

## **SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLINISATION COMMITTEE**

### **Issue: The issue of internet censorship by national governments**

I represented Argentina in the Political Committee in the DSA MUN 2017. One of the agenda items that was debated was the issue of internet censorship. Nowadays, in the globalized society where everything happens faster than ever before and telecommunications are cheaper and therefore affordable by almost everyone, the Internet is now considered to be a sacred commodity. Exchanging information is what it all comes down to and an internet connection provides awareness of what is happening on the other side of the world. Besides with every new invention of the human race come rules and regulations that need to be constructed and limits need to be drawn. Due to the fact that there was a set of rules that need to be respected, internet censorship became an issue not only for the international community but for every individual state as well. Censorship in its original form has been a point of controversy for some time now and this phenomenon has been expanded to the web. Thus, it seems to be a difficult problem to be solved, as there are many different opinions on the issue. During the debate proponents of internet censorship argued that this tactic is much needed for the protection of the citizens. Therefore, their proposed solution was forming the new legislation because that would regulate the means and also the depth in which material online is being censored. A set of laws on the matter would define what exactly should be censored and what not. In that way, it would be made much more difficult for any government not to adopt such legislation and at the same time the implementation would be more efficient as the public would be aware of what is, and what is not being censored. On the other hand, the countries, including Argentina, that disagree with state-based censorship supported the idea that the total eradication of censorship is the only way of dealing with the issue. Our main argument was that nobody should be excluded from information and culture with the main source of the internet and nobody has the right to remove access to this material. After a long time of debating and fruitful discussions, we concluded that a possible solution would, however, be a compromise between the two. It is undoubtable that this tactic as long as it is controlled by the authorities can be very beneficial for the public. In other words, creating a legal framework that will prevent people from viewing offensive and disturbing material, which respects people's rights and allows them to have access to the majority of the information online.

As you realise, that was my favourite issue and I strongly urge all my classmates and younger students to go for MUN! It is a great experience!! Looking forward to Athens MUN!

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