

Opening Ceremony of ILYMUN 2024

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Yesterday was the first day of the 11th ILYMUN conference and as such, a very intensive day full of challenges and adaptation. As for any other MUN conference, the tradition is that an opening ceremony is held before the delegates join their committees and start debating. Due to the fact we weren't able to arrange the conference at the Hotel de Région, this year's opening ceremony took place in the CSI gymnasium. The opening ceremony is a unique opportunity for Secretary Generals to share their MUN experiences in the form of speeches, encouraging and inspiring the delegates to take action, have fun and do their best during the upcoming debates. Special guests are invited to speak, sharing their professional experience and criticality with the audience. The opening ceremony is also important to remind participants of the aims and meaningfulness of ILYMUN and to thank the teachers and directors without which this event would not be possible. This is especially important this year, after the challenges that were overcome thanks to the SGs determination and ISL and CSI directors will to make ILYMUN the exceptional event it should be.

Secretary General Leïla McKenna from CSI introduced the ceremony and the guest speakers, including Mrs. Geib director of CSI and Mr. Johnson, director of ISL. Mr. Herd, the CSI English section director, delivered a speech on the importance of individual responsibilities and its interconnections with the principles of rights and freedom. A powerful intervention was then made by Mr. Jones, ex-FBI agent currently working for Interpol, who questioned the principle of absolute rights and privacy in a world greatly influenced by technology and social media, before answering a couple of questions from the audience. The Secretary Generals Alice Ollier from ISL and Sarah Balaÿ from CSI expressed their gratefulness to the directors that the conference could take place and their emotion to see this event unfolding before their eyes after a year of hard work and dedication, emphasising the importance of such events and the capacities of younger generations to have an impact in today's society. These awe-inspiring interventions were preceded and followed by the beautiful voices of the ISI Choir and the CSI Confluence Choir, who offered magnificent interpretations to an enthusiastic audience. At the end of the ceremony delegates were invited to leave the room per committees and to join their debating rooms to start ice-breakers prepared by their chairs.

For the 11th time, the ILYMUN Opening Ceremony successfully introduced the year's topics and left the participants full of inspiration and enthusiasm for the upcoming days.