

LYMEC (European Liberal Youth - LYMEC asbl);
Company code 863179343
VAT code BE0863.179.343
Rue d'Idalie 11, 6th floor, PO box2 1050 Brussels;
Tel. +32.484.644068
E-mail office@lymec.eu
www.lymec.eu



Minutes
LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress
20-22 May 2022
Prague, Czechia and Online (Hybrid)



Day 1: Friday 20th May 2022

Congress starts at 16 h 00 CEST (Prague time).

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

The opening speeches were live-streamed.

1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

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

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President): I am particularly happy to see you all here in person in Prague. Let's give a round of applause for our hosting organisation to make this happen with us. This is the last Congress of the standing Bureau. I am happy to see where this organisation is going. The past two years were not what I had pictured when I decided to run. We have had to think digitally by default, any social structure has had to really adapt to our new way of working, and we have had to start doing things online. This period was marked by a changed way of life. It was marked by a COVID pandemic and marred by a period of other crises. We are shattered by a blissful belief that the "never before" is here to stay. This mandate, as cliché as it might sound, was marked by the words "crisis makes way for opportunity". We have come out of this time as a much better organisation. We have a stronger office and a pretty clear stance within the liberal family about what the future of Europe should look like. I would like to outline one more evolutionary thing that the pandemic brought about. That is a change of mindset. I experienced a personal and great loss during this time and it made me realise that all that really matters is togetherness. It matters to listen a lot more than to argue and to understand where other people are coming from rather than to judge. Open your eyes and ears rather than close them to others who are different to you. I ran under the slogan that "together we can do more". I began to realise it is a lot more than that. Politics is about togetherness where we can listen to people, show them support and do good for other people. This is the true meaning of politics, to help others and leave a mark, even if it is only a small one. To leave a mark on your country or town, or to Europe as a whole. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to lead the organisation and do exactly that. It is my final plea and heritage to you to urge for more togetherness, understand each other more, and be together more. Together we can do more and achieve more. Because that is what liberals do. Thank you for these two years. Best of luck in your future endeavours.

2. Guest speeches

The following guests took to the floor to deliver speeches:

Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE Party Co-President)

Dita Charanzova (MEP Renew Europe Group and Vice-President European Parliament)

Timmy Dooley (ALDE Party Co-President) - Online video message

Svenja Hahn (ELF Vice-President and MEP Renew Europe Group)

Laurence Farreng (MEP Renew Europe Group, Renaissance) - Online video message - Renew4Youth

Ondřej Kovařík (MEP Renew Europe Group, ANO)

Abir Al-Sahlani (MEP Renew Europe Group, Centerpartiet) - Online video message

Marketa Plesnikova (President, Mladé ANO)

Amanda Kanange (IFLRY President)

Simon Lindkaer (YFJ Board Member)

Jessica Klug (YDE Spokesperson)

Antonio Argenziano (JEF President)

Lidia Pereira (MEP and President, YEPP) - Online

Eleanor Morrissey (FYEG Co-Spokesperson) - Online

Alicia Homs Ginel (MEP and President, YES) - Online video message

3. Roll call and voting rights

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

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** and **Amy McAuley (Youth Liaison Trainee)**. **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, if present online - 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	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7	7
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	4	4
Croatia	MHL	5	5
Croatia	Mladi HNS	5	
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5	5
Estonia	Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu	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	
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	6	6
Latvia	Atīstībai Youth	3	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	3	
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jong Demokraten Luxembourg	3	
Moldova	Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)	4	
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	3	
The Netherlands	JOVD	6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	5	5
Romania	USR Tineret	5	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3	
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	
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	2	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1	1
		233	196
	Simple majority of those present	116.5	96
	Two thirds of present	155.3333333	130.6666667

There were 196 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were absent:

- **Mladi HNS**
- **Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu**
- **Jeunes Radicaux**
- **Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg (JDL)**
- **Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)**
- **Liberal Youth of Montenegro**

4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

Election of chairs

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) proposes **Sara von Bonsdorff, Keith Henry and Marketa Plesnikova** as Congress Chairs.

Congress accepted the Chairs.

Election of secretaries

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) presents the Congress secretaries, proposing **Chiara Olga 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

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

Congress accepted the scrutineers.

5. Adoption of the agenda

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) asks if anyone disagrees with the agenda.

No one expressed any disapproval.

The Congress accepted the Agenda as proposed.

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Paris Autumn Congress 2021

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Paris Congress from Autumn 2021, which the Congress have received prior together with the agenda. No one expressed any disapproval.

The Congress adopted the minutes from the 2021 Paris Autumn Congress as proposed.

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

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) explains that we have received one urgency resolution entitled Human rights in international sports events. We invite the mover to take the floor and justify the urgency of the resolution.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) reminds Congress that point of orders and voting happens through Openslides only.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Elsie Gisslegard (Ombudsperson) is our ombudsperson. If there is anything you want to tell us during the Congress or if something unpleasant happens, you can turn to **Elsie Gisslegard (Ombudsperson)**.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) gives the floor to **Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom)** to present the urgency of the resolution.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): Ourselves and **JuLis** have submitted a very similar resolution on the same topic. This is why we wanted to merge them. We want it to appear in our policy book. This was the only way to do it, by having the two resolutions merged since all other deadlines passed. This is the best fit for the LYMEC policy book.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): We want to vote in favour because both of the resolutions will be withdrawn if the urgency resolution is accepted and it's an important matter.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) reminds the Congress to always state their own name and the name of their MO when taking the floor.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): Personally, I don't see how the merger is so urgent. It is a technical merger. I would like to see it happen, but I don't think it can happen.

Rasmus Festerling (Radikal Ungdom): Thank you **Umberto Masi (LLJ)**, but I disagree with your point. I think it is important and in LYMEC, we want to be strong community leaders when it comes to being politically committed. We need to move now, be resolute, and have good policies to do so.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) opens the vote on the urgency of the resolution.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) adds that if you are an associate member organisation, you have the call to vote on Openslides, but you can't as you have zero votes (only full members can vote). If you have voting rights as a Full Member Organisation, please do vote.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) closes the vote.

The result of the urgency resolution is as follows:

Yes-97 (59.146%)

No-62 (37.805%)

Abstain-5 (3.049%)

The resolution was not approved as urgent because it would need a two-third majority in order to be carried which it did not receive.

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

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair): I am sure you have seen the resolutions beforehand. You have 30 minutes to vote on the order of resolutions. We will have quite a short time for discussing the resolutions exceptionally at this Congress, so please consider which resolutions you deem important. The result will be given after the Bureau and IFLRY reports.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) opens the vote in Openslides.

9. Bureau reports and debate about the reports

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) invites Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) to take the floor to present the Bureau reports.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) asks Bureau members to join her on stage.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President): Apologies on behalf of **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)** who has been left stranded at the airport. Since our last Congress, we have organised a few events. The YCA is being worked on, we have had the first session of the Alliance of Her Youth Academy, which is an academy of leadership for young women, and a few sessions of an event called LYMEC Voices from Ukraine, which were targeted to give the floor to our Ukrainian MOs to shed light on their views about what is going on.

I would like to shed light on the Digital Assembly and give a broad overview of the last two years of my mandate. I would like to hope and believe that the LYMEC Bureau made the best effort to respond to quickly shifting demands of the crises and were as adaptive and responsive as possible. We adopted the LYMEC working programme in July 2020 to have a more professional LYMEC and I am happy to see that happening with a permanent Project Assistant and a Youth Liaison Trainee to ensure we have the sufficient manpower to provide you with the necessary trainings you need as well as policy briefings to ensure you are able to take a position on important European topics.

It is important to have cooperation between Bureau members and MOs with clear portfolios of what each of them does. The Digital Assembly was a fruitful practice. We believe it is important that you are kept informed between Congresses. We significantly improved the time you are allocated for questions and answers so much so that each member of the Bureau is responsive and answers over their own work being done. We further continued the streamlining of our working groups with a streamlined working structure as well as focusing on the IMS, with a Bureau member steering the IMS in doing their job. The system seems to be working. A lot of events were organised by the working groups and resolutions have been put forward. The IMS Steering Committee and new IMS have got involved with **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** acting as the point of contact. Beyond that, LYMEC has improved its visual identity as a recognisable brand, improving the digital instrumentalisation, improving our decisions, replacing the multitude of previous Congress platforms with Openslides and launching a new website. I am urging you to use the new platform as it is the single gateway to vote and do anything at Congress. I believe it was successful.

Last but not least, as a horizontal goal, we strengthened LYMEC's relevance within the liberal family of decision-makers. We targeted our efforts on making the LYMEC views heard at the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE), which came about as a result of your work known to many partners within the liberal family and beyond. We organised cross-party meetings, emphasising it is necessary to bring about real results from the CoFoE and not to have it as a talking exercise only. We created an advocacy database and, with the support of the ALDE Co-Presidents, we improved our standing within ALDE with the creation of the Alliance of Her Youth Edition and we secured our President's participation in the ALDE Leaders meeting. We executed our work with a lot of passion. I hope you can forgive some of our mistakes and I hope you see the good stuff which has been done as we have tried to bring the current ever-changing realities and important topics of the EU to you.

I would really like to thank all of the Bureau members. **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**, thank you for not losing our money. **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)**, thank you for carrying out the policy work which you have done with grace. **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer)**, with all the training and events, all the new events and creative ways you have thought of carrying these out. Thank you **Ines Holzegger (Outreach and Cooperation Officer)** for improving our standing in all partner organisations. To my vice-president **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)** who is maybe somewhere listening in an airport, thank you for taking over when it was really difficult for me and for stepping in and making tough decisions. **Ida-Maria Skytte (Communications Officer)**, for responding to the non-stop flow of events in a nice visual way, creating visuals and not just posting stuff. I am proud of each of them. We are not perfect, we have made mistakes, but I could not hope to work with a better organisation. Thank you to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for always being there for me and for being my support and work love. That is it from me.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) opens the floor to questions.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) thanks **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** for the report and asks the Congress to put their names on the speakers list if they wish to take the floor. She asks all speakers to be brief and remember that the questions need to end with a question mark.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) opens the floor for questions from the delegates.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): Thank you to the Bureau. I think you did a lot of good work. For me as an International Officer (IO) of 16,000 members, it is sometimes hard to explain when we are only here

with 3 people. One Member Organisation (MO) is being represented by 3 people but there are other IOs here with 50 members and still 3 delegates. I wish that next time we have a Congress that even if we have a reduced number of delegates, we still should have a way of representing how big our delegations are like the European Parliament (EP) method does. I think the website is very intuitive and empowers you to get the information. It shows a lot of transparency and acts as a role model for other IOs in something they should thrive to achieve.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) invites the next speaker to take the floor.

Abram Guido Pieter von Backer (JOVD): Thank you. We are quite sad to see that something went wrong with the European Commission grant proposal. We are wondering what went wrong and what could have been done better to ensure that such a large sum of money is not lost again. Do you need any help from MOs to achieve this?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Should we maybe tackle this in the finances point and I will leave room for questions there?

Abram Guido Pieter von Backer (JOVD): accepts **Marten Porte's (LYMEC Treasurer)** suggestion to tackle the point at a later stage.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President): Thank you Alice for recognising the importance of our webpage. Really the platform and website are the two things along with increased transparency that I find really quintessential in what we did. In terms of people participating in Congress, I come from a large organisation. I also would like to see organisations with 10 votes coming with 10 people but it is very difficult logistically to host so many people. Maybe the next Bureau could look into this. The ALDE Party has Congresses of about 1000 people however, it can be hard to imagine youth parties organising something to this scale.

Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten): My journey as an IO would not be complete without asking a question. Dear **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)**, what do you see as the major big challenge for your successor and what advice would you give to them?

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President): I will ask **Umberto Masi (LLJ)** to ask his questions first before replying.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): I tend to usually ask about what has been done in the last half of the year and about what you cherish and regret the most. What do you cherish most about the last two years and what did you miss the most? We are missing one organisation in the Congress, could you elaborate on the thought process behind this? Maybe they did not come because they did not want to? Questions about all cases will come up in the future and what will be done if other organisations have an internal struggle? We talk about **Young Liberals Greece** in this case.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President): The biggest challenge will be maintaining the liberal family. It is a work to keep fighting within our broader political family. You shouldn't be ashamed to be called a liberal. A centrist is not the same thing. It is a struggle we are facing daily. My advice to this is to never back down and to insist that liberalism is in our blood and we are not giving it up.

Umberto Masi (LLJ), to answer your question, it is a difficult situation which will come about as **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer)** will further explain. The Greek organisation was not invited to take part in our Congress in-person for the reason that they have an internal struggle and have two people/two factions who claim to be representatives of the organisation. LYMEC is not an arbiter and we do not take sides. Unless the two sides are able to talk to each other and agree who should represent the organisation. Until they communicate this to us, we simply cannot toss a coin and we do not have that much authority to pick a side. What I will cherish the most is working with these amazing people and meeting you guys at Congresses. The policy discussion is fun to hear. The criticism is nice to receive as it makes our work better. Sometimes I do regret my temperamental defensiveness when it comes to the Bureau work. Thank you. I will give the floor to **Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative)** to give his report.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) announces that the vote on order of resolutions has been closed.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President): Thank you to everyone for all your work. To the IOs and MOs who made the non-stop, never ending online events worth it. It was a privilege for me to be elected. Thank you and I hope to see you in the future after this Congress.

Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative): This is my last report as IFLRY representative. I am reaching the end of my term. Just to reflect a little bit on the two years in my position. There was a time when LYMEC and IFLRY were not great friends. I think I have tried to improve that relationship. We have cooperated on a lot of things. **Simon Lindkaer (YFJ Board Member)** was elected to the European Youth

Forum (YFJ), and **Nicolas Paganokis (former IFLRY Board member)** was elected to the Council of Europe. We have regular contact between the two organisations on a lot of different levels. We have regular contacts at different levels between our Presidents and Secretary Generals. We wrote a memorandum of understanding and co-signed it last year. **Amanda Kanange (IFLRY President)** spoke here earlier. A lot of great things have happened. We tried to do some communications together with our Communications Officers. We could do some more campaigns and events together in the future. We need to understand each other's points of view a bit better in certain situations. I suggest organising joint sessions between the two Bureaus to have some fun together. On a personal level, I think I was very welcome in the IFLRY Bureau. I think I provided valuable input to you and I was clear when something was not working for LYMEC. On the LYMEC side, it was a bit tricky sometimes to approach the position as my mandate was appointed at Congress but I do not have a voice in the Bureau. I hope the next Bureau and IFLRY can make the communications a bit more fluid. Despite COVID and not getting to travel that much, I think I did as much as I could. I would have liked to have done more but thank you for trusting me over the last two years. Thank you.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) moves on as there are no questions following **Benjamin Fievet's (IFLRY Representative)** report.

The result on the order of the resolutions is published.

Results of the snap vote on the order of resolutions:

Candidates	Votes
1. Europe stands with Ukraine: Stop the Russian war	(63.953 %) 110
2. Recognition of the Genocide of the Ukrainian People by the Russian Federation	(46.512 %) 80

3.	Cutting the European dependence of energy resources from the Russian Federation	(36.628 %) 63
4.	A Migration Policy Fit for the Future	(30.233 %) 52
5.	In defense of freedom and fundamental rights in Cuba	(25 %) 43
6.	For basic classic liberal principles – a market-friendly LYMEC	(23.837 %) 41
7.	Free academic access for deaf students	(22.674 %) 39
8.	Sport events and human rights	(21.512 %) 37
9.	Integration of people fleeing the war in Ukraine must become a priority for Europe	(20.930 %) 36
10.	For a liberal tax competition in Europe	(20.349 %) 35
11.	The EU should not support human rights breaches in global supply chains	(19.186 %) 33

12.	Now is the time to make Europe resilient - A new European security policy	(18.023 %) 31
13.	We need to establish a common European Students at Risk-agreement	(17.442 %) 30
14.	Artificial Intelligence for Europe	(15.698 %) 27
15.	Food security starts in the farming community	(14.535 %) 25
16.	Accelerating the deployment of a common EU grid	(13.953 %) 24
17.	Kazakhstan and Russian influence	(13.953 %) 24
18.	Against MLM Companies for covering up Pyramid Schemes	(13.372 %) 23
19.	Resolution on the Protection of the Baltic Sea	(13.372 %) 23
20.	A clear foreign and security policy regarding diplomats suspected of espionage	(12.209 %) 21

21.	Human rights and sports championships	(11.628 %) 20
22.	This is the way: Crypto for a free Europe	(10.465 %) 18
23.	The financing of the Erasmus programme 2021 - 2027: for an increase in grants and a fairer reallocation of student mobility funds	(9.302 %) 16
24.	Resolution on AI Powered Disinformation	(5.233 %) 9
	Valid votes	(100 %) 172

10. Secretary General report and debate about the report

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

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): It is difficult to know where to start. I am going to give more time to your questions as it is important for you guys to see what we do at the office level. There are three of us in the office and we work together all the time in what is needed to achieve our objectives. Since the last Congress, the first main point is the restructuring of the office. We adopted a new approach, we now have two full staff members with **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** joining as the new **LYMEC Project Assistant**. This changed a lot. We have a better work division on how we work internally. There will be more opportunities and events for you as members. You have received

policy briefings from **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** twice a month, which has resulted in mainly positive feedback. We hope to receive your inputs from this. The Young Changemakers Academy (YCA) is ongoing and we have been working a lot on those events. I would like to thank **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** for taking on the new responsibilities and now she is the new person responsible for taking over the organisation of events. I would like to thank the team. We now have a great team spirit. I would like to thank the Bureau. It has been great to have calls depending on the file or people coming to visit us to work on certain projects. I would like to highlight the cooperation between the Bureau and the Secretariat in these past 2 years. I am looking forward to your questions. Thank you to the team, secretariat and the Bureau for the past couple of weeks. We are here at your disposal and do not hesitate to talk more to your MOs about LYMEC. We hope to involve more people at national level and can count on the IOs and MOs to make that happen.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) opened the floor for questions. She gives the floor to **Umberto Masi (LLJ)**.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): I just wanted to ask **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** how he keeps being so awesome.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you for the question. We all do our best I believe. It requires a lot of energy. Working at LYMEC is more than just the work. It is a true commitment in everything you do. It might just be for the members or the broader cause of liberalism. The commitment keeps us doing what we do. I would like to thank **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** for being so caring on the HR side. A good working team is obviously a very healthy team. The pandemic was difficult for everyone but finding the right allies in the Bureau was important. We have regular evaluation meetings with staff members to ensure we move forward on this together. Thank you to **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)**, **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)** and **Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair)** previously. When I hear that **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** is really enjoying the work, that also motivates me as well.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) thanks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and moves on to the Year of Youth discussion. The Bureau decided it would be focusing on Ukraine this time due to the war. She mentions it is a really difficult situation and gives the floor to all three Ukrainian organisations who have 5 minutes to present the situation.

11. Year of the Youth 2022 – updates and discussion with the membership on Ukraine

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) gives the floor to **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** to present what LYMEC is doing with the Year of the Youth 2022.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President): It is important to talk about the brainstorming behind the Year of the Youth as a continuation from the online calls with our Ukrainian friends who give us updates on how they are doing. This brings me back to our plea about more togetherness.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) invites **Anna Komziuk (LDLU)** to take the floor.

Anna Komziuk (LDLU): These war days are very hard for all Ukrainians. Today is not the time for ideological discussions in Ukraine. We are all working for our economy and army as much as we can. From the **LDLU**, we helped our territorial defence, unions, those working in Donbas and Luhansk regions, we were finding fundings for weapons which we could buy and pass to the front line. We have also done huge work outside of Ukraine. I encourage you all to spread the information and not let Europe and the whole world forget about the war generally and all the war crimes. Repost anything on your personal and organisational accounts. That is what I would like you to start and continue to do. We have our strong team in Poland and we have some members who fled Ukraine who are helping volunteers and people to find shelters. In Belgium, I am searching for host families to give shelter to those who have fled Ukraine and am providing some legal service. I ask you to stand with us and support Ukraine. Thank you!

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) gives the floor to **Olena Dudko (European Youth of Ukraine)**.

Olena Dudko (European Youth of Ukraine): I am representing the **European Youth of Ukraine**. I would like to thank everyone for standing with us and supporting us. While we are in Congress, war is ongoing in Ukraine and the Donbas region is still being bombed. I want to address everyone by saying right now that there is a lot of different analysis in the media about Ukraine. I want you to remember that there is a long way to go before Ukraine wins. There is no other option apart from Ukraine winning. There is no greater fear right now than fear for people's families. We have a member on the frontline where fighting is tense. We have two members who are students who are also fighting. We are trying our best to support them via finances or in any way we can. We spread information by talking to people in Europe and by explaining why it is important to stand with Ukraine. There are a lot of humanitarian initiatives

and other things in need of your assistance. The opposite of the word 'love' is not hatred, it is indifference. If there is no indifference and if we are all together and all united we can make Ukraine win. There is a war going on in Europe which has been going on for 86 days. We are living in hell, in atrocity and are experiencing war crimes by Russian soldiers. The people who have fled Ukraine are girls and women, as the men have been forced to stay in the country due to martial law. We are working with various medical and humanitarian initiatives such as those in Germany. I am based in Frankfurt and organise demonstrations there every two weeks. We have tried to revive our project work and hopefully in the autumn we will have the third edition of the Young European Women's Forum organised by the European Youth of Ukraine. We are trying to promote European and liberal values because that is what we stand for. Ukraine is an integral part of Europe and we consider ourselves Europeans. I would like to end with a quote: "Whoever learned freedom and what freedom is should not forget about it". Thank you.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) gives the floor to **Oleksandr Sanchenko (Ze!Molodizhka)**.

Oleksandr Sanchenko (Ze!Molodizhka): I am the President of **Ze!Molodizhka** and I am an MP focused on youth issues in Ukraine. Thank you **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** for leading the idea for the calls every two to three weeks to share with young liberals what is going on on the ground, the Ukrainian perspective and what young liberals can do to help. The war did not start this year. It started in 2014 with the Crimea issue when the Eastern part of Ukraine was invaded. For the guys in the Kremlin it is more about doing things their own way. We chose not to go with them. We decided to choose Europe. This year we knew that this war had been planned for more than a year. They do this because we choose the European way. It is important to feel support from Europe. A European perspective is truly important. We want to join Europe. It is our choice. We can be part of the European family. War is still going on in Eastern Ukraine. People are still losing their homes every day. For the last few days, the currency rates have gone up and we have less money in the budget. That is why we need Europe to help us with a more balanced budget. We need help from Europe to have more balanced support. The end of the war will be when the Russian army will be crushed. Each single thing your country does will really matter. The longer the war is going on, the more people will be killed. Your voices as liberals are highly important. Glory to liberals and glory to Ukraine!

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) opens the floor for speakers.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) reminds delegates to put themselves on the speakers' list in advance using the OpenSlides Congress platform.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): First of all, I want to thank you for coming to us here while you are having a war in your country. As a German, I am here to say sorry for the last 30 years of unjust German policy. Things like continuing to build Nord Stream 2 after many Eastern countries told us to stop. I want to say sorry for our Chancellor who is still lobbying for Putin. I want to say sorry that Germany did not realise that the danger was true. Until the 24th February, we didn't believe that they would invade Ukraine.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): Once again the least we can do is hug our friends who came here and look at the general feeling of how everything is going. For the first weeks of the war, everyone was very engaged in speaking and talking about Ukraine and engaging on social media. The longer it goes on, the less we see about it. I would like to call on everyone here. I am certain you are doing your utmost to get the news out there and share it among your peers, even those who are not interested in politics. We have to do our part. Ukraine is fighting for us. The only way we can help is continuously speaking about this and giving support to Ukraine. This is the only way to win the war. Slava Ukraini!

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) thanks all organisations and promises we would do more for our Ukrainian friends.

12. Finances

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

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

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) states that there are two requests for reduction of membership fees. These are from **Nowoczesna Youth** and **Liberal Democratic Youth – North Macedonia (LIDEM)**.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) gives the floor to **Liberal Democratic Youth – North Macedonia (LIDEM)** for a short report. As no one takes the floor, he suggests going to a vote.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) asks people to put themselves on the speakers' list for any comments. She announces that the vote is now open.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) closes the vote. The request for reduced membership for **Liberal Democratic Youth – North Macedonia (LIDEM)** is accepted.

Yes - 125

No - 3

Abstain - 30

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) moves on to **Nowoczesna Youth** and invites them to take the floor.

Florentyna Martynska (Nowoczesna Youth): I have been recently appointed as International Officer (IO). I hope some of you had the chance to read our detailed application paper. **Nowoczesna Youth** does not get any statutory funding. We don't have any staff, we don't have our own office, and every event or action we hold is partly or fully provided by our members' financial help, as we do not collect membership fees. This is about to change as we are soon opening a financial account. International events such as this one are funded by **Andrzej Prendke (Nowoczesna Youth)**. That is why we are able to be with you today. Due to these circumstances, I believe we should not be limited, because our financial difficulties are outside our competences. I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Tim Robinson (IMS): I would like to ask for clarification. Should the fee be reduced to 5 or 15 euros?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) clarifies they want it to be reduced to 5 euros.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) opens the vote for reduced membership for **Nowoczesna Youth**.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) closes the vote.

The reduced membership was accepted.

Yes - 135

No - 0

Abstain - 18

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) gives the floor back to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**.

b) Financial report 2021 (for decision)

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

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): It was a good year for LYMEC. We only had one Congress and the website was much cheaper than what we planned. There are still 3 membership fees from 2021 that have not been paid. The debts are stable. There were not too many opportunities for fundraising in 2021, as the ALDE Congress did not take place, but we'll be able to do more this year. We can move to a vote on the annual financial report. If you have any questions on it, please take the floor.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Before we open a point on the agenda, you can already put yourself on the speakers' list. It might speed up the whole process. She gives the floor to **Phil Hackemann (JuLis)**.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): I have a question about the spendings. LYMEC is spending a lot on hotels. Is there a chance to reduce the spendings on hotels? I saw that in one of your Bureau minutes that you are planning to spend 5000 euros for a Bureau hotel for the ALDE Congress, which is quite expensive. Could we maybe go to a cheaper hostel?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): I am not sure what you saw. The hotel cost depends on Renew Europe who organises our Congresses and big spendings directly go from Renew to the hotel. A few months ago, we didn't know there would be a financial setback which implies we have to re-evaluate our finances. There is a lot in between. Yes, Congresses could be cheaper. For Dublin, that is a big amount and Dublin is crazy expensive. We were lucky that we booked way in advance and got it for a decent price. It is true that we might cut back on some of the comforts of LYMEC events. This is something the next Treasurer might take into account.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) reminds the delegates that the vote is open and they can vote on OpenSlides.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) indicates that the report is approved.

Yes - 183

No - 0

Abstain - 0

c) Interim financial report January-April 2022 (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): This is about the last few months - the first part of 2022. Some questions about it were already raised. As you might have heard, the Erasmus+ operating grant which provided LYMEC with 50.000 euros per year was not allocated to LYMEC this year. They increased the amount of the grant significantly, but the total budget remained the same in the envelope. Less organisations are able to get more money. We made the proposal and got more or less a score of 72 points out of 100, which is usually enough to receive the grant. This time we didn't manage to get the grant and are 4 points down. This is a big setback for LYMEC. We can apply again next year. LYMEC can handle this situation now, but if we keep losing money and not receiving this grant, then we might need to cut some of our structural costs. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach & Cooperation Officer)** and I have been working hard in the European Youth Forum (YFJ), as many organisations have also been hit by this. We have been working with them as well as with the EU Commission. It is outrageous to kick out most of the EU youth organisations from receiving the grant this year, taking in some others which do not necessarily focus on youth, especially given that it is the European Year of the Youth. We will see what we can do to influence the European Commission. I hope me or the next Treasurer can bring some news to you regarding this topic. It is important to make sure we get back into the lead group, preferably getting more money in the envelope to make sure more youth organisations can apply. We are also working more on the definition of a youth organisation. This is in a nutshell the Erasmus+ situation. This has impacted the budget for this year. Only in April or May you know if you get the money for the whole year. This is why at the beginning of the year we planned the budget taking into account the money of this grant. On a brighter topic, we now have the Project Assistant as a full-time employee.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) addresses **Abram Guido Pieter von Backer's (JOVD)** question.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): You asked us what you can do to help. Maybe your organisations have experience in applying for Erasmus grants or other European grants. Please get in touch. Maybe you could help us with proofreading and deliver better applications in the future.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) moves on to the internal audit report and gives the floor to **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)**.

d) Internal audit report (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) gives the floor to **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)**.

Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor): I am currently the Internal Auditor of LYMEC. Unfortunately, **Jeffrey Drui (Internal Auditor)** could not be here. We conducted an internal audit this February in Brussels. We made three observations on the following topics: personnel, approvals and internal auditors. The points are explicitly explained in the report. More proof and record keeping is needed and the role of internal auditors needs to be made more certain as there are conflicting statements in our statutes. Without further ado, I would like to sincerely thank you all for the last three years. Thank you to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** and **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**. It has been really fun at times for people like me who like going into numbers. Thank you to **Sanda Krekikj (Lidem)** who did internal audits with me. I hope I can continue to work with this organisation in the future.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) thanks **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)** for the report. Nobody wishes to take the floor. There is no vote on this point.

e) Revised Budget 2022 (for decision)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Since we didn't get the Erasmus grant, a hole had to be filled within our budget. We did not look for a complete balance in the budget. We have been saving and growing our reserves over the last few years. It is when you have fall backs that you should use reserves to soften the blow. One of the things we have decided on is to do the Congresses with fewer of our own resources. We will spend less on Bureau expenses such as meetings. There will be no LYMEC Project Fund for the next Bureau. There are extra taxes for the new Project Assistant that we hired to also take into account. The ALDE Party grant was increased by 15,000 euros to 100,000 euros so thanks to ALDE we get more money there.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) asks people to put themselves on the speakers' list if they were against the Revised Budget for 2022. Nobody is against it so the Revised Budget is approved. She gives the floor to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**.

The Revised Budget 2022 was accepted by the Congress.

f) External Audit report (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): There was a report and it was on the website. That is all I have to add.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) announces that the speakers' list is available. Nobody adds themselves to the list so the speakers' list is closed.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) reminds the Congress that tomorrow we will start at 9:00 am sharp. It has been indicated on OpenSlides. If you miss the roll call you have no possibility to retrieve your votes until after lunch. She invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take a group picture in front of the Ukrainian flag with all participants.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) stresses that the Congress is now **closed at 19 h 00 CEST** for the first day.

Day 2: Saturday, 21st of May 2022

The day starts at 09 h 00 CEST (Prague time).

Keith Henry (Chair) opens the day and welcomes everyone back to the Congress and reminds everyone to put their names on OpenSlides if they want to take the floor.

Roll Call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** and **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

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
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	4
Croatia	MHL	5
Croatia	Mladi HNS	5
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu	0
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	Atīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	0
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3
Moldova	Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)	0
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	3
The Netherlands	JOVD	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	5
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	0
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
		207
	Simple majority of those present	103,5
	Two thirds of present	138

There were 207 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Youth Forum of Naša stranka**
- **Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu**
- **Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)**

13. Membership issues

a. Applications for Associate Membership

Keith Henry (Chair) explains that there are two applications for Associate Membership at this Congress. He reminds applicants that they have 5 minutes to present their case.

Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine applies for Associate Membership.

Keith Henry (Chair) invites **Oleksandr Sanchenko (Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine)** to present the application of **Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine** for Associate Membership.

Oleksandr Sanchenko (Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine): It is really great to see everyone in the room. We feel ourselves first of all that there is a platform of opportunities for young people in Ukraine and we feel like a community. There is a sense of community together under the idea of the Ukrainian President who feels he could soon be the leader of the nation. We launched our organisation on the 13 March of the previous year but we have done a lot of work lately. The previous year we have built our structure to have a national and regional team in the districts. During this period, we are the biggest party in Ukraine and have the opportunity to communicate with members at different levels. We have over 5000 participants and representatives from all over the districts and over 103 leaders in the community. We are focusing on working on youth policy issues, creating educational, cultural and ecological projects. We had more than 1000 youth projects in 2021. The thing that differs from us and other organisations is that we focus on project creation. The President acts as a role model for us as he created some smaller projects which became bigger and then he became President which we believe in as well. We show our members how to create change on a local level. It is a personal thing on my level. We have adopted district culture in the law. The big action is the ecological part that we are doing through both small and large projects like planting trees, collecting trash and blood donations. We began our first steps within the international field by engaging with more than 15 embassies around the world and

LYMEC is important to help us communicate. We had a project focus which may now have been implemented if not for the war. Since the war, humanitarian support has been carried out in all the regions to the civilians, armed forces and to internal refugees in the different regions. Part of our team is at the regional and city level but some of our members are fighting to defend Ukraine on the frontline. Our big dream is to unite changemakers and we feel ourselves like liberals and we are sure we have something to learn from you and share our experiences with you. Look at the President of Ukraine who says everything is possible. Thank you.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks **Oleksandr Sanchenko (Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds delegates that we only take questions from OpenSlides. He asks participants to join the speakers' list. Nobody joins so the speakers' list is closed.

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

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

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the membership of Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine.

Keith Henry (Chair) proceeds to a vote and reminds everyone that an absolute majority is needed.

Vote on Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine Associate membership

For- 188

Against- 3

Abstain- 9

Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine is accepted as an associate member organisation of LYMEC by a wide majority. Congratulations!

Oleksandr Sanchenko (Ze!Molodizhka Ukraine): I don't know what to say. Thank you for your support and the support from Europe. From our side, we will do everything to be most efficient in your family.

We are really interested in structuring our organisation. We believe Ukraine will win the war. After we win the war, the youth wing will be more powerful. Thank you! Let's work together. Slava Ukraini!

Youth of Democratic Alignment Cyprus applies for Associate membership.

Keith Henry (Chair) invites **Michalis Ioannou (NEODEPA)** to present the application of **Youth of Democratic Alignment Cyprus - NEODEPA** for Associate Membership.

Michalis Ioannou (NEODEPA): Dear Delegates and fellow liberals, I would like to thank you for the invitation and opportunity to be part of the liberal family. We have submitted our application to be involved in LYMEC. We were established on 15 February 2022 when we elected our first President and temporary committee. We have been growing our network in Cyprus and online by reaching out to young people. We are in the process of creating our student organisations which encompasses like-minded Europeans from all over the world. Our mother party is a member of ALDE and the European Parliament. Two of our board members have participated in the 2022 Alliance Of Her programme. We are firmly committed to joining LYMEC and the liberal family. We want to end the illegal Turkish occupation of 37 percent of Cyprus and to achieve the unification of its people and its land. It is imperative to voice on such a prestigious stage that the future of Cyprus should be harmonious with all ethnic groups on our multicultural island. We should protect human rights. The second pillar is a universally guaranteed set of rights, not limited to freedom of speech. We want no discrimination, fair, quick and efficient access to justice, and free education from primary school to university. Achieving this practical standard will help us absolve ourselves from things of the past and place our youth in a more hopeful future. The third pillar focuses on investment in our future. We recognise that for our future to be bright, we are the ones who must shed a light on future generations. We support the European Green Deal and e-governance. We are firmly opposed to any form of expansionist policies. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. We believe in investing in our great European family by strengthening the EU and cooperation in our country. We hope to stand beside you in building a more liberal LYMEC and future of Europe. Thank you.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks **Michalis Ioannou (NEODEPA)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds participants that we only take questions from OpenSlides. Nobody has any questions so the speakers' list is closed. He invites the Bureau to make their recommendation. He thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress to a closed session to discuss the membership application of **Youth**

of **Democratic Alignment Cyprus**. 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 Prague and move to a breakout room online.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the membership of Youth of Democratic Alignment Cyprus.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks the Congress and opens the vote.

Vote on Youth of Democratic Alignment Cyprus Associate membership

For- 184

Against- 0

Abstain- 6

Youth of Democratic Alignment Cyprus is accepted as an Associate Member organisation of LYMEC. Congratulations!

Michalis Ioannou (NEODEPA): I would like to thank you very much for bringing us into the family. Thank you to **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer)** for helping us with our application. The hard work starts now.

b. Applications for Full Membership

Keith Henry (Chair) explains that there are three applications for Full Membership at this Congress.

Movement for Youth! Latvia applies for Full Membership.

Keith Henry (Chair) invites **Jēkabs Kārlis Rasnačs (Movement for Youth! Latvia)** to present the application of **Movement for Youth! Latvia** for Full Membership.

Jēkabs Kārlis Rasnačs (Movement for Youth! Latvia): We are a nation of many, not just some. I will talk about our achievements. At the moment, we consist of 34 members. In the last two years the number of members has doubled. We are a new youth organisation which was founded in 2020. We have mostly

participated online. Since 2021, we have organised 4 Instagram Live discussions, 16 Facebook live discussions, protests, and have been featured in the media five times. We conducted about 3 protests about Russian involvement in Ukraine. We have organised Belarus democracy movement protests. When it comes to activism online, we spoke about mental health, LGBTQI+ rights and we also discussed a lot about modern education systems, something which we see as one of the key things to improve the prosperity of the country ourselves. We created a discussion circle with around 10 discussions a year to discuss what needs to be improved in our education system. We spoke about women's rights and about the situation in Afghanistan and the Taliban controlled territories. Moving on to Key achievements. One of our biggest achievements was creating the Freedom School. It was an event which we made popular online. We would gather many young people who were disinterested in social activism and politics, educate them and introduce them to our mother party. We organised it in our capital city to gather more members to join our youth wing. As I mentioned previously, we attracted new members. We have working groups on social cohesion, sustainability and foreign affairs. We are associate members in European Liberal Youth. Thank you for your attention.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks **Jēkabs Kārlis Rasnačs (Movement for Youth! Latvia)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds participants that we only take questions from OpenSlides. The speakers' list was closed as there were no questions. **Keith Henry (Chair)** thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress into a closed session to discuss the membership application of **Movement for Youth! Latvia**. 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 Prague and move to a breakout room online.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the membership of Movement for Youth! Latvia.

Vote on Movement for Youth! Latvia Full membership

For- 170

Against- 17

Abstain- 10

Movement for Youth! Latvia is accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC. Congratulations!

Jēkabs Kārlis Rasnačs (Movement for Youth! Latvia): Thanks the Congress.

Youth Democratic Movement Vesna Russia applies for Full Membership.

Keith Henry (Chair) invites **Timotey Gorodilov (Vesna Youth Movement)** to present the application of **Youth Democratic Movement Vesna Russia** for Full Membership.

Timotey Gorodilov (Vesna Youth Movement): We have belonged here since 2016. We are already an Associate Member and are a member of IFLRY. We were created in St. Petersburg where freedoms in Russia were being squeezed and there was growing authoritarianism. We participated in elections and have 84 members. 40 percent are in Russia and the rest have moved abroad since the war. We have several cities where we are active with our five branches.

Mariia Lakhina (Vesna Youth Movement): The most important thing for us is an anti-war liberal Ukraine. We are pro-European and pro LGBTQI+ rights. Talking about the war, we totally understand that applying for Full Membership being from Russia could seem a bit weird at the time. I cannot express how shaken we have been since February 24, 2022. When we woke up in a country starting a war, the only thing we could do was to try to stop it. Under an authoritarian regime, what we can do has been limited. We have organised street actions such as performances and rallies. We have created a lot of petitions, open addresses, and we have tried to educate the people. We produced a lot of anti-war propaganda. Here are some images to show that not everybody in Russia supports the terrible things that have been done.

Vasily Neustroev (Vesna Youth Movement): There are two criminal cases which our members are involved in. One is for terrorism and another is for creating an NGO that violates civil rights. Russian criminal law is used for distraction but now it has been used for political repressions. Here you can see on the pictures someone under-home detention who is under investigation now.

Mariia Lakhina (Vesna Youth Movement): We hope to continue to develop our organisation and to promote human rights in Russia. Thank you!

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks the speakers and opens the floor for questions. He reminds delegates that we only take questions from OpenSlides. He thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress in a closed session to discuss the membership application of **Vesna Youth Movement**. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

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

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the membership of Youth Democratic Movement Vesna Russia.

Vote on Youth Democratic Movement Vesna Russia Full membership

For- 175

Against- 6

Abstain- 16

**Youth Democratic Movement Vesna Russia is accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC.
Congratulations!**

Timotey Gorodilov (Vesna Youth Movement): Thank you very much to the Congress.

Young Liberal Greens Switzerland applies for Full Membership.

Keith Henry (Chair) invites **Virginie Cavalli (Young Liberal Greens Switzerland)** to present the application of **Young Liberal Greens Switzerland** for Full Membership.

Virginie Cavalli (Young Liberal Greens Switzerland): Dear delegates, dear members of the Bureau, dear presidency, dear liberal friends. Today I am honoured to introduce you to the **Young Liberal Greens Switzerland**. I will say a few words about our organisation, who we are and if you want to speak about the Swiss political system after the presentation, I can do it later as it is a complex system. In a world where populism is rampant, it is important that liberal forces unite more than ever. Firstly, how we are organised and who we are. We are the youth of the Green Liberal Party which was founded in 2007. We, as the youth of this party, were founded in 2016. That is very young for the Swiss political world which makes us the new kids on the block. Originally, we were a small group of passionate volunteers and then we grew up very fast and are now numbering more than 3000 members. We have a Bureau which is the managing organ of our organisation. We have a co-presidency, where I am co-president with one of my colleagues from the Swiss-German part. We have a Secretary-General, the only person who is paid in our organisation, and a steering committee with representatives of the cantons. The general assembly is our supreme organ which makes all important political decisions. We have working

groups who work for them. We speak four languages officially in Switzerland and we have united national parties and that's why we always like to represent the French and German speaking parts of Switzerland in the presidency, which are the biggest minorities. Politically speaking, our focus is on being green and liberal. It is a unique case in Europe. It is possible to have an ecological accession which does not fight against the economy. They have to work together, and the economy needs to be involved liberally in the green transition. The party has the possibility to build coalitions and it is important to have parties like us in Swiss politics. We were fighting a lot for agreements with the EU and kept pressure on the government to have good relations with Europe. We are a centre party and hope to keep good relations between right and left. We recruit talents and vote four times a year in Switzerland. We also host referendums.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks **Virginie Cavalli (Young Liberal Greens Switzerland)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds participants that we only take questions from OpenSlides.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): Thank you for the presentation. I was reading your mission statement and I would ask you to define your individual responsibility in healthcare.

Virginie Cavalli (Young Liberal Greens Switzerland): The cost of healthcare in Switzerland is exceedingly high and we have a role to find out how to reduce it. It costs a lot for the working class and it means we have to pay a lot. For healthcare, I have to pay almost 20 percent of my income every month. It could not increase indefinitely as my income would not support that.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Vice-President): Point of order: Please don't leave the room while we are voting/discussing membership applications.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress into a closed session to discuss the membership application of **Young Liberal Greens Switzerland**. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

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

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the membership of Young Liberal Greens Switzerland.

Vote on Young Liberal Greens Switzerland Full membership

For- 189

Against- 3

Abstain- 0

Young Liberal Greens Switzerland is accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC.

Congratulations!

Virginie Cavalli (Young Liberal Greens Switzerland): Thank you very much from all of our members. We are honoured to integrate into the young liberal family of Europe

c. Suspensions

Keith Henry (Chair) explains that there is one proposed suspension and gives the floor to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to explain the situation of **UDI Jeunes** from France.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Two years ago we suspended them for not being in contact or paying their membership fee. They paid their debts and then disappeared again. We propose to suspend them and not to have them build up more debt.

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

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): It does not mean that they are no longer members of LYMEC. Their membership is temporarily put on hold until they come back and pay.

Vote on the suspension of UDI Jeunes

For - 176

Against - 5

Abstentions - 8

The Congress accepted the suspension of UDI Jeunes

Keith Henry (Chair): We are taking a short coffee break and see you in 15 minutes for the roll call.

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

Roll Call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant) and Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee). Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General) reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say “PRESENT” when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

	Full Members	Roll call 3 Saturday after the new E
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	
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	4
Croatia	MHL	5
Croatia	Mladi HNS	5
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu	
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustopiskelijat (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	Atisibai Youth	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3
Moldova	Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)	
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	3
The Netherlands	JOVD	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	5
Romania	USR Tineret	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
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	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
		219
	Simple majority of those present	109,5
	Two thirds of present	146
	Simple majority of those present without abstentions	

There were 219 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Youth Forum of Naša stranka**
- **Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu**
- **Liberal Youth Moldova (OTL)**

d. Disaffiliations

Keith Henry (Chair) explains that there is one proposed disaffiliation and gives the floor to **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer)** to explain the situation of **Young Liberals Greece**.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer): It is a very sensitive topic. I would ask for respect and understanding in this conversation. I know it came quite suddenly to people but I am here to explain. Traditionally, we rely on members on the ground to explain what happens but I am living in Greece, I was at the event and I saw in first-person what happened. We have one full member organisation who joined us last year. I personally promoted it and I stood in front of you last year giving a positive recommendation when they received over 90 percent of the vote. What happened last November is that due to an internal crisis, the organisation got split in two. Half of the organisation roughly went with the previous International Officer (IO) who became President, **Theodoros Sofianos (Young Liberals Greece)**, while the other half stayed with the former President, **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)** who became IO. The half that went with **Theodoros Sofianos (Young Liberals Greece)**, had their own General Assembly and Congress on 8th January where they elected their new leadership and amended the statutes. **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)** developed a caretaker board until they had a Congress on 18 March. During this period she also legalised the organisation under her leadership so there was a change in legal status of the organisation. Basically now we have two organisations, both had their own Congress, both sent an email to LYMEC claiming to be the representatives of **Young Liberals Greece** and we cannot claim anymore that the organisation that joined LYMEC last year is the same one that is in existence now as we have two. Our proposal is to put forward their disaffiliation so that each of them have the opportunity to reconcile or separate to see what their future is nationally. They could potentially present their applications as associate members of LYMEC in the future and start afresh after these troubled times.

Keith Henry (Chair): Both representatives have five minutes to present the situation. They are joining us online.

Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece): Dear friends, good morning. Unfortunately our organisation is not present in Prague with all of you due to unfortunate disagreements which I will share with you now. Over the last months of 2021, the Board had decided to conduct re-elections. The process was delayed due to disputes about the rules of elections. Some members were ultimately trying to convince the Board to change the statutes and voting rights of members days before the election. The statutes which we were elected to LYMEC must unquestionably stay the same. Many people may say we were not a legal entity but the whole credibility and future of the organisation is to be transparent. Despite the fact we had agreed on dates of the re-elections, these disagreements did not allow for us to proceed properly. This group of people had online elections, chose an electoral committee without any authority, did not inform the membership of their election and went against the statutes. At that period, we had 80 members and only 9 called for a re-election. Finally, on the 19 March the electoral committee called for re-elections. Despite the previous miscommunication and disagreements, we decided to invite everyone to discuss our disputes and agree on a way forward. The other group did not reply to our messages and did not seek further cooperation. We cannot agree with the disaffiliation of the organisation as a whole due to some members leaving and using our name and work. We urge for your support as we are young members without a mother political party in the turbulent Greek political space. We do not wish to promote hard feelings. We are all young liberals and we want the best for our organisation but have different opinions on how it can be achieved. It is time to stick by the legal statutes and I am willing to answer all your questions. Thank you.

Keith Henry (Chair) gives the floor to **Theodoros Sofianos (Young Liberals Greece)**.

Theodoros Sofianos (Young Liberals Greece): I am really happy to be with you even in unfortunate circumstances. Having to disaffiliate a project me and **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)** have been working together on for two and a half years, feels like getting stabbed in the heart with a knife. The situation got so bad so fast. The situation with the previous board was very problematic. Only 2-3 people were very active. We were recipients of great external forces from our partners, not youth nor liberal, putting an extra burden on our backs not allowing us to find a solution. The 80 members **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)** argued about are 14 full members as of late December who had a right to vote according to our statutes that were submitted to LYMEC. Of the 17 full members, two had quit and one was over age. Out of this, 10 people supported my petition for an urgent general assembly and elections. There is a great file, both in size and content, that the LYMEC office has, talking about why what we did was completely legitimate. What **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)** failed to remind you is that on 31 December, New Year's Eve, I received an email saying that I would be expelled from the organisation from a general assembly that was called at 11 in the morning and I should come

with a defence about alleged accusations that were never there. This fictional move, sci-fi and self-proclaimed general assembly finished in 3 hours. It decided I should be expelled from the organisation. From then on, I had no will to fight for that so I tried to do what the statutes said. I got these 11 members together with new members and we decided to have a legitimate general assembly 10 days after that one. Since then we have grown a lot, gained new members and partnered up with the largest student liberal party. We created a big protest in favour of Ukraine which gathered around 6000 people and was covered by the media. We became partners with the biggest think tank in Greece (KeFim) that supports liberalism and who is a member of the ELF. We have received confidence and support from Liberal Alliance and Volt Greece and all the big liberal and centrist parties in Greece. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) agreed to support us in the next year and I have written confirmation of that in case you are uncertain about this. It may seem like two parties are arguing against each other. I can assure you that this issue ends today. On a personal note I can say that the issue has been partially resolved with **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)** as we are talking to one another but not about the issue. In any case, my part of the organisation will move forward with a rebranding and a new legal status, hopefully with your help. Thank you for your time and I am open for questions.

Keith Henry (Chair) opens the floor for questions.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer): We are not deciding who is legitimate, we are deciding if we want to keep them as one full member with the both suspended until they figure out or disaffiliate them so that they can apply in the future as one or as two individual Member Organisations.

Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY): This has been an issue which has been brought up in IFLRY and discussed. IFLRY believes in the same approach as LYMEC and will discuss at our next general assembly to expel them and give them the opportunity to reapply as IFLRY should not have a say in the internal politics of member organisations.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom): A question to the Bureau or speakers. How many people are there on each side?

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer): From those 14 full members, 13 went to **Theodoros Sofianos (Young Liberals Greece)**, while the majority of associate members went with **Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece)**.

Eleni Siapikoudi (Young Liberals Greece): If I am not wrong, the number presented by **Theodoros Sofianos (Young Liberals Greece)** is not correct. I can't agree on that. The people represented here on the new board are around 30.

Theodoros Sofianos (Young Liberals Greece): The majority of full members joined me with 10 other associate members. We are 50 people plus some new faces.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom): That answers my question, I hope you find a solution. Thank you to the Bureau for your approach.

Keith Henry (Chair): We are going to enter into a closed session now.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the disaffiliation of Young Liberals Greece.

Vote on the disaffiliation of Young Liberals Greece:

For- 180

Against - 8

Abstentions - 19

The Congress accepts the disaffiliation of Young Liberals Greece.

Keith Henry (Chair): The Congress has voted to disaffiliate **Young Liberals Greece**. We wish you the best for the future. We can move on to the next agenda point.

14. Discharge of the Bureau, IFLRY representative and internal auditors

Congress approves the discharge of previous positions.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks the previous Bureau Members, Internal Auditors and LYMEC Representative of IFLRY for their work and announces the beginning of a new chapter.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Before moving onto the elections, I want to remind you to respect all the delegates who take the floor.

15. Elections of the Bureau Members

Keith Henry (Chair) opens the agenda point emphasising that each candidate will have a short presentation for the position they are running for followed by questions from the delegates.

Keith Henry (Chair) gives the floor to the different candidates. Every candidate will have 3 minutes.

Presentations of the candidates:

President

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LUF): Dear friends, I stand here before you to get your support. I want to lead this organisation because for those who don't know, I was born in Moldova, moved to Ukraine and then to Sweden. This taught me what it means to be part of a Europe made of freedom, but I have also experienced what it is like to live in countries outside of Europe and NATO. We in LYMEC always try to defend every citizen's right to love and live the way they want. We are an organisation of great ideas, but I also know we have room for improvement and that the ideas we have are being discussed in forums like these. If elected, I want to bring our policies out to our partners, to something concrete. We have friends in Renew, ALDE, ELF and other friends who would be glad to make our ideas become reality. I would like to be our representative. Our mother parties ask us to be their partners and be examples of young people in politics, but I think they could really help us to actually make our ideas a reality. As President, I want to contribute to LYMEC's future. I would also like to focus on making new members more active. I have already discussed with our partners about having more events which are not only based on discussion, but also on concrete outcomes that make us feel like we have contributed to something. We are very ambitious here. I have been here for almost 4 years and I have never had any regrets. This is what I want to dedicate myself to. If you agree with me, please support my candidacy.

Keith Henry (Chair): There are no questions, thank you **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LUF)** for your presentation. The votes will start now and remain open until the end of lunchtime.

Vice-President

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): Thank you very much. I could tell you a long story of how I was a liberal in a conservative setting, how I became active or passionate about EU politics. What I want you to know is that my main motivation is change. If I get elected, I want to actively support the President, the Bureau and Secretariat to make change and reflect it in your MOs. I have had the opportunity to work with you in the past and I still want to cooperate with you and go even beyond what is required sometimes. I talked to some of you about my ideas. I want to preserve our diversity which makes us really strong. I promise that if you give me your support I will do everything to make LYMEC more future proof, accessible and politically impactful. I would love to get your support in the next two years as Vice-President.

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): Dear liberal friends, In the last two years I have been lucky enough to play an active part in the professionalisation of LYMEC as your Treasurer. In Dublin in 2 weeks, LYMEC will celebrate its 45th birthday, and we can be proud of the progress we made. However, there

is still a lot to do to make sure LYMEC's voice can not be ignored at the next European elections. But more importantly, to make sure that LYMEC will be around for another 45 years. For that, we will have to be willing to make structural reforms. I believe my experience as a Treasurer has thoroughly prepared me for this. Despite the difficult situation you heard about yesterday, -assuming you were all listening- LYMEC is moving forward. For the first time we hired a second full-time employee in the office. This is not only a huge step for LYMEC as a professional organisation, it also comes with a great responsibility for us as a Bureau. Because not many people realise that the LYMEC Bureau is actually an employer, and that this comes with certain duties. We have a duty to make sure our employees can develop themselves in their jobs, we have a duty to do everything we can to take care of their mental and physical wellbeing. And we have a duty to make sure that they are treated equally. I can safely say that in none of these areas LYMEC is currently in danger, but we can do more to ensure that we stay on the clear side. That is why I want to provide, depending on our financial situation, a budget for professional training for the office. Not just to increase the professionalism of LYMEC, but also for our employees self-development goals. On top of that, I want to organise frequent meetings between me and our employees to hear directly from them how they are feeling in their job and what we can do as a Bureau to make their lives easier. They workdays, nights and weekends out of a deep love for this organisation, but that means that we as Bureau should never take their hard work for granted. Even though I believe the internal side should be the main priority of any Vice-President, I also have some ideas on how LYMEC can become more relevant on the political stage. I want to use the new way the office is structured to improve our political communication, and I hope to use the increased training possibilities to equip the office for some of these responsibilities in return for other tasks. On top of that, we need to be bolder. We are a youth organisation, and we should behave like one. Not defending the status quo but challenging it. We shouldn't fear what others will say of us, they should fear us for what we'll say about them. We will have to be more vocal if LYMEC's voice is to be heard and staying silent is not an option. Because if there is one thing that Ukraine has shown us, it's that a united, liberal Europe is worth fighting for.

Questions to the candidates:

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): My question is for both the candidates. What is the greatest future challenge according to you and do you personally believe you can further integrate the MOs into lobbying processes?

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten) Thank you. A few weeks ago the biggest challenge was the secretariat reform, especially for the Vice-President. I have told you that new challenges have come to us like the operating grant from the EU Commission. As regards the second question, there are many

ways we can perceive integration. IOs can get a proper introduction to regional representatives and make sure they attend our events.

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): I agree with **Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten)** on lobbying for a solution for the operating grant. This is a big issue for a lot of organisations. This is the internal most pressing issue. In two years there will be EU elections and from an external perspective, LYMEC should encourage young people to actually consider running for elections and make those people seen on the ALDE and Renew stages. As for integrating more MOs, I think taking advantage of digital tools can make events more accessible and encourage people to be active. This is a way of involving people more.

Keith Henry (Chair): tells the delegates to get off the WiFi for better connection and invites them to take the floor for questions.

Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): We can all agree we have two really good candidates. I want to ask you both which qualities are you going to bring and how are they going to help you in your mission?

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): I don't want to talk about how I am better than **Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten)** but of course we are very different people. My strongest quality is experience with other MOs, and I would like to use it to coordinate with other youth organisations to have an impact when lobbying. I would like to be this link. As Vice-President, you are also responsible to work with the Bureau and make sure the work is smooth and everyone is feeling safe. I have the compassion to work with everyone and make the next Bureau even nicer than this one.

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): I agree with you, we both have our assets. I am very aware of all the internal processes of LYMEC. It is always good to have an extra pair of eyes on the finances and I was involved in the staff as well in terms of the HR side of things. I think the internal process should be the first priority, focusing on how LYMEC works internally and how LYMEC is represented to the outside world.

Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten NL): Which quality do you appreciate more in the other?

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten) It's been an absolute pleasure working with **Ines Holzegger (JUNOS)**. I have loved the last few weeks of the campaign. It has been one of the cleanest LYMEC

campaigns. She has done an amazing job in the Bureau, and we have worked together on lobbying in the European Youth Forum.

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten) is extremely reliable. I also appreciate his humour. He is very fun to work with and when you get to know him, he is even funnier.

Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative): What is your liberal spirit animal and why?

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): It is a penguin as I am sometimes a bit clumsy, and it has happened on multiple occasions that I ran into glass doors. I think a bird is kind of liberal.

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): I am going to go with the platypus because I live on the land but feel comfortable in the water. They make really great spies.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom): It warms my heart to see you two running for this position. You have done a great job, but only one of you is going to win. In case you don't, would you like to participate in LYMEC activities, or would you still like to be active?

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): I have done a lot with this organisation, and I would still like to contribute as much as possible.

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): LYMEC is very close to my heart but of course it is up to the new Bureau about what types of participation there are. I would not stay away for long.

Keith Henry (Chair) opens the vote and said it will be closed after lunch.

Treasurer

Tuuli Helind (ERPYP): I have just been discharged as a LYMEC Internal Auditor. I have grown up in an extremely political household. I grew up in Estonia and in 2021 I had the opportunity to work in politics in Brussels. Now I work in the European Parliament for the Renew Europe group. As a Treasurer, I think LYMEC has to go on with digitalisation and keep digital files. I would like to continue **Marten Porte's (Jonge Democraten)** work, and as he said, we need to support our employees as LYMEC is now part of people's livelihoods. I want to digitalise our financial protocols and delete parts that go against each other. I would also like to mention the role of the Internal Auditors. It is very relevant to the organisation. Let's make this role even more beneficial for LYMEC.

Questions to the candidates:

Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative): What is your liberal spirit animal and why?

Tuuli Helind (ERPYP): I have a golden retriever back home in Estonia so I am going with that. I love animals, especially dogs and golden retrievers.

Bureau Members

Laila Comerma (JNC): Dear liberal friends, we have become more digital, active and liberal than ever before. We managed the COVID crisis successfully. I have organised the first Alliance of Her Youth Academy so that women can be empowered to change the world for better. I am asking for your support to become LYMEC Policy Officer. I have taken part in all policy related actions over the past years. I want to shape LYMEC policies and pass resolutions at our Congresses. I want to make LYMEC become an important political stakeholder in Brussels. I want to make sure your contribution can jump from paper to reality. We will have events and meetings at the European Parliament to lobby the relevant MEPs. We can make partners and give you the visibility you deserve. We want to make our resolutions and amendments compatible with EU law. We need to communicate our policies better and make them sexy to reach out to the right audience such as young people, not only politicians. We want to give your organisations a deeper policy comprehension and more research. If you want me to be your next Policy Officer and your go-to for policies, please vote for me. Dreams don't work unless you do.

Cristian Preoteasa-Maier (USR Tineret): It is a pleasure to be here. I love the fact that these elections are in Prague, an important city which has a similar history to Ukraine. We are the next generation of liberals who want to make things happen. We must be able to stay here and fight. One more thing is what makes me a liberal. Luckily, I had examples in my family. People become liberals thanks to examples they have. We need to push for the next generation of liberal politicians who have a voice. I would like for you to give me your vote. We are close to 2024 and we need to prepare for the next EU elections. I am looking forward to seeing that. I hope I can be the Bureau member that can represent you.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): Dear liberal friends, when I was in Paris for the last Congress I decided I wanted to run for the Bureau and I knew when I arrived that I made the right decision. LYMEC has an important role in Europe in times of war, pain and sorrow. In these times of the post-pandemic, we know that young people are suffering and gender equality has had a huge setback. In LYMEC, we don't compromise for human rights. I want to ensure LYMEC is vocal in Europe. I want it to have an even stronger voice. Communication is key. I would like to increase transparency and make sure external communications run smoothly. I want to work to increase LYMEC awareness, for strong engagement,

for a clear course of action. I believe it is important that LYMEC is visible and has a clear political agenda. I want to support our MOs and their work on a national level. I believe I have the experience it takes to be a good Bureau Member. I hope you can put your trust in me.

Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS): Dear friends, dear family, I stand here as a LYMEC IMS. The community of people around me is my pride. You motivate me to believe in what I do and fight. LYMEC was always part of that huge community for me. The ultimate sacrifice people make because they have no other choice is something that should motivate any liberal member. If elected, I want to dig into the LYMEC structure and I wish to run for Outreach and Cooperation Officer. I believe in the future of LYMEC because I believe in the liberal family where members believe in each other. I want us to be prepared for the next EU elections. I encourage and support more contributions from LYMEC members. Lobbying is not a task for only one person and the Bureau cannot do it alone. It is important to get things done. Do not vote for me only because I come from Ukraine. Being in the LYMEC Bureau means being European.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): I currently live in Paris and I work in the German parliament. I have been in LYMEC for two years, I am the editor in chief of Libertas and an IMS delegate. I would like to talk about sustainability. We have many resolutions on the topic, but no clear paths towards this direction. I would like to set up a working group with all of you to start practising what we preach. We should create a roadmap to help MOs to reduce their carbon footprint. We should increase the visibility of LYMEC. I want LYMEC to be a professional communicator. I want to see LYMEC on the news. We have amazing stories to tell and I want to set up close contact with the press. I want to introduce a minimum reaction time of 12 hours and to set up a truly European podcast. We should not only reach out to our own political family. MEPs from my region have already agreed to be part of it. We have so many members whose stories I would like to tell. Lets make our communication more professional.

Tanzer Yuseinov (Youth MRF): I am from YMRF and I am Vice President and IO of my organisation. I work in the financial department of a company in Sofia. We live in a world where everything is changing really fast. We have to be responsive and hard-working. For the past 10 years, I have been involved in politics and in LYMEC, I have a profound understanding of the organisation and I am ready to work to tackle all the problems that might show up in the future. I want to make LYMEC stronger and better.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): I am from Belgium and my first Congress was in 2018 in Vilnius. I met many of you and I learned a lot from you all. It has been a long journey. LYMEC gave me a lot and I want to pay back what LYMEC gave me. About my campaign, we have seen politics being more grassroots than ever before. People should be able to see us and reach out to us. It is hard to do so for those who are not involved in politics. Another factor is that we will have EU elections soon and it will be an

important moment for LYMEC. What the EU will decide will have a big impact on you. I propose accessible training programs for MOs. I want to create a pool of trainers and create a collaboration between the Bureau and MOs for more democratic training cycles. This is how we will make an impact.

Keith Henry (Chair): opens the floor for questions to the candidates.

Questions to the candidates:

Nicolas Vande Kerckhove (Jeunes MR): What is the one thing you would change in LYMEC?

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): I would introduce a focus on training. We need to be able to learn and improve. We need to reach our MOs.

Tanzer Yuseinov (Youth MRF): I agree with **Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR)**. Training is important, but we also need good funding for this. The financial situation is not that good, so we should work better with MEPs who have the budget.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): I want to make LYMEC more visible in the media. People need to learn about the things we do. I would like to establish close contacts with the press.

Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS): I would pay more attention to internal communication and cooperation.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): I want to reevaluate how we work on our communication and how we spread our ideas. I want to see more of our policies in our communications.

Cristian Preoteasa-Maier (USR Tineret): I would like to improve cooperation and see your faces more. I want to talk to you all because this is how we can grow together.

Laia Comerma (JNC): I want to make LYMEC an active policymaker.

Keith Henry (Chair): next question please.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): If you could only choose one, should LYMEC focus on communication and lobbying or cooperation with MOs and training?

Tanzer Yuseinov (Youth MRF): Training people so that more people can vote for LYMEC policies.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): The two points are intertwined. Communication is my priority.

Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS): They are totally connected, but without internal cohesion with MOs, you can't lobby.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): I agree with what has been said you can't have one without the other but I would say more the political side.

Cristian Preoteasa-Maier (USR Tineret): We have to communicate everything we do. Transparency is important as well. People need to know what we do.

Laia Comerma (JNC): If you start lobbying, you have something to show. This will increase the networking in our MOs too.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): Training is the main point for me.

Keith Henry (Chair): next question please.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): I have a question for you **Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR)** since you didn't reach out to us, I am happy to ask my question here. There are two questions. You are writing that you want to install informal and peer education, so I am asking you where don't we have that so far as many trainings are doing that already? How do you want to concretely develop the training programmes that we already have?

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): I started campaigning late because I want to be able to have the time to do the job because I think the worst thing that could happen is having someone present themselves to get elected, getting elected and not having the time to do the job. I asked myself if I had ideas and something to propose before running. I apologise that I haven't spoken to all of you but we have a lot of members. To answer your question, I am not saying that I don't believe in non-formal education, I am saying I want to go a step further in having our own members being able to train themselves and be trainers themselves. When it comes to politics and you want to engage with the youth, young people are the best equipped to do that.

Keith Henry (Chair): next question please.

Johannes Brill (LHG): I have a question for **Laia Comerma (JNC)** about the Alliance of Her. As you are a candidate, are you going to continue working on that project?

Laia Comerma (JNC): Hopefully we will be able to train women from all your MOs in the future, because we want to make this Academy a recurrent event.

Keith Henry (Chair): next question please.

Gijs Toussaint (Jonge Democraten NL): I have guided the members of my organisation with the application process for LYMEC events. It is frustrating to hear that some people have the feeling LYMEC is not accessible enough and they are discouraged because they feel they are not enough. What can the next Bureau members do to avoid that?

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): I think it is important that we highlight the cool things about LYMEC. Each and every one of us needs to be vocal and active about it in our personal lives. We need to include more people in our working groups. My idea about the 'sustainability working group' is that I want to include experts in the IMS. We need to make the working groups more accessible from the outside.

Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS): Personal connection is the key. This means more transparency to reach out to MOs individually. Not all MOs can be equally represented at LYMEC events, so members do not have the same level of knowledge about LYMEC.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): It is sad to hear people do not feel good enough for LYMEC events. We need to be transparent, state what is expected from you as a participant and communicate to MOs the knowledge they need. We should engage everyone equally.

Cristian Preoteasa-Maier (USR Tineret): Everytime there is an event we should communicate events and create a direct channel. Bureau members should become ambassadors for the events. We should create regional events for those who are discouraged by taking long flights.

Laia Comerma (JNC): From the policy side they can diversify the way that they participate. They could come to Brussels to meet with someone or people could provide some background research for policies or briefings. It is easier to jump inside once you make the first contact with LYMEC. It is a family you just can't get away from.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): We need to work on concrete things. We have experience as IOs but for new IOs the transition might be a bit rough. They are the new ambassadors of LYMEC in their MOs. We should also invest in the regional responsibility of each Bureau member. We should be able to tell them what is needed from them and make events more accessible.

Tanzer Yuseinov (Youth MRF): I agree with all the candidates. To make the events and opportunities for attending events accessible, we need to reach out to a broader audience so more people can apply. We need to have an easier application process. People need to answer too many questions and

sometimes they do not have the time nor are they competent enough to answer confidently in the application process.

Keith Henry (Chair): next question please.

Benjamin Fievét (IFLRY Representative): What is your liberal spirit animal and why?

Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS): A penguin because it is cute and huggable.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): A seal because they are friendly and cute and that is what I strive to be.

Cristian Preoteasa-Maier (USR Tineret): A turtle because in Transylvania we like to take our time and it managed to beat the rabbit so that is enough for me.

Laia Comerma (JNC): A horse because they are elegant, strong, persevering and subtle.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): A wolf because the strength of wolves is in the pack.

Tanzer Yuseinov (Youth MRF): A dog because they are loyal and friendly.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): A wolf because they are independent, they hunt in packs and are social and strong.

Keith Henry (Chair) proposes that in the interest of time, all three upcoming questions should be taken together.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): As for communication, you all have a lot of energy and promise. How do you want to ensure to reach the goals you stated before? What is your position towards a communication team?

Sandra Daniel (LUF): What should you push LYMEC to do globally if elected Bureau members?

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): Today we welcomed two completely new organisations in LYMEC and being in a bigger organisation can be somewhat underwhelming. What would you do to make these new organisations integrate as fast as they can?

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): I would do monthly follow-ups to be implemented in the Bureau in the field of communications. As for the communications team, I think it would spread the tasks better and become an asset for LYMEC.

Cristian Preoteasa-Maier (USR Tineret): We are talking a lot about human rights and how Europe should become the standard for human conditions. We should support the ban on Russian gas. We need to stop being hypocrites when it comes to setting standards. We want to be something new and a lot of people want to live here. I know how it is to be an MO and I love when people come and talk to me. We need to make new MOs welcome. I am more than happy to talk to you.

Laia Comerma (JNC): EU-China policies should be the priority for us on the global stage. The EU needs to use all the tools in its power so that we can stand as a global power in front of all the dictatorships around the world. We should also be the strongest partner for Ukraine. I am here to answer any questions.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): Integrating new MOs is also about participating in events. Seeing people only once every 6 months makes it harder to integrate. We have to push people to take part in our events. I also want to push people to be proud liberals and united by liberal values. We need to be proud of the EU.

Tanzer Yuseinov (Youth MRF): The EU should push for democracy and find a way to make decisions faster. When it comes to new MOs, we can organise calls with them to show them how LYMEC works and how they can contribute.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): Regarding the internal motion submitted, we actually implemented this social media squad and the idea is that you share the burden with several people when something major happens like the war in Ukraine, so you can discuss it and post something. Regarding the incentives, I am in favour and would like to promote it. You need to train people. If we take four or five people and train them about political communications, it would be something they can put on their CV. Regarding the EU in the global sphere, we have to consider the reality of the unanimous vote in the Council we are bound by, but it doesn't mean we can't be vocal about what is going on in Ukraine. We should call out Viktor Orban if he is against certain topics which go against human rights. Regarding new organisations, I am totally up for the task as it is a question of personal involvement. Every Bureau member needs to be active and go the extra mile.

Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS): Three things are important: ensuring peace in Europe, solving all the crises and problems that stem from the war in Europe and ensuring stability. Second question, LYMEC has to empower people and connect to them. It can be done either by assigning Bureau members to organisations and helping them lead. Another option is the buddy system.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): I didn't get to answer the last two questions. The EU has a big possibility to make a change on a global stage. We can affect the rest of the world by setting high standards. For new members, we need to give them the support they need and give regular communications to them.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks all the speakers and announces that all the votes on OpenSlides to elect the new Bureau are now open. He stresses that the vote will remain open until 14:00 h CEST.

- - - - - **LUNCH - VOTING ON OPENSIDES** - - - - -

Roll Call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant)** and **Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

The roll call was executed as follows:

- **MHL**
- **Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu**
- **Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)**
- **Liberal Youth of Montenegro**
- **Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)**

17. Announcement of the elected Bureau members

Keith Henry (Chair): Welcomes everyone back and announces the results of the Bureau elections.

VOTE COUNT

President

Dan-Aria SUCURI (LUF): 216 - ELECTED

Abstentions: 3

Total: 219

Vice-President

Ines Holzegger (JUNOS): 120 - ELECTED

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): 96

Abstentions: 0

Total: 216

Treasurer

Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor): 209 - ELECTED

Abstentions: 7

Total: 216

Bureau members

Laia Comerma (JNC): 199 - ELECTED

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): 189 - ELECTED

Tanzer Yuseinov (Youth MRF): 188 - ELECTED

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): 94 - ELECTED

Cristian Preoteasa-Maier (USR Tineret): 69

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): 57

Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS): 56

Abstentions: 0

Total: 213

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks all the candidates and invites the new President to address the Congress.

Dan-Aria SUCURI (LYMEC President): I don't know what to say. I prepared myself a speech for this moment. Yet I stand here positively shocked. I really want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this support. Many of us have been talking about challenges and ideas that we have. Now we can bring them forward into something concrete. It is amazing to have all this support behind me. I would like to thank all the candidates who participated. Many of you became candidates here and unfortunately not all of you got what you wanted but that is what happens in a democratic election. I am so proud of you all having calls with new members, standing and presenting your new ideas for change and having motivation to get this change not just idly standing by. Not everyone got elected but I do hope your journey doesn't end here. I invite every one of you to join in this journey. The best moment just started. Thank you so much!

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

Keith Henry (Chair) explains the elections: 4 positions will be up for voting but only the best two get to be the actual internal auditors, the other two remain substitutes. He gives the floor for 2 minutes to each candidate. There are four candidates.

Presentations from the candidates:

Katrina Keita Ruzaike (Attistibai Youth): Dear liberal family, I am standing here at the Congress for the first time, and I am sharing with you this message to introduce myself and explain why I want to be an Internal Auditor. My name is Katrina, and I am 22. I am a parliamentary assistant in the

Latvian parliament to a parliamentary secretary and I am on the board for Attistibai Youth. I have a bachelor's degree in political science. I am pursuing my Masters' Degree in theology to recognise social and political leaders. I have experience in the administration of project finances and auditing. My job responsibilities included summaries for the European Commission and the OECD. My job experience has given me expertise in national policy development and has provided me with great responsibility. Since last summer, I have been a chairwoman in committees in Latvia, for young women with disabilities, environment and town planning. From this year, I have been a member of the Alliance of Her where I have tried to stress human rights in Latvia. I believe in transparency and openness and the significance of liberal teaching. Regarding my past experiences, I consider myself a proper candidate for the Internal Auditor position. Thank you and good luck.

Daniel Ruiz (Jonk Demokraten): Dear friends, this is my first LYMEC Congress and I want to start by thanking you for the warm welcome. I am from 'Jonk Demokraten' from Luxembourg, and I am running for Internal Auditor. Trust and accountability are key to ensure LYMEC's success. We need auditors to scan the organisation to assess problems. Based on my discussions with **Jeffrey Drui (former Internal Auditor)** and **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)**, we have identified important changes to the role. The internal auditors are to scrutinise the accounts and general management of the organisation. I appreciate **Tuuli Helind's (LYMEC Treasurer)** and **Jeffrey Drui's (former Internal Auditor)** work. Finally, I would like to mention that I have professional experience in internal audits in KPMG Luxembourg. I kindly ask for your support. Thank you.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Svensk Ungdom): I am Sara and I come from Svensk Ungdom and you might have seen me in the secretariat and as a chair but I am standing here today to ask for your support. I have been an active member in LYMEC since 2017 and have participated in working groups and in the secretariat as an administrative assistant. During my time there, I got a good overview about how LYMEC functions and its internal structure. I have worked in a political role in Svensk Ungdom and have gone through the books with my own internal auditor. Before LYMEC, I worked in a Finnish investment bank where I was tasked with gathering the legal documents of new potential clients. Based on the internal audit report, I believe that we should work together to ensure the best for our employees. I can tell from experience that it is a very high-paced environment and I want to work for a healthy workplace where everyone can thrive. The Internal Auditor should look at the books but also HR tasks and internal management of the organisation. Both as a former IO and employee, I believe I am equipped for the task, and I thank you for your support.

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF): I am from CUF but I was born to a British mother, lived in the US and now Amsterdam. I am a national board member and spokesperson in foreign policy and defence for my organisation. I have been a board member of EYP in Sweden and member of the international board where I worked with international safeguarding. I have worked closely with the Swedish Youth Council and the Swedish representative to the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE). I have worked in political and non-political organisations. I hope you will allow me to get into the skin of LYMEC, look at the books and also see how we can take the organisation to the next level. Thank you.

Questions to the candidates:

Keith Henry (Chair) opens the floor for questions to the Internal Auditor candidates by specifying the rules. Questions will be taken one by one unless we have many questions from the delegates. He also reminds delegates to specify to whom they are addressing their question(s).

Benjamin Fievet (IMS): What is your liberal spirit animal and why?

Keith Henry (Chair) gives the floor to the candidates.

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF): I would say that I am a cat. It just feels right.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Svensk Ungdom): I do have to go with what **Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom)** said, a seal. They are highly appreciated amongst our own organisation and I like how they are round.

Daniel Ruiz (Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg): A cat. A cat is very independent and knows what it wants and knows who it likes and who it doesn't.

Katrina Keita Ruzaike (Attistibai Youth): Humans because humans have an animal nature.

Keith Henry (Chair): Throughout the day we have nearly every species covered.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): Firstly, I just want to say that in the institute of internal auditors' code of ethics that it is not acceptable for the internal auditor to have a spirit animal. **Tuuli Helind's (LYMEC Treasurer)** report highlighted that the role of Internal Auditor has been misunderstood. The role of the Internal Auditor is to assess the risks the organisation is exposed to and how to mitigate them which requires independence and objectivity. How can you reconcile your deep commitment to LYMEC and being critical in case of facing pushback from the Bureau or Secretariat?

Keith Henry (Chair) gives the floor to the candidates.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Svensk Ungdom): I was part of the Secretariat and was very pleased that the ideas and suggestions I had were very well received. This doesn't mean that they were perfect, but it is an example of how I helped LYMEC through those small things. I like communication a lot. LYMEC has on my own initiative bought a professional camera to get better pictures and professionalise our communications. About being biased or non-biased, I am a person of strong opinions. Despite my connection with LYMEC I do not fear to get on with the big questions that need to be asked.

Daniel Ruiz (Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg): I spend my weeks analysing complex business issues and trying to get people in charge to make changes. This is my first Congress and I bring fresh blood and neutrality to the organisation as I have not held a position before.

Katrina Keita Ruzaike (Attistibai Youth): You can't grow without criticism. You need to face the criticism and just get better.

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF): We are incredibly biased as humans. Those in my organisation will know that being in an elected position will never stop me criticising that position. I have put a motion in to abolish my own position. I am in the board of the party's foreign aid organisation and have experience working with organisations in improving themselves. Speaking truth to power is something I believe in. You can trust I will not refrain and keep the good of the organisation in my long-term mind.

Keith Henry (Chair) opens the vote on Openslides and announces it will close in 45 minutes at 15:30 CEST. He reminds people not to use the WiFi if it is not necessary.

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

Keith Henry (Chair) asks the candidates to say something in case they want to withdraw their candidacy. This doesn't happen. He explains there is one additional candidate applying before the opening of the agenda point: **Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten)**. No further applications received. He then gives the floor to the candidates for this position for 3 minutes each. He invites **Philipp Eng (JFS)** and **Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten)** to give their speeches.

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General) stresses that we received a new application before the opening of the agenda point, which is possible according to the rules.

Presentations from the candidates:

Philipp Eng (JFS): I founded a company with a friend of mine in the field of social media marketing. I used to be a member of the local parliament of the FDP for 6 years and was the regional President of the Young Liberals and I am the IO of the Young Liberals Switzerland. There is hardly any political discussion that has not become international. I want to spread my liberal values and that is also one of the reasons for my candidacy. Some of you know I consider myself a classical liberal. It has been in my DNA since my grandfather and father have been active in liberal politics. At the end of the day, LYMEC and IFLRY have one common goal: to spread liberal values across the world and bring liberal ideas to young people's minds. I want to organise events and have a stronger exchange of best practices and I want to mediate and establish better cooperation between the 2 organisations. As a representative of a non-EU state, I could be in a good position to mediate between the 2 organisations as I am out of certain prejudices that may exist. With my political experience, language and social skills I can bring important abilities to that position as IFLRY representative. Thank you.

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): As you can imagine, I have not prepared a speech. I did not expect to stand here. Congratulations to **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** who had an amazing campaign and deserved this. When I thought about the possibility of losing, I said it would be such a shame to lose either of us for LYMEC. I decided if I didn't make it, I would run for IFLRY representative because this organisation has such a special place in my heart. It has been such a passion for me to work with LYMEC. I have been IO for Jonge Democraten. I have been a representative at the IFLRY Congress and know the organisation very well. I believe I have a diplomatic talent in bringing the organisations together and from the Bureau, I understand how the position works and the relationship between LYMEC and IFLRY. I know it is a hard decision and a weird turn of events for you and I hope I can put effort and energy into LYMEC again for the next two years. Thank you!

Keith Henry (Chair) opens the floor for questions.

Questions to the candidates:

Benjamin Fievet (IMS): I have been in this position which requires a lot of diplomacy. How would you approach this position if there is a conflict between IFLRY and LYMEC particularly if there was a conflict of interest knowing that you are representing LYMEC but sit on the IFLRY Bureau? LYMEC are the people you answer to. How would you reconcile this? And also, what is your spirit animal?

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): I am elected by the LYMEC Congress so that is where loyalty should be. A big part of preventing conflicts is communication. I would immediately flag to the Bureau if there would be a conflict in IFLRY. I have some experience in solving conflicts between organisations.

Philipp Eng (JFS): First of all, it is clear that a person which is elected from that Congress has to stand for the interests of that organisation. It can't be taken into question. Of course, I will be loyal to LYMEC as well. If there are conflicts, communication is key. I have been active in politics and there have been conflicts all the time. When I was President of the regional Swiss liberals, we started fighting problems before they came up. As a lawyer, I am more than used to presenting opinions which are not my own. The feedback I get is that I can find solutions and talk to people. My spirit animal would be a dog because loyalty and responsibility are important to me.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): You said that your commitment is to liberal values but we know that LYMEC is a huge organisation spanning many liberal values. How would you personally feel defending a position you or your organisation would personally disagree with?

Philipp Eng (JFS): I always do have my own opinion but if I am representing an organisation, that is the only opinion that matters.

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): I have to say things that I do not always agree with but that is part of the job and I do not have an issue with that at all.

Keith Henry (Chair) proposes to take two questions at a time.

Johannes Brill (LHG): Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten), when you ran for Vice-President, you said you would not run for any other position. I am confused by your candidacy so please take a stand on that.

Sandra Daniel (LUF): Especially given the context of your position, what do you think the role of the EU and Europe is in terms of global responsibility?

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): What I said when I was asked about what else I could do in LYMEC, I said it would not be up to me. I would try to be active in any way possible. This is the most direct way I can stay active in LYMEC and use the knowledge I built up over the last two years. The other question was the role of IFLRY in Europe. Europe is the richest continent on earth which brings responsibility also in terms of financial support. The whole world should get the same opportunities as we do.

Philipp Eng (JFS): It is a very interesting question. The EU for me is one of the most astonishing programmes of peacekeeping. I know it is weird these days, but the idea was not to have war in Europe. Europe tries to have liberal values of freedom which I want to represent.

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General) takes the floor to clarify the Internal Auditor vote as some questions came up to the Secretariat since the vote was launched. Delegates can vote for up to 4 candidates which represents the number of candidates to be elected. 2 will be internal auditors with 2 being substitutes. Delegates can rank the candidates from 1-4. The most voted 2 get the auditor spots.

Keith Henry (Chair) takes the next three questions together.

Moreno Christen (Young Green Liberals): I have a question just for **Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten)**. You talked just about LYMEC and how you would still be integrated in the organisation. Do you have any projects you want to do as IFLRY representative or you just don't want to let go of LYMEC?

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): The relationship between IFLRY and LYMEC has had better times. What do you bring as a new input to change it back to better times to make a better relationship between LYMEC and IFLRY?

Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten): Could you talk about your IFLRY experience which will allow you to build your relationship between the two organisations?

Philipp Eng (JFS): to address **Alice Schmidt's (JuLis)** question, on the one hand, I want to bring in more communication and best practices. We need to work together where it is helpful, but we need to clarify and define that LYMEC can decide and do what the Congress decides. On the other hand, cooperation is something important. The more you cooperate the better you communicate and work together. I want to bring the two organisations together where it is needed and helpful.

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten): To clarify, I have stressed indeed my will and passion to keep supporting LYMEC as I believe it is necessary to explain why after running for Vice-President, I am now running for IFLRY representative which does not mean I do not have ideas to bring to IFLRY. But I don't want to exaggerate the IFLRY representative role. The IFLRY representative is an important bridge between the two organisations. It should not look like I should be the one person Bureau organising events. It is a bridge and communications role. To answer **Abel Hartman (Jonge Democraten)**, I was the IFLRY representative of the Jonge Democraten in Sofia and Barcelona, working on resolutions and in working groups with organisations to build bridges. I hope that I can count on your support.

Keith Henry (Chair) thanks the candidates and launches the vote. He gives the floor to **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

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

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains the role of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage to bridge between Bureau and MOs or between MOs in case of issues. They did not have any cases to look into over the past 2 years and it is important to have a good panel of people who fully understand the organisation. He lists the 5 candidates:

Keith Henry (Chair), Lena Höglund (Svensk Ungdom), Katharina Schreiner (JuLis), Pieter Sannen (Jong VLD), Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (IMS)

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): He explains that it is a variety of people that are proposed for the next committee for 2 years.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) asks delegates to put themselves on the speakers' list if they are against this proposal. **No one did so therefore the proposed people were elected to the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage.**

21. Presentation and vote on the outcomes of the policy book renewal working group (Please find here the outcomes of the Digital Assembly on these proposals)

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) invites **Marina Sedlo (IMS)** to present the outcomes of the Policy Book Renewal Working Group.

❖ Chapter 4 - Updates Outcome Policy Book Renewal

Marina Sedlo (IMS): The policy book renewal is the same procedure as every half year. We have now managed to take care of Chapter 4 which was about business, economy, finance and taxes. We will have a vote on updated resolutions and then resolutions to be archived. We need to vote on one amendment for the resolution to be archived which was discussed in the working groups. I would like to thank the working groups. It is not easy and not always fun work. We need an actual and fresh policy book. I really hope this process will continue with the next Bureau. I urge you to join the next working groups because the number of people joining has decreased so it would be good to check in your organisations to send more people for this task.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) opens the vote on the outcomes of the policy book renewal.

Marina Sedlo (IMS) reminds people that the vote was only about updated resolutions as there were no amendments.

For - 183

Against - 9

Abstain - 8

The renewal of the policy book Chapter 4 was accepted by the Congress.

❖ **Chapter 4 - Resolutions to archive (Outcome of the Policy Book Renewal)**

Marina Sedlo (IMS): we have to discuss one special resolution as not every organisation was happy.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Amendment 37, 38 and 39 were withdrawn. We will now discuss amendment 40 about CETA which was submitted by JuLis.

Amendment 40

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): The reason why resolutions should be archived is that they are not relevant anymore, but we say it is. We have trade partners in Canada and even if the CETA was signed it was not ratified. That is why it is important to keep that in our policy book as in these times it is important to stress our transatlantic partnership with Canada and the EU. In the amendment, the only thing we did was update the dates. The core of the policy is still current, and we should keep it in the policy book. Thanks.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) opens the vote as nobody put themselves on the speakers' list.

The result of the vote on Amendment 40 is as follows:

For - 126

Against - 20

Abstain -34

Amendment 40 was adopted by the Congress.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) launches the vote on the whole of Chapter 4 with Amendment 40 included.

The result of the vote on the whole of Chapter 4 with Amendment 40 included is as follows:

For-136

Against- 3

Abstain- 3

The outcome on archival from Chapter 4 of the Policy Book was accepted by the Congress.

22. Motions (including statutory changes)

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We have two motions submitted.

MOTION #1: When great communicators come together, they create greater results

There was one amendment submitted by **FEL (Amd 11/Line 47/FEL)**, which received a positive recommendation from the working group.

Nobody has put themselves on the speakers' list.

The amendment 11 was therefore accepted.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We will move to a vote on the amended version of the motion "**When great communicators come together, they create greater results**".

The vote on amended version of Motion 1 is as follows:

For- 142

Against-19

Abstain-30

The motion is adopted by the Congress.

MOTION #2: Practising what we preach: a sustainable LYMEC

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): An amendment was submitted (**Amd 28/ Line 68/ Mladé ANO**) but was accepted by the working group. We will move to a vote on the amended motion.

The vote on the amended motion is as follows:

For- 134

Against- 32

Abstain- 23

The motion is adopted by the Congress.

COFFEE BREAK

Roll Call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Assistant) and Amy McAuley (LYMEC Youth Liaison Trainee). Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General) reminds the delegation leaders to unmute themselves and say "PRESENT" when their organisation is called upon. Only organisations present at roll calls can vote.

	Full Members		Votes	Roll call & after coffee break
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	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	7
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth		4	0
Croatia	MHL		5	0
Croatia	Mladi HNS		5	0
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		5	5
Estonia	Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu		7	0
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	Attīstības Youth		3	3
Latvia	Movement for Youth!		3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)		6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Democraten Luxembourg		3	3
Moldova	Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)		4	0
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro		3	0
The Netherlands	JOVD		6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL		7	7
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)		3	0
Norway	Unge Venstre		5	5
Romania	USR Tineret		5	5
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement		3	3
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		2	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schütz		1	1
		TOTAL	233	202
	Simple majority of those present		116.5	101
	Two thirds of present		155.3333333	134.6666667
	Simple majority of those present without abstentions			

There were 202 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Istrian Democratic Youth

- MHL
- Mladi HNS
- Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu
- Liberal Youth of Moldova (OTL)
- Liberal Youth of Montenegro
- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)

23. Announcement of the elected Auditors and substitutes

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) announces the election results of the internal auditor position and congratulates **Daniel Ruiz (Jonk Demokraten)** and **Elsie Gisslegard (CUF)** for being elected as LYMEC's new Internal Auditors.

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) thanks **Katrina Keita Ruzaike (Attistibai Youth)** and **Sara von Bonsdorff (Svensk Ungdom)** for their participation and encourages them to stay active in LYMEC now that they both have become substitute internal auditors.

The candidates for internal auditor receive the following votes:

VOTE COUNT

Daniel Ruiz (Jonk Demokraten)-155 - ELECTED

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF)-149 - ELECTED

Katrina Keita Ruzaike (Attistibai Youth)-133

Sara von Bonsdorff (Svensk Ungdom)-121

24. Announcement of the elected IFLRY representative

Marketa Plesnikova (Chair) congratulates **Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten)** for being elected as LYMEC's new IFLRY representative and thanks **Philipp Eng (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (Switzerland))** for his participation and encourages him to stay active in LYMEC.

The result of the election of IFLRY representative is as follows:

VOTE COUNT

Marten Porte (Jonge Democraten) -111- ELECTED

Philipp Eng (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz) -95

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) announces that **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)** has a **point of order**.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): I wanted to discuss the second motion as included in our statutes. We need time for discussion and I would like to discuss it again.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) announces that the chairs accept the point of order but people can place themselves on the speakers' list to challenge the point of order. Two speakers have put themselves on the speakers' list meaning a vote will be taken on the point of order. The point of the order is to open up the motions block on the second motion due to the chair not clarifying the reading of the motions and giving enough time for them to be discussed.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) announces that the vote is open.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): If you vote yes, you are willing to reopen the motion block on "**Motion #2: Practising what we preach: a sustainable LYMEC**" and move to the first, second and third readings of it.

The vote was closed and the outcome was as follows:

Yes-57

No-88

Abstain-32

The point of order was defeated, and the motion block was therefore not reopened. The Congress moves on to the next agenda point.

25. Resolutions

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Before we start as **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)** already pointed out before, the reading will go this way: First, the resolution will be introduced by the mover, then there will be a general discussion, afterwards we will proceed to amendments, after all the amendments have been discussed and voted on, we will then move to discussion and voting on the amended resolution. The first resolution to be handled is "Europe stands with Ukraine: Stop the Russian war".

❖ Resolution 1: Europe stands with Ukraine: Stop the Russian war

Marina Sedlo (IMS): The Bureau thought it is important to write a resolution on the Ukrainian situation. It is not just the Bureau who should decide this, so that is why we opened a working group. Thank you to everyone who contributed, especially to **Christine Khomyk (LYMEC IMS)**, **LDLU** and **European Youth of Ukraine**. It is a very difficult situation, and I am very happy we are discussing it now.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) states that we will move to amendments, as no one is on the speakers' list.

AMENDMENT 9

The amendment has no recommendation from the working group.

Antonio Martinez (JCS): If we put this kind of narrative on what is happening, we should be very careful with the idea of self-determination. Ukraine as a sovereign state should decide about its relations with the EU and NATO as well as about its foreign policy. I hope you vote in favour of this amendment.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) reminds the delegates to state if they are in favour or against the amendment at the beginning of their speech.

Oriol Marin Subira (JNC): I am going to speak against it. The word self-determination should be in the text. We looked for the word in the LYMEC policy book, and we know that LYMEC advocates for self-determination. It is also included by the UN saying that it is our right. Finland and Sweden decided to join NATO and this is a great example of what we are trying to state in this resolution. I invite you all to vote against the amendment.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): I understand **Antonio Martinez' (JCS)** point, but I would like to call upon you to think about the fact that Putin will always try to steer things towards his narrative. We should not be afraid of Putin so we as LYMEC should respect the right of self-determination. Ukraine is trying to choose its destiny and path forward. We must respect what the treaties state. I do call on you to vote against the amendment, even though I respect the sentiment of it.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): we will move to a vote on amendment 9.

The vote on amendment 9 proceeded as follows:

For -32

Against - 143

Abstain -24

Amendment 9 is not carried by the Congress.

AMENDMENT 63

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) gives the floor to the mover of the amendment which has a positive recommendation from the working group.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): We should not only include the Ukrainian regions occupied at the moment we wrote down our statement but instead have a broader perspective. Moreover, it is worth putting emphasis on international law. Vote in favour of this amendment.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Is anyone against this amendment? If you are against it, put yourself on the speaker's list of the amendment.

No one is on the speakers' list.

Amendment 63 is therefore carried by the Congress.

AMENDMENT 10

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) opens the floor for speakers on the amendment.

Guillermo Borragan (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): I just want to defend the amendment proposed because according to the Lisbon Treaty some words are the same but not completely. We propose to reformulate it the way it is in the Lisbon Treaty.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom): The UN cannot be more progressive than LYMEC. Self-determination is the most important word when discussing the invasion of Ukraine. Crimea is not accepted by the UN, the EU nor any other international organisation. This is why we should keep 'self-determination' in this resolution.

Christine Khomyk (IMS) raises a point of order.

Christine Khomyk (IMS): I would like to ask you if it is possible to project the text of the amendments.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) gives the floor to **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): This was already discussed during the working groups and it is not possible to project both on the screen. You have enough screens to read it on your device if need be. We can show part of the text at least so that will be done if no one opposes.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): If anyone is against this point of order, please take the floor. No one is taking the floor.

Guillermo Borragan (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): He replies to the previous speaker that he thinks as any other text, also the Lisbon Treaty should be cited adequately.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): The specification to the Lisbon Treaty in Article 1 should be cited, but the mover is trying to add some content in that. I don't see why we should keep the text as it is in the Lisbon Treaty per definition. I would urge you to vote against this amendment. Self-determination is a key principle of international law.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) opens the vote on **Amendment 10**.

The result was as follows:

For-27

Against-147

Abstain- 8

Amendment 10 was not carried by the Congress.

AMENDMENT 62

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We can move on to Amendment 62 which had a positive recommendation from the working group, therefore we won't give the floor to the mover to explain the amendment. If anyone is against it, put yourself on the speakers' list now.

AMENDMENT 62 was carried by Congress as nobody put themselves on the speakers' list.

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT 32

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) invites congress to discuss AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT 32.

Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO) : Hello dear delegates, welcome to Prague. I am speaking on behalf of the amendment to amendment. The initial amendment was introducing a condition so if we want to ban Russian gas we should also find a way to provide another one. And if we are not able to immediately provide it from the external environment we should introduce an EU gas exchange mechanism. After discussion, we agreed we should not make it a condition so therefore we change it from "once" to "and". So we want to ban Russian gas and also introduce a prompt EU gas exchange mechanism. Therefore, both sides will achieve the same goal and not be against each other so I ask for your support of this amendment to amendment.

Abram Guido Pieter von Backer (JOVD): We would like to know what this amendment entails. Why do you mean that? How would you concretely do this?

Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO): It has not been discussed in detail, but it is better than not to have it at all. We are the proof of solidarity and cooperation. There is no deadline to introduce it, which means we have time to implement it, instead of not having it at all and not having gas.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) opens the vote on Amendment to Amendment 32.

The result was as follows:

For-114

Against-20

Abstain -50

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT 32 was carried by the Congress.

Amendment 32 is therefore automatically rejected.

AMENDMENT 64

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): The amendment had a positive recommendation from the working group. If anyone is against it, please put yourself on the speakers' list.

Dumitriu Opritoiu (USR TIneret): From my perspective, it is too much to impose sanctions like these. I don't think we should impose these sanctions and I invite you to vote against it because it is too much.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): I do think that in this context not being in favour or against the war in Ukraine is basically choosing a side. Those who keep silent and do not take a strong stance are not condemning the war. I urge you to vote for this amendment.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) opens the vote on Amendment 64. The result is as follows:

For-123

Against-47

Abstain -22

AMENDMENT 64 was carried by the Congress.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) moves to the discussion on the resolution as a whole.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): If you want to speak against the whole resolution, please put yourself on the speakers' list. No one is on the speakers' list. We can move to a vote on the resolution as a whole.

The vote on the amended resolution is as follows:

For - 175

Against - 0

Abstain - 14

The Resolution is adopted by the Congress as amended.

❖ **Resolution 2: Recognition of the Genocide of the Ukrainian People by the Russian Federation**

Kateryna Onischuk (European Youth of Ukraine): I vocalise some remarks that can embarrass you hence I urge you to cover your ears when I raise my hand and to resume listening when I lower my hand if need be. According to the convention, genocide means any of the five acts prescribed herein: killing members of the group or causing serious physical or mental harm to individuals with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national or ethnic group as such. 300 metre mass graves full around Mariupol. A friend of my teacher was tortured and killed for being a Ukrainian. Triplets, 9-year-old girls raped by Russians and have severe genital injuries. All this happened in front of their mother. A one-year-old boy was raped and died. They rape women in front of their children and Russian soldiers' comment, on social media too, for Ukrainian women to never want a Ukrainian man, for them to carry babies of Russian blood. Mass stealing of grain, the siege of Mariupol and the stealing of food and medication for weeks. Occupants threaten farmers to plant grains and transfer everything to Russia otherwise they will be shot dead. Russians transport Ukrainians, children included to occupied territories cynically calling it evacuation. Russia kidnaps our children and develops national legislation for their adoption. They are allowing in their state to change the birth dates and names of these children to be changed so that after the war ends, their biological parents will never be able to find them, which destroys their national identity by forcible re-education. The father of the genocide convention emphasised that genocide is not only about the physical destruction of a person but also of their political and cultural institutions, dignity and finally life. Admit the truth. Recognise the genocide. We the Ukrainians, as you can see by my emotions, have no need to exaggerate things. In Ukraine today it is Europe Day so in some ways congratulations and the parliaments of Lithuania, Canada, Latvia, Estonia, Poland and the

Czech Republic have recognised the genocide. It is necessary to bring Russia to justice under the genocide convention.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): No amendments to this resolution were submitted. I would ask you to put your name on the speakers' list if you want to speak against or for the resolution. No one is adding their name.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) states that if no one puts their name on the speakers' list the resolution will be adopted by the Congress as such. No one is on the speakers' List.

The Congress has adopted the resolution as such by acclamation.

❖ **Resolution 3: Cutting the European dependence of energy resources from the Russian Federation**

Izide Marcinkute (LLJ): Our energy policy has seen significant changes with fossil polluting fuels and a move toward natural gas and renewables. Russian gas remains essential to daily life in Europe. Russia is one of the main suppliers of gas and oil to Europe. As energy resources are being used as a tool of manipulation by the Russian Federation, we believe that the EU needs to stop supporting the Russian export of oil and gas and focus on renewable energy instead. The resolution is to highlight the fact that we need to find more renewable energy sources for all of Europe.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Let's move on to amendment 4.

AMENDMENT 4

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We have a positive recommendation from the working group.

The mover accepts the amendment 4.

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT 34 is on the table next.

The mover accepts the amendment to amendment 34.

Amendment 34 is therefore automatically rejected.

AMENDMENT 3

The mover does not accept amendment 3.

Rasmus Festerling (Radikal Ungdom): We totally understand the intention but the EU has several ties with countries that unfortunately have not officially disapproved. We think it would be the end of diplomatic means, going away from any country. It would push countries like China and Russia. We won't let them ruin our democracies one more time.

Olena Dudko (European Youth of Ukraine): If there are countries with no clear position towards this war it means they are not against the war. There should be a clear stance on this issue.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I want the Congress to consider countries like India. I want this Congress to consider what would have happened if the entire EU was to completely sever its connections with India. There would be everlasting consequences.

Umberto Masi (LLJ): I thank **Radikal Ungdom** for proposing this. It is maybe possible to interpret the sentence by talking about countries that are not expressing support. We are talking about organisations and businesses. There are many that are still operating in Russia. We should not compromise on this. Those who do not condemn the war are not taking a stance.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): As no more people are on the speakers' list, we can move to a vote on Amendment 3.

The vote results are as follows:

For-76

Against-84

Abstain-13

Amendment 3 is not carried by the Congress.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We move to a general discussion on the resolution as amended. Please put your names on the speakers list. As no one is on the speakers list, we will move to a vote on the amended resolution as a whole. The vote is open.

The results of the vote is as follows:

For -150

Against -6

Abstain-11

The Congress has adopted resolution 3 as amended.

❖ Resolution 4: A Migration Policy Fit for the Future

William Larsson (CUF): We have seen unprecedented things on the migration system and we already have policies in LYMEC on this, such as a reform of the Dublin system and we see migration as a phenomenon that strengthens our countries. But there are some more reforms to be made, such as activation clauses to understand when these policies can be activated. It needs to clarify that the return of migrants to their own country should be based on their free will. We should be able to create a stable migration system. I urge you to vote in favour of this resolution.

The mover accepted:

- **Amendment to Amendment 45.**
- **Amendment 65.**

Amendment 45 is therefore automatically rejected.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We will move on to amendment 54.

Amendment 54

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): It had a negative recommendation from the working group. Please add yourself on the speakers' list if you wish to speak on the amendment. I ask the mover to present the amendment.

Dumitriu Opritoiu (USR Tineret): You have to rely on the willingness of people moving around the EU to comply with these policies. It was acknowledged by the EU Commission. I urge you to vote in favour of this amendment.

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF): This is on the exact same lines as Amendment 45 so there would be a conflict with the previously carried content. Moreover, I want to stress that return is based on voluntariness and free will. We know from history that a system built on good will is not a policy. We need to ensure migrants get the support that they need. Please vote against this amendment.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom): Either we want to reform the migration system, or we don't. We need to vote against the amendment because this mechanism is what holds this resolution together.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): No one is on the speakers' list. We proceed to a vote on the amendment.

The result on Amendment 54 was as follows:

For-34

Against-120

Abstain-25

Amendment 54 is not carried by the Congress.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We move to a general discussion on the resolution as a whole. Please put your names on the speakers' list. No one is on the speakers' list so we will move to a vote on the amended resolution as a whole. The vote is open.

The results of the vote on resolution 4 were as follows:

For -137

Against -14

Abstain-27

The Congress has adopted resolution 4 as a whole as amended.

❖ **Resolution 5: In Defence of Freedom and Fundamental Rights in Cuba**

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We move on to the next resolution. I give the floor to the mover **Isabel Esain (Jóvenes Ciudadanos)**.

Isabel Esain (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): Cuban citizens have undergone poverty and other types of miseries. There have been some emerging groups in the streets but the work to get a market economy has been met with torture. The lack of medical and government advice during the pandemic has led emerging groups to fight for their rights. In the recent months of the attack on Ukraine, the Russian government has been subsidising the debt of the Cuban financial situation. The EU and the US have said they would support the fundamental rights of people in Cuba. We call on LYMEC to do more to support the fundamental rights of people in Cuba.

AMENDMENT 49

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Amendment 49 has a positive recommendation from the working group. Please put yourself on the speakers' list if you are against this amendment 49. Nobody has put themselves on the speaker's list.

Amendment 49 is accepted.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I want to ask how the EU Commission can guarantee compliance with human rights in Cuba?

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): This question was directed to the mover of the resolution. Could the mover please put themselves on the speaker's list if they wish to respond. If you do not wish to answer that is fine.

Isabel Esain (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): I can directly respond. What we are asking LYMEC to do is to say we are supporting the fundamental rights and human citizens and we will support them as much as possible. The only thing we are asking is to say we are supporting the working groups of people and human citizenship.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We move on to a vote on the amended resolution as a whole.

The results of the vote on the amended resolution 5 were as follows:

For -158

Against -16

Abstain-7

The Congress has adopted resolution 5 as a whole as amended.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We would now move on to the next agenda point. If you wish to tackle the next resolution instead, the next agenda point will not be tackled. After a brief discussion with the chairs and Secretariat, it is either this resolution that we tackle with a time limit of 24 minutes to tackle resolutions and amendments as a whole and then we cannot get to the MO reports. If you wish to tackle this resolution, please put your name on the speakers' list.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis) and Philipp Eng (JFS) put themselves on the speakers' list as a point of order.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We see it is fit to continue with this resolution. I would like to open a vote.

Keith Henry (Chair): Voting yes means you wish to discuss this resolution and forget about the MO reports.

The result of the vote is as follows:

Yes-90

No-59

Abstain-12

The Congress voted in favour of tackling resolution 6. This means Reports from Member Organisations, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage and LYMEC Working Groups will not be tackled at this Congress.

❖ **Resolution 6: For basic classic liberal principles – a market-friendly LYMEC**

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) invites **Philipp Eng (JFS)** to take the floor.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Everyone else who wishes to speak in favour of this resolution please take the floor through Openslides.

Philipp Eng (JFS): The foundation on which our property and freedoms are based, is classically liberal. In our society, we increasingly tend to forget what makes us prosperous in the first place. All the money has to be earned in the private sector first. Liberal values are fundamental constructs and the guidelines for how we make policy and fulfil our responsibilities for freedoms, free trade, climate protection etc. A liberal LYMEC is one which fights against state paternalism and puts the freedom of markets at the first place. For that reason an organisation like LYMEC needs a clear, liberal, market-oriented agenda based on state subsidiarity. By supporting this resolution, you give our organisation the guidelines we need to continue to be a liberal organisation.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): I am speaking against. Both yesterday and today, we have had calls for understanding and a mutual understanding that despite differences there is something which binds us all and what makes LYMEC, LYMEC. It holds MOs to a very particular flavour of liberalism which is not universal. We must trust in this room that everyone is liberal to their core. If that trust is to mean anything, we must reject motions like this. Let's stand for a bold and radical liberalism, one which stands for all of society and to create and maintain an organisation that retains space for all. Let's reject this motion.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): If you hear there are similar points being made to the one you wish to make, please sit down. We now close the speakers' list.

Abel Hartman (Jong Democraten): We have moved on from Adam Smith's liberalism and from the invention of the first cars. My friends, what about climate change? Baby boomers were too focused on market advancement over health. What about racism or women's rights? How is that being addressed by the free market? I ask you to vote against this proposal.

Marina Sedlo (IMS) raises a POINT OF ORDER.

Marina Sedlo (IMS): I would like to make a point of order to have one minute speaking time. I believe everyone is able to be concise.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): The chairs agree. If anyone is against it please make a point of order on the speakers' list. Nobody adds their name to the speakers' list so the speaking time is now limited to **one minute.**

Louis Souliac Ruffier D'Epenoux (FEL): I have a question for the movers. Is it only a resolution that aims to put forward classical liberal principles in which case my predecessors answered specifically or is it a sly tactic to strike down half of the policy book which goes against their vision of liberalism?

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): There are many market incomes and if you look into the resolution you will find no word of criticism against social liberalism. It is just about the market and market principles. The market brings good things out and brings about the most successful ways to deal with climate change. If you think classical liberalism, markets and climate change are not in line with us then what are we?

Benjamin Bergan (Svensk Ungdom) raises a POINT OF ORDER.

Benjamin Bergan (Svensk Ungdom): Why are we discussing the motion and not the amendments which might change some people's mind? I am proposing we move to discuss the amendments rather than the resolution.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Putting yourself on the speakers' list means you are against this. As there are no names appearing, it means we are moving on to the amendments.

Amendment 5

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Amendment 5 has a positive recommendation from the working group. Please indicate if you wish to speak against the amendment by putting your name on the speakers' list.
Amendment 5 is therefore approved by the Congress as no one reacts.

Amendment 56

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Amendment 56 by **USR Tineret** has a positive recommendation from the working group. Nobody is on the speakers' list so therefore, it is accepted.

Amendment 56 is approved by the Congress as no one reacts.

Amendment 57

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Amendment 57 has a positive recommendation from the working group.

Amendment 57 is approved by the Congress as no one reacts.

Amendment 12

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Amendment 12 is withdrawn by its mover.

Amendment 59

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Amendment 59 has a positive recommendation from the working group.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): While the other amendments we could all carry and agree on, where is the problem in saying that the state should centre its policy on its core competences? We can debate on that and fight about what corporate incentives are. It is a no brainer to say that the state should only do what it has to do in principle. When it comes to the core competencies, we can discuss what the minimal consensus is. Liberals should agree that the state should not have to do more than the bare minimum.

Sean Bennet (Young Liberals): We believe it is unwise to force this upon the government which hampers its ability to govern and react to sudden changes effectively. It is not for the EU to judge on what sovereign states need to collect money for. For those who might disagree, we ask that you support us. We are not in a position to decide the role of sovereign states and say what they should put their money on.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) closes the speakers' list.

Dimitru Opritoiu (USR Tineret): We proposed the amendment because the core competencies are not put forward and we are unsure of what the movers want or whether the whole idea of the resolution is valued. We urge you to vote for this amendment and have a balanced view of state interaction.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We only have room for one more to speak against the amendment.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom): It has to be said that I am a social liberal so some may wonder why I am speaking against this amendment. This resolution was put forward to discuss classical liberalism. Let's do it, let's not just change the resolution. Let's have a vote on what we actually think. Vote against this amendment.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We will move on to a vote on amendment 59. The vote is open.

The result of the vote on Amendment 59 is as follows:

Yes-46

No-94

Abstain-31

Amendment 59 is not carried by the Congress.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): Moving on to the resolution as a whole and as amended.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (Radikal Ungdom): I hope you remember the great points against the resolution. I often read the policy book when I am bored. The resolutions in this policy book are clear, concise and concrete. They bring up strong points and solutions. This resolution does neither. It brings up an ideology which not everyone in this room can agree to so please vote against.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): A common complaint about liberals is that we accuse people of not having followed economics 101. The resolution seems to have forgotten about competition law and basic principles about game theory. We know more about how our economies work. Please vote against the resolution.

Victor Rundqvist (Centerstudenter): I do believe that the country that focuses on freedom over equality will have plenty of both. People should be acting free from oppression of the state. This is why I support this. We are not arbiters of state sovereignty. It is good to emphasise freedom. I am in favour of the resolution.

Phil Hackemann (JuLis): This whole debate got very emotional with very little arguments about the content against the resolution. Of course, as liberals and as LYMEC, we can also adopt resolutions which are based on our core values. Market liberalism is part of our core values. Vote in favour of this resolution.

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair): We are running out of time and will proceed to a vote on the amended resolution as a whole. The vote is open.

The result of the vote on the amended resolution is as follows:

Yes-55

No-109

Abstain-21

Resolution 6 as amended is not carried by the Congress, it is rejected.

27. Closing from LYMEC President

Sara von Bonsdorff (Chair) gives the floor back to **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** for the closing speech.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Our two days Congress is about to come to an end which has been full of visions, exchanges and emotions. We laughed, cheered, cried and felt disappointment. This is what makes LYMEC so genuine in its work and what we want to achieve. We do have a lot of work ahead of us. I would like to thank the old Bureau for what we have done. The reason we can take the organisation to the next level is because the old Bureau has paved the way under the leadership of **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (YMRF)**. It is truly an honour to follow after you. Thank you also to everyone who came here and contributed to the amazing work we have achieved so far and to the amazing work you give us. Well done to all the candidates who have campaigned. I would like to move on and declare that the Congress has ended.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) states that the Congress is now closed at 18 h 00 CEST.