

**MINUTES**  
**LYMEC Autumn Congress**  
**22nd - 24th October 2021**  
**Paris and Online**



## Day 1: Friday 22nd October 2021

**Congress starts at 16 h 00 CEST (Paris time).**

**Participants are attending in-person but also online (hybrid Congress).**

**The opening speeches were live-streamed.**

### 1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** opens the Congress with her speech.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** Dear liberal friends, dear LYMEC members, all those who are online, thank you for being with us today and welcome to the Congress. I am happy to be here in-person and that some of you can be in-person as well. I am even more happy to experience the true spirit of LYMEC, of sharing our experiences and dreams of hope for a Europe of tomorrow. Dear friends, we took a cautious approach. We have seen that young people can think digitally and adapt. We also know how valuable an in-person attachment is. That is why we try to build on the lessons learned, allowing for increased delegations online, while being able to be together physically. It is our profound belief, that we can truly appreciate the time together and that we take nothing for granted, that we feel the human cost during the pandemic and that we are just as determined to make decisions together. That is why we have this hybrid congress. We have said these many times. We are to its core about togetherness. It is about expanding the horizon above the domestic EU bubble, to argue about our views and to speak with one voice for Europe. One of the greatest EU matters that emerged from the Spring Congress until today is the CoFoE. I cannot say how proud I was that we, LYMEC, had a clear stance from the beginning. Not just youth criticism and pointing fingers, we were ready with concrete solutions, on the institutional reforms and on the topic of what the EU should focus on. I thank you as your work has prepared us with united answers and I am proud that a result came from these discussions by showing a mutual understanding. This is a moment that you can applaud yourself. All the proposals are on the digital platform and we have been vocal from the beginning that young liberals want change and ambition. We don't want an EU that only realizes ad hoc solutions, but for one that is fit for the future. It is more crucial than ever that the EU takes on these solutions. It is time to shape the future we want to see. It's time to insist on the EU for the future. Thank you for being here and welcome to the LYMEC Autumn Congress. I hope we can continue with the discussions tomorrow. **Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Co-President, ALDE Party)** I am happy to have you here with us, floor is yours.

## 2. Guest speeches

**Ilhan Kyuchyuk - Online (Co-President, ALDE Party):** Thank you for allowing me to speak at your Congress. I am sorry that I am not in-person, since it's your first in-person Congress since the pandemic. I wish you a great Congress and we want to express a thank you for the work that you do. Your President **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** has always made sure that your voice is heard loudly. I am also pleased that we can host the first Alliance of Her x LYMEC youth Academy to empower our young women leaders to learn more about politics. I am glad that you are passionate and engaged on the CoFoE. It is important that your voice is heard, the future of the EU belongs to you. We cannot close the doors on you. It is a unique experience, all three institutions of the EU to become a participatory democracy. One can see that on the digital platform people want to change the functionality of the EU and topics are wide, from climate change to the rule of law. They are about gender balance and equality. One topic is central, it is fair to say that the rule of law is the most important. We cannot let EU countries break the fundamental values of democracy. We can all say this: liberals will never be silent. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here and I wish you a great Congress. The liberal cause is the cause of the young generation.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** Thank you for giving us inspiring words.

**Timmy Dooley - Online (Co-President, ALDE Party):** I wish I was with you there in Paris, but I am limited with traveling. It is really important what you undertake at the Congress, not only because of the issues you address but because of having the hybrid event that you have, and I hope the next will be in-person. The upcoming ALDE Congress, we would like to organise something with you together to have a big liberal turnout from the youth. **Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Co-President ALDE Party)** has already talked about some issues we struggle with. COVID has been challenging, but it's a reminder of how we can work together as a block of nations. There were some negative points at the outset of the roll out of the vaccines. We have managed to get the vaccines out to the Member States and in return, we can go back to reality. COVID has been a new phenomenon, some of the old ideologies have reminded us that we have countries where we had expected a better turnout, for example the way the Polish government has acted. They are against the Polish people. If we have anything to stand for it's the mutual respect for rule of law, for EU law. It's been difficult to argue for this, but we have come to recognise that the rule of law is sacrosanct. From the LYMEC delegates perspective, the young liberals have valued their membership. People under the age of 35 were against Brexit and I expect that the same happens in Poland and Hungary, with young citizens who know the values of the EU. During my last flight I met some young people from abroad, who are now living in the EU because of the opportunities it offers along with travel and education. All of this has come from a recognition to work together, I agree that

as Co-President we cannot stand silent on this. I challenge you to have the most to gain, you don't sit back, you lead and you deliver. I don't doubt that as President **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** mentioned, you will fight for the benefit from the growth of the EU but you will suffer the most, if values which are not common to the EU are put forward. From where I come, the British Parliament who had great ideas, some of the leaders at the time during Brexit really believed that the reforms would have been defeated but it wasn't. We need to put forward the alternative and identify the values and freedom as a result. I look forward to working with you and I welcome you to Dublin to hopefully at last, talk and share our thoughts, where we will fight like liberals in a convivial atmosphere. Thank you so much **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)**.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** We are looking forward to the cooperation we have with the ALDE Party. I want to give the floor to the Executive Director of the European Liberal Forum **Daniel Kaddik (Executive Director, ELF)**.

**Daniel Kaddik - Online (Executive Director, ELF):** Good afternoon dear liberals, it is very weird to address you like this. I am also at the European Parliament for the first time in ages in Strasbourg. I would have liked to address you in-person, we have the Renew partners meeting on the CoFoE and therefore had to take care of this business. On my way to Strasbourg, I passed through Paris to talk to the Bureau and meet them in-person. I don't get tired of saying that you are the future, that is why we invest in you. To come together in liberal global challenges, we need to fight as liberals to make our visions seen. We cannot see our values attacked from the left and the right. Looking at the reality, we need to shape the future and that is what we did with ELF and the White Book to shape the future with a strong input from LYMEC. It's important that LYMEC is involved, that you question, and bring up solutions for a better future. You have a friend in ELF and in me. I was kindly elected also as a board member of the Alumni network and we will continue the work together.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** We are looking forward to the upcoming ELF events and hope to have them in-person. I invite **Henry Dupas (President, Jeunes Radicaux)**, thank you for having us.

**Henry Dupas - In-person (President, Jeunes Radicaux):** Dear friends, as we are physically gathered here for the first time after nearly two years, I wish to thank all the board members for having chosen Paris as the place to start again our near-normal activity. Europe will rise from the humility of the people. We all know that French people have a tendency to feel superior, self-centered and arrogant, this is not what we want to show you at this Congress. I know that the French play a particular role in Europe and it would be a lie to deny that. In this meaning we welcome the election of Stéphane Séjourné as new

President of Renew Europe. As Jeunes Radicaux, being humble means taking Europe ideals high, showing past progresses, encouraging future advances to serve common goods in search of a constant solidarity between people. As you all know, France will take the presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2022 and I think it is time to show you that we know how to be humble. The word humble comes from the Latin root 'Hummus'. Hummus comes from the soil, and according to this definition the humble person recognises itself as what she/he/they really is/are, nothing more than one of the many pieces of grass that form together a beautiful and united lawn. To be humble does not mean to be passive. For more than 100 years, the Radical Party has promoted a society based on solidarity where the parliament shows a good control of the administration and the executive power. Jeunes Radicaux have always defended with tireless efforts the rights of the citizens. We are deeply federalist. In this sense, the EU should have stronger links, for example we think every state should give more opportunities to territories to work directly with the EU Institutions. We believe that fundamental topics, such as ecology, are important to put forward. We want to build bridges between the Institutions. We hope that you will enjoy Paris. We are happy to host the Congress with our liberal family. Let's make the future our reality.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** We thank you so far for everything you have done. And now we move to another strong partner, IFLRY president **Amanda Kanange (President, IFLRY)**.

**Amanda Kanange - Online (President, IFLRY):** Thank you for inviting me to give a speech. I wish I was with you in Paris. Hopefully I will be able to do that soon, because what you are doing is important. We are in need of a united European Union, and as liberals we have always believed in a Union of togetherness. IFLRY can work on these issues together with you because we share the same values and we know that they are threatened from different sides. That is why the EU foreign policy should include democracy in the process. We need internal cooperation to work to tackle the refugee crisis. We need to have a common foreign policy that stands up for all the liberal values we share. We know that when the EU speaks with one voice, people listen. We as young people, we make these policies and that's why our collaboration is so important and that is why we can thrive together. I am so thankful to you for having me and hopefully we will see each other soon.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** Now we can also have an in-person guest, also a valuable partnership in the Liberal family, the Young Democrats for Europe. The floor is yours **Ugo Rostaing (Secretary General, YDE)**.

**Ugo Rostaing - In-person (Secretary General, YDE):** Thank you for being here, it's good to be here. We have many upcoming projects, but the important ones are the next French presidency of the Council of



European Union and the CoFoE. Like former speakers, I want to talk about how I feel like I am part of a family. I feel like we are part of the same family. Yes there are different liberals but we are all democrats and what do we cherish? Values. Independently without any other political powers, we have always found a broad consensus of togetherness. We have a lot of discussions on what we should prioritise, but we work together, for good old times. This is what we must fight for, these leaders that fight our values and that are against our values. Just a few miles outside of Europe, there are people being detained, freedom of speech and freedom to move are being actively fought against. Hungary threatens his own people, Poland is threatening the Rule of Law, values again are always important. Our European values need to be everywhere, we know that the populists, the Brexits and so on are now promoted by traditional politicians, we have those even in France as well. European values, dear friends, this is what we have to fight for, and CoFoe is a wonderful opportunity. We are ready to take the fight

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** Another address within our Renew cooperation family, we want to invite **Sacha Halphen (European Spokesperson, Jeunes avec Macron)** to the floor.

**Sacha Halphen - In-person (European Spokesperson, Jeunes avec Macron):** Madam President, **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)**, dear **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, dear members of the Bureau, those who don't know me, I am the European spokesperson of Jeunes avec Macron. I want to thank the Bureau for saying a few words, to speak to you and to thank you. For those who don't know us, we are the youth organisation of Macron's party, and we are a centrist pro-European party. In the past, we had the opportunity to work with you for a sustainable Europe and our cooperation is very important right now with the CoFoE. I believe that everyone here wants the EU to have a stronger presence and it is the best legacy to give our kids, but some people don't want this. It is up to us to take up arms, weapons of legislation to defend the Europe that we love. The Europe we want is sustainable in all means but also pro-European. I think that the family of centrist, liberals and democrats are on the way to make our objective a reality. You can count on me to work together because we have so many shared values. Let's bring our vision for everyone and inspire young people. We wish you a wonderful Congress and thank you for the opportunity.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** Last but not least, we are going to hear two videos of two guests starting with **Sillja Markkula** from the European Youth Forum (**YFJ President**).

**Sillja Markkula - Online (YFJ President):** Let me start by expressing my regret of not being in Paris. The CoFoE plenary is taking place and I cannot be present. We bring together young people from different ideologies, faith, charity or shared interest. We believe that there are values to bring together young people from all over the spectrum. We know how hard it is to find common ground. I attended the

Congress in London and witnessed the difference among you all, but this is an important exercise as well. We know that some disagree with us that in a democracy we need to see those who are not great in number. We fight for civil space and for young people to grow. The freedom to flourish is under pressure and we know that LYMEC is together with us in this fight for freedom and values. These values are shared with us both and I am happy to share them with you. Democracy is only not just to prove them but to involve them. The recent YLM called for a more transparent and impactful CoFoE and we are also working on involving young people in the exercise. The EU needs a democratic shackle up and it shows that we are ready to contribute. We are happy to see LYMEC's position in the CoFoE. LYMEC and IFLRY have presented successful candidates for many foras for young people and we are also happy to meet you soon. Thank you for your time and I hope you have a wonderful Congress.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** The last address is from **Malik Azmani (Renew Europe Group, Vice-President)**, the first Vice President of Renew Europe.

**Malik Azmani - Online (Renew Europe Group, First Vice-President):** Dear all, I am talking to you from Strasbourg where I am attending the CoFoE. We are gathered here to work with our liberal family. Congratulations on your Autumn Congress and all the work you have done, especially **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** and **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, but also all the participants. You have busy lives but take the time to discuss and shape the future. Politics is about real life issues and we need you to take part in the game. The elections in Germany have shown how critical young people are, they voted for greens and the FDP and they were key in their decision on the future of Germany. Young people's participation is crucial, we cannot overcome issues without your participation. We want you to take part and we need your input and your vision when we shape the EU. It's about organising events and politics is about getting in for all. A few words on the previous years, we have launched an influential project. The aim is for us in 2024 to be the biggest group in the Parliament and we need to find the best structures and find a way to be the biggest group and involve all of our partners. We need to work together to be more influential. Our group will involve you in this process, because our group and family want to renew Europe. Please share these moments while you are active for change, thank you for the invitation and I hope you have a successful Congress. Thank you so much!

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** I would like to thank the guests who came to address us in-person and online, to tell you what their vision is, what is ahead of us, and to tell us how overwhelming it has been to see on social media how excited you are to be here. Thank you very much and we close the livestream now.

### 3. Roll call and voting rights

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to perform the first roll call.

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **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 unmute themselves 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	Votes	Roll Call 1 Friday Opening
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw	5	
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF	10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth	3	
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY	4	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5	5
Estonia	Reform Party Youth	6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-ruoret	6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskusten Opiskelijaliitto)	3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)	6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3	3
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Liberal Youth	3	
Germany	Junge Liberale	10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece	3	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	6	6
Latvia	Atisibai Youth	3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth	6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3	3
The Netherlands	JOVD	6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Party	3	
Norway	Unge Venstre	4	4
Romania	USR Tineret		
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth	3	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	7	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7	7
IMS	Tim Robinson	1	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot	1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1	1
		<b>202</b>	<b>188</b>
	Simple majority of those present	101	94



**There were 188 votes present at the Congress.**

The following Member Organisations were absent:

**Jong VLD**

**Lidem**

**Nasa Stranka Youth**

**Gibraltar Liberal Youth**

#### **4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers**

##### **Election of chairs**

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** proposes **Danica Vihinen, Remi Guastalli and Svenja Hahn** as Congress Chairs.

**Congress accepted the Chairs.**

##### **Election of secretaries**

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** presents the Congress secretaries, proposing **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**, together with **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

**Congress accepted the secretaries.**

##### **Election of scrutineers**

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** presents the Congress scrutineers, proposing **Jeffrey Drui (Internal Auditor)** and **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)**.

**Congress accepted the scrutineers.**

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** I now give the floor to **Svenja Hahn (Chair)**.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thank you for this opportunity. We are going to share some rules and introduce ourselves. I am **Svenja Hahn (Chair)** and former president of LYMEC. I'm currently MEP in the Renew Europe Group. It's a great honour to be here with you tonight.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair):** I am representing Jeunes Radicaux as part of the chairing board. Some of you know me as the former IO of Jeunes Radicaux and Parti Radical, that will host you these days.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** I am the former Secretary General of LYMEC. I have met some of you before but I am also really happy to see many new faces, both in-person and online.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Now you know who we are, we will go through a few things. The Congress rules and the statues are at your disposal as well, since you sometimes need to look at them, but at the end it is the Chairs who have to interpret them if there is something unclear. Normally, I believe that the statues are clear and fair. I want to point out that the camera is in the back, so please be careful not to stand in front of it. It would be extremely inconvenient for the people online to follow. About Openslides, it's the main tool for the Congress that we work with now, and it's also the tool to use when you want to ask for the floor, so please remember that. We don't take any raised hands. We are also going to use it for voting for resolutions. One more thing before we continue with the adoption of the agenda is the point of order. As political nerds, we all like making points of order. **Danica Vihinen (Chair)** is going to explain to you what it is, so that we are all on the same page.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** You can find it in Art. 18 of the Congress rules. It is especially, but not exclusively, motions to interrupt the Congress, motions to adjourn the Congress, motions to close the speakers' list, motions to close the debate and vote directly, motions to extend or limit the speaking time, motions not to discuss a motion, motion to close the debate and to continue with the next point of the agenda, motions to vote in sections, motions to change the order of the agenda, motions to restart with a point of the agenda, motions to call for a roll call, motions to remove the Chair, motions to deviate from these Congress rules. To make sure this Congress works properly in a hybrid form, I suggest that you do not make a point of order for extra speaking time.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Also one more important thing, please do not connect your personal device to the hotel wifi. It is not the best and we are afraid that it might get overcrowded, and consequently we won't get a smooth online part of the Congress. If you can use your own free roaming as a EU citizen, please use it, and only turn on wifi if necessary on devices you directly use for the Congress. There are two ombudspersons also, **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)** and **Laia Comerma (Events & Training Officer)**, whose contact details are displayed and also available on OpenSlides. They can be contacted in case of issues.

## 5. Adoption of the agenda

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** asks if anyone disagrees with the agenda.

**The Congress accepts the Agenda as proposed.**

## 6. Adoption of the minutes from the Online Spring Congress 2021

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Online Congress in Spring 2021.

**Bastian De Monte (JUNOS Austria):** He apologises for doing the wrongful way of taking the floor. There are two mistakes that were brought to my attention, the first on **page 38** where it is written "JSR Tineret" instead of "USR Tineret" and on **page 44** Nemir Ali is featured as JD instead of JuLis.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** A very formal thing but it will be corrected.

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General):** What we can do for such a technical request is that you send an email and we correct it before the actual Congress for next time. It is noted down and we will of course correct it.

**Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate):** This may be dealt with via email but on **page 40** it says that I said that Antarctica has no important strategic relevance and again that it has very little strategic importance, which seems redundant. It is written twice so if we could have it only one time, it would be nice.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thank you **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)**. It is noted that Antarctica does not have a strategic relevance for you. There are no more speakers, and it means that the minutes are adopted.

No-one expressed any disapproval.

**Congress adopted the minutes from the 2021 Online Spring Congress with the changes proposed.**

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

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** We have not received any urgencies and therefore we will move onto the next point.

## 8. Snap vote on the order of resolutions (with presentation of resolutions)

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** I am sure you have seen the resolutions beforehand. You have 30 minutes to vote on the order of resolutions.

**Results of the snap vote on the order of resolutions:**

1. Mental Health matters for Europe's students!
2. «A liberal drug policy» (JGLP / JFS Schweiz)
3. The Future of EU - Afghan Relations
4. A CAP fit for the 21st century
5. In response to the asylum seekers' influx provoked by the illegitimate government of the Republic of Belarus
6. Freedom of Press and Media in Central-Eastern Europe: Attacks on the media, press and journalists
7. Freedom of expression and campus police
8. Levelling the train-plane playing field: paying for trains by planes
9. Inclusive education for an equal society
10. Boosting COVAX before boosting the EU
11. Mandatory Provision of National Electronic Identification within the EU
12. Political situation in Venezuela
13. Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families
14. Reform the concept of NEET
15. Resolution for the rights of Climate Refugees
16. Effective legal protection in the European Union
17. Making 'Fit For 55' fit for purpose
18. Project Pegasus: protecting our privacy
19. We are Europe too
20. Liberal perspectives to improve infrastructure support in EU development policy
21. Officiality and Promotion of Regional and Minority Languages in Europe
22. Resolution on the European Civil Defense Mechanism
23. For a free and secure digital communication: Implementing a right to encryption and anonymity
24. In defense of freedom and fundamental rights in Cuba
25. Motion Against MLM Companies for covering up Pyramid Schemes

## 9. Bureau reports and debate about the reports

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** It is very nice to see someone else do this. **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (President)** and **Dan-Aria Sucuri (Vice-President)**, please take the floor. After that, we will have the other Bureau Members to say something and then you can ask questions.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** There seems to be a technical issue with the vote on the order of resolutions.

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General):** The vote is now relaunched again. Sorry for the issue.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thank you for this.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** I hope you have all read the Bureau reports that we produced and uploaded 4 weeks before the Congress. I am not going into too much detail, but just skim

through what has been done. In the period between the previous Congress and now, we have continued our work on the events with the support of the European Liberal Forum, all our meetings were online until the summer, then we started slowly picking up on hybrid events with a reasonable level of precaution as to minimise every risk. We have executed all our planned events which we have introduced to you before the summer, like the Liberal Communicators Network, which was an online 2 days session devoted to those of you who deal with communication in their organisations. We also undertook a hybrid format for the first session of YCA and held an online discussion with the authors on our publication 'EU Diplomacy - Fit For the Future'. We then had the ELF Skill Camp devoted to storytelling and better communicating, and the YLM in Bucharest where you probably have seen a clear result with an adopted call for action for the CoFoE. I believe it was **Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL)** who asked earlier during one of the last Digital Assemblies what the priority for the Bureau would be in this period, and we highlighted that the CoFoE would be the absolute focus of our work. We held the webinars under the first twinning projects on Renewing Education and supported the cooperation project on LGBTIQ issues. Building on the lesson learned from the first attempt of LYMEC's own twinning projects opportunities, we will do these twinning projects again in the future but improving the structure based on the takeaways during the first trial. We have improved Libertas, you have seen a lot of new articles and we have also been highlighting this on the webpage. We have published policy statements and social media statements on a number of current issues, such as the situation in Afghanistan and Belarus, Turkish withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, or LGBTIQ rights in Hungary and Poland. As I said just a moment ago, the absolute priority in our work was the CoFoE and highlighting the suggestions that we adopted as a result of your work putting it into the platform, making it visible and vocal throughout our liberal partners. This is why we have participated in every opportunity we had with every partner we have, be it in the ALDE Party, the Renew Europe Group, or any other structure in the debate, even with other youth political organisations. We wanted to highlight what your ideas coming out from those papers are. I cannot stress enough -and will come back to the CoFoE - how important it is that you endorse those proposals and show them some love so that they go higher up in the ranking of the digital platform of the CoFoE. Last but not least, we have continued the initiative this Bureau put in place at the beginning of their mandate. We put in place the Digital Assembly which we do appreciate as a good practice, as it gives a highlight of what we're doing as well as the opportunity to work on the cleanup progress in-between the Congresses. We launched the new LYMEC webpage, which I believe looks quite decent. We're also having a Council of Europe study session, and as it was suggested by **Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Co-President, ALDE Party)**, we have also been cooperating with ALDE on the first youth edition of the Alliance of Her Academy for women's political engagement, specifically targeting young women. As a short brief of what we have been doing, this Bureau has been trying to be as open as always, I have provided my personal phone number for anyone that has ideas,



criticism or just wants to talk about something that is relevant to their organisation. I move on to the rest of the Bureau.

**Dan Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President):** Regarding the website, it's a very good website, we are just not used to it yet, because even I can't find some of the things sometimes. I think **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** wrapped up a lot of what we have done so far, and there are two crucial things we need to bear in mind. One of them is the CoFoE: we have been working very hard on it, we are still working, the steps are there, they are small, but the aim is to have the proposals high on the platform. We have been working on that, we are still working on that, and we will strive for the best. When it comes to the events it was very interesting that we all wanted to go to the events and attend the meetings. We have noticed that we have not done it in almost a year and now all of the meetings pop out: we have a meeting here, a conference there, a debate in another country. We have noticed that it's sometimes a bit hard for us to plan all this. Of course, we are really happy because it shows that we need to meet, we need to share to discuss and shape policies and we have to discuss certain topics, and this is something we have also been trying to work hard on, because we also have to keep balance. Some of the examples are the Bureau Members having different responsibilities. As you know, we had this project one year ago now, namely the education project in the Western Balkans this summer. This is something we work on and we have seen a lot of good progress on, and we are really happy because we see that **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer)**, for example, has been working a lot on this project on our side. When it comes to LYMEC and its members, **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** has worked hard with the Policy clean-up process, and we can say that progress has been made. Now that we are starting to travel a lot and have a lot of projects to attend, there are a lot of things to do. We are actually happy about this, but we need to find a way to make it very sustainable and that we also not only travel and attend different meetings, but actually harvest something and get concrete outcomes. We also focused on political issues, again the Bureau talked about being more political and one way we are trying to do that apart from the ALDE Council/Congress is via communication. We have more press releases, we have been promoting them on social media, in which area **Ida-Maria Skytte (Communications Officer)** and the Secretariat has worked. We are becoming more and more political, not only to see how things happen, but also where we stand, what are our reactions, and which changes we want to see. I think that it is a compliment when **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** says that what we are doing is more detailed. Now I invite the Bureau Members to give an explanation of their work so far.

**Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer):** Hello everyone, as **Dan Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)** and **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** have explained, we have been moving cautiously but decisively towards hybrid events. Of course, we have tried not to lose the digital

part of our events, but still tried to make everything physical as COVID was so far apparently retreating. This means that some of our Bureau Members have travelled as much as possible to make these events and to host them. Apart from that, I want to stress this partnership with ALDE for the Alliance of Her to promote women empowerment in youth politics. I look at this room and it's still not 50/50. I encourage all young liberal women to apply for that. Thank you very much.

**Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer):** Policy wise, the Policy Book renewal is something I can report on everytime we have a Congress, and I am happy to see that all of you sent motivated people in the Working Groups. Even if we are not done yet and it still takes a long time, we're doing a great work. Most of my time in the last 6 months was dedicated to the ALDE Congress, where we submitted 2 resolutions as LYMEC delegation, but I will tell you more on that in my report so that you know exactly what happened. The first one is on the CoFoE and its outcome, since it has been a big part of our work. I have been to several events to present what we have decided to publish on this CoFoE. It's also important to point out that we have a new Policy Index on the website, that mainly **our policy interns** worked on. I thought that it was important to find our policy about important topics, the stance we have on different issues, so we don't have to search for it through 400 pages of the Policy Book. It's still a work in progress but you can find some key concepts in there.

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer):** Thank you. Speaking about digital, apart from the digital tech portfolio, if you have any issues with OpenSlides you now have a face to respond to these issues. I hope everything works smoothly. It was mentioned that LYMEC is also actively cooperating with other entities such as ALDE PACE. But I also want to encourage you this weekend to get the opportunity to get to know each other and maybe also form projects together. LYMEC might not be able to finance all the projects, but we can always support potential cooperation because in the end it is really something that everyone can benefit from, and that's what we saw in the cooperation project that we had the final event this July in Timisoara. Maybe you could talk to the organisations who took part in it and get inspired this weekend to cooperate with others, which would be really great.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** As a treasurer, it's always either very hard or very easy to say what you've been doing. Yes, I have been doing Treasurer stuff. I made the budget, we had the internal audit, I was collecting payments, but I was also able to help with some other very nice projects, luckily. I helped with the transfer of the Alumni Board and the Skill Camp in Ljubljana, I also spent quite a lot of time for us to be able to be here in Paris this weekend together with **Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, who spent a lot of time in our office in Brussels organising. You will soon hear the rest of the financial talk.

**Ida-Maria Skytte (Communications Officer):** To add to what **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** and **Dan Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)** already said about communication, ours has focused a lot on the CoFoE. It might not be very interesting for people who might not be as politically involved as us in this room, but we have tried to highlight our proposals in many different ways, by videos or visuals, to make them as interesting as possible. I have been working a lot on our upcoming study session in Strasbourg in November with the Council of Europe which has taken quite some time and it will be my main focus in the next few weeks.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thanks to the Bureau members for your statements. Just a quick reminder that the snap vote is coming to an end soon, so remember to vote in case you haven't done so. We wanted to point out that associate members cannot vote and that is why you did not get any invitation to vote. It is only our full member organisations who can vote. Remember that if you want to ask for the floor, you must put yourself on the speakers' list on OpenSlides.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** opens the floor for questions from the delegates:

**Phil Hackemann (JuLis Germany):** Thank you and great to see all of you again. I would say it was quite a difficult two years, all of us had to participate online and that is why it's great to have organised this hybrid Congress, although we can only be here with one delegate. Let's make the next Congress the biggest we have ever had. We have a lot of new people who have never been to a LYMEC Congress, which is of course sad because of COVID. Hopefully this will be possible next time. Secondly, I also think that it's great that you put CoFoE on top of the agenda. I think that it is the main event where we as young people, as engaged political leaders in Europe, can really change the way the EU works. We all, also in our member organisations, should put that on top of the agenda. I would have hoped that the paper you discussed and then adopted at the YLM could have been discussed and adopted here as well, since this is the forum where we all delegates come together. We also have some very engaged MEPs, just like **Svenja Hahn (Chair)**, so let's hope that we can actually make a change. Thirdly, just a quick question: on the agenda we also said we have a report from the IFLRY representative. I think he wasn't here yet.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** My apologies. I should have announced it before. The IFLRY representative is still travelling to join us, he has to give his report tomorrow. Thank you very much **Phil Hackemann (JuLis)**. Quick reminder, when you are taking the floor, please state your name but also organisation and point out the person you want to address the question to. Now I give the floor to **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth)**.

**Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth):** The question is going to be addressed to all of the Bureau. I am so happy to see everyone here after such a long time and a long wait. Finally, we can shake hands and hug. The question is, as a tradition, I want to thank all of the Bureau and everyone who is working with LYMEC for the great work that has been done during the pandemic. For these two years some organisations in my country, pressed by COVID, just crumbled under pressure, but with LYMEC and this Bureau, I do believe that they took this challenge to grow stronger from it. I am very glad to be part of this family. My question to the bureau is: while you have introduced us to the great things that you have done, what is your biggest regret - except for not being able to meet in-person - of something that you have not managed to do in this part of the mandate up until now? Thank you very much.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** We have one more question that we will take at the same time from the online delegate **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)**.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** Hi and thank you from my side. I want to thank the Bureau and also **Ida-Maria Skytte (Communications Officer)** and **Dan Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)** for the press releases as you tried to focus more on politics, especially for JuLis. It was very important that we tried to practice this point. I also want to underline what **Phil Hackemann (JuLis)** said with regard to the biggest Congress. We are now working with Junge Liberale to have our biggest Congress ever in November open to all members. I think we should maybe do something like that with LYMEC as well. What I would like to ask the Bureau is whether you will try to have as many people as possible in-person with us at the next Congress if the COVID rules will allow that.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thank you very much **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)** for your remarks. I give the floor to the Bureau.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** On the call for action, it's not a policy paper and that's why we wanted to have more political action and focus. The YLM is where all the young Presidents are invited to join. We wanted to take action and not discuss what the policy should be, not even on the proposals. We already have them. What we wanted was a reassessment by the Presidents on what the CoFoE looks so far, what they think is missing, and what we should improve, as an action point to send to MEPs. It can be used as a wake up call to lead to something, like a street action on paper. **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth)**, the biggest regret for me was the inability to meet, because we learned that things can be done through Zoom as well, they can be done well, but it is just not the same. Just because something is done through a computer, it does not mean it is done with less effort, but it doesn't even have the same gratifying feeling that things are done, and everything is working in accordance to plans. And sometimes even the training we provide doesn't have the same impact. I would have loved to see the Policy Officers apply for a week of shadowing a certain MEP to learn about how policy is done in the European Parliament, because the EP itself functioned remotely

for the past one year and half, it was not even an option. Otherwise, it also brought some new stuff that I didn't consider before, such as the Digital Assembly, which I think is a good experience. Maybe the rest can answer that, and then I'll come back to the last question.

**Dan Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President):** Because we had a lot of digital events, it still means a lot of effort. The results are not necessarily what we hoped for. As I said before, it's very important that we gain something from these meetings, that we extract something. Now we are in a situation where we can have a hybrid system. It is a bit hard to do something about it. When you focus at the same time on digital events, and hybrid, and in-person events, it takes a lot of time and new routines. Everyone has been working on getting the new routines, taking a lot of time and effort, which could have been used for more political approaches and have LYMEC use its voice rather than its skills. I regret wasting time on practicalities which could have been used to make our voice louder in Europe.

**Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer):** When I got the position as Events Officer, I was sceptical about online formats. I even had to create a tinder meeting to get everyone to interact at the 2020 YLM. Some of you were there. Of course, then I tried to make the trainings as participatory as possible. I met with a lot of you, and I really regret that the organisations that are not as engaged but want to be, could not do it. I want all those organisations to reattach to LYMEC. Take the opportunity that we provide already now to have events. Give also your members that possibility, and as International Officers try to stay as engaged as possible. I am very happy with the makeover of Libertas, now it is much better than before. **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth)** you know what I mean as you are in the Editorial Board. I will strive for quality, not only quantity. We are having regular articles, and soon we are going to have the first printed Libertas Magazine. There is still much to improve.

**Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer):** It is a really good question from **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth)**. It's a question I also like to ask to ALDE Bureau candidates when they are running. Policy wise, LYMEC is almost a full-time job: every day you get emails and have to check policies, then you have the Policy Book renewal, and for the past six months we were not able to meet with political playmakers that would have been able to help us come through with some policies we wanted to push, but we have had contacts with them. This is something I want to improve for the next six months. Of course, also not meeting with everyone is something I regret.

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer):** I would like to see more of what can be improved. My work is not perfect, I am only human. I was really hoping to improve the outreach, so on the cooperation side a lot was done. I would have liked to see more success on the outreach part, e.g. Bureau transparency. I am not even sure if people are interested in the outcomes of our Bureau meetings, if you are please let me know.



**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** For me as a Treasurer, as regards the Congress, of course I would have liked to see more in-person delegates than one. It takes a lot of stress and time to do these events online. It's also good to realise that the arrangements for this Congress were standing from the middle of the pandemic, we knew that if we would have been able to do this in-person it would be very small. We would have only been able to change some of those arrangements. In an international context things are more volatile and unpredictable than on a national level. There are some countries with very low vaccination rates. Who knows what is going to happen with the restrictions. The biggest regret is that we could not do a bigger Congress. But it is a situation we are going to have to deal with for a while.

**Ida-Maria Skytte (Communications Officer):** My biggest regret is that I have not been able to meet my MOs that I am in charge of. I think the rest of the Bureau also feels the same. It's our most fun part to meet up with them. Not being able to do that in-person kind of sucks, but hopefully we can do it soon before the Spring Congress. Communication wise, we have tried to make our social media channels more professional and look nicer. There are still things we could improve. We were discussing moving to TikTok, our resources are also limited, but it would have been cool to try.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** This was not a regret, but an ambition for the last half of a year of this mandate. Just a short reminder, you have one more minute left to vote. Then we are going to close the voting. Let's move to **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)**'s last answer.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** About the last question, on whether the next Congress will be the biggest one, I cannot say for sure because we don't know how the situation will evolve. I keep saying this and I hope you understand: it is unfair to compare LYMEC to a national organisation. We are an assembly of more than 60 organisations and we have to provide a chance to all of them. But it means we need to set different rules for all of our members so that everyone can participate safely and make it accessible for everyone, where some of the countries have low vaccination rates. What I'm saying is that, at this time, it's irresponsible to promise something that we are not certain to achieve. In our statutes we clearly say how many people can attend, which can be slightly increased depending on other actors such as the Renew Europe Group, which provides us with a lot of support to organise these Congresses. Think of the unfairness, pretty much everyone from the Balkan countries could not come here because the restrictions in France refused this opportunity, or because some of them have been vaccinated with vaccines that are not accepted here. I'm going to speak personally here: last December I personally lost one third of my family to COVID. I'm sorry that it's news to you that you cannot attend with three people from all over Europe, but for some people this virus is a pain you are going to live with for your entire life. Just think about this. Show some empathy to the 2 million people who lost someone in this pandemic.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thank you for your personal answer and for the reminder of how much of a privilege it is to be vaccinated and to be part of this Congress. Being vaccinated, and taking a quick test on the spot to be precise. Free travelling is not possible for everyone in Europe yet. I think this is a priority for all of us to make this happen in the near future. Thank you for the questions. We don't have any more questions for the Bureau so let's move to the Secretary General for his report.

## 10. Secretary General report and debate about the report

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take the floor and share the order of resolutions but also tell more about his report. The results of the order of resolutions can be found above (agenda point 8).

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General):** Thank you to the Bureau and the Chairs. Thanks to all of you who did vote. There are a few delegations who did not cast the vote. If you need technical assistance, just reach out to us so that next time there's a vote you can indeed vote. If that's the case, you can reach out to **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer)**. We have the results. So, it seems that one resolution was strongly supported here quite clearly. You can see on the screen the first seven resolutions which will be discussed tomorrow. We will send out this full list and the order by email later. Of course it will be on Openslides as well with the right number in front of each resolution based on the result of this vote.

I'm really happy to be here with you today. It is very nice to be finally here in person. Last time we met for a LYMEC Congress was 2 years ago. Let me reflect on these 2 years. On the Secretariat side we had to change a lot of our current practices: we worked from home for more than a year and a half, as the rules in Belgium were quite strict, this included involving new tools in our daily work, new ways of getting in touch and following up on different tasks also with the Bureau. This went quite smoothly and I want to thank all the people who worked with us for that. We have **Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS)** in the room who was with us when we had to move everything online. Thank you to **Lucasta Bath (Editor-In-Chief Libertas)** who's listening online and is also head of Libertas, she was also part of this team, and then of course to the current secretariat **Sara von Bonsdorff (Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (Policy & Training Intern)**. A lot of effort was put in the fact that we can have more continuity in our work. This way we learned a lot, we were one of the first organisations to have a fully online Congress, we took important decisions and elected the new board. I would say this is something we can be proud of, both the Bureau and the Secretariat, as well as all the people who worked with us these past 2 years. These past months since the last Congress it's been about getting back to normal, we are working from the office, organised a couple of in-person events in September, met with the

Bureau and had 4-5 events. It's been a couple of hectic weeks behind us, but we're very motivated also by seeing all of you attending these events. It is very rewarding. So thank you for your involvement, keep reading the emails and their contents would be my request, cause a lot of work is put into those briefings. Thank you to the Secretariat, current and past, for putting so much effort in those events and in the administrative aspect, as well as in all the briefings. Feel free to ask questions if there's anything you'd like to ask. The rest is in the report that you hopefully had the chance to read. Thank you.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** I can indeed say **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** did an amazing job there. If no one wants to take the floor, we can move to the next agenda point, which is the CoFoE. She states that the floor is now open for questions about the report. No one asks for the floor. **Svenja Hahn (Chair)** thanks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

## 11. Conference on the Future of Europe – updates and discussion with the membership

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** gives the floor to **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** to present what LYMEC has to do with the CoFoE.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** The issue is that the Conference should have been a very hot topic but it is not so much. We've been talking about it forever, but by now it is more for those who are here for the first time, to include them as well. By now we have been really focusing on the CoFoE because it was our Liberal baby. It was the fruit of the idea of the previous ALDE group then transferred to the Renew Europe group. It was really a flagship of a liberal concept. Throughout the whole existence of the European Union, it evolved significantly from the community of coal and steel to the political Union we know today. The last structural reform was done with the Lisbon treaty in December 2007. The current crisis is currently showing that the EU is reacting a bit too slowly, and the inability of talking with one voice because of the VETOs in the Council are making it harder. The way Ursula Von der Leyen was elected didn't make things particularly brighter. If you see how many European people were reacting during the elections of the current US Presidency to see which state was getting how many points, you see that we are in dire need of change in Europe. The current Spitzenkandidaten process can't make people as engaged and interested in calculating which country will bring how many votes. The way the current President was constituted was through deals. And one of those deals was the CoFoE. It was the requirement of the liberals who would vote for her if she put in place that conference. It is of utmost importance for you to put as much attention and vocality on the conference because it has the potential to highlight what is not working and how we can fix it. In terms of what we've been doing concretely, in May we submitted your proposals on the digital platform on institutional reforms and political priorities. We made clear that every organisation is not just free

but invited and encouraged to put additional points on the platform, so we have more liberal voices. Just in case, we decided to put all the proposals separately, so if any organisation sees that something is not ok for their values, they can avoid endorsing that specific proposal. We sent out your proposals not only to the EP, but also to the stakeholders and the Commission. We did receive some feedback from the Commission on that and we had an event with ALDE and Renew Europe Group. Then we had an event on a specific topic in May with the Renew Europe Group. We've also been participating in this Congress in Strasbourg where I've been representing LYMEC. It consists of all the MEPs of the EP which are tasked with this work on the future of Europe, plus all the MPs and different liberal representatives. Other than that, we had a very detailed discussion in Bucharest with our Presidents during YLM to explain again everything about the CoFoE, its timeline and its importance. I will repeat it again: the digital platform will be maybe a discussion that will be kept open forever, a treasure box for ideas coming from the citizens, but for the liberals and the actual CoFoE its value is only until the end of December, the moment when the three institutions are collecting ideas from the citizens and once December comes, the different plenaries will start to work on the written conclusions; these are the summaries of all the outcomes of the proposals coming from the digital platform and the citizens panels, as well as the different representatives from the states. I know that the media are not giving enough importance to the CoFoE and it's not something you talk about in a bar. But if we constantly insist on it, it may bring actual proposals of what we can bring up for the future. At the end of the day, it is our future we are talking about. We have an opportunity to have an impact on things to change. We are trying to spread the word about this conference, the digital platform, and the proposals. We are asking every region if they want to have a tailored discussion: we had it with Nordic and Southern regions as well as the Benelux region. We are planning a new one for Ireland and the UK as they have a special point of view on that. I invite all the regions that haven't had the opportunity yet, like the central regions, if you feel that it's relevant for you, for Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, for the Balkan region. If you think this is a conversation you want to bring up, the regional talks want to invite all our members who have an opinion on Europe to hear about the digital platform, the conference and our proposals, and maybe endorse our proposals. The ones with more endorsement will be those who are going to be reviewed and be part of the discussion. We collectively have more than 60 member organisations which is more than 200 thousand members, but currently have 50 endorsements in total. A lot of them come from Lithuania, so good job there. Please dear delegates, it is not a topic to discuss in bars, but now we have an option to bring the change. Bring this topic to our organisations and make it relevant for them. I would now appreciate a bit of discussion on what you would bring up in the CoFoE.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** You can put yourself on the speakers' list. We have already received some requests for the floor. The first one is from **Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS)**, you can take the floor.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** I'd like to thank LYMEC for all the endorsements and all the passion put on the CoFoE, but we cannot go only on hope, as we know in the EU there were cases where such ideas were just buried under a lot of bureaucracy. We don't know when we will have tangible results. As a member of LYMEC, as a person who has contributed to the conference itself and to the LYMEC position, I also want to not lose the progress we have made. I have a question for the Bureau: do you consider some plan B? How will we be able to continue if the results of CoFoE are not the results we expect or not achieved? I also have a second question: as a person who comes from a country which is not a member of the EU. I would like to ask why is it relevant to call it the CoFoE if it is in reality only about the EU and not Europe as a whole? It raises further discussion on the topic.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thank you for the input and the ideas. **Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL)** you're the next speaker, please take the floor. Also a quick reminder, you can all see the names listed on Openslides. Thus, if you see your name and you see you're next, you can already get prepared and save a bit of time.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL):** Thank you **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** for stating what's important. I think that for some members it is still not clear what's going on. It is good that you outlined that. Considering what the Council has done to limit the legitimacy and the outcomes, as a member of a youth organization I would like to know what is the possible scenario of the following: if things go in the best scenario for us, what would that mean?

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** I will now give the floor to **Alex Alvarez (Jovenes Ciudadanos Spain)**.

**Alex Alvarez (Jovenes Ciudadanos Spain):** Dear delegates, we want to update you on this topic. We took part with a delegation in the European Youth Event (EYE) in Strasbourg, where we had the opportunity to meet different organisations and discuss the different priorities for the CoFoE. There we also had the opportunity to push some of our LYMEC policies regarding this topic. We are very happy with the discussion with southern Europe. Our members were very interested so thank you so much to LYMEC from JCs, our members were very interested, we increased the awareness on this particular topic at least in Spain. We will continue to push forward the political priorities from our manifesto in the different seminars, conferences and coming talks.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts. Next, we have **Peter Douglas (Young Liberals UK)** and **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)**.



**Peter Douglas (Young Liberals UK):** Thanks, [Svenja Hahn \(Chair\)](#) and colleagues. It's very interesting what **Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL)** was saying a moment ago. If you can be the International Officer of an organisation, which is in the Netherlands the belly of the beast, if you're even there trying to understand what is going on, then it is much worse for us in the UK. It can be really challenging. I appreciate the extensive work LYMEC has been doing on this. I can't wait for our regional talk, where my members will learn even more. I would just urge people as we go through this process not to forget about us and Ireland, the periphery of what is going on. Please make sure you bear us in mind.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** I'd like to address that we have a very small number of votes on the CoFoE. Why is this happening? Why is this the case? People always vote online in random competitions. So why is it that we don't vote on this platform which is about our future if we have the habit of participating or voting on things that don't affect us that much? One of the conclusions I have reached is that the fact that we have to create an account is the most troublesome part of the process. You have to put in your general information to complete your account. Maybe we could have it easier to access thanks to the technology we have nowadays. Young people don't take the time or just don't care if it takes more than 3 seconds.

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC):** It is so nice to see you here in-person. I want to add a bit more about CoFoE. When we had the regional discussion, we checked that there is the possibility to promote this CoFoE with organisations not part of LYMEC, ALDE, or even non liberal organisations. This is something that JNC is working on. This is an option we all have to take in mind. Our objective is to involve youth organisations, be active in culture, sports, just to take the CoFoE out of the ALDE umbrella. This 'liberal baby' has to include other organisations also trying to take it with them.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** I want to thank LYMEC for all the work they have done in putting this all together. I agree we have only 50 people who showed their support on the platform, we can and have to do better. I have a couple of ideas. I know we are all into doing events, please also count individual members when doing events. We want to participate too. People think it is too much effort to create an account. How can we make it easier for them? We have a newsletter in LYMEC coming every two weeks. Why not have a mailing campaign on the CoFoE? Why can't we have a video to make it easy for anyone to get this done? Let's see if we can make our proposals the most voted. Thank you.

**Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth LLJ):** I am very thankful for every speaker who came before me. Thanks to everyone who participated and created these proposals. I am also very humbled by the applause and the thank you that has been given to our organisation, but I must confess I can't take this

recognition as broadly as I can, cause while we have 50 endorsements, this is not the number we would like to see. I personally do not find it good enough as in my organisation of 2600 people only 20 registered on the platform. It is not only our mistake or our passivity, but this platform is not adapted nor suited to the needs of young people. We prepared an explanation on how to access this platform. 50 endorsements is not the ceiling for us.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** gives the floor to **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** for answers.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):** First of all, thank you very much for being so active in this debate. Starting with the first question, why is it called CoFoE? It is a very fundamental and philosophical question. As part of LYMEC, in every speech I have been invited to give, I've been underlining that if this is a discussion about Europe's future, at least consider those who are already part of the negotiation, or those who are in the EU's neighbourhood, or also those who are close to us, they need to be present at the table. There should have also been Citizens' panels for the Western Balkans or for the countries involved in the Eastern partnership. However, the answer is there is no geoblocking and any European can put ideas on the platform. That does also mean that you are not directly sitting at the decision-making table. The same applies to the discussion on the CoFoE platform: it is what it is, we have to deal with that. It does not depend on us. On **Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL)** and **Peter Douglas (Young Liberals UK)**'s question. **Peter Douglas (Young Liberals UK)** if it is a complicated process, you do not understand, nobody does. But the thing is if each EU representation in a European country made up a list of a certain number of citizens per country, taking into account things like gender or educational balance, or employment balance, there would be an over representation of young people. All these people form a team of 800 people which are called the Citizens' panels. These panels, together with those of MPs from national states and MEPs put forward by each group, will be discussing the ideas and written outcomes. This process starts in December, where proposals will be divided in thematic groups coming to conclusions about what needs to be changed in which specific area. **Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL)**, in the best-case scenario, if we get what we want, for example no more consensus voting in the Council or full legislative power to the EP, and if our proposals have enough endorsement to make it to the discussion table, then in the written conclusion we will recognise that some of that stuff actually comes from us. Let's be fair, we are not the only ones who came up with those ideas. But the single fact that we streamlined this idea and gave it so much push that it ended up on the decision-making table is gonna be a win for us because we helped in shaping those outcomes. **Alex Alvarez (Jovenes Ciudadanos)**, thank you for participating in Strasbourg, highlighting proposals, and participating with your members in the regional talks. I invite you all to update your members on what is going on and what are the next steps. In terms of how it is going to

end, we've been pushing all the time for it to have ambitious and real outcomes. If you look at our proposals, we talk about Treaty changes. Although it is not excluded as an option, we need to push from every side and specifically from the citizens' level. People who sit in the plenary of the CoFoE are politicians, and they may say 'You know, this is what the citizens want from us'. If citizens are inactive, politicians will just do whatever fits better on their agenda. **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)**, I agree with what you say about the endorsement platform. It takes from 10 to 15 minutes to register, navigate and find proposals. Behind it there is a lot of AI to fight fake information, and attempts to flood the platform with non-European content, or people who try to kill the whole process. This is why you have to validate your account. It is a tedious process. It is a platform of the Commission, which means by definition it is not completely user-friendly. If you look at our proposals, there are many likes or views, but never actually endorsements to those proposals. That's why we are still low on that side. **Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC)**, you mentioned cooperation with other organisations that are not liberal friendly. Please bring them on. **Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS)**, actually yours is a very good idea. We will talk about it with the Bureau. **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth LLJ)**, we have already touched upon this, the platform is not really fit for young people, but that's what we have, so let's try to make the best out of it. That's it from me, I hope you will be more inspired to endorse or submit additional proposals on the platform. Do something, so that this opportunity is not lost for the youth.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)**: Thank you **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** for your important points and for addressing all the questions.

## 12. Finances

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** states that the Congress will now move on to discuss finances, including the requests for reduced membership fees, debt reduction and payment plans. She invites **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the state of the LYMEC Finances.

### a) Requests for reduced membership fees, debt reductions and payment plans (for decision) (none)

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** states that there are no requests for reductions.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** gives the floor back to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**.

### b) Interim Financial report 2021 (for information)

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** presents the interim financial report of 2021.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** This year has been more normal than the previous, but we're not back to what we were used to. Of course, we have been able to organise only one hybrid Congress, there was no ALDE Congress this year, so since our income is quite stable and we weren't able to do all the events we would normally have, visits and Congresses we normally do, this had a quite positive impact on our financial report. This year we will see a quite significant surplus again, so that we will be able to invest that money in the future. In terms of income, we did not apply to a new EU Youth foundation event with the Council of Europe, just because the investment in time is so enormous and results we get do not always weigh up to those time investments. Perhaps that will change in the future. I want to end the report talking about the amount of debt that has been left over from previous years. The most problematic situation is the one of Mladi LDP from Serbia, before 2020 they already had to pay more than 1000 euros, and this year they are set again with another 1000 euros of debt, which is such an unsustainable situation that we asked for their suspension. We had a deal where they would apply for reduced membership fees every year and that they would pay back part of their debt, but unfortunately they were not able to fulfil their part of the deal. About UDI Jeunes, I have just heard from **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** that they might have paid, but we haven't received it yet. About LIFT in Hungary, it has already been suspended and I personally think that we won't have good contacts with them. For Youth Circle from Slovenia, we have just received their money. Mladi Liberali from Bosnia and Herzegovina, will also be up for suspension later, because they don't think they can fulfil their responsibilities as LYMEC members. ANC Youth is a situation where we don't have a lot of contacts. There were 11 membership fees debts amounting to 2.700 euros in 2021. Are there any questions on the interim report?

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** reminds participants that they can also ask questions by opening the floor on Openslides. There are no questions from the Congress.

### c) Revised budget 2021

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** presents the Revised Budget for 2021. Every Congress, we update the budget to reflect new developments: there is something we updated after the Spring Congress. We increased staff expenses to have the possibility to hire someone extra, but in the end, we didn't use it. We have the final number of the website, which I think is a very beautiful one. A very nice Romanian company helped us, and we ended up way below our proposed budget. It is good to know that when we organise an event with ELF or Congresses it is money which does not pass through our account. For example, even for this hotel we just send the invoice to the Renew Europe Group. Therefore those numbers do not show anywhere in the revised budget.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** asks if there are any questions on the revised budget. There are none.

**d) Interim internal audit report (for information)**

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** suggests moving to the internal audit report and gives the floor to **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)**.

**Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)**: We carried on the Internal Audit at the start of September. The finances are in a good order. We fixed any small issues. **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** did a really good job. It is useful to tell the members that everything is okay. For the future, the internal audit should cover all the aspects of our organisation, not just finances. But I think that has to be of consideration to the whole Bureau and organisation.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** thanks **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)** and **Jeffrey Drui (Internal Auditor)** for the internal audit and moves on to the membership fee proposals for 2022.

**e) Proposed membership fees 2022 (for decision)**

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**: I should mention that we have had the same fee for quite a few years now. We would like to change it, but this is something that we plan for next year. Is anyone against the current proposal to keep the same fee?

- Proposed Full Member fee: 200 euros + 0,06 euros per member, maximum 1200 euros
- Proposed Associate Member fee: 175 euros
- Proposed annual IMS fee: 15 euros
- Proposed 5-year IMS fee: 50 euros
- Proposed lifetime membership (valid until 35 years): 100 euros

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**: Is anyone against the fee or would anyone have any comment(s)?

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)**: We take questions from the speakers' list. **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)** you can take the floor.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis)**: I want to ask if you have plans to change the rules in some way, how do you want to change them? How is it possible that we as an organisation have to pay 1.100 euros per year? Do you have any ideas?



**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** I don't really know where that number came from to be honest, but I do believe at the moment there is only one organisation which pays more, as it is a very big one. Of course big does not always mean richer. I do not know where that logic came from nor where it will move. It was just a reminder that we want to look into it next year, what the logic has been, if it remains the same or if there should be a new one which makes more sense.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** states there were no more questions and moves on to the membership fee decision.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** asks if there is someone wanting to vote against the membership fee proposal.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** If no one is against, the MO fee will be accepted and we can move to the draft Budget 2022.

**No one was against the proposed membership fees. The proposed membership fees for 2022 was therefore adopted by the Congress.**

#### **f) Draft budget 2022 (for decision)**

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** We don't know what is going to happen in the future with our Congresses: are we going to be able to host more people and make Congresses bigger? After every Congress we foresee a bigger amount. We will propose to the next Bureau, since there will be a mandate change, that **Marina Sedlo (Policy Officer)** would be there to assist the new Bureau with the processes during the ALDE Congress. It is quite a big event with a lot of responsibilities. We have a bit more reserved for Bureau meetings and Staff expenses as well. Plane tickets are becoming more expensive in recent times.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** asks if there are questions about the 2022 draft budget.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** states that the speakers' list for the delegates is open.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL)** wonders if seeing the work the Bureau can do, why not add additional staff and administrative power? If there is money available, then why not?

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** I think we decided no to do it because the hiring process is long and time consuming, and if it will only be for a few months, then the costs do not weigh up the benefits. Decisions were made in the past as well. This is something we are looking at for the future to have more power in the office on a more structural basis. But on this matter there is still a question mark.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair)** requests to proceed to a vote on the Budget for 2022.

#### **Vote**

**For- 170**

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

**The draft budget for 2022 was adopted by the Congress.**

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** stresses that the Congress is now **closed at 19 h 15** for the first day.

## **Day 2: Saturday, 23rd of October 2021**

**Day starts at 09 h 00 CEST (Paris time).**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** opens the day and welcomes everyone back to the Congress.

#### **Roll Call**

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

**There were 178 votes present at the Congress.**

The following Member Organisations were not present:

**Nasa Stranka Youth**  
**Gibraltar Liberal Youth**

## Nova Stranka Youth

### Liberal Democratic Party

	Full Members	Roll Call 2 Saturday Morning
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRP	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Reform Party Youth	0
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)	0
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Liberal Youth	0
Germany	Junge Liberale	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Atisibai Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Party	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Romania	USR Tineret	0
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1
		<b>178</b>
	Simple majority of those present	89
	Two thirds of present	118.6666667

## 13. Membership issues

#### **a. Applications for Associate Membership**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** explains that there are no applications for Associate Membership at this Congress.

#### **b. Applications for Full Membership**

**USR Tineret from Romania applied for full membership.**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** invites **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** to present the application of her organisation for Full Membership. A video is shown as an introduction of the organisation.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** introduces herself. Two years ago we were associate members, presenting you our membership request. Back in 2019 we were a handful of people. Today we have 1300 members and we are the leading youth organisation on several social media platforms. It's been an amazing two years with local and national elections, and we have promoted young candidates, campaigned and talked to young romanians on all that matters to us, from sexual education to mental health. We have two MPs who are under the age of 30. We have drafted our manifesto for the future of Europe. Our messages have already been heard by so many people in Romania. We are especially targeting the Generation Z. The next elections are very important for us because all four rounds of elections will be held and we need people to vote for us. We have provided many training sessions and participated in several events. We don't have time to waste: we are very busy and active.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** thanks **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds that we only take questions from OpenSlides.

**Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux):** The first time I went to Romania I was 17. At the Romanian border I realised I didn't even know it was a latin country. I know French people are self-centered, but I also didn't know Polish people learn at school about Napoleon. This shows the lack of knowledge in Western countries towards Eastern ones. It is our responsibility to make a change. There is only one Europe, no East or West. This is why Jeunes Radicaux approves USR Tineret's membership in LYMEC.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** thanks the delegate for the statement.

**Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece):** I would like to point out how important it is to have Romania in our family, because we have the same concerns about youth unemployment and other important

issues. I experienced their will and welcome the ideas proposed on how we can improve this. Therefore, I really urge you all to vote for USR Tineret to be part of our family.

**Felix Haring (LHG):** I think that you know what's coming. We have a very strong relationship with USR Tineret, we have done a lot of cooperation both on resolutions and events. Please support them, we are very glad to have them here.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten):** I think it warms my liberal heart to have you here and see the work you are doing. How do you see your relationship with your mother party, and how will it develop?

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** Thank you. We have an opt-in method, first you need to be a member of the mother party and then you can be a member of the youth wing. We already have a good representation of young people in our party, but there are so many more opportunities that we can provide them and that's why we need a youth organisation. At first, we were not receiving any substantial funding from the mother party, we have now managed to get our rights increased. We only had a very few delegates at their Congress, and we managed to lobby a lot on the spot despite the size of it. We have a strong view that we should not follow our leaders, we should follow our values. We are not there to agree with everything that the mother party says because they could be wrong in some cases. It's our duty to point that out and to go beyond the traditional and conservative approach the mother parties have sometimes.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** Thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress in a closed session to discuss the membership application. 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 Paris and move to a breakout room online.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** I want to remind you that this is a closed session also on social media as it is an internal discussion.

**Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the membership of USR Tineret.**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for full membership. The necessary majority is 2/3 of the votes. The percentages indicated in OpenSlides include abstention,



which should not be counted according to the statutes and Congress rules and requests to proceed to a vote.

## Vote

**For- 158**

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

**USR Tineret is therefore accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC. Congratulations!**

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

	Full Members	Roll call 3 Saturday after the new FULL MEMBER
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Reform Party Youth	0
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Liberal Youth	0
Germany	Junge Liberale	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ogra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Atsistibai Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jong Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Party	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Romania	USR Tineret	4
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	0
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1
		185
	Simple majority of those present	92.5
	Two thirds of present	123.3333333

**There were 185 votes present at the Congress.**

The following Member Organisations were not present:

Nasa Stranka Youth

Reform Party Youth

Gibraltar Liberal Youth

Liberal Democratic Party

European Youth of Ukraine

### c. Suspensions

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** explains that there are three proposed suspensions and gives the floor to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**.

#### Suspensions:

- **Mladi LDP, Serbia**

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** We have contact but we could not get them to pay the fee after multiple attempts. Good to mention that suspension is temporary and it's a pause in the membership and they can participate in events in the future if they wish to get back, so they are not completely thrown out of LYMEC.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (IMS Delegate):** Only a technical question, what is the procedure with members, how do you reverse suspensions?

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** When we lose contact or trust with an organisation, and they cannot fulfill their duties for paying the fee we propose a suspension. To lift it, all they have to do is reach out to us, tell us what is going on, ask for a reduced membership fee, discuss the potential debates and be clear that they want to participate. It's a **Bureau decision to make**, then if it is a long-term thing, there is the next step to disaffiliation.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate):** I have a short question, are there any political issues and not only budgetary for the suspension of this organisation?

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** There are no political reasons to suspend the organisation.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** reminds the delegates that the vote is open.

**Vote:**

**For - 163**

Against - 0

Abstentions - 16

**The Congress accepted the suspension of Mladi LDP Serbia.**

- **Youth Circle of SMC, Slovenia**

**The suspension proposal has been withdrawn by the Bureau.**

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** At the last moment they paid their membership fee. After years without contact they paid the fee twice, so miracles can happen. They also expressed their wish to be more active and participate in LYMEC events again. **The Bureau therefore decided to withdraw the suspension proposal.**

- **Mladi Liberali, Bosnia & Herzegovina**

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** This case is different, we are in contact with them, there is a certain willingness to do work but not the ability, they will just not be able to do so because of organisational troubles, as they have trouble in paying the membership fee. They have requested to be suspended until they can pay the fee again.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** states that the vote opened since there was no one on the speakers' list.

**Vote:**

**For - 152**

Against - 6

Absentions - 21

**The Congress accepted the suspension of Mladi Liberali, Bosnia & Herzegovina.**

**d. Disaffiliations (none)**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** explains that there are no proposed disaffiliations and moves onto the next point on the agenda.

#### 14. Elections - LYMEC Delegation to the ALDE Party Congress

**Remi Guastalli (Chair):** We have 13 candidates for 9 spots. I want to ask the candidates to line up. There was already a discussion earlier, so we will see if we have any questions.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** You only have 60 seconds to make your point. As **Remi Guastalli (Chair)** said there was already a debate organised earlier, ahead of the Congress.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL):** I think to keep this interesting I have challenged my friend **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth)** to quote Trump in his speech. What motivates me is to push the climate and future of Europe and I want to make sure that we are clear and bring developed ideas to ALDE. If we don't do that, no one is going to do so.

**Stefanía Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn):** I am the International Officer of Uppreisn Iceland, I am excited to be part of the delegation for the first time. I will emphasize sexual freedom. I want to make sure that the delegation of LYMEC is represented as a whole, also by a country from outside of the European Union. I want to make sure that there is some gender balance in the delegation. I hope for your support, thank you.

**Alex Alvarez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** *"Merci beaucoup pour l'événement à Paris"*. It's a pleasure to be here, to see you in Paris and also my virtual colleagues. I am the International Officer of Jovenes Ciudadanos. I have participated in the project on education and been involved in politics in many countries. I have participated in many ALDE Congresses and I have had the opportunity to reach consensus with many organisations on resolutions and amendments. Applying to be a member of this delegation would be an honour for me and my organisation. I will be transparent and communicate with you all.

**Phil Hackemann (JuLis):** I was nominated by JuLis. It was a blast to represent you the last time, but it was online and work has not finished yet. It was a lot of fun to push young liberal ideas and I hope the next Congress is going to be as exciting. We need to be speaking in favour of all of our ideas and I will build on my experience I have from JuLis where I have pushed ideas for FDP. I want to do the same in ALDE.

**William Larsson (CUF):** I'm 21 years old and representing CUF. I have been active for a long time in my organisation. In my country, I live in a rural area but I have always had a keen interest in EU politics. For

me agriculture, fishing and similar issues are important. I promise to be the delegate who is a problem solver, calm and collected.

**Tim Robinson (IMS):** I am one of the IMS Delegates and I have to say in the last few years I had the opportunity to do many things in LYMEC. It has really enriched my life. It's really important to remember that we do not only meet up once every six months to have fun, we want to see real change and that is important for the ALDE Congress. I am a detailed person, mostly in taxes and finances. I discovered that I am a pretty good dancer yesterday.

**Andre Gruber (Team Future Italy but nominated by JUNOS Austria for these elections):** It's great to be here because it reminds me: we are pro-European and liberal, and that's the spirit I would like to represent once more at the ALDE Congress, with my experience and knowledge from my studies for many important topics in ALDE. I hope that I get your trust to represent LYMEC and our values at ALDE.

**Felix Häring (LHG):** I'm the International officer of LHG from Germany. I have been involved in LYMEC for a long time. I have experience with ALDE Congresses before. You know me and you know how I work. I have done a lot of cooperation with some of you and it's been a pleasure. As LHG we are prone to put forward many propositions at the Congress. We are proud members of LYMEC. Thank you for all the support so far.

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC):** Good morning everyone. I would ask all member organisations to vote for a multi-skilled delegation for the ALDE Congress. I can bring that to the table, I am an expert on cyber issues and worked in politics for a long time. I am a member of JNC who happens to be a founding member of LYMEC. The LYMEC delegation needs to make ALDE MEPs understand our views.

**Tanzer Yuseinov (YMRP):** Hello! I am from Bulgaria, I have been involved in youth politics since I was 18 years old. Last Congress, I was elected Vice-President and International Officer of my organisation. I have been active in LYMEC for 4 years and I want to be part of the next delegation because I have a lot of experience to bring to the Congress and help LYMEC's voice to be heard in ALDE.

**Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth):** Friends, countrymen lend me your ear! I am from Lithuania and I was not mistaken in addressing you. I believe that we all Europeans cannot be separated by our brothers and we have a common liberal view. I want to be part of the delegation. If you vote for me, I will offer my selfless services and endless quotes. Think big.



**Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux):** I am the International Officer of Jeunes Radicaux, I have studied law and philosophy, I will position LYMEC's values. I am willing to bring a strong sense of diplomacy and my listening skills.

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom):** I have a lot of background from Svensk Ungdom as I have been doing work as International Officer in the equality matters. I am a team player, I keep my promises and I will always be well prepared. My strengths are equality and civil and minority rights. I think it's important to be the most progressive delegation. I believe that I can be of value to the delegation. I hope you think likewise. In the spirit of yesterday's quotes, "Don't go wasting all your votes, lay all your votes on me".

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** states that now is the time to ask questions, but no-one took the floor. We are going to do some MO reports now instead of Sunday. The vote is also open right now. Please vote for the next LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Party Congress.

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General):** You have 9 votes. You have to select 9 people since 9 positions are foreseen, if you have issues with the voting tell us.

#### **Point of order from Andre Gruber (Team Future, Observer)**

**Andre Gruber (Team Future, Observer):** My organisation is 'Team Future', but I was actually nominated by JUNOS Austria. Please make sure you write it in the minutes of the Congress. It shows Team Future on OpenSlides.

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General):** It's duly noted in the minutes.

## **19. Reports from Member Organisations**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair):** I give the floor to **Alistair Spearing (IMS SC)** to give his report. But there seems to be some technical issues. I give the floor to **Barnabas Gador (TizenX)** in the meantime. Please after him, follow the order of speaking we all see on OpenSlides on the speakers' list for this agenda point.

**Barnabas Gador (TizenX):** I want to talk about the primary elections in Hungary. Our party has had a turbulent time, we just finished the primary elections and we have our best chances in years to get rid of Orban. What I have here is a message of hope from Hungary and that there is a chance to get rid of semi-dictators. This work of ours has seemed to pay off and the commitment to liberal values have also paid off. We thank everyone who has supported us in this fight.

**Phil Hackemann (JuLis):** I take the opportunity for JuLis to tell you what happened in the elections in Germany, since we are in coalition talks. We were the strongest force among the first voters, normally the greens are that but now it's us. I think it's something we can build on because the young people are the future and they vote liberal. It's going to be a quite pro-European government, as the conservatives were voted out of office. As mentioned yesterday, we are going to have the biggest Congress soon and everyone is invited to join us. I hope next time we will be able to share a report on how it goes in the government.

**Alistair Spearing (IMS SC):** I'm happy to see so many of you. It's been a very busy last 6 months for the IMS. We had several preparation meetings for the Congress. One of the Working Groups on CAP had a lot of MOs involved in the resolution put forward, and we will put forward the second part of the resolution in the next Congress because of some miscommunication. Our IMS delegates also went to Ljubljana for the first in-person event, the priority was to give the tools and skills to fight for liberal values and to do some networking with some excellent speakers. It was a positive experience for everyone. Another resolution, 'Fit for 55' came from a conversation in Ljubljana from one of our IMS Pascal Bührig and it's important to support it. In the future, a lot of your members are going to be IMS. Be aware that we have new elections for the selection of the new IMS delegates around January and if you are interested please step up. We will also have an IMS Christmas hangout to discuss the CoFoE. More information about that soon in the newsletter and on the LYMEC website.

**Katrín Steingrímisdóttir (Uppreisn):** I wanted to introduce myself: I am the newly elected President of Uppreisn and I am happy to report that for the first time ever the President is not a man. We are very happy for this! We just had a national election this September. We have both good and bad news. The conservatives won and all the liberal parties lost, except for our mother party that is also the only party that is pro-European. Our project for the next months is to make sure that the conservatives don't do more harm than they have already done, and keep up the cooperation with the EU countries.

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom):** I wanted to talk about the big social and healthcare reform that has divided the country into welfare regions, meaning we have a new election called welfare elections. We have been the party with most young people and it will be hard to find candidates for this election in January. We are working hard to get the support we need in the upcoming elections.

**Emils Dobrajs (Attistibai Youth):** Two weeks ago we had an electoral Congress and I stepped down as President. On the liberal agenda note, I wanted to stress how good we did in the elections for President, since then there is more to give to the organisation. Now I am the International Officer of my party.

**Peter Douglas Banks (Young liberals UK):** News from the UK is always a bit gloomy but quite so this time. The young liberals did very well in the last elections and the next elections in 2023 is going to be exciting. This year has been tricky for all of us. We hosted the first hybrid coffee in Manchester for members of the EU. Young Liberals UK is also focused on getting young candidates elected and we launched a new scheme to find seats in their communities. We are still fighting the good fight but it's great to be back here and hope to see you for the big anniversary party in London.

**Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO):** We had elections in the Czech Republic two weeks ago. Our mother party lost and it is now in the opposition. We have only one member under 30 in the Parliament so we need to have a discussion with the mother party about issues involving the youth. We cannot have access to our finances because we do not have a person in the board in charge of the finances, so as soon as we have a new board we will pay for our outstanding fees.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL):** This creepy man, Mark Rutte, continues to lead our country. We appreciate the collaboration we have had with all of you and we will aim at hosting the IFLRY Congress in Autumn 2022. Next weekend we will have a seminar on digital policy and citizens' rights on how we can work together as EU to counter the strategic power of China.

**Margaux Carron (Young Green Swiss Liberals):** Hello! A few words on the current working groups we have been active in despite being online. I will give some insights on what the **Climate change and environment working group** has done. We have written two articles in Libertas, one on climate income on how to fund innovations in climate, another one on the idea of innovation and climate change. We have been working on resolutions and we had an online event which was recorded but also streamed live. It was very interesting to hear different people and MEPs on the topic of climate change. I took a 12 hours long train ride to meet up with **Andre Gruber (Team Future, Observer)** to work with Team Future on climate policies. We work now with Pascal Bührig from Switzerland to publish a publication on liberal climate policies.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** If there are other working groups willing to give a report, that is also possible later on.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair):** There is still time to vote and it is time for a coffee break now.

\*\*\*\*\*COFFEE BREAK\*\*\*\*\*

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

	Full Members	Roll call 4 Saturday after coffee break 1
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustapöiskelijät(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Liberal Youth	0
Germany	Junge Liberale	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ogra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Atislibai Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jong Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Party	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Romania	USR Tineret	4
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1
		197
	Simple majority of those present	98.5
	Two thirds of present	131.3333333

There were 197 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

**Gibraltar Liberal Youth**

**Liberal Democratic Party**

**Nova Stranka Youth**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** presents the results of the newly elected LYMEC Delegation to the next ALDE Party Congress and reminds that there are 13 candidates, but only 9 people will be elected. Congratulations to the 9 elected delegates in blue below! The results are displayed on the screen and available on OpenSlides for all delegates. The non-elected candidates are *substitutes* in case any of the elected delegates resigns.

## VOTING COUNT

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten) - 171**

**Stefanía Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn) - 172**

**Alex Alvarez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos) - 119**

Phil Hackemann (JuLis) - 92

**William Larsson (CUF) - 100**

**Tim Robinson (IMS) - 98**

Andre Gruber (JUNOS) - 91

**Felix Häring (LHG) - 145**

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC) - 119**

Tanzer Yuseinov (YMRF) - 95

**Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth) - 143**



Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux) - 80

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom) - 164**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Those of you who arrived today, I remind you that you are expected to have a COVID rapid test if you haven't done it already, approach one of the Bureau Members for assistance. The testing happens in the second smaller meeting room.

**15. Presentation and vote on the outcomes of the Policy Book renewal working group** ([Please find here the outcomes of the Digital Assembly on these proposals](#))

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** invites **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** to present the outcomes of the Policy Book Renewal Working Group.

#### ❖ Chapter 3 - Updates Outcome Policy Book Renewal

**Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer):** For those of you who don't know about it, we have a policy book which gathers all the resolutions adopted at LYMEC Congresses from its beginning. We still have very outdated resolutions, and we want to create working groups that tackle specific chapters to decide whether they should be archived, or if they are too old to be in the Policy Book. This time at the last Digital assembly the Working Group tackled Chapter 3. If you go to the resolutions on Openslides to Chapter 3, you will first have the outcomes of the Policy Book renewal and see what has been changed. We received one amendment but it has a positive recommendation from the Working Group. We will now have 3 votes to execute: on amendments, updates and archival. There is just one amendment from Jong VLD.

**Brent Usewils (Jong VLD):** When it comes to language courses, we want to change the 'free of charge' definition.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** asks if there is anyone against the amendment.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** states that if no one is against it, the amendment will be directly adopted.

**The amendment is accepted by the Congress.**

**On the proposal as amended:**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone wants to take the floor.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** opens the vote since no one took the floor.

**Vote:**

**For - 172**

Against - 0

Abstentions - 0

**The renewal of the policy book Chapter 3 was accepted by the Congress**

❖ **Chapter 3 - Resolutions to archive (Outcome of the Policy Book Renewal)**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** opens the speakers' list to discuss the archival of the resolutions from Chapter 3 and since no-one took the floor he opens the vote.

**Vote:**

**For - 174**

Against - 0

Abstentions - 0

**The outcome on archivals from Chapter 3 of the Policy Book was accepted by the Congress**

## 16. Motions

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** states that there were no motions submitted to the Congress and moves to the next point and hands over the chairing to **Danica Vihinen (Chair)**.

## 17. Resolutions

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** First resolution to be handled is Mental Health matters for Europe's students. I ask the mover to shortly present the resolution.

❖ **Resolution 1: Mental Health matters for Europe's students!**

**Felix Häring (LHG):** This is our resolution, and it is not very surprising there is a focus on universities. Thanks as well to **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** and **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)** who have been writing this entire resolution with us. I guess most of you might have read it so I will leave the floor to comments and questions.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** This is the moment where we would discuss amendments but there are none. I give the floor to **Sean Bennett (Young Liberals)** on the speakers' list.

**Sean Bennett (Young Liberals):** It would be unreasonable to function over chronic conditions. This resolution would save lives and be useful for many students. Too many of our peers are suffering and dying. Please vote for this resolution.

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** For those who don't know me, I used to be a representative in my local 'student Union'. We saw a huge mental toll on students during the pandemic, many student councils had the chance to have professionals in health supporting them. It has been extremely positive but not enough for students who don't take the opportunity to get help. We need all the help we can get. That is why we strongly support this resolution.

**Antonio Martinez Gil (Jovenes Ciudadanos):** We would like to thank the movers of this resolution for putting this issue on the table. We also have it at the Spanish Parliament. As for the equal opportunity situation, we have to guarantee the health of our students.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** I would like to add that students are the first step. We should continue to advocate for access to mental health for every citizen and everyone in our society. We strongly encourage you to vote for this resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** The speakers' list is closed. I have heard no opinion against this resolution. There is much consensus in the room, so I would like to ask if anyone is against it. No one stated that they were against the resolution.

**The Resolution is adopted by the Congress.**

#### ❖ **Resolution 2: A liberal drug policy (JGLP / JFS Schweiz)**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** invites the movers to take the floor.

**Margaux Carron (Young Green Liberals) and Philipp Eng (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz):** We are here from Switzerland and we want to prove that we may have national differences but our cooperation works fine. The other reason is that the drug policy we have dates from the 1960s. Now 60 years later there are 500 billion dollars for organised crime leading to drugs worldwide. It's a huge cost we put on the criminal system and Europe gives only 2% of the budget in prevention. *So one of the focuses* is that crimes are going up. Between 2009 and 2017 there were 800 new substances on the market: we are not regulating them and we are not looking at what's inside and how they would affect our health. *Reason number two* is that there is nothing more liberal to decide about your own consumption and your own body. Therefore, let's stand up against rules that are made by others, let's stand up for our own freedom and decide about our own life and the way we want to live it.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** there are many amendments on this resolution. I will allow short statements and close the speakers' list after that.

**Romeo Granadino Martinez (Centerstudenter):** I support this resolution. The evidence of cannabis is very clear. The latest resolution is about the 60s, a long time ago and very outdated so to me as a liberal we need to let people decide what they want to put in their body. I definitely support it.

**Friso van Gruijthuijsen (JOVD):** We believe that we can see drug users as criminals or patients who need help. We would choose the second option. We are also in favour of decriminalisation.

**Nemir Ali (JuLis):** I really support this courageous and progressive resolution. We should not punish people for the choice that they make to put what they want in their body. We should not punish people who need drugs to recover from health problems and need help.

**Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO):** We welcome this initiative related to drug policy. We understand the notion and the way it is supposed to work in general. However, if we decriminalize or legalize all crimes related to drugs, we also help murderers and drug dealers kill even more people. That's why we think this proposal is not good enough.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** This concludes the statements for this resolution, we now discuss the amendments. First amendment is from Uppreisl. This amendment aims to delete a bullet point, but if you want you can explain it. You can see the amendments on Openslides.

#### ❖ Amendment 64 and 65

**Stefanía Reynisdóttir (Uppreisl):** I think that there is a lot of information which would be bad to lose from our policy book if we archive the previous resolutions on the topic. One of the resolutions was only accepted during the last Spring Congress. In addition, I would suggest we vote on those two amendments together because they aim to make the same changes.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We can vote on amendments 64 and 65 together. If the movers don't agree with the amendment they can reply.

**Margaux Carron (Young Green Liberals):** It is not that we don't accept these two amendments, we just suggest deleting the other existing points from our policy book.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if there is anyone against amendment 64 and 65. No one is against it.

**The Congress accepts amendment 64 and 65.**

#### ❖ Amendment 7

**Nemir Ali (JuLis):** We want to add the word **possession**, not only production and consumption. The possession is just a clarification in the text of the amendment.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if there are any comments. No one is on the speakers' list and no-one is against this amendment.

**The Congress accepts amendment 7.**

#### ❖ **Amendment 8**

**Nemir Ali (JuLis)** clarifies that amendment 8 is the same addition as the previous one.

**The Congress therefore accepts amendment 8 also.**

**Stefanía Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn)** makes a 'Point of order': the movers are accepting the amendments. We don't have to spend so much time on resolutions that have already been discussed in the working groups. There is so much more to do. We suggest we move on.

**Amendment 3 was withdrawn and all other amendments were accepted by the mover.**

### **DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE**

**Margaux Carron (Young Green Liberals):** We are not saying to change the criminal system and accept criminals. The good thing about legalising drug trade is to legalise the forces around it, which diminishes the crime around it and contributes to giving more money to the governments.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if there is anyone opposing the resolution and suggests to open the votes on the resolution as amended.

**Vote:**

**For - 105**

**Against - 28**

**Abstentions - 19**

**The resolution is accepted as amended by the Congress.**

**Svensk Ungdom (SU)** changed their vote from YES to ABSTAIN (not included at the moment in Openslides, but it is included in these minutes)



### ❖ Resolution 3: The Future of EU - Afghan Relations

**William Larsson (CUF):** In the past few months the situation in Afghanistan has been a disaster and Taliban are now in control of the country. There are no rights for citizens. We, the liberals, refuse to recognise such a government. A government which is not approved by the majority of citizens should not exist. At the same time the ones who suffer the most are the citizens needing food and medicines. Relationships should be maintained of course, but making sure EU support does not benefit the Taliban. People should be free to flee their country. We don't want to recognise Taliban going against rule of law, democracy and human rights. We hope you all support this resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** before giving the floor to people in the speakers' list, she repeats that people need to state their name and organisation before speaking.

**Peter Banks (Young Liberals) makes a 'Point of order':** We should debate resolutions in the proper way. I propose: the mover of the resolution starts first, then the movers of the amendments go next. The order is really important.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** says the way the resolutions are discussed cannot be changed, it is regulated by the Congress rules and we are doing it the right way.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** I support this resolution because the EU is not able to take a strong stance. There are numerous debates in the institutions which still don't result in a clear position in the conflict. That is why LYMEC should take a clear position.

**Elise Emde (JOVD):** This resolution is also supposed to support the humanitarian aspect of the mission, as the EU and LYMEC do, we should support people in Afghanistan. Therefore, we believe this resolution fits perfectly and we hope you all vote for it.

**Marina Sedlo (Policy Officer):** As you can see there is also the LYMEC Bureau as a mover of the resolution, which does not happen that often. But this time we were appalled by the humanitarian situation there. Countries in the EU who share humanitarian values have been handling the situation poorly with people who work for them. This is a situation we cannot accept. We recommend you to vote in favour of this resolution.

**Anna Komziuk (LDLU):** We strongly support this resolution. The Taliban are going against human and women's rights. With this resolution we call on the EU to support Afghan citizens and stabilize the situation, therefore we invite you to vote for this resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** suggests accepting all three amendments 78, 69 and 71 as they are all already accepted by the mover.

## DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone wants to take the floor to comment on the resolution. No one took the floor and she therefore opened the vote.

**Vote:**

**For - 150**

Against - 0

Abstentions - 14

**The resolution is accepted by the Congress.**

### ❖ **Resolution 4: A CAP fit for the 21st century**

**Tim Robinson (IMS):** We are a broad group with many different views. We would be very pleased to have a policy which does not mention subsidies everywhere. When it comes to this kind of policy, we all worked to really look past that old attitude and move on with a lot of important issues which came up in the Working Groups. For example, making sure the regulation framework is up to date, that we use the latest technologies and that there are less bureaucratic steps. I want to point out that the resolution is a bit shorter as some of the contents were not uploaded on Openslides. I am grateful to all the organisations who contributed. I want to apologize to those who added up the content which was not put on the platform. We will submit another resolution at the next Spring Congress.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** You mentioned agricultural subsidies, we still want to see them phased out but we also acknowledge that other aspects have to be talked about with regards to the CAP. It has been considered in this proposal. We will probably submit something in the future on the topic. I am glad to see that something so collaborative has been done here. We urge people to vote in favour of this resolution.

**William Larsson (CUF):** The CAP is the biggest single EU budget post that currently exists. I want to point out that we have seen examples in several countries over the past 2 years, where you as a farmer are not allowed to repair your own equipment. The most obvious example is of course tractors, that have become more technologically advanced over the years, and companies think it is right to make farmers come to them. It should not be accepted so I hope you accept this resolution and that the next ones will be on the table for the next Congress.

### ❖ **Amendment 76**

The amendment was **withdrawn** by JD as it was a mistake.

## DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone is against the resolution and opens the votes since no-one reacts.

**Vote:**

**For - 165**

**Against - 0**

**Abstentions - 19**

**The resolution is accepted by the Congress.**

### ❖ **Resolution 5: In response to the asylum seekers' influx provoked by the illegitimate government of the Republic of Belarus**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** gives the floor to the mover of the resolution.

**Umberto Masi (LLJ):** This resolution for Belarus is on a topic which may be boring for you. As you may know, after the airplane was hijacked, the European governments-imposed sanctions on Belarus and in response to that the dictator provoked massive migration waves to Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. This resolution is to highlight the fact that there could be violations to human rights in regard to those seeking asylum. They have rights and they should be respected.

**Peter Banks (Young Liberals):** I want to say thank you to the Lithuanian Liberal Youth for being the leader of this resolution and this issue. Every day, we hear about these issues. We should be proud that we are leading the way to a more liberal and progressive society. Belarus is not free, and this organisation will work every day until it is free.

**Emils Dobrajs (Attistibai Youth):** Thank you **Umberto Masi (LLJ)** for the amazing work. This topic has been on top of the news also in Latvia for the past three months. The humanitarian crisis is a big issue and just yesterday, Ursula Von der Leyen made a statement that the EU won't fund wires and walls. We are seeing this issue wider and broader, I believe this resolution is a great response. There's no controversy. I kindly ask you to support it.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** I also call on you all to support the resolution. This situation is caused by the dictator, but there are member states which are not interested in this and don't show response. Dictatorship should be addressed and this is the way to do it.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** states that **amendment 24 was withdrawn** and moves on to the next amendment.

## ❖ Amendment 15

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** We propose to change the title because there is a difference between illegality and illegitimacy. We will anyways be voting in favour of the resolution even if this amendment falls.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** I do think that no one here would suggest that the election in Belarus were legitimate, so I don't see why this change is needed. Show courage and truth and just call them what they are, **an illegitimate government**.

**Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLJ):** I have to speak against this amendment. We see that legitimacy comes from the will of the people. However, people are not happy with the irregularities of the elections. I would ask delegates to vote against this amendment.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the vote since there are opposing views on this amendment. The Openslides vote moves to a roll call vote because of some technical issues encountered with the voting system.

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call vote with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**.

	Full Members		Votes	Roll call 5 vote and 16
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra		3	0
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	0
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw		5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		9	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF		10	0
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth		3	
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY		4	
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	0
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		5	0
Estonia	Reform Party Youth		6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret		6	0
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskusten Opiskelijaliitto)		3	0
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)		6	0
France	Jeunes Radicaux		3	3
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Liberal Youth		3	
Germany	Junge Liberale		10	0
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	0
Greece	Young Liberals Greece		3	0
Hungary	Momentum TizenX		3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn		4	0
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil		8	0
Latvia	Atēstibaļ Youth		3	0
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth		6	0
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg		3	
The Netherlands	JOVD		6	
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten		7	0
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Party		3	0
Norway	Ungt Venstre		4	0
Romania	USR Tineret	4		0
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth		3	
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos		7	
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		5	
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund		5	
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)		7	0
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine		3	0
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine		3	0
United Kingdom	Young Liberals		7	0
IMS	Tim Robinson		1	0
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot		1	0
IMS	Christine Khomyk		1	0
	<b>TO</b>		<b>202</b>	<b>36</b>

## Vote on Amendment 15

For - 36

Against - 121

Abstentions - 40

Total of 197 votes were present in the room.

**The amendment is not accepted by the Congress.**

## ❖ Amendment 23

**The mover accepted the amendment**

## DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** gives the floor to **Ines Holzegger (Outreach and Cooperation Officer)** to figure out a solution to the technical issues.

**Ines Holzegger (Outreach and Cooperation Officer)** explains that those who have connection problems should go to legal notice on Openslides and reset their cache. After that, they should log out of the platform, reset the browser and log in again.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** moves on to the discussion on the resolution as amended and opens the vote as no-one is taking the floor.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

For - 153

Against - 7

Abstentions - 13

**The resolution as amended is accepted by the Congress.**

## ❖ Resolution 6: Freedom of Press and Media in Central-Eastern Europe: Attacks on the media, press and journalists

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks the mover to the floor to briefly explain the resolution.

**Kaja Ippel (JOVD):** There have been many attacks throughout Central and Eastern Europe. This is a serious issue and many countries have introduced outrageous laws to attack the freedom of press. I

hope you are in favour of this resolution and hope that people like Kaczynski or Orban will soon leave the stage.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** closes the list of speakers for general comments.

#### ❖ Amendment 49

**Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)**: We do not like cited sources in resolutions that is why we made this amendment.

**Kaja Ippel (JOVD)**: We agree with the amendment.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone disagrees with the amendment. No one disagrees.

**The amendment is therefore carried by the mover.**

#### DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS)**: I have a structural issue with the resolution because it speaks about media but it does not provide a systematic approach to it. I am not against the resolution but it should be updated and completed. It is missing an important part.

**Kaja Ippel (JOVD)**: What do you mean for systematic approach?

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS)**: In the first part of the resolution it mentions the specific cases for central and eastern countries, but these cases don't provide enough information on the situation.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)**: We cannot change the text of the resolution anymore because the deadline for the amendments has passed.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone is against the resolution and opens the vote as no-one else takes the floor.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 163**

**Against - 0**

**Abstentions - 10**

**The resolution as amended is accepted by the Congress.**



## ❖ Resolution 7: Freedom of expression and campus police

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** invites the mover to take the floor and explains the resolution.

**Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece):** With this resolution we want to create awareness on the situation we face especially for conservative governments who take an opportunity from the pandemic to adopt illiberal measures. We have many examples on how to make universities safer places and be vocal for students.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if there is anyone who wants to discuss the resolution as presented by the mover. No one takes the floor.

## ❖ Amendment 48

**The amendment is accepted by the mover.**

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten)** makes a 'Point of order': Are we going to discuss the resolution now or after lunch?

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Most of us want to handle as many resolutions as possible so we will be efficient and discuss the whole resolution before we go have lunch.

## DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Opens the votes since no-one is asking to take the floor.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 137**

**Against - 24**

**Abstentions - 10**

**The resolution as amended is accepted by the Congress.**

## ----- LUNCH BREAK-----

After the lunch break, **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

	Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 8 Saturday after lunch
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra		3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw		5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		9	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF		10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth		3	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY		4	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		5	5
Estonia	Reform Party Youth		6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret		6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)		3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)		6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux		3	3
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Liberal Youth		3	0
Germany	Junge Liberale		10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece		3	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX		3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn		4	4
Ireland	Ogra Fianna Fáil		8	8
Latvia	Atlistibai Youth		3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth		6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg		3	3
The Netherlands	JOVD		6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten		7	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Party		3	0
Norway	Unge Venstre		4	4
Romania	USR Tineret	4		4
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth		3	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos		7	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund		5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)		7	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine		3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine		3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals		7	7
IMS	Tim Robinson		1	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot		1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk		1	1
		TO	202	197
	Simple majority of those present		101	98.5
	Two thirds of present		134.6666667	131.3333333

There were 197 votes present at the Congress.

The following Organisations were not present:

Gibraltar Liberal Youth

Nova Stranka Youth

## Liberal Democratic Party

### ❖ Resolution 8: Levelling the train-plane playing field: paying for trains by planes

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten):** I think we had a good debate on this from the beginning in the Working Group. Just for the benefit of everyone here and online, I want to repeat some of the arguments that were discussed and what this resolution is about. It aims to achieve a couple of things. It corrects the distortion in place between trains and planes, in fact the fuel for planes is not taxed properly. We want to collect tax revenue that can be invested in a proper train network. We had a good discussion with JuLis on these topics, but we still see that the current situation is not sustainable. We discussed that taxes cannot solve everything, but in this case they could be very helpful to our scope.

**Phil Hackemann (JuLis):** I think we can agree that climate change is an issue and we need to get people to change their practices from flying to using trains. In the goal we are united, but we oppose the resolution, we have a different approach to this. Taxes do not always lead people to use trains, some regions are only accessible to some extended by train and some rail networks are just not working properly either. Instead of making people use trains we want to improve the current train network and make it more attractive. A flight tax would not really lower emissions, it would make them more expensive and emissions would still be emitted somewhere else, because of the emission trading system. In the end a flight tax would make it more expensive and some people would not be able to pay for it. We should make it carbon neutral instead. I have met these startups who do this and a flight fuel tax would harm this industry. That is why we oppose this resolution. We also want to withdraw some amendments which were not accepted by the mover.

**Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS):** I have a few points to make here. I want to traumatise you with my train ticket receipt, in total £304 on going back and forth from London to Paris. When I booked this train it was last minute, the flights were a lot cheaper and it is almost the case any time I travel. Firstly, the problem is that train travelling is seen as a luxury, people want to make a climate friendly option, but cannot afford it. Secondly, many points in this resolution have been carefully drafted. It is a really smart resolution. Even if you have a bit of a tax phobia, this resolution really helps to achieve the carbon emission goals.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Can the mover of the resolution tell us which amendments it is that you want to accept and the ones that were withdrawn?

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten):** All the ones that got a positive recommendation in the working group are carried by the mover. The others from Julis are withdrawn.

**Amendments 16, 21, 30, 33, 37, 36, 38 are withdrawn.**

**Amendments 58, 31, 41, 35, 32, 34, 53, 55, 51 and 39 are carried by the mover.**

**Phillipp Eng (Jungfreisinnige):** I completely agree that as liberals we are responsible to find solutions, but taxes are not the way, we need climate change solutions or policy incentives. Liberals never see taxes as the first solution. My organisation will say no to this resolution.

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom):** Although we agree with the purpose, it is a bit problematic for countries that are outside of continental Europe. I think there are good and bad things about this resolution, we will be abstaining from this resolution.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten):** To discuss a few things, I understand the ETS system arguments, but we need to have a look at what currently takes place. We have way too cheap flights compared to the trains. The ETS is not a magic wand we can wave and make everything disappear. Taxes are the way. I am open to any suggestions where taxes would not be used, but we need to use effective policy instruments, as JD and D66 we are not always prone to taxes but we believe that this is the right way in this case. I hope you all agree with me on that.

**Friso van Gruijthuijsen (JOVD):** We liberals are against taxes, but they can be necessary and this is a good example of what I am saying. I believe that the market can solve problems but sometimes it needs to be steered. Here taxes are a good instrument. One good point by **Phillipp Eng (Jungfreisinnige)** was the electric planes manufacturers who are against a fly tax. On the contrary, they should be heavily in favour of this because electric planes would be cheaper than normal planes if we have this tax. The more efficient, the better. I want to say to everyone that we now have an opportunity to make flights more expensive, trains cheaper, and finally act on climate change.

**Nemir Ali (JuLis):** I think what we are missing is that flying is great for bringing people together, connecting people from continents together and forming friendships and bonds. Flying is the way to do it. Cheap flights are not an issue, it is great for those who cannot afford the expensive flights. If you implement the flight tax, you are only making it more difficult for people who have difficulties to afford mobility. You are not improving the railway system by doing that, you are not really making people want to take a train instead of a plane. To do that, we need to improve the railway system because people don't use railways because they often underperform. You can achieve all of that without the flight tax. The money is there but we hear that there is an issue with funding. In this resolution there are concrete ideas missing on how to improve the train system. Instead you just want to tax the flight industry. That I think is the wrong way. It's the same when we talk about poverty, we always talk about taxing the rich but this way you are not helping anyone. I urge you to vote against this resolution and improve the train system instead.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** First of all, when I first read the resolution I understood that there were suggestions to improve the system. What we should not forget is that the aviation industry has been subsidized by governments in Europe which have given them an unfair infrastructural advantage. We need to fix these issues faster and we need to give the market the extra push by having a flight tax. In general, we would not tax unnecessary things, but this is an exception.

**Emils Dobrajs (Attistibai Youth) makes a 'Point of order'** to reopen the speakers' list.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Is anyone against reopening the speakers' list? I also suggest that you bring new arguments to the table and don't repeat yourself. No-one reacts thus the speakers' list is reopened.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** I just wanted to insist on a previous point made about non-continental Europe. It was said that the resolution doesn't have a solution for those who cannot travel by train, which is not the case. This resolution is not only about taxing planes, it is much more than that. It also has hints on how to improve the railway system. Maybe people didn't read the whole resolution or just saw red when they saw the word taxes.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** It is not only about a country like Iceland, but also about other regions that are not well connected. How many exemptions are you willing to do? If you want to build the railroads there, it takes years and we want mobility now, because people need to travel now, not in many years. Think about those poorer families who can manage to have a real vacation thanks to cheaper flights and now you want higher prices. Then they would not be able to do so anymore. As liberals we should try to make it possible for everyone to travel and use the means of transport they want.

**Friso van Gruijthuijsen (JOVD):** Actually, I want to continue on the point of free choice of travelling. Right now there is no free choice. By taking a car I need to pay taxes on my car and fuel. If I need to take a train I still pay a lot of taxes on the tickets and the electricity it uses. Airline companies do not have to pay taxes for their fuel and that is why they are so cheap. This is not really about taxing airlines. This is about subsidizing companies in the current situation. I am against it. If there are no taxes it is basically a subsidy.

**Paul Bauer (JUNOS):** I wanted to respond especially to **Nemir Ali (JuLis)** and **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)**. I think we are doing the discussion wrong. In your point you said flying should be affordable, and we are not against this idea. The thing is that if you want to go somewhere a short distance from where you are from, going there by plane is cheaper. It is economical but not ecological. The thing is that it should be affordable because travelling by train is expensive and that is the problem, you are saying. I don't get your point. Both should be cheap, and not only one of them.



**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS)** makes a 'Point of order': I would like to have the speaking time to one minute because most people are repeating themselves.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks the Congress and no-one is against so we have now one minute speaking time.

**Fabian Grepper (Jungfreisinnige)**: Planes are barely 2% of the global CO2 emissions. This means that blaming flights won't stop the climate change crisis. We don't only need to make railways more attractive, but we need to make transport in general more efficient and integrated. Just banning or taxing flights is not the solution to climate change. Please vote against this.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten)**: We need to find new mechanisms for people to afford planes. You have to look at other factors, such as the minimum income or the social security system. But that shouldn't interfere with how you want to affect markets to achieve higher goals. Thank you for listening to me.

**Emils Dobrajs (Attistibai Youth)**: I agree that trains should be accessible, affordable and available for everyone. As a person coming from the central and eastern part of Europe, I know that. I feel that this resolution would hurt us more, there are no proposals in the 'calls for' to actually make trains more affordable. Please vote against it.

**Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS)**: There are in my view many arguments. Firstly, what about regions that don't have railways? According to this resolution, they would pay significantly lower rates of fly tax. What about low carbon rates? According to this resolution, a flight which makes 0 carbon emissions would pay 0 taxes. What about the poorer families? What about electrical planes? Every single penny goes on railways. If you claim that planes are barely 2% of the global CO2 emissions, that 2% is already too much.

**Derk Beemer (Jonge Democraten)**: Especially for Iceland, climate change will have a really big effect. I think it is important to focus on the railway system right now. Cheap flights will harm the climate more than building a proper train system. I think it's necessary to focus more on the trains and vote for this motion.

**Katrin Steingrimsdottir (Uppreisn)**: I love how everyone wants to use Iceland as an argument to vote against the resolution, while we actually support it. I can only be happy if one day flights become carbon neutral.

**Julius Graack (JuLis)**: I wanted to point out when it comes to the improvement on the rail lines in Europe, one thing that is not mentioned is the collaboration between railroads in different countries. It



is very problematic, Germans could make them cheaper, but they just don't do it. This proposal is not helpful when it comes to making railways cheaper. I would urge all of you to vote against this.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** In my last invoice from Reykjavik, I paid 137 € and 67% is already just taxes from my flight price. Do you think that this is the way to have more trains? I think that the real issue is already high taxes.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten):** It is nice that all have pitched in and thought about these issues. I want to tell JuLis that no one is taking your flights away. We just ask if you choose to do it, that you pay more taxes and make train connections more available and sustainable, we would use this tax to invest in railwork. Thank you very much.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** I think we all know now where JuLis and JD stand on this issue. We had a few amendments that were carried and some withdrawn. Amendment 58, 41, 35, 32, 34, 53, 55, 51 and 38 are carried by the mover. The resolution as amended was discussed already and I propose to move to a **vote on the resolution as amended**.

**Alex Alvarez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** We tried to vote but got a different line appearing. There were issues and we could not get the vote that we wanted.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We will relaunch the vote again because this seems to be a reoccurring issue.

**Vote on the resolution as amended:**

For - 66

**Against - 103**

Abstentions- 17

**The resolution was rejected by the Congress.**

### ❖ **Resolution 9: Inclusive education for an equal society**

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom):** This is a very important resolution because education is crucial and has a great impact on the person you will become. That is why we want to include everyone in society, it will also increase tolerance for minority groups. This is something every country struggles with.

**Katharine Macy (Young Liberals):** One of the main problems is that we teach certain topics too late. The more we discuss those topics, the better off we are. As someone who was told I didn't qualify for support when I finally got my disability diagnosed at the age of 17, I think disability is something so important to educate people about. Ultimately, this is an important motion because the more we teach

people, the more confident they are. The more we teach and help people to accept the differences in our society, the more comfortable they are with themselves.

**Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD):** LGBTI+ and sex education are topics which need to be taught in schools.

**Sean Bennett (Young Liberals):** I would like to slightly disagree with the previous speaker. A particular point I want to make is, that there are arguments across the UK to include sex education in schools. The argument is that if you bring that too early to young children, somehow it is inappropriate to those children. It is not only about sex education, it is about citizenship and allow people to grow up. What we learn in school is massively important. It is an incredibly important motion and I hope all of you vote for it.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** Our organisation is strongly advocating for this topic, whether it is bullying people in schools, or LGBT rights. That is why we call on you to vote in favour of this resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Amendment 77 by JD was carried by the mover of the resolution. Does anyone want to speak in favour or against this resolution as amended? No one is asking for the floor. We move on to the vote.

#### **Vote on the resolution as amended:**

**For - 146**

Against - 29

Abstentions- 8

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

#### **❖ Resolution 10: Boosting COVAX before boosting the EU**

**Abel Hartmann (Jonge Democraten):** I have read quite a lot on the topic recently. Many developing countries have not even received a first or second shot of the vaccine, while other countries are already thinking about a 3rd or 4th shot. Before we start to boost the vaccine, we want to give out as many vaccines as we can to people who didn't get the first doses. Everyone will benefit in the long-term from it and I really hope you will support this resolution.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** It is even in our own interest to vaccinate everyone. The big issue with COVID now is the delta variant, not COVID itself. Mutations can continue to happen even if everyone in the EU is fully vaccinated. Mutations can happen in the rest of the world if people elsewhere

are still having COVID. We know it would have consequences on us in the EU as well. We should really be focusing on COVAX right now. I call on you to vote in favour of this resolution.

**Alex Alvarez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** Thank you to the movers for proposing this. JCs would like to vote in favour. We are aware that the COVID situation is causing problems in developing countries that don't have the pandemic under control. We know we can never put an end to the pandemic if we don't help those countries. This multilateral instrument, COVAX, is very important. We kindly ask you delegates to vote in favour.

**Derk Beemer (Jonge Democraten):** The Netherlands has already vaccinated more than a million people outside of Europe. We could say it is the fault of the rich countries, but actually we should think about the responsibility we have.

**Fabian Grepper (Jungfreisinnige):** I want to say I support this resolution from a medical, political and economical perspective. I fully support it.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** I would like to speak in support of the resolution because I am from a country where the government did not manage to cope with the COVID crisis. The only vaccines we received were thanks to the COVAX program. Now the vaccination rate is still stuck at 7%. People travelled because Ukraine was on the green list but barely anyone got the vaccine there. Please support the resolution because people need it and it is a general problem.

**Jana Degrott (Jonk Demokraten):** I don't like to repeat myself, so I will just say we cannot support any kind of vaccine nationalism. I agree with everything that has been said.

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom):** I also want to speak in favour of this. It is ridiculous that some countries are already getting a third boost while some others are still in need of the first doses. I remind you it is a global issue.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** All four amendments 1, 17, 18, 61 have been carried by the mover. We move on to the discussion of the resolution as amended. No one took the floor.

#### DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We move to the vote.

**Vote on the resolution as amended:**

**For - 157**

**Against - 0**

**Abstentions- 33**

**The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.**

❖ **Resolution 11: Mandatory Provision of National Electronic Identification within the EU**

**Romeo Granadino Martinez (Centerstudenter):** As we have seen, the COVID pandemic has hit tough on us. It has changed the scope of digitalization. It has led the EU Commission to develop a new digital strategy for cybersecurity. That should have been available for 80% of European citizens. A mandatory implementation of national e-IDs in all European member states would be a move in the right direction. To have a digitalized Union and match well with the purpose of the strategy presented by the Commission, cybersecurity is of paramount importance when implementing an e-ID throughout the member states. Today, we already have an EU regulation in place for IDs but we have to make it compatible with services in all the member states. We should therefore work for a more unified EU and a mandatory implementation of an EU ID would help with that.

**Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals):** Anything about IDs is a red card for the Young Liberals. Mandatory IDs are an illiberal idea, whether it is online or offline. We believe an ID like this is against any liberal principle, as freedom to be anonymous or away from any governmental control. Unfortunately, it brings me to say that I oppose this resolution and I hope the Congress agrees with me.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** I would like to speak in favour even if I partially agree with what **Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals)** said before me. There is significant evidence that eIDs improve our lives. We are strongly committed to this as there would be the possibility to get the electronic signature which gives us access to more digital tools. I would like to ask the mover if he knows how many member states have not yet implemented the e-ID in the EU.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** First of all, I want to address **Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals)**. I'm sorry but this resolution calls on the EU to introduce e-ID and the UK is not in the EU anymore. Secondly, I want to speak in favour as Ukraine was the first country to get digital IDs. We have access to statistics that show how better they are. The resolution doesn't call for mandatory implementation, it just opens the possibility to do that.

**Linnea Lindström (Centerstudenter):** It's important that LYMEC puts pressure on having an e-ID. The Commission has presented a new document to support that. We hope you agree with us.

**Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS):** I believe that the term mandatory does refer to the fact that Member States would have to provide ID cards to citizens, not to citizens to possess them. The UK doesn't have any source of national ID card or e-ID card and as someone who has to fill tax returns in the UK, that is an incredible inconvenience at times. It means that I should keep a logbook with the various passwords

to log into the government's gateway, and that is much more susceptible to frauds. It would be an enormous improvement, but as **Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS)** said it would not apply to the UK.

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom)**: I also want to clarify that it is not mandatory for people to get them, but for countries to provide them to citizens. It is a really good idea, and we support this resolution.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS)**: It is all about giving the possibility and the freedom to get an e-ID card. We are all about freedom.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)**: We will now give the opportunity to the mover to answer the question that was asked.

**Linnea Lindström (Centerstudenter)**: The goal is to have 80% of EU citizens to have the ability to use an e-ID within 2030. With this resolution, we could move in the right direction.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)**: There are no amendments to this proposal and the debate is close. The vote is therefore open.

#### **Vote on the resolution:**

**For - 153**

Against - 7

Abstentions- 20

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

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

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

There were 197 votes present.

	Full Members	Vote	Roll Call 7 Saturday after Coffee break afternoon
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw	5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF	10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth	3	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY	4	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5	5
Estonia	Reform Party Youth	6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6	6
Finland	Keskustopiskelijat(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)	3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)	6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3	3
Gibraltar	Gibraltar Liberal Youth	3	
Germany	Junge Liberale	10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece	3	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	6	6
Latvia	Atisibai Youth	3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth	6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3	3
The Netherlands	JOVD	6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Party	3	
Norway	Unge Venstre	4	4
Romania	USR Tineret	4	4
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth	3	
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	7	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7	7
IMS	Tim Robinson	1	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot	1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1	1
		<b>TO:</b>	<b>197</b>
	Simple majority of those present	101	98.5
	Two thirds of present	134.6666667	131.3333333

The following organisations were not present:

Gibraltar Liberal Youth

Liberal Democratic Party

Nova Stranka Youth



## ❖ Resolution 12: Political situation in Venezuela

**Irene Terrazas (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** I want to present this resolution to bring awareness on this key topic. It is the first time the situation in Venezuela is debated in a LYMEC Congress. We believe that this process of supporting democracy which complies with the rule of law will help citizens of Venezuela to stop suffering from Maduro's regime and be free.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** no one is on the list of speakers so we move on to the amendments.

### ❖ Amendment 12

**It was accepted by the mover.**

### ❖ Amendment 13

**It was accepted by the mover.**

### ❖ Amendment 72

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks *Jonge Democraten* to take the floor.

**Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten):** This amendment supports the opposition in Venezuela, as financial powers support that opposition as well.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the floor for comments. She gives the floor to the mover of the resolution.

**Irene Terrazas (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** We think that financing the opposition can be tricky. We know that Maduro is taking over the financial powers, so this can be everything but an advantage to reach what we want. It is such a difficult situation and we must act carefully.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the votes since no-one else wishes to take the floor.

### **Vote on Amendment 72:**

For - 79

**Against - 84**

Abstentions - 1

**The amendment was not carried by the Congress.**

### ❖ Amendment 14

**Nemir Ali (JuLis):** What we are proposing is to sanction those officials of Venezuela who are responsible for human rights violations that have already taken place, as mentioned in the resolution, and that might take place again in the future. The EU has established a quite good sanctioning mechanism, quite a parallel to the US Magnitski acts used on Russia and China. It's important to know that those sanctions are personalised and don't aim at harming the population of Venezuela. They harm individuals by freezing their banking assets or preventing them from travelling to the EU. They can have a real effect and even raise awareness on the fact that human rights violations are not taken easily.

**Irene Terrazas (Jovenes Ciudadanos):** We agree that sanctions should be adopted in the future, but we want to set an open dialogue with Venezuela. These sanctions should come at a later stage depending on the outcome of the dialogue. We will need to have an investigation to take this kind of action.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We lost you a bit on zoom because of internet issues but we feel that you are not in favour of this amendment.

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** I want to thank Jovenes Ciudadanos for bringing up this motion because it is a great proposal, especially when it comes to having stronger foreign common policies. It is clear that we don't just want sanctions, but we want them in case of human rights violations. It only applies when there is a proven cause. I think it is a great addition to the rest of the resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the votes for the amendment.

#### **Vote on Amendment 14:**

**For - 128**

**Against - 28**

**Abstentions- 23**

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

**'Point of order' - Attistibai Youth** wishes to change their vote from NO to YES. It is now included in these minutes.

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the floor for comments. No one takes the floor.

**Derk Beemer (Jonge Democraten):** I wanted to take the floor but I was too late. I'm sorry for this.

**Emils Dobrajs (Attistibai Youth)** makes a 'Point of order' to change his vote on **amendment 14** because of a technical mistake. He changed his previous vote from **NO** to **YES**. It does not change the outcome of the vote.

**Fabian Grepper (Jungefreisinnige)** makes a 'Point of order': Please give us a bit more time to put ourselves on the speakers' list because we are a bit later on zoom than you are in the room.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)**: It is duly noted, we will allow more time for this.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 143**

**Against - 19**

**Abstentions- 14**

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

#### ❖ **Resolution 13: Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families**

**Petrine Johannesen (Venstres Ungdom)**: This resolution is about the right to have children for LGBT people, as it is physically impossible for them to have children without help. We would solve that problem through a legal and fair framework at the EU level which allows these people in all the member states to have children.

**Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn)**: I believe people should have the freedom to do whatever they want with their body. I don't think surrogate mothers are the focus we should have in our policy book. It is not a human right. This is not the focus we want. We will not be supporting this resolution.

**Petrine Louise Johannesen (Venstres Ungdom)**: It is true that it is not about human rights, but today it is illegal in some places to be gay and have a child. That should be legal, but it can't be possible without the help of surrogate mothers.

**Margaux Carron (Young Green Swiss Liberals)**: I think we should stop going against these resolutions about womens' rights. It is health that we are talking about. It is her body, if she wants to get pregnant for others she can. I would say that taking into consideration womens' rights, we should carry this resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)**: The mover has accepted all the amendments, so they will not be discussed separately.

❖ **Amendment 52**

It was accepted by the mover.

❖ **Amendment 54**

It was accepted by the mover.

❖ **Amendment 4**

It was accepted by the mover.

❖ **Amendment 57**

It was accepted by the mover.

**DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED**

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS) makes a 'Point of order':** Can we have more time to vote because this requires more time to think about.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** This is a point of order and you need to put yourself on the speakers' list on Openslides.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS) makes a 'Point of order':** to add an extra minute to the voting time for this resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** No-one is against thus it is carried. There will be more time for this voting.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 136**

**Against - 4**

**Abstentions- 40**

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

❖ **Resolution 14: Reform the concept of NEET**

**Petrine Johannesen (Venstres Ungdom):** We think we should reform the concept of NEET. As it is right now, the EU just takes over the responsibility to educate people, therefore the member states lose the

encouragement to improve their educational systems. Other than that, it is expensive and it does not work properly.

**Sarah Rahali (Jonge Democraten):** I fully support this resolution, it makes no sense to keep investing money if it doesn't take us anywhere. We should be doing more and offer an effective long-term solution. I urge all of you to vote in favor of this resolution.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS) makes a 'Point of order':** I ask for more time for decisions in general because of technical issues.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** It is duly noted. We will make sure there is more time for decisions in general. We will stop rushing. There are no more speakers nor amendments. The vote on the resolution as a whole is open.

**Vote on the resolution as a whole.**

**For - 144**

Against - 8

Abstentions- 20

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

#### ❖ **Resolution 15: Resolution for the rights of Climate Refugees**

**Emil Lewenhaupt (LUF):** Climate is changing and this has huge effects on human lives. There are no measures about climate change in this text. It is about refugees who should have the same rights as the others.

**Phil Hackemann (JuLis):** We understand the thought behind this resolution, but it may be a bit too far-reaching. The resolution doesn't really define what a climate refugee is. Is it really that you can't live in your region anymore? Is it really difficult to live there for a certain reason? So as I said, we can understand the idea behind the resolution, but it should be more thought before being adopted.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** We have a similar position as **Phil Hackemann (JuLis)**. We had a very hard time because we should consider climate refugees as well, even if they are different from other kinds of refugees. We just think that people could come together and think about something more specific.

#### ❖ **Amendment 67**

**Amendment was carried by the mover.**

❖ **Amendment 68**

**Amendment was carried by the mover.**

**DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone wants to discuss the resolution as amended. No one takes the floor. The vote on the resolution as a whole is therefore open.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 83**

**Against - 75**

**Abstentions- 23**

**The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.**

❖ **Resolution 16: Effective legal protection in the European Union**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** This resolution has 2 amendments - **amendment 47** was carried, while **amendment 46** has a negative recommendation from the Working Group.

**Nemir Ali (JuLis):** Effective legal protection means that when a state infringes your fundamental rights, you do not only have the possibility on paper to do something against it, for example by moving the case to the court. This possibility also works in practice and helps to protect your rights. In the EU there are some tools that already exist, but some of them can be improved. With this resolution we are proposing 3 concrete things: First of all, we want the EU to ratify the European Convention on human rights. Secondly, we want a European charter of fundamental rights, which currently binds the member states due to EU law, to also be applicable in national cases as a minimal standard for respect of human rights in the EU that we all should agree on. Thirdly, we want a European directive to move the cases to ECJ when the personal rights are infringed. We must have the possibility to go to court directly.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** moves on to the discussion of the amendments.

❖ **Amendment 47**

**Amendment was carried by the mover.**



#### ❖ Amendment 46

**Brent Usewils (Jong VLD):** We want to withdraw this amendment.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** It is noted, we will continue with the discussion on the resolution as a whole.

**Amendment 46 was withdrawn.**

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.**

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** The EU project has a focus on human rights, and to see LYMEC members at work to ensure those rights are protected for all is great. This resolution is not controversial but I urge people to vote for it.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** moves on to the vote.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 128**

**Against - 0**

**Abstentions- 40**

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

#### ❖ Resolution 17: Making 'Fit For 55' fit for purpose

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** It is a topic that we all care about. This resolution has many points we want to embrace. It is about the climate emergency, but also at EU level they are discussing the biggest package ever. It is a liberal package which brings us to focus on whatever we can do for a better and less polluted future. We urge you to vote for this resolution that has a liberal perspective that aims at making things better for us and for the future.

#### ❖ Amendment 19

**The amendment was carried by the mover.**

#### ❖ Amendment 59

**The amendment was carried by the mover.**

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** moves on to the vote.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 126**

**Against - 0**

**Abstentions - 34**

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

❖ **Resolution 18: Project Pegasus: protecting our privacy**

**Ákos Blaskovics (Momentum TizenX):** This resolution was made because in the summer Orban used the Pegasus system to monitor journalists. We know that it is not only Orban in Hungary, there are also news in other countries about politicians and activists being impacted by this. We think that LYMEC should call for European legislation to regulate the use of technological equipment and to create a strictly legal framework for surveillance and national security.

**Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals):** I want to more specifically speak about how the Chinese use surveillance to terrorise citizens. It is also good to see through this resolution how specific national problems are identified and resolved on an international level.

**Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth):** I think this is quite a specific issue. It should not become a way for governments to spy and get information they could use against people who want to be informed or who want to keep the others informed. Once again, I want to thank the movers of this resolution.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** I want to speak in favour, it is very well worded and I appreciate the very clear call for action. To briefly sum up, I vote in favour of this resolution.

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** A question for the mover - you ask for a legal framework, but how can this framework be useful within the Chinese situation to tackle the problem?

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** This concludes the debate and we move to the amendments.

❖ **Amendment 27**

**Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO):** We understand the intention of the resolution, we just have something to say about two points: regarding the regulation of the production, we feel that every state should decide on its defense. We understand the reason behind it, but we think it could cause more harm than

good. Regarding the second one, we also think it should not be a unified system, but a right of every sovereign state.

**Phil Hackemann (JuLis):** We urge you to vote against and support Momentum TizenX because it is crucial to prevent softwares and spywares from being exported. This is one of the main reasons why some countries were able to do the illegal actions with journalism that TizenX already mentioned. There should be export control of spywares and softwares used to spy on these people.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** No-one else is asking for the floor. We move to a vote because of clearly opposing views on this amendment.

### **Vote on the Amendment 27**

For - 59

**Against - 87**

Abstentions - 31

**The amendment was not carried by the Congress.**

### **❖ Amendment 40**

**Phil Hackemann (JuLis):** We would like to add a paragraph to enshrine the right to encryption to defend yourself if you are a journalist and live in those countries. You need it to save yourself from the government. It is kind of a basic right. There are countries, even in Europe, that forbid people to use encryption softwares.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** No one is asking for the floor to speak against this amendment. We will move to a vote on the amendment.

### **Vote on the Amendment 40**

For - 155

Against - 0

Abstentions - 30

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

### **DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone wants to take the floor to speak for or against this resolution as amended. No one is taking the floor. We will move to a vote on the resolution as amended.

**Vote on the resolution as amended**

**For - 139**

Against - 0

Abstentions - 37

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

❖ **Resolution 19: We are Europe too**

**Tanzer Yuseinov (YMRF):** This is a resolution for the enlargement of the EU to the Western Balkans. We believe it is important to stress the relevance of this process. The EU can go together with other countries that aspire for membership, we don't have to wait for institutional reforms for the EU to do that. I count on your support for this resolution.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** I would like to speak in favour of this resolution. About this topic, the EU commissioner responsible says we should enlarge the EU and welcome the Western Balkans, but no actual steps ever happen. I think we as European youth organisations have the moral obligation to put these ideas forward and put pressure on our party and mother parties for the enlargement of the EU to Western Balkan countries, which have been waiting for years for this change to happen.

**Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece):** I also speak in favour of this resolution, as I come from the Balkan Regions. They can be part of the family. We have to highlight the dangers - there are bilateral disputes that we are trying to resolve. The EU calls on us to solve those disputes before starting the accession procedure. However, if we continue to delay that, they will be disappointed and we won't know how the developments will be.

**Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth):** I shall speak frankly. This matter is close to my heart. I do not know a universe where we are not part of the EU and when politicians say we shall not enlarge the EU, it is not nice to hear, because if we want a united Europe, we must support each and every state that wants to be part of the EU. I do call on you to support this resolution. We can't close the door to those countries.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** This resolution is the key to get the Western Balkans to be part of the European family. I can't imagine how harsh it feels for some countries not to be part of the European family. I therefore support this resolution.

**Margaux Carron (Young Green Swiss Liberals):** I can clearly say that the state of the negotiations are a clear barrier to what they really want to do. Those Western Balkan countries are real partners for the EU, and if Europe will not create an incentive for them, then they will turn their back and offer those services to someone else. I vote in favour.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** We do support the fact that Western Balkan countries can be a part of the European family. I was wondering what else we can do to push for a better collaboration. Do we need to change the 'Copenhagen process'? I want to address this to understand the underlying perspectives.

**Omer Berbic (Nasa Stranka Youth):** This is one of the key issues here. We are in a region where there is a lack of democracy and human rights. There are many obstacles for us. I hope we will reach European standards soon, and I think that LYMEC cooperation could push us forward the right way.

**Tanzer Yuseinov (YMRF):** I think that the criteria is fulfilled when it comes to the question about the Copenhagen process. The biggest problem is the political will of the countries and the problems between the countries. Sometimes it is all due to internal problems of those same countries.

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE.**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks if anyone wants to take the floor to speak for or against this resolution as such. She states that we will close the day today at 18.00, so we will discuss the remaining resolutions tomorrow. Therefore we will continue today with other matters - mostly the remaining reports.

#### **Vote on the resolution as a whole.**

**For - 124**

**Against - 21**

**Abstentions - 27**

**The resolution was carried by the Congress.**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We have handled 19 resolutions for today. Congratulations to you all!

#### **18. Online ALDE Party Congress 2021: report from delegation**

**Marina Sedlo (Policy Officer):** I will give some insights about what happened during the last ALDE Congress, which finally took place after a long time. Even if it was online, the preparations were the same as usual and we decided to submit two resolutions. One of them was a very powerful resolution on women's rights, for which we were congratulated. The second one was on the outcome of the CoFoE. As ALDE had already adopted a resolution on the CoFoE, with this one we wanted to ensure an ambitious outcome. In addition, two other ALDE Member parties submitted resolutions on the content of the Conference, and we were asked to merge the resolutions. We actually wanted to keep the focus on the outcomes rather than the content, so we decided against merging them, which eventually worked out for the best: our resolution was accepted while theirs wasn't. As LYMEC, we always submit more amendments than resolutions. We submitted around 70 amendments. We also had meetings with the candidates for the ALDE Bureau positions to ensure a great future Bureau. As for the Congress itself, it was their first Online Congress, so there were some technical issues. Some working groups took over 5-6 hours, but in the end we managed to go through everything, even if when the final voting took place a lot of technical issues prevented us from properly taking the floor. However, it was still a success for us. **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** reported our issues to the ALDE Party Bureau Meeting and you can find this report in the Bureau Meeting minutes as well. The result was that both resolutions were accepted, despite our resolution on the outcome of the CoFoE being downtoned by parties that did not feel comfortable with being ambitious. Now we have real outcomes at the Conference. On the resolution on women's rights there were not as many amendments, and it was accepted with a big majority. I want to thank the former delegation with all my heart, it's not always easy and everybody has been very active. We all had very structured work. Thank you for your patience.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** states to take the floor if anyone has questions.

**Peter Banks (Young Liberals):** **Marina Sedlo (Policy Officer)** you said you are thankful for the delegation, but I want to thank you for all the hard work. What you do is a credit to this organisation, and we thank you so much for that.

## 19. Reports from IFLRY representative and LYMEC Working Groups, IMS

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** gives the floor to **Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative)** to introduce the report on IFLRY.

**Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative):** Since the last Congress, I have continued my work. I have attended the Bureau and Council meetings, as well as the previous Congress. I will also be present in the upcoming one. Yesterday, I was at the first in-person IFLRY Bureau and Council Meeting in Stockholm. LYMEC has good relations with IFLRY right now, we communicate regularly and I update



the LYMEC Bureau as well as keep the contacts between specific Bureau Members. At one point there was a misunderstanding on how we worked on a certain matter, but it was finally solved. We also have a Whatsapp group with IFLRY and it has been useful to be in that group e.g. for communication on Belarus, even if it could be more active. Apart from that, the IFLRY Bureau is focused on the GA in Athens and future events. I am making sure that there are no big events overlapping between IFLRY and LYMEC. To conclude, I have joined the IFLRY Working Groups to launch an individual membership section similar to the LYMEC IMS section.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** I have two questions - With regard to the misunderstanding, what is your strategy to establish a good relationship between LYMEC and IFLRY? Which concrete project are you willing to start during the next IFLRY Bureau Meeting? What's your focus for the upcoming months?

**Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative):** The misunderstanding was mostly a different, non-compatible approach between us. We discussed it and worked it out, so that it fits everyone. I am not sure if we have something to say on your questions because it's not my job to bring ideas to IFLRY, I am simply the connecting person between IFLRY and LYMEC and your go-to person if you have anything special in mind.

**Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS):** Most of the members of LYMEC are also IFLRY members. But, unlike LYMEC, IFLRY does not have an equivalent of the IMS section. We have members that want to join IFLRY but don't know how to do so without a member organisation to guide them.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We believe this was already mentioned and addressed.

**Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative):** There is a Working Group to explore the possibility to create an IMS section in IFLRY that will be presented in the next GA. If someone has the desire to join as an individual member, IFLRY does not require to join with an MO behind you. This is what the IMS section in IFLRY would be about.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Thank you, we have a few minutes left so we move to the reports from the working groups. **Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom)** the floor is yours on behalf of the Civil and Minority rights Working Group.

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom):** I am a member of the Civil and Minority rights working group. In the Working Group we have regular meetings where we discuss what we can do to promote these rights, we did not write any resolution for this Congress. We want to plan an event on the 26th of November where we will talk about LGBTQ rights with very nice speakers, you can find it on facebook. There will be a livestream. We did an event about racism. It's really up to the members of the Working Groups what they want to talk about. If you are interested, I recommend you join this Working Group.

**The Congress day ends at 18 h 00 CEST.**

**Last day starts at 09 h 00 CEST (Paris time).**

**The roll call was executed as follows:**

**renew  
europe.**

**169 votes were present in the room.**

**The following organisations weren't present:**

**JUNOS**

**Nasa Stranka Youth**

**Istrian Democratic youth**

**Venstres Ungdom**

**Reform Party Youth**

**Gibraltar Liberal Youth**

**Liberal Democratic Party**

**Unge Venstre Norway**

**Nova Stranka Youth**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We have 6 more resolutions to tackle today if possible. She proposes to proceed directly.

❖ **Resolution 20: Liberal perspectives to improve infrastructure support in EU development policy**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** The speakers' list is open to comments for this resolution as it was submitted. I see we already have **Julius Graack (JuLis)** online.

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** This resolution tackles an important issue. It's basically about infrastructure support in the EU development policy. We can all agree that infrastructure is the key factor of the local economy and democracies in developing countries, especially in times where China tries to use development aid to make other countries dependent on their system. We need to act as Europe together. The development aid from China focuses on infrastructure a lot, but doesn't do so to help the country. They only use it to expand their own power, for example by gaining control over newly built havens that they first finance and then lease for 99 years. It's our responsibility to keep sustainable development as a priority for the EU. We have to help these countries when it comes to infrastructure, and still allow them to have their independence to build their democracy and economies.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** I want to speak in favour of the resolution. It was the topic of internal discussion in the development committee in the Parliament for the last 7 months. It was decided to give priority to infrastructural aid. I want to point out that it is not only about Africa but also about Eastern and Southern Partnerships. Unfortunately, without EU development aid, China overtakes the money flows and invests it into local governments.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** I think there is no-one else on the speakers' list for this discussion. We have 6 amendments, 4 of which have not received a recommendation before. We will start with amendment

45. I would ask the MOs submitting them to put themselves on the speakers' list in advance so we can proceed.

#### ❖ Amendment 45

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** Good morning, I am sorry for opening the ball and not allowing you a quiet morning. We want to remove a part of the sentence that says that the EU needs to develop its own policies regarding infrastructure, especially considering China's policy. No statistics nor data are reported in the resolution.

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** If you read the whole sentence in the resolution, which is the geopolitical position of the EU on this matter, it's clear that this part needs to be included. When it comes to its geopolitical position, I think we can all agree that China is the biggest threat and issue for democracy. We could have added a lot of data about the power China tries to expand through these infrastructures and projects. In Sri Lanka, there is a haven that China paid for. Sri Lanka cannot pay it back. Now they are keeping it for 99 years and have a critical control on it. Please vote against this amendment.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** We need to send a sign to Africa that we saw they face a challenge and that we want to give them our support. If we don't put it in, and we see that there is something happening, they will think that, as **Julius Graack (JuLis)** said, China tries with a lot of effort to cover countries where the EU is not in yet.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** I propose to go to a vote since there are different positions on this amendment.

#### Vote on the amendment 45

For - 47

Against - 78

Abstentions - 21

**The amendment was not carried by the Congress.**

#### ❖ Amendment 43

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** The idea of the amendment is to remove the point of us having to be an alternative to African and South-eastern countries. We can offer all the help they want but we can't impose the choice of either us or China. They can have both us and China because they need all the help they can get. It makes me question the real scope of this resolution: does it want to help the countries in need or just remove China from other world areas?

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** I want to discuss if China should be included or not in this resolution. It's important that China is included. When it comes to this paragraph, you said we would impose something on these countries, what the paragraph actually mentions is that we have to propose something. Of course, they still have the choice, but the problem right now is that they don't have an alternative to China's infrastructural support because the EU is not stepping up its game. We need to be aware of what China offers these countries. Vote against this amendment please.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the vote for **amendment 43** since there are conflicting views.

### **Vote on the amendment 43**

For - 52

**Against - 76**

Abstentions - 22

**The amendment was not carried by the Congress.**

### **❖ Amendment 25**

**Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO):** We like the resolution, we only want to amend a small detail. We understand that underdeveloped countries should benefit from trading with the European Union but we believe they have certain disadvantages we can tackle by providing **beneficial access** instead of the proposed free access to the European markets. To fully open the market and provide free access to it could not be really beneficial. In fact, this could be really unfair because our member states have given up their sovereignty for this luxury.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** The thing is that the trade is already unfair and the EU is forcing African countries to open their market more than the WTO is doing. The European market is the biggest market in the world and we have very small and bad economies. As liberals, we should have as our first goal to have duty free access for those countries that are not on the same level and support them. I don't see supporting our own agriculture as a priority because African countries need support, from their side and our side.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** I want to speak in favour. I believe that having free access to things is problematic, we can just have '**a good access**' to our market.

**Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO):** I want to add a small thing, if we grant free access to these countries, we would also lose our soft power in free trade agreements.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opened the vote for Amendment 25 since no-one else wished to take the floor.

## Vote on the amendment 25.

For - 79

Against - 48

Abstentions - 17

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

### ❖ Amendment 42

**Julius Graack (JuLis)** makes a 'Point of order': Was this amendment brought up before? It is amending the same lines as the accepted amendment. It doesn't really make sense.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** My apologies. This was lacking from the notes, you are right. We have another point of order too.

**Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD)** makes a 'Point of order': 'I just want to state the same issue we had yesterday. The 8 seconds delay with the people connecting online makes it hard for us to put ourselves on the speakers' list. Can you take it into account before closing the list please?

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** I will take this into account. If you want to speak on an amendment, you can also put yourself on the list before the end of the speaking time. **Julius Graack (JuLis)** had a point. In case the amendment we are discussing now goes through, the previously accepted amendment would fall.

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** We want to completely remove this part of the resolution because we see it as an attack on our common market. How can we guarantee the protection of our consumers? There are limits on what type of product we can use and how we can use it. How can we put in place limits that maybe other countries do not have? How can we guarantee that African countries will not be used by our enemies to launder 'lower quality'/'dirty' products and export them to us?

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** I was a little bit shocked when I heard that because I don't think that African products are in general worse. The rules that are applying now for our producers are also applying to those who want to import in our market. This is applying for all the trade in general worldwide.

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** I have to say that I am also a bit shocked that we as LYMEC would use something like the phrasing '*dirty products*' when talking about African products in a debate like this. I think this is not helpful at all, maybe even a bit neo-colonialist. We have changed it now anyway to an amendment stating beneficial access, not free access anymore. The whole point of how we protect access to our



internal market is already answered. This is what you do in a beneficial market, you still protect your market. I would urge you to leave that part. Please vote against this amendment.

**Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD):** I think they said 'dirty' meaning that African products do not have the same standards. To talk about neo-colonialism is actually quite mean. Second of all, I state that it's normal that you want to protect our market and the same standards are met. We do it with many other partners and do so with Africa as well to keep everyone on the same line.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** opens the vote for Amendment 42 since we heard both views.

**Vote on the amendment 42.**

For - 33

**Against - 65**

Abstentions - 33

**The amendment was not carried by the Congress.**

#### ❖ **Amendment 70**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the floor for discussion and calls someone from JD to present the amendment since JuLis changed its position on the amendment and it is not carried anymore. Following the working groups, they chose not to carry it, that's why we can proceed with a discussion now.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** I will speak against it, because the amendment says that we have to negotiate with blocks in Africa, but it is already the case. It is nothing new and the strategy is not good. They know what is beneficial for them. They should decide whether they want to negotiate in a block or not. The EU is already using the blocks to have more beneficial situations for themselves by showing debts and proposing quotas on subsidized products. We should not put new colonial standards on them to tell them how they should do their own trade.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** I want to ask a couple of questions. Everything in this resolution talks about Africa and South-Eastern Partnership. But we are now not only talking about Africa, it is also about concrete measures. I am wondering what's up with that. Is this resolution aiming to have a strategy only in Africa or does it also apply to other partners?

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** We have not put forward the amendment. In general, the focus on African countries in the resolution is mainly because China is so much focused on African countries, and there needs to be a solution to that. At the same time this is why we also want to include the other countries.

I urge you to vote against the amendment, this is about respect for sovereignty in developing countries. We need to have eye-to-eye communication with them in order to respect them as sovereign nations.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the vote on the amendment.

**Vote on the amendment 70.**

**For - 73**

Against - 46

Abstentions - 28

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

#### ❖ **Amendment 44**

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** We want to discuss this amendment although it has a positive recommendation.

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** On this amendment, there is no proposal and no offer to African countries in the resolution. It only emphasizes the need to be a European coalition against China and we ask who is the real neo-colonialist here.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** I don't see why offering someone another opportunity is a neo-colonial approach. It is freedom of choice and we are empowering the sovereignty by giving them the opportunity to have an infrastructural opportunity with us and also China, they have a very protectionist market. We should offer them the possibility to join us and our values of freedom.

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** The whole China debate is a geopolitical breaking point in the EU. We want to give them the freedom of decision to form a coalition with us. We don't want to force these countries. We are faced with such a strong protectionist market system, and we don't want to offer an alternative to it. The question is who the real liberals are here and not the neo-colonialists.

**Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD):** I want to answer JuLis' statement: *'you have a choice'*. This is not the case. The line is clear - we do not give them a choice. The economical struggle is real. We are therefore in favor of removing this line.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** opens the vote on the amendment.

**Vote on the amendment 44.**

**For - 90**

Against - 35

Abstentions - 27

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

**DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** For those who want to speak in favour or against, put yourself on the speakers' list.

**Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn):** I would be speaking against the resolution, the whole spirit of the resolution is misplaced. JuLis is not presenting an alternative but just putting an ultimatum on the EU investment plan. African countries are in that situation as a consequence of European colonial policies. Because of this, our countries are the reason their resources have been stolen. Because of colonization, the focus is misplaced. We will vote against this.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** I agree that the resolution is incomplete, nevertheless China is also important. Where is the EU money going? Values cost money. I urge you to vote in favour.

**Brent Usewils (Jong VLD):** I really want to urge you to vote against, the resolution is not about respect for African countries, it is just a crusade to go against China. This resolution is proposing the battlefield for the next geopolitical war.

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** We will pull away the resolution as it stands, it's not the way we want to have the resolution passed. Not as it is now. Another point - there are things that could have been included but I didn't see any amendments when it comes to that.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** The resolution has been withdrawn by the mover and we conclude this debate here.

**Tim Robinson (LYMEC IMS) makes a 'Point of order':** I believe the Congress rules don't allow a resolution to be withdrawn after the debate has begun.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We are checking the Congress rules, but it just says that it's not allowed to withdraw a resolution if the voting has started. It was proposed during the last Congress that it's up to the chairs to decide, and we cannot find anything about this. We therefore stand by the decision to allow them to withdraw their resolution. We move to the next resolution.

### ❖ **Resolution 21: Officiality and Promotion of regional and minority languages in Europe**

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC):** This motion has two main goals: the first is to state the values of our diversity within Europe, the second is to acknowledge to speak up in favour of minorities and make it clear that they don't find themselves in a second league because they cannot speak to the EU in their mother

tongue. Sometimes it seems they are discriminated by the EU. We want to prevent any stepback on the well-being of minority languages by avoiding legislation that makes them feel discriminated.

## DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS SUBMITTED

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** I do agree, it is great that we have this diversity in Europe, but I also think language is a means of communication. People should have the access to learning whichever language they want. I don't believe in focusing on making a language alive again if it's not spoken anymore. I don't know if this is well phrased: you can speak to the EU in any language you want, but don't invest in something that is about to disappear.

**Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (FEL):** At first when I saw this resolution, I was personally in favour of it. As a Belgian representative, we already have 3 languages in Belgium, and the German speaking part is most of the time forgotten. This resolution would give life to languages which are not recognised but still spoken in Belgium. You can check the website [languagediversity.eu](http://languagediversity.eu) and have a look at Poland as well, because they also have many languages to add if the resolution passes.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** We have to focus on the effectiveness of the institutions. I love my language but if it hinders effectiveness of work at the federal level, then this resolution shouldn't be something.

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC):** We don't ask for languages to be more spoken, but only to preserve them and prevent any setbacks over the years. On the effectiveness of the government and the cost that it would add, we have to be realistic, those languages are not spoken at all by young people.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We move to the amendments now.

### ❖ Amendment 63

**Antonio Martinez Gil (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** We want to provide more accuracy to the text of the resolution. The original text says that 'The Maastricht Treaty recognises the richness of languages in Europe'. In fact, the treaties don't say that, and they mention minority languages only two. In article 2 TUE it says the EU is based on many values. It considers the rights of the minorities. Taking this into account, we think it is more accurate to consider what treaties say on this matter.

**Oriol Marin Subira (JNC):** Even if the amendment is stating facts, I call on the MOs to vote against. It does not fit into the storyline of the motion. We are talking about the threats these minority languages have had over the years. Even if the text is correct, it does not fit the content of the resolution.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** We move to a vote on the amendment.

### **Vote on the amendment 63.**

For - 37

**Against - 44**

Abstentions - 46

**The amendment was not carried by the Congress.**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Next, we have 3 *amendments* amending the same part of the resolution. If **amendment 60** is discussed and passes, **amendment 6** will automatically fall.

#### **❖ Amendment 60**

**Alex Alvarez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** Thank you for this resolution, the beauty of the EU is in languages as well indeed. This amendment is for multilingualism, which also includes minority languages. We hope not to have problems in the future, also from a legal point of view, to have a definition for these languages. We must preserve multilingualism.

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC):** There are 3 propositions clearly promoting multilingualism and preventing step backs. Kids are going to have the capacity to speak more languages when they are young. If we stop teaching those languages, no one will be speaking those languages in three generations. So, I ask you not to vote for this amendment. The text is already very clear in its original explanation.

**Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom) makes a 'Point of order':** she explains that amendment 6 was accepted by JNC.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** It is duly noted, and we will not discuss it then.

**Amendment 6 has been accepted by the mover.**

### **Vote on amendment 60.**

For - 53

**Against - 53**

Abstentions - 39

**The amendment was a tie and therefore it is not carried (no majority).**

#### **❖ Amendment 73**

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** We don't agree with the whole idea of the resolution. The content is too broad. We want to see if other policies can affect it or might on the contrary be detrimental.

**Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD):** Do you only take into consideration people in a specific region or people who speak a certain language anywhere in Europe? I was wondering how that works.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** This is a direct question to the mover of the amendment, someone from Jonge Democraten please.

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** I think it would be smarter to address language specific organisations which deal with minority languages. I don't think the EU needs it, and it would be up to the organisations to see what specifically works for a certain region or country in relation to the minority language they speak.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** I will now close the speakers' list and move to the vote on the amendment.

**Vote on amendment 73.**

**For - 64**

Against - 42

Abstentions - 42

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

#### ❖ **Amendment 62**

**Antonio Martinez Gil (Jóvenes Ciudadanos):** The Parliament has no competences to determine the officiality of a minority language. We do support that the EP defends the respect and protection of those languages, but we don't support their officiality, as it would demand for a reform of the treaties.

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC):** It is not up to the institutions, but to the countries, to decide which languages are official or not. There are treaties addressing the minority languages framework that have not been ratified by all member states. If we don't want to continue on that line, the countries should take a fast track for the officiality of those languages.

**Alice Schmidt (JuLis):** In Germany, we also have some minority languages, and it is hard to find translators who would translate for the EU Institutions. In the end people don't need that, but still, it takes a lot of time and money that we would rather spend on education or culture in general.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the vote since no-one else is asking for the floor.



### **Vote on amendment 62.**

**For - 88**

Against - 35

Abstentions - 33

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

**This means that amendment 26 falls.**

### **❖ Amendment 74**

**Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten):** We are trying to keep this resolution less broad and still preserve minority languages. I don't think this modification is really different from other previous amendments.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the vote since no-one is asking for the floor.

### **Vote on amendment 74.**

**For - 89**

Against - 13

Abstentions - 51

**The amendment was carried by the Congress.**

## **DISCUSSION ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED**

**Oriol Marin Subirá (JNC):** I would encourage you all to vote in favour of minorities in Europe, which is more than 20 Million people who can't talk to the administrative powers in their native language. This topic is not that obvious. I ask to vote in favour of this motion.

**Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret):** We didn't really agree with the original resolution, that is why we support this resolution as amended. We are in favour of it.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** This resolution is good to protect people and guarantee access to services. However, if you want to make minority languages official, we need a European definition of the requirement that a language needs to become official. The original resolution was incomplete in that sense.

**Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals):** We had this debate before, and we are happy to see this motion being brought to the Congress. It could be an economic advantage and create more jobs for translators.

**Khrystyna Khomyk (LYMEC IMS):** I support that those languages need protection, but I don't agree with the administrative costs and risks in the effectiveness of the resolution. It lacks a clear methodology.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** opens the vote for the resolution.

**Vote on the resolution as amended.**

**For - 101**

Against - 33

Abstentions - 6

**The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.**

## **20. Any other business**

**Danica Vihinen (Chair)** asks whether there is any other business or any other issues to discuss.

**Laia Comerma (Events and Training Officer):** You have been hearing a lot about Libertas. It is the product of our work in these last years. We have been having articles on all the topics that matter for LYMEC nearly every week. It is the voice of LYMEC. The job of Libertas is very important. We are trying to scale it and improve its quality. We have a magazine with all the articles we have which will be published every 6 months. Every editor will have a copy at home, but to be eco-friendly it will not be printed and only be available online. You can share it with your members, friends and community so please go to the website and check it starting next week.

**Ida-Maria Skytte (Communications Officer):** I would like to tell you we are launching a call for new members for the next working groups. We would like to continue with what we did previously. Feel free to sign up if you are interested in those topics. We have 4 working groups, and if you are interested in it, then keep your eyes open for the next call coming soon!

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General):** The call opens in the beginning of November and the deadline will be on November 22. Make sure the information is shared with your members.

**Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (LYMEC IMS):** In the name of all the IMS we want to thank you all for supporting our 2 resolutions and we will keep working together to make Europe great again. I know LYMEC does a lot of work to promote these policies, but we need to talk even further about them. It would also motivate less active members to participate more. We should also engage those members that are not that active. It is a proposal to take into account in future Congresses as well.

**Andrzej Prendke (Nowoczesna Youth):** I want to address the situation in Poland and share my input. Poland is getting a lot of hate publicly. I believe that our government wants to leave the EU, even if the population wants to stay. They want to approve this independence of sovereignty. They don't see that they are pushing us to the edge, but you will not hear about Poles. People feel European. Maybe not next year, but Poland will one day be the leader for everything we believe in soon. Poland will be back.

**Jana Degrott (Jonk Demokraten):** We have great news in Luxembourg. We can start planting our own weed at home. We have been advocating for it for a few years now, and it worked, even if the government said in 2018 that they would completely legalize it. They still haven't done so. It is super important to promote this approach and advocate for what you believe in. Everything is possible if you fight for what you believe in.

**Danica Vihinen (Chair):** Thank you all for bearing with me, being so energized, bringing your opinions and views to the floor and influencing LYMEC with your policies.

**Svenja Hahn (Chair):** Give **Danica Vihinen (Chair)** an applause for all that she did. She had the hardest job. It is good to see that LYMEC is doing great, and debates are still heated.

**Remi Guastalli (Chair):** Thank you all for being here, to the Chairs and Secretariat. I also want to thank Jeunes Radicaux for this Congress. I chaired a Congress online but this one is the first time in-person. I hope you are going to have a nice time in Paris, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as possible.

## **21. Closing from LYMEC President**

**Remi Guastalli (Chair)** gives the chairing back to **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)**.

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** closes the Congress. She explains that we have to fight for what we believe in. Anything is possible. Thank you to the people who were online all weekend for discussing with us even if it was not as easy for you. Thanks to the Bureau Members, Chairs and Secretariat. Thanks to all the delegates and the resolutions adopted. It was a great delight to hear all your policy discussions. It has been great to see you. I wish you all to stay safe.

**Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** stresses that the Congress is now closed at 11 h 10.