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## Young MPs impress at Model European Parliament

By *Dr Panayiotis K. Mavros*

Keeping up its continuing effort to involve itself in European affairs which bring EU people together the Ministry of Education participated in the spring session of the Model European Parliament (MEP) with five young MPs. The MEP is one of the most important secondary education level institutions offering young people an insight into the process of European integration and raising their awareness of European citizenship.

The Cyprus delegation taking part in the Ljubljana MEP, which was held from March 25 to April 1, consisted of five Cypriot students, Clitos Kouzaris (Vergina Lyceum), Xaris Roumpas (Strovolos Lyceum), Maria Porfiriou (Aradippou Lyceum), Anna Iacovou (English School) and Mamas Louka (American Academy Larnaca) who were hosted by local families.

A total of 155 delegates aged between 16-18 years old from 27 EU member states and the three EU candidates, Turkey,

FYROM and Croatia participated in the Spring Session of the Model European Parliament General Assemblies in Ljubljana at Ljubljana University.

During the week, the young people convened in a number of committees deliberating issues debated at the European Parliament such as civil liberties, justice and home affairs, culture and education, economic and monetary affairs, employment and social affairs, foreign affairs, industry, research and energy, women's rights and gender equality which were discussed during the MEP General Assembly. The young MPs impressed with the efficient way they presented their speeches with concrete evidence in order to get their resolutions approved. The young Cypriot MPs made a valuable contribution to their committees at which all resolutions were approved. The president of the Slovenian Parliament warmly addressed the young MPs and stressed the great importance of the MEP which offers a unique opportunity to EU

youngsters to gain incalculably invaluable experience through the debate of world issues.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Anna van Sminia, Secretary General of the MEP said that she was proud of the young MPs who met her expectations for brighter prospects of the future of Europe which belongs to the new generation.

We congratulated our young Cypriot MPs who worked hard to bringing their task to a successful conclusion. We would also like to thank the organisers of the MEP in Slovenia who warmly embraced us with love offering us unforgettable hospitality. At last but not least, we express our thanks to our ambassador in Ljubljana for the lovely reception which we enjoyed thoroughly through a delicious meal and constructive discussions on a variety of issues.

*\* Dr Panayiotis K. Mavros BA, MA, PhD is a Chief Education Officer, Ministry of Education and Culture.*