Summer Days in Belgium

2017. This was the year of my first time in Belgium, studying sustainable development at the University of Antwerp. It was the first time I was exposed to learning in an international setting, meeting people from different parts of the world, and learning about topics that challenged and widened my views and opinions.

2022. It's a surreal experience to be back in Belgium, this time through the Queen Mary University of London's Expeditions Fund. It has also been a year of learning and deepening experiences in such a multicultural environment.

The days I spent in Belgium felt like the past, present, and future coming together. I visited the European Parliament, this time with a much deeper appreciation for its work and the parts we can play, even as individuals, in advancing its goals and ambitions. I was also able to share conversations with friends of mentors on their work, projects, and experiences working for different projects in energy and climate change.

My time in Antwerp, however, felt like stepping into the past. I walked familiar streets and visited the old university where I could sit with former professors and dear friends. It was a reunion that was five years in the making. It was nice to see how much we have grown and how much we have stayed the same. It was also good to recognise that so many of us were still in careers that were aimed to help both people and the environment and were bursting with ideas on how to collaborate on future projects together.

I am so thankful for this Expeditions Fund that enabled me to revisit old stomping grounds and make new memories that made this Masters' year even more special.