

Dear Duke of Arenberg, Dear Coimbra Group,

I am honored by this recognition, and very excited to address the General Assembly today.

I want to thank the Coimbra Group and the Arenberg Foundation for choosing my contribution, and for the important work that you do promoting European cooperation through recognizing the importance of the ERASMUS programme.

Thanks also to my home university, the University of Bergen, the Faculty of Law and my supervisor for my thesis. And a big thank you goes to the University of Salamanca and the Faculty of Law.

I wrote my thesis on the legal framework to extradite criminal offenders across borders within the European Union, and how Norway is a part of this cooperation, despite the fact that we are not an EU member state. Throughout the whole process of writing my thesis, I used my notes and experiences from Salamanca as background and inspiration, and it was a very valuable perspective.

At first it was challenging to adapt to - and understand - the Spanish legal system as well as the language, but that only made it more rewarding when I finally felt like I mastered it.

I've always been interested in politics and international affairs. I find EU law interesting, and I have a strong commitment to human rights.

In Salamanca I took courses in Criminal Law, Human Rights, Immigration Law, Military Law, Criminal Politics and Psychology in Law. But the most interesting course that I took - which also inspired my Master's Thesis - was International Legal Procedural Cooperation. Here we studied the legal framework of the European Arrest Warrant, and how EU countries cooperate to detain and extradite criminal offenders.

I had excellent professors - who explained with enthusiasm. They had a way of making the students see the bigger picture, and used the European Arrest Warrant as an illustration of how important mutual trust is in order for the European cooperation to work - in all fields.

I would highly recommend students to take a semester abroad, both for the academic outcome of it, but also to give yourself a network outside your home country, and get to experience how it is to live in a different culture.

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity that I had to be an ERASMUS student, and this experience gave me valuable insight and understanding of European Legal Cooperation that will stay with me throughout my career.

Thank you!