

Essential Phrases

Delegates

Beginning

I would like to begin by...

To begin with...

At the outset...

I would like to make a few remarks concerning...

Introducing a new point

I would like to comment on the point of...

I would now like to draw your attention to...

I would now like to turn briefly to the problem/question of...

The next issue I would like to focus on is...

Turning to...

I would like to mention briefly that...

Ordering

First of all, we must bear in mind...

There are a few points which should/must be borne in mind.

Firstly, ... Secondly, ... Thirdly, ...

First, ...Second, ..., Third, ...

In addition to that...

Additionally...

I might add that...

I'd like to add something here, if I may?

I'd just like to point out that...

Before we go any further, may I point out that...

If I could just say a word about...?

Furthermore...

Moreover...

As well as..., there is also...

Not only..., but also...

Giving an example

Let me give an example...

To give/name an example...

A case in point is...

To illustrate this point, let us...

Balancing

On the one hand..., but on the other hand...

Although..., we mustn't forget...

Whereas..., we have to remember...

Despite/In spite of..., I still think/believe...

Despite the fact that..., I...

Generalising

On the whole...

Generally speaking...

By and large...

All in all

Stating preferences

I'd rather..., than...

I (would) prefer to...

I tend to favour...as opposed to...

...has an advantage over... in that...

The main/principal advantage of... is that...

Agreeing

I (completely) agree.

I agree entirely with your point of view.

I'm of exactly the same opinion.

I'm in total agreement.

I think we are in agreement on that.

I'm fully in favour of...

This proposal has my full support.

I entirely approve of...

I think I can/could accept your position on that.

I see no objection to that.

Partial agreement

I would tend to agree with you on that, but seen from another angle...

I agree in principle/on the whole, but it could/should/must be said that...

By and large I accept your views, but if we look at it in another light...

Although I agree with most of what you have said,...

I agree to a certain extent/up to a point, but...

You have a point there, but...I see/take your point, honourable delegate, but have you considered...?

Disagreement

I'm afraid,/With all due respect, I completely/totally disagree with you.

Frankly,/To be quite frank,/ To put it bluntly,/ With respect, I don't agree at all.

I disagree entirely.

What you are saying is just not feasible.

Under no circumstances could I agree to that.

I can't help feeling that...

I'm not totally convinced by your argument.

Proposing

I (strongly) recommend/propose/suggest that...

My proposal/suggestion is/would be that...

I advise you (most strongly) to...

In my opinion/view, the only viable solution is...

I just wonder if we shouldn't think about...

Actually, to my mind/ in my opinion...

Misunderstandings

I'm afraid there seems to have been a slight misunderstanding. Perhaps I should make that clearer by saying...

Perhaps I haven't made myself clear. Basically, what I'm trying to say is...

With all due respect, that is not what I said/ that isn't quite what I meant.

Asking for more information

Could you/the honourable delegate from... (please) be a little more specific/precise?

I'm sorry, but could you/the honourable delegate from... (please) explain in a little more detail?

Could you give us some details about...?

Would you care to elaborate/expand on that?

I'm afraid I'm not quite clear what you mean by that.

I'm (terribly) sorry, I didn't quite follow what you were saying about...

Would I be correct in saying that...?

Correct me if I'm wrong, but...

If I understood the honourable delegate form... correctly, he/she was saying that...

Am I correct in assuming that...?

I'm sorry, but when you say..., do you mean that...?

So, basically, what the honourable delegate was saying is...

Making time

That's a highly/very interesting/complex question/topic and...

I'm afraid I'm not in a position to comment on that just yet, but we were actually talking about...

I think we can leave the problem of...aside for a moment, the real issue/problem is...

I don't think we have enough time to consider all aspects of this broad/complex problem.

Summarising

In short...

To sum up there seems to be...

If I could just sum up the discussion...

To summarise, I think we are in agreement on...

Briefly, the main points (that have been made) are...

Concluding

Let me conclude by saying...

I'd like to conclude by saying/stating that...

Allow me to conclude by highlighting (the fact) that...

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that...

I would now like to conclude my comments by reassuring you that I/we are fully aware of the fact that...

Committee Presidents

Dear delegates, welcome to the meetings/sessions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs/Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs/etc.!

I have the pleasure/received the honour of being you Committee President for this week/session/etc.

May I just briefly introduce myself:...

I would like to begin by...

Before we start, I would like to explain a few points on/make a few remarks on/mention a few things concerning...

First of all, we must bear in mind/take into consideration that...

We therefore have to be careful about...

Country/Region, you may have the word.

Country/Region, could you please rephrase/elaborate your point?

Country/Region, would you mind to provide us with more details?

Would anyone like to add anything?

Would anyone like to comment on that (specific) point?

Would anyone like to introduce a new topic?

Does anyone disagree?

Briefly, the main points are...

To summarise, the main/most important/essential points were...

To sum up then, there seems to be...

At this stage I feel I should summarise the matter as it stands...

If I may just go over the main points raised so far?

Perhaps we should take a formal vote on this.

Can I ask you for a show of hands (on this)?

Let's put it to the vote.

Could we take a vote on this idea/proposal/suggestion/etc.?

Could we move to a vote on this?

May I just interrupt you for a moment?

Sorry to interrupt, but...

If I may just interrupt you for a moment, I'd like to...

I'm terribly sorry for interrupting you at this point, but...

I don't want to interrupt, but...

I'm afraid, this is off topic.

With all due respect, dear delegates, this is off topic.

Unfortunately, this is off topic, because/but...

There are other committees dealing with this problem at the moment.

To get back to the essential problem/question/point/core of our topic, we must...

Could everyone please calm down for a second, we will treat each point/concern/suggestion/etc. individually.

I would propose a short break of 5/10/etc. minutes (to get some fresh air/calm down a bit/etc.)

I'm afraid we don't have much time left, this is why...

Well, I think that covers everything.

That concludes our business for today.

That's all/ it for today, I think. Thank you (very much).

Presidents

I officially declare this 1st/2nd/etc. session of the Model European Parliament in ... open.

Distinguished guests, honourable delegates and Committee Presidents, dear participants of the Model European Parliament, welcome to the plenary sessions of this year's Model European Parliament session in...

Before we start, I would like to mention a few points/ mention briefly/explain a few points/make a few remarks concerning...

May I ask the Committee on Foreign Affairs/Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs/etc. to come forward and take their seats?

We now move on/proceed to the Opening speech/amendments/Speech against this resolution/Speech in favour of the resolution.

Whom may I ask to suggest an amendment?

Whom may I ask to present his amendment?

Honourable delegate from..., come/step forward, please.

May I ask the honourable delegate from... to come forward and deliver his/her speech?

Country/Region, you may have the word.

We now move on to the voting procedure.

Would the Heads of Delegation please count their votes?

May I ask the Committee on Foreign Affairs/Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs/etc. to take their seats in the assembly?

The 1st/ 2nd/etc. session of the Model European Parliament in... is now officially closed.