance between environmental advocacy and economic considerations, which made my role both challenging and realistic. Playing him allowed me to step into the shoes of a policymaker and experience firsthand the complexities of EU negotiations.

Conclusion

Looking back on my EuroSim 2025 experience, I can confidently say that it was one of the most enriching academic and personal challenges I have taken on. From the intensive preparation sessions to the dynamic negotiations in Antwerp, every step of the journey helped me grow in ways I had not anticipated. I improved my ability to think strategically, communicate persuasively, and adapt to complex political discussions. Representing Simonas Gentvilas and advocating for amendments that aligned with Lithuania's interests allowed me to refine my negotiation skills and develop a deeper understanding of EU policymaking.

Beyond the academic benefits, EuroSim was an incredible opportunity to connect with passionate individuals from different backgrounds, exchange perspectives, and build lasting friendships. It was both challenging and rewarding to navigate political debates, form alliances, and witness firsthand how compromise and diplomacy shape real-world decision-making. Ultimately, I leave this experience with greater confidence in my ability to engage in high-level discussions, a stronger grasp of European environmental policies, and a newfound appreciation for the complexities of international negotiations. If given the chance, I would absolutely participate in EuroSim again, knowing that the lessons learned extend far beyond the conference itself.