

MINUTES
LYMEC Spring Congress
22nd - 24th March 2024
Brussels, Belgium and Online



Day 1 - Friday, 22nd March 2024

Congress starts at 16 h 30 pm CET (Brussels time).

Participants are attending in-person in Brussels but also online.

1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) opens the Congress with his speech from the Congress room in Brussels, Belgium, at the OpenVLD Headquarters.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Dear friends, welcome everyone to our 2024 LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress. Before we start, I want to remind you that it has been 8 years since a tragic terrorist attack happened here in Brussels. Thank you for paying one minute of silence.

Now, this is a very special Congress because not only is it one of our most important statutory events and an internal Electoral Congress, but it also directly precedes the European elections in June. How can it be that if the elections were held today, we would lose ground? That's why I bring this to your attention now. Moreover, I can truly say I have never been so proud of our team. This is particularly true for the LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Party Congress. You should have heard the feedback I received - the team did great! We have challenges ahead, no doubt, but we must move forward and campaign. We will go home and campaign to convince voters about our policies. This is the last time I will be here to open the Congress floor. It has been an honour, privilege and most of all a cherished journey. I hereby declare that the LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress is open. Thank you everyone and best of luck to the future leadership!

2. Guest speeches

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I give the floor to **Hadja Lahbib (Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs)**.

Hadja Lahbib (Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs): Thank you very much. Dear friends, in 2 months, millions of European citizens are about to elect a new European Parliament and decide the fate of Europe. The decisions we make in June will not just shape our future lives, but also the legacy that we are building. We must pledge to turn policies such as those on climate, innovation and sustainability into actions. Inclusion means bringing down barriers. Our European Presidency did not focus on building a Europe for the elite, but one that adequately represents the 450 million people living in our glorious Union. This message of inclusion should motivate us going forward and into the campaign. Today, however, our democracies face various stress tests. Disillusionment is increasing. The extremes are gaining ground and are intent on eroding the social fabric of our Union. But there is the uplifting

part: you. You, the youth, have the power to reinvigorate and strengthen democracy. So how do we move forward? By working together and tirelessly pushing a message of diversity, unity and hope. We are at a crucial juncture of European history and I hope that you, as young people, will be committed to securing peace, security and freedom. Thank you very much.

Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE Party Co-President): I am a great friend of LYMEC and LYMEC is a great friend to me. I want to take this opportunity to thank LYMEC and **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** for all the work you have done. I want to say two simple messages today. The first is unity. Unity is our strength, it is the way forward and it is the way of facing common challenges together. My ask to you is to keep this unity within LYMEC and your youth organisations. Liberalism encompasses a broad group - let us be kind to one another. My second message is one of perseverance. I have been through thick and thin in my parliamentary career. I have seen us at our best and our worst. And that's why I say to you that it is important to lead as opposed to following the polls. Leading on issues like the circular economy, foreign policy, enlargement and structural reform is the way forward. We must also and especially defend human rights. On this, we have to stick to conditionality. And let me finish my intervention with Ukraine. Ukraine is our battle. If we don't support Ukraine, they will fail and we will fail. Support is not an option. Unity is not an option. These are necessities.

Alva Finn (European Liberal Forum Executive Director): This is actually my first time attending a LYMEC Congress - I love the energy already. We say at the European Liberal Forum - where our motto is "own the future" - that through uniting young people and instilling them with skills around lobbying and political advocacy, we ensure the path towards a brighter future. That's what we are going to push for together in the coming years!

Sean O'Curneen (Renew Europe Group at the Committee of the Regions Secretary General): It's a real pleasure to be here at the Congress of one of our key partners. We are a family, but you are also our investment. An investment in the future of Europe, the Union's values and you as individuals. Our Union does not become a reality if we do not take into account the partnership between the community at the municipal level and the decisions taken in Brussels. So how can you become involved in this partnership? Well, we run many academies and projects with LYMEC. Get involved, you won't regret it.

Valérie Hayer (Renew Europe Group President) - ONLINE VIDEO-MESSAGE: LYMEC is an essential part of Renew Europe and the ALDE Party. I won't forget the role that LYMEC played in drafting the Renew4Youth Manifesto. I want to thank you for that. We have to protect our values, our democracy, and defend Ukraine, which is fighting both for its own and European security, more generally. Thank you for your attention, I wish you all a great Congress.

Hilde Vautmans (Renew Europe Group MEP Open VLD) - ONLINE VIDEO-MESSAGE: Dear European Liberal Youth, let me start by saying that we need a new and reformed EU, with a strong focus on defence. One where the unanimity rule is history. To achieve this, we need you to raise your voice and go to vote. Convince people to go to vote. Spread the message so that we can assure a brighter future today.

3. Roll call and voting rights

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to perform the first roll call.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) states that if delegates have any technical problems they should contact **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**. Should they encounter any non-technical issue, they can also reach out to our ombudspersons for this Congress: **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)**.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) reminds all the participants to check the communications received about the Congress technicalities, registrations and hotel check-in/check-out. He reminds participants that only the head of delegation has voting rights for each Full Member Organisation. Associate Member Organisations have no votes according to the LYMEC Statutes. He reminds delegates that everything is happening through Openslides.

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place. No organisation will get a second chance if they miss the calling of their name, they will have to wait until the next roll call. The goal is to be more efficient to allow more time for discussions.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): I have one point for all the associate members, observers and guests: please sit where you find your nametags. It will make it easier for the membership points tomorrow when you will have to leave the Congress room to enter the closed session. Thank you in advance!

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 1 - Friday Opening
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD		5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		8	8
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka		3	3
Bulgaria	YMRF		10	10
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		6	6
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth		3	3
Croatia	HNS youth - Croatian Peoples Party - HNS		3	3
Croatia	Croatian Social and Liberal party - HSLS		3	0
Cyprus	NEODEPA		3	
Czechia	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		5	5
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		4	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth		5	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth		6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret		6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL		3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)		5	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)		10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Hungary	TizenX		3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn		4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil		8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth		3	3
Latvia	For! Youth		3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)		6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jong Demokraten Luxembourg		3	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro		3	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie		6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL		6	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)		3	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)		3	3
Norway	Unge Venstre		4	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth		3	3
Romania	USR Tineret		5	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement		3	3
Slovakia	Mladé Progressívne Slovensko - Young Progressive		3	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi		3	
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos		3	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)		5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)		7	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland		6	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)		3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)		3	3
Ukraine	Zemolodzhka (ZM)		7	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK		6	6
IMS	Even Diot		1	1
IMS	Adam Volf		1	1
IMS	Sorcha Ni Chonghaile		1	1

TOTAL 222 219

Simple majority of those present 111 109.5

Two thirds of present 148 146

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 75

There were 219 votes present at the Congress ✓

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Croatian Social and Liberal party youth - HSLS

Nova Stranka Youth from Serbia was taken out of the Roll Call as they had not paid their membership fee before the start of the Congress.

4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

Election of Chairs

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer, Laurenz Van Ginneken, Nima Hairy and Joy Kamel** as Congress Chairs. There will be three working chairs per day: **Laurenz Van Ginneken, Nima Hairy and Joy Kamel** today, Friday 22, and **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer, Nima Hairy and Joy Kamel** tomorrow, Saturday 23 March.

The Congress accepted the Chairs.

Election of Secretaries

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)** and **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)**, together with **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** as Congress Secretaries.

The Congress accepted the Secretaries.

Election of Scrutineers

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)** and **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** as the Congress Scrutineers.

The Congress accepted the Scrutineers.

5. Adoption of the agenda

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair): I am very happy to see you all. **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** already pointed out some important things. If you want to be on the speakers' list, please use Openslides. You can address a point of order through Openslides too. Make sure you give a brief explanation to justify it. When you take the floor, please state your full name and Member Organisation for the minutes. Please note that, in compliance with European authority's guidelines, please note that this Congress is not a campaign event ahead of the European Elections and that in no shape or form will it contribute to campaign activities undertaken by LYMEC. Therefore, no electoral activities,

campaigning, nor reference to any voting preferences or candidates, among others, will take place during the actual LYMEC Spring Congress. In order to comply with these guidelines, we would like to ask you to avoid during the Congress any communication on your personal or your youth organisation's behalf that could be interpreted as campaigning. We want to make this Congress a safe space. Should you encounter any issue, you can find a QR code to an anonymous inclusion form. We also have 3 trustees at this Congress and of course as already announced the two ombudspersons are available to you.

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair): We are now going to move to the adoption of the agenda. It has been sent to you already ahead of the Congress by the relevant deadline. If no one is against, we can adopt the agenda.

No one is against. The Congress accepts the agenda as proposed.

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair) asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia. No one expressed any points or disapproval.

The minutes from the Autumn Congress 2024 in Riga are therefore adopted by the Congress without changes.

7. Urgency of resolutions (in case of urgency resolutions handed in)

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair): There are no Urgency Resolutions submitted at this Congress. We move on to the next point.

8. Snap vote on the order of resolutions

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): We are moving onto a snap vote on the order of resolutions. You have 5 votes for each delegation, and therefore 5 resolutions to select. The vote is open now until the end of the next agenda point. We will show the results of the snap vote before the Secretary General report point. The results will also be sent out to you via email later tonight, but you will also be able to check it directly on your Openslides account.

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair): As explained, the Head of Delegations will vote on the order in which the resolutions will be discussed in this Congress tomorrow. We already had the Working Groups one week ago where you could discuss the 26 submitted resolutions and their content together with the amendments, so you probably had the chance to check them.

The vote is now open for the delegates. The vote will stay open for 45 minutes only. The results will be shown at a later stage when voting will be closed after the Bureau reports point.

Results of the snap vote on the order of resolutions:

Candidates		Votes
1.	Can't Pray the Gay Away: Put an End to Conversion Therapy	(65.025 %) 132
2.	A fight against the far-right is a fight for liberalism and democracy	(51.232 %) 104
3.	Protecting liberal principles within the European liberal family	(40.887 %) 83
4.	Accelerated pathway for Ukrainian EU membership	(35.468 %) 72
5.	For true transatlantic unity and a strong partnership between the EU and U.S.	(34.483 %) 70

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| 6. | A silent Tsunami - Battling multiresistant bacteria | (26.108 %) 53 |
| | | |
| 7. | Electromobility: A sustainable journey towards transformation of transportation | (22.167 %) 45 |
| | | |
| 8. | Reduced recidivism thanks to the better standards in prisons | (22.167 %) 45 |
| | | |
| 9. | Make Russia Return All Deported Ukrainian Children! | (21.182 %) 43 |
| | | |
| 10. | Eradicate the Threat of Ostrovets Nuclear Power Plant | (19.704 %) 40 |
| | | |
| 11. | Parental leave in the European Parliament | (18.719 %) 38 |

12.	Resolution On Common EU Foreign Policy towards the Russian Federation	(18.719 %) 38
13.	Insecurity on university campuses across Europe	(15.271 %) 31
14.	Easing the tensions at the EU-Ukraine crossings	(14.286 %) 29
15.	Action now! A strengthened work against trafficking at the outer borders of the Union	(10.837 %) 22
16.	Cut farming support	(9.852 %) 20
17.	Animal welfare: an urgent issue in the EU	(9.360 %) 19
18.	Aviation Fuel Tax	(9.360 %) 19

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| 19. | State of Democracy and the Right to Free and Fair Elections in Serbia | (9.360 %) 19 |
| | | |
| 20. | Breaking Down Borders: Empowering European Educators | (8.867 %) 18 |
| | | |
| 21. | Achieving gender equality in the European labour market through better integration of highly educated women | (8.374 %) 17 |
| | | |
| 22. | For the international protection of Russian conscientious objectors and deserters | (8.374 %) 17 |
| | | |
| 23. | Secure an unobstructed and seamless accession to the EU for eligible Western Balkans countries | (6.897 %) 14 |
| | | |
| 24. | Uniting Europe: Support for the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina | (5.911 %) 12 |

25. **A Return to Geneva: Reaffirming the Principle of Medical Neutrality In and Around Europe** (4.433 %) 9

26. **Non-recognition of Russian Election Results and Imposition of Sanctions on Vladimir Putin's Trusted Representatives** (2.956 %) 6

Valid votes (100 %) 203

9. Bureau Reports and debate about the reports

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair): **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** and **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**, please take the floor. After that, we will have the other Bureau Members take the floor, and then you can ask your questions.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I know the Congress is always time-demanding and requires a great deal of effort, especially ahead of an internal election. Recently, we have been focusing a lot on our delegation to the ALDE Party Extraordinary Congress, which was a success. The ALDE Party Electoral Manifesto that was voted on during the Extraordinary Congress is very much the product of LYMEC's tireless resilience and advocacy efforts. Now, there are some administrative things we have been working on since the last time we met in Riga. For example, the delegation system for future Congresses. Overall, since Riga, it has been about events, policies, and the future of LYMEC. I am open to receiving questions at the end.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): We had a Bureau Meeting in Rome, Italy, along with the LYMEC Digital Assembly, where we also discussed a smooth transition between the current and future

Bureau. It takes a lot of preparation, and many people put quite some effort to make sure that not only we have a successful Congress, but also a smooth handover.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative/Treasurer): As you know, I returned to the Bureau during the Riga Autumn Congress. I am getting back to work with **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** on finances. We had a first meeting with the Executive Director of the European Liberal Forum, to hear about her experience on how to find corporate partnerships.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The LYMEC Delegation to the ALDE Party Congress really did an outstanding job. Other than that, we have had two advocacy meetings, we will kick off the sunset clause soon, and we have finished with the clean-up of the Policy Book.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Communications Officer): Since the last Congress, I have been working hard with the team to plan around LYMEC's pre-election campaigns: #FliptheScript promotes young elected politicians; the LYMEC4EU Manifesto Challenge involved LYMEC members and sympathisers; we also started a campaign on how to combat Disinformation. Other than that, we have been proactively responding to issues happening across Europe. We have also started planning this year's Liberal Communicators' Network - youth edition taking place in late June after the elections.

Tanzer Yuseinov (LYMEC Training & Outreach Officer): I will make my remarks short. Firstly, thank you for all you have done to bring passion to this platform. My mandate may be ending tomorrow, but it has been a humbling pleasure to work with and for you all. My second message concerns LYMEC's international partnerships. I see the President of the European Youth Forum is in the room, please give her a round of applause - they are our allies in the fight to enshrine youth rights.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Event and Project Officer): During the Digital Assembly, I was reminding you to apply for the YCA. We now have our 10 participants and a record of applications. Thank you for reminding your members to apply. The first 2 events are not only planned, but also have all the logistics and speakers secured. For the next Project and Events Officer, it will be smooth sailing. It is great to also be able to showcase the YCA Alumni network, as we did through our fringe event today. Lastly, I also want to thank everyone who was involved in the pilot program 'LYMEC Digital Hub'. I hope that we will be able to open this pilot program to all of you in the near future.

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair) opens the floor for questions from the delegates.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Thank you for your reports, we all are very happy to see the work you have done in the past months. I have 3 questions: **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative/ Treasurer)**, how do you view the recent developments of IFLRY as an organisation and their events? Is there anything LYMEC could offer to help IFLRY with? To **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** and **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC**

Vice-President): how is the relationship with the ALDE Party getting along, especially seeing some extent of less fortunate organisational skills at the Extraordinary Congress? Third and last question, to all Bureau Members: what tips would you like to give your successors?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): The ALDE Congress was initially made for fewer participants. As we have so many active members, it was opened up for more, eventually. Usually we do reach at least middle ground with ALDE. Overall, we have a good relationship with ALDE, we even share offices of course and get the yearly operating grant.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative/Treasurer): I have taken part in numerous IFLRY Bureau meetings since my election. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the challenges have significantly increased. It is especially because it is a global organisation, everyone has different perspectives. LYMEC always has open doors for IFLRY. We have always shared knowledge and best practices. In the end, the IFLRY representative role is rather about communication, linking the two organisations, and active listening. On the next question, what I would suggest to the next IFLRY representative, don't be afraid to put your foot in the LYMEC Bureau. The Bureau could make more use of the IFLRY Representative as an additional pair of hands. Don't be afraid to be proactive.

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair): When taking the floor please keep the microphone next to your chin so that the Secretariat and online participants can properly hear you.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): What I would say to the next LYMEC President is that sometimes it is hard to make decisions. We have many members with different opinions and ideas. But as a leader, it is more important to make decisions than not at all.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I am sure the next President will appreciate this advice. For the next Vice-President, I would give the advice I got right after I was elected two years ago by MEP Svenja Hahn, our former President. The Vice-President role truly is what you make out of it. There are fixed tasks as of the LYMEC Statutes, but there is so much more you can do. There are currently two candidates running for Vice-President, and I am sure that either one will do great in the role.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): My advice goes for any position. Always have LYMEC's best interests at heart. We really have to be united. As a policy officer, this is where it gets more obvious. Please do that.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Communications Officer): It is very much a learning experience, so don't be afraid to fight for your ideas. In this role, I have worked a lot with the people of LYMEC and LYMEC policies. Make sure to show them on our platforms, to give it visibility. These are the things that are the most appreciated.

Tanzer Yuseinov (LYMEC Training & Outreach Officer): My advice would be to be very active, every effort is worth it for our young liberals.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Event and Project Officer): Don't be afraid to innovate, to make things better. This is the way we are also training our members to be valuable future politicians.

Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO): I have one comment and two questions. First, I want to start by thanking you so much for all your nice work. It has been an amazing experience for me as well, with all the positive energy you have been spreading. The first question for all of you, is if you can tell me if there's any priority that your successors should have. And the second question is if there is anything you could have done better, and what you have learned from that.

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair): I pass the floor to the Bureau for short answers.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): There are many things I can think of, but I would actually not advise the next Bureau on what their future priorities should be. I am sure the next President and Bureau will be able to set them.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I fully agree. I don't think I have done everything perfectly. I would do the things I have done the same way, because back then I was convinced about my choices. I wouldn't be here without those mistakes.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative/Treasurer): What I would change is that the priorities could be slightly different for the treasurer. The next treasurer can and should be more active in checking the multi-annual partnerships, and always be on top of grants deadlines. This is something that really needs to be planned well ahead.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The priority should be the upcoming set of Elections in Europe and spotlighting the role and unique qualities of young candidates. Regarding our past mistakes, we have all done our best, using our free time to serve the organisation we know and love. It is important to balance it out with our personal and professional life as well. We learned throughout our mandate.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Communications Officer): I don't want to set any priorities. They are capable of doing that themselves. But it is important to showcase our policies, our people, our values, our beliefs. On my past mistakes, I am on the same line as **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**. I would not have learned so much without those mistakes.

Tanzer Yuseinov (LYMEC Training & Outreach Officer): The priority of the next Bureau should be to continue and build on everything that is in the process, doing things better. What I would have done differently is more training and events with our members. But unfortunately, we have limited resources.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Event and Project Officer): I also don't want to set priorities. It is important however to train our members. Training is as important as our policies. To my successor: don't be afraid of pitching new things. Yes, it might be a financial issue, but better to pitch more than too little.

David Grasveld (LHG): I want to thank you for your work. I think my member organisation (MO) sometimes has strict questions. We have had many events all over Europe. LYMEC's work on social media has been very positive and successful. Many members could attend different events. Thank you for keeping this good level. We all know how hard it is to combine the interests of 50+ MOs, and I really respect that. A quick follow up for **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**. You mentioned that you asked ALDE to increase the number of people that can join the delegation. As regards LYMEC, is it something that can be done for MOs delegations to the LYMEC Congresses as well?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I will let **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** answer this question.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): As you know, the Working Group on delegation systems was not designed to primarily discuss delegation sizes. We don't only want to know that, but also what your own common experiences are in regard to LYMEC Congresses. In every Working Group, we are reminding that there is no set date for when we will propose something specific. The outcomes collected thus far will soon be shared with all the members.

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair) thanks the Bureau and moves on to the next agenda point.

The results of the snap vote on the order of the resolutions are announced and shown to Congress (available above at point 8).

10. Secretary General report and debate about the report

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair) moves on with the agenda and asks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take the floor and tell more about his report.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Hello everyone. I am very happy to present yet another report. This was probably the shortest time we had in the past decade between the timing of two LYMEC Congresses. We had four months, which was very challenging for our team too. The fact that it was in Brussels made sure that we could rely on the amazing team that supported us from Jong VLD and the two other Belgian members. The time between Riga and Brussels was quite short. The past weeks at secretariat level were very intense and focused also on the European elections campaigns that were mentioned under the previous agenda point already. We split the different campaigns between us, we therefore all had actions to take the lead on. As you have seen, sometimes you as International Officers have a great load of information about so many calls and applications, events and opportunities. This shows the amount and quality of the actions that we have had. This is possible thanks to my colleagues

at the Secretariat, hand in hand with the Bureau as well. We have been cooperating a lot together. There is a lot that has been said in my written report, so I won't repeat myself here. We, of course, as a Secretariat, contributed to the handover for the new Bureau. We will start the process really soon, we will welcome the Bureau Members that will be very new to the job. We will have a proper induction with them for each of their functions. My next point is the IOs chat, on the WhatsApp community of LYMEC. Many of you highlighted it through the 2024 membership survey that it was a very good initiative to gain better access to the activities we organise. I was happy to hear that, we are aware of the fact that we sometimes flood you with information, newsletters and reminders. As many of you mentioned the EU elections campaign, I would really ask you and the IOs to advertise the actions we have, such as the online networking event for young candidates happening in May. Make sure your members apply, the call is already open, be the positive gate-keepers. There is also an open call to host our next Autumn Congress in November. The call is closing soon. I am very happy to see the amount of MOs that are present here, either in-person or online. It shows unity, it shows that we care about our organisation. Preserve that unity, let's work together for a better future!

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the Secretary General report.

Julius Lajtha (JUNOS): Thanks a lot for the work you and your team have done. It is truly impressive. The workload and the amount of projects is huge. My feedback is that given the size of our network, I am concerned and sad if things like the campaign training in Gummersbach don't get enough applications, you had to extend the call to fill all the positions. The number of applications we get to our events is quite low relative to the amount of members LYMEC has spread across Europe. I am really thinking about the communications strategy behind it. What would you say about that?

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I was wondering about your work-life balance. What is the situation in LYMEC? Have you seen improvement from the membership since Riga, when you asked members not to reach out to the Secretariat after working hours?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): To **Julius Lajtha (JUNOS)**, your compliments should be extended to the whole Secretariat, this is a joint effort. Regarding communication, I have spent time in my report addressing this point. This has been in the centre of our attention. We introduced new rules, such as the creation of the WhatsApp community chat to deliver more direct information and enhance engagement from the IOs side. That was the first step to make sure IOs serve as good gatekeepers. The second point is that we have already done two info-sessions during busy periods with you, our members. You can attend, ask any questions, get any kind of information. The understanding of the open calls was better received after those info-sessions, and we will continue with that. I hope we will deliver more of those in the future. Going back to the point on the Gummersbach EU elections training,

yes, we had to extend the deadline by a week, but after that we reached the number of applications we needed. I do believe a lot of our initiatives, especially ahead of the EU elections, had quite a lot of constraints that also impacted the success of these calls. We are working on it, this year is tricky for everyone. I would again stress that if you see reminders about open calls, please share them with your members. Let's have better communication between us as Secretariat and you as IOs.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Maarten Tollenaar (JD), this is indeed a very important question, this Bureau has worked a lot on this, especially thanks to **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** and **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**. They are properly ensuring that extra work is recuperated. We put in place quite a lot of processes internally, I myself can feel the difference. I hope it's also the case for my colleagues. We do many check-ups, are more organised, and make sure that extra work can always be recuperated. When it comes to you texting us after working hours, I am not sure that situation was completely solved. But I will leave the Internal Auditors to expand on that, as that is part of their recommendations for this Congress.

Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair) thanks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and moves on to the next agenda point.

11. Finances

Nima Hairy (Chair) takes over the proceedings and states that the Congress will now move on to discuss the financial points. He invites **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the state of LYMEC Finances.

a) Requests for reduced membership fees, debt reductions and payment plans (for decision)

- **Requests for reduced membership fees (for decision)**

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): states that there are two requests for reduction of membership fees for this Congress. These are from the **Estonian Centre Party Youth** and **CUB Junior - Moldova**.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) gives the floor to **Estonian Centre Party Youth** for a short report. They have requested a reduction of their full membership fee for 2024 **from 305.90 EUR to 50 EUR**. We therefore propose a reduction by **255,90 EUR**.

Makar Navitski (Estonian Centre Party Youth): Dear delegates, I am here representing the Estonian Centre Party Youth. I don't know whether you have read our request, but we are single-handedly financed by our mother party. The mother party is not doing well financially and it is affecting our ability to process payments, such as the LYMEC membership fees. This is why we are asking for your support today - LYMEC means the world to us and regardless of our financial state, international affairs is very important to us.

Nima Hairy (Chair) asks people to put themselves on the speakers' list for any comments. No one takes the floor. He announces that the vote is now open.

Nima Hairy (Chair) closes the vote.

The request for reduced membership fee for Estonian Centre Party Youth was accepted. ✓

Yes - 118

No - 20

Abstain - 11

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) moves on to **CUB Junior from Moldova** and invites them to take the floor. They have requested a reduction of their associate membership fee for 2024 **from 205 EUR to 50 EUR**. We propose a reduction by **155,00 EUR**.

Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior): Hello everybody. It was a little more complicated for us to make it to this Congress, but we are very glad we made it. Due to intricacies with Moldovan law, we are unable to raise money on our own and all our income must come from our mother political party. Like the previous speaker mentioned in his case, our mother party is also facing cash flow issues. That's why I hope you will accept this fee reduction for us.

Nima Hairy (Chair) asks people to put themselves on the speakers' list for any comments. No one takes the floor. He opens the vote for reduced membership for **CUB Junior from Moldova**.

Nima Hairy (Chair) closes the vote.

The request for reduced membership fee for CUB Junior - Moldova was accepted. ✓

Yes - 149

No - 9

Abstain - 8

Nima Hairy (Chair) gives the floor back to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**.

b) Financial report 2023 (for decision)

Nima Hairy (Chair): invites **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the Financial report 2023 for decision.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Please find the 2023 Financial report. At the end of the financial year on reporting date 31 December 2023, the **LYMEC deficit was 6,709.29 euros**, compared to the budgeted deficit of 18,240.95 euros, despite higher salaries and tax costs. The deficit has been covered from previous years' savings. After a very challenging 2022, 2023 has brought more stability to LYMEC in a financial sense. Though a number of costs have increased due to high inflation, a number of increased

income sources and the return of the Erasmus+ grant have meant that LYMEC has been able to keep damages limited. The support from partners like FNF made it possible to save some money. It does mean however that LYMEC will need to try harder to increase its income and decrease costs. Our savings have decreased, they are a bit below EUR 100.000 - that's the equity, not to get too technical. A point for the next 2 years is to make sure we get to a balanced situation. The Bureau also notes that Staff costs related to organising Congresses are not listed under the account line of the corresponding Congress due to additional administrative work this option would bring. However, starting from 2023, costs related to election tools (Openslides) are listed under Congress expenses. If you have any questions on it, please take the floor. It is also reminded that the financial report is an important legal obligation, don't make a political matter out of it as seen previously. We will submit it to the authorities later this Spring.

Nima Hairy (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. No one takes the floor. He reminds the delegates that the vote is open and they can vote on OpenSlides. It is important to approve this document.

Nima Hairy (Chair) closes the vote and **the Financial report 2023 was approved by the Congress.**



Yes - 202

No - 8

Abstain - 0

c) Interim financial report January-February 2024 (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): there is no interim report as we are just at the beginning of the financial year.

Nima Hairy (Chair) takes note of this and moves therefore on to the External Audit report.

d) External Audit report (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): There was a report provided after the audit and it was uploaded on OpenSlides. We had the External Audit in February, and the report shows a balance sheet total of **111.926 EUR** and a net loss for the year 2023 of **6.709 EUR**. That is all I have to add. It is consistent with the financial report for 2023 that was just approved.

Nima Hairy (Chair) announces that the speakers' list is available. Nobody adds themselves to the list so we move on to the next point.

e) Internal audit report for 2023 (for information)

Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor): There are six observations this time. There needs to be a transfer of knowledge since **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** is leaving soon. Secondly, LYMEC will have a clear separation between personal and professional communication tools with the purchase of an office phone we suggested. Third, we suggested imposing overtime meals if the staff works more than 2 hours than they should per working day. Fourth, we made a call to be stricter on staff to make sure they take their days off. Fifth, we suggest that the Bureau consider capacity more carefully as new projects are proposed. Sixth, we ask members to be careful when and where they contact the Staff. Finally, there are also some accounting updates including the costs associated with the accounting tool we use. We are actively reviewing this.

Observations made:

- 2023-11: Institutional knowledge (pending)
- 2023-12: Communication etiquette (pending)
- 2023-13: Work phones (pending)
- 2023-14: Over-time meals (pending)
- 2023-15: Recuperation days (pending)
- 2023-16: Workload balance (pending)

Implemented advice since last audit:

- 2023-4: Implemented - Accounting tool
- 2023-8: Implemented - Misuse of corporate card
- 2023-9: Implemented - Costly foreign currency transactions
- 2023-10: Implemented - Petty Cash

We want to thank **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** for this, we know that our organisation is in safe hands with them.

Nima Hairy (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. He thanks **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** for the internal audit report.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I have two questions. First, on the use of recuperation days. Do you remember how many days were not taken from 2023 by the employees? The second question is about the correct use of the corporate card. As we experienced some issues before the previous Congress, has the situation improved in your view? Are you raising warnings on this topic?

Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor): For the days that were not recuperated, we offered the employees to recuperate them during the first semester of 2024. On the use of the corporate card, we have thoroughly explained it to the LYMEC Bureau, who has always been very careful and responsive on this matter. Relations are very good with the Bureau on this point and I'm positive it will continue like that.

Julius Lajtha (JUNOS): Given how strict Belgian law is, what provision has the Bureau or the Internal Auditors taken to ensure that LYMEC is protected from damages in connection with dismissal and other legal claims that the Belgian labour law foresees as possible measures taken against someone's employer? My concern with this is financial damage because a similar case has happened to another Brussels-based civil society organisation. This could potentially result in a legally troublesome situation for us.

Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor): We are very aware of the technicalities of Belgian law. I am not going into details, but these situations have to be considered. We have been very careful in the past.

Nima Hairy (Chair) thanks **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** and moves onto the next agenda item since there are no additional questions or comments.

. Additional guest speeches

Georges-Louis Bouchez (MR President): Thank you for being here, and for the invitation to speak to you this evening. I fear that the future of Europe could be very difficult. We now live with the heritage of the past, but without any future vision. We are too ambiguous. We need strategy. We need bold ideas to address issues like climate change, agriculture, AI and innovative growth. That should be the plan for liberals.

Eva De Bleeker (Open VLD International Officer): Good evening dear friends. I think we are standing in front of very serious generations. My mother was born in the 1940s. I was born in the 1970s. My daughter was born in 2004, and I won't bet my money that she will experience a life where freedoms are protected. We are living in an age when the politics of the extremes have taken centre stage and divisive rhetoric continues to grow. This is the reality of Europe where democracy is being actively threatened by the forces of autocratic movements. Now, more than ever, we need your voice. The fight for freedom is here and it's up to you to defend them as we approach the elections. I wish you the very best of luck!

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Thank you for your inspiring words. We are done for today. We will continue tomorrow in the morning!

Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) states that the first day of the Congress is now closed at 19 h 15 pm CET. If you did not sign the signature list, please make sure to sign it right now. Please show your badge to get food at the fries foodtruck, it will be parked just outside the building. The bar is also open here at the venue. The fries truck will open at around 20 h 00 pm. We restart the Congress tomorrow morning at 9 h 00 am CET sharp to continue with the agenda. We will first have a roll call, so please be on time. I want to stress that we put a lot of effort on inclusion and safety at our Congresses. If there is anything you would like to share, please scan the QR code to the anonymous LYMEC Inclusion

Form. Otherwise, you are welcome to approach our Trustees appointed for this Congress: Izide Marcinkute (LLY), Stefania Reynisdottir (Uppreisn) and Maarten Tollenaar (JD). Thank you everyone, we continue tomorrow!

Day 2: Saturday, 23rd March 2024

Day 2 starts at 09 h 00 am CET (Brussels time).

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 2 - Saturday morning
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	6
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Croatia	HNS youth - Croatian Peoples Party - HNS	3
Croatia	Croatian Social and Liberal party - HSLS	3
Cyprus	NEODEPA	
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	0
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	0
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladé Progresívne Slovensko - Young Progressive	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi	
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	Zemolodizhka (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Even Diot	1
IMS	Adam Volf	1
IMS	Sorcha Ni Chonghaile	1

216

Simple majority of those present

108

Two thirds of present

144

Simple majority of those present without abstentions



There were 216 votes present at the Congress ✓

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Liberal Youth of Montenegro**
- **Alliance Youth - Northern Ireland**

Nima Hairy (Chair): We have more guests today addressing this Congress before we continue. I give the floor to **Laura Hidalgo (Jeunes MR President)**.

Laura Hidalgo (Jeunes MR President): Dear friends, I would like to congratulate you on your willingness to come here and discuss your political positions. You deserve an applause. I know that your activism is also a sacrifice. Thank you for all you do.

Diego D'Addato (FEL President): Hello everyone. I will not make a long speech. Instead I will start off by saying that I am very happy to be here today, it's a pleasure to take part in my second LYMEC Congress. Have a nice Congress and enjoy Belgium!

Sepp Tyvaert (Jong VLD President): Good morning. I would like to wish you all a very warm welcome to these beautiful headquarters. It's quite clear that here in Europe we are approaching a crucial turning point in our common history. Our liberal democracy has been challenged in an unprecedented manner. For people in politics like us, facing these big challenges can be tough. It is pretty obvious to see that we are on the winning side of the debate. I can think of three instances where this is true: the advancement of LGBTQI+ rights worldwide, the survival of the EU project and the long-term growth of democratic societies. Let's focus on our wins, the very source of our strength, and take this message forward!

11. Finances

f) Revised budget 2024 (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): We resume the last point under finances, as we ran out of time yesterday. But first of all, I would like to thank our Internal Auditors for all the work you have done in these past two years. As for the 2023 budget, changes were made to mostly membership fees' expectations. Even though we made a few extra difficult decisions, there were more negative expenses that decreased our income. For example, ALDE will move to a new CRM system bringing potential extra cost; the staff expenses were higher than what was originally budgeted; the 10.000 EUR goal budgeted for corporate sponsorships was not met. The European Commission grant of 75 000 EUR was divided

between 2023 and 2024 as income from the previous financial year, primarily for accounting and transparency purposes.

A summary of the main points that were changed:

- Budget expects a surplus of €30 compared to €3 180
- Correction salaries and taxes
- Correction participation fees
- More realistic goal for fundraising
- Budget for replacing Customer Relations Management System

Nima Hairy (Chair) reminds the delegates that they can add their name on the speakers' list if they want to take the floor. There are no questions. We therefore move on to the next agenda point.

12. Membership Issues

a. Applications for Associate Membership

- **Défi Jeunes from Belgium applies for associate membership.**

Nima Hairy (Chair) explains that there are two applications for associate membership at this Congress.

Nima Hairy (Chair) invites **Sébastien Willems (Défi Jeunes)** to present the application of his organisation for associate membership.

Sébastien Willems (Défi Jeunes): I want to present my organisation. We are a Political Youth organisation established in 1966. As of today, our organisation counts more than 3000 members and sympathisers and is organised as a non-for-profit organisation. It is composed of an executive board and a general assembly. This executive board has 10 executive administrators. The organisation also has a larger board. In the organisation, we also have 3 permanent employees and one part time permanent employee. We are present in 21 local sections throughout Belgium, 4 active provincial sections, 3 active regional sections and 1 active student association at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. As regards our activities, we often organise conferences, debates, training programs, charity events, music events, political actions and much more. When it comes to our values, we define ourselves as a liberal and progressive organisation. We believe in democracy and in the respect of fundamental rights. We are strongly attached to the protection of minority groups and we are convinced that European citizens need a strong Europe. We also have several propositions to the political world, on a variety of topics such as EU governance, nuclear power, a better relationship between the youth and the police, and a greener mobility in the EU. How do we implement these ideas? We usually do it through groups called "themes working groups". We currently have active Working Groups on LGBTQIA+, Europe, and Education. Furthermore, we also have a "Political Bureau", which sets the subject and context, makes

sure that people can contribute with their point of view, and makes collective decisions. Thank you for your attention.

Nima Hairy (Chair) thanks **Sébastien Willems (Défi Jeunes)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides' list.

Dante Nachtegaele (Jong VLD): I want to thank you for your presentation, it was very clear. When we saw your application for associate member of LYMEC we had some concerns. We hoped you would be in contact with us, which did not happen. While I was checking your website, I noticed that you are defending the rights of the french-speaking community in Belgium, but I don't see the same happening for the flemish-speaking community. Moreover, I checked almost every page on your website for the words 'liberal', 'freedom' and 'liberty'. There were no mentions of these terms. I have concerns that if we would accept you as members, it would create a precedent for any other youth organisation mentioning 'freedom' in their founding documents to join LYMEC, even when they clearly do not align with our basic values.

Maarten Lemstra (JD): I have a simple question. You were founded in 1966. What has changed since then that makes you join LYMEC now? Why didn't you do it before?

Sébastien Willems (Défi Jeunes): I would like to respond to the first question. First of all, as Défi Jeunes was created based on questions of french-speaking minority rights, I do not accept to hear that we are infringing on minority rights of the flemish-speaking community in Belgium. We do not want to do that. It is important to protect them, just as much as we do with the french-speaking community. Regarding liberalism: we are liberal. The fact that we don't use the word on our website, does not mean we are not liberals. It doesn't mean we cannot be part of LYMEC. We have to embrace a larger spectrum of liberalism. Lastly, regarding the second question, you have to know that our party was very close to Jeunes MR prior to 2012. We used to have very tight and close-knight relationships. Afterwards, we became completely independent from them, and started thinking about how to be active at the European level on our own. This is why we want to join LYMEC now.

Olena Dudko (EYU): I have two questions. First, do you have any position on the EU's enlargement agenda? Secondly, I noticed you seem to be very focused on municipal and state-level politics within Belgium. Do you have any positions concerning the Russian invasion of Ukraine?

Valentine Martin (Jeunes MR): I was not contacted either, no one from my organisation was. We were wondering, here in this room we already have many delegates from Belgium, and it is already hard as of now to find an agreement on certain positions. How do you see this situation evolving in the future in case you are accepted in LYMEC?

Sébastien Willems (Défi Jeunes): On EU enlargement, we don't have these positions in our manifesto. However, we are very much in favour of enlargement and deepening cooperation among Member States. Regarding Ukraine, we had a position that was only published on social media. We are very much against the Russian invasion. We consider that the fight that is going on is a real fight for democracy and liberalism. We want to lead Ukraine to victory as well as to the accession to the European Union. On the last question, I think it is important to cooperate among Belgian youth organisations. We will definitely work with you, if accepted in LYMEC.

Fabian Grepper (JFS): No one doubts that your organisation is democratic and that it respects the rule of law. However, LYMEC is a specifically liberal organisation. As it was already mentioned, 'liberalism' does not appear on your documents or website. My question is: why did you decide to join LYMEC and not another organisation like the Young Democrats of Europe (YDE), which is instead more in line with your values perhaps?

Sébastien Willems (Défi Jeunes): As I said, liberalism embraces a very broad spectrum of political values. As I also said, a few years ago we were close to Jeunes MR. I think it is important to understand that to help new generations of young people embrace liberalism, we have to broaden the concept of what liberalism means. That is why we wish to become members of LYMEC: we want to help LYMEC reach out to a broader base.

Nima Hairy (Chair) thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Défi Jeunes**. He invites all associate members, observers and guests to leave the room. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Brussels. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of Défi Jeunes.

Nima Hairy (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for associate membership. Simple majority is needed.

Vote on Défi Jeunes' associate membership: ✗

For- 37

Against- 117

Abstain- 56

Défi Jeunes is therefore NOT accepted as an Associate Member Organisation of LYMEC.

➤ **3H Movement from Turkey applies for associate membership.**

Nima Hairy (Chair) invites **Ekin Siyahhan (3H Movement)** to present the application of her organisation for associate membership.

Ekin Siyahhan (3H Movement): I want to present my organisation. 3H stands for the words rule of law, liberty and tolerance, in Turkish. The 3H Movement is the oldest youth liberal movement in Turkey that is actively trying to make core values like liberty, rule of law and tolerance to be part of our society and our political environment. The 3H Movement was founded by young liberals of Turkey in 2006, and since then it has been continuing to raise its voice on various political and economic issues in Turkey with seminars, campaigns, conferences and youth camps. Youth summer camps are particularly important for our recruitment. The only way to create a free and prosperous society comes from individual liberties and a functional market economy. We aim to influence civil society and the mainstream discourse on the core values of liberalism and on how this will improve us as a society. Our annual activities are related to campaigns and activism; discussion forums and seminars; Liberal Youth Congress every year; International Events and Workshops; Publishing House and Translations; Youth Summer Camps. We have been cooperating with our International partners, such as FNF Turkey, ATLAS Network, and IFLRY since 2014. Just last week, we had a discussion session with EYU on "Turkey's non-European way". We have organised several events in cooperation with other partners like VVD. We currently have more grassroots projects in Turkey. Being a part of LYMEC would be of the utmost importance to us, because Turkey would benefit from it, especially in such a geopolitical situation. Thank you for your attention.

Nima Hairy (Chair) thanks **Ekin Siyahhan (3H Movement)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides' list.

Florentyna Martynska (Nowoczesna Youth): You mentioned that you have been members of IFLRY for many years. Given this, why are you joining LYMEC just now?

Ekin Siyahhan (3H Movement): In 2016, some events in Turkey affected civil society massively. We have been trying to onboard more people and rebuild our movement since then. Now we are ready for this.

Mihai-Gabriel Costea (USR Tineret): What is your stance about the nationalist positions of IYI Parti (Good Party) and of the Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA)?

Ekin Siyahhan (3H Movement): I really like these questions. When it comes to the party structure, IYI Parti (Good Party) is a nationalist party. I don't think we can collaborate with them. But when it comes to DEVA, they are more liberal. Still, we have to be careful, because there can be some islamists in there. Even if they have the higher female participation, it is still predominantly males and old people.

Valentine Martin (Jeunes MR): What do you think are the major crises young liberals are facing in Europe and beyond as we speak today?

Ekin Siyahhan (3H Movement): Coming from Turkey, I am familiar with emotional politics. Government can get quite discriminatory and populist. I think we should stop this, that's the big challenge.

Nima Hairy (Chair) thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **3H Movement**. He invites all associate members, observers and guests to leave the room. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Brussels. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of 3H Movement.

Nima Hairy (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for associate membership. Simple majority is needed.

Vote on 3H Movement's associate membership: ✓

For- 196

Against- 3

Abstain- 8

3H Movement is therefore accepted as an Associate Member Organisation of LYMEC.

Congratulations!

----- COFFEE BREAK -----

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 3 - After 1st coffee break
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	6
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Croatia	HNS youth - Croatian Peoples Party - HNS	3
Croatia	Croatian Social and Liberal party - HSLS	3
Cyprus	NEODEPA	
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ogra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	0
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladé Progresívne Slovensko - Young Progressive	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi	
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	Zemolodizhka (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Even Diot	1
IMS	Adam Wolf	1
IMS	Sorcha Ni Chonghaile	1
		219
Simple majority of those present		109,5
Two thirds of present		146
Simple majority of those present without abstentions		
1/3 = 75		

There were 219 votes present at the Congress ✓

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Liberal Youth of Montenegro

b. Applications for Full Membership

➤ **NEODEPA from Cyprus applies for full membership.**

Joy Kamel (Chair) takes the lead of the Congress and she explains that there are two applications for full membership at this Congress.

Joy Kamel (Chair) invites the first organisation to present their application. **Michalis Ioannou and Rosalie Gorgorian (NEODEPA)** present the application of their organisation for full membership.

Michalis Ioannou and Rosalie Gorgorian (NEODEPA): We are here to apply for full membership at LYMEC. NEO.DEPA, established in February 2022, is an organisation representing the youth of DEPA (Democratic Alignment-Cooperation of Democratic Forces). DEPA, founded in 2018, is a political party and a member of ALDE Party since 2020. In 2021, DEPA achieved a significant milestone by electing its first four members of Parliament out of a total of 56 parliamentary members. The Inaugural Congress marked the official establishment of NEO.DEPA, with the election of its first President, Michalis Ioannou and Board Members. LYMEC Policy Officer Laia Comerma participated virtually in our Congress, as we were in the process of applying for membership with LYMEC as Associate Members then. As of March 2024, NEODEPA has 89 members, aged from 12 to 35. NEO.DEPA receives funding through grants from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. NEO.DEPA has hosted various social events in various cities for its youth members to come together and share ideas and get to know each other. NEO.DEPA participated in the annual Pancyprian fundraising event for individuals with cancer in memory of Mrs. Christodoulou. On February 24th, 2022, a delegation from NEO.DEPA's Board Members held an introductory meeting with the Youth Board of Cyprus (ONEK) as new members. Discussions centred on ONEK's actions and programs, exploring potential collaborations with NEO.DEPA to address youth-related issues. During the meeting, NEO.DEPA shared opinions and ideas regarding the organisation's role, emphasising areas that require special attention for the benefit of young individuals in Cyprus. On February 26, 2022, NEO.DEPA participated in an event organised by the Youth Board of Cyprus (ONEK) at the Municipal Theater Sotiras. The event, titled "Discussion with the Youth of the Famagusta District," included DEPA's MP, Michalis Yiakoumi. It served as an opportunity to listen to the voices, needs and suggestions of the youth in the Famagusta District, aiming to improve their daily lives. On April 19th, 2022, a delegation from NEO.DEPA's Board met with the Cyprus Youth Council to introduce themselves to become Connected Members and engage in discussions about youth-related matters. NEO.DEPA attended its first LYMEC Congress at the Spring LYMEC Congress 2022, in Prague, Czech Republic, where NEO.DEPA was accepted as an Associate Member of LYMEC. The President of NEO.DEPA, presented our candidacy and explained its positions and manifesto. This development

solidified the European profile of NEO.DEPA, offering it the opportunity to showcase its positions in European forums and highlight Cyprus and its youth at a pan-European level. NEO.DEPA has been very active in LYMEC since attending many events in-person and online but also hosting the LYMEC team for the ELF Liberal Hack focusing on sustainability last summer in Ayia Napa.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks **Michalis Ioannou and Rosalie Gorgorian (NEODEPA)** and opens the floor for questions.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): Thank you for the presentation, it is very impressive to see all of the work that you have done. Could you elaborate on some of the steps you have taken as a youth organisation on the protection of minority and LGBTQ+ rights?

Rosalie Gorgorian (NEODEPA): We have been active in the Rainbow Platform, which champions values of diversity and inclusion. We are open to changing the approach of our country to LGBTQ+ rights. Regarding minorities, I am a minority myself as I am Armenian. Enshrined in Cypriot law is the guarantee that every minority gets a seat in the Parliament, even if without voting rights. Our mother party has a leader which belongs to one of the recognised national minorities in Turkey - in fact, we are the only party in Cyprus with a minority party leader. Given both the acceptance I have felt within NEODEPA and within our mother party, plus our strong record on inclusion, I would assert that we are unwavering in our commitment to protecting all minorities.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks the speakers and she proposes to move the Congress to a closed session to discuss the membership application. She gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Brussels. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the full membership of NEODEPA.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for full membership. The necessary majority is 2/3 of the votes present at the Congress.

Vote on the full membership of NEODEPA: 

For- 212

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

NEODEPA is therefore accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC. Congratulations!

➤ **Gibanje Svoboda Mladi from Slovenia applies for full membership.**

Joy Kamel (Chair) invites **Gibanje Svoboda Mladi** to present their application. **Matej Grah (Gibanje Svoboda Mladi)** presents the application of the organisation for full membership.

Matej Grah (Gibanje Svoboda Mladi): We are here to apply for full membership at LYMEC. The Party Gibanje Svoboda was founded on January 26th, while Gibanje Svoboda Youth was founded on June 9th. We strive for freedom, dialogue between generations, green transition, improving the quality of life in rural areas, and empowerment of liberal values. Among our activities, we actively address youth-related topics and problems and prepare policy papers. We are also actively participating in local and regional politics, as we have multiple municipal councillors. We like communicating with young people regarding current issues. We organise events – roundtables, talks, panels, summer schools, campaigns, and so on. When it comes to the European Elections, we are actively involved in campaigning, such as helping and communicating with our electoral headquarters, communicating our electoral manifesto. We are a social liberal party. We are a leading force for climate action and pushing innovative green policies - this is actually one of the things our liberal Prime Minister has long championed. While our support might be concentrated in urban areas - two cities to be specific - we are committed to reaching out to the rural communities of Slovenia. We have 5 parliamentarians belonging to our party - and two candidates for our party list in the European elections - that are aged 35 and under. Going back to our relationship with our mother party, it is important to mention that while there is a natural warmth which we have with them, we are also not shy to speak our minds and advocate for our youth-oriented liberal policies from within.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks **Matej Grah (Gibanje Svoboda Mladi)** and opens the floor for questions.

Amy Weatherald (Young Liberals): Thank you for your presentation. For the sake of consistency, could you elaborate on some of the steps you have taken as a youth organisation on the protection of minority and LGBTQ+ rights?

Matej Grah (Gibanje Svoboda Mladi): We do support LGBTQ rights. We won elections with civil societies that fight for these values as well. We sometimes forget that the fights we already went through are not to be taken for granted. We always have to fight for them.

Julius Graack (JuLis): What drugs do you want to legalise after weed (cannabis)?

Matej Grah (Gibanje Svoboda Mladi): Before working in politics, I was working in diplomacy, so I am going to be careful in how I answer this. We have no other current proposals for other drugs to legalise.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress to a closed session to discuss the membership application. He gives the floor to **Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Brussels. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the full membership of Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - Slovenia.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for full membership. The necessary majority is 2/3 of the votes present at the Congress.

Vote on the full membership of Gibanje Svoboda Mladi: 

For- 214

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

Gibanje Svoboda Mladi is therefore accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC.

Congratulations!

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Following the new additions to our full membership we are adding NEODEPA and Gibanje Svoboda Mladi to the roll call. Both the Organisations have 3 votes. We won't hold another official roll call right now, but we will ensure that the two new members get their voting credentials by the next vote. Thank you for your patience.

The updated roll call is as follows:

	Full Members	After Full Membership point
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	6
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Croatia	HNS youth - Croatian Peoples Party - HNS	3
Croatia	Croatian Social and Liberal party - HSLS	3
Cyprus	NEODEPA	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLiS)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	0
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladé Progresívne Slovensko - Young Progressive	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsforbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Even Dlot	1
IMS	Adam Voif	1
IMS	Sorcha Ni Chonghaile	1
		225
Simple majority of those present		112.5
Two thirds of present		150
Simple majority of those present without abstentions		
1/3 = 75		

c. Suspensions

Joy Kamel (Chair) explains that there is one proposed suspension and gives the floor to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to explain the situation of **Civil Forum Youth from Belarus**.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): They have informed us that they do not wish to be an active member of LYMEC at the moment. Though we regret this decision, we accept it and propose to formalise this to prevent the piling up of debt. The suspension can be lifted at any moment when the MO decides to be an active member again.

Joy Kamel (Chair) closes the speakers' list and reminds delegates that we only need a simple majority for this vote.

Vote on the suspension of Civil Forum Youth: ✓

For - 202

Against - 6

Abstentions - 3

The Congress accepted the suspension of Civil Forum Youth. They are now suspended.

d. Disaffiliations

Joy Kamel (Chair) explains that there is no disaffiliation proposed and moves on to the next agenda point.

13. Discharge of Bureau, IFLRY representative and internal auditors

Joy Kamel (Chair) explains that the Bureau will be discharged as of now to allow for elections to take place. The representative won't be liable anymore after this decision. She asks if anyone is against it. No one is against it.

Congress approves the discharge of all the previous positions by acclamation. ✓

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks the previous Bureau Members, Internal Auditors and LYMEC Representative to IFLRY for their work and announces the beginning of a new chapter. Before moving onto the elections, she reminds the delegates to respect all the candidates who take the floor.

14. Elections of the Bureau members (presentations, questions and voting)

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the Bureau Members election agenda point emphasising that each candidate will have a short presentation for the position they are running for followed by questions from the delegates.

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor to the different candidates. Every candidate will have 5 minutes.

Presentations of the candidates:

President

Joy Kamel (Chair) explains that the point is now open. This means that no one else can put their name forward to stand as a candidate.

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): When I stand in front of you right now, looking at so many that I have known for a long time and others I am yet eager to get to know, I can't help but think back to my very first Congress. It was the Spring Congress 6 years ago. And to be honest, I was a bit overwhelmed with impressions. New procedures, many new faces and on top of that Bureau elections where candidates were proposing their ideas to an organisation. I had yet to discover more about it. But despite all nervousness, the main thing I remember from that Congress, and I hope those of you who also have their first LYMEC Congress now will feel the same, the main thing I remember is the many new people. People who became friends, some even Bureau colleagues. This brings me to today. Namely my main motivation on why I ask you to give me your trust for this important Bureau election. To give me your trust to lead the organisation as President. From my first Congress until now, I have always been amazed by the diversity of liberal views, amazed by the discussions within our organisations and amazed by the friendships that arise despite where in the liberal spectrum one positions themselves. I stand here in front of you, promising you that I will do whatever I can to make each and everyone's LYMEC experience as special as my own was. Now, I would like to take you on a time-travel. Moving forward two years. If you give me your trust, I would like to look back on these two years having served as your President. Look back to the year 2024. A potentially challenging year for liberal forces. However, as LYMEC, we were able to be vocal. Because we know that if we don't stand up for our ideas, no one will. If we do not fight disinformation, we are dependent on others to do so. And if we don't take our seat at the table, no one will offer it to us. In two years, I would like to look back and tell you about the successful meetings we had with decision-makers. The policy ideas we were able to advocate for. Be it in meetings with the legislators, or some memorable activity at an ALDE Congress. I would like to tell you that we have tried to put all the work and energy all of you pour into resolutions into action. Because the best policy becomes irrelevant if it gathers dust and is not advocated to stakeholders. In two years, I would like to tell you that despite any challenges we might have faced, we are stronger than ever. We have strong and thriving cooperations with our long-standing partners. We have taken on new partnerships which gives us more independence and our members even more opportunities. Now, I would like to come back from the future to today. To this moment. I am asking you to give me your trust, your confidence and allow me to serve this incredible, unique organisation as President. So in two years, we can look back together and be proud of all the things we have achieved and maybe some of you whose first Congress this is now will step up and run for Bureau and in their candidate speeches envision all the new things we as LYMEC can do.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): There is not another candidate for President in this election cycle, just yourself. When **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LUF)** ran for LYMEC President, it was the same. Do you think it is important for our internal flourishing democracy to have more competition in the LYMEC presidential race?

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): We see that today we have eight candidates for Bureau Member. This is really a lot, they are all very competent. For President, I don't know why there is no competition, but I hope the work I have done in the past two years will speak for itself, and make others think that it is okay to give me their trust. For the other positions, again, we have a lot of candidates, therefore I would not be worried about the democratic engagement within LYMEC.

Izide Marcinkute (LLY): One of the most important missions of LYMEC is to represent liberal values and policies. Do you see opportunities in broadening our base?

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): Of course this is something that will be discussed in the Bureau, it is not only my decision. It is also something that we will see with the upcoming elections. If elected, I would seek to be here in Brussels for an entire week. I will dedicate significant time to arrange as many meetings as I can have with our various partner organisations so that we can outline a clear purpose and direction as an organisation for the next 2 years.

Joy Kamel (Chair): There are no questions, thank you **Ines Holzegger (JUNOS)** for your presentation. The votes will start now and remain open until the end of lunchtime.

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the vote for the position of President and states it will be closed after lunch.

Vice-President

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): Thank you very much. I have had the chance to be involved in LYMEC since 2018, most recently as the Bureau Member responsible for events and projects. I want to be in service for LYMEC because it has meant the world to me. It has seen me go on to do things that I never expected. I have been putting a lot of work on LYMEC projects lately, and that's why I ultimately decided to run for Vice-President. Policy matters, especially ahead of the European elections, to not just write policies, but to drive them forward through new and innovative methods. Secondly, our partnerships is what makes LYMEC a strong organisation. As the events and Project Officer, I have seen how these partnerships directly translate and lead to the training of our members. Lastly, it's the role of the Vice-President to not just look at our external impact, but also focus on the internal matters that affect our wonderful liberal community. This is what I want to do on your behalf. We need to use our internal resources, we need to reach out to a broader base. I will also add that the staff are the magicians behind the drapes - the secretariat needs a work-life balance. It's important that the Vice-President enforces a new working culture, not just at the Bureau level, but also at the IO and delegate level.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): Dear liberal friends, dear LYMEC. I would like to express my deep commitment to run for LYMEC Vice-President. It has been a genuine pleasure to serve as your Communications Officer for the past two years. I am now ready to step into the role of Vice-President and help advance our campaigns, partnerships, advocacy efforts and more. Together we can grow. I want to proactively strive for an organisation where well-being is key. I believe in an open, transparent and continuous dialogue. I may not always have the policy solutions right away, but I promise I will always maintain an open eye and a listening ear. This is my vision for the Vice-President role. The truth is, as much as we can disagree within LYMEC, I fundamentally love this organisation. I want to continue using the strengths that unite us to grow together. I only have good memories about my time at LYMEC, and I hope this will be the same for all of you in the future.

Julius Graack (JuLis): My question to both of you would be regarding the finances and the role of the Vice-President in all of this. If elected, what would you do to secure more funding and implement a more sustainable funding scheme for LYMEC?

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): A proper financial scheme is fundamental for our organisation, but the Vice-President should work on it with the Bureau and with the Treasurer, especially. I have experience with grants and reaching out to main sources of funding.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): I think we need to make sure that our partnerships are strong. This may change after the elections, and more difficult decisions may come on that budget sheet. That's why we need to keep our partnerships strong so we can weather the storm. On top of all of this - and to protect LYMEC and its policies - we need to look at attracting corporate partners.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): One of the most important roles of the Vice-President is to bridge the gap between the Secretariat and the Bureau. How do you intend to go about this particular aspect of your role?

Roelof Dik (JOVD): What would you do differently from **Ines Holzegger (JUNOS)** and how do you wish to complement the job she has done so far?

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): In relation to **Maarten Tollenaar (JD)**'s question, office management is something I have experience in and would feel natural doing within a LYMEC capacity. I would start off by scheduling a meeting with the staff to discuss current dynamics and practical solutions that could be implemented to lessen the workload. In relation to **Ines Holzegger (JUNOS)**, I really respect her a lot and while we are different, we complement each other on some aspects.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): Sometimes you need a Vice-President who is active and proactively pushing the staff to share their real challenges. The honest truth is that sometimes the staff tend to say they are okay when they really are not. The Vice-President should be proactive on this and that's

what I hope to do. On **Roelof Dik (JOVD)**'s question, I think the Young Changemakers Academy (YCA) is a prime example of where I have been **Ines Holzegger (JUNOS)**'s successor. I took over the portfolio and she was quite frankly just amazing, as she let me freely share my innovative ideas on that portfolio. As for my differences, I am going to echo **Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom)**: I want to innovate, be bold and vocal.

Julius Lajtha (JUNOS): Can you describe a situation in the last Bureau where you had a conflict with the President or Vice-President?

David Grasveld (LHG): How would you feel about increasing the sizes of delegations at future LYMEC Congresses?

Fabian Grepper (JFS): David stole my question so I'll just say this: know that we love both of you - good luck!

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): If I had to give an example of how many times **Ines Holzegger (JUNOS)** told me she doesn't appreciate Belgium, that's already a conflict. All jokes aside, we have had many policy divergences, but what I have enjoyed most is the constructiveness of the outgoing President and Vice-President. All voices are important, all voices must be heard. On the point about delegations, if money wasn't an object, then it would be a simple yes answer from me. That said, money is an object, so we should carefully analyse this going forward, following the recommendations of the Working Group on the delegation system.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): I can say from my side I always felt comfortable to speak in the Bureau. This is something that the outgoing President and Vice-President have both pushed for. On the delegation system, I agree with **Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR)**. We have to take into consideration finances, logistics and planning. I hope we will all together work on a solution that will be accepted by everyone as a compromise. But we have to take into consideration the finances going forward, just as **Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR)** suggested.

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the vote for the Vice-President position and states it will be closed after lunch.

Treasurer

Marten Porte (JD): Dear Congress, it feels like a privilege to present to you my candidacy for Treasurer. I wasn't sure how I would feel if I came back. Would I feel like a burden to the Bureau? I have to say this has not been the case. The energy I get from this organisation is like no other. The coming mandate will prove pivotal for our finances. We need to be strategic and work with partners beyond the usual suspects, but especially plan for many years ahead. As a treasurer, you are quite closely involved in the office work, and I have seen the tough circumstances and pressures that the Secretariat has been put under. I hope to work on all of this.

Julius Graack (JuLis): What do you think about having partnerships with private companies?

Marten Porte (JD): I can give you a simple yes on this, and I look forward to working with organisations like JuLis which have experience on this, if elected.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I have seen that many Bureau candidates are building their campaign points around finances and finding external partners for LYMEC. In this context, what will be the cooperation between you and them all?

Marten Porte (JD): This is a topic that needs to be prioritised. I am sure all of them bring a lot of experience related to how things are done in their own member organisations and mother parties. We will build on that.

Julius Lajtha (JUNOS): What do you foresee to be done in order to allow micro-granting to happen in larger volumes and timescales in LYMEC? If you could also share your thoughts on more funding projects between LYMEC and its MOs that would be great.

Marten Porte (JD): It's a tough question and I might not have the answer you want. I understand you are referring to the Cooperation Projects we had over the past years. We have had similar projects, they turned out good, but the problem is that they require an incredible amount of time for the Bureau and especially for the Office. The whole bookkeeping and logistical sorting takes a lot of time and it is therefore not feasible to do a whole lot more these next years. Perhaps we could explore further discussions on this with larger partners, such as the ALDE Party, so that they can lessen the burden on the office.

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the vote and states it will be closed after lunch. She calls for the lunch break and explains that the Congress will continue after.

- - - - - LUNCH & VOTING ON OPENSIDES - - - - -

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that Gibanje Svoboda Mladi and NEODEPA are directly added to the next Roll Call as they became full members of LYMEC. They have 3 votes each.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 4 - After lunch
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	6
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Croatia	HNS youth - Croatian Peoples Party - HNS	3
Croatia	Croatian Social and Liberal party - HSLS	3
Cyprus	NEODEPA	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladé Progresívne Slovensko - Young Progressive	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Even Diot	1
IMS	Adam Volf	1
IMS	Sorcha Ni Chonghaile	1
		228
Simple majority of those present		114
Two thirds of present		152
Simple majority of those present without abstentions		
1/3 = 75		

There were 228 votes present at the Congress. ✓

All Member Organisations were present.

17. Announcement of the elected Bureau members

Joy Kamel (Chair): Welcomes everyone back and announces the results of the Bureau elections for positions that were launched before the lunch break.

Congratulations to the elected delegates in blue below! The results are displayed on the screen and available on OpenSlides for all delegates.

VOTE COUNT

President ✓

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): 219 (96.053%) - ELECTED

Against: 3

Abstentions: 6

Vice-President ✓

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): 147 (64.474 %) - ELECTED

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): 81 (35.526 %)

Treasurer ✓

Marten Porte (JD): 214 (95.536 %) - ELECTED

Against: 10

Abstentions: 0

14. Elections of the Bureau members (presentations, questions and voting)

Bureau Members

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): I am so excited to be speaking to you here. All of us standing there want to get the work done with you. I want to put forward a certain set of values. I want to offer seminars, provide specific steps for fundraising, and reform our communications strategy. It is not enough to be heard. We have to be understood. This is where I can make a big difference. I am ready to influence

LYMEC's impact all over Europe. I want us as the next Bureau to be bold and brave. In times of restrictions on online content, I want to revise our communications strategy. This is about creating something that will have a spillover effect in our organisations. Let liberalism go viral all over Europe!

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): I am a key supporter of liberal values. I am running because I want to contribute to our organisation and spread our vision and mission of inclusion, trust and transparency. I believe that by being united, we become more powerful, influential and visible. LYMEC is a pan-european organisation in consistent expansion. I will be happy to hear your ideas, because LYMEC is our shared cause. I hope to have your support.

Markéta Plesníková (Mladé ANO): As I stand in front of you here, I am reminded of all the reasons I love LYMEC. It is a place where I feel like I belong and where I can be myself. One of our biggest powers is the feeling of friendship and the connections that we make. My whole term in LYMEC has been about belonging. This is a powerful feeling. This belief that together we can make a difference, is what gives us power against a myriad of threats facing this world today. I believe there are so many narratives, experiences and lessons that each of us have learned thanks to LYMEC, and that we can use as a strength. I hope you place your trust in me, so we can transcend LYMEC policies with the vision I have just shared here today.

Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth): Thank you for this opportunity. Preparing for this, I was wondering what to include in my speech. Other than pondering on achievements, we should focus on our ideas to make LYMEC grow and ensure a better future. Having talked with many of you, I present my program across four main points: (1) invest in subsidiaries to bring our MOs closer and to make this bottom-up activity even better; (2) invest in future politicians even more; (3) increase negotiating power; (4) strengthen our relationships with partners even further. I really hope that, with the new Bureau, we will have one opportunity to enact these points. I would love to contribute to that. As someone who comes from Eastern Europe, I truly believe that continuing our activity, we can actually fight illiberal trends. I encourage you not to stop. Thank you, and I count on your support.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): The first time I experienced the LYMEC Congress, I very nearly started to weep. Not because I was stressed, but because all of Europe was represented in one room, coming together, trying to achieve great things. This is about the unity that we are going to need in these difficult times. We, as LYMEC, are more than just the Congresses; we are liberals. We should be able to talk to each other, communicate to each other, have an updated International Officer database; renew the roles of the Bureau; ensure connection between Bureau and delegates; increase transparency. I have been lucky to visit many of you at your Congresses and at various different events. International cooperation is the core of my work in everything I do. All of this will make us able to face the challenges ahead. We will have a difficult time after the elections, but together we can do anything. That is what I will work for, if I am lucky enough to serve the next Bureau.

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (OFF): My name is Sorcha, and I am running because LYMEC has become my political home over the last few years. This is where I started to feel that my voice really matters, and I am sure many of you feel the same. On the day I was graduating from university, I logged on for a policy debate with **Laia Comerma (JNC)**, our former Policy Officer. I am dedicated, that's clear. And while there is a big benefit in the institutional knowledge that many of you have, we also have many new people. I want to work on more activities, training and onboarding for new International Officers. It's important that LYMEC is accessible, consultation-led and transparent. We need to communicate better, and I believe we can do it. At the end of the day, we know we can make things more fun, more engaged, more accessible and we know it's not about reinventing the wheel. This is not just about the membership, but also about improving our work streams and lessening the burden the Secretariat currently has on its plate. I hope you share my vision, and I hope you will vote for me.

Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS): I have represented the IMS here in LYMEC for many years. I represent the perspective of two different countries in two different parts of Europe, none of which grants me EU citizenship. I have already spoken about my campaign point to many of you. There are two main focuses: the first one is about improving our decision-making process. I want to make sure we have a more efficient approach to policy Working Groups, such as by creating a policy handbook. My second point is about participation and strategy through active communication between the Bureau, MOs and the IMS. We also know we will face a difficult time with our finances. There are many things we can do to improve our situation. I have achieved so much over the past years. I strive to achieve more in the future, as part of the LYMEC Bureau.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): Hi, I hope everyone is still awake. I also want to say hello to those of us joining online so that everyone feels included in this wonderful Congress. LYMEC really energised my feelings of activism, because in the Netherlands we often disregard the importance of on-the-ground advocacy efforts. We are now paying the price of this. I don't want to bore you with all of my ideas. I want to focus on policy and implementation. Last year I also worked a lot closely with **Laia Comerma (JNC)** and **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to ensure a successful Congress. I remember that when I left right after the Budapest Congress, I really wanted to come back to it. My campaign points are about advocacy. Now that we have completed the clean-up of the policy book, I want to repurpose LYMEC Digital Assemblies and other working groups. More strategy is key. I want to professionalise our speeches by providing training. And lastly, for advocacy, I want us to be bolder and more creative. I know we have eight wonderful candidates, but I do hope that you can put your trust in me.

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the floor for questions to the candidates.

Julius Graack (JuLis): My question is a quick yes or no on whether you are supportive of LYMEC looking into corporate funding possibilities?

Izide Marcinkute (LLY): Which portfolios are you going to take as part of the Bureau?

Adam Volf (LYMEC IMS Delegate): We have many IMS which join LYMEC and don't feel engaged. What would you do to increase engagement in the IMS section of LYMEC, given that their last in-person event took place like 3 years ago?

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor back to the candidates to answer the 3 questions.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): On the corporate partnerships, I say yes. As regards to the portfolio as part of the Bureau, I want to be the Policy or Advocacy Officer and I want us to take policy directly to policy-makers and legislators more frequently. On the IMS point, I want us to hold more in-person events for them of course.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): Yes, I am in favour of corporate partnerships. As regards the portfolio, I would like to be the Communications Officer. On the last point, I have this notion that all of the IMS are an integral part of LYMEC and that we should be working to include them a lot more in our internal membership engagement strategy.

Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth): Yes, of course I would favour corporate sponsorship. I would most be interested in becoming the Advocacy Officer because I would like to see LYMEC broaden its network. On the IMS point, that's also a fair point and something the next Bureau must tackle and prioritise. I would also think about expanding the IMS delegation at our Congresses to give them more votes and more impact.

Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS): I think it's a fact that we can't afford to say no to corporate funding. I have experience in implementing corporate funding in NGOs, so I would like to take this task on, alongside the rest of the Bureau. I would hope whatever position I secure, if elected, that I would be able to play a tangible role in steering our policy agenda. On the IMS point, I have been an IMS delegate for 3 years. I agree that we need to do more to increase engagement within this section.

Markéta Plesníková (Mladé ANO): I back corporate funding, but we need to have some strict checks and balances. I would like to take on the Communications portfolio within the next Bureau. As a former individual member within ALDE, I agree there should be more work done around the LYMEC IMS section.

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (OFF): I also back corporate funding, albeit with strict ethical guidance. I am happy to take on any portfolio, but my speciality lies in policy and project management. As an IMS delegate I also back **Adam Volf (LYMEC IMS Delegate)**'s call for more engagement efforts. We need to make the IMS section more attractive; they deserve recognition and value for the money they spend for their membership fee.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): On corporate financing, yes, I would be in favour of that. However, due diligence is key so that we ensure we hold on to our values as liberals. On the portfolio selection, I am interested in working on any role that encompasses a certain level of outreach and community engagement with the membership. As for the IMS, I think it is about time that you get your in-person events back. I want to mobilise the IMS more and have us play a more active role.

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): Yes, I think we could and should accept corporate financing efforts. We need to explore this proactively and I believe we can do this without sacrificing our values. I don't have a particular portfolio preference, but I am fully in favour of doing more for the membership, including and especially for the IMS.

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor to the next delegates with questions.

Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals): My question is specifically for **Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis)**. As a young person who said you would be interested in the Communications work of LYMEC, how would you support Libertas to ensure it grows its reach and impact in disseminating LYMEC policy?

Bohdana Batsko (EYU): What would you look to improve from the work of the previous Bureau?

Sebas Overbeek (JOVD): What liberal value suits you best and why?

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor back to the candidates to answer the 3 questions.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I am interested in policy and advocacy, which I believe is currently the portfolio owned by **Laia Comerma (JNC)**. While I think the work has been positive, I do think we can improve the logistics attached to the Digital Assemblies, improve the briefing to MOs and strengthen the policy Working Groups. On my favourite value, I am very committed to tolerance.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): For me, the most important value is freedom. Discovering what this principle and value means in practice has truly been a humbling experience. In terms of what we can improve from the previous Bureau, is building on the already big focus of digital communication and turning it into a more proactive social media strategy.

Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth): The last Bureau did really well, also taking into account the COVID pandemic. I want to establish new relationships with established partners, as well as build new ones. We need to take a step further so that we are more financially stable, especially taking into consideration the next EU elections. That's all for the first question. For the second, the most important value for me is proactivity.

Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS): What we have to give the Bureau credit for, is that LYMEC ceased to exist for 2 years during the pandemic. We had to rebuild it bottom up. You can see some of the changes that

have been made to make Congresses more inclusive. On what can be done differently: more proactive communication. LYMEC belongs to you, the members.

Markéta Plesníková (Mladé ANO): As part of a generation that was born in the free word, freedom is the most important thing for me. This current Bureau is important to me, it was elected at the Prague Spring Congress in 2022. It is really great and I hope it will become even more digital. There is space to do more, to provide more opportunities like the Digital Hub. We should develop this area more and create training that can easily be accessed online too.

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (OFF): One of the biggest difficulties is our accessibility. We can work on an accessibility toolkit. To be honest, I think this is not easy to do. But it is something I want to focus on. On the second question about values, I will answer that individual liberties are very important to me. This is a very important value that we cherish at LYMEC.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): I think the outgoing Bureau deserves a lot of credit. LYMEC's outgoing Bureau has been rebuilding its in-person capacity since the pandemic. The Bureau has done a fantastic job. I think I have not mentioned this before, but communications between Congresses need to be more frequent and more detailed. I think this is really important. On inclusivity, the Bureau has done a great job, but there is still a lot to do. In terms of liberal values, equality is the value that I cherish the most.

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): I think that the former Bureau did a great job. About the values, I believe that everything that is new is better than the things of the past, just like this we can have success and progress. Our Congress and Digital Assemblies can be more interactive, but also more inclusive. This is something that the next Bureau can work on. The most important values for me are equal rights and tolerance as the base of prosperity.

Point of Order

Fabian Grepper (JFS): I would like to limit the speakers' time to 30 seconds. We would like to discuss resolutions as well. We are not here for the elections only.

Joy Kamel (Chair): Since the room doesn't seem to be happy with the proposed point of order. I propose 1 minute speaking time instead. The room seems to be in favour that we would stick to 1 minute speaking time as a starter, 30 seconds wouldn't be enough. No one opposes.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): I did not forget the question about Libertas directed to me. Let me tell you my vision. You guys are key. What people do not understand is that you are editors and writers. People should be aware of all the skills you have; we will work on that if I'm elected.

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor to the next delegates with further questions.

Julius Lajtha (JUNOS): My question concerns the point of order that was just raised a moment ago. How about we put the microphone here and anyone who wants to speak first goes first? My question to the candidates is, how can we change the Congress agenda so that it is possible to discuss more resolutions?

Joy Kamel (Chair) explains that the floor is open for questions again. **Julius Lajtha (JUNOS)** should raise a point of order if he wants to react to the previous point of order. That doesn't seem to be the case. We can then forward his question to the candidates.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): What would you say is your biggest personal or professional failure in or outside politics and what did you learn from it?

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor back to the candidates to answer the two questions.

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): We can discuss more resolutions in a digital setting outside of these events, so that we can speed up Congresses. I am working on my own skills to be more patient.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): In terms of improving the amount of policies we get through, I agree that we can make this process more efficient in terms of structure and time.

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (OFF): I experienced burnout a few years ago. I was devoting so much time to politics that I even forgot academics existed. In regards to your question **Julius Lajtha (JUNOS)**, I think that we can save time during the Congresses if we address Bureau matters in the Digital Assemblies.

Markéta Plesníková (Mladé ANO): The biggest failure was when I had to step down as chairwoman of Mladé ANO. You always need somebody to help you, the next Bureau should think about that. On the second question, I would like to focus on a toolkit on how to lobby in EU politics. It's also linked to my mentorship proposal.

Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS): We need to do things better. One thing is making Congresses far more accessible. I have ADHD, I struggle in certain environments, and I have really learned from it.

Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth): I think we should use the Working Groups and Digital Assemblies to the fullest, to make the most out of them. We all know that when Congresses are linked to matters such as elections, it takes much more time.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): I regret not having been listened to in the past. It is something many people struggle with. I have had a hard time in my personal and professional life with this issue. On the second question, I think that the working groups are a good way to make time at Congress more efficient.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): The main issue at the Congresses is that sometimes we have one hour or two to discuss resolutions. We could maybe rethink the length of a Congress. As regards past professional failures, I have learned not to overwork myself. It will be important to divide tasks within the Bureau.

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor to the next delegates for the final questions.

Adam Hotovy (Mladé ANO): We are having Working Groups on different policy issues, but there are not as many people involved as we have at Congress. What is your strategy to increase participation?

Ramona Goga (USR Tineret): I would like to ask you what you think your top priority would be? Out of all the Bureau candidates, who would you work best with?

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I think the Working Groups have to be more short term and have more specific goals, so that it feels more productive to get involved. The top priority would be about setting up a new advocacy framework. Who I would feel more comfortable working with would be **Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis)**, but I am sure I would work well with everyone here.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): It is true that we have to remind people that Working Groups exist and why. Then, when it comes to priorities, I want us to have a great time at ALDE Congress and have journalists come to us. All of us here are running as colleagues and friends, I don't have a favourite member.

Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth): Before and after EU elections we should do our best when it comes to keeping our resources, assets, and policies. I think that advocacy should be our priority. On the last question, I would work well with literally everybody here. The one I have been in touch the most is probably **Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (OFF)**.

Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS): On how to make Working Groups work better, I chaired two of them in the past and the secret is that they need to have a clear timeline, a set goal, and an expiry date, so that people feel the urgency. The top priority should be active communication and consultation of members. On the last question, the person I have worked the most with is **Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (OFF)**.

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (OFF): I am going to shift this a little bit and focus on internal dynamics. We need a health check within the organisation, both at the Staff level and delegates level. We have some members that are really connected, and some others that are not. I want to work on this. On the other question, I would work better with **Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS)**. On the Working Groups, we have to move the time for reporting on them and save that time to discuss more resolutions at our Congresses.

Markéta Plesníková (Mladé ANO): Working Groups have to be approached as a taskforce, giving people space to present their results. We should work more creatively with those. The top priority is to try to

work together in the positions we feel the most comfortable with. We can achieve a lot if we are a strong team. I am happy to work with any of the fellow candidates.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): In terms of the Working Groups, I believe that expectations are not being made as of now. We need to save time and make them more meaningful. I have shared various ways we can boost efficiency. In terms of getting people more involved, we can engage people more and let them know about the work that we are doing. My priority is to work on a database with contact details of International Officers. I have no preference in terms of who I would work best with.

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): Working Groups should be updated. I was working on some of them in the past. My top priority is to be united. We should push our policies together. All the other delegates standing here are very capable people too so I have no preference.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks all the speakers and announces that the vote on OpenSlides to elect the new Bureau members is now open. She stresses that the vote will remain open until the end of the next break.

15. Election of the Internal Auditors and substitutes (presentations, questions and voting)

Joy Kamel (Chair) explains the election process: 4 positions will be up for voting but only the best two get to be the actual internal auditors, the other two remain substitutes. She gives the floor for 2 minutes to each candidate. There are 4 candidates that came forward before we opened the agenda point.

Presentations from the candidates:

Alex Nilsson (LUF): Dear liberal family, I am standing here as a candidate because I want to represent your interests as an Internal Auditor. I have a wealth of experience, both at an international level but also nationally, I have been in Treasurer and Secretary positions. I also have had experiences leading various Secretariat teams in a capacity where I have been able to lobby on their behalf on issues of pay and remuneration.

Baptiste Martinez (FEL): My university studies in human resources will be a real asset for this position. I am studying here in Brussels, this means I can be more present for the Bureau and especially for the Secretariat. I have been working as the International Officer for FEL. Whenever I decide on a course of action, I commit 100%.

Christopher Jefferies (LYMEC IMS): This is my first time at the LYMEC Congress. I want to serve as a safeguard for our organisation. I want to stay focused on following the rules properly, making sure everything is going smoothly on finances. We have very strong processes in place and hope to make

them even stronger. In my daily job, I am a lawyer and I work with corporations. With regard to LYMEC, I am IMS, leading the Civil and Minority Working Group.

Petrine Louise Johannesen (Venstres Ungdom): Dear friends, I believe that the Internal Auditor has to be critical and pay attention to details. This is why I will be extremely critical of mistakes. I will be a person you can trust. I will be handling every personal case in a very professional and serious manner.

Questions to the candidates:

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the floor for questions to the internal auditor candidates by specifying the rules. Questions will be taken one by one, unless we have many questions from the delegates. She also reminds delegates to specify to whom they are addressing their question(s).

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF): What I found challenging about this role is that I don't speak French. Do you speak French? Can you understand or work around it? Another point is that you have to be really good at interpersonal relations as well as with bookkeeping. Which skills do you have?

Alex Nilsson (LUF): Sadly, I don't speak French as of yet. My French remains a work in progress. On the other skills, I am responsible for bookkeeping and the budget of another organisation in my country.

Baptiste Martinez (FEL): As the International Officer from FEL, I obviously speak French. As a student and employee in human resources for private companies, I am organised enough to cover this position.

Petrine Louise Johannesen (Venstres Ungdom): I speak French to an A2 level. I did a project in Africa where I had to take care of all the things connected to bookkeeping as well as finance-based tasks. I have previously been IA for two other organisations. On human resources, I have had experience both with the project in Africa I was mentioning before, and within my own organisation in Denmark.

Christopher Jefferies (LYMEC IMS): I don't speak nor understand French very well. Belgian law is usually translated quite well into other languages, including English. I am a lawyer for a corporation, therefore I maintain very difficult interpersonal relationships on a daily basis.

Silvio Junger (JUNOS): Second question, if you have been an internal auditor before, where have you done that?

Baptiste Martinez (FEL): As internal auditor it is my first time, but I have been doing human resources.

Petrine Louise Johannesen (Venstres Ungdom): European Youth of Copenhagen and Venstres Ungdom in Copenhagen chapter.

Alex Nilsson (LUF): I have been an internal auditor before as well in my organisation.

Christopher Jefferies (LYMEC IMS): I have never done an internal audit but I do investigations in detail in my daily job.

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the vote on Openslides since there are no more questions. The Bureau Members and Internal Auditors elections results will be announced later. All the votes are still open and ongoing on Openslides.

16. Election of the IFLRY representative (presentations, questions and voting)

Joy Kamel (Chair) gives the floor to the candidate for this position for 3 minutes. She invites **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** to give her speech as the only candidate.

Presentation from the candidate:

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret) - ONLINE: I wish I could be present with you. About myself, I am the current Vice-President of USR Tineret Romania. And it is in this capacity that I have gained substantive policy experience in both LYMEC and IFLRY. If elected, I would like to keep an eye on policy adoption at IFLRY GAs. I will make sure that communications streams between the two organisations occur frequently, and that they know about each other's plans and schedules. Last, I would like to know what liberalism is like for other member organisations that are not European, understanding what they do and which struggles they face. I believe I can take on this role, keep building up on this relationship between LYMEC and IFLRY.

Joy Kamel (Chair) opens the floor for questions. There are no questions.

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks the candidate and launches the vote. She reminds the Congress that the Openslides vote will remain open for the next agenda points until the end of the last break.

20. Appointment of the new members of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage

Joy Kamel (Chair) proposes to take a last point before the break about the new Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage. No one opposes. She gives the floor to the Bureau.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) explains the role of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage to bridge between the LYMEC Bureau and MOs or between MOs in case of issues. It is important to have a good panel of people who fully understand the organisation. He lists the 5 candidates as proposed by the Bureau:

- **Marina Sedlo (JuLis)**
- **Keith Henry (OFF)**
- **Peter Banks (Young Liberals)**
- **Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom)**
- **Doris Lisett Rudnevs (ERPY)**

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) explains that Marina is a former LYMEC Policy Officer, Keith is a former International Officer of Ogra Fianna Fail. Peter is a former International Officer for the Young Liberals. Rasmus is the former International Officer of Radikal Ungdom. Doris is a former President of the Estonian Reform Party Youth and is currently working as a Policy Advisor within Renew Europe in the European Parliament.

Joy Kamel (Chair) asks delegates to put themselves on the speakers' list in case they are against this proposal. **No one did oppose so therefore the proposed 5 officials were elected to the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage of LYMEC.**

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): The three votes for Bureau Members, IFLRY Representative, Internal Auditors are still open and will remain open throughout the coffee break. After the coffee break, we will announce the results of the elections, and move on to the resolutions. We will resume the Congress at 16 h 23 pm and close the Congress at 17 h 30 pm. We will need to leave the room to move on to the next venue for our evening reception so we need to stick to the time.

-----COFFEE BREAK & VOTING ON OPENSIDES- - - - -

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the last roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 5 - after last break
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	6
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Croatia	HNS youth - Croatian Peoples Party - HNS	3
Croatia	Croatian Social and Liberal party - HSLS	0
Cyprus	NEODEPA	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	5
Luxembourg	JDL - Jong Demokraten Luxembourg	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladé Progresívne Slovensko - Young Progressive	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	Zemolodizhka (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Even Diot	1
IMS	Adam Volf	1
IMS	Sorcha Ní Chonghaile	1

225

Simple majority of those present

112.5

Two thirds of present

150

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 75

There were 225 votes present at the Congress. ✓

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Croatian Social and Liberal Party youth - HSLS

17. Announcement of the elected Bureau members

Joy Kamel (Chair): Welcomes everyone back and announces the results of the Bureau elections.

Congratulations to the 4 elected delegates below, the new Bureau members: Dimitra Papadopoulou, Willemijn Krans, Sorchá Ní Chonghaile and Sean Bennett! The results are displayed on the screen and available on OpenSlides for all delegates.

VOTE COUNT

Bureau members

	Candidates	Votes
1.	Dimitra Papadopoulou JuLis · No. BXL	(85.965 %) 196
2.	Willemijn Krans JOVD · No. BXL	(70.614 %) 161
3.	Sorchá Ní Chonghaile IMS Delegate · No. BXL	(58.333 %) 133
4.	Sean Bennett YL · No. BXL	(49.561 %) 113
5.	Tim Robinson IMS · No. BXL	(48.246 %) 110
6.	Konstantza Gyurova YMRF · No. BXL	(36.842 %) 84
7.	Mateusz Gwóźdź NY · No. BXL	(32.456 %) 74
8.	Marketa Plesnikova MA · No. BXL	(17.982 %) 41
	Valid votes	(100 %) 228

18. Announcement of the elected Internal Auditors

Joy Kamel (Chair): Welcomes everyone back and announces the results of the Internal Auditors elections.

Congratulations to the 2 elected Internal Auditors: Petrine Louise Johannesen (Venstres Ungdom) and Alex Nilsson (LUF)! The results are displayed on the screen and available on OpenSlides for all

delegates. The first 2 non-elected candidates, Baptiste Martinez (FEL) and Christopher Jefferies (LYMEC IMS) are substitutes.

VOTE COUNT

Candidates		Votes
1.	Petrine Louise Johannesen VU · No. BXL	(67.982 %) 155
2.	Alex Nilsson LUF · No. BXL	(50.877 %) 116
3.	Baptiste Martinez FEL · No. BXL	(47.807 %) 109
4.	Christopher Jefferies IMS · No. BXL	(42.982 %) 98
Valid votes		(100 %) 228

Joy Kamel (Chair) thanks **Baptiste Martinez (FEL)** and **Christopher Jefferies (LYMEC IMS)** for their participation and encourages them to stay active in LYMEC now that they both have become substitute internal auditors.

19. Announcement of the elected IFLRY representative

Joy Kamel (Chair) congratulates **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** for being elected as LYMEC's new IFLRY representative. **Congratulations to the elected delegate below! The result is displayed on the screen and available on OpenSlides for all delegates.**

VOTE COUNT

IFLRY representative election

non-nominal ⓘ · published

Candidates		Yes	No	Abstain
1.	Ioana Abaseaca USR · No. online	(93.878 %) 184	(0 %) 0	(6.122 %) 12
Valid votes		(100 %) 196		

21. Motions (including statutory changes)

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) takes the lead on the Congress chairing. She states that no motions were submitted for this Congress. We therefore move to the next point.

22. Resolutions

Point of Order

Louis-Suliac Ruffier-D'Epenoux (Jeunes MR): We won't have time for more than one resolution. I want to move the discussion to the reports from member organisations, because I assume many MOs, especially with the EU Elections coming, have issues they would like to tackle on the Congress floor.

Point of Order

Julius Graack (JuLis) : We all want to discuss resolutions. We can discuss MOs matters during coffee breaks as well as during the evening programme.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair): If I am reading the room right, we will now move on to the discussion of the resolutions. No one opposes. The first point of order therefore falls.

➤ **Resolution 1: Can't Pray the Gay Away: Put an End to Conversion Therapy**

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

Point of Order

Olena Dudko (EYU): Let's spare time and vote now directly, while skipping the first reading. We know what the resolutions are about, if we didn't know their content, the snap vote order wouldn't have delivered such a clear result.

Point of Order

Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals): Do we actually want to debate resolutions? We spent so much time getting to this stage. Now that we have arrived at this stage, you are saying we don't even want to debate? This is unacceptable, we should proceed with the traditional debate time and process we dedicate to resolutions, therefore we should move on to the first reading. Please vote on my request.

Vote on Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals)'s Point of Order on keeping the first reading of the resolutions.



Yes - 128

No - 71

Abstain - 3

Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals)'s Point of Order was carried by the Congress. Congress moves on to the first reading of the first resolution.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

Tommy Monahan (Alliance Youth): I come from a country where conversion therapy is seen as normal. I have seen first-hand the damage that conversion therapy can do to our youth. Let's ban this practice once-in-for-all.

Magnus Rabben Wessmann (NUV): I was surprised when I found out that LYMEC had no policy at all on this issue, so I really hope we will correct our record and make it clear that conversion therapy should be banned.

Tommy Monahan (Alliance Youth): I don't want to repeat myself, so all I'll say is that it's an abhorrent practice, that's the end of the story.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) moves to the amendments.

❖ Amendments 1 and 2

Amendment 1 and 2 have both a positive recommendation from the working group and no one opens them up. Amendment 1 and Amendment 2 are therefore carried by the Congress.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) opens the vote on the resolution as a whole as amended.

Vote on the resolution as amended as a whole ✓

Yes - 192

No - 0

Abstain - 0

The resolution is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 2: A fight against the far-right is a fight for liberalism and democracy**

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

Julian Dalberg (JuLis): Dear liberal friends, as we approach the European elections, it is important that we understand the dangers that are on the horizon as the far-right continues to gain political ground in our wonderful continent. We, as liberals, need to stand united to defend the open societies liberals have helped build in the past. Please support this resolution.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) moves to the amendments as no one is asking for the floor.

❖ Amendments 80 and 24

Amendment 80 and 24 have received positive recommendations from the working group and no one opens them up. Amendment 80 and Amendment 24 are therefore carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 25**

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) invites the delegates to speak against or in favour since this amendment had no recommendation from the working group. The amendment is eventually withdrawn by the mover without discussion.

Vote on the resolution as amended as a whole ✅

Yes - 176

No - 0

Abstain - 19

The resolution is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 3: Protecting liberal principles within the European liberal Family**

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair): I would like to request the co-chairs, to be removed from the discussion of this resolution on the grounds of Art. 5 of our Congress Rules – as Chair I must act as an impartial party, but I am seriously questioning the timing of this resolution, so I cannot perform my duties. Chair, may I be removed from the discussion of this resolution? The co-chairs approve.

Now that I am removed as chair, before you continue with your discussion, please let me raise awareness on a couple of factual points. An ALDE Resolution “On protecting and affirming our liberal values in face of far-right populism” was adopted in May last year in Sweden, which calls on the ALDE Party Bureau to:

- Issue a statement condemning Mr. Babiš’ participation in CPAC Hungary, distancing itself from the views expressed at this event. That has already been done.
- Withdraw Mr. Babiš’ invitation from events organised by the ALDE Party. That was also already done.
- And dispatch a fact-finding mission to evaluate ANO and present its conclusions as soon as possible. A presentation on the matter took place in October at the Council in Bucharest.

Point of order

Julius Graack (JuLis): This is unacceptable for you as an external individual to decide what to do with this resolution. I am sorry to interrupt you, but you have no right to speak. I would like the chair to be removed.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair): I am already removed, let me finish, please. Now I don't want to disrespect you as LYMEC's main decision-making body, but as your former President and an individual, I wanted you to know that the ALDE Congress just passed and there is no other decision-making Congress before the EU elections and you pledged that the results of this Congress cannot be used in any setting for the EU elections campaign, so please when discussing keep in mind what's already done and be strategic on what do you really want to achieve.

Point of order

Julius Graack (JuLis): you cannot do this **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair)**, as an individual you don't have a standing in this Congress, you do not have the right to speak here. I would like the chair to be **removed permanently** from the rest of the points of this Congress.

Point of order

Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals): This process has become quite disrespectful, especially for a motion like this. As chairs, please do your job properly.


Point of order

Julius Graack (JuLis): According to the Congress Rules, it is possible to dismiss a chair. I'm calling for that to happen now.

Nima Hairy (Chair): Just to be clear, are you asking for the removal of **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair)** as chair?

Julius Graack (JuLis): Yes.

Nima Hairy (Chair): The vote is open. Please vote on this matter.

Vote on the permanent removal of **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair) as a chair until the end of the Congress. **

Yes - 98

No - 76

Abstain - 38

Nima Hairy (Chair): The Congress decided to remove **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair)** as a chair. Does the Congress accept to replace the chair with **Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair)**, as we have 4 chairs for this Congress?

The Congress unanimously approves **Laurenz Van Ginneken (Chair) as the new chair replacing **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Chair)** until the end of the Congress.**

Nima Hairy (Chair) asks the mover of the resolution to present.

Stefan Cikovsky (MPS): Thank you everybody who made this possible. We will not have a debate about the amendments. Since we are in a hurry, I will cut some parts of my speech. We all heard about CPAC last year when we were in Budapest, when Babiš was on the stage with many other conservative politicians from all over the world. Our mission as LYMEC is guaranteeing freedom, liberalism and support of Ukraine. Unfortunately, Andrej Babiš does not stand by any of these stances. I know that this might not be the best political step. However, do you want to have someone within ALDE and LYMEC and the broader liberal family who does not respect your values and principles? Do you want a partner who could stab you in the back? This already happened twice: in Hungary and in Slovakia. Lastly, let's not forget that our main rivals are the European People's Party (EPP) and Socialists and Democrats (S&D). We are here to keep our values, unite, believe in liberalism and not accept when populists use liberalism for their own interests. One last thing I will say is that I don't think you understand this is one of the most critical steps ahead of the European Elections so it's really important. We have accepted most of the amendments of JuLis so we can move ahead faster. If you are scared about the prospects of drafting a statement and sending it to ALDE, there is an amendment (Amd 98) that makes sure that we don't publicly do it, while making it clear to ALDE that we do not accept illiberal stances and parties in our liberal family.

Ramona Goga (USR Tineret): I will let **Levente Takacs (Momentum TizenX)** speak before me, he came first.

Levente Takacs (Momentum TizenX): Babiš is participating in the CPAC in Hungary, he is friends with Orban, he supports Trump, he thinks that the EP is a corrupt body that should be suspended. He insults his allies constantly. How can we have a partnership that fosters cooperation if your partners do that? Do we really want to have ANO as a partner if they don't actually behave as one? In the morning, we rejected an organisation applying for associate membership because they didn't subscribe to liberal values vocally enough. This member (ANO) goes against all our values. They are self-proclaimed populists. And I understand that seats in the European Parliament are really important. But these seats are abandoning our values and beliefs. Let's keep LYMEC really liberal.

Ramona Goga (USR Tineret): I completely agree with everything that has been said. Do you think this is the right time to show we are all divided? This is the moment to be united. There is an investigation initiated by the ALDE Party and we should wait for their response. If we want to go by feeling, this is the right way. But do we have anything to bring up publicly on this matter? If we show we are divided, we have no chances to win in front of anyone. Please keep this in mind.

Point of order

Laia Comerma (JNC) proposes to reduce the speaking time to 30 seconds.

Nima Hairy (Chair) states that the proposal is carried as no one opposes it. The speaking time is at 30 seconds now for each intervention. He gives the floor back to the delegates on the list of speakers.

Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO): We see multiple stances. One is that it is ALDE's problem how to circulate this matter. It is not LYMEC's scope. Also, we have heard much disinformation and misinformation around this topic.

Florentyna Martynska (Nowoczesna Youth): Although it is true that ALDE has an investigation going on, does this stop LYMEC from taking its own stance? I can only agree with the content of this resolution.

Adam Hotovy (Mladé ANO): I just want to make a point, this is a great platform for us. But we are going towards EU Elections. This amendment will show that LYMEC is divided. There are so many things that are being said about this matter, which do not entirely correspond to reality. Please keep that in mind.

Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO): I want to remind you that there is a great difference between an investigation and a resolution that is adopted.

Levente Takacs (Momentum TizenX): Guys, we are liberals, we are young, we have an ideology, we have values - let's respect them. Please vote in favour of this resolution!

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President): First of all, I am not emotionally involved with this issue. However, you deserve to understand that if this motion passes, it will make it extremely difficult for LYMEC to discuss any further financial support from ALDE. There will be no ALDE Bureau meeting or Council gathering before the EU Elections. This is the worst moment to present this resolution. Please vote against.

David Grasveld (LHG): This is a motion on ANO, not on Mladé ANO, they are an independent organisation. However we decide to vote on this resolution, it should not affect our friends from Mladé ANO.

Nima Hairy (Chair): invites the mover to present the amendments. We move forward with the first ones.

Stefan Cikovsky (MPS): We would like to carry amendments 34, 64, 30 and 35. We are against Amendment 38. However, on the same lines, 67 and 68 we are in favour of both. The first one is amending the paragraph. In fact, amendment 67, there is just a small change.

❖ Amendment 38

Nima Hairy (Chair): invites the mover to present the amendments since it is not carried by **Stefan Cikovsky (MPS)**. Amendment 38 received no recommendation from the working group also.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) reminds that if amendment 38 passes, amendments 67 and 68 would fall because it's amending the same lines and 38 is a deletion so reaches further.

Stefan Cikovsky (MPS): This paragraph is not about human rights or equal rights. It just shows that ANO is not in favour of supporting minorities' rights.

Nima Hairy (Chair) adds that the mover isn't presenting the amendment, we therefore move directly to a vote.

Vote on amendment 38 ✖

Yes - 55

No - 95

Abstain - 48

The amendment was not carried by the Congress. This means that Amendments 67 and 68 are adopted.

Stefan Cikovsky (MPS) clarifies that they also **carry amendments 31, 70, 29 and 71**. However, they are against amendment 33 from JuLis.

Nima Hairy (Chair) says that we will move to a vote on amendment 33 since there is no agreement.

❖ Amendment 33

Vote on amendment 33 ✖

Yes - 43

No - 100

Abstain - 50

The amendment was not carried by the Congress

Nima Hairy (Chair) clarifies that amendment 98 is carried by the mover.

Nima Hairy (Chair): We are then done with the amendments. He gives the floor to the delegates willing to make some final interventions on this resolution.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LUF): I want to precise what **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President)** said. When voting for this, remember there is a reason we have a Congress right now, which is political recess. Legislative work is now stopping ahead of the elections so please don't vote in favour of this.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I am in favour of this resolution. LYMEC has a delegation that will be responsible at the next ALDE Congress to decide on this, we should give them the content.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I am also speaking in favour. No one denies that ANO and Babiš are illiberal forces sitting within a liberal group. Why don't we want to take a stance on this? What are we afraid of? We are the ideological core of ALDE, if we don't support, we will fight for the consequences this will bring.

Adam Hotovy (Mladé ANO): I urge you to vote against: first, the timing. Second, what the media will make of this. If we re-discuss this after the elections, I am sure the situation will be different and won't hurt anyone here. We can then come back with all the arguments on the table.

Nima Hairy (Chair) clarifies that there is no one else on the speakers' list so we will vote on the resolution as amended.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole: ✗

For- 79

Against- 105

Abstain- 28

The Resolution as amended as a whole is not carried by the Congress.

23. Report from the Extraordinary ALDE Party Congress March 2024

Nima Hairy (Chair) gives the floor to **Laia Comerma (JNC)** for this report.

Laia Comerma (JNC): I asked yesterday for a clap to the ALDE Delegation. Here is a recap of what happened. We participated in the making of the ALDE Party Electoral Manifesto. An overwhelming majority of our amendments were accepted and incorporated in the ALDE Party Electoral Manifesto. Our urgency resolution on the rise of the far-right was accepted, it had a lot of co-signatories, but also 96% of the total votes. We can be very proud of this. We elected the Spitzenkandidate, we were vocal and bold throughout the Congress. This delegation really did an amazing job.

24. Reports from MOs, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage and LYMEC Working Groups

Congress decides to postpone this point as time was rather spent on resolutions.

25. Any Other Business

Congress decides to postpone this point as time was rather spent on resolutions.

26. Closing from the new LYMEC President

Nima Hairy (Chair) gives the floor for the conclusions to the newly elected LYMEC President

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President): I know it's a tense situation at the moment. It's been a busy day. I don't have the time to give my speech in full, so I will use my time to again underline the importance of unity and dialogue within LYMEC. We have heard it a lot these past two days: Europe is at a crossroads. Not only because of the European elections but also because many will have national, regional, or local elections to participate in. There are threats from various directions. The most evident one sitting in Russia, fighting brutally with ammunition against liberal values and freedom. But not just Putin is trying to undermine our liberal democracies. His friends, scattered all over Europe are in it as well. Some out of conviction, some out of opportunism, playing with voters' fears. Sometimes it might seem hard to not resignate by looking at opinion polls or projections. But I'm convinced that we as liberals are the ones that need to stand up. As liberals, we need to go out and tell our personal stories about why we want to preserve this Union, fight for this Union. And I am 100% certain each and everyone of you have a thousand personal stories that drive you to fight for the European Union. What makes you spend a whole weekend in a Conference room, arguing about amendments to amendments? What makes you hopeful about the future? We as liberals need to get out and spread these exact stories. Be it in conversations with our friends, families or people who might still be sceptical due to a fear-driven narrative. Thank you!

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) stresses that the Congress is now closed at 17 h 50 pm CET (Brussels time) and gives some practical information for the dinner arrangements. Thank you everyone!

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