



# MUN DES LYCEENS

Edition 2021



**Frozen in Time  
Guidelines**

# Frozen in Time Guidelines

## FROZEN IN TIME COMMITTEE

Dear Delegates,

For this 2022 edition of the Model United Nations des Lycéens, EDHEC Nations Unies invites you to debate within the framework of a very special committee, the Crisis Committee. The concept of this committee is simple, it serves as the stage of negotiations for the various countries of the world seeking to resolve a crisis. When a crisis occurs, whether spontaneous or not, whether it is the result of a sudden event or the result of a problematic situation that has been latent for several years, if its magnitude or repercussions involve the international community, it will be addressed in a Crisis Committee.

But this year, ENU offers you a unique variant of the Crisis Committee, which makes the specificity of the MUNL, the Frozen in Time committee. This means that the subject you will be debating, unlike the other committees, was not invented by the members of ENU based on the geopolitical news of an existing committee, it was decided by History itself. The Frozen in Time committee takes you back years into a specific historical crisis, the outcome of which you will rewrite... As you can see, in Frozen in Time, we live and reinvent History. This year, EDHEC Nations Unies offers you as a topic to be debated, resulting from historical negotiations (among many others) that took place within the framework of the United Nations, years ago.

At the **dawn of the 1990s**, in a tense context against a backdrop of oil crises, corruption, tensions, conflicts and diplomatic dynamics specific to the end of the Cold War, **ENU invites you to rewrite the negotiations that led to... the First Gulf War!**

## TOPIC 1: 1990, THE FIRST GULF WAR

### Background history

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Let us go back a little further to understand the **context** of the **negotiations** leading up to the first Gulf War. In 1988, Iraq, then an ally of the United States, emerged highly indebted from its almost 8-year war against Iran. However, from an economic point of view, most of this debt is held by Kuwait. Iraq then began to put pressure on Kuwait for a total cancellation of its debt. In addition, as former British colonies, and since the United Kingdom drew the borders of Iraq and Kuwait in 1922, Iraq has consistently claimed Kuwait territory as an integral part of the "Iraqi nation," for economic, ethnic and historical reasons.

**Tensions** between Iraq and Kuwait gradually increased and reached their peak in 1990 amid an oil dispute. Iraq and Kuwait were (and still are) members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which at the time had set the price of oil at 18 dollars a barrel. But since Kuwait produced more oil than demanded, the price of a barrel dropped to 10 dollars. That represented an additional shortfall for Iraq, which was then struggling even more to repay its debt.

In addition, Iraq accused Kuwait of deliberately worsening the situation by drilling oil on its side of the border and restricting its access to the Persian Gulf and thus to the sea. Iraq then demanded that Kuwait completely cancel its debt, citing legitimate financial compensation given what it considered to be economic abuses on the part of Kuwait, and the threat of armed reprisals in case of disagreement. After an unsuccessful mediation attempt on 30 July 1990, the Iraqi army invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990, and forced its sovereign to flee abroad in a few hours.

**The reaction of the international community was immediate.** The UN immediately met and voted on a resolution condemning the invasion and presenting recommendations and demands. This resolution 660, adopted on August 2, 1990, was the first of a long list of resolutions (which are given to you in the bibliography) adopted by the UN in order to try to provide a peaceful and diplomatic solution to this conflict, which Iraq has not satisfied.

That brings us to this day: **November 29, 1990.** This was the day when the conflict took a different turn and an international military dimension. On this day, the UN met and finally passed a landmark resolution legitimizing the use of force (for the first time in 40 years) against Iraq, and the rest is History...

But as you have understood, **this MUN rewrites History, this MUN takes place before the adoption of this resolution.** The decision to legitimize international military action under the aegis of the United

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Nations has not yet been taken or ratified. For now, it is just one solution among others, just one idea among others. **It is up to you to try to prove that history was right... or wrong...**

## The issue at stake

### The condition of Western hostages

One of the first issues at stake is **the condition of foreigners who happened to be in Iraq at the time**. One week after the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq closed its borders, blocking nearly 10,000 foreigners in the country. The Iraqi government announced that Western nationals of "hostile countries" were "invited" to remain in Iraq, by "the Iraqi government and its people" and would be "hosted" on strategic sites. In fact, they have become "human shields". Other foreigners, nationals of Arab and Asian countries were free to leave the country but had to abandon all their possessions.

The Iraqi government then ordered foreign embassies in Kuwait to close their doors before 24 August. Most countries have complied, but some have organized themselves to resist and survive surrounded by Iraqi special forces, so they are factually taken hostage. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein even appeared on Iraqi television surrounded by British hostages, which outraged the international public opinion. The government did, however, release the women and children hostages. But a little less than a month later, Iraqi soldiers ransacked the residence of the French embassy in Kuwait, taking four more hostages and ending France's involvement in the conflict.

### The embargo and operation Desert Shield

It must be understood that the **international community has not remained inactive** when it comes to taking measures since August 2. As of August 6, the United States launched Operation «Desert Shield» which aims to protect the Saudi neighbor (as threatened as Kuwait) and ally of the United States from an Iraqi invasion thanks to heavy military means, and which will be gradually supported by its major allies.

On the same day, the Security Council adopted a resolution organizing a military, commercial and financial boycott of Iraq. Three weeks later, it passed a new resolution authorizing the use of force to enforce this

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embargo, while more and more countries are positioning themselves militarily around Iraq through air, land and sea forces.

## The situation of the Kuwaiti, Iraqi and other civilian people

Since the very beginning of the conflict, the public and the international community have been particularly **concerned about the condition of civilians**. The Iraqi people were already very weakened by the economic crisis and by the authoritarian political regime. But after the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August, Iraq solemnly proclaimed its annexation as "the nineteenth Iraqi province," and President Saddam Hussein appointed as governor one of his close supporters of the Baath Party, known for its brutality, in order to kill all remaining hotbeds of resistance. Moreover, as Iraq has closed its borders, and the Western powers have declared an embargo, the supply from outside is even more complicated.

## Key Questions

You now know what happened, you know why you are here, what you are going to debate and what is at stake. You have all the information necessary. The question you must now ask yourself, the answer of which will depend entirely on your debates and alliances is:

**Is the military solution inevitable?**

## Bibliography

UN Resolution 660

UN Resolution 661

UN Resolution 662

UN Resolution 664

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[UN Resolution 666](#)

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[Gulf War Wikipedia](#)

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