

## The President

Umberto Vattani  
Venice International University  
Isola di San Servolo  
30133 Venezia (VE)  
ITALIA

D 305785 11.04.2019

Dear Mr Vattani,

Thank you for your online application of 22 March 2019 seeking the patronage of the European Parliament for the third edition of the Venice Universities' Model European Union, which is to be held in Venice from 10 to 12 May 2019.

The European Parliament very much appreciates your simulation of the EU's decision-making process, which will see young participants taking on the roles of MEPs and Ministers of the Council and working on proposals made by the European Commission. Giving young EU citizens the opportunity to take part in such an open and interactive educational event and step into the shoes of an EU decision-maker or a journalist from the press corps reporting on the legislative steps of the decision-making process is an excellent way to reinforce their political and civic education.

In today's political context, it is more important than ever to emphasise the crucial role that the European Parliament plays in the democratic life of the European Union.

By participating in the simulation, students will have the opportunity to fine-tune their negotiation and diplomatic skills and familiarise themselves with the complex and sensitive steps involved in EU lawmaking.

I firmly believe that initiatives such as yours help to increase our citizens' awareness and understanding of the functioning of the EU and engender a greater sense of belonging and unity. As the European elections draw closer, it is also essential to impress upon young people that voting is one way of shaping the future and emphasise the importance of open debate, honest dialogue, communication and mutual respect, all of which are core values of the EU.

Let me also pay tribute to you for enlisting the support of local EU points of contact such as the Europe Direct Information Centre of the City of Venice and the European Parliament Research Service, our institution's think-tank.

Given the clear European dimension of your initiative, it is with great pleasure that I grant your event the European Parliament's patronage.

Finally, I would invite you to refer to the European elections and their dates (23-26 May 2019) during your event, and to include the European Parliament logo specifically designed for this purpose in your communication materials<sup>1</sup>.

May I take this opportunity to wish you every success with what should be an excellent event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Tajani', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Antonio Tajani**

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<sup>1</sup> Events receiving patronage should highlight this fact in any communications and publicity, using the wording 'under the patronage of the European Parliament' and the European Parliament's Elections logo. The terms of use, Parliament's Graphics Guide and Parliament's logo are available from the Visual Identity Service, Directorate-General for Communication ([visualidentity@ep.europa.eu](mailto:visualidentity@ep.europa.eu)) or from the European Parliament's Download Centre at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/downloadcentre/en/european-elections>. Please note that communications concerning the event, including web content, should clearly distinguish the Parliament's role as an institutional partner providing moral support from any providers of financial support. For more information, see [www.europarl.europa.eu/patronage](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/patronage).