

**Benedikt N. Bente**

Benedikt N. Bente . Kemnatenstraße 55a . 80639 Munich . Germany

LYMEC  
Individual Member Section

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### **Application as an LYMEC IMS Delegate**

Dear fellow liberals, LYMEC individual members, friends,

for those of you who do not know me, please allow me to introduce myself:

My name is Benedikt Bente, I am 27 years old and live in Munich Germany, the country where I also originate from. I am currently working on my Master's thesis in the field of Political Theory at the University of Frankfurt, Germany and am employed as a marketing specialist at Bird & Bird LLP. Regarding my political experience, I have been active for the Federal Association of Liberal Students in Germany (LHG) since the beginning of my studies in 2008, and also served as a board member for three years (vice president as well as international officer). Since 2013 I have been active within LYMEC, and my main focus has always been on the areas of foreign policy, health and, above all, education. Therefore, in 2014 I founded the Young Initiative for Education and Science Policies (JIBW) together with some former LHG board members, which we are now developing into an independent think tank in Germany.

Last year, I was elected as a LYMEC IMS delegate for the first time, and it has been a wonderful experience. I represented the individual members at both congresses in Rotterdam and Helsinki, and together with my fellow delegates as well as the support from the LYMEC board, above all from Jelena Jesajana, we were able to make some great progress in the section. As many of you have noticed, our internal Facebook group has become a lot more active over the last year, which was one of our main goals when we got elected: to involve each and every one of you in the process. That especially came into being at the Google Hangouts before the congresses, where we discussed the resolutions and voted on amendments. It was a great pleasure for me to see so many individual members involved and interested in the inner workings of the section and LYMEC as a whole. When it came to a heated discussion about the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union (CAP) at the Helsinki congress, we were able to gather twelve individual members present and discuss the topic on the spot, which, in my opinion, shows best what the IMS is: a group of individuals with different opinions, whose voice and vote we as the delegates are meant to carry out. Not only do we work with you, we work for you, and not just on our own.

Besides the work on the policy book, which is of course the main aspect of the delegates' mandates, we were able to accomplish a number of other things. Unfortunately, I could not be present at the IMS event in Riga, but everyone told me it was a great success and the board is planning on doing it again this year, which I welcome very much. Joao Duarte, my fellow delegate, and I also did a fringe meeting at the Rotterdam congress on the topic of vaccinations and its political implications, which was a great success. The IMS has become closer, more active and above all a place where people can freely discuss political topics of any kind and always speak their mind, for which there is never enough time at congresses themselves. That is a fact I am very proud of.

I would very much enjoy to be one of your delegates again next year, to represent you at the upcoming LYMEC congresses and events and to continue the good work with all of you. If I had to set certain goals for 2016 I would name three things: to have even more people participate in the pre-congress discussions, to grow the IMS as a whole and to rally for it more effectively, and to work closer not only with the board, but also with the ALDE party and especially their individual member section. At many events over the years, for example a joint IMS event in Brussels in 2014 and the ALDE party congresses in Lisbon and Budapest, I have seen that the voice of young people needs to be heard, that the officials value our opinion, and that no group among young liberals has more variety – and hence, more potential – than LYMEC's individual members.

To conclude, I was honoured to be your delegate in 2015 and I am asking you to vote for me again in 2016. Regarding my "campaign", I will not design a Facebook page especially for this occasion, but you can contact me on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/benedikt.bente>), via email ([benedikt.bente@gmail.com](mailto:benedikt.bente@gmail.com)) and in the IMS Facebook group at any time, or follow me on Twitter (@bennibente). I am looking forward to talking to you soon and seeing many of you at the upcoming congress in Vienna.

All the best and liberal greetings,

Benedikt Bente