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**Summary Report – EU Study Tour 2025**

My name is Matthew Bothamley and I am writing to express my gratitude and to summarize my experience of the 2025 EU Study Tour in which I received support from the Center for European Studies at Carleton University. From May 11<sup>th</sup> until May 29<sup>th</sup> I had the fantastic opportunity to study firsthand the European Union, its role as an international institution and the governing it does within. I am pleased to share how this experience augmented my academic experience and contributed towards my future career goals.

I visited over 10 EU branches of governance, various academic institutions, and multiple international alliance meetings alongside twenty-four Canadian university students from across Canada. Alongside a variety of academic thought and opinion from students, I spoke critically with policy makers, parliament members, diplomats, national representatives and other bureaucrats, in attempt to study deeply the functionality, transparency, and policy decisions of the European Union.

While being in such an environment, I was able to see the day-to-day lives of the individuals within large institutions, and I was able to gain firsthand experience of a large bureaucratic organization. I was able to recognize the policy choices and their processes while also critically analysing the intergovernmental and supranational aspects of the continent's policy areas. These features, as well as others, significantly deepened my understanding of institutional/ governmental functionality and work. This experience will be used at large in my future foreign policy aspirations as the skills I learned on this tour while engaging with high level officials will most definitely be valuable. It was clear to me that my prior academic knowledge, mixed with the skills gained in practical situations throughout this opportunity, will be something I can use moving forward in my academic and career aspirations.

The funding provided by the Center for European Studies at Carleton University provided me the opportunity to fully support my learning and largely minimized my logistical and personal concerns. Without this funding, I would have not been able to attend or be engaged fully in such a rare opportunity. I am extremely grateful for the financial support and find that the skills learned through this experience will be detrimental to my career goals in foreign policy.

Overall, I am extremely grateful for the financial support and for the opportunity provided to me by Carleton University and the Center for European Studies. This experience is one I would recommend to all students especially those interested in learning about the roles of international institutions and countries in the world. I look forward to applying the skills, knowledge and

experience gained on this tour to my future academics and whatever opportunity arises in my career.