

Study Visit to the EU Institutions, 22-26 February 2026

What's on the EU's Agenda?

and academic Task



Aims

1. To understand the challenges and top items on the EU agenda and what is proposed to address them before we go to Brussels.
2. To enhance understanding about internal EU political dynamics, for example between EU institutions, political groups, EU member states, different stakeholders, lobby groups, as well as external/ international players.
3. To find a topic which interests you for further academic research in the course assignment. This task will link the current state of affairs of the EU to academic research in the field.

What is expected of you?

Three things: (1) a small news task before we begin the study visit, (2) active participation before (in WhatsApp group) and during the meetings of the study visit, and (3) a final assignment after the study visit, connected to it.

Task (1) before the study visit: Explain a contemporary challenge of the EU

30% of the final grade.

- Choose one of the dates in the table below - write your name.

- **Find** an interesting item (in Hebrew or English) which demonstrates a contemporary challenge on the EU's agenda. The item can be a news article, an op-ed, policy paper of a think tank or EU institution, a video or a podcast - the quality of the content matters, not the format). It can be from recent days/weeks or from the past year, but still relevant to the EU agenda dealt with in Brussels.

Note that as we're coming from Israel, many of the meetings we'll have will deal with **EU - Israel relations**, and the Palestinian issue/ Gaza war/ regional issues in the Middle East (such as Iran, Syria or Lebanon nowadays). As we only briefly dealt with them, feel free to raise relevant items relating to it, so as to deepen our knowledge before the study visit.

- Use the WhatsApp group to (*) insert a link to the item (*) **elaborate** in 2-3 paragraphs on the item. Relate to the nature of the challenge to the EU: Who poses the challenge, what is the nature of the challenge, what are the solutions discussed (if discussed), etc..

- **Active conversation:** I would like to encourage you to relate to your fellow students, insert comments and raise your thoughts on the items raised. Discussions in the group are part of the active participation in the course (but be careful not to overdo it). You can write in Hebrew or English.

As I want us to cover the few weeks before we go to Brussels, please choose a date in which you'll insert this item. Write your name.

Regarding choice of topics - try not to repeat the same topic, unless something dramatic changed. I may ask you to raise specific topics according to the content of the study tour.

	Task (1): contemporary challenge		Task (3): your topic for literature review. The topic you choose here does not have to be related to the contemporary challenge you chose for the first assignment.
	Date	Name	
1.	1 Feb	Noa Shmueli	
2.	2 Feb	Yoav Geffen	
3.	3 Feb	Sara Naser Aldin	
4.	4 Feb	Ofek fima	
5.	5 Feb	Maayan Wollman	
6.	8 Feb	Dina Shantsev	
7.	9 Feb		
8.	10 Feb		
9.	11 Feb		
10.	12 Feb		

11.	15 Feb		
12.	16 Feb	Benny Hochster	
13.	17 Feb		
14.	18 Feb		

Task (2) Active Participation during the study visit

I would like to encourage you to be engaged and ask questions during our meetings in Brussels. Active participation can raise your final grade with up to 5 extra (bonus) points.

Task (3) Final Assignment - Literature Review

Write a short literature review (academic format) (see instructions no. 4-6 below). **Deadline: 15 March 2026, 10:00am. 70% of final grade.**

1. Choose a topic that was discussed during the study visit which is of interest to you, on which you'd like to do further research. Insert it to the table above. Articulate an academic question related to the topic.
2. **Choose 3 academic articles** (published in leading academic journals) which address different aspects of your question. It is very likely that academic articles do not yet address the current challenge we addressed in the study visit. This is OK. Your literature review can try to answer what the academic research offers more generally on the topic/challenge.
3. **Write a literature review using these 3 academic articles.** A good literature review would not only summarize the main arguments in the article. It would compare them. There are many angles you can compare - research focus, research conclusions, methodology, etc., criticise them, and ask new research questions based on them.

Length of the paper: 1500 words (of content, not including bibliography list).

- o Start with a short **introduction** to the topic in which you'll also present the question you'd like to do the short research (not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of a page). The aim of the **question** you'll present is to narrow the wider topic chosen into a specific angle on which your research (literature review) will focus. You will not have to answer the question you posed, but to

show how the 3 articles you chose relate to it.

- **Describe** very briefly the main aim and claim of each of the 3 articles (not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of a page, preferably not as a separate section, but as part of the examination/ analyses).
- **Examine/ analyze** how the 3 academic items address the issue in general and relate to your question in particular: What does their research add to the existing knowledge? (That's a bit tricky, as you didn't read the existing literature, but the article usually claims what lacuna it intends to fill). Do their claims/ arguments correspond to how you see the topic/ your question? How do the articles correspond to one another? For example, are they complementary (adding knowledge one on top of the other) or contradicting? You can relate, for example, whether the arguments in the articles have common assumptions or do they write from different perspectives? They can use different methodology and add different kinds of data/ knowledge on the subject (qualitative, comparative, quantitative), etc. Do you have constructive criticism of the articles? You don't have to answer all the questions here. This section intends to give you general direction and options for the literature review. See also in Moodle the file on how to do a literature review.
- **Conclude** with an observation. If you can, add what further research is needed to answer your question.
- Insert bibliography list (the list is not part of the paper's word count).

Tip: When you choose the articles, try to choose the ones published in good journals (with high impact factor). Also when reading the articles, see how they do literature review and what sort of debates they raise.

Submission date: 15 March 2026, 10:00am (preferable even beforehand) through Moodle. Submit a word document (not PDF), so I can check it with "track changes". Note limit of 1500 words.

Assessment of Paper

Your 2 tasks will be graded according to their:

- (1) Policy accuracy: demonstrating understanding of the policy field, what are the most pressing challenges the EU is facing.
- (2) Political understanding of the domestic and/or international forces involved.
- (3) Relevance and quality of academic literature to the topic, quality of the discussion and your arguments.

