

Interview with Head Chair of Environment Alexandros Bennink  
by Anna Bradley-Webb

Anna Bradley-Webb: When did you become interested in MUN, and how has your MUN career progressed since then?

Alexi Bennink: In ninth grade, I hear about our school's MUN club. At the time, it wasn't a very strong club yet, and it wasn't very well-known around our school. However, I decided to join it because I enjoyed debating and wanted to improve my public speaking skills. The first conference that was announced in the club was MEP, and after looking at the website, I instantly fell in love with it. After going to it for the first time, I spoke as much as I could and really broadcasted the ideas of my party and of myself. It was an experience that would mark me forever. This will be my fifteenth conference and my fourth time chairing, and I am very excited to get to know the delegates in my committee, after coming all the way since my first MEP.

ABW: What is the issue that your committee is discussing this weekend, and why is it important?

AB: The issue being discussed is ways in which we can reduce nuclear energy in Europe. After the recent crisis in Fukushima, where the nuclear power plant had a melt down, the world and Europe realized that its current way of using nuclear power is unsafe for future generations. Because of this, our delegates need to come up with a plan that effectively limits and curtails the use of such power. This is also an opportunity for them to get into green and renewable energy, a large movement in the world today.

ABW: Apart from MEP, what other MUN milestones are you looking forward to?

AB: Of course I have been very excited about MEP for a long time, as it is one of the biggest MUN milestones for me. However, another one of my responsibilities and pleasures is being the Deputy Secretary General of PAMUN, the second largest conference in Europe. I've been working since March on this, and I hope it is just as good as MEP. After that, I will also be chairing at THIMUN, the world's largest MUN conference, as well as delegating at Harvard Model Congress. It is my last year in MUN, and I hope that I will make the best of it.

ABW: What is the significance of MEP to you?

AB: As I mentioned, MEP was the first conference I went to, and it made a huge impact on my MUN career and life. In MEP, I get the feeling that everyone wants everyone else to succeed, as opposed to the competitiveness we feel in other conferences. It is this ethos that draws me to this conference and gives me the will to help other people through chairing. I want to see new delegates, just like I was three years ago, take the floor and fall in love with the beautiful world of MUN.

ABW: What interests you apart from MUN?

AB: Unlike many of the delegates here, my interests do not lie solely in the political sphere. In my school, I am currently taking the full International Baccalaureate, while taking four higher levels because of my true love for learning. In general, though, my interests lie in the sciences and mathematics, which allows me to take a different approach than many to MUN. I like to see the act of making good speeches in MUN as a mathematical formula, which can be tweaked to different people's needs, and through this

outlook, I have catapulted myself to the top. This also shows in my other extracurriculars such as math team, where I have already been to four competitions, or in band, where I see the music as a mathematical spreadsheet of beauty.