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EU Study Tour and Internship Program

I am writing this letter to share my experience during the European Study Tour Program (EUSTIP), which was organized by the Network of European Studies. This program has overall significantly improved my academic and working career through the unique and in real time observations I was able to see on the sentiments of European policies and challenges that member states faced, and to make those observations not only as an external academic, but as a non European.

From May 11th to 29th those of us on the tour visited various cities in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. This way, the tour provided the opportunity to engage with environments connected to international relations, justice, banking systems and institutions, as well as other government organizations and official offices such as EURATOM (European atomic energy community).

The program furthermore gave me the unique experience of networking and connecting with students from all over Canada, as well as with those working professionally in Europe, in turn, this helped me gain more insight into European government systems and institutional affairs abroad, and apply those studies to my academic engagements and conversations.

One of the most interesting aspects I found from a Canadian standpoint, was the variation of priorities on the relationship between Canada and the EU, in addition to certain academic topics such as the “liberal world order” and what that really meant and looked like through various other academic lenses compared to what I have learned at Carleton.

From visiting universities across Germany and Luxembourg, it was clear that energy security, the war in Ukraine and internal issues in procedures and processes (such as unanimity blocking) held the most concern for the EU. Whereas in Canada's case, from visiting the Canadian Mission of the EU, there seemed to be an overall much higher and streamlined focus on agreements of both collaboration related to SMEs (small medium enterprises) integration and promotion, and the conversations about energy reallocation being streamlined from Canada to the EU; such as Canadian LNG. It became very interesting to see the two different expressions of focus, despite there still being active agreements and efforts working in place to the ongoing contribution of Canada-EU trade and security relations.

In conclusion, the European Study Tour Program program not only deepened my insights, knowledge and application of work regarding European institutions, governing and financial systems, but it also provided the chance to participate in the Internship program. After the completion of the tour in May, I was able to intern for the European Commission with the Directorate General of International Partnerships (DG INTPA), this experience only further

solidified my observations and insights whilst in the European work environment, specifically one that drives European policies, protocols and methods of implementing change and decision making.