



09th June, 2008

School children become MEPs for a day

MEP Simon Busuttil along with Michael Short, a British interpreter, organised a visit this week for forty eleven-year-olds from the European School in Uccle, Brussels to the European Parliament.

The children were given the opportunity to participate in a mock Committee meeting in the European Parliament on the theme: 'What is wrong with the world and what I can do to make it better'.

The children took on the role of MEPs and exchanged views in the same format as formal EP committee meetings. The idea behind this initiative was to allow the children to obtain first hand experience of what an MEP does and how the facilities of the European Parliament work.

This debate was chaired by MEP Simon Busuttil who was accompanied by school teacher Noel Scully and Kieran Bradley, an EP official who works as Head of Unit for Legal Services in the area of Justice and Civil Liberties.

Interpretation was also made available throughout the debate, allowing the children to speak in their mother tongue as happens in real committee meetings.

The children brought up a number of issues, including war and violence, racism, humanitarian and environmental issues, mentioning both the problems and what they would do to resolve them.

After the debate the children were taken to the chamber of the European Parliament where Dr Busuttil gave a brief explanation on what a plenary session is and how MEPs vote.

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