

# EUROSIM



**EUROSIM 2025 – Reflection Paper.**

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# **Reflection Paper: EUROSIM 2025**

## **1. Preparation Phase**

The preparation for EUROSIM 2025 was an enriching and demanding experience that shaped my understanding of both the European Union's internal dynamics and the broader political landscape. At the beginning, I faced several challenges. I had to familiarize myself with EU procedures, particularly the European Council's decision-making processes, which were new to me. Additionally, as I was assigned the role of President of Lithuania, I had to immerse myself in Lithuania's national priorities, which required thorough research and understanding of both domestic issues and the EU's broader agenda.

One of the first obstacles was the complexity of balancing Lithuania's interests with those of the larger EU framework, particularly in the areas of competitiveness, climate policy, and Ukraine. At the beginning, I struggled with how to position Lithuania in a way that aligned with EU values while advocating for national interests. However, through discussions with colleagues and the support of the team, I gradually learned to navigate the political landscape more effectively. I made considerable progress in overcoming these initial hurdles, especially in understanding Lithuania's economic and environmental concerns within the EU context.

The preparatory sessions themselves were invaluable. The training materials, press conference simulations and briefings helped me grasp the key issues at stake, such as the European Green Deal, microplastic regulations, and the EU's position on Ukraine. The opportunity to engage with fascinating documents, such as the Draghi Report on EU competitiveness, was especially helpful in refining my perspective on EU policy. Moreover, preparing for discussions on Lithuania's stance on the Ukraine-Russia war and climate policies honed my skills in negotiation, strategic thinking, and collaborative work within a diverse international team. Additionally, the EUROSIM Coaches were highly supportive during these preparatory sessions, as they guided us all through the way. They helped in sharpening our oral skills, public speaking skills, time management skills, negotiation skills, and most importantly, research skills. This guidance proved to be invaluable as I was able to communicate my ideas more effectively and manage my time during the preparation and simulation phases.

## **2. Simulation Phase**

The actual simulation was a dynamic and thought-provoking experience that far exceeded my expectations. Initially, I had expected a rather formalized, structured environment where decisions were made based on well-defined, predictable procedures. However, the simulation turned out to be a fast-paced, multi-layered experience with unexpected twists and intense debates that made it more realistic and challenging.

In preparation for the simulation, I developed a strategy focused on promoting Lithuania's support for Ukraine and Lithuania's interests in climate leadership while ensuring its competitiveness within the EU. I aimed to advocate for a pragmatic approach to climate policies, recognizing Lithuania's reliance on traditional industries,

while still advancing the EU's environmental objectives. This balancing act proved to be challenging, as other member states had varying priorities, and aligning all these interests during the negotiation process was not always straightforward.

One of the most significant challenges I encountered during the simulation was finding the right balance between representing Lithuania's national concerns and the need for broader EU cohesion. While my strategy centered around Lithuania's economic needs, such as support for its coal industry, I had to be flexible and adjust when new information and perspectives were introduced by other countries. There were moments when Lithuania's position in the Ukraine-Russia war, climate policy and EU trade policies was challenged, and I had to quickly reassess and adapt our approach in line with both our national goals and the collective EU interest.

Regarding my alter-ego as the President of Lithuania, I found it to be both a rewarding and a difficult experience. I had to stay true to Lithuania's priorities while also building alliances with other member states, some of which had contrasting views. I appreciated the challenge of negotiating on behalf of a smaller state, knowing that I had to be strategic and form coalitions to push for Lithuania's goals within the EU.

While I did achieve some of my main goals during the simulation—such as contributing to discussions on the EU's stance on Ukraine and ensuring that Lithuania's voice was heard in climate policy debates—there were also areas where I felt I could have performed better. In particular, I would have focused more on strengthening Lithuania's position in relation to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Although I participated in the discussions, I believe more proactive engagement on this topic could have helped Lithuania secure a more favorable position regarding its industrial sectors.

Looking back, I would have made more efforts to engage earlier with other member states, particularly those (the Baltic States) with shared concerns over the economic impacts of green regulations. Building these alliances sooner could have bolstered Lithuania's position during key moments of the negotiation.

Overall, EUROSIM 2025 was a highly rewarding experience. It deepened my understanding of EU policy-making, taught me how to negotiate and collaborate in a high-stakes environment, and highlighted the importance of balancing national interests with collective goals. The preparation phase was instrumental in shaping my approach to the simulation, and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a well-organized and challenging event. I look forward to applying the skills I have gained to future endeavors, both in the academic and professional spheres.