

GECMUN 6: CREATE!

SECURITY KRISE RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

THE HEALTH CRISIS SPREADING ACROSS EUROPE
CHAIR REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Delegates,

Our names are Yasmin Hung, Lawrence Chen, and Dokyong Ryoo, and we are more than honored to serve as your chairs for the Security Krise Rapid Response Team Crisis Committee. We attend Taipei American School in Taiwan, with Dokyong as a junior and Yasmin and Lawrence as seniors. The Model UN program is a significant aspect of our high school lives and we look forward to sharing this special experience with all of you during GECMUN VI.

Being a delegate in a crisis committee might mean coming across unfamiliar procedure and situating yourself in a fast-paced debate. However, we encourage you to embrace this unique opportunity and bring forward innovative solutions for this crisis. What really sets MUN apart from the myriad of high school extracurriculars is the collaborative and supportive environment you're able to find throughout the entire process. We hope, despite the worsening ongoing crisis, our committee can foster a welcoming and encouraging environment for every single delegate. As a team you will learn to collaborate, adapt, and compromise.

Despite being a fictional crisis, this committee encompasses many thematic issues we come across as global citizens today - there is not a single topic you haven't seen debated on within another context. We hope you can draw the connections between this imaginary future and our status quo, and through this fictional future find innovative solutions to the problems we face today.

We can't wait to meet every single one of you at the conference and create an unforgettable committee experience together. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us through our emails:

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Best of luck!

**Your chairs,
Yasmin, Lawrence, and Dokyong**

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Our world has been through its share of conflicts, crises, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters—yet is the worst one yet to come? The Security Krise Rapid Response Team has been created specifically to handle the rapidly deteriorating circumstances of an unusual virus first located in Austria. Time is limited and world leaders are under immense pressure, as the disease has not been contained by human borders and is spreading at an unprecedented rate without a known cure. The exact origin or reason of spread is unknown in the medical field and it is up to the representatives in the Security Krise Rapid Response Team to determine the course of action. A disease outbreak holds much larger implications beyond the medical field as representatives will need to be prepared to contain the outbreak, communicate with the public, access border security, and handle mass migration.

To effectively tackle the aggravating crisis, delegates need to access a multitude of factors. Much like the traditional positions in a MUN committee, delegates in this crisis will act as a representative of a state. Ranging from countries in Africa and Eastern Europe to Asia and America, the entire international arena will be represented. Coming into committee, delegates must expect a multitude of perspectives. Delegates will have to understand the contrasting opinions of the other key players in the room - not all solutions will be agreed upon, but every single second spent debating may cause implacable repercussions. Seeing as delegates are representing countries, third person pronouns will be used. However, the committee follows GECMUN crisis procedure.

Do not be mistaken by the traditional delegate positions in this crisis committee, be prepared for fast paced debate, and constant crisis updates on the ever-changing circumstances. However, do not get distracted by the never-ending crisis updates, and stay mindful of the main purpose of the committee. How efficiently every decision is made will determine the future of our planet.

Consider solutions for issues beyond treating the infected and researching for a cure (if there even is one). This crisis will include topics such as border security, foreign aid, ethics versus law, and responsibility. Use the list of possible solutions as a starting point when beginning your research, but do not feel confined by the list we created, as there are many aspects to cover. With different priorities and circumstances for each country, perfect solutions will not exist. This is your chance to shape the future.

AGENDA INFORMATION

CONTEXT OF THE CRISIS

The first report of the disease was reported in the town of Melk, Austria. The local doctors initially recorded that the disease had symptoms of high fevers and patients were entering comas. While these symptoms are commonly found in many other colds, an unprecedented number of Austrian citizens were recorded with the same symptoms during a short two-week period. With the amount of reports increasing and the potential for the disease to travel across borders, the United States, the Russian Federation, European, and African nations convened and formed the Security Krise Rapid Response Team (SKRRT) to promote cooperation in order to contain the disease, relieve the infected, and ultimately find a cure. SKRRT is a top-secret committee and is not affiliated with any body of the United Nations. In other words, the public is unaware of this committee convening. As of right now, information regarding the disease, such as origin, how it spreads, and complete set of symptoms remain unknown.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

15th January, 2020	Found in Austrian medical records, the first patient was admitted to the hospital with the symptoms of the disease in Wesenufer.
17th January, 2020	Officially 89 patients admitted into hospitals with similar symptoms as patient zero.
19th January, 2020	An additional 180 patients admitted into hospitals with similar symptoms as patient zero in Aschach an der Donau and Eferding.
23rd January, 2020	The total number of patients admitted in the hospital with identical symptoms as patient zero has reached 670 and now also found in Linz.
25th January, 2020	After only 11 days since the discovery of patient zero, there is a recorded number of 1270 patients hospitalized with identical symptoms spreading as far as Grein and Sankt Leonhard am Forst.
29th January, 2020	Reaching the end of the month, there is a recorded number of 2540 patients hospitalized with symptoms of the unidentified disease.
31st January, 2020	Right at the end of the month a small number of patients, less than 100 in each area, with identical symptoms were found in Čelarevo (Serbia), and both Gerjen and Ercsi (Hungry). The disease has now spread across Eastern Europe.
2nd February, 2020	The recorded number of patients in Austria hit 4500 and has spread closer to Austria's capital Vienna.

8th February, 2020	100 patients have been identified in Kelheim (Germany) with identical symptoms. The disease is starting to spread into Western Europe.
11th February, 2020	New medical cases found in major city Regensburg (Germany) convey identical symptoms as the other patient's in Austria, Serbia, and Hungary.
14th February, 2020	Countries ranging from Asia, Americas and Europe are called to convene under the SKRRT committee with the purpose of addressing the spreading epidemic.

KEY TERMS

The Disease (named "Schlafkrankheit")

The disease itself is unknown to the international scientific community. The initial phase contained cases across Austria and reports of symptoms including high fevers and patients entering comas; thus, the virus has been dubbed as the "Schlafkrankheit", German for "sleeping sickness". Currently lacking additional information, the virus itself seems similar to normal fever and nausea. However, how the virus is spreading and where exactly it is sourced from remain unknown. Delegates can expect information update from scientists around the world during the debate.

Immigration (Humanitarian Reasons)

Immigration due to humanitarian reasons is when immigrants apply for stay in another country due to issues or emergencies regarding human welfare such as disease or health problems.

Free Rider Problem

The free rider problem is commonly seen during times of crisis, when a state, group, or an individual reap the benefits of the collective good without contributing to the production. This theory was first coined by Mancur Olson in the late 20th century; he theorized that there is a lack of incentive to help the production of collective good, as individuals can benefit from the common good regardless of participation.

European Union (EU)

The EU, formed in 1993, is a collective group of countries in Europe with the purpose of promoting peace within the region. It acts as a connection between European states and enhance economic and social cohesion within the continent. The union is comprised of 28 members, and five of them—Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom—are present in SKRRT. However, the United Kingdom is in the process of BREXIT and may eventually officially leave the EU. Since this is a futuristic crisis, it will be assumed that the UK has left the EU. The EU has outlined health, humanitarian aid, and security policies that may be helpful when understanding an EU member state. Shortly after the formation of SKRRT, the EU reached out and offered cooperation with border control, monitoring travelers in EU nations, and information sharing to prevent spreading of the disease.

African Union (AU)

The African Union was officially created in 2002 after the creation of the Organization of African Unity, and it currently has 55 members. In SKRRT, there are four AU member countries—Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. Much like the EU, the AU's purpose is to increase solidarity within the continent, but its existence is also to address globalization's negative effects. Just like the EU, the African Nation also contacted SKRRT and is offering its full support in order to contain and find a cure for the disease. The resources and help the AU is offering include humanitarian support, border control, information of African travelers to Europe. Delegates can expect more information to come from the EU and the AU through crisis updates.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

The ECDC is an agency under the EU specializing in infectious diseases. It oversees continent-wide health related activities such as: epidemic intelligence, health communication, public health training, and surveillance of infectious disease.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC is part of America's Department of Health and Human Services. Its mission is to protect the country from both foreign and local diseases. One of their focuses is responding to foreign diseases before it becomes a threat to American citizens. CDC's foreign involvement extends to partnering with other countries to improve their abilities to respond to an emergency crisis and evaluating how prepared countries are to detect and respond to crises. In the case of an emergency the CDC is responsible for: dispatching experts, delivering supplies to crisis areas, monitoring all response activity, supplying resources to local departments, releasing updates in a timely manner.

Schengen Area

The Schengen Area is made up of 26 countries including SKRRT members Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland. Schengen Area Countries allow people to travel freely with one common visa and no border control.

MAJOR MEMBER STATE STANCES

AUSTRIA

Austria has been facing central political instability since 2018, as previous Chancellor Sebastian Kurz's People's Party (ÖVP) and Vice Chancellor Strache's far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) have continued gaining support. As the general public has been struggling with the ÖVP and FPÖ, radical changes have been made since the resignation of Kurz and Strache, with rising budgets on passed laws, presidents unable to vote against measures, and uncertain relations with Russia. Furthermore, as a country part of the Schengen area, the virus may spread rapidly if appropriate measures are not taken. Ultimately, the lack of central power and political unity in Austria has raised the risk of rulers taking advantage of unstable situations, and the virus breaking out in Austria may become the cause of further domestic conflicts.

BULGARIA

Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007, and has formed strong ties with fellow European countries, especially Germany and Italy. Similar to its neighbors, Bulgaria faces issues from illegal immigrants and refugee influx from Serbia.

CHINA

China is holding its place as a global superpower and remains influential in global affairs. As China has previously dealt with massive outbreaks, including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Avian Influenza A(H7N4) virus, and other chronic diseases, organizations such as the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention may be helpful to the situation at hand. However, since the virus has not spread to China, the amount of support given, or solutions suggested may be open-ended.

CROATIA

Croatia, which joined the EU in 2013, has begun building stronger ties with nearby countries such as Slovenia and Austria along with major trade partners such as Italy and Germany. Currently, Croatia has border disputes with Bosnia and Herzegovina and is struggling in maintaining refugees attempting to cross Croatia towards Europe.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic received the highest number of Schengen visa applicants in 2018 and is also part of NATO and WTO. However, Andrej Babiš, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic has stated that Czechia will not accept refugees or make any exceptions. The stance taken by Czechia will directly impact the crisis, as Austria is a bordering country.

EGYPT

As the influx of refugees into Egypt from Africa and European nations is increasing, the Egyptian government is beginning to take a hard stance toward refugees. From refusing to build refugee camps to forcefully deporting illegal refugees, the government of Egypt is making sure that the international community is aware that Egypt is already at capacity for refugee acceptances. Despite not being a NATO member, Egypt has been a key ally of European nations and the United States in Africa and has been receiving aid and support.

FRANCE

France has become a leading state in resolving European immigration issues by attempting to find solutions and suggesting improvements. For example, France has planned the Franco-German Plan in order to spread out the burden of accepting refugees throughout EU countries. Furthermore, France is continuing to actively assist migrants by initiating talks regarding Open Arms (a Spanish rescue ship holding 151 migrants who were denied entry to nearby countries).

GERMANY

Germany is one of the main actors pushing for reform regarding the EU's methods of receiving immigrants. The Franco-German plan was created to share the burden of holding refugees, and the Dublin System has allowed refugees to be taken back to their original point of arrival - namely, Italy. With Germany directly bordering Austria, Germany may play a role by assisting infected areas through providing aid and shelter in the initial stages.

GREECE

Located in southeastern Europe, Greece is made up of multiple islands. It has officially been a year since the start of European Stability Mechanism Programme of Economic Support in hopes to alleviate the damage from the Greek economic crisis. Unemployment is now steadily below 18% and the country has made great strides in improving the economic circumstances. In July the Greek elections resulted in the New Democracy taking 158 of the 300 seats and a new prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis. In terms of immigration, the Greek government has expressed that other EU countries should take more responsibility for the influx of migrants into Europe. There are 200,000 refugees and migrants currently in the Aegean Islands.

HUNGARY

Bordering east of Austria, Hungary is a member of the EU and Schengen area. Despite the agreements made in the EU, Hungary has restricted and curtailed asylum-seekers from receiving asylum through the continuation of the "Stop Soros" laws. The outbreak of the virus in Austria paired with Hungary's harsh position on tension-high immigration laws may lead to negative effects if sanctuaries and refuges are needed.

ITALY

A peninsula extending into the Mediterranean Sea and is one of the European countries closest to Northern Africa. The country has many important cities including the religious center of Europe (The Vatican). As one of the important ports into Europe, Italy has recently signed onto China's Belt and Road Initiative in hopes of boosting its economy through strategic trade and investment. This agreement has caused tension between Italy and other EU countries. The prime minister, Giuseppe Conte, resigned in August creating political stability within the Italian government. With upcoming elections for a new prime minister, this gives a golden opportunity for a rising nationalist politicians, Matteo Salvini, to become the next Italian prime minister. In terms of immigration, Italy decided almost a year ago that they would no longer accept immigrants due to humanitarian grounds, and those currently within the country under "humanitarian protection" are at risk of having their legal status removed after their status expires. The disease hasn't penetrated Italy. Yet they play a key factor in the EU, thus their role is extremely vital.

RUSSIA

Russia has strong and long-standing ties with European nations and the Austrian government. Despite its resources, the Russian government takes a strong stance against refugees and immigrants. Without stable ties with Russia, foreigners are

unable to request permission for temporary stay in the country. Although the virus has not contacted Russia, the Russian government is monitoring the situation closely to prevent it from spreading to the country.

SERBIA

As a member of the EU, Serbia is a parliamentary republic known for ties with Italy and Germany through trades. On the other hand, Serbia is facing rising issues with refugees and illegal immigrants. Furthermore, the Serbian government is currently protesting about the United States and other countries for recognizing Kosovo's declaration as a sovereign nation.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Otherwise known as Slovakia, the Slovak Republic is a landlocked country in Europe. It bordered two states that have already been infected: Austria and Hungary. The first female president was sworn in on June, and she represents the liberal Progressive Slovakia party. While there have been improvements for the freedom of the press, many still do not trust mainstream media, and many news companies have tense relationships with members of the government.

SLOVENIA

As a member of the EU and NATO, Slovenia has been widely acknowledged as a cooperative nation. However, Slovenia—similar to most European countries—is following increasingly stricter stances on immigration issues. For example, joint Italian-Slovenian police forces have been deployed for further border patrol, leading to arrests and detainment of the illegal migrants. This handling of immigration may lead to harsh repercussions, as Slovenia, located directly under Austria, will be especially susceptible to the epidemic. As the epidemic spreads and refugees flee to safer shelters, it is unknown whether countries will be willing to accept the refugees.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland is part of the Schengen area and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, holding close economic ties within Europe. It is a landlocked country bordering Germany, one of the countries infected with the disease. Switzerland is one of the only countries in Europe to have enough shelters for entire populations in the case of an emergency crisis, this may be extremely helpful to utilize during a disease outbreak.

TUNISIA

As one of the major non-NATO allies of major countries like the United States, Tunisia has maintained strong relationships with the international community through trade and cooperation in infrastructure, such as the Trans-Mediterranean natural gas pipeline. Although Tunisia has allowed a more open border to refugees from countries like Syria and Libya, Tunisia is also facing an influx of refugees and lack of resources to care for them.

TURKEY

Turkey, directly bordering Syria, is one of the world's largest host of refugees. However, as the number of illegal migrants has increased, Turkey is forcing Syrian refugees to return to their country. While the Turkish government claims that the refugees are being transported to safe areas of the country, refugees are speaking out that many are being deported to places where fighting is escalating (such as Idlib). With lower public support for Syrian refugees, Turkey may start taking harsher measures. In terms of military responses, Turkey has reached over 40,000 locally produced infantry rifles.

UNITED KINGDOM

UK prime minister Boris Johnson has emphasized the difference in opinions between the EU and the UK through BREXIT, and the UK now follows a separate hardline agenda. Government plans to cut immigration and rising tensions between the UK and EU have led to the distancing in the collective spirit. However, the epidemic must be resolved through the means of a cooperative course of action while noting the urgency of the situation.

UNITED STATES

As a global superpower, the United States government spends a great amount of resources towards disease control and research. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a federal agency under the government, has a great amount of resources and personnel to tackle disease and viruses. The CDC has pledged to help any community or country with disease of viral threat and is determined to increase global health security of the world. The virus has not spread to the United States.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

As the virus continues to spread across the European continent, it is important to tackle multiple aspects at the same time to minimize the rate of the spread.

Part of the focus should be on medical responses, and ways states can organize their hospitals in order to maximize efficiency. Having a standardized process to screen the potentially infected and have designated areas for quarantine in order to limit the spread can be a considered solution to draft. Internally in Hospitals methods can include periodic reviews to ensure adequate measures have been taken to control the spread in medical areas and have the man numbers to effectively treat the infected. Consider different ways the disease could spread and create solutions to pinpoint high-risk areas. Please note the chairs do not expect delegates to have extensive knowledge on medical procedures, please research only to the extent of being able to vocalize why chosen solutions are optimal steps forward.

One important aspect is the refugee crisis. As the circumstances deteriorate, the uninfected populations in Europe will be seeking home in other continents. Therefore, increasing international cooperation may be necessary in order to help immigrants. Delegates must understand their previous stances on immigration and be able to apply the fictional crisis. Furthermore, delegates should keep in mind their relationships with other nations in order to decide what future possibilities may be offered. Other than the agreement by the country receiving immigrants, the practicality of the refugee crisis should be discussed thoroughly.

Another key aspect is information sharing between states about developing a cure and containing infected populations. The sooner a cure is found, the sooner the disease is contained thus it is vital for states to collaborate and share scientific discoveries with one another. Solutions incentivizing countries to collaborate, and methods to discourage withholding scientific research can greatly benefit the success of discovering ways to contain the spread and the cure.

Another aspect to consider when crafting solutions is raising awareness. While this solution seems rather conventional and straightforward, it is important and can worsen the situation if not approached carefully. Transparency from the earlier stages can help minimize the health, social, economic, and psychological impact of the disease. However, as circumstances worsen (which they undoubtedly will) states might want to start considering the mode of communication with the public, and how to effectively communicate without causing mass hysteria about the largest public health emergency in the 21st century. When planning solutions regarding the dissemination of information consider the issue of rumors that may be spread, and the suitable modes of communication to keep citizens informed.

As circumstances worsen a solution that needs to be considered is military responses. As the crisis intensifies, the public is bound to panic, and the government may end up losing control. People will demand for protection, especially across borders in the initial outbreak, and it is up to the SKRRT to decide if military responses are necessary, and in what way they would be employed for which purpose. Delegates must also consider whether the military will be at risk when posed to suppress the crisis.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is the role of the government during a disease outbreak?
- Can government censorship be justified during times of crisis?

- How can states collaborate to contain an interstate disease?
- Should medical practitioners have the legal right to discontinue life support for a gravely ill patient. (If it should be legal, is it moral?)
- Should governments have access to a person's bodily fluids for the advancement of scientific research?
- What is the best method to handle the non-infected during a disease outbreak?
- For health protection, should an entire country go into quarantine?
- What are the responsibilities of bordering countries to assist a country in need of aid?
- During times of crisis, are countries obligated to accept immigrants?
- How does a disease outbreak impact the idea of free movement?
- How can states collaborate to prevent the "free rider" problem?

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