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Minutes
LYMEC Autumn Congress
18th - 20th November 2022
Bucharest and Online



Day 1: Friday 18th November 2022

Congress starts at 15 h 30 EET (Bucharest time).

Participants are attending in-person but also online.

1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) opens the Congress with his speech from the Congress room.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Dear liberal friends, I am happy to be here today. We see that there is a lot of tragedy and atrocities going on in Ukraine. We also see challenges and obstacles in the rest of Europe, even if they're not that severe. This does not affect the individuals only, but it also develops a colder political climate, causing right-wing parties to gain momentum. We need to address these issues, to develop ideas and to encourage visions for a stronger Europe. The Bureau wants to be more political, but our work is hard. When we talk about policies, especially in Europe right now, I can see that many of you are very passionate about what's happening. I am happy you are so engaged. I know that when you get emotional about things, there can be some tension on how to get those things done. I want to tell you that everyone who is here today wants a prosperous Europe. We have different ideas on how it should happen, and we should embrace that. I want to welcome you for taking the time to be here today and I am looking forward to seeing what you will come up with these days. Thank you so much and welcome to Bucharest!

2. Guest speeches

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): These events could not happen without our partners. I give the floor to **Cătălin Drulă (USR Party President)**.

Cătălin Drulă (USR Party President): Every politician should encourage the next generations. When the current generation of politicians will be replaced, it's going to be a victory. I want you to take our place and be the generation of tomorrow. Thank you to **USR Tineret** for the work that they are doing in the organisation of this event. I heard **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**'s words. You are in a very symbolic place for Romania: the Revolution Square. This is where most of the protests for the revolution of 1989 happened. I still remember how it was to live under such a horrible regime. For the first time, I heard the noise of guns and bullets. I encourage you to fight for EU values and stand against evil. Let me wish you a fruitful weekend of discussion and work. As liberals, we live under the slogan 'work hard, play hard', so don't forget to have some fun too! Good luck to everyone.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) Welcomes to the stage LYMEC Former President - **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Board member, European Liberal Forum)**.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Board member, European Liberal Forum): Thank you for having me once again. It is a privilege for me to be here. I would like to draw your attention to the **European Liberal Forum (ELF)**. ELF looks into research, events, and the solution of current liberal questions. Why has LYMEC such a special place within ELF? A lot of those questions have to do with young people. The passion of the youth is important to make ELF keep searching for innovative solutions. ELF believes in you and in your solutions. The same applies to the ALDE Party and Renew Europe. We want to show you that all the fractions of the liberal family believe in you. The year of the youth is not just this year, it always is. Make it work!

Mihai-Gabriel Costea (President, USR Tineret): We have had a couple of wonderful welcome speeches. Two decades ago, we had in the past our liberal way of life, based on rules and diplomacy. That way of life has been lately assaulted by international actors, who tried to eliminate any form of democracy. We would like to think about liberals as people who manage pressure quite well. What we face right now is based on campaigns of either Russia or other countries who undermine liberalism. The point I want to make is that liberalism in the EU and the world in general is decreasing, thus showing that extremist parties are doing well. We need to show solidarity and adapt to that as liberals. If we don't manage, the sacrifices from Ukrainians would be wasted. Ukraine is fighting for the liberal way of life. We have to act together.

Raimar Wagner (Project Director, FNF - Romania and Republic of Moldova): When I was working in the social field in 1997, I got elected as president of a Transylvanian party, then president of the youth branch and finally as city councillor. All these experiences helped me to get to FNF as a project coordinator for Romania and Moldova and also helped me to be here with you today. In 2016, USR was formed, a fresh young party leader of the opposition. Some years ago, USR was just a Facebook group thinking of creating a youth section of the main party. Today, that youth section is here organising this Congress. The youth party has a strong liberal stance and is more liberal than the seniors in the mother party. They have a strong stance on violence against women, especially female politicians, because we had cases here in Romania where city councillors had their lives threatened. They also have a strong stance on LGBTQI+ rights, and a strong public voice. When we talk about youth values, we talk about liberal democracy. Try to fight for these values today, try to share them in each country. I will happily support each project of USR Tineret and LYMEC!

Amanda Kanange, President, IFLRY (online video-message): The partnership between us is very important as we share the same values and goals in the same ways. I am looking forward to working together in the future. We know that the challenges we are facing are the same, also on the international level. I believe the work you will do at this Congress will have a great impact and won't be limited to this weekend only.

3. Roll call and voting rights

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

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) reminds all the participants to check the communications received about the Congress technicalities and hotel check-in. He reminds participants that only the head of delegation has voting rights. Associate member organisations have no votes according to the LYMEC statutes. Heads of Delegation of Associate Member Organisations receive a request to vote, but they have 0 votes assigned, which means their vote will have no impact on the ballot.

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)**. **Bàlint GYEVAI (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	5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9	9
Bulgaria	YMRF	10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3	0
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5	5
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	7	7
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3	3
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5	5
Hungary	TizenX	3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3	3
The Netherlands	JÓVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	5	5
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3	
Romania	USR Tineret	5	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	0	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	6	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1	1
TOTAL		209	203
Simple majority of those present		104.5	101.5
Two thirds of present		139.3333333	135.3333333
Simple majority of those present without abstentions			
1/3 = 67.33			

There were 203 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)
- Naša stranka Youth Forum

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The votes of the VESNA Democratic Youth Movement from Russia (3) had to be taken out from the roll calls and all subsequent voting that took place at this Congress in Bucharest since the membership fee payment wasn't received before the beginning of the Congress as it was initially implied.

We therefore made the necessary corrections everywhere in the minutes. As we assessed, it didn't impact the results of any votes (we checked every voting one by one). The roll calls and results of votes were adapted through the minutes to reflect the reality. No outcomes were impacted by this action.

We thought the payment has been received as stated to us prior to Congress by the organisation in question providing a confirmation that the payment has been initiated, we will have stronger and systematic checks based on proof of payment in the future to avoid this kind of situation.

We remind that based on our internal rules, an organisation with an outstanding membership fee (full or partial) has its voting rights taken away if the fee isn't paid at the beginning of the Congress. Participation is allowed but no voting rights can be used.

4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

Election of chairs

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Lucasta Bath, Kasper Langelund and Ioana Abaseaca** as Congress Chairs.

Congress accepted the Chairs.

Election of secretaries

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) presents the Congress secretaries, proposing **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** and **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)**, together with **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

Congress accepted the Secretaries.

Election of scrutineers

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) presents the Congress scrutineers, proposing **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)** and **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)**.

Congress accepted the Scrutineers.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I now hand over the floor to **Ioana Abaseaca (Chair)**.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): Thank you for this opportunity. I would like to remind you that you are encouraged to use your own internet not to interfere with the wifi of the hotel.

5. Adoption of the agenda

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): We are now going to move to the adoption of the agenda. It has been sent to you ahead of the Congress. If no one is against, we can adopt the agenda. I give the floor to **Kasper Langelund (Chair)**.

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

Kasper Langelund (Chair): Short announcement from my side, the point of the agenda on the election of the LYMEC Delegation to the ALDE Party Congress is going to take half an hour only. Every candidate will have one minute and 30 seconds for their speech. The floor will not be open for questions. If delegates have questions for the candidates, they can approach them during the breaks.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) suggests moving to the next point on the agenda.

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Electoral Spring Congress 2022 in Prague

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Electoral Spring Congress 2022 in Prague. No one expressed any disapproval.

The minutes from the Electoral Spring Congress 2022 are therefore adopted by the Congress.

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

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): We have received two urgency resolutions and therefore we will ask the movers to take the floor and present them. The movers should not present the content of their urgency resolutions, but the urgency itself.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) invites **Maarten Tollenaar (JD)** to present the urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I think we were all quite worried when we heard the news of the missiles hitting Poland. We all know why this resolution is urgent.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): No one is on the speakers' list. We propose to go on to a vote for the adoption of the urgency resolution status on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens.

Vote for the urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens:

For - 165

Against - 0

Abstain -17

The urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens is approved by the Congress. It will be added to the resolutions.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) invites the movers from **CUF**, **JuLis** and **Radikal Ungdom** to present the urgency resolution 'In solidarity with Iranian women for freedom'.

Julius Graack (JuLis): We have written two resolutions on Iran for this Congress. Iranian women need our help. This is the only reason why we think this resolution is urgent.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I want to underline the fact that if **CUF**, **JuLis** and **Radikal Ungdom** can agree on something, it is in the interest of LYMEC and liberals across Europe. This is why we urge for your support on this.

Lova Bodin (CUF): We can't have a vote split on two urgency resolutions and we must have a policy on this topic.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We wanted to merge these resolutions not to have two different resolutions on the same topic.

Vote for the urgency resolution status of 'In solidarity with Iranian women for freedom':

For - 195

Against - 3

Abstain - 0

The urgency resolution 'In solidarity with Iranian women for freedom' is approved by the Congress. It will be added to the resolutions.

8. Snap vote on the order of resolutions

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): The Head of Delegations will vote on the order in which the resolutions will be discussed in this Congress. We already had the Working Groups where you could discuss the resolutions, so you probably had the chance to check them already.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) confirms that following the urgency resolutions from **CUF**, **JuLis** and **Radikal Ungdom 'In solidarity with Iranian women for freedom'** was adopted, two resolutions will be withdrawn, namely resolution **'In solidarity with the Iranian women in their struggle for freedom'** and resolution **'Support Women Fighting for their Life and Freedom in Iran'**. This will be reflected in the snap vote.

The vote will be open for delegates through the Bureau reports' agenda point.

9. Bureau reports and debate about the reports

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

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): For your information, **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** is not present and will join us later. I will keep my report quite short. The LYMEC Bureau had to plan for the responsibility you gave us aside from the political statements and events. We have focused on an action plan that **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** will present later. We have adopted a communication plan and overall better practices for events and trainings. That has been the core of our work. In addition to that, we have been talking about the elections. Right now, we are part of the ALDE manifesto group

for the upcoming EU elections: we are proud to shape the manifesto and we will plan a strategy on how LYMEC can work on it.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I will also keep it short and speak a bit more on the action plan later, as that was one of the main things I was tasked to do. I hope everyone reads it and knows what we are planning for the upcoming 1.5 years. In general, I have worked closely with the secretariat and established meetings on a regular basis to make the work run smoother.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): I have been busy with the organisation of the Policy Book Working Group, the Digital Assembly and the first Policy Debate on how to deal with citizens from authoritarian regimes. I was responsible for organising the Hackathon on innovation and technologies with the Secretariat. There has also been a lot of work on Libertas, where I encourage people to sign up and write for. You can speak to **Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate)** if you want to contribute with your articles.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): For the past six months, I have been updating our social media channels, working on a communications strategy and setting new goals for our digital platforms. We decided to set up a communications team, where I have been working on the rules and structure. The communications team had its first meeting at the beginning of the month, we have just started working together. If you have any questions, I am here to answer.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau): We tried to organise the projects and events for the next two years. It has been a lot of work with the European Liberal Forum to implement our joint projects. I was responsible for everything on the European Year of the Youth side, and I've also been taking care of the IMS and the IMS Steering Committee to increase the involvement of our members.

Tanzer Yuseinov (LYMEC Bureau): I am the training and outreach officer and have been busy working on projects for next year. I am in charge of the cooperation with the European Youth Forum and as their general assembly is coming next week, me and **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** are going to be there. I have been closely working with **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau)**. I am leading the Working Group on climate change and if you have views on this, I would be happy to hear them.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Of course, we do have our current IFLRY representative with us here. **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative)** we want to hear about your work.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): Over the last half a year as IFLRY Representative, I feel the relationship between IFLRY and LYMEC has been going quite well and no conflicts have arisen. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** will represent IFLRY at the next European Youth Forum COMEM.

They will vote on a new leadership in Amsterdam and the next thing I will focus on is facilitating cooperation between the next IFLRY Bureau and current LYMEC leadership.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I would like to highlight that none of the work would be possible without the Secretariat. Not only the Congress, but all of the events just mentioned. We are now open for questions.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): opens the floor for questions from the delegates.

Kaja Ippel (JOVD): I have one question to **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative):** to which extent are the planning of the events between LYMEC and IFLRY talked about in the meetings? Do they often overlap as we have lately seen? If not, I would like to ensure that they do not overlap in the future.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): To be honest, there is not that much coordination going on between LYMEC and IFLRY in terms of events and neither have a big interest in changing their agenda to the agenda of the other. Usually, at the beginning of the year, both draft their calendars individually and the IFLRY representative could indeed serve to ensure that no events overlap or occur at the same time. There are certain oppositions there, but it is not easy to fix sometimes. Who decides who moves what if events clash? Sometimes I am not in the loop when an agenda is made, so I am not able to negotiate between organisations. The process is not in parallel, and it is quite hard to get them to align.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): I would like to talk about two things. On behalf of the IMS, we rely heavily on the Bureau and **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau)** so thank you for that. I encourage you all to become IMS members. The second thing is Libertas and I would like to thank **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** for working with me despite my '*laissez faire*' attitude when writing articles. I encourage you all to write articles and if you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me. It is important to spread our liberal message throughout Europe. You can contact me at libertas@lymec.eu.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I want to thank the Bureau for the extremely good work they have done, we are ready for the 2024 elections. The improvement is already visible, and I am happy you are always open to criticism. That being said, I know the board is already working on this, but I still want to comment on the number of delegates present at your congresses. JuLis have almost 16,000 members and for us it is important to give the opportunity to as many members as possible to be involved in liberal European politics.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): thanks for the questions. We have the same number of delegates at all our congresses. When LYMEC was first formed and had events like this, the number of delegates per organisation was closer to the amount of votes you have. Needless to say, that system doesn't work. Then the pandemic came, and more organisations joined, which led us to have 3 delegates per full member organisations, but we hear you and know there are some ways to improve this. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** is taking the lead in working to find a new system to accept more delegates to have a fairer representative number of delegates at our congresses.

Philipp Eng (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz): I want to thank the whole Board for all you are doing. I have a question for **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative)** and I am not asking this because I lost while running against you. He said there is no real cooperation between LYMEC and IFLRY and I want to ask you why, because it is basically your job. What are you going to do to strengthen the cooperation? Two congresses within two weeks is really a lot and some people don't have the opportunity to go to both events.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): I want to clarify that I did not say there is no cooperation between IFLRY and LYMEC; we cooperate quite well in YFJ and in common statements. They do work together. Unfortunately, in my position, it is hard to change LYMEC or IFLRY plans. I want to be involved more and know when things are going on both in LYMEC and IFLRY, but I am not the first person in the loop. I am not someone who can force LYMEC or IFLRY to change in my position. I know how hard it is to find a date for an event that suits everyone. We are going ahead with our plans, and I will take every opportunity to avoid conflicts in the future. I will do everything to inform you as soon as possible when events are planned to avoid conflicts in the agenda.

Brian O'Connor (Ogra Fianna Fail): I would like to thank Bureau for being here and submitting their reports. Thank you **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** for the work with the Policy Book renewal. I would like **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** to elaborate on the CoFoE, how will LYMEC reflect on that and how it will feed into the 2024 manifesto. I will be happy if you come to me to chat about it. Continue the good work and wish the bureau the best of luck.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We are quite happy with the outcomes on the CoFoE and we see a liberal imprint on the conclusions. We cannot work alone to ensure we make something out of the conclusions. We will work with ALDE, ELF and the EU Institutions to keep having our voice in the conclusions. We want to see it on the agenda for 2024. We will work in cooperation with the other actors to ensure our liberal perspective is reflected in the manifesto.

Johannes Brill (LHG): Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President), you mentioned in your opening speech we should bring more solutions to the table. It is hard when we do not have that much time to speak about our resolutions. Will we have more time to talk about policy at upcoming congresses? And if not, how will we make more room for policy discussions among organisations? **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau),** I saw the Bureau initiated the communications team we all have waited for so long. How is that going? I could see the communications from the Bureau have stepped up a notch and I want to thank you for this.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): To answer the policy question, you heard the chairs say they will cut down some other discussions to have more time for policy debates. I would like to discuss how to take more time to discuss policies. We have our Working Groups and it is also up to the Congress to decide. You members are in the same boat as the Bureau and we have the chairs shifting the programme to give more time for policy discussions. The effort is being made.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): Regarding the Communications Team, we just recently started our work. We had one meeting and plan to have monthly meetings to work on campaigns. From next year we will work on the EU elections campaign strategy. We are planning on a campaign for the day of the elimination of violence against women, where we invite you all to participate. Yesterday was International Students' day and the Communications Team contributed with a statement. It is going well and I hope we can keep up the work.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): to complement **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**'s answer, we have the commitment to be more political as a Bureau. We decided to start a new policy debate format where we give a platform to organisations to discuss important topics. The first policy debate was inspired by the tourist visa ban. We will organise them quite frequently and I invite you to join them. Policy suggestions will come out from them and will aid the flow at Congress.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): reminds that the snap vote on the order of resolutions is closing soon.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): I want to give credit for all the work on the CoFoE as I worked very closely on the migration group. LYMEC had a tangible effect in that Working Group. I would also like to praise the fantastic work done by **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau)** and the Communications Team. I want to circle back to the IFLRY Representative's report. The points from MOs have been missed. The lack of coordination between LYMEC and IFLRY has consequences. We are working unpaid in our free time which has psychological effects on our mental health. It is noticeable on the amount of motions presented at the Congress. I want to give my personal opinion on how close the LYMEC and IFLRY

congresses are. I do not want to hear the response that 'it sucks to be you'. LYMEC benefits from cooperating with IFLRY and vice versa; I believe this will make you come around the table and improve the work of membership and IOs that attend these conferences. The wellbeing of these people should be respected in order to cooperate well. We are not asking for much more than a conversation to be had. We and both organisations are feeling the consequences.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): You raise extremely valid points and I understand it is unworkable for many people to provide two weekends in a row for both congresses. If we want stricter coordination, we also need to have a look at the role of the IFLRY Representative within LYMEC. Agendas are set way before the actual events, 1.5 years ago. For example, in IFLRY I am part of the Bureau, as I am the regional bureau member for Europe. There I am part of the planning that happens. In LYMEC that is not the case, the IFLRY Representative is a separate entity from the Bureau and I do not hear about the planning of LYMEC. There are reasons for that and IFLRY is not always the top priority. If we think it should be, as you make a case for, we need to look at how the IFLRY representative fits into the LYMEC Bureau structure.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I can say a few words from the Bureau side. I would like to stress that we do take into account the coordination between LYMEC and IFLRY. I want to stress there are numerous weekends booked and there are some deadlines we cannot move, like finances and reports. We can ensure we do not have overlapping congresses but we still have ELF events. We have to look at the wellbeing of our staff. It is exhausting to have two congresses after one another. We could not move this Congress anywhere else. For the next Congress, we are bound to have the venue being available. Please understand we cannot always accommodate everything. We have over 60 member organisations and do not have the resources to do everything. Sorry.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): thank you everyone for voting. I would like to make you aware you can add yourself on the speakers' list beforehand. We have an Ombudsperson for this Congress who is **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)**. Should there arrive a situation where you feel like you should speak to her, please do so.

Result of the snap vote on the order of the resolutions:

Snap vote on the order of resolutions

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non-nominal - published

Candidates	Votes
1. Urgency resolution in solidarity with the Iranian women for freedom	(55.825 %) 115
2. A Liberal Tax System for Europe: Simpler, Smarter, Fairer	(38.835 %) 80
3. Resolution on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Restoration	(32.524 %) 67
4. Human Rights in International Sports Events	(30.583 %) 63
5. Urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens	(26.214 %) 54
6. Towards a more inclusive European Union	(24.757 %) 51
7. Resolution on the phase out of combustion engines by 2035 and the use of sustainable fuels	(21.359 %) 44
8. European funds for European values!	(20.388 %) 42
9. Create a European market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)	(19.903 %) 41
10. Nuclear Terrorism Prevention in Europe	(18.932 %) 39
11. Better, stronger, faster-Food for the EU	(18.447 %) 38
12. Recognizing the Russian Federation as a Terrorist State	(16.990 %) 35
13. The EU Shall Contribute to Free Internet in Totalitarian States	(16.990 %) 35
14. Stop chat control-save our digital privacy!	(16.505 %) 34
15. Keep governments out of our underpants, chromosomes, and personal identities	(16.019 %) 33
16. Escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean	(16.019 %) 33
17. Motion Against the Use of Spyware among politicians, journalists and activists	(16.019 %) 33
18. Development of an EU wide framework for managing migration crisis	(15.534 %) 32
19. A United Act Against Healthcare Associated Infections	(12.136 %) 25
20. Combatting Homelessness: Housing for All	(11.650 %) 24
21. Artificial Intelligence for Europe	(11.165 %) 23
22. Women's leadership in politics	(9.709 %) 20
23. Derussification of Europe: cancel the Russian genocide culture	(8.252 %) 17
24. NEW European Railway System/ Integration (Merger of 6.12, 8.01)	(7.282 %) 15
25. ACCELERATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF A COMMON EU GRID	(6.311 %) 13
26. Decolonising World Heritage	(5.825 %) 12
27. THE EU SHOULD NOT SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS BREACHES IN EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS	(5.825 %) 12

The 'urgent resolutions on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens' and 'In solidarity with Iranian women for freedom' were included.

10. Approval of the Programme of Action 2022-2024

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) invites **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** and **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** to take the floor to explain the **Programme of action 2022-2024**.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): the action plan will serve as a guideline for this mandate. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** was the author of it.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): Our fellow Bureau members contributed in their respective fields. I assume you already have the programme of action in your inbox. I would like to point out the introduction and the 6 thematic focus areas. 1. As it was discussed today at the Renew EYY event, we need to really focus on mental health. 2. A second point is employment and training as next year will be the European Year of Skills and training. This is something we will work on by putting forward resolutions. 3. A major point will be the EU elections. We need to start working very early on that. One of the aspects will be highlighting young candidates and youth ideas from LYMEC side. 4. As regards security, you see we always have Ukraine with us as a flag, but also as something that is extremely important nowadays. We want to ensure European security for everyone so that regardless of where they live, people can live in peace. 5. Fight against populism will be important leading up to the EU elections. We cannot be the ones presenting complex answers while populists present easy ones. 6. Last but not least, the CoFoE. We have had the results, but now it is up to us not to forget about it. We need to push for actual change and reforms. Those are the six topics tackled in the 2022-2024 programme of action.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) thanks **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the programme of action. The delegates have received the programme of action by email by the deadline. On another topic, she reminds people they will also receive an update on the order of resolutions via email from the Secretariat.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): The EU elections will be a major issue for the next two years. You have mentioned in the programme you want to make young liberal candidates visible. Are you planning on connecting young liberal candidates and organising support events in different countries? How are you planning to accompany the ALDE Spitzenkandidaten programme?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): EU regulations are clear: we cannot have events connecting candidates by LYMEC, as they are framed as national campaigns financing. We can however promote

the candidates on our digital channels and online, as the legislation does not apply to that. As regards the Spitzenkandidaten, it is a topic dear to ALDE and LYMEC. We are part of the ALDE manifesto group where this issue is a priority. We will fight for it and hope it will be a strong ALDE policy.

Johannes Brill (LHG): Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President), I read through the program of action, and I thought it was good. One thing I want to mention is that you spoke about engaging with MOs. Although I understand it was the work of the Bureau, it would have been nice for MOs to engage with you on the programme of action. Do you think MOs could engage with structural work of LYMEC in the future? Moreover, the programme of action lacks deadlines. Are there measurable benchmarks or specific deadlines? How do you plan to show progress?

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): The programme of action is just the basis, meaning that it is not the entirety of the work we will do. It's up to all of the Bureau to engage with MOs to develop it further in the different areas of responsibility. I do agree there is always a way to include MOs and we will try to do this more throughout the mandate. None of us is perfect and not all measures will work at the first attempt. You always have congresses to give us feedback on our work and you can always contact us if there is anything you need.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) opens the vote to approve the Programme of action 2022-2024.

Vote for the Programme of action 2022-2024:

For - 194

Against - 0

Abstain -5

The Programme of action 2022-2024 is approved by the Congress.

11. Secretary General report and debate about the report

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): reminds participants that there is a Congress group on Signal for communications that they are welcome to join.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take the floor and tell more about his report.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you. I am happy to talk on my behalf and on behalf of the Secretariat, because we work as a team every day. The work we have been doing is a teamwork.

Thank you to **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)**. **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** has been learning fast on the project management side. **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** is always on top of the policy side. With **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**, we have monthly calls for cooperation between the Secretariat and Bureau to see if there are issues to tackle or work practices we can improve. We have **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** working for LYMEC full time. She was involved in some of our Bureau Meetings, which smooths the link between Secretariat and Bureau. The structure of the Secretariat has been consolidated and **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** has been a plus in the office. It was not the case when the LYMEC Secretariat was made up of two interns working with the Secretary General. We are very present in Brussels: the office stepped up in representing the organisation with key stakeholders in the city. This is especially important when Bureau Members are not able to travel to Brussels. As part of the European Year of Youth, we have had more events than usual, especially in cooperation with Renew Europe. We have stronger ties with its Secretariat and MEPs. The event we had this morning was an example of this cooperation. As for the Congress, it was also something very important on our side. We had the new Bureau elected in May, which entailed a lot of briefings, new practices and piles of financial documents. I am ready to tackle any question, suggestion or comment. Thank you for your support.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the report. **Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate)** asks for the floor.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): I want to compliment our Secretariat. Not everywhere you have a Secretariat that is so engaged in the policy side. I saw many of you attending events in the European Parliament multiple times. To what extent do those events influence LYMEC activities and policies?

Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Our presence at the European Parliament is linked with the enhanced cooperation with Renew Europe. We had up to three events and meetings in the same week. As for political representation, our president is flying to Brussels quite often for that. **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau)** and **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** are mobilised weekly too, as they are in Brussels. Everytime there is a need or a request from Renew to LYMEC, we are ready to be there. Many meetings are also of an informal nature. Renew seems more and more interested in working with LYMEC, and it shows that our partners are happy with the work we do.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I have had the pleasure to visit you at the office and see how hard you work. You send emails from morning to night. How do you ensure there is work-life balance?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you. This is the first time this question is brought up at Congress. I try to keep a work-life balance. We know there are peaks. In cooperation with the Bureau, we had a clear business continuity plan for the summer and winter holidays. We know we work with those peaks and make sure there are recuperation days. We also receive a lot of requests from our membership at any time during day and night. We are very committed, and sometimes we have messages popping up and kind of want to reply. We have the discipline to be very efficient even when we are pushed to the edge.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) thanks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**. There are no further questions thus we move to the next agenda point.

12. European Year of the Youth: presentation outcomes + Discussion with the membership on Ukraine

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair) gives the floor to **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** to present what LYMEC has done as part of the European Year of the Youth, as well as to present LYMEC's actions in support of Ukraine.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): We will also speak later this evening about Ukraine and the European Year of the Youth. The beginning of the European Year of Youth 2022 was quite rough because the EU Commission's idea of what it should have been about were sport events and festivals. However, the EYY has been very important for us, but some months didn't go as planned. Fortunately, as part of the EYY, we started shaping the youth manifesto with Renew Europe, while the ALDE Party has been taking the voice of the youth more and more into consideration. For all the work we have done when it comes to the European Year of Youth and Ukraine, I would like to thank everyone who helped us to multiply our messages. I will further dive into it tonight at the Renew Europe event. The second point I would like to tackle is the war in Ukraine, which has taken a lot of attention and has been a top priority for us. As **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (Board member, European Liberal Forum)** says, the youth has the luxury to be a bit more outspoken on this issue. We had the online Zoom meeting 'Voices of Ukraine', where we frequently received updates on the situation in Ukraine directly from our members on the ground. The Bureau was always trying to balance our statements and work with the mandate you gave us. I know that sometimes people perhaps don't see the connection between those statements and what we have in our Policy Book. For this reason, I would like to take this opportunity to say that when you feel like we don't talk about something, please do contact us. We always need to be on the ball, and please take it up with us if you have any questions. Don't hesitate to share your ideas!

This is a summary of what has come this year as a big part of our work, which was not present in any programme. This is how we have been reasoning and working on these thematics.

Ioana Abaseaca (Chair): Thank you **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** for your overview. No one is on the speakers' list. Thank you for having been so efficient with the time.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you **Ioana Abaseaca (Chair)**. This evening's event is a Renew Europe Year of the Youth event following up to the discussion we had this morning. Each Working Group will present the outcomes to the MEPs. We will also have some finger food. Please be on time.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): states that the first day of the Congress is now closed at 18 h 00 EET.

Day 2: Saturday, 19th November 2022

Day starts at 09 h 00 EET (Bucharest time).

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) opens the day and welcomes everyone back to the Congress.

Roll Call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)**. **Bàlint GYEVAI (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	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	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	7
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	0
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	0
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	5
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1
		197
	Simple majority of those present	98.5
	Two thirds of present	131.3333333
	Simple majority of those present without abstentions	
	1/3 = 67.33	

There were 197 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Youth Forum Nasa stranka
- Finnish Centre Students
- Jeunes Radicaux
- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)

Guest speeches

Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Co-President, ALDE Party): Good morning, everyone and thank you, happy to be here again. I will try to be brief. I hope you had a good party last night. Policy is always important, and you always engage with ALDE. I hope that one day the UK will come back, and I want to see Western Balkans with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova accepted as members of the European Union. We share these concerns with the EU. We have a big task ahead of us and I am proud **Svenja Hahn (Renew4Youth member, Renew Europe MEP)** is taking the lead in drafting the manifesto; your concerns will be taken on board. The EU was distant from its citizens, be it the pandemic or internal decision-making, but the message of the CoFoE was clear. We want a bigger, more efficient EU and we want to have the necessary changes and proposals. Thank you for being here, thank you for your strong support to ALDE. We go together hand in hand, and you can count on us.

Svenja Hahn (Renew4Youth member, Renew Europe MEP): Thank you for being here. I know Saturday morning is always the hardest and I appreciate you being here and awake. It is a really great honour to be back at LYMEC. This is where I discovered my heart for European politics. One of my first LYMEC congresses was in 2013 here in this city and it is where I fell in love with European politics. I love being back at LYMEC because you drive change in Europe. When you end up in the EP, you're spammed with opinions. There are so many emails, but no politician can afford to not listen to you. You always have the priority in every email inbox. I always have an opinion in every meeting. I don't know anyone who joined politics who didn't want to make a change. I know you all want to make a change; everyone of you has a unique story. Maybe you were mad about something and wanted to change it. Whatever your reason is, I think you are here to make a difference in this world. On the European level, there is so much to do and change. You will have a lot of policy debates today. Your decisions are being watched and the LYMEC members are doing a great job at advocating for your policies in the ALDE Bureau, in the Renew4Youth task force and so on. There are so many levels where your ideas are brought into policy-making. Thanks for all your proposals and opinions. I am really happy to be in this place with you so we can make a change.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair): Don't use the internet otherwise the Congress cannot work properly. The attendance sheets will be passed around as we need a second signature. For those who have a hangover, drink a lot of water. Now we will move to today's agenda starting with the membership issues. We will start first with the Associate Membership point.

13. Membership issues

a. Applications for Associate Membership

Accio Jove Andorra applies for associate membership.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) explains that there is one application for Associate Membership at this Congress. **Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair)** invites the President of the organisation, **Albert Areny (Accio Jove Andorra)** to present the application of his organisation for Associate Membership.

Albert Areny (Accio Jove Andorra): I want to share with all of you this new liberal progressive project. We have been following the liberal way since September 2022 and represent the young liberals in Andorra and in Europe. We want to work with all young liberals, learn and share knowledge with all of you, no matter if you are from Russia or Sweden. The point is we want to work. We want equality, gender, inclusion, climate change and diversity. We want to share with all of you our ideology as we follow your liberal manifesto. We have strong liberal values. Maybe some of you know me because I was previously part of **Joves Liberals d'Andorra**. That is all and thanks for listening.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) thanks **Albert Areny (Accio Jove Andorra)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides' list.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): During the presentation you said that you are ready to work with Russia. Can you please explain to what extent you are ready to work with Russia?

Albert Areny (Accio Jove Andorra): Russia is an example. I am sorry to name Russia, but we have to work all together with all liberals with no exceptions. We have to build a new liberal movement in Europe. Some of my partners in the party are working at LYMEC and ALDE.

Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals UK): Thank you for joining us **Albert Areny (Accio Jove Andorra)**. Firstly, in my own research into your own organisation, I found it challenging to find info online. What plans do you have to develop your digital presence? What, if any, working relationship do you have with our current Andorran organisation?

Albert Areny (Accio Jove Andorra): We are fighting to get our domain changed on the Internet at the moment. We want to share with you our programme. We are a new organisation and we want to work with all of you. This cooperation with and within LYMEC will help us a lot to make this smaller organisation better.

Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals UK): To clarify about my first question, from what I saw in my own research, it was hard to identify your ideologies and background online. What plans do you have to develop your digital presence in the coming period?

Albert Areny (Accio Jove Andorra): We are working to be more transparent. Now we follow the progressive liberal way. Right now it is impossible for us to share a lot of information because we don't have the means. We first need to build a new image to then be able to share with all of you. We are a new organisation and it is difficult for me to explain what we are going to do next. The word I have to say is work. We have to continue working.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) Thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Accio Jove Andorra**. He invites all associate members and guests to leave the room. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

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

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of Accio Jove Andorra.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for associate membership.

Vote on Accio Jove Andorra membership:

For- 49

Against- 123

Abstain- 25

Accio Jove Andorra is therefore not accepted as an associate member organisation of LYMEC.

b. Applications for Full Membership

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) invites **Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth)** and **Mateusz Gwóźdz (Nowoczesna Youth)** to present the application of their organisation for Full Membership.

Nowoczesna Youth from Poland applies for full membership.

Mateusz Gwóźdz (Nowoczesna Youth): We wanted to share a quick story with you. There once was a liberal youth organisation founded in 2016 in association with the Nowoczesna party in Poland. They struggled to gather Polish members, but in the end, they managed to gather many people. Firstly, their congresses were not big but in 2021 they were attended by nearly 400 people, including high profile Polish guests. They conducted many national elections. Their protests were broadcasted by the most

prominent and biggest TV channels. After some time, their voices started to echo on the Polish national stage. However, their journey wasn't that easy as there were many obstacles to overcome.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): Unfortunately, those obstacles coincided with rule of law debates in Poland, which limited their freedom of speech. However, it did not stop them. They fought on. In saying that, I would like to present to you the 'Euromission'. We created 'Euromission' to debunk myths about the euro and promote a strong liberal economy. We organised mobile exhibitions all across Poland and 30 press conferences to show our commitment. I believe it demonstrates how we act and organise our national actions, how we reach out to people from different backgrounds and communicate. We would like to say we are back to Europe. Please don't write Poland off. We can guarantee we are here for you to work and cooperate. Once again, we are counting on your support. Slava Ukraini!

Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth): Please don't give up on us because we won't give up on you.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) thanks **Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth)** and **Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds that we only take questions from OpenSlides.

Marius Gobet (Young Green Swiss Liberals): I would like to surrender the time to speak as my questions were answered by the presentation.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair): reminded delegates that they can remove themselves from the speakers' list if the question is not relevant anymore.

Kaja Ippel (JOVD): I think I love **Nowoczesna**. I would like to urge you to vote in favour of **Nowoczesna Youth** becoming a full member. My question is how much do you hate PiS?

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): A lot.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals UK): Thank you for the presentation and some impressive examples of your work. We have seen some changes in Poland in recent years and attacks on LGBTQ Community and LGBTQ Free zones. Can you give some examples of the work you are doing with the LGBTQ community?

Mateusz Gwóźdź (Nowoczesna Youth): We conducted massive protests all over the country. We organised a demonstration in front of the Ministry of Food and Education in Warsaw against the new homophobic minister appointed to indoctrinate children and make them sympathetic to PiS. The

majority of his statements were inserted in school curricula. It was homophobic propaganda. The protest was attended by the mayor of Warsaw and by politicians from the opposition. It was attended by 300 students and people who came to Warsaw intentionally just to attend our demonstration just to yell at the Ministry. We are active on our social media every day, where many of our posts and shared content touches upon the point of LGBTQ rights. We support the MPs from Nowoczesna party and are constantly in touch with them. They are our voice in the parliament regarding such policies. Providing our help to them, we are contributing to a larger extent to spreading pro-LGBTQ ideologies all over Poland.

Nicolas Vandekerckhove (Jeunes MR): What would the added value be if you entered LYMEC as a full member? What initiatives would you like to put into place?

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): We are quite active already, but our full membership would allow us to develop our activity on a different scale, such as for instance voting rights or proposing resolutions. It would be amazing to propose a LYMEC Congress in Warsaw. We are happy to welcome you one day in Poland to host you. We want to involve as many of our members in LYMEC activities and we would have one more delegate at the Congress to allow our members to get more involved in the international political scene.

Mateusz Gwóźdz (Nowoczesna Youth): You have already seen that we have already contributed to the urgent resolution regarding the missiles that hit Poland. If we are already capable of committing to the process of submitting resolutions, I would say it is a formality granting us full membership.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): In the Renew Europe group we have one Polish MEP, Roza Thun, from Polska2050. Who are your main partners on the European political scene and how do you see yourself growing in the political family?

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): We are the youth party of Nowoczesna and we had a meeting this year with that MEP. We have no strong connections yet.

Mateusz Gwóźdz (Nowoczesna Youth): Now in Poland we have a whole opposition who urges our mother parties to unite. The protest I was speaking about, the whole opposition was there, including MEP Thun. She was speaking about the scale of atrocities caused by the homophobic propaganda. As much as we are associated with Nowoczesna, we urge other opposition parties to work with us or join our party, or civic coalition, on one electoral list in the upcoming elections in 2023. We are aware that only by being united we can overcome the atrocities of PiS.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress to 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 Bucharest and move to a breakout room online.

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

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (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 on the full membership of Nowoczesna Youth:

For- 197

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

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

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

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)**. **Bàlint GYEVAI (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	Roll Call 3 Nowoczesna included
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	7
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	0
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	5
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1

203

Simple majority of those present

101.5

Two thirds of present

135.3333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 67.33

There were 203 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Youth Forum Nasa Stranka
- Estonian Reform Party Youth

Nowoczesna Youth was added to the roll call.

c. Suspensions

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) explains that there is one proposed suspension and gives the floor to **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)**. **Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair)** limits the speaking time to 1 min 30 to ensure we get to speak more about policy.

Suspension:

- **Liberal Youth of Moldova**

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We are currently proposing to suspend the organisation **Liberal Youth of Moldova** as they are unresponsive. They did not pay their membership fee and the latest invoices have not been paid. As a cautionary measure, we propose to suspend them so they do not get anymore in debt. They have not been to any Congress. The suspension is purely based on financial reasons.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) No one takes the floor. He reminds delegates that the vote is open.

Vote on the suspension:

For - 190

Against - 0

Abstentions - 3

The Congress accepted the suspension of Liberal Youth of Moldova

d. Disaffiliations (none)

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) explains that there are no proposed disaffiliations and moves onto the next point on the agenda.

14. Finances

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) states that the Congress will now move on to discuss finances. She invites **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the state of LYMEC Finances.

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

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) states that there is one request for reduced MO fee from **Young Progressives Slovakia - Mladí Progresívci**. Due to their inability to afford as many projects as they plan, many members of their organisation lose hope and motivation to fully use their potential in

implementing the ideas they have. They would have to pay 205 EUR of MO fees next year as of now. They are associate members and they don't have any constant state funding. The Bureau recommends reducing their MO fee to 50 EUR for 2023.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Bastian De Monte (JUNOS): Is there any EU funding you benefit from?

Štefan Čikovský (Mladí Progresívci): Not really, our youth organisation can't earn money. A month ago, we received some money from liberal Slovak politicians. If you want to know how much politicians are getting paid for this, I am ready to tell you and you won't understand why they are even doing their job. What politicians are earning in Slovakia is lower than the minimum wage.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) states that the vote is now open as there are no further inputs from the Congress.

The result of the vote:

For- 186

Against-0

Abstain- 17

The request for reduced membership fee for Mladí Progresívci is adopted by the Congress. They will have to pay 50 EUR in 2023.

b) Interim Financial report 2022 (for information)

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) invites **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the Interim Financial report 2022.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): Some of you came to me personally. There is an issue with the budget file and it is corrupted. The total deficit seems larger than it actually is. Therefore, I propose to have the discussion on the budget after lunch so that all of you can see the corrected document. I hope this is fine for the Congress.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) Here is the interim financial report of 2022. We did not get the Erasmus+ operating grant this year. It comes with a small deficit, but we have done better than expected and have been careful with the spendings. I want to highlight that during my election speech I talked about having all the documents in one single place online and I managed to do it.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Thank you for your transparency. It is good to know that LYMEC's budget is in good hands with you. For the interim report, we can see that for the Spring congress there was a participation fee income corresponding to 13 000 EUR, while the payments of the actual expenses were below 10 000 EUR. Are there any expenses related to the Spring Congress that have not been included in the expenses list of the Spring Congress yet? What about the 3000 EUR difference?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): I followed the outlines of the financial reports that the previous Treasurer made before me. However, I would like to make some changes, but those will come with the new financial report. Talking about the costs for the Spring Congress, I did not draft the budget, but sometimes we plan the costs in a way that they are actually bigger than the realised costs. Therefore we have a surplus. This small profit helps in budgetary terms.

Silke Birkenborg Andersen (Radikal Ungdom): Do you know the reason for not getting the Erasmus+ grant? Are you hoping to get it in the future?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): Erasmus+ operating grants are given each year to different kinds of youth organisations. This year they changed the grant amount, application process and legal framework. I also covered this point in my financial report. It was a huge shock for us to lose it. We have been working very hard. **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and I have attended a lot of workshops hosted by the EU Commission on how to work on the grant. All organisations in Brussels lobbied so much to see significant changes happen. Consequently, the amount of money offered by the grant has increased this time compared to last year. The initial deadline is set on 20 December 2022. We are planning to attend other workshops to get the grant this time. I would like to thank the Renew Europe Coordinator in the CULT committee for their help.

Fabian Grepper (JFS): We are talking about a profit of 4000 EUR that was made on costs of MOs and delegates. There are some of them who struggle to pay the fees. How can we justify that? How can we get profit for the Spring Congress out of the MOs and delegates' fees of 4000 EUR? That's not a small profit.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): As I was saying before, I was not part of drafting the budget. We try to make the most out of the funds that we have. Realistically speaking, do we have any option other than that? Should we pay the money back to them? Some of the costs related to congresses are freedom funds, thanks to which we grant funding for less privileged delegates and organisations who want to attend the Congress. We just try to make the most out of the money that we have.

Felix Barenthien (JuLis): We were talking about the Erasmus+ grant. If you got the grant last time, what would the difference be now?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): The total amount we would have got is 50 000 EUR.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Last year we applied for 100 000 EUR. The EU Commission revised its way of working with a completely new scheme. Based on the amount of staff we have, we can now apply for 75 000 EUR for 2023. We will do our best to make it happen.

c) Revised budget 2022 (for information)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) presents the Revised Budget for 2022. The budget overall stays the same. According to the Statutes and Financial Protocol, we don't have to propose a new budget if the overspending and underspending on different budget rows do not constitute significant financial harm. I also noticed there are some underspendings, such as under 'Internal Audit' and 'Visits to LYMEC MOs'.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair): asks if there are any questions on the revised budget. There are none. We move to the Interim Internal Audit Report.

d) Interim internal audit report (for information)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) gives the floor to **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)**.

Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor): We carried on the Internal Audit in September for 2022 for the first 9 months. We picked 50 transactions out of the entire year and had questions on why certain amounts were paid. There were no major issues, all the questions were answered. We made four observations which are highlighted in the Report that you can all find on the LYMEC website. The first one is PayPal transaction costs. LYMEC has pretty high transaction costs and we're trying to work on that. The second point is broadband costs, which are also quite expensive. We are already looking at cheaper options, although we are already on the cheapest fare. Point number three is Travel Reimbursement costs. Because people tend to book their travels on short notice, the costs are quite high. Our goal is to centralise the bookings through one travel agency in Brussels. The last point is GDPR Compliance. We recommend LYMEC to add an update to the existing GDPR disclaimers on all documents and forms.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): What we did in September was an interim report. We conducted a quantitative survey of the organisation. Starting next year, we will conduct a more qualitative one. We will also conduct interviews with the staff and ensure working conditions are favourable. In my role as ombudsperson, I will make sure to have the safeguarding policy in place. If you have any feedback on what we have done or on what we will do in the future, please come talk to us. I am more than happy to reply to all of your questions.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) thanks **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** and **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)** for the internal audit and moves on to the membership fee proposals for 2023.

e) Proposed membership fees 2023 (for decision)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We thank the internal auditors for their amazing work. We now need to take a look at the membership fee structure. LYMEC membership fees have not been raised for years. If we take into account high inflation and rise of living costs, we face a situation where we have to take the matter into our own hands to make sure we have constant funding from our MOs. We want the cost to be fair for everyone. We have a cap amount: an organisation cannot pay more than 1200 EUR in total. For these reasons, we propose the following fees:

- Proposed Full Member fee: 230 euros + 0,06 euros per member, maximum 1200 euros
- Proposed Associate Member fee: 205 euros
- Proposed annual IMS fee: 15 euros
- Proposed 5-year IMS fee: 50 euros
- Proposed lifetime membership (valid until 35 years): 100 euros

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): Is anyone against the new fees structure or would anyone have any comment(s)?

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): Will there be changes for the IMS fees?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): It is a different category. The IMS fee will stay the same for now.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I was wondering what used to be the fee and why has it been raised? What was the deliberation process on that? What were the considerations on the matter?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We tried to find the best option, which is an increase of 30 EUR. Our Internal Auditors said that if we raise the MO fee now, we don't have to do it every year. We looked at different options, did some calculations and this seems to be a not too big amount. Together with the Internal Auditors we reached this conclusion.

No one was against the proposed membership fees. The proposed membership fees for 2023 was therefore adopted by the Congress.

f) New Financial Protocol (for decision)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): I would bring your attention to this to make clear who is responsible for what in LYMEC. Everything has to be understandable for the generations of Bureau Members that will come. As recommended by our Internal Auditors, Bureau Members should not be compensated for telecommunication costs. If you take it into account, in the EU we have free access to the internet thanks to free roaming, so why should Bureau Members be compensated for those costs? The document is quite long, but it outlines the process quite well. You can check it for a good overview.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): asks if there are questions about the New financial Protocol.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) states that the speakers' list for the delegates is open.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): I want to compliment you on your comprehensive job. I have a question about page 10 of the new Financial Protocol. It indeed states that the Treasurer and Secretary General are both responsible for missing cash from the LYMEC cash box. I want to clarify that the whole Bureau is responsible for any missing money. I wonder why you decided to write it down this way.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): It is the responsibility of the Treasurer. But as the cashbox is at the LYMEC office, it would be better to indicate a shared responsibility between the Secretary General and the Treasurer. It was delineated after the distribution of tasks within the new Bureau that it would be like that.

No one was against the new financial protocol. The new financial protocol was therefore adopted by the Congress.

15. Approval of the Secretary General (for decision)

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) gives the floor to **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): I want to clarify that **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** is taking over my computer to proceed with voting to ensure transparency and correct proceeding of the voting.

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): I am standing here as a candidate for the Secretary General position for which the Bureau nominated me. I was happy to get a nomination from them at our last Bureau Meeting in the summer. Now, I don't want to talk about the past, but about the future. I will explain my vision for the position and why I would be happy to have a strong mandate. On the one hand, we are now in a process to consolidate the staff and work in a new structure with two full time employees. It is important to carry on this work and ensure the institutional memory is well-kept. We

experienced that with the former secretariat structure (two interns and the Secretary General), there were a lot of staff changes, for which knowledge was lost. We want to make sure there is a longer-term staff. On my end, I am still very motivated by the job. Some members are afraid of the work I have to do, but I would love to continue in this position with your trust. The main factor is the upcoming EU elections 2024. I took up the interim Secretary General position after the EU elections of 2019, so I was not part of the campaign. It would be high on my agenda to do the next campaign with LYMEC. I think we can build up something really nice with the Bureau and Staff, and I would love to get this opportunity once again. Besides this, you also need to acknowledge I have a great team to work with and I would love to work with this Bureau further. It has been nice and smooth so far and there is plenty of motivation to continue working together. On a different note, the Erasmus+ grant was also mentioned. The deadline is in 3 weeks, and it is something we have to work on so as to ensure financial stability in the coming years. The grant will set the frame for the next three years. We take the grant very seriously. If we get the application right, it will ensure our future for three years. I am looking forward to working on that in the coming weeks. I am happy to hear your comments and suggestions and I'm looking forward to continuing to work with all of you.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) thanks **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and opens the floor for questions.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I will try to be brief. **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, you have been Secretary General for as long as I can remember. I want to say I could not imagine a better Secretary General than you. You do not only have our trust, but you also have our deepest respect. Thank you!

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I have a brief question. I am still very concerned with the wellbeing of the office. What do you think went well the last three and half years? What would you like to improve?

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): When I started my first mandate, I realised that I was spending most of the time in the office or travelling, not being mindful of my private life or boundaries. The past years were interesting as I grew with the job as well. If you are limited in the mandate, you cannot really grow with the job the same way. The learning process went well, although my tasks can take from 1 to 1.5 years to be fully mastered. In the beginning I was less mindful of setting boundaries. This Bureau and the previous one really respect employees and recuperation days from events. This summer proved the balance can be well-kept. Monthly meetings with **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** on behalf of the Bureau are a very good practice, and I would like to strengthen this in the future too. As for what's coming next, I will be more mindful about staff wellbeing. With my experience from the last term, I will further professionalise my approach. It is not always easy with such a small

team. We had weekly staff meetings, something you wouldn't normally do with only two people. We had notes and an agenda at every meeting so that our work has more structure. When I started, things were messy. Things are improving now, but nothing is perfect. We need to continue this direction.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I would like to underline that we renominate **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)** not only to give LYMEC stability. All that you see that runs so smoothly is thanks to a very experienced Secretary General. When it comes to the well-being of our staff, we also hear these concerns on the Bureau side, as I am the person in charge of that. I can promise you that we will continue to work on that. I hope you agree to renominate **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) stresses that the Congress enters a closed room session before opening the vote. **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)** leaves the Congress room. **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** on this occasion manages the voting ballots as a substitute for **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for this vote only.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the approval of the Secretary General.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair): The vote is open on Openslides for the approval of the Secretary General.

Vote on the Secretary general:

For -192

Against - 0

Abstain -8

Balint Gyevai is therefore approved for another term as Secretary General of LYMEC. Congratulations!

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you so much, this means a lot to me. I know we work in an office, and we are not always on the ground, but it's important to have a strong mandate at the Congress, which makes me very happy and reassured. I am looking forward to this coming term to work with all of you!

16. Elections - LYMEC Delegation to the ALDE Party Congress 2023

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair): We have 15 candidates for 9 spots. **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** is by default part of the delegation as the Policy Officer. I want to ask the candidates to line up. There was already a discussion earlier, so we will see if we have any questions. You only have 90 seconds to make your point.

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): I want to wish well to all the candidates. I am part of the International Committee of YMRF, I work as a senior business consultant, and I have a PHD in economics. It would be an honour to represent LYMEC and push the LYMEC Policy Book policies at the ALDE Party Congress, as they are important to both us and ALDE for the future of Europe. I would focus on sustainable and economic development and also on democratic values. I always give my best; I am really dedicated and I hope I can count on your support. Thanks for your attention.

Oriol Marin Subira (JNC): I am 27 and have been around LYMEC for at least three years. I am happy to run again as I was a delegate last year. I want to bring my experience to the newbies, as I believe the delegation has to have balance between new delegates and experienced people. We will bring new talents, but we also need people who know what to expect from the ALDE Congress. This is going to be my last term and I will not be an international officer forever. It would be really nice to put an end to this journey by representing LYMEC at the ALDE Congress once again.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): The ALDE Party Congress in Amsterdam was the first international event that I ever participated in. I saw an advertisement in a D66 newsletter looking for volunteers and I went there to help. I met some people there, such as the LYMEC delegation to the ALDE congress, which inspired me to become first IO of **Jonge Democraten (JD)**, then LYMEC Treasurer and finally IFLRY representative. As part of the ALDE Congress, I have joined the D66 delegation twice, but I want to represent LYMEC this time. As a D66 representative your main role is to push the button, but I actually want to push the topics that matter to LYMEC on the agenda. I look forward to your support.

Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth) each and every time that we gather at congresses, we hear about storm clouds gathering over Europe for our future. Crises keep popping up like mushrooms after the rain. I have been around for about 5 years, and it is always an extreme pleasure to be with you all. I was elected previously, and I am standing here humbly proposing my application again. My main idea about being in politics is about building bridges and seeking consensus where it is needed the most, but it does not mean compromising the core values that we, as liberals, cherish so much. I do think it is a momentous time we are approaching. EU elections are right around the corner and we, as young people, have a great opportunity to introduce our perspective to ALDE to see a good European result in our own Member States.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I do not enjoy talking about myself, unlike most people, so I will talk about what is important to me. There is a tendency in the political world where you always have to be the smartest or most articulated person in the room. I am not saying it is not good to be smart, but I think it is more important to be inspiring. I will do that as a delegate and inspire the grey old liberals. I want to show them that liberalism can be green and progressive. ALDE needs to

know that LYMEC is the future, we are their future. I not only ask for your support. I also ask you to vote for the future of liberalism. Thank you!

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I am very proud that we have this many candidates again for the ALDE delegation and that my organisation has put trust in me to be their candidate. **JOVD** is on top of international affairs and I am happy to be a candidate. As my experience as a policy officer on the **JOVD** national board, I have experience in writing resolutions and presenting them at national level. I want to gain that international experience at ALDE. I will bring energy to this delegation. I hope to energise everyone and make our liberal voices heard in ALDE.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I could talk about my experience with policy and resolutions and why I think I would be a good fit, but you would hear a similar speech as we are all very capable. The ALDE Congress room is full of stale old men and there are some characters around. For example, there are the old Lib-Dems starting every speech with: 'Back when I was MEP...'. There is Piu' Europa sitting in the corner submitting last-minute amendments to their own resolution. I want to ensure all those old men feel a shiver down their spine when they hear LYMEC. We are tired of watered-down proposals. We want to be heard and we want to lead the debate.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): This morning, **Svenja Hahn (Renew4Europe taskforce member, Renew Europe MEP)** said that no politician can afford not to listen to the youth, and I agree with that. I joined politics because of the Brexit referendum. I saw that liberals and old generations of liberals were letting us down. When you see that a job is not being done well enough, you go and do the job yourself. This is what I want to do. I am the foreign policy and defence spokesperson, and I am a former IO. During my LYMEC experience, I have worked on policy and talked about defence regarding Ukraine. I am excited to take the experiences I got from outside of LYMEC and bring them here. Vote for someone who stands for our values even when it's tough. Thank you.

Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): I am running again because it was a great opportunity and experience last year. The ALDE Congress is a huge learning curve like a train on the tracks with no fuel, but still running along. I now want to run again. I will bring my experience of 3 years in LYMEC and leverage it to the delegation as a whole; I am a professional political lobbyist, and I will use those skills. I am good at packaging messages and presenting them; I will bring my hard work and dedication.

Johannes Brill (LHG): I am the IO of **LHG**. **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** said we need to bring our ideas and resolutions to the table. Together with other Member Organisations of LYMEC, we have worked on resolutions on inclusion. I have the enthusiasm of working further on the resolutions and I want to bring my experience to the table to the ALDE delegation.

Lova Bodin (CUF): It is really great to bring policy one step closer to ALDE. We are a youth organisation and as such we need to hold ALDE accountable so that they are focused on the right topics. We need to bring the energy of the youth to the debates and not just listen to old men. A lot of work happens before the Congress. We have to write resolutions. We need to ensure all ALDE delegates are well prepared so we can get a good debate and make change.

Alex Alvarez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): I participated in different projects from climate change to employment; I am always doing something for Europe and collaborating with all of you. I have participated in the ALDE Congress in 2018. I was recently elected as a delegate to the Dublin Congress in 2022. I was the one introducing the resolution on mental health issues to ALDE, and we have it now as part of the ALDE Congress; I will inform you prior, during, and after the Congress and I will help with the onboarding of new candidates. I like the future and I want to be part of the future. The future is all of you. I kindly ask you for your vote.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): I have decided to run, as many of you asked me. I left EU politics, so I have more time for Ukrainian politics. I want to accompany **Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn)** and write resolutions to the very same end. I can bring my experience as a political analyst to the table. I have skills in policy analysis and diplomacy. I have worked for 3 years in the European Parliament and am passionate about bringing resolutions to the table. I know I am not the easiest person to work with, but I will talk about efficiency and KPIs to make LYMEC more professional.

Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor): My first Congress was the Spring Congress in Prague this year. I get the work done when I say I will do something. Those who work with me can confirm that. In a recent evaluation, I was told I have a good level of emotional intelligence; I build bridges and can work well with people; I am always trying to find common grounds and I think I can bring that to the delegation of the ALDE Congress. I am a people person and the next logical step for me being committed to the organisation is to run for this delegation.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): I would like to clarify that you have to vote for me and 9 more people out of all those amazing candidates.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I would like to make a correction here, **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (ELF Board Member)** was explaining in the past how hard it is to run as policy officer to become part of the ALDE delegation, as the policy officer is the person coordinating that from the LYMEC side. That is why we changed the rules of procedure to have 9 candidates. It was agreed that there are always 9 positions. The Policy Officer is automatically part of the delegation and doesn't need to be voted upon.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair): As you heard, you have 9 votes. You have to select 9 people out of the 10 positions foreseen. If you have issues with the voting, please tell us. The voting will stay open until the next policy agenda point is closed, so that you have plenty of time to decide who to vote for.

17. Presentation and vote on the outcomes of the Policy Book renewal Working Group.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): With this Working Group we updated chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8. We will now first discuss and vote on the archival part. There is one amendment.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): We submitted an amendment to the archival. The amendment is about not archiving the resolution on Social Union 5.09. We think that the points mentioned in this resolution are not properly covered elsewhere. We reached out to the group on the archival too. We think LYMEC should have a clear policy about it in the Policy Book. If you really wish to archive resolution 5.09, its main takeaways should be covered elsewhere first.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) opens the speakers' list to discuss this amendment.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I urge you all to vote against the amendment. You had a call with the Working Group about it already. The social policy has changed and therefore we would like to archive the part on Social Union as well. It is a compromise that was agreed on. Keep the resolution archived.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I have a question for **Julius Graack (JuLis)**. Which parts are outdated? I do not recognise the need for this archival. There are many parts of the Social Union resolution that we believe in, and I don't see those parts in other resolutions of the Policy Book. I would like to hear the reasoning before just archiving because you think it is outdated.

Julius Graack (JuLis): The cleaning up was already discussed and we had this debate. I do not think it is fair to have another motivation from **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** for any matter that was already discussed in the Working Group. We just have a different stand on social policy right now. This is why this archival makes sense.

Felix Barenthein (JuLis): This is a recommendation by the Working Group. This policy is outdated, I do not know why we are bringing up this debate again.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair): opens the vote and specifies that if you vote in favour of the amendment, it means you vote for keeping this resolution in the Policy Book. If you vote against, you vote to archive the resolution.

Vote on the amendment not to archive 5.09 Social Union:

For - 75

Against - 84

Abstentions - 12

Therefore, Resolution 5.09 on Social Union will be archived with the rest and removed from the Policy Book as initially proposed by the Working Group.

❖ **Chapters 5 to 8 - Resolutions to archive (Outcome of the Policy Book Renewal)**

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the archival of the resolutions from Chapter 5 to 8 and opens the vote.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) also reminds to vote for the LYMEC delegation in the meantime.

Vote:

For - 147

Against - 18

Abstentions - 17

The archival proposal of the Policy Book renewal Chapters 5 to 8 was accepted by the Congress.

❖ **Chapters 5 to 8 - Outcomes of the Policy Book Renewal**

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): For those of you who don't know about it, we discussed all of the archival and updates of the resolutions. We will now vote on the outcomes of the Policy Book Renewal.

Vote:

For - 193

Against - 6

Abstentions - 0

The outcomes of Chapters 5 to 8 of the Policy Book renewal were accepted by the Congress.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Thank you for the hard work on the Policy Book. For all spectrums of liberalism, the Policy Book renewal is a political process. If you want to have your views represented, please join the Working Group. You should put in the effort to be part of this process. We will be working next on the final archival with the last part, Chapter 9 of the LYMEC Policy Book.

18. Motions

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) states that no motions were received for this Congress.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Chair) presents the results of the newly elected LYMEC Delegation to the next ALDE Party Congress and reminds that there are 15 candidates, but only 9 people will be elected. LYMEC Policy Officer will by default be one of them.

Congratulations to the 9 elected delegates in blue below! The results are displayed on the screen and available on OpenSlides for all delegates. The first 2 non-elected candidates are *substitutes* in case any of the elected delegates resign (in orange).

VOTING COUNT

Willemijn Krans (JOVD) - 189 (94.975 %)
Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn) - 184 (92.462 %)
Alex Alvarez (JCs) - 158 (79.397 %)
Oriol Marin Subira (JNC) - 148 (74.372 %)
Umberto Masi (LLJ) - 140 (70.352 %)
Johannes Brill (LHG) - 132 (66.332 %)
Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor) - 131 (65.829 %)
Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate) - 122 (61.307 %)
Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF) - 121 (60.804 %)
Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom) - 120 (60.302 %)
Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor) - 113 (56.784 %)
Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative) - 104 (52.261 %)
Lova Bodin (CUF) - 77 (38.693 %)
Jakub Zientala (IMS) - 30 (15.075 %)
Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate) - 22 (11.055 %)

19. Resolutions

Lucasta Bath (Chair): I will be happy to take over the chairing of the Congress from here. First resolution to be handled is the Urgency Resolution “**In solidarity with the Iranian women for freedom**”.

- **Resolution 1: Urgency Resolution - In solidarity with the Iranian women for freedom**

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): Us as liberals stand for freedom for women in Iran. Those people risk their lives everyday to fight for their freedom in their home country where they have been oppressed for the last decades. I would like to thank the organisations we closely worked with to merge the previous two resolutions on this same issue. It is important that we stand in solidarity with people in Iran and help

them to take action. The EU has not done enough to sanction the regime, to freeze their assets or to have a VISA ban on these people. As part of this resolution, we also believe it is necessary to question the current talks on the nuclear deal. Iran has not been productive on this matter. At the same time, they are not showing any effort on respecting human rights. Please vote in favour of the resolution.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD) raises a POINT OF ORDER

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): In the resolution itself, and I believe it was intentional, there is a point on the Iran nuclear deal. As far as I know, it was intended to be part of a separate discussion. Maybe that should be taken into account.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): reminds the Congress there was a deadline for the amendments yesterday at 21 h pm.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice President) the debate is about the very last bullet point of this resolution. It was already discussed with **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)**. Our internal rules claim that discussing a resolution in separate parts is possible.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): according to Article 17.3 of our Congress Rules, it is possible to vote a resolution by parts. What **JuLis** has requested is to vote a part of the resolution first (nuclear deal), and then to have a vote on the resolution as a whole. We will vote first on the first part that **JuLis** wants to discuss separately.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): That is correct, there is a last bullet point about the nuclear deal with Iran, which is now included in the resolution. As we merged two resolutions with **Radikal Ungdom** and **CUF** to get this one, it was decided that we would vote first on the part of the resolution concerning the nuclear deal, and then on the resolution as a whole.

Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): There are issues on Openslides. If you do not need the hotel wifi please use your data.

Lucasta Bath (Chair) opens the speakers' list.

Lova Bodin (CUF): Are we now doing everything at the same time?

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Right now we are going through the speakers' list, then I will close the list, and after that we will open two separate votes: one on the separate part about the nuclear deal, and one on the resolution as a whole.

Lova Bodin (CUF): I want to speak on the resolution as a whole. It would be really bad if we didn't have a policy on Iran. I just want to ask you to pay attention to the debate.

Friso le Poole (JD): We consider that the nuclear deal would be a danger to Iranian citizens and regions. We therefore ask for JCPOA to remain.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I would like to speak in favour of the resolution, but against the last part on the nuclear deal. The nuclear deal is something that can be contained, while we continue to demand Iran to care about human rights and support women fighting for their freedom. We have to support women's rights to freedom, safety and self-expression.

Joy Kamel (FEL): Women rights are the most important ones in the whole world. We are living in a real crisis. Women in Iran today are fighting to be freed from a regime that controls everything in their lives. This resolution is very important and will fix things that liberals can do. We can help those people today as liberals. I am talking today as a woman originally from the Middle-East. Religion there is important, but freedom is also important. Today I beg you to vote for this resolution.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): Thank you **Joy Kamel (FEL)**. It is important to say that women of Iran are demanding us on the point of JCPOA. Iranians don't comply with anything stated in the treaty. They don't let UN structures visit them. With the resolution we don't want to rule out links with Iran, but to question them and make them conditional. We cannot separate human right questions to the nuclear deal. Human rights should be included in the treaty.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): I hope you are all in favour of this resolution. I think we should leave room to ourselves to manoeuvre this situation. The people that are speaking against the JCPOA are the allies of Donald Trump. I urge you to leave this point out of the document, at least for now.

Silke Birkenborg Andersen (Radikal Ungdom): This resolution is about human beings, being free and expressing yourself. This is not about geopolitics but human rights. You should not only think about geopolitics and the nuclear deal, but also about how it is to be a woman in a country where you cannot express yourself.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): I would urge you to vote for the resolution but also vote for the current formulation on the JCPOA. You cannot disconnect human rights from the geopolitical situation in Iran. If we continue with the implementation of JCPOA without questioning it, we would therefore indirectly support the Iranian government and we would take this whole resolution completely unobserved. Please stop with this appeasement policy towards authoritarian regimes. It won't work towards Iran. Please vote for this resolution with this formulation.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We now open the vote on the final paragraph of the amendment (about the nuclear deal).

Vote on including the final paragraph of the resolution:

For- 81

Against- 85

Abstain- 14

The final paragraph of the resolution has fallen and will not be included in the resolution.

Lucasta Bath (Chair) opens the vote on the resolution as a whole without the fallen paragraph.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate) raises a POINT OF ORDER.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): In the beginning it was not clear what we were debating. Was it the last paragraph or the resolutions as a whole? Can we cancel the results of the vote and reopen the debate on the resolution?

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): What exactly we were voting on was already clear.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): In response to the point of order, I am going to open a vote on whether you want to reopen the debate or not. You have one minute.

The results of the vote on the point of order for reopening the debate on the resolution as a whole were as follows:

For-70

Against-108

Abstain-0

The debate on the resolution as a whole will not be reopened.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): we will now publish the results of the vote on the resolution as a whole.

The results of the vote on resolution 1 were as follows:

For-149

Against-0

Abstain-9

The Congress has adopted resolution 1 as a whole as amended (last paragraph taken out).

- **Resolution 2: A Liberal Tax System for Europe: Simpler, Smarter, Fairer**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): Tax is probably the most discussed subject in LYMEC. We decided to hold a Working Group on taxes because of that. Often, we have had debates on taxes in LYMEC. Who hasn't encountered bureaucratic tolls when moving from one country to another? This resolution is the product of the Working Group on taxes. It is a compromise among all of its members. I urge you to support this resolution.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): explains how the resolution will be discussed following our Congress rules.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): Thank you to **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** and the Working Group for such a unifying resolution on taxes. The amendments show that this work is something we can all put our names on. We really want to get a resolution on this topic. I encourage you to vote in favour.

The mover accepted:

- **Amendment to Amendment 10 (Therefore Amendment 10 falls)**
- **Amendment 34**
- **Amendment 37**

Discussion about the other amendments:

❖ **Amendment 48**

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): What we want to do is cut out the part about tax incentives. It would be better to just have regular tax cuts. We do not want to support certain industries instead of others.

On a different note, it would be easier for the delegates to show them parts of the resolution we are tackling on the screen. In the next amendment, you will see the specific industries that the resolution wants to target with the tax incentives. You should support our amendment to go for tax cuts instead of tax incentives.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): A huge part of this resolution is about making taxes smarter and incentivising growth in the right areas. I am not sure we understand what parts of the incentives are being objected to by **JuLis**. The resolution does not mention any specific industries. I would like to reject this amendment as well as amendment 49.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): Tax incentives are relatively liberal, and they are an important tool for governments.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth NI): I am speaking against this principle. Climate change is a threat to human rights, so tax incentives are very sensible to tackle the challenges of the green commitment. Please vote against this amendment.

Julius Graack (JuLis): The reason why we want to exclude this part is because we also want to find solutions to climate change, for example. I disagree with you **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** because you mention in the resolution fields of the economy that should be prioritised. This is what **Calvin Nixon (JuLis)** said at the beginning. This is very important because in some cases we don't know yet what would be the best way to tackle climate change. Therefore, if we prioritise in the wrong direction, which sometimes the State does, this will be problematic. In order to fight for a tax policy that really tackles climate change, I urge you to vote in favour of this amendment.

The results of the vote on Amendment 48 is as follows:

For-83

Against -92

Abstain -3

Amendment 48 was rejected by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 49**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): If you have a burning issue, please join the speakers' list now.

Amendment 49 is withdrawn by the mover because it is redundant.

-----LUNCH-----

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)**. **Bàlint GYEVAI (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	Roll Call 4 after lunch
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	7
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jong Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	5
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1

206

Simple majority of those present

103

Two thirds of present

137.3333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 67.33

There were 206 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Youth Forum of Nasa Stranka**
- **Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)**

Resolutions

- **Resolution 2: A Liberal Tax System for Europe: Simpler, Smarter, Fairer**
- ❖ **Amendment to Amendment 11**

The amendment to amendment 11 is accepted by the mover. Therefore amendment 11 falls.

- ❖ **Amendment 92**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will start with amendment 92 because it is the biggest one (most far reaching).

Philipp Eng (JFS): Thank you **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** for the cooperation. I am very glad we can discuss this. Competition is very important for us because it leads to efficiency, it explains the reason of our amendment. Efficiency helps to get the best infrastructure and social system possible. For this reason, as liberals, we need international tax competition, and we also need to check the tax deal. I ask you to support this amendment.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): As **Philipp Eng (JFS)** indicated, we are on the opposite side of the spectrum when it comes to our views on taxes. Despite my personal views, our objective was to find a common ground and call for implementation of the first pillar of the OECD deal, which is profit allocation rules. It doesn't hinder competition between different jurisdictions, but it was a good compromise to stay silent on the second pillar. That is the compromise that worked for all the members of the Working Group. I know this amendment is a red line for many people. Please vote against this amendment, as well as on the other amendments that tried to modify this section of the text.

Marius Gobet (Young Green Swiss Liberals): I believe that this entire resolution is important. I must say that the argument of sovereignty and anti-competitiveness do not fall in my view. They can become an issue in a multilateral framework like the EU or the UN. Even basic principles of international law require States to renounce sovereignty to a certain extent. If we believe in multilateralism, we should endorse this resolution.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): reminds everyone that if the Congress votes in favour of Amendment 92 to reject the OECD tax deal, the next two amendments will fall (amendment 91 and amendment 55).

Vote on Amendment 92:

For - 86

Against - 70

Abstain -35

Amendment 92 was therefore carried by the Congress.

Amendment 91 and Amendment 55 fall as a result of Amendment 92 being voted in favour.

The mover accepted:

- Amendment to Amendment 90
- Amendment to Amendment 47
- Amendment to Amendment 46
- Amendment to Amendment 56

Therefore, amendments 90, 47, 46 and 56 fall.

Discussion on the whole resolution as amended:

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): We like the resolution, but we don't support the part on the OECD deal. We are going to vote against and we urge everyone to do the same.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Says there are no more speakers on the speakers' list. We proceed to a vote on the resolution as a whole.

Vote on resolution 2 as a whole as amended:

For-150

Against-33

Abstain-16

The Congress has adopted Resolution 2 as amended as a whole.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will now move to the important pending discussion on the draft budget 2023.

a) Draft budget 2023 (for decision)-postponed until after lunch

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We distributed the correct version of the budget a few hours ago through Openslides and via email. As I stated before, our budget is drafted with the assumption that we are not going to get the Erasmus+ grant this upcoming year 2023. This is something I brought up previously as an Internal Auditor too: we should always expect the worst, and we should not plan with the income we are not certain to get. We have brought down almost all of our costs. Over a half of our costs are related to personnel costs. It is important to have staff who have been there for quite some time to keep institutional memory. 56% of the whole budget is going to personnel costs, which is quite high as all the salaries are subject to taxation in Belgium and benefits have to be given to employees as well. Overall, we try to reduce our costs whenever we can. At the next Congress you will receive a new budget, hopefully with much more funds. As a political organisation we have to make our voices heard. Right now we have quite a lot of savings because we were unable to host in-person events during the Covid pandemic.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): asks if there are questions about the 2023 draft budget.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): Thank you for the budget with the correct numbers. This year's budget and the draft budget for the next year shows that you are going to make a profit from the Congress. Again, many delegates struggle to pay the costs. Why should we make 5000 EUR profit per Congress when so many people struggle to take part and pay those costs?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): The cost for congresses is generally lower than the income for participation fees. This has been the standard for quite some time in order to be ready for any unplanned costs. When we talk about those who are disadvantaged, I am a daughter of a single mom. I know how tough it is to travel around Europe. We offer a Freedom fund and reduced participation fees. We have seen some delegates are not particularly honest when applying for this. I don't think this approach is correct. We grant that money when it is actually beneficial for the person who is applying. I don't think we are doing too bad in helping those people.

Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor): It is clear that if we do not get the Erasmus+ grant once again, we are in trouble. LYMEC is very careful every time they can reduce costs. I can understand the frustration when you see that some profit is made after every Congress, but I would like to stress that we have to make future calculations with the expectation that we will not get the grant. We can cope with that in the future if we make this profit from the Congress fees now.

Julius Graack (JuLis): It is important to realise that participants right now pay into the general budget of LYMEC through this profit. It is important to stress that, because it means that when a delegate is paying his participation fee, he thinks that the money is only going to the Congress. It is a question of

honesty. For next year, will there be the possibility to be refunded on the surplus of money or can the participation fee be reduced? Right now, people don't know what the participation fee is for.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): In which case has a Bureau Member been dishonest on a budget? For transparency purposes, the participation fee for this weekend was 140 EUR. What you see here at the Congress is funded by our partners. We try to lobby and meet with people to find the funding to make these events happen. Sometimes the funds come from MEPs. On a financial management side, you do not know when you will need the money, we gain out of the participation fee, given the current financial situation.

Benjamin Kurtz (LHG): Thank you for all the work. I am speaking of the Congress financing. Is the cost of the Congress in the budget? There are a lot of people here working for the Congress now. Where can we see the costs for that?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): The people working here are part of the staff, and as the staff is employed, being here is part of their job. All of the staff costs are in our accounting system. Organising Congress takes a lot of time, and our staff needs to rest after that, it is also cost linked to the Congress after all. I do take into account your comment on the fact that when we have a large surplus from a Congress, we can use it to finance the following Congress. You are always welcome to give us suggestions. Also, it is great to have an organising team onsite that helps us with finding partners and accommodation. Thank you for your comments.

Lucasta Bath (Chair) requests to proceed to a vote on the Budget for 2023. She states that nobody is against the draft budget 2023. Therefore, the budget is adopted.

The draft budget for 2023 was adopted by the Congress.

Resolutions

- **Resolution 3: Resolution on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Restoration**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): I will ask the mover of the resolution to take the floor

William Larsson (CUF): The wildlife population of the world has decreased by 70% in two years. The causes of biodiversity loss are overexploitation, habitat loss, climate and pollution. The EU is not exempt from biodiversity loss. As the liberal youth, we have to make sure our voices are heard on environmental issues too.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): No one is on the speakers' list. We can proceed to the amendments.

❖ Amendment 33

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): We submitted two similar amendments. These points in the resolution are still contrary to the Dutch experience dealing with nitrous compounds and their effects on biodiversity; they are also contrary to our experience dealing with the Dutch reality. Farmers there are basically destroying the local biodiversity and have been doing so for decades. Positive incentives seem to not work and that is why we want to strike these two points. That is also the explanation for the next amendment.

William Larsson (CUF): I would like to ask if these two amendments got a negative recommendation in the Working Group. We understand the Dutch case, but the base case is that we are liberals, and as such we should know that if one measure does not work in one country, it does not mean that it will not work in the rest of the EU. On the EU level, the base liberal case is to be preferred. I have the same argument for the next amendment too.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): Just to add, it is important to protect property rights also in the Netherlands. This is just to say that not all Dutch people want to take farmers away.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): We are co-signers of the resolution, but we are also happy about the amendment from **JD**. I think the argument that a liberal solution will always be better has no evidence. We need to be stricter on the enforcement of environmental policies. I would argue in favour of this and the following amendment. It also doesn't work in Denmark in my opinion. Further on, we do not have the time to see if we can just continue with this approach. When will we learn that this approach does not work and that we have to change? The time to change is now, hopefully today.

Marius Gobet (Young Green Swiss Liberals): I think there should be an important debate on property rights; they should be protected, but their assignment should not be about material goods only. There are rights to enjoy clean water and breathe clean air. These should be protected by EU law. The efficient way to protect people is to assign them rights and to use natural resources. I think we are missing an important point that should be included in future attempts to tackle this issue.

Felix Barenthien (JuLis): I think **Radikal Ungdom** and **JD** talked about this. I thought it was quite ironic to generally debate about property rights. I understand and I get your point, but there is a line that we do not cross, and that line is interfering with property rights.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth NI): I would like to take time to appeal to my fellow social liberals in the room. I don't think this amendment achieves what we seek to achieve. Landowners should have a voice on how their land is administered. **JuLis** makes a good point, and they are essential to repairing society. I would appeal to everybody to support the next amendment and speak against this one. Landowners' voices should be heard. Property rights should be maintained. We need to address the state and

community relationships and establish a partnership rather than having one working against the other. Please, rather than taking drastic decisions, let's push together on the next amendment.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will move to a vote on Amendment 33. **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** reminded me about the Working Group outcome which was negative. If an amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group, we will only reopen the discussion if someone actively opposes it.

Vote on Amendment 33:

For-52

Against-122

Abstain-8

Amendment 33 was rejected by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 35**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): This amendment received a neutral recommendation from the Working Group, so there was no agreement. Please unless you have something very important to say, let's crack through this.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth NI): I am speaking in favour of this amendment because I do believe that for us to assume that someone has knowledge is wrong. We should take it on a case-by-case basis. Voting in favour of this amendment does not go against property rights. It creates a neutral playing field between states and landowners where neither one is prioritised. I urge you to support this amendment so that there is a parity.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Who, if not us, will fight for expertise? We are discussing the same point we had in the previous debate. Who, if not us, will take these people seriously? Please vote against this amendment and keep this resolution liberal.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): The European Liberal youth is actually for property rights. This resolution is not about property rights. This is inherently wrong. There is nothing in a farmer's education about nature. They create the most amount of crops to create profit in an industrialised setting. My family members are landowners, and we know nothing about sustaining biological systems. I don't know why you say that being a landowner directly makes you an expert about your area. It is inherently untrue.

Felix Barentien (JuLis): I live in a small German village with 140 people in a countryside with only farms. I am in the local fire brigade. This village has been constituted by farmers for generations, and I personally am privileged enough to say that my parents grew up on one of these farms. So often in the past, especially in Germany, governmental interventions taking the mouths of landowners and farmers away and telling them what is right and wrong was a massive mistake. Keeping this amendment is crucial.

Vote on Amendment 35:

For-51

Against-109

Abstain-25

Amendment 35 was rejected by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment to amendment 52**

Amendment to Amendment 52 was accepted by the mover. Amendment 52 falls. Amendments 63, 96, 38, and 68 are therefore all rejected.

❖ **Amendment 53**

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): We want to replace the current wording with a softer formulation. The EU needs more free trade agreements in the world. Few regions of the world would have such high standards as the EU on environmental issues. We want to push for higher standards while discussing free trade agreements with the other regions of the world in a time where the EU desperately needs more globalisation, capitalism and free trade agreements.

William Larsson (CUF): It is not intended for free trade; we are as for free trade as **JuLis**. For **CUF**, the point on free trade would be removed and social innovation chapters would be mandatory in our trade deals.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals UK): This entire resolution is excellent, and we don't fundamentally disagree with what it is trying to achieve. We have some concerns about the restrictive nature of it. We need more detail on what changes it would take. The EU trade countries have less political capital than we do and may hamper their free trade, food security and economies. This amendment allows us more wriggle room. We need to put the environment first in our trade deals, but not at the expense of countries we are trading with. I urge you to bring a separate resolution at another Congress.

Lova Bodin (CUF): Maybe we should have policies that actually do something, rather than softer formulations. It is about the climate and sustainability, and we already have stuff in trade agreements. This is how we actually make a difference, because people actually find benefits in trading with the EU.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Lova Bodin (CUF) you just said countries want to trade with us and would comply with these rules, which in turn means they would have to comply with all EU rules. We have a major free trade problem right now in countries like China. This is not only about biodiversity, we need high standards in Europe. Please vote in favour of this amendment.

Vote on Amendment 53:

For-109

Against-69

Abstain-17

Amendment 53 was accepted by the Congress.

- **Amendment to Amendment 64 was accepted by the mover and therefore Amendment 64 falls.**

Lucasta Bath (Chair) opens the speakers' list for the discussion of the resolution as a whole as amended.

Dominik Scherrer (Young Green Swiss Liberals): We were discussing ideologies and property rights when the text was not even mentioning property rights. It was about farmers where we need corporations. This is something that got lost in this debate. If we want to have progressive solutions, we need to fundamentally change our mindset. We will still support the resolution as it is better to have one than no resolution at all. In the future, I hope there will be more productive discussions.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): no additional speakers on the list, we then move onto a vote on the resolution as amended.

Vote on Resolution 3 as amended as a whole:

For -175

Against -0

Abstain -7

Resolution 3 was carried by the Congress.

- **Resolution 4: Human Rights in International Sports Events**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): I am reminding people to be respectful of the language they use when discussing this resolution.

Nicolai Tange Kristensen (Radikal Ungdom): Dear Congress, today I would like to recommend this resolution about human rights in international sports events; international sports events have the potential to transcend borders, reduce prejudice and promote intercultural understanding. It is about unifying people and fostering tolerance. Lately, this arena of neutrality and unification has been threatened by China, Russia and Qatar as they hosted world sporting events with regimes which violate human rights. We cannot stay silent. I urge you to pass this resolution as sports events should remain a neutral arena for people all over the world.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): It would be great if we could pass the resolution right now. We should shout it to the world that we as young liberals are against what is happening right now.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): If I were to propose one minute of silence for every worker who died in the making of those events, we would have to postpone this Congress for over 4 days. Please vote in favour of this resolution.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will move immediately to the second reading. **Amendment 30** received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. As there is no objection, it is passed. **Amendment 31** also received a positive recommendation from the Working Group.

Amendment 30 is automatically carried by the Congress but amendment 31 is reopened for debate.

- ❖ **Amendment 31**

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I don't agree with the premises of the amendment, which is that transgender people's rights in sports are irrelevant. Trans rights are human rights.

Felix Barentien (JuLlis): This amendment is a great job. In my personal opinion, transgender is a different topic which needs to be debated and talked about separately. We cannot slap it in this resolution. Trans rights and Qatar are two different debates, and I think we should take it out of the resolution.

Frouke van Dam (JD): I submitted this amendment, and it's not because trans rights are not human rights. This is a topic we can discuss for an hour, and everyone would have a different opinion on this. I am asking you to vote for this amendment and give transgender rights the attention they actually deserve at another Congress in another resolution.

Joy Kamel (FEL): I agree with **Felix Barentien (JuLis)** and **Frouke van Dam (JD)**. It is a sensitive topic. Trans rights are human rights, but you should not forget that scientifically and biologically it is a touchy subject. Maybe we can create another competition for transgender people, but it is a really sensitive topic, so please vote for this amendment.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): It might be weird as we are going to abstain from this. We would always support a resolution that permanently says trans rights are human rights. We do realise that the topic of the resolution overall is different. We do actually realise the reasoning behind removing this specific part, although for the next Congress we are going to have another different resolution on this specific topic.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I wanted to agree with **Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom)**. I think the main point is here and we discussed it in the Working Group. It is not the place for transgender rights, as it deserves its own resolution. Multiple organisations already committed to working on a resolution on that. Vote in favour of this amendment.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth NI): This is a resolution on human rights and to have zero reference to trans rights, which is topical in sports, feels like a step too far. An amendment that structures certain specifics on this clause would make sense to start a discussion. I welcome **Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom)**'s discussion that we should have further discussion on this issue. It does go a step too far.

Vote on Amendment 31:

For-132

Against-31

Abstain-26

Amendment 31 was adopted by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 83**

Adam Hotovy (Mlade ANO): We had quite a close vote in the Working Group. I wrote to the Oxford Dictionary and they replied that 'who' and 'which' and 'that' could all be accepted. More precisely, we should use 'who' for a representation of people.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): There are no objections. **The amendment is carried by the Congress.**

Vote on resolution 4 as a whole as amended:

For-157

Against-0

Abstain-24

Resolution 4 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 5: Urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): There are no amendments, so we move straight to a discussion.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I think we are all quite shocked when the missile hit Poland and killed two citizens; it is necessary for LYMEC to have an opinion on this. We wrote this with our Polish and Ukrainian friends. I think we can all agree to pass this resolution. No amendments are submitted, so I hope you are all in agreement and can vote in favour.

Vote on resolution 5 as a whole:

For-193

Against-0

Abstain-0

Resolution 5 was adopted by the Congress.

----- **Coffee Break** -----

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** and **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)**. **Bàlint GYEVAI (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	Roll Call 5 after second coffee break
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	9
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	0
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	7
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	5
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Veena Democratic Youth Movement	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1
		206
	Simple majority of those present	103
	Two thirds of present	137.3333333
	Simple majority of those present without abstentions	
	1/3 = 67.33	

There were 206 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Youth Forum Nasa Stranka
- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)

Resolutions

- Resolution 6: Towards a more inclusive European Union

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We have one hour and half to discuss resolutions left or tackle the other points on the agenda. We move on to resolution 6. There are no amendments so we will move to the reading.

Johannes Brill (LHG): This resolution is proposing methods on how to achieve an inclusive society. It is calling for crisis management and liberal mechanisms. This year, **LHG** decided to bring this topic forward to make the EU a more inclusive Union.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals UK): This is not a glamorous motion. It is crucially important. I am so thankful to the movers who brought this important motion. This is a crucial and valuable start. I hope this is going to be approved unanimously as it also deals with disability and inclusion.

Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail): I worked on this topic, and you can see that when decisions are made without listening to people they fail, as was the case with the Coronavirus pandemic. It is really important that we actually sit down with stakeholders to talk about the inclusion of disabilities and make sure those people are not left behind.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will now move to a vote on this resolution, as there are no amendments to discuss and no further interventions.

Vote on Resolution 6 as a whole:

For- 188

Against-0

Abstain-5

Resolution 6 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 7: Resolution on the phase out of combustion engines by 2035 and the use of sustainable fuels**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will now move to Resolution 7. I invite the mover to take the floor to initiate the general discussion.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): In this resolution, we talk about combustion engines and the engines itself. What we tried to develop here, is a resolution taking into account that the decision of the European Commission to not include e-fuels as part of its policies, should provide a liberal option to include them if fuels can tackle climate change. I hope you vote in favour of this resolution.

Alex Alvarez (JCs): My colleague **Guillermo Borragan (JCs)** will speak online.

Guillermo Borragan (JCS): we want to highlight the importance of this resolution. Inclusion of biofuels is fundamental. Please vote in favour of this resolution.

Brian O'Connor (Ogra Fianna Fail): I speak in favour of this resolution. In Ireland it is important to phase out combustion engines. This resolution is sending a clear message about the transition from traditional combustion engines to what will be electric cars. We have to be careful of its consequences on the supply chain. We are committed to this. However, we need to acknowledge there are many challenges to overcome. If we commit to this, let's be mindful about the amount of work that should be done. Coming back to **Ogra Fianna Fail**, Ireland is already working towards NET 0. Let's make sure we can work on it together

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): In this specific case, we had discussions within our organisation, and we came to the conclusion that this type of policy brings to nothing in the end. I hope you vote against this resolution.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): I think the opposite is true. If you just end the debate and say, 'we ban something', there will be no innovation at all. But if you say, 'we will ban combustion engines right now', such as by limiting CO2, you can maybe in the future still run combustion engines if you have e-fuels that are carbon neutral. It makes a difference that encourages innovation and strengthens our democracies. I personally think that, in the future, our individual cars will be electric. There are also other fuels that may not be the best solutions, but carbon neutral fuels might be what we are looking for.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections. We move to Amendment 2 which is also accepted as there are no objections. Amendment 3 also has a positive recommendation. We now proceed to the discussion on the resolution as amended. No one is on the speakers' list. We can move to a vote. The vote is open.

Amendment 1 is carried by the Congress as no one opposes it.

Amendment 2 is carried by the Congress as no one opposes it.

Amendment 3 is carried by the Congress as no one opposes it.

Vote on resolution 7 as amended as a whole:

For-145

Against-18

Abstain-27

Resolution 7 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 8: European funds for European values!**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): I invite the mover to take the floor.

Barnabas Gador (Momentum TizenX): Hungary is an EU country, despite our Eurosceptic leaders. One of the primary fears we have right now is the cut of EU funds to Hungary. We agree that EU funding should be well spent and should not finance corruption. However, we propose to cut funding to those who would use them for their own interests and create further checks, more transparency around EU funding. We don't want citizens not to receive funding and be held accountable for the government's illiberal decisions.

Mateusz Gwóźdz (Nowoczesna Youth): We want to address the magnitude of this resolution. We encourage everyone to vote in favour. This issue does not concern only Hungary, but also Poland when it comes to the cut of cohesion funds in relation to the lack of independence of the judiciary power. We should not give up on this fight. May PiS stand down. Please vote in favour.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): No one else is on the speakers' list. We therefore proceed to amendment 32. Amendment 32 had a positive recommendation from the Working Group. We then move to a vote on this resolution as amended.

Amendment 32 is carried by the Congress as no one opposes it.

Vote on resolution 8 as amended as a whole:

For-174

Against-0

Abstain-25

Resolution 8 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 9: Create a European market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)**

Lucasta Bath (Chair) invites the mover to take the floor.

Alex Nilsson (LUF): This resolution tackles how to reach NET 0 emissions in Europe. As a national spokesperson for climate in LUF, I really feel this topic close. It is about creating a market for Carbon Capture and Storage by including CCS in the European Emission Trading System. The British government is trying to implement this system too. When we talk about climate policy, it is also important to hear what the scientists say on this. I hope you will vote in favour.

Gijs Toussaint (JD): This resolution raises some questions for me. ETS is something that the EU has created. We can set limits on its supply. It is a technology which requests major investments. I would

also point out that there is a limit to CCS and how we can use it. I don't agree that it is a promising technology.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will move to amendment 26. It received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. We will accept the amendment as no one speaks against it. Then, we move to a vote on the resolution.

Amendment 26 is carried by the Congress as no one opposes it.

Vote on resolution 9 as amended as a whole:

For-105

Against-19

Abstain-36

Resolution 9 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 10: Nuclear Terrorism Prevention in Europe**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): There are no amendments. I invite the mover to take the floor to initiate the discussion.

Olena Dudko (EYU): I want you all to pay attention to the name of this resolution which also covers terrorism prevention in all over Europe, because Ukraine is Europe and we stand with Europe to defend EU values and democracy. You might remember what happened in Chernobyl. Zaporizhia nuclear power plant, which has been occupied by Russian soldiers right now, has 6 nuclear reactors. It is the biggest nuclear power plant in Europe and the 9th biggest in the whole world. This resolution is not only addressed to Ukraine. Russia is shelling energy infrastructures in Ukraine. I ask you all to support this resolution and urge Member States to mobilise and invest in nuclear energy.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals UK): This is a policy that goes beyond Ukraine. It is one of the best resolutions I have read in a long time because it balances the situation we are currently living in, as well as the environmental impact of nuclear energy. Lately, we have been getting nuclear energy from countries that are not friends. I would suggest voting for this motion, because Europe is not as stable as it should be right now, and we should be aware of that.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): Olena Dudko (EYU) mentioned power plants, but what would be the outcome of the explosion if that powerplant was to explode? This is indeed not only about Ukraine.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): There are no amendments, we move to a vote on the resolution as a whole.

Vote on resolution 10 as a whole:

For-168

Against-0

Abstain-14

Resolution 10 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 11: Better, stronger, faster-food for the EU**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): I ask the mover to take the floor.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I will be very brief as we discussed this at the Working Group already. It is an update of the current resolution in the Policy Book on GM crops. It proposes a new technology.

❖ **Amendment 70**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will now move to the amendments. Amendment 70 did not receive a recommendation from the Working Group.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): There were two versions of this amendment, one mentioning Southern Europe, and one without this mention. We do not see the relevance in adding the regions to the resolution. I don't think it is needed.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We proceed to a vote on amendment 70 based on the comment.

Vote on Amendment 70:

For-89

Against-46

Abstain-53

Amendment 70 was adopted by the Congress.

Amendment 58 falls as a consequence of the adoption of amendment 70.

The mover accepted:

- **Amendment 18**
- **Amendment 65**

Lucasta Bath (Chair) opens the floor for discussion of the resolution as a whole as there are no additional amendments.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): We were privileged in the IMS to have an expert on GM crops. There are a lot of issues with this resolution as it does not really provide a clear definition, doesn't categorise GM crops, does not present criteria on their use, nor the risks it entails. For all these issues, the IMS believe this resolution is not ready to be on the LYMEC Policy Book.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): Like I said, this is just an update of what we already have in the Policy Book. I do think it is good to vote in favour of this right now as it is an improvement, and we don't have many resolutions about agriculture in the Policy Book.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): To be honest, I do not see the criticism. There are five lines of definition of what you are talking about, as you said. I would urge you to vote in favour of this resolution.

Vote on resolution 11 as amended as a whole:

For- 164

Against- 8

Abstain- 26

Resolution 11 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 12: Recognizing the Russian Federation as a Terrorist State**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Invites the mover of this resolution to take the floor.

Izide Marcinkute (LLJ): The crimes committed by the Russian federation are endless and cruel. As terrorism is defined as 'unlawful use of violence against civilians', we strongly believe that what is judged as such should not go unpunished at European level. This is why we are seeking to class Russia as a terrorist state.

Friso le Poole (JD): I don't think it would work in European democracy. Calling Russia, a terrorist state would only hinder diplomatic relations. To make Russia responsible for its actions in Ukraine, you don't need to define it as a terrorist state, otherwise it will be only antagonised in the EU.

Izabella Voortman (JD): Saying that Russia is a terrorist state will only weaponise Russian people. Not all of them are in favour of the war. I don't think it will work.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): I have several comments. In the European Parliament, there is a resolution with literally the same text as this resolution. It will be voted on at the plenary. I strongly urge us to vote before the European Parliament does, not to be lagging behind. I am sorry to say that but saying 'that will not work' is not a constructive argument. Russian people who are against the government speak up and don't identify as Russians. Either you build a proper constructive argument, or you're not taking a position.

Olena Dudko (EYU): First of all, it is not the Ukrainian war. It is the Russian war against Ukraine. We have mentioned terrorists in the first place. The war was started by the Russian Federation. My second point is that diplomacy does not work with Russia, and agreements with Russia aren't worth the paper they are signed on. There is no other option for Ukraine and EU security other than winning the war. Diplomacy will not work here. The third point is that this resolution recognizing Russia as a terrorist state does not influence Russian people at all. Russia as a State will be held responsible. Russia is a terrorist state because what they do with infiltration, deporting children and violence is terrorism.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): While I understand the feeling of **JD**, I think it is not prosperous to mount an argument that diplomacy can work when people are dying day by day and critical infrastructure is being ruined daily. If a murderer comes to your house, you should not negotiate or preach diplomacy to him. We see the reality of this war. The Russian aggression is clear.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer) raises a POINT OF ORDER.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Please be mindful of your tone of voice when you make your point. It is important that we make constructive arguments instead of shouting at each other. We all have the same goals here.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Thank you Laia. We have three amendments to this resolution. Two of them concern the same part of text. We will start with amendment 45 as it is the farthest reaching. All three received no recommendation by the Working Group so we open them all.

❖ Amendment 45

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): This amendment clarifies a mechanism by which the Russian seat on UNSC could actually be taken away. The issue with abolishing its seat, is that Russia would have to agree to that. There is a precedent set by the UN General Assembly as of 1971 with the case of the People's Republic of China, stating that a different successor state should be entitled to a UN seat. A lot of legal experts have challenged that Russia is a legal successor to the Soviet Union and that it therefore should be entitled to the seat.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): Maybe to add on to that, obviously it is maybe not realistic that it actually happens. Russia never formally joined the UN and is formally opposing every value the UN charter enshrines. Russia is not the predecessor of the Soviet Union as it was just the Republic within the Soviet Union, as it was Ukraine. There is a legal argument that Ukraine could be the successor of the Soviet Union as well. It might not be realistic that this happens, but we could at least make the point that Russia should not have a permanent seat at the UNSC.

Moreno Christen (Young Green Swiss Liberals): It is clear that Russia is the successor of the Soviet Union. It was considered as such for the past 30 years. Also, if Russia loses that seat, why should it be inherited by another European country, while there are bigger states in Asia like Japan or India?

Bjarni Deschuytter (Jong VLD): Russia is the successor state of the Soviet Union. The UN is not a place where you talk with friends. It is made to talk with your enemies. I urge you to vote down this amendment.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): I urge you to vote for the amendment. It is the only option we have to vote for. While it is certainly difficult to process in reality, it is still more realistic than the first amendment (Amd 103), which would be opposed by every single permanent member of UNSC because of its subjective definition of who would be an aggressor in the war conflict. The precedent set by the People's Republic of China allows a legal option to be put forth.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals UK): We believe that whilst the legal precedent quoted here is accurate and impressive, we think the other option (Amd 103) out of these two possible amendments might be more suited, as it has a broader range. The one that sets a precedent for what happens when there is an aggressor may be more useful. Both are very well written and well researched. For those doubting this resolution as a whole, we did declare at our last Congress that the events in Ukraine were a genocide. It is a short leap to state that Russia is a terrorist state.

Lucasta Bath (Chair) opens the vote on Amendment 45.

Vote on Amendment 45:

For-86

Against-74

Abstain-43

Amendment 45 was adopted by the Congress.

Amendment 103 therefore automatically falls.

❖ Amendment 4

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Amendment 4 received no recommendation from the Working Group.

Benjamin Fievet (Jeunes Radicaux): Amendment 4 is withdrawn by the mover.

Amendment 4 is withdrawn by the mover.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We now move on to the discussion of the resolution as whole as amended with amendment 45 that has just been adopted.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): I want to apologise for shouting at a colleague. I would kindly welcome our Dutch colleagues who do not believe that Russia is not a terrorist state to address me, and I will organise a trip to the Ukrainian frontlines to see what Russians have to say about the conflict.

Vote on resolution 12 as amended as a whole:

For- 132

Against-33

Abstain-16

Resolution 12 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 13: The EU Shall Contribute to Free Internet in Totalitarian States**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): She invites the mover to give some updates on the proposal.

Linnéa Lindström (Centerstudenter): One of the EU's priorities is to support democracy worldwide. People should be able to live in democracies and be open to different opinions. Democratic institutions are being dismantled in hybrid regimes moving into a more authoritarian direction. Citizens' access to the internet is being restricted in some countries while the EU can contribute to an increased access to the internet in totalitarian states. We want access to free and uncensored internet in totalitarian states like Iran.

The mover accepted:

- **Amendment 88**
- **Amendment 89**
- **Amendment to amendment 21**

Therefore, Amendment 21 and amendment 41 both fall automatically.

❖ Amendment 42

Benjamin Fievét (Jeunes Radicaux): We just mention one specific country in the world at the moment and I think you should do that for all of them, not just specifically mention Iran. We should keep it general.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): In the Working Group you said this action could be seen as cyber warfare, which is actually not the case. Is there any treaty you mention or paragraph in the resolution that would define this action as cyber warfare? Otherwise, I don't agree with the amendment.

Linnéa Lindström (Centerstudenter): While we do understand your concerns about mentioning a specific state, we do not see this action as a declaration of cyber warfare, instead, it is only supporting people in Iran by granting them access to the internet. The definition of cyber warfare according to the Oxford English dictionary is 'the use of a computer or technology to disrupt the activities of a state or organisation, especially the deliberate attack of information systems for strategic or military purposes'. We cannot see anything in this resolution falling under this definition, therefore we will vote against amendment 42.

Felix Barenthien (JuLis): I read the resolution quite thoroughly and thought to myself, why would the EU intervene with providing Wifi? Then I noticed that we literally amended and passed that policy point in the Iran resolution earlier today. I don't know if it is a general fact to speak against it, when we just passed that same point two hours ago. I hope we are all against deleting that point.

Julius Laitha (JUNOS): Looking at the title of the resolution, I think it is clear what the intention is. Even though it is a foreign political act, it coincides with the liberal European values.

Lucasta Bath (Chair) opens the vote on Amendment 42. Then when we will have the results for the amendment, she proposes to move to a vote on the resolution as a whole.

Vote on Amendment 42:

For-56

Against-111

Abstain-23

Amendment 42 was therefore rejected by the Congress.

Vote on Resolution 13 as a whole:

For-122

Against-48

Abstain-22

Resolution 13 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 14: Stop chat control-save our digital privacy!**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): She asks the mover to take the floor.

Julius Graack (JuLis): The European Commission is continuing its goal to disturb the privacy of EU citizens. The new proposal they made laying down rules to prevent child sexual abuse is a good goal but bad in its implementation. The EU Commission tries to invade everyone's privacy. In the proposal they made an imposed chat control, meaning they could read any social media chat. Of course, we don't want that, and as LYMEC we should have a very clear stance, especially when it comes to digital policies and privacy rights. I urge you all to vote in favour.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): As there are no interventions, we move to a vote on the resolution.

Vote on Resolution 14 as a whole:

For-153

Against-4

Abstain-32

Resolution 14 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 15: Keep governments out of our underpants, chromosomes and personal identities**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): There are six amendments to the resolution, and I ask the mover of the resolution to take the floor first.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): The whole point of the resolution is whether you are trans or non-binary, whether we are talking sex or gender, none of that is the business of the government. There may be certain occurrences where Institutions need to know your gender, however this information should not be kept in a citizens' registry. The point of this resolution is that sex or gender is not the government's business.

Julius Graack (JuLis): We want to speak in favour of the resolution. It is important that the state does not collect this data. We can discuss the different views we have on this topic in LYMEC and come up with a compromise.

Marius Gobet (Young Green Swiss Liberals): I want to speak in favour. There is a lot of content in those documents which is not pertaining to your identification, which is an infringement of the citizen's rights.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals UK): I am in support of this, but a point I want to make relates to a series of amendments. There are a number of amendments that say it is necessary to keep a record of gender and sex for security and medical reasons. As for medical reasons, nowhere in this resolution does it say that medical professionals should not have access to that kind of data. The only one point I did see is that it can sometimes be useful for application to quotas or for disadvantaged groups. This is a fantastic resolution and has the best title I've ever seen.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I wanted to say we have a resolution where **JuLis** and **Radikal Ungdom** agree with each other. Even though we don't draw the line at private property, we do at the rights on private data.

❖ Amendment 43

Lucasta Bath (Chair): It received no recommendation in the Working Group.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): The motivation behind the amendment is that allowing people to choose to have an 'X' in the part of the sex field of their passport can be implemented tomorrow without additional requirements; certain countries already allow this, and it is something likely to happen in other countries too.

Frouke van Dam (JD): I agree that this is an important point, but this is not what the resolution is about. In many countries, we already have an option to put an 'X' on the passport; however, the government has no business in knowing our gender and it has no use for it. For medical reasons, the doctors can know it. There are people who do not feel comfortable with the government collecting their data. I propose to vote against this amendment.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): It might put pressure on people if you have the 'X' option. You don't need to include it in the passport; people will have to go to the office and actively say they want to change what they have or have an 'X' there. There is no reason for gendering the passport. There is a picture which is already enough. We oppose the amendment.

Lova Bodin (CUF): I think we are losing the whole point of the resolution. If you have to give the ID to someone, they can still see your gender. They should not be able to see it. Even if you put an 'X' in that field, it is still being discriminatory. It opens a Pandora box, and it is worse than having two genders.

Jakub Tatousek (JD): We are concerned for the safety of people that could put an 'X' in their passport for transphobic or authoritarian regimes, because some governments could have a blacklist for those who fall within the non-binary section.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We move to a vote on Amendment 43.

Vote on Amendment 43:

For-25

Against-125

Abstain-28

Amendment 43 is rejected by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment to Amendment 95**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We move to the next amendment.

Julius Graack (JuLis): This is a compromise amendment we prepared and it is basically allowing for some exceptions when it comes to general stop to the record of gender and sex. It is only for some specific cases. It adds on to have another layer of security and necessity assessment by a data protection supervisor. This is a compromise to find some balance in the text.

Elise Emde (JOVD): I was wondering when I read the amendments if an exception can be made for a discrimination program; by not having the data you cannot discriminate, so is it not just redundant?

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We move to a vote on the proposed amendment since there are no further speakers.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 95:

For-98

Against-70

Abstain-18

Amendment to Amendment 95 is adopted by the Congress. Therefore, amendment 95 falls.

❖ **Amendment to Amendment 97**

Julius Graack (Julis): There was an issue with the amendment to amendment. As you see, this would suggest that the line is erased, which is not the goal of the amendment to amendment. So, the

paragraph below would be added on top. This means it is not a discussion about erasing the line, but it is just about adding the paragraph below. If I understood **Maarten Tollenaar (JD)** correctly, they would accept it and we wouldn't have to debate it.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Amendment to amendment 97 is accepted and all other amendments now fall as a consequence. I open the speakers' list for the discussion of the resolution as amended as a whole and then we will move to a vote on the resolution.

Amendment to amendment 97 is accepted as no one opposes it. Therefore, amendment 97 falls.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I would like to thank everyone for the debate and keeping line 32 which is the core of this resolution. I urge you all to vote in favour.

Vote on resolution 15 as amended as a whole:

For-142

Against-18

Abstain-17

Resolution 15 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 16: Escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): This resolution has two amendments. I ask the mover to address the Congress.

Alex Alvarez (JCs): This has been the work for many years in many congresses. We tried to pass the resolution many years ago that started with the escalation between Greece and Turkey. Now we also want to include paragraphs to support the transport of cereals to and from Ukraine and the Turkish coast. We ask the delegates to vote in favour of this resolution.

Brian O'Connor (Ogra Fianna Fail): I would like to praise the resolution. It acknowledges the institutions to be leaned upon. Needless to say, maritime security is an important topic for Ireland. Ireland has done operations in the Eastern Mediterranean. Our relationship with Turkey is nuanced here and I hope this resolution will pass.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth NI): I want to speak in favour of this resolution. We know directly and historically the EU's power in terms of keeping peace. I commend this motion for seeking to advance on this issue. I would encourage everyone here to support this as a next step in EU peacebuilding.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Amendment 71 was accepted by movers as it was a grammatical change.

Amendment 71 was accepted by the mover.

❖ Amendment 72

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): What we are doing here is not a real political issue, but 60% of EU countries which have an embassy in Turkey are still using the English-speaking version of the name of the country on the documents.

Alex Alvarez (JCs): I would agree with **Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)** on the wording, but it is true that within the Working Group they have some issues with the terminology. Some organisations use 'Turkey' and others use 'Türkiye', and this is why we wanted to ask the delegates here whether it is something good for you, or whether it can pose an issue within your organisations.

Vote on Amendment 72:

For-117

Against-48

Abstain-17

Amendment 72 was therefore adopted by the Congress.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We now move straight to a vote on the resolution as amended as a whole.

Vote on resolution 16 as amended as a whole:

For-140

Against-6

Abstain-10

Resolution 16 was adopted by the Congress.

- **Resolution 17: Motion Against the Usage of Spyware among politicians, journalists and activists**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): most of the amendments have been accepted. I open the debate on the resolution.

Oriol Marin Subira (JNC): We submitted this resolution after hearing the news on the scandal that happened in our country. Then, events developed, and an inquiry set up by the EU started to investigate all types of spyware scandals that have occurred in Europe. We believe that LYMEC has to speak up and be against the usage of spyware on EU citizens, not only in authoritarian states, but also in our

homes. It is important for us to acknowledge that these things are happening within our borders, therefore I encourage you to vote in favour of this resolution.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): As no one else is on the speakers' list, we can now discuss the amendments. Amendment 5 is a grammatical change - it had a positive recommendation in the Working Group and has been accepted. Amendment 54 has also been accepted. Amendment 8 received a positive recommendation by the Working Group; therefore it is accepted. Amendment 73 received a negative recommendation; therefore I ask the mover to take the floor. Amendments 73 and 74 will be taken together.

Amendment 5 is adopted by the Congress as no one opposes it.

Amendment 54 is adopted by the Congress as no one opposes it.

Amendment 8 is adopted by the Congress as no one opposes it.

❖ **Amendments 73 and 74**

Alex Alvarez (JCs): We believe this topic is an important one, but our organisation considers introducing this amendment to delete some references that are in a partisan way related to JNC. When we joined LYMEC a few years ago, we started a collaboration with all of you and we understood this is a space where we can cooperate on European projects together. Unfortunately, we were surprised and concerned when we saw references to politicians of this MO. I would like to remind you that some years ago they created a Working Group on Catalonia to solve this kind of issue before arriving at the Congress. Since LYMEC tried to have the Working Group to avoid these conflicts, we tried to propose this particular amendment not to have these kinds of references.

Oriol Marin Subira (JNC): I would ask you all to vote against the amendments. I don't want to bring up the Working Group and I won't. I don't understand how you cannot agree. Everything from this report comes from something done by members of the ALDE Party. I don't understand why you don't agree on putting this in this resolution when you are not even in the government of Spain. It happens to Catalans, but maybe someday it will be the Dutch. I would ask the Congress to vote against amendments 73 and 74.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): We will now move on to a vote on both amendments separately (two votes).

Vote on Amendment 73:

For-31

Against-114

Abstain-33

Amendment 73 is rejected by the Congress.

Vote on Amendment 74:

For-32

Against-95

Abstain-50

Amendment 74 is rejected by the Congress.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Amendment 6 had a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It was about a grammatical mistake. It is carried by the Congress.

Amendment 6 is carried by the Congress as no one opposes it.

❖ **Amendment 85**

Adam Hotovy (Mlade ANO): Oriol Marin Subira (JNC) agreed to change the wording and there should have been an amendment to amendment, but it was not sent. We have the final proposal agreed from both parties.

Oriol Marin Subira (JNC): Can we do an amendment to amendment on the spot? If we cannot, we can accept both amendments 85 and 86.

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Amendments 85 and 86 are both accepted by the mover as we have no time to reopen amendments.

The mover accepted both Amendment 85 and Amendment 86.

❖ **Amendment 20**

Lucasta Bath (Chair): Amendment 20 is also accepted based on the recommendation of the Working Group. **Amendment 20 is carried by the Congress as no one opposes it.** We return to a discussion on this resolution as amended as a whole. Before we vote, I will give the floor to **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)**.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the amazing work, we have adopted 17 resolutions! I couldn't be prouder of all the interactions and agreements, I have never seen these levels, not even before COVID. There is a high level of collegiality in this room, and I couldn't be prouder of what we have achieved through the policy discussions we had this weekend. Thank you very much!

Vote on resolution 17 as amended as a whole:

For-160

Against-6

Abstain-0

Resolution 17 was adopted by the Congress.

20. Reports from Member Organisations, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage, and LYMEC Working Groups

Lucasta Bath (Chair): 5 Member Organisations can make a report of 5 minutes each. It will be on a first come first served basis through Openslides.

Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals UK): I will try to be extremely brief. The UK had a successful midterm election where young liberals got elected. We had a brand-new executive. We wrote a brilliant policy paper about Ukraine. Our next conference will be in Reading on 17 - 19 February. Please come along! I am trying not to cry, but this is my last Congress in this capacity. I have been in LYMEC for the past 7 years and this organisation has been a political home for me. I want to thank the current Bureau, International Officers and all the members. You have been the most amazing community and I will be cheering you on all the way.

Ahmed Ibrahim Mehmedov (YMRF): Just a few quick notes from the IMS. We have increased our engagement and we have a vibrant WhatsApp chat with the Individual Members of LYMEC. We started hosting different onboarding Zoom meetings. These results have paid off. The IMS is ever more attractive.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I want to mention that we have had provincial elections in the Netherlands and in every province, we have members of **Jonge Democraten** in **D66** at very respectable places. There will be a **Jonge Democraten** electoral place in provincial elections. If we can do it, you can all do it. Get young people elected!

Indrek Paljak (Estonian Reform Party Youth): We have won four elections in a row. We hope to make it to five in 2023. We have a good relationship with our mother party. We have been putting in a lot of effort and we are happy that our inputs for 2023 National elections have been accepted by our mother party.

Jaroslav Ambroz (Mlade ANO): Just a few words, me and Jaroslav from Ukraine are co-leaders of the Working Group for Security and Cyber. The Working Group is a great place for everyone, where we focus

on global, security defence issues and communicate with fellow LYMEC people. Unfortunately, Jaroslav is currently fighting on the front line. He sends his regards from the armed forces of Ukraine. If you are interested in joining the Working Group, please let me know. Enjoy the rest of the Congress!

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): As you may have noticed, I have been taking a few pics of you during the weekend. I will share all the pictures with you guys after the Congress. If there is anyone that doesn't feel comfortable with the pictures you are in, please reach out to me and I will delete them from the shared folder.

21. Any other business

Lucasta Bath (Chair) asks whether there is any other business or any other issues to discuss. There is none. She gives the floor for the conclusions to the LYMEC President **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**.

22. Closing from LYMEC President

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) closes the Congress.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): We are closing this Congress on time. When I opened the Congress, I asked what is so particular about this one. The answer is that we had so many issues that we needed to address. During this weekend, we have really discussed all those issues and addressed all the challenges. We addressed perspectives I had not been thinking of. It shows the strength of our diversity and our nerdiness in thinking about the issues we need to tackle. On a different note, I promised we should be more political. For me personally, it gets so much easier when I find myself in the situation of defending and promoting our organisation to our partners like ALDE and Renew Europe. It strengthens LYMEC as a whole and we get more credibility. We are showing what we stand for, and I want to thank everyone for coming here to debate and bring new ideas. I want to especially thank **Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals UK)** who has moved me. We have been discussing several issues and I am really sad that this is your last Congress. I hope that I will meet you at other events, not just LYMEC congresses. Thank you so much for coming here. All this would not have been possible without our Chairs. Thank you to them and of course a big thank you also goes to our Romanian friends for hosting us.

Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) stresses that the Congress is now closed at 18 h 00 EET (Bucharest time) and gives some practical information for the dinner arrangements. Thank you everyone!