

## Thursday, 16th of November, 2017- 3tta trip to Brussels and the European Parliament

It was 6.45 P.M when we had to be at school, because today a trip to Brussels was planned. We were in a double dekker bus, which was very nice because then you could sit with all your friends. The bus left at 7 o'clock. After we had drive 1.5 hours, we arrived in Brussels. There we had to split up in two groups. The first group went inside the European Parliament. The second group had to do some interviews in the park.

Kiki and I were put in group two. So together with all the other students and teachers we went to the park. The park was very beautiful and colourful because of autumn. We had to form groups of three and we got a paper. On the paper we had to write down to answers to our questions. The questions that we had to ask were about the Daylight Savings Time, and if people thought it was a good idea or not. We had to interview five different people about this subject. There were enough people walking in the park, but not all the people wanted to answer the questions and there were around 10 groups walking around to ask questions at the same time. So it was quite hard. We only had 40 minutes to finish this assignment, but luckily at the very last moment we were able to interview the last person. Then we walked to the European Parliament.

When we arrived at the European Parliament we had to walk to a control gate. The people who worked there checked if we didn't had dangerous things with us. After that we walked to a room. A woman that worked at the E.P. started talking about the parliament. For around an hour she told us things as: who the candidates are for the EU, why the EU is established, how many money they earn and spent etc. In my opinion this part was a bit boring because most of the things she told us we already



knew from the assignment we made. When she was finished with talking we had to go to the Hemicycle. This is a big hall where all the member of the European Parliament have discussions and take decisions. We had to listen again, but this time only for around 10 minutes. We were allowed to take some pictures and then we walked to the lunch place.

We had half an hour to have lunch. We were still separated

from the other group because they were still busy with their own activities. When we finished lunch we saw the other group, but we couldn't talk a lot because we had to go to our next activity. Our next activity was the European Parliament Museum. Luckily this was also in the same building so we didn't have to walk a lot. In front of the museum we were given a work sheet with questions. We had to find the answers

in the Museum. The Museum was quite modern so it was nicer than I had expected. We were in the Museum for 1,5 hour. Then we went to our last activity.

In this activity we had to act if we were the members of the European Parliament. This was called the role play. We all got a phone with on their the group you belonged to. I was put in the group of the stars. Your phone was your guide. It told you where to go and what to do. Sometimes you had to listen to small fragments why your group should be against or for the law that they wanted to make. At the end everybody came together and one person of every group had to convince the others to vote for or against. It looked quite real. Especially because you had to talk in microphones. This took around three hours. After this we went back to the bus.



All the children were very energetic on our way home. So the whole bus was singing and screaming. Sadly it was quite busy on the road, but our teachers had found a solution: diner at the Mac Donalds!. So we stopped around 8 o'clock at the Mac to have diner. It was very busy over there, but everyone was very hungry so than that was less important. Than we got back into the bus again. Drove our last 30 minutes and went back home again. In my opinion we learned a lot and had a lot of fun so successful day.

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