Honourable delegates,

Welcome to the committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. I very much look forward to meeting you all in Poland and hearing your ideas, discussions and contributions to the MEP BSR conference in Iława this spring. My name is Ella Riise MacLeod and I am currently in my last year of upper secondary school, finishing the International Baccalaureate programme in Elverum, Norway. I have a strong interest in international politics and MEP has therefore been a great arena for me to meet and interact with talented and engaged youth from different cultures, backgrounds and with different perspectives. I hope you, first time or not, also will have a great experience with the MEP.

In our committee, we will be addressing the following issue:

*Considering the recent separatist movements, should the political map closely match the ethnic one, or do the movements just reflect the local political interests and/or influence of superpowers? What means can united Europe use to stop the member countries from falling apart? Should the European Union support ethnic/nationalist movements?*

Our issue on national separatism in the modern Europe will be a quite interesting one, as you not only will have to try to find a solution to the problem we are facing, but also decide how the EU should address the challenges of separatist movements that might change the ethnic and/or political map of Europe. I believe you have been assigned an engaging and challenging issue, as it is really hard to find a solution of how to deal with separatist movements that will satisfy all countries and citizens of the EU. I have attached two links that provide a good, but very general view on the issue of our committee. I urge you all to do thorough research so that you gain several perspectives and a broad view on our issue. The most important thing MEP has taught me for future sessions is how important team-work is, and how much it matters that all delegates feel comfortable enough to come with contributions. Remember that taking on this challenge will not only benefit cooperation and your performance in the General Assembly, but also help you grow as a student, delegate, and committee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: ellamac@live.no

Best of luck, and see you all in Poland!

Ella Riise MacLeod

Committee President of LIBE

Links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2017/oct/27/beyond-catalonia-pro-independence-movements-in-europe-map> (recent article published in November 2017)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/nov/22/europe-separatist-movements> (This article can provide a good understanding of our issue, but bear in mind important and recent events, such as Brexit, that have influenced our issue since the time when this article was published in 2012)