

MINUTES

LYMEC Spring Congress

23rd - 24th April 2021

ONLINE



Day 1: Friday 23rd April 2021

1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

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

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): Dear liberal friends, dear guests, welcome to the Spring Congress of LYMEC. A bit more than a year ago we were proudly one of the first organisations to hold an entirely digital congress. As young liberals, we have always been standing in favour of more digitalization, innovation, technological progress, so we thought it was going to be a nice walk and talk exercise. We thought that the pandemic and the effects it brought out would be a sprint that we needed to get through quickly before going back to normal. Little did we know. The exhausting marathon of the past year with its ups and downs, closures and restrictions have truly changed a lot about our traditional way of doing things. Yes, young people have been uniquely affected, with their education, employment opportunities, and the desires inherent to young people - the desire to socialise, meet and travel that have halted. Some researchers are already talking about the so-called "Generation Corona", about the fact that young people are reportedly more anxious now, than ever. We don't yet know what the long term repercussions of all this will be, at the fallout of the pandemic, but there is no doubt that this generation will be paying for decades to come, for many of the economic, social and health consequences of the past year.

Dear friends, nothing can replace the people that we have loved, but lost, nothing can make up for the human cost, nothing can make up for the pain and for the grief that so many in Europe have experienced. It is therefore our duty as young people and young liberals to be responsible and to protect the people that are vulnerable until we are all protected by the vaccines. But for anything else we have the future ahead of us to fix.

This unorthodox situation, other than being difficult, also taught us to think outside the box, to adapt, to truly think digital by default and to appreciate more than ever the time that we have together and the human interactions. To not take things and to not take people and their presence in our lives for granted. To those that are experiencing a LYMEC Congress for the first time, let me tell you a little bit what this is about.

LYMEC is about bringing young people with a liberal heart together, for the last 45 years. The nearly 200 people that you will see, if you scroll around your screens in this online Congress, are here to represent our 62 liberal youth organisations, which are based in 40 countries across Europe and there are nearly 200,000 members. What LYMEC is about is togetherness, it's about learning from each other, it's about learning how to argue and how to defend our vision, but also learning how to make compromises and to speak with one voice when we talk about European matters. I am not going to lie, there are moments that we miss from our classical Congresses, the networking, the sharing of additional ideas after the intense discussions have finished for the day, even sharing a drink together. But the essence of who we are, that togetherness that we share, you will experience just as much today, even if digitally.

Dear friends, I am proud to say that throughout this past difficult year, the European Liberal Youth Organisation did not sit idle. Among our traditional Congress resolutions and our positions, over a year ago we created a platform for discussion and for coming up with ideas and to find compromised solutions for the upcoming Conference for the Future of Europe. At our last Autumn Congress as a result of this true exercise of listening to each other and mutual understanding and compromise building, a strategic paper on our views on the institutional reform for the Future of Europe was adopted and at this Congress, we will be looking into what you define as topical priorities for the Conference. After this Congress, we will have adopted our complete vision for the Conference for the Future of Europe. We are already ready and we are right on time, right before the start of the conference. And it is more crucial than ever that young people are properly engaged and consulted in the process of recovery and in shaping the future that we want to see.

To wrap it up before giving the floor to our guests, now is not the time for nostalgia for our lost world of the past. It is not the time to hold on to the former normalities. It is time to truly roll up our sleeves and insist on the Europe of the Future, the way we want to see it. It is time to switch to a union state of mind. And I expect that each of you will be active in that. LYMEC is here for you and as its President, I am grateful that all of you are here today for LYMEC. Thank you very much. And now let me present our valuable guests who will address the Congress: thank you very much dear guests for being here with us, to turn to the young liberals.

2. Guest speeches

Hans Van Baalen (President ALDE Party): I am very happy to be addressing the Congress this year in particular, as both ALDE and LYMEC are now 45 years old. Our young members play such an important role in the Liberal family, shaping the future that lies ahead of them, and this is why I am so happy to work with LYMEC. The members of LYMEC are the MPs and MEPs of the future. As young liberals, it is your job to challenge and pressure ALDE when it is necessary, and I hope that the next Congress will be in person, to allow us to discuss these issues in real life.

Coming up is the Conference on the Future of Europe: this will shape the future of your generation, and I hope that there will be a strong cooperation in this matter between LYMEC and ALDE. Don't stop working, let's go forward together.

Hilde Vautmans (President of the European Liberal Forum and MEP, Renew Europe Group):

Dear friends, today our freedom seems restricted in so many ways. We can't freely travel or work. We should not forget what liberty means to us, and how essential it is to our understanding of public and private life. It is only when freedom is taken away from us, that we truly feel how essential it is to our happiness, health and progress.

Populists are trying to restrict freedom of movement in Europe in so many ways, and undo the achievements of the previous generations, which have granted us so many freedoms. Brexit has shown us the importance of bringing people together and keeping channels open. Nigel Farage should never have entered politics- then we would not have to deal with the misery of Brexit. Populists bring threats to our liberties, as they appeal to those who feel abandoned by mainstream discourse. We cannot just watch from the sidelines while the populists destroy

Europe. As our colleague Guy Verhofstadt said, these ideas can never be allowed to win. We do not waste resources, or overlook the threats posed by intolerance. We must tell our story - the story of success, that we are proud of. We must promote our success and let it shine.

LYMEC's role in shaping liberal discourse is necessary. It is always an open invitation, which challenges liberals and our views. It is so important in these times of change, as it brings together the past and the future. We help the liberal leaders of tomorrow sharpen their skills at ELF. We need great liberal scholars and leaders - today and tomorrow.

Dacian Ciolos (President of the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament): I'm very happy to be here: being part of the European Parliament, one of the good things is that you get to know Europe, you travel all across it. It's unfortunate that we have to have this exchange digitally. It makes a real difference to have real, direct contact with people.

Renew Europe reaches out to the future, to young people. As a political group in the European Parliament, we have the youth at the forefront of our minds. Our objective is to renew Europe, but we know it is young people who will implement this and put it in practice. I would like to use a concrete example, from the last few years of the group's mandate. Liberal means to think about the people, about their rights, and how to create opportunities for them. What we do in the EP is affecting your lives. To take one example: the recovery package, which includes €715bn of recovery money - we spent months negotiating this package with the Council. This includes the Green Deal - I know how important it is to fight against climate change for real. So, the fact that we decided to spend more than one-third of recovery money on the Green deal is a sign that we are looking to the new generation. We take care to translate this into legislative decisions and acts.

As a second example, the Renew Europe group and its negotiators insisted that part of the recovery money must go to children and young people - after all, this is 'Next Generation EU'. Next to green and digital priorities, we made sure that Member States have money for jobs, skills, and education. This proposal came from Renew Europe.

Moreover, we kept young people in mind when talking about financing and funding this package - after all, these things must be repaid. We made sure that the debt will be repaid thanks to new streams of revenue - taxes on polluters and levies on plastic use, to give some examples.

As a third example, we proposed the Conference on the Future of Europe - we have pushed for this since the foundation of the Renew Europe group. It should involve citizens, especially young people, and will be launched on the 9th May. We pushed for an overrepresentation of youth. Guy Verhofstadt is now one of the leaders on the executive boards - I am sure you will discuss with him the importance of young people being overrepresented in the plenary discussion. I hope you will be very active in this process.

I know LYMEC is preparing its formal position - I hope that we will have the chance to discuss it with you. I know you are well connected with Svenja Hahn, Karen Melchior, Emma Wiesner and so on. Good luck and I hope we will see each other in person in the future.

Cecilia Malmström (Former European Commissioner for Trade): It is great you are meeting like this. The world is craving liberal solutions. It has been a difficult year with much suffering. I know you young people have suffered a lot - missing opportunities, education, socialising and so on. There will be a life after Covid 19 - when we come out of isolation, there is so much work to be done - such as catching up with the US and China, addressing inequalities, making sure to avoid protectionism and promote free trade.

I have two areas for you to think about. The first is the environment: the COP26 summit is approaching fast. A green transition must be led by Europe. Every day we see the consequences of climate change. It is crucial that the recovery is sustainable. Just this week Europe agreed to be climate neutral before 2050. These words must be translated into concrete actions - investment, new infrastructure, global carbon tax and other measures.

The second is democracy. Democracy has taken a big Covid blow - more than 100 countries have placed restrictions on their citizens, and many have strengthened trends which already existed, such as China, Russia and Ukraine. The world has protested but we need more work. Even in Europe, democracy is being eroded. Judicial independence and media freedom are under threat, intolerance and threats to academic freedom are rising. We cannot be silent when heads of state within the Union claim that their goal is an illiberal society. We need a debate and action, and tangible ways to punish MSs - e.g. refusing money from the common budget. Young liberals have to be watchdogs - you must push your parties, and the ALDE party to play a part in the debate. What kind of Europe do we want after the pandemic? Reflect, discuss priorities, think of a way forward, about the creation of sustainable societies etc. You as young liberals have the tools, the contacts etc. My students have thought a lot about this - many do not yet realise that they are liberals. We have to help them realise this.

3. Roll call and voting rights

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

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Lucasta Bath (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **Bàlint GYEVAI (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will unmute themselves and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the next roll call takes place.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 1 Friday Opening
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra		3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw		5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		9	0
Bulgaria	Youth MRF		10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth		3	0
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY		4	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		5	5
Estonia	Centre Party Youth (Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu)		8	8
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret		6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)		3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)		6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux		3	3
Germany	Junge Liberale		10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece		3	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX		3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn		4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil		8	8
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth		6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg		3	0
The Netherlands	Jovd		6	6
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth		3	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos		7	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund		5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)		7	7
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten		7	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine		3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine		3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals		7	7
IMS	Tim Robinson		1	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot		1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk		1	1
		TOTAL	191	176
	Simple majority of those present		95.5	88

There were 176 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were absent:
Jeunes MR and Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg (JDL)

4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

Election of chairs

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) proposes **Katharina Schreiner, Lena Höglund and Slaven Klobucar** as Congress Chairs.

Congress accepted the Chairs.

Election of secretaries

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

Congress accepted the secretaries.

Election of scrutineers

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

Congress accepted the scrutineers.

*As we do not have paper votes there is no need for additional scrutineers and auditors. We have our team formed by **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and **Lucasta Bath (LYMEC Policy Intern)** in the office in Brussels supervising the event while respecting social distancing and measures in place in Belgium.*

5. Adoption of the agenda

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) explains some general rules, namely that there are two ombudspersons, **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)** and **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer)**, whose contact details are displayed. He reminds the delegates that they are being recorded. He clarifies that any delegate taking the floor should state their name and member organisation. He asks delegates to only use the Speakers' list to speak. He adds that the Chairs will only use quick votes today unless absolutely necessary - ideally, this means that 'Membership Issues' will be discussed today, and so Nasa Stranka Youth should be ready to present themselves today. He asks if there were any changes to the agenda as proposed by the Bureau eight weeks before the Congress.

One amendment has been received so far from the Bureau. **Slaven Klobucar (Chair)** invites **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** to take the floor and explain.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) explains that the IFLRY/LYMEC co-operation document was ready later than the agenda submission deadline so the Bureau proposes to add it. The Bureau would add point 11bis on the agenda to address the cooperation

document/memorandum of understanding after the speech from IFLRY President on Saturday morning.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) asks if there is anyone against adding this new agenda point.

Congress accepted the new agenda point.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) asks if there is anyone opposing the agenda as a whole.
No one expresses disapproval.

Congress accepted the agenda with the additional point.

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Online Autumn Congress 2020

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Online Congress in Autumn 2020. Some minor additions have been made this week. The minutes were received well beforehand and comments have already been accepted. The updated version was available to the delegates before the Congress.
No one expressed any disapproval.

Congress adopted the minutes from the 2020 Online Autumn Congress as proposed.

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

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) explains that the Congress has received two urgency resolutions. He invites the mover of the first Urgency Resolution, **Arthur Kharytonov (LDLU)** to explain why the Resolution is urgent. He emphasizes that the discussion and the vote should only focus on the urgency of the proposal, not the content of the resolutions.

Urgency resolution - Demand to stop political repression against young civil rights activists and to restore the rule of law in Ukraine

Arthur Kharytonov (LDLU) states that it is sad to start the Congress with such a sad page of history, and reminds the Congress that there is huge corruption and a judicial crisis in Ukraine. On the 20th March, there were huge protests in Ukraine in favour of democracy, human rights and greater freedom. On March 20, additional protests took place in Ukraine in favour of democracy, human rights, greater freedom and so on. The ruling party and Zelensky responded badly to this. On the 13th March, the ruling party passed a resolution to punish civil society, including investigating protesters. Huge arrests followed, and many young people were imprisoned. After huge negotiations, LDLU understood that it was time to speak up. Following the speech made earlier in the Congress by Hilde Vautmans, LDLU wants to emphasise that young liberals have the chance to be a vaccine against illiberalism, and that LYMEC has a responsibility to speak up as a party of young liberals.

Aliona Dobryden (EYU) states that she would like to express support, and these events happened after the LYMEC resolution deadline. This must be addressed in her opinion, this is definitely an urgent resolution.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) asks if the Bureau wants to take the floor.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) states that the Parliamentary actions taking place in Ukraine happened after the resolutions deadline, and that the urgency is justified.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is needed in the vote for the resolution to be considered as urgent.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the urgency of the resolution:

Vote on the urgency of 'Demand to stop political repression against young civil rights activists and to restore the rule of law in Ukraine'

For - 145

Against - 0

Abstain - 7

The resolution is deemed to be urgent and added to the resolutions' list.

Urgency Resolution on Czech Out the Russian Influence

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) invites the mover of the urgency resolution to the floor.

Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO) states that she also has to discuss some unpleasant things: almost a week before the Congress, the Czech Prime Minister announced an unusual government press conference. Seven years ago a munitions depot was blown up, resulting in two deaths. The culprits were Russian GRU intelligence agents, and the purpose was to destroy weapons and ammunition being sold to Ukraine. These agents were also involved in the Skripal Novichok case. Russia expelled many Czech diplomats, Czechia has expelled Russian diplomats. The Kremlin has now announced an anti-Czech campaign on all fronts. The purpose of the urgency resolution is to show that the EU is united behind the Czech Republic, and will not tolerate Russian interference and misbehaviour.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that the floor is now open for debate

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) states that this information came to light after the resolution deadline, and that this urgency resolution is therefore justified.

Felix Häring (LHG) states that he supports this urgency resolution, especially due to his own Czech heritage. He reminds Congress that the Czech Republic has received support from,

among others, NATO and the EU, and Slovakia, Lithuania, and Estonia, which have expelled Russian diplomats.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the urgency of the resolution. He reminds Congress that a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is needed.

Vote on the Urgency of 'Czech out the Russian Influence'

For - 149

Against - 5

Abstain - 13

The resolution is deemed to be urgent and added to the resolutions' list.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) reminds the Congress that amendments to both adopted urgency resolutions can be sent until 22 h CEST via email to the office.

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

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) asks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to open the vote on OpenSlides, where heads of delegations can cast their votes on the order of resolutions. He explains that they have to select 5 resolutions in the list of resolutions. He states that the voting time will be extended, as this is a complex matter. While the delegates are voting, Congress will proceed with the Bureau reports. The results of the snap vote will be communicated to the delegates after the Bureau reports.

Results of the snap vote on the order of resolutions:

Order of resolutions

1. Solidarity with the Polish and Hungarian LGBTQ+ community Yes: 52 (31.902 %)
2. Defending academic freedom Yes: 50 (30.675 %)
3. DEMAND TO STOP POLITICAL REPRESSIONS AGAINST YOUNG CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND TO RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW IN UKRAINE Yes: 48 (29.448 %)
4. Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Geoeconomic and Geopolitical factors in the Arctic Yes: 46 (28.221 %)
5. EUnitded against the Communist Party of China Yes: 41 (25.153 %)
6. A new Chapter for EU-UK relations Yes: 37 (22.699 %)
7. Enabling educational mobility in pandemic times Yes: 36 (22.086 %)
8. A vaccinated world by the EU Yes: 34 (20.859 %)
9. The Adoption of CO2 Taxes and Tariffs by the EU Yes: 33 (20.245 %)
10. Recognition of the treatment of the Uyghurs by the People's Republic of China as a Genocide Yes: 31 (19.018 %)
11. A Ban on Wild Animals in Circuses within the EU Yes: 30 (18.405 %)

12. Combating Antisemitism in Europe Yes: 28 (17.178 %)
13. For the democratic transition and future of Belarus Yes: 25 (15.337 %)
14. For Freedom and Democracy in Russia Yes: 24 (14.724 %)
15. Urgency Resolution on Czech out the Russian influence Yes: 24 (14.724 %)
16. A European Moonshot Yes: 21 (12.883 %)
17. Paying for trains by fights Yes: 21 (12.883 %)
18. Escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean Yes: 19 (11.656 %)
19. Standing up for democratic values: the expulsion of Fidelitas from YEPP Yes: 18 (11.043 %)
20. European Digital Identity Yes: 17 (10.429 %)
21. Standing up for Yazidi women - Justice for survivors of ISIS sexual slavery Yes: 17 (10.429 %)
22. Reform the concept of NEET Yes: 16 (9.816 %)
23. Freedom of expression and campus police Yes: 15 (9.202 %)
24. ON NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN POST CORONAVIRUS EUROPE Yes: 12 (7.362 %)
25. Vaccination Passport Yes: 12 (7.362 %)
26. Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families Yes: 11 (6.748 %)
27. We Stan the Stan - Resolution on the expansion of the Eastern Partnership to Central Asia Yes: 11 (6.748 %)
28. Political situation in Venezuela Yes: 10 (6.135 %)
29. Save our Biodiversity Yes: 10 (6.135 %)
30. Anti-terrorist digital surveillance in the EU Yes: 9 (5.521 %)
31. Against MLM Companies for covering up Pyramid Schemes Yes: 7 (4.294 %)
32. Resolution for a future proof euro crypto currency Yes: 6 (3.681 %)
33. The Myanmar Crisis Yes: 5 (3.067 %)
34. EuroJobs: A pan-European payroll and social security mechanism for digital cross-border workers Yes: 3 (1.840 %)
35. Freedom of speech must include every kind of opinion and its way of expression Yes: 3 (1.840 %)
36. Resolution: Bringing the EU's Carbon Pricing to Completion! Yes: 3 (1.840 %)
37. Taking back control over our public spheres Yes: 0 (0 %)

Valid votes 163 (100 %)

9. Bureau reports and debate about the reports

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) invites the Bureau to the floor for the reports.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) I will try to keep things short, following the Digital Assembly that took place at the end of January where the Bureau already reported. We continued our work on the planned events with support of ELF. All events will be online until May, then we will evaluate the health risk from that point on. ALDE moved its own Congress

to June, so work with LYMEC delegates, who have reconfirmed their engagement, has already started.

Libertas is being reformed, we are publishing policy statements, and working on social media outreach, but we encourage our Member Organisations to reach out when there is a topic you would like to communicate on. We started reaching out to find out when youth candidates have been elected.

We tried to continue the discussions with ALDE and Renew Europe by putting issues on their desks, representing at Conferences etc. We are re-invigorating the relationship between LYMEC and IFLRY - recently, there was a joint candidate elected to the Council of Europe Youth Advisory Board. We held a Digital Assembly to keep you all informed, and have placed a real emphasis on the policy book clean-up.

We have also been issuing Bureau Briefings and Bureau Bulletins, on short topics which the Bureau has discussed. We started a twinning process between Member Organisations - the cooperation project call. A new Working Group structure has been adopted, each with specific Bureau members allocated. Some of the Working Groups have held events with experts, policy makers and others.

We recently held the first ever Young Liberal Women's Summit, which aimed at building confidence and helping our female members to grow their networks. The "From Our MOs" initiative, which aimed to gather examples of best practice during the pandemic, was less successful, but we understand that as clear guidance from the MOs.

The first round of this year's Young Changemakers' Academy will take place in May, and the new website will be launched before Summer.

Dan Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President) takes the floor and explains as **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** mentioned, our work has not changed drastically since the Digital Assembly. It has been mainly focused on being more visual, more involved with ALDE and Renew Europe, and more influential on joint policies and statements.

We have also found a very stable common ground with other partners, such as JEF and other umbrella organizations, including the young Greens, young Conservatives etc. This helps us to join forces to put pressure on the EU regarding issues such as Belarus. I know this is important to those of you with colleagues and partners from other political groups. This has gained us a bigger audience, for example some of our joint initiatives have been reported in the European tabloid press.

My area of responsibility is the Bureau's internal and external work. Based on each and every Bureau member's work and contribution - we have talked a lot about becoming more accessible and more visible. **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** has played a big part in this, this will help us be smoother and more transparent in the future, having clearer policy structures etc. Also there has been a lot of focus on policy in terms of resolutions to ALDE. One of our major partners is IFLRY - **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** has worked on proposing a new cooperation document with IFLRY.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) the last five months have been very intense. There has been lots of new stuff, we were very happy with the outcome of the Digital Assembly, and the next document on the Conference on the Future of Europe as well. There has been great

cooperation between International Officers and Members, and I am excited to present it. ALDE Congress work has started - tonight is the deadline to submit resolutions to ALDE. With the delegation, we have submitted two great resolutions - on women's rights and the outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President) clarifies that we will summarise all Bureau Members' work, and then move to questions. The Cooperation Project is **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer)**'s work: some of you remember the project call from last year. We decided to go with the Balkans project, and this is something that our regional cooperation officer has worked on, involving **Nova Stranka Youth, Forum mladih Naše stranke and USR Tineret**. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer)** has also represented us at the European Youth Forum. We have had some good news about candidacies in that area.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer): I should add that **Young Liberals Greece** is also involved with the Cooperation Project.

About the EYF, as **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** mentioned, we nominated along with IFLRY not only a candidate for the Advisory Council on Youth for the Council of Youth successfully, but also a candidate for the Board of the EYF, also successfully, and tomorrow you will have the pleasure of meeting Simon who will give a guest speech in the morning. This is what I worked on along with the Digital Agenda, as well as outreach projects and possibilities about how to make the Bureau's work more transparent.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) also mentions **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer)**'s involvement with the new website.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President) explains that **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer)** is our Training and Events Officer, and of course our events are all digital now. This has led to the European Liberal Forum thinking about developing a new digital events tool, which Laia has given lots of input to. We have worked a lot on rebranding Libertas together, including new visuals, new logo and new marketing strategy.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer): As **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** also said, we started the year with lots of events, lots of initiatives, some for the first time and some of which we have had to adapt significantly. We have changed the whole editorial team for Libertas. Moreover, we plan to make lots of use of the online learning platform from ELF - better tailor activities for you. We hope to move progressively towards hybrid events in the future as the pandemic situation allows. We plan to really use all the best practices we have learned from this year of work online - keep the best of both worlds.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President) mentions that **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** has been working a lot, improving LYMEC's routines and its position on funding. He hands the floor to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to talk about the numbers, he is the best at it.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): I have been through the first closing of the year with the external auditors, who are in charge to check that everything is correct. **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and I spent many hours tying together all the work in our bookkeeping, and I hope that in the next few months we will spend more time on Congress instead. We hope to organise a physical Congress in future months.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President): We will wait for later for **Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer)** because she has some exciting work we want to reveal to you. We also have our colleague **Benjamin Fievét (Representative to the IFLRY Board)**, who will say a few words. We worked on a new cooperation proposal with our partner IFLRY as you know.

Benjamin Fievét (Representative to the IFLRY Board): since the last Congress, I have attended the board election, including the election of a new President who will speak to us tomorrow. I have attended every IFLRY Bureau meeting, and can say that they are a very open team. **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)**, **Michel Nentwig (Secretary General of IFLRY)** and I, worked on a Memorandum of Understanding between LYMEC and IFLRY to define the future relationship between the two organizations. To this end, we met multiple times between February and April to reach a proposal that also included inputs from members. After approval by both Bureaus, the product of our work will be presented to the members during the LYMEC Congress (tomorrow) and the IFLRY General Assembly respectively. We have started exploring other possibilities for cooperation e.g. communications and training, as detailed in my written report. The two elections which we ran together, co-nominating Simon Lindkaer Andersen and Nickolas Pagonakis, were very successful.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) asks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to share the Future of Europe platform website with the Congress in the Zoom chat.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): We have worked for the past year on shaping our Conference on the Future of Europe vision. This digital platform was launched on the 19th April, and the link was sent out to you all. This format allows us to flood the platform, so please make an account and once you have logged in, you can organise an event or share your ideas on the priorities. For the past year, we worked on the institutional reforms, and now we will adopt the Political Priorities. Only when we massively flood the same ideas can we truly have an impact. Imagine the power of our Member Organisations, over 200,000 people - if you take three minutes of your time and put this wording into the system - and you can add your own Member Organisation's ideas as well - imagine how much this will help our voices to be heard. This platform will shape what is happening in the plenaries later. I often used to describe the LYMEC delegation to ALDE as freedom troopers - now is the time for us to all be freedom troopers. We are also proposing to meet with your organisation's members, and open up more dialogue between the Bureau and the Member Organisations.

Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer): It is super important that we make some noise and make our voices heard. Based on our documents, we will make visuals and

posts which will be shared each week, to get our message and ideas out to everyone and show we have concrete ideas.

I sent you all an email with a suggestion that all Member Organisations' Presidents should send a short video to us - like we did last Europe Day, where you all spoke about what Europe means to you. The launch of the Conference on the Future of Europe will happen on Europe Day, so we want to all say in our mother tongues what Europe means to us. I hope you will all take part and share as much as possible.

We are also in the process of working to organise regional meetings around Europe, to get suggestions on a grassroots level.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): If you're interested, please send us a request that we meet your members and explain the Conference on the Future of Europe to them.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) thanks the Bureau and states that the speakers' list is now open.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom) congratulates the Bureau for the success of their work during a pandemic, and states that his members in Radikal Ungdom have had many opportunities to be active in LYMEC.

Abel Hartman (JD) agrees with **Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom)**. He emphasises that the Bureau has done a fantastic job and handled the transition to online and digital events very well. He then addresses the following questions to the Bureau:

1. Does the relationship with Renew Europe have any practical implications for the Member Organisations?
2. To **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)**: what are her biggest priorities in the coming year?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President) responds to the first question, saying that the discussions with Renew are not yet conclusive, but a joint statement is planned, and there is a plan to write new policy programmes, for which Renew would like input from LYMEC. But it is still early days for the relationship.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) states that her biggest priority is the Conference on the Future of Europe platform - on the one side, the European Parliament said every avenue for reform including Treaty change is on the table. In other words, the institutions need to know what citizens want, and the platform is the way to find out. The European Council claims that citizens don't want big change.

In fact, the Council has no idea what citizens want. LYMEC's papers show that its members want institutional reform, so LYMEC has a duty to make this clear to the Council. All Member Organisations must get involved so that our message is heard as clearly as possible. That's our priority.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) gives the floor to the last speaker on the list.

Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegate) reminds the Congress that last year, she was the Secretariat's administrative assistant, and she states she is very proud of what the Bureau has gone on to achieve. Now, as one of the IMS delegates, she wants to know what the Bureau thinks about IMS participation opportunities, and how they can ensure that IMS members are active and participating in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) states that she doesn't see the IMS as a separate body. She wants them to participate on the same level as all other members. IMS is a unique structure which LYMEC and ALDE have.

It is mostly up to the IMS members, and especially the elected delegates themselves, to ensure that the group is active and informed - and of course, the IMS is free to approach the Bureau to invite them to conversations. She reminds Congress that **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** is the Bureau Member responsible for relations with the IMS.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) invites one more speaker, **Antoni Puig Arriet (JLA)**, to quickly ask a question and for **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to close the speakers' list.

Antoni Puig Arriet (JLA) asks whether it is possible for Member Organisations who are not from EU Member States to participate in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) replies that there is nothing about this in writing, in regard to the participation of non-EU Member States. However, there is no geoblocking of the platform, so anyone around Europe can participate, and she would urge them to do that. There is space for the neighbourhood as well.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) proposes to move on and asks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to publish the result of the snap vote that we now received. The results are also available on the platform and they will be sent out via email to the delegates (*see agenda point 8 of these minutes*).

10. Secretary General report and debate about the report

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to the floor.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): A lot has been said from the Bureau, but from my point of view - we have been adapting, working from home, and really not much has changed since the last Congress. We have been trying to make the best of the digital tools, we are learning to use them as efficiently as possible. We have also been initiating team-building together with the Bureau to keep up team spirits.

Mental health is important in the current times, and we have been looking into whether there is a need to discuss and listen to each other more, these being very important. We are now at the third Digital Congress and hope to meet soon in person. This is all laid out in the written report, and I am happy to take questions if needed.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the report. No one asks for the floor. **Slaven Klobucar (Chair)** thanks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) proposes to take some pictures of the delegates for social media.

Some pictures are taken of the Congress

11. Finances

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that the Congress will now move on to discuss finances, including the requests for reduced membership fees, debt reduction and payment plans. There will be explanations from each Member Organisation as to why they are making these requests displayed on OpenSlides. He states that he will not give the floor to Member Organisations unless there are specific questions. He 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 they had received multiple requests for reduced fees and payment plans. He reminds Congress that all the letters and requests have been made available for delegates to read on OpenSlides and on the documentation page. Five requests have been made and one debt relief request has been added. All have written reports and can be found on Openslides.

MO Fee reduction requests for 2021 Spring:

- **HSLs Croatia: reduction of €289**

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) informs Congress that this concerns a reduction of €289 to leave a **balance of €1**. He states that the floor is now open for questioning.

No one took the floor.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that if delegates oppose this reduction, they should add themselves to the speakers list and indicate if they want a vote on the matter. Silence will be understood to be approval.

No one took the floor.

The fee reduction was accepted by the Congress. The membership fee for 2021 for HSLs Croatia is therefore 1 EUR.

- **Mladi Liberali BiH: reduction of €196**

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) informs Congress that this concerns a reduction of €196 to a final amount of €10. He states that the floor is now open for questioning.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that if delegates oppose this reduction, they should add themselves to the speakers list and indicate if they want a vote on the matter. Silence will be understood to be approval.

No one took the floor.

The fee reduction was accepted by the Congress. The membership fee for 2021 for Mladi Liberali Bosnia/Herzegovina is therefore 10 EUR.

- Nova Stranka Youth: reduction of €215,92

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) informs Congress that this concerns a reduction of €215,92 to leave a balance of €10. He states that the floor is now open for questioning.

No one took the floor.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that if delegates oppose this reduction, they should add themselves to the speakers' list and indicate if they want a vote on the matter. Silence will be understood to be approval.

No one took the floor.

The fee reduction was approved by the Congress. The membership fee for 2021 for Nova Stranka Youth is therefore 10 EUR.

- Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka: reduction of €115

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) informs Congress that this concerns a reduction of €115 to leave a balance of €60. He states that the floor is now open for questioning.

No one took the floor.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that if delegates oppose this reduction, they should add themselves to the speakers list and indicate if they want a vote on the matter. Silence will be understood to be approval.

No one took the floor.

The fee reduction was approved by the Congress. The membership fee for 2021 for Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka is therefore 60 EUR.

- **Nowoczesna Youth: a reduction of €125**

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) informs Congress that there are two separate requests from Nowoczesna Youth which will be handled separately. The first concerns a fee reduction of €125 to leave a balance of €50. He states that the floor is now open for questioning.

No one took the floor

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that if delegates oppose this reduction, they should add themselves to the speakers list and indicate if they want a vote on the matter. Silence will be understood to be approval.

No one took the floor.

The fee reduction was approved by the Congress. The membership fee for 2021 for Nowoczesna Youth is therefore 50 EUR.

Debt reduction requests for 2021 Spring:

- **Nowoczesna Youth: debt relief of €700**

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) states that the second request from Nowoczesna Youth concerns a debt reduction request of €700. Of course, this is a significant amount, they have not been able to pay their fees, and they are now asking to be able to start with a clean slate.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) opens the floor for questions.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I understand why Nowoczesna Youth are requesting this but I am wondering how **Nowoczesna Youth** can assure Congress that there is not going to be another debt arising in the future?

Lukasz Kazmierczak (NY): NY are not registered as an association under Polish law, but we have now submitted documents in order to officially register. Once that is granted, the organisation will be able to collect membership fees and have a guaranteed source of income. In the future we will have a membership fee of around 2 or 3 euros per month. The President of the organisation will be covering the reduced fees out of his own money, but this will not happen again.

Tim Robinson (IMS): This is a question aimed at **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**: What is the composition of the debt and how did they build up such a big debt? Presumably there would have been a point in the past where they would have been able to settle their membership fees, but then something changed. At what point did they stop being able to pay?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): As far as I know, since **Nowoczesna Youth** has become an Associate Member, they have not been able to pay their fee, so this is four years of Associate Membership Fees. Officially, under previous Bureaus, reduction requests were not

available to associate members, this is something that we have changed only recently in the statutes. Before that, **Nowoczesna Youth** could not ask for reductions. That is also the reason for this accumulated debt.

Lukasz Kazmierczak (NY): I only became the International Officer recently, so it is hard to comment accurately, but I believe that it was because we were Associate Members and could not apply for a reduction fee.

Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (IMS): Just to clarify, there has not even been a partial payment, so they have not paid anything for LYMEC, I stress the point on how we can be sure that this will be paid in the future.

Lukasz Kazmierczak (NY): Now we have the reduction and next year we hope we will be able to pay the fee.

Cas Cratsborn (JOVD) asks for a proper vote on this matter.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) asks **Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** if this is possible and in such case to open the vote for the debt reduction of Nowoczesna Youth.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) reminds the delegates that they can use the Autopilot function to find their way back on where we are on the agenda.

Vote

For - 125

Against -30

Abstain - 12

Debt reduction was approved by the Congress.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) gives the floor back to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**

b) Financial report 2020 (for decision)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) presents the financial report of 2020.

Written Statement, Profit and Loss Statement & Balance Sheet

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Of course this has been a very extraordinary year. Almost no travel, no physical events, and therefore there were very little costs. This has led to a substantial surplus of more than €28.000 over 2020 which in turn has led to an equity which is assets minus our liabilities, the net of more than €107,000. This is a very good and healthy financial situation for LYMEC, but as I also explained in my report, we work with quite

substantial grants of over €50.000 yearly so if we were to lose any of these grants we are in a good situation to recover from that. I do not believe that this is an unnecessary luxury.

Debts

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): As you can see we have quite a few outstanding debts, the €700 can be seen here. The most noteworthy is the Mladi LDP's debt, which is a staggering amount of almost €1500. We have been in contact with them to apply for a fee reduction, but they could not be moved to do that and we are quite concerned about this. Those with an asterisk have applied for a reduction, and for most of them we have received their reduced fee already, so you can disregard those. A number of debts have been written off since the organisations have been disaffiliated.

MO fees, debt, IMS, fundraising, refunds

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): 11 Member Organisation fees are still to be received. After the reductions, that has decreased to 7 Member Organisation fees. This due to a number of reasons: some having organisational issues, others financial issues and others we simply could not reach in the last few months. We have put significant work in decreasing the outstanding debts throughout 2020, getting the number down by quite a bit.

We had around 175 Individual Members at the end of last year. We didn't have any fundraising activities, but we did have some extraordinary refunds. For the bigger Bureau meetings and the Congresses that were supposed to take place physically, we provided refunds for meals and sometimes drinks. That is it for the annual report. Are there any questions from the Congress?

Robbert Verheul (JOVD): Thank you, I have a question about the debt. I was shocked by the debt, are there any organisations that have a plan on how to pay their debt or is this even a possibility?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): We indeed do have the possibility of a payment plan with organizations, but this is not always a solution. We made a plan with the Mladi LDP but because of organizational issues it was hard to get in touch with them. This amount is extraordinary, but as you can see in the other outstanding debts, we still have some possibilities to receive the debts, some have already been forgiven in the last agenda point and it might look bad, but the reality is a bit different.

Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO): On behalf of Mlade ANO, I want to comment on our debt. Right now, we do not have the possibility to transfer any money via bank accounts, we can only pay by cash and the plan is to pay by the next Congress.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) requests to proceed to a vote and gives the floor back to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the Interim financial report for January-March 2021 during the vote.

Vote

For- 139

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

The financial report 2020 was carried by the Congress.

c) Interim financial report January-March 2021 (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): 2021 has been off to quite a slow start money-wise. The income side has been fairly stable, no big changes, we didn't have a physical Spring Congress so not that much money has moved. There is a new cost linked to the development of OpenSlides, they have increased their cost to 500 EUR per month, but **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** has been working with someone to move the open source software on our own servers, so that it will cost less and easier to handle. Because of the big surplus we have planned some investments, e.g. the new website that has already been discussed. A podcast is also a possibility. It is also noteworthy that thanks to **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Events and Training Officer)** and **Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer)**, they have put a lot of work into the application for study sessions of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe The second one has been granted and the third one applied for. Thanks to them for that!

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the report.

No one asks to take the floor.

d) Revised budget 2021 (for decision)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) presents the Revised Budget for 2021. Every Congress we update the budget to reflect new developments: no physical Spring Congress is a bigger change. We are still not sure how the EYF study sessions will work financially, it appears to not be much.

We are increasing the account for staff expenses to have the possibility to hire an extra temporary employee if we deem this necessary when physical events start back up in the Autumn. The goal is to have the possibility to hire someone extra in case it is needed. Furthermore, I decreased the website account since that appears to go well under budget. Also, we foresee a price increase in plane tickets for Bureau meetings for the second half of the year.

I have to notify you that the grants we receive from the European Liberal Forum and Renew Europe do not pass our accounts and can therefore not be seen in any of the budgets. They pay our bills directly without the money ever being on our bank account.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that no-one is on the speakers' list. He states that if there is anyone against to go to the speakers' list now.

No one asks for the floor.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) asks if there is anyone opposing the Revised Budget 2021.

No one opposes.

The Revised Budget 2021 was therefore adopted by the Congress.

e) **Internal audit report (for information)**

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) suggests moving to the internal audit point.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) explains that **Sanda Krekikj** has let us know last week that she was not able to combine the work of being an internal auditor with her other responsibilities. This was also one of the reasons why the internal auditor report was received so late, but **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)** will probably tell you a little bit more about that. We thank Sanda for her work and are very happy that runner-up **Jeffrey Drui** has been so kind to replace her for the coming year as internal auditor.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) gives the floor to **Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor)** on behalf of the internal auditors for 2 minutes.

Tuuli Helind (Internal Auditor) addresses the Congress and states that she is one of the internal auditors. I am sorry that Sanda had to resign but glad that LYMEC was able to find another internal auditor **Jeffrey Drui (Internal Auditor)** and happy that all the tasks can be completed. There were no observations made in the audit report for the year 2020 and the finances themselves. Also the previous observations that we made for the previous audit that was carried before the Autumn Congress, they were all implemented. She thanked **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** for understanding that the audit report was late. They provided us with all the documents needed and helped us interpret them. Moving forward, we have talked about changing the format of the audit report, making it a bit more professional, adding risks and recommendations in different columns to raise the professionalism in the internal audit. We want to see LYMEC as a more credible organisation.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) thanks the internal auditors and gives the floor back to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** for the next point.

f) [External audit report \(for information\)](#)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): You can all see the report online and external auditors checked our books and everything looked good - both profit and loss statement and the balance sheet. An extra thank you to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, since I wasn't able to travel to Belgium and I would not have been able to do it without **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the report. No one took the floor and **Slaven Klobucar (Chair)** proposes to move forward on the agenda to point 12 since there is enough time left to cover it.

12. Membership issues

a. Applications for Associate Membership (none)

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) explains that there are no applications for Associate Membership.

b. Applications for Full Membership

Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) invites **Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka)** to present the application of her organisation for Full Membership.

Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka) introduces herself. She is the Secretary and International Officer of the youth wing of Nasa Stranka and she hopes that everyone is healthy. They are happy to be able to apply for the full membership. She starts the presentation of the organisation.

Basic information about the organisation: The organisation is from Bosnia and Herzegovina and it was founded in 2009. They have been associate members of LYMEC since 2017. Regarding the leadership - **Omer Berbic** is the President, **Naida Omerdić** is the Vice-President and **Sara Arslanagic** is the Secretary. Since Bosnia is a bit complicated, it is leveled so that they have cantons and in the cantons there are municipalities. Currently, they have two cantonal organizations.

Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka) further explains that when it comes to our local organisation we have 9 of them. On the map you can see them, the number 3 was through the help of **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)**.

About the activities - we are active in the following: International Cooperation, Coordination on Party activities, Cooperation with NGOs, Electoral campaigns, Local activism, Promotion Liberal Ideas and Values - the core of our youth organization

We also do public advocacy - as a youth forum we try to collaborate with our local, cantonal and federal organisation and we want to include our young people through discussions and workshops.

When it comes to partnership, members of the Youth Forum tend to participate in a lot of workshops with several organizations like: Academy for Women, Boris Divkovic Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung or even the International Republican Institute.

When it comes to being active in LYMEC - we have participated in the Spring Congress in 2017 but also in 2020. We also attended the Autumn Congress in 2020, the ELF Book event "Liberal visions for Europe" in Sarajevo and the RLPA in Brussels both in 2019.

Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka) adds that the organisation cooperated with many members of LYMEC as the youth organisation and considering our geographical situation and history we tend to cooperate with our neighbours and mainly Jonge Democraten (JD), LiDem, USR Tineret, Young Liberals Greece - YLG, Forum Mladih Nova Stranka. We are part of the "Renewing Education" cooperation project. We have participated in the latest event. This project is going to extend with more webinars and hopefully we will have a future educational plan for Europe as well. The cooperation project is realised together with the following organisations: USR Tineret, YLG, Forum Mladih Nova Stranka

Why do we want to become members?

We believe that this would open more opportunities for international cooperation, we will be able to provide a new perspective to other member organizations and at the same time strengthen internal capacities. We would also get the right to vote at future Congresses. Finally, we would have a stronger representation of our liberal voice in the country.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) thanks **Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka)** and opens the floor for questions.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): First of all we want to confirm everything **Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka)** said, we are indeed working closely in the Bonding Liberal Youth project. I have a question: I noticed that you have a bit of a break between 2017 and 2019, can you tell me what happened during that period in your organisation? Anything happened?

Marko Zivkovic (Forum mladih Nove stranke): I want to say that Nova Stranka Youth has had great cooperation since 2017, it is really hard to promote our values in this region and I urge delegates to support this member application.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): I want to say that we had the opportunity to interview them with the Nordic delegation and we were very impressed with the answers and the presentation. We would like to express our support.

Tim Robinson (IMS): I was in the ELF event in Sarajevo, it was really nice to meet the people there. I am half Bosnian and one of the biggest issues is that there is an enormous divide between ethnic and national identity. It is a touchy subject that I didn't see in the manifesto you have submitted. I am very interested in what Nasa Stranka would do to overcome this existing divide in Bosnia?

Nemir Ali (JuLis): My question is referring to your manifesto. I saw that you have engaged in education and employment but what are your regards on civil rights, for example racism?

Abel Hartman (JD): Very much the same as Tim and I would appreciate a comment on the constitutional reform in Bosnia.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) closes the list of speakers and gives the floor back for answers to **Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka)**.

Sara Arslanagic (Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka): I tried to write down all of the questions. Why did we have a break between 2017 and 2019? In 2018 we had an election when we had the best result, and we were very proud since the youth section ran a lot on the elections and we had great outcomes. We also had leadership changes, and that is why we had that. I hope there won't be any more gaps.

Marko knows that it is very hard to find cooperation partners in the region, but as an organisation we want to stop the idea that we can't cooperate with our neighbours but rather show the world that we manage well. Ellinor thank you for the comment. Tim, it is hard to change the idea, we believe that we want to be Bosnian and Herzegovinian, we should have one President, we believe that we are all equal and not separated by national identities or religion. It is more important to look at the background from an educational point or a CV, not your identity.

We are working to change the constitution, we believe that 1 President is better than 3 and it is more democratic. Nemir, when it comes to civil rights and LGBTQ we have organised a parade for the LGBTIQ population and we hope to make one more in Banja Luka. When it comes to racism and as a youth forum, we try to fight it as much as we can - it shouldn't even exist. We try to make amendments and policy proposals addressing hate speech, I was myself involved in a few initiatives. We try to change politics as much as we can.

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

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) takes the floor and he explains that we move to a closed session, all the associate members and observers including **Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka** will be moved to a breakout room. **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**

confirms who is and who isn't in the call and sends the others to a breakout session outside of the digital Congress room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the membership of Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) thanks Congress and reminds Congress that the vote will now be for full membership, and that the necessary majority is 2/3rds of votes. The percentages indicated in OpenSlides include abstention, which should not be counted according to the statutes and Congress rules. **Slaven Klobucar (Chair)** requests to proceed to a vote.

Vote

For- 158

Against- 0

Abstain- 7

Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka is therefore accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC.

c. Suspensions (none)

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) explains that there are no proposed suspensions.

d. Disaffiliations (none)

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) explains that there are no proposed disaffiliations.

Slaven Klobucar (Chair) closes the session for the day.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) reminds everyone to login on time the next day so that there are no delays.

Day 2: Saturday 24th April 2021

Day starts at 10 h 00 CEST.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) opens the day and welcomes everyone back to the Congress. and invites the next guest speakers of the Congress to take the floor starting with **Asier Areitio (President of YDE - Young Democrats for Europe)** who unfortunately could not attend this morning but has sent us a video instead.

Asier Areitio (President of YDE - Young Democrats for Europe):

He is very sorry for not making it to the Congress due to some personal reasons. He tells us that YDE has already cooperated with LYMEC before in the parliamentary groups and as youth organisations and in different events during this year. He wishes us all the best and hopes that we have a successful Congress. He states that Young Democrats of Europe and LYMEC cooperates very well and is looking forward to meeting us in person.

Simon Lindkaer Andersen (Board Member YFJ - European Youth Forum): My name is Simon, and I would like to thank you for the invitation to speak: I am very happy to be here.

At the European Youth Forum, we try to give people the opportunity to find common ground and to share their ideologies, perspectives and outlooks. At the moment in Europe we are facing many challenges, such as the democratic backsliding taking place in various regions, which has a major impact, including on young people as individuals.

At YFJ we also understand the importance of an active and engaged civil society and we want to be the voice of that civil society, to bring up the issues of civil rights. It is an honor to be standing shoulder to shoulder with LYMEC on this fight. We are at the doorstep at the Conference of the future of Europe and I am looking forward to working with LYMEC to bring forward the ideas of young people.

I would like to thank LYMEC for its involvement in the work of the YFJ and give a special thanks to **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer)** who is our delegate to the YFJ Congresses. LYMEC is always a welcomed participant in the platform and I am really happy that LYMEC nominated me to the Board of the organisation. I am looking forward to the work in the future and it was a joy to attend the Congress and give a speech.

Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY): Thank you for the invitation to your Congress and I am really happy to be here. We are very proud that LYMEC is our regional member in Europe, and the work you do: fighting for youth participation, strengthening democratic values, fighting for a better EU, and advocating for free movement for many years, which IFLRY also finds extremely important. Of course, both of our organisations face many of the same challenges such as the refugee crisis, climate crisis and indeed several European countries are regressing rather than moving forward in regards to human rights. The answer to these challenges is not to sit back and claim that everyone is doing better on their own, as the European populists do, because we know that we don't. The answer for Liberals is to work together even more, to find better solutions. Liberal ideas of freedom, peace and cooperation and equal values for all have already brought us so far in the European society and if we want these ideas to continue to shape Europe we must fight now and show that our ideas are better than the nationalists' solutions. In order to do that all liberal forces have to work together: that is why LYMEC and IFLRY is a common force and why our cooperation is so essential when it comes to these issues. I wish you all the best of luck with the Congress and I am looking forward to working together with LYMEC to fight for freedom and peace.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) gives the floor collectively to **Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY)**, **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** and **Benjamin Fievet (LYMEC representative to IFLRY)** to present together the memorandum of understanding between LYMEC and IFLRY that they have been working on lately. She starts by giving the floor to

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) to explain the framework of what they have been doing.

11bis. Presentation of the IFLRY/ LYMEC co-operation document (added Agenda point)

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): Thank you **Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY)** for your speech, and yes our cooperation is important. That is why we came up with a memorandum of understanding between both our organisations, but I am going to give you a little more details about why we decided to do this. During the policy book clean-up process we discovered two old resolutions in Chapter 10 of our Policy Book about the IFLRY-LYMEC and LYMEC-IFLRY cooperation. They were very old and they needed a good brush and that is why together with the IFLRY bureau, we decided to renew this policy cooperation paper. Together with **Benjamin Fievet (Delegate to IFLRY)** and **Michel Nentwig (IFLRY Secretary General)** we met several times and we came up with a memorandum of understanding between both our organisations. The goal of this document is to write down main points of our cooperation that can also apply for the next decades. It is a very general, but still very important solid ground to work on. Maybe **Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY)** wants to continue?

Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY): When we started working together on this memorandum, we first defined why it is important and all the bases that I mentioned in my speech before, but it really comes down to share same values such as human rights, the rule of law, the rule of democracy and we believe that cooperation then translates into a stronger liberal voice. That was the most important thing at the basis of our cooperation. After we had established all those basic things we also recognized that both of our organisations have different focuses that are not in conflict with each other or in competition and that there is room for both of our organisations which I think is very important. With that being said, we then moved on to acknowledge the geographical scopes, LYMEC focuses on Europe and IFLRY operates globally and by recognising these factors, we then agreed to contribute by being in contact with each other, to evaluate fields of cooperation, and to share valuable information. We also came to the agreement that the day-to-day business of both of our bureaus should be agreed upon at an operational level and we also agreed on other things that can aid our cooperation concretely and can be found in the document. But these are the most fundamental parts of this work in my opinion.

Benjamin Fievet (LYMEC representative to IFLRY): I will try to not repeat all the things that have been said. I just want to add that the document has three parts. The first part is more general, covering our common tradition and how we see liberalism in the two organisations. That can also be seen in my report, we had this IFLRY-LYMEC leadership meeting in the beginning of February. The main common vision and shared values were discussed during that meeting. The second part that **Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY)** already mentioned, when me, **Michel Nentwig (IFLRY Secretary General)** and **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** met to go into details of what it entails to share these values and work together. We gave a few details there on how we want to work together and what are the points where we differ. The third part is actually not in there, but we gave enough flexibility in the document, I

believe, so that the two Bureaus and the two Secretariats can arrange the processes by which they want to cooperate in a way that works and which can evolve according to the teams and rules. It is not fixed there, so that we have some flexibility to adapt on how to work together. I think additionally that the way that this is formatted will make it easy to, when we need to adapt, make changes with amendments, without rewriting the whole document from scratch, which was obviously needed this time. I think the last document was from 1993 or 1992 which is why you understand why we need to do something completely new.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): We tried to make it sustainable for the future so that different bureaus, different boards can work together based on this document. You know that every bureau and every board has their own agenda and own priorities that's why it still gives a little bit of margin. But that is what we wanted to concentrate on, we wanted to make sure to not only respect organisations, but also find an understanding on how we see each other and that is the outcome of it.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) thanks **Simon Lindkaer Andersen (Board Member YFJ - European Youth Forum)** and **Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY)** for being here today and an extended thank you to **Asier Areitio (President of YDE - Young Democrats for Europe)** for sending us a video, because in the current situation, we need all agreeable forces to come together and fight for the voice of young people. She states that the information point is therefore closed.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) points out that there is someone on the speakers' list.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) gives the floor to **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)**

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): I want to thank **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** for giving members the opportunity to share our ideas for the cooperation between LYMEC and IFLRY beforehand. I have one question about the focus and the goal: what does it mean concretely? There was a topic for example for LYMEC on Hong Kong, which is not in Europe, does it mean that when LYMEC wants to talk about that topic that they have to contact IFLRY and ask them or does it mean that LYMEC can still speak on it or have a European perspective on global topics?

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): In the document we left it open because both bureaus and boards need to discuss it at the moment on how they want to proceed with that, maybe **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** wants to say a few words on that?

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): Technically speaking you can't have a one-size-fits-all solution, that's why we didn't want to put anything in black and white in the document that is too specific and would restrict any kind of action. Because in some cases, there can be a situation that can happen abroad but has an European element in it. For example a trip by a representative of the EU to China and a response of China on the matter could have a bit more European focus than a global one. From that point, as **Amanda Kanange (President**

IFLRY) said in her introduction, that is why we created operational teams on every level between the two organisations. One is between our Communications Officers, one is Policy Officers and on case by case we analyse the situation and we see where the topic fits better. Does the case have a more global component or does it have more of a European element and based on that we will see which organisation takes the lead. But yes, there can't be two organisations that do exactly the same things and compete with each other instead of helping each other to spread the message. One organisation has to take the lead and then that organisation will campaign or take action or whatever you want to call it and the other one would be using its channels to give visibility to it, to streamline it, to raise awareness and what not. In that way, we can multiply our message and not compete on the same forum.

Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY): I want to emphasise what you said **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** as the most important thing is that the message gets out there, that the message is amplified. It is not really about us as organisations, but about the liberal values that we cherish and want to spread as much as possible and the issues that we are fighting for. It is to make sure that these issues and values get raised in the best way and with that being said, I think that it is good that we work together and not compete on the issues, because at the end of the day it will lead to the message going through in the way that we want to.

This is something we have already started doing. We communicate with each other on where the issue fits the best, it is not specified in this document how we do that, but leaves it up to the Bureaus to find the best form of cooperation to make sure that it happens. As **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** mentioned, our Communications Officer from our Bureau and the LYMEC Communications Officer have a common chat where they talk about different things that arise. Me and **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** and **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)** have contact as well, talking about where certain things should fit in both of our organisations.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President) thanks **Amanda Kanange (President IFLRY)** for her presentation and for joining us to answer the questions and proceeds to give the floor to **Lena Höglund (Chair)**.

Lena Höglund (Chair) thanks **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** for the floor and reminds the Congress about the practical things such as re-naming yourself according to the guidelines and to repeat your name and organisation when speaking. She clarifies that the meeting on Zoom is recorded for the minute-taking. She reminds the delegates to take a stance on amendments to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings before proceeding to speak on the amendment or resolution. She also reminds the delegates about the timeline - lunch at 12 h 30 for an hour, whereafter she gives the floor to **Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to do the roll call.

Roll Call

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

	Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 1 Friday Opening	Roll Call 2 Saturday Morning
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra		3	3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw		5	5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		9	0	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF		10	10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth		3	0	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	7	7
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY		4	4	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO		3	3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		5	5	5
Estonia	Centre Party Youth (Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu)		8	8	0
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret		6	6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)		3	3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)		6	6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux		3	3	3
Germany	Junge Liberale		10	10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece		3	3	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX		3	3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn		4	4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil		8	8	8
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth		6	6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg		3	0	3
The Netherlands	Jovd		6	6	6
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth		3	3	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos		7	7	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4	4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		5	5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund		5	5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)		7	7	7
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten		7	7	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine		3	3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine		3	3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals		7	7	7
IMS	Tim Robinson		1	1	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot		1	1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk		1	1	1
	TOTAL		191	176	183
	Simple majority of those present		95.5	88	91.5

There were 183 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisation was not present:

Estonian Centre Party Youth (Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu)

13. 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](#))

Lena Höglund (Chair) invites **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** to present the outcomes of the policy book renewal working group.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): We started with **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)** the renewal of the policy book, because it has been a long time since the Policy Book has been cleaned up. We have policies and resolutions dating from the 1990s that are outdated, that is why we have started the process of updating resolutions that do not apply anymore and archiving topics that are not current. We have created a working group on this matter that will start again after this Congress, in June after the ALDE Congress - there will be a call in May.

The proposal today is about updating Chapter 2 and Chapter 10, last Congress we tackled the beginning of Chapter 2 so there are some resolutions that have been updated. You can see that new additions are marked in red, in some cases we also merged resolutions that tackle the same topic together and those additions coming from different resolutions are in green. I think there are some amendments to them, we discussed everything at the Digital Assembly so it's going to be a whole package to vote on so that we do not lose more time on it. I really hope that I can motivate you to participate in the next Working Group because it is a lot of work and if we have more people we can tackle more resolutions and we can move on faster on the whole process.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that we have **three amendments** to the proposal on updating resolutions from Chapter 2. All the amendments have a positive recommendation from the Working Group from last weekend. I would now ask **Franziska Brandmann (JuLis)** to present her amendments and then open up the floor for debate on the amendment and then proceed to vote on the amendment.

- **2.12 Condemning xenophobia and racism in the EU**
- **Amendment 23** submitted by **Franziska Brandmann (JuLis)**

Franziska Brandmann (JuLis) did not speak.

Lena Höglund (Chair) is opening the floor to other people to speak up on this amendment. No-one took the floor so she proceeded to vote on the amendment.

Vote

For- 153

Against- 7

Abstain- 14

The amendment was carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amendment 48** submitted by **Felix Häring (LHG)**

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that the amendment has a positive recommendation from the working group and considering time efficiency and the quite consolidated community here, she suggests that we move on to voting on the amendment and asks whether there are any objections?

There were no objections.

Vote

For- 157

Against- 7

Abstain- 7

The amendment was carried by the Congress

➤ **Amendment 24** submitted by **Franziska Brandmann (JuLis)**

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that this amendment also received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and seeing as the reception has been overwhelmingly positive she suggests moving on to voting on the amendment and asks if there are any objections.

There were no objections.

Vote

For- 160

Against- 0

Abstain- 13

The amendment was carried by the Congress

❖ **Proposal: Proposal on updating resolutions from Chapter 2**

Lena Höglund (Chair) asks whether there are any comments on the proposal, and if there is anyone against this proposal. There were no objections.

Vote

For- 161

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

The update proposal has been carried by the Congress. Chapter 2 of the Policy Book is therefore updated.

❖ **Proposal: all resolutions to be archived from Chapter 10 (Motion)**

Lena Höglund (Chair) asks whether there are any comments on that proposal and also invites **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** to comment on it.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) states that there should not be any amendments. She explains that

The Working Group proposes to archive all resolutions from Chapter 10 as they are all either outdated or to be now found in the statutes/congress rules. Chapter 10 would be deleted from the Policy Book and a new document gathering adopted motions will be created.

Lena Höglund (Chair) opens the floor for discussion and asks if anyone present wants to speak on the matter. There was no one on the speakers' list and she therefore proceeded to a vote on the proposal.

Vote

For- 163

Against- 0

Abstain- 3

The proposal has been carried by the Congress. Chapter 10 is therefore archived and a new internal motion document will be created after the Congress including 10.21, 10.22, 10.23 and 10.24.

- **Proposal on archival of Chapter 2**

Lena Höglund (Chair) asks if **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** would like to speak on the matter and states that there were no amendments to this point.

There were no objections from delegates.

Vote

For - 172

Against -0

Abstain - 0

The proposal has been carried by the Congress. The listed resolutions from Chapter 2 are archived.

14. Motions

Lena Höglund (Chair) invites **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** to present the document "Future of Europe - Political Focus". She adds that there are no amendments and

reminds the delegates that this has been a very long-running process, so she hopes the matter can be approved quickly.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): The International Officers have already had the opportunity to work on this document. We had the first document at the last Congress about 'institutional reforms', but we wanted a document for the Conference of Europe with a political focus. There were only deletion amendments possible and I am happy to see there are no amendments.

Lena Höglund (Chair) opens the floor for discussion. No delegate takes the floor, so she moves to a vote.

Vote on the Motion 'Future of Europe: Political Focus'

For - 174

Against - 6

Abstain - 0

The motion was carried by the Congress. LYMEC therefore has two content input documents for the Conference on the Future of Europe - one on the institutional reforms (from the last Congress) and now one on the political focus.

15. Resolutions

Lena Höglund (Chair) reminds the delegates to not use the zoom chat, to interact through the speakers' list on OpenSlides only. She reminds them to repeat their name and organisation first, then comment on the matter at hand.

Lena Höglund (Chair) moves to the next agenda point on resolutions and gives the floor to the mover of the first resolution in the list.

1. Solidarity with the Polish and Hungarian LGBTQ+ community

Barnabás Gádor (TizenX): Thank you for the support shown in the snap vote. We think along with Nowoczesna Youth that this is an important issue in Eastern Europe, and we have a responsibility to act. This proposal acknowledges the problems in our countries, the problems that the LGBTQ people face under Hungarian law. We call on LYMEC and the European community to recognise these human rights violations and to put pressure on Polish and Hungarian governments. We are open to accept the amendment submitted - we believe the responsibility of the community is something we can support. I would call all members present to support this resolution.

❖ Amendment 117

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that the amendment was given a positive recommendation and sees no need to discuss further since the mover accepts it. The floor is open to comments on the amended resolution. No one comments, so she moves to a vote.

Vote on resolution as amended

For - 183

Against -

0

Abstain - 0

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

2. Defending academic freedom

Lena Höglund (Chair) reminds the delegates that they can use the autopilot in OpenSlides if they are struggling to follow the Congress. She proceeds to give the floor to **Felix Häring (LHG)** the mover of the next resolution.

Felix Häring (LHG): This is the first resolution I have presented as International Officer. Thank you for your support in the snap vote, it is a big surprise for us. We have been dealing a lot with the Confucius institutes in Germany and we had a campaign about this together with JuLis in December. There has also been a case of Azerbaijani influence at Humboldt University in Berlin, where the history department is being partially financed by the Azerbaijan embassy. This resolution is about not allowing foreign influence in our universities.

Benjamin Bergan (Svensk Ungdom): I would like to ask - we didn't put in an amendment - but we want to know why you didn't choose another type of saying for non-European. You don't include countries like Russia, Belarus etc, even though we admit this resolution has good points.

Felix Häring (LHG): We formulated it this way, because we know that we are an organisation with a lot of different member organizations - we didn't want to just write about the EU, we wanted to include member organisations from Switzerland, non-EU countries such as Andorra and Ukraine as well.

Lena Höglund (Chair) proposes to move to a vote since there were no amendments to this resolution and no one else is on the speakers' list.

Vote on the resolution as a whole

For - 157

Against - 6

Abstain - 10

The resolution was carried by the Congress.

3. DEMAND TO STOP POLITICAL REPRESSIONS AGAINST YOUNG CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND TO RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW IN UKRAINE - Urgency resolution

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that the resolution has a massive number of co-signatures and proceeds to pass the floor to **Artur Kharytonov (LDLU)** the mover of the urgency resolution.

Artur Kharytonov (LDLU): I want to be very open. The situation in Ukraine is very bad, I hope that the majority of you had a chance to look at the resolution. We know that the case can be confusing to an European audience, but this resolution could have a big impact on the Ukrainian society. The Servant of the People party wants to join ALDE, but it has absolute power in Ukraine. It is stamping on protests from civil society, but we all know from history that a one party system is broken. The voice of LYMEC could really impact the situation. I am in regular contact with human rights organisations and lawyers of arrested and detained people, and they are waiting for LYMEC's decision. I just want to point out that today is 500 days since the unlawful detention of Anatolii Antonenko. Another very serious point, our current policing minister Arsen Avakov, who is the minister of internal affairs has had the position for the last eight years and he has continuously terrified the Ukrainian civil society. I don't know how the system and the party will react to this resolution, I don't know what the impact will be for me and our organisation, but I ask you to support it anyway.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that it is our job as young democracy rights defenders to reassure a safe development in all of our countries. The floor is now open to other speakers.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): I would like to thank **Artur Kharytonov (LDLU)** and **Anna Komziuk (LDLU)** for informing us about this situation, it has really helped us understand what is going on. At USR Tineret, we concluded that punishing someone for allegedly stealing 15 euros for seven years six years ago is wrong, and justice and fair trials are important parts of democracy. Please keep in mind what **Artur Kharytonov (LDLU)** has told us, and if you have an open channel to a delegate to the ALDE Party Congress or some that is going to the Party Congress, please raise these questions and take into consideration that the Servant of the People Party are applying for membership to ALDE.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): This is an inspiration to hear **Artur Kharytonov (LDLU)**'s testimony, an organisation standing up for democracy in Ukraine. The list of co-signatories is huge, it is great to see. **Artur Kharytonov (LDLU)** should be very proud of the work he is doing, this is what Urgency Resolutions are for.

Lena Höglund (Chair) proposes to move to a vote since there were no amendments to this resolution and there were no more speakers on the speakers' list.

Vote on the resolution as a whole

For - 170
Against - 0
Abstain - 0

The resolution was carried by the Congress

Artur Kharytonov (LDLU): Thank you, all our parties in Ukraine are not willing to support young people, so it is so encouraging to have support from all of you for the Ukrainian youth.

4. Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Geoeconomic and Geopolitical factors in the Arctic

Lena Höglund (Chair) moves to the next resolution and states that there were two amendments and one amendment to amendment. We will start with the movers to speak on the resolution as a whole, and please tell us what you think of the amendments since there were no clear recommendations from the working group.

Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): This resolution is to introduce the Arctic as a topic into the Policy Book. Because the polar caps are melting, shipping routes are opening due to global warming which is bringing challenges and opportunities. It is important that trade is done responsibly, that investment and infrastructure are managed carefully. China and Russia play a big role in this and as we know the countries in this area apart from Canada are not the champions of economic growth. But Iceland and Greenland do not have the right opportunities for investment, and we need investments that we can rely on - such as EU investments.

The **amendment to amendment 15** we support, we worked on it with RU and JuLis. The second **amendment 25**, we fundamentally disagree on and cannot support.

Lena Höglund (Chair) thanks the speaker. This has been relevant to my work in Nordic Council, and the Commission is working on a proposal in this area, on a new strategy. Looking at amendments, amendment 15 was rejected by movers and instead they submitted an *amendment to amendment 15* that was **accepted by the movers** and thus does not need to be voted on.

❖ Amendment 25

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that we will move on to amendment 25 now. She asks **Nemir Ali (JuLis)** to explain the amendment.

Ali Nemir (JuLis): Just a remark to the adopted *amendment to amendment*, I think there is a mistake in OpenSlides, it is written that we want to delete a sentence and replace it with another, but that is wrong, we just wanted to add the sentence but not delete anything. Regarding the **amendment 25**: some of you have heard of the Antarctic treaty, which made Antarctica a giant environmental protection and demilitarised zone, open to everyone. The

idea is to extend this treaty to the Arctic area, since we have overlapping claims in the Arctic with exclusive economic zones in the Arctic and the military build-up. A demilitarised and environmentally protected area could be a way to prevent further escalation and freeze the conflict we have with Russia. JuLis has been quite active on that and we do not want to escalate this conflict in the Arctic.

Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): Like I mentioned earlier we are against this amendment. The Arctic and Antarctic are different - the Antarctic is a continent, the Arctic is an area including eight countries and indigenous population. The EU must acknowledge the Arctic Council as stated in the resolution. Creating a new body to regulate this area goes against what the countries and indigenous populations of the area want. Territorial claims are also under surveillance and monitored under the *UNCLOS - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, that is why there is no need for a new legal body or text - there already is one, we do not need a new one for the arctic.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I am against this amendment, **Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn)** already made it clear that the Arctic and Antarctica have nothing in common except they are cold. Geopolitically they are fundamentally different. Antarctica has no indigenous people, no strategic importance, no territorial claims and I cannot see a point of trying to apply an Antarctica style treaty here.

Kent Szabó Do (CUF): I agree with **Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn)** and **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)**, this is a misunderstanding of what the Arctic actually is. Sweden has an Arctic base in the northern part of the country called Kiruna, something like this would force us to shut down our military trading centres there - many Arctic countries would have to do the same. This imposes on the sovereignty of many Nordic nations.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): We also oppose this and agree with previous speakers, this would interfere with the Arctic Council.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): I wanted to contribute to what other people said, I am also against this amendment. There already exists the essential basis for an Arctic treaty which is the Ottawa Declaration, and just as external organisations did not intervene in the formation of the EU, other countries should not interfere in the formation of the Arctic Council. We have to remember that countries such as Russia and the US are in the Arctic Council, and interference could spark more conflict.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that we will now proceed to vote on amendment since there were no more speakers on the speakers' list.

Vote on amendment 25

For - 36

Against - 125

Abstain - 22

Amendment 25 was NOT carried by the Congress.

Lena Höglund (Chair): We move to **Nemir Ali (JuLis)**'s comment on the amendment to amendment 15 - this problem was also raised to the movers. To my understanding, this means you were given the opportunity to correct this on OpenSlides before the Congress.

Nemir Ali (JuLis): I never had the chance to submit an amendment to amendment, I only sent it to the Bureau since OpenSlides doesn't allow for direct submission of amendments to amendments.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn) do you agree with what **Nemir Ali (JuLis)** says? Was it going to be deleted or just an addition? Because it was not clear to us when submitted. This is also important to be very clear when submitting amendments to amendments to us.

Lena Höglund (Chair): The interpretation is that the sentence saying 'increase in EU infrastructure investment, aimed at the emerging economic growth opportunities in the Arctic, allowing for clear and viable alternatives to Chinese investments, as well as American' to be deleted and replaced with another sentence?

Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): No, it was not supposed to be deleted - the other sentence is just supposed to be added below.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Ok, if I understand correctly it has been carried by both?

Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): Yes

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): It is a technical issue, can one of you send us the proper amendment and we will upload it in the system once we are back on track, since we now have some technical issues with OpenSlides.

Lena Höglund (Chair): Please send it to office@lymec.eu, in the meanwhile I will table this resolution as a whole, until we can figure this out. We will wait for this to be technically and politically correct on the platform. Please in the future, be careful and be clear with what your intentions are. In the meantime, we move on to the next resolution and comeback to this after.

5. EUnitded against the Communist Party of China

Lena Höglund (Chair) asks the mover to speak on the resolution as a whole.

Alice Katherine Schmidt (JuLis): This resolution is made to tackle a lot of recent topics. We all recognise that Xi Jinping is pursuing a new type of policy compared to the policy that was handled before. We can all recognize that China and especially the communist party shows

aggression, which is why we are presenting many different topics. As you all voted in the snap vote, you recognise its importance.

Lena Höglund (Chair) opens the floor for comments on the resolution as a whole. There are no speakers, we will proceed to the discussion on the 10 amendments submitted. **Amendment 113, 32, 21, 111 and 19** were all accepted by the movers, therefore we will not discuss them. **Amendment 110 and 109** both had positive recommendations from the working group, let's therefore move to amendment 108 first, which had no recommendation from the working group.

❖ Amendment 108

Lena Höglund (Chair) invites **Tim Robinson (IMS)** the mover of the amendment to the floor.

Tim Robinson (IMS): I want to stress that I don't want the EU to do less foreign policy-wise - I want it to act more effectively. But the EU is not a country with a single diplomatic service, armed forces etc. Member States have separate foreign policies, we cannot talk about EU foreign policy in the same way. Qualified majority voting sounds good, but it means publishing more statements to which people pay less attention. In practice, many EU states are opposed to a position - that undermines the strength of the message. No one pays attention to what the EU says - it's not the same as a country exercising foreign policy effectively. We should not scrap proposals just because member states don't like it. This amendment gets rid of the unanimity requirement, but ensures there is no doubt that the position will be supported on an international stage.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): I am confused - it is already LYMEC policy to have a qualified majority vote on the Foreign Affairs Council. I don't see why we need two separate policies on how to do foreign policy. Also, larger European states don't always act in the EU's favour - Germany and Nord Stream 2 is an example. Vote against this amendment.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I haven't got much to add to what **Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom)** said, but it's weird to have 80 % of states and 90 % of people - that gives too much influence to larger states within the European Union.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): Just a quick remark, I managed to do a quick calculation and with a qualified majority Poland and Hungary could be able to veto anything with this formulation.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that the speakers' list is closed and we proceed to a vote.

Vote on amendment 108

Vote

For - 66

Against - 71

Abstain - 29

Amendment 108 was NOT carried by the Congress

❖ Amendment 29

Lena Höglund (Chair) invites **Abel Hartman (JD)** the mover of the amendment to the floor to present it.

Abel Hartman (JD): I tried to look at the resolution as a whole, but although I support most proposals, what would happen if the EU would accept some of the more controversial ideas on this. My sense is that it would put us on a war footing with China and I wonder whether it is, diplomatically speaking, the right thing to do. That is why I've tried to amend the resolution slightly to focus specifically on Tibet and also Taiwan.

Nemir Ali (JuLis): Of course as **Abel Hartman (JD)** points out, this demand for the EU to recognise Taiwan and Tibet as independent states is controversial, and China will not be happy about it. But we should have the courage to speak out against China and in favour of what we believe in. I am convinced that we believe in the rule of law and democracy and liberalism and Taiwan represents all of this. I think that at the last Congress, we decided to recognise Taiwan, so that part of the resolution is not new. I understand the amendment, but it would be a backsliding from our policy.

Regarding Tibet: For a long time western governments did not recognise the annexation of Tibet because we started to give in to the complaints of the Chinese communist party to not discuss this. We are now in the situation that we have self-imposed censorship because we fear Chinese sanctions. I firmly believe that we should speak openly about our opinions on Taiwan and Tibet and that is that both are independent states and we need to respect their territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Kent Szabó Do (CUF): I want to echo what **Nemir Ali (JD)** said. Europeans have drifted away from standing up for these countries. Also as liberal youth we can be more radical. After all we are the ones pushing the change for the mother parties and we should protect these self-determination movements. As a person who has lived in China it is quite frustrating to see how European countries are buddying up with China against Tibet and Taiwan. I urge you to vote against this amendment.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I just want to say that I am confused how recognising Taiwan as an independent state works when Taiwan itself has not declared independence, they are in fact a part of the Republic of China and do not represent a separate state of Taiwan.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): It is true that Taiwan has not declared itself independence, the political party which wants independence has been the largest for eight or twelve years, but they are too afraid because there are no superpowers willing to stand up for them. That is why Taiwan should get independence, at least from the Europeans.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that she will close the speakers' list, with **Alice Katherine Schmidt (JuLis)** as the last speaker.

Kent Szabó (CUF): To further clarify, Taiwan is not proposing independence because of the threats from China, but LYMEC supporting their independence is important.

Alice Katherine Schmidt (JuLis): Let's be clear on our language with China, because the amendment is doing exactly what Xin Jinping wants us to do - not have a clear common opinion. Therefore, let's stay clear to ensure that Europeans have a clear opinion on this.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that the speakers' list is now closed and now we are moving to a vote.

Vote on Amendment 29

For - 37

Against - 106

Abstain - 31

Amendment 29 was NOT carried by the Congress

❖ Amendment 109 and amendment 110

Lena Höglund (Chair) invites **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** to speak on amendment 109 and amendment 110 that both had a positive recommendation from the Working Group.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): The first **amendment 109** - we don't think it is fair to suggest that people from Hong Kong should be uniquely entitled to residency in the EU, since there are so many other people facing political oppression from other parts of the world. The second point that has also been raised by others in the Working Group, is that you shouldn't create an automatic procedure for everyone from Hong Kong, even if they have a valid reason to leave Hong Kong. There still needs to be a system of checks and balances. We think it would be better to reform existing asylum procedures instead. Better to introduce the same provision to Uyghurs in China, based on the rebuttable assumption that their ethnicity alone makes it more dangerous for them to return to China.

Nemir Ali (JuLis): All of what **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** says is true, but there are two fundamental points as to why it is different for Hong Kong than to other nations. Of course, many people around the world are facing horrors and would like to claim residency in the EU - that is what asylum is for, although that comes with difficulties - you have to travel, submit a claim for asylum etc. Why should we do this explicitly for people from Hong Kong?

First of all, because we actually can. There is a specific Hong Kong citizenship, separate from the rest of China, which makes it much more straightforward. It would be harder to say who qualifies as Uyghur based on ethnicity. There is the Sino-British Joint Declaration between China and the UK. In this declaration, China guarantees freedom to the people of Hong Kong,

where Britain in return gave Hong Kong to China. This handover was a mistake. I don't blame the UK for doing that, many people at the time thought that China would become more liberal but it did not. From that handover arises a responsibility to protect the rights and the freedoms of the people of Hong Kong. It is that relationship that is the justification to offer all Hong Kong citizens residency in the EU.

Lena Höglund (Chair) reminds the delegates to keep their speeches short and concise otherwise there will be a specific time for speaking. She closes the speakers' list where **Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegate)** is the last speaker.

Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegate): I disagree, sorry. I understand that it is difficult with the asylum seeking process but what we can do is to establish safe corridors so that people can access our territory easily. We can do the same thing in Hong Kong. I don't think that we should give a special status just because we can, to one population and lead the rest as a second class kind of asylum seekers. We have a legal system for this and we need to make it work efficiently.

Lena Höglund (Chair) proceeds to move to voting on the amendment.

Vote on amendment 110

Vote

For - 100

Against - 27

Abstain - 37

Amendment 110 was carried by the Congress.

❖ Amendment 109

Lena Höglund (Chair) opens the vote for amendment 109.

Vote on amendment 109

For - 64

Against - 64

Abstain - 39

It is an even vote.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) states that we have to do a new vote because there is not a majority.

Lena Höglund (Chair): We are going to do a revote because there was no majority. The Congress rules state that a simple majority is the way to go on such cases. In this regard, we are going to have a recess with the Chairs if we do not get a clear majority.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) points out that there is a point of order.

Franziska Brandman (JuLis): Point of order - in my opinion, there needs to be a majority for that amendment to be adopted. If there is no majority there is not going to be a revote, because the amendment did not get a simple majority and therefore it has failed. My point of order would not be to revote, but to reject the amendment.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I should have said before, but **amendment 109 and 110** are the same amendment, but Openslides doesn't allow changing multiple paragraphs within the same amendment, because it removes one piece of text and replaces it. Could we vote on **amendment 109 and 110** in one package?

Lena Höglund (Chair): Because of technicalities the **amendments 109 and 110** cannot be voted on together.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): It makes the resolution itself a bit confusing if the previous amendment passed, but then you have two conflicting pieces of text.

Lena Höglund (Chair): That's just how the system is, I'm looking at the Congress rules. I interpret it that the amendment needs majority support and if it doesn't, it falls.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): In Congress rules, article 20 - paragraph 1, simple majority means the number of votes in favour is greater than number against. Abstentions are not counted, but should be noted in the minutes.

Franziska Brandman (JuLis): It says that there needs to be a simple majority on the amendment, in this case there has not been a majority and it has not been carried.

*****A short recess was taken*****

Lena Höglund (Chair): The conclusion here is that **amendment 109** is now falling, according to the first voting result, because there was no majority for the amendment. Are there any speakers making a Point of Order?

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): Point of order - I'd like to propose to revote on **amendment 109 and 110** together.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that it must be supported by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of congress and proceeds to give the floor to **Lucas North (Young Liberals UK)** who has a point of order.

Lucas North (Young Liberals UK): Point of order - This is not within the rules, we cannot combine the amendments, one has already fallen, we need to move on to the next amendment.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): There was a request to challenge the vote on amendment 109, which is article 23. We need a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, meaning that the vote is to be done again. If there is no majority for this, we move to the next amendment.

Lena Höglund (Chair): To repeat - there is a request to revote. That is indeed correct, but that vote on whether to revote must gain $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to actually commit an actual revote of the amendment. So before moving to that vote, I would first ask the people who have made Point of orders to speak.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): Point of order - to clarify, the technique does not infer with our procedure.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): Point of order - I know from the Working Groups that this is not the only time there is an issue with the OpenSlides, forcing people to submit amendments separately because of the paragraph problem. In the Working group we combined some of the amendments and voted on them together. Can we put a procedural motion in, given that this is a Digital Congress, and put amendments together as the submitter of the amendment would have wanted?

Benjamin Fievet (IFLRY Representative): The issue is with OpenSlides, it should only have been one amendment. The vote that has just happened is null. We should find a way for things to be voted on as intended. We have to follow the procedure we would have in a physical Congress.

Lena Höglund (Chair): You can make a Point of Order when we approach such issues again, that is the system. Going forward, if similar situations arise, I would suggest you make a point of order again.

Franziska Brandman (JuLis): I just want to clarify that we need a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority and in the future, could we mention that there is a technical issue before voting?

Lena Höglund (Chair) agrees and proceeds to a vote on revoting where a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is needed.

Vote on revote on amd 109/110 - 122 votes needed to pass and make a revote.

For - 119

Against - 57

Abstain - 7

There will not be a revote, amendment 110 was carried and amendment 109 falls.

❖ **Amendment 33**

Lena Höglund (Chair) moves on and gives the floor to the mover of the amendment. The amendment did not get a recommendation from the Working Group.

Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO): Although we understand this approach, we think we need to reassess the situation before we would be burning bridges with China. We understand that we need to act against China now, united. As China is a superpower, why would we send development aid? But there are areas in China who need this aid and by ending it, we would be punishing people who are not responsible for how the government acts.

Franziska Brandman (JuLis): For the last few years, we have had the chance to reassess and I ask you to vote against this amendment. We understand the idea of not punishing people, but I think that in a country like this we need to take into consideration whether the money we send will even arrive in set places? There are other countries that need our support, and we need to be careful about what signals we are sending.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that there were no more speakers on the speakers' list and proceeded to a vote on the amendment.

Vote on amendment 33

For - 63

Against - 99

Abstain - 21

Amendment 33 was NOT carried by the Congress.

Lena Höglund (Chair) opens the floor to a general discussion on the resolution as amended, before proceeding with the vote on the resolution.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): Because **amendment 109 and 110** do not match, I cannot vote in favour of this resolution.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): I can understand this, but there are so many important points, that it would be strange to reject this entire resolution just because one thing happened that you didn't like.

Nemir Ali (JuLis): I would like to say that I don't think this is contradictory: we say that first we want to make it easier for Hong Kongers to receive asylum and secondly we even want to offer residency status, these things do not have to contradict each other, they could happen sequentially i.e. asylum first and residency after that.

Kent Szabó Do (CUF): I do not support this resolution. The intent is good, but it is a bit of a Frankenstein creation, with lots of ideas which are not feasible as a whole, e.g. the possibility of collaborating with India since India is also an enemy of China, but also ruled by religious extremists. It is impossible to stand behind all of these ideas as one and I want to stress that

there are some good ideas in this resolution. If they were submitted as separate resolutions it would be easier to support, but as a whole it is impossible to do so.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): We appreciate the topic of the motion but we have to think about these enormous resolutions, which are so long and take up so much time, and are often not comprehensible. In the future please submit more amendments, so we can have good resolutions and fewer Frankenstein's monsters. We will not vote in favor of this.

Jan-Gert Zevenbergen (JD): Point of order - it took a while to bring up this point because we had to look up the Congress rules and Statutes, but we are not sure the revote actually failed, because in the Congress rules it says that you need to have $\frac{2}{3}$ majority (the number of votes in favour exceeds the number of votes against by at least a factor of two) and there were a few neutral votes in this case - abstentions that shouldn't be considered.

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that we will consider this and she passes the floor to the next speaker. The speakers' list is also closed now.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): I understand JULIS, but I stand by my position. The Frankenstein monster must be understood, to be loved, but this resolution cannot be understood.

Lena Höglund (Chair): We already took the decision on how to proceed, we stand by it, so we move to a vote on the resolution, but before that the floor is passed to **Jan-Gert Zevenbergen (JD)** for a point of order.

Jan-Gert Zevenbergen (JD): My point is that in our statutes it says that $\frac{2}{3}$ majority means that the number of votes exceeds the number of votes against by a factor of 2. I believe that the ruling was wrong, so the vote actually passed.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Just a comment on the numbers, there were 119 in favour, and $\frac{2}{3}$ of those present is 122. Can you clarify the point of order?

Jan-Gert Zevenbergen (JD): The statutes don't say it needs to be $\frac{2}{3}$ of this present, but $\frac{2}{3}$ of those who voted validly, excluding abstentions. Which means that by my calculations it passes by one vote or something.

Abel Hartman (JD): If you take out the abstentions, just add up the 'against' and 'for' again, it passed.

Lena Höglund (Chair) asks to get the results of the vote on the re-vote on **amendment 109 and 110** on display to see the numbers in full transparency.

A short recess was taken

Lena Höglund (Chair): The point of order was correct, the rules are indeed right that it is only the for and against votes which are counted, meaning the threshold would have been 114. We will have a revote on the matter of **amendment 109 and 110**. We will learn from this for the future. The fact that we are doing this Congress digitally does not matter, so this needs to be the same as what we would have done at an in-person Congress. Instead of 119, **the threshold was 114**, and that is what was needed for the revote (**119 were in favor** which is more than 114). **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** please reopen the vote on **amendment 109 and 110**, which are **voted on as one**. After that we will vote on the resolution as amended.

Revote on amendment 109 and amendment 110 together as one.

Vote

For - 109

Against - 65

Abstain - 6

The revote on amendments 109 and 110 together as one is positive. Both are therefore carried and accepted by the Congress.

Lena Höglund (Chair) proceeds to vote on the resolution as a whole as amended.

Vote on the resolution EUnitded against the Communist Party of China as amended.

For - 84

Against - 56

Abstain - 28

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

- ❖ **Return to the previously tabled resolution - Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Goeconomic and Geopolitical factors in the Arctic.**

Lena Höglund (Chair) states that the technical issues have been sorted out, that the amendment to amendment was in fact an adding of text, not deletion. It is now clear on OpenSlides as well. We proceed to vote on the resolution as amended.

Vote on the resolution as amended.

For - 147

Against - 25

Abstain - 3

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

*****Lunch break*****

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks for a roll call after the lunch break.

Roll Call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Sara von Bonsdorff (LYMEC Administrative Assistant)** and **Lucasta Bath (LYMEC Policy Intern)**. **Bàlint GYEVAI (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 3 Saturday after lunch
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra		3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD vzw		5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		9	9
Bulgaria	Youth MRF		10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Nasa Stranka Youth		3	0
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	0
Croatia	ISTRIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH - IDY		4	4
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		5	5
Estonia	Centre Party Youth (Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu)		8	8
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret		6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat(former Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto)		3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Centre Youth of Finland)		6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux		3	3
Germany	Junge Liberale		10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Greece	Young Liberals Greece		3	3
Hungary	Momentum TizenX		3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn		4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil		8	8
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth		6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg		3	3
The Netherlands	Jovd		6	6
Serbia	Nova Stranka Youth		3	0
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos		7	7
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		5	5
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund		5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)		7	7
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten		7	7
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine		3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine		3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals		7	7
IMS	Tim Robinson		1	1
IMS	Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot		1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk		1	1
		TOTAL	191	178
			95.5	89
	Simple majority of those present			

Total votes present : 178

The 3 missing MOs were - Nova Stranka Youth, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Nasa Stranka Youth.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) runs through some procedural rules. If someone wants to vote on several amendments in one package, they can propose to do so by raising a point of order. If you look at the Congress Rules, it is clear how we deal with resolutions and amendments.

Firstly, the mover of the resolution has the possibility to present the resolution and there can be two people speaking in favour of it and two people against it, if there are no amendments. If there are amendments, the procedure is the same, there are two people speaking in favour of the amendment and two against it and then we will vote on it. The speaking time will be limited to two minutes. In the end, before the voting, the mover of the resolution will have the possibility to speak for the resolution. Since the format we had before, where the rules were not strictly applied, worked well we can proceed with the same format. The Congress rules will be applied strictly for some resolutions where the debates were quite intense in the Working Groups, including the following EU-UK resolution. If you are on the speakers' list, please state if you are in favor or against the resolution or amendment.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) moves to the next resolution in line.

There are many amendments to the next resolution, **amendment 5** was accepted by the mover so we will not discuss it. There were also **amendments to amendments 103 and 105** accepted. **Peter Banks (Young Liberals)**, are there any more you will adopt?

6. A new Chapter for EU-UK relations

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): Thank you very much and good afternoon to the Congress. I will begin by saying to the joy of many people here especially the Bureau, I will be accepting with great graciousness both of the amendments to amendments. I would like to thank OFF and AY for their work on it and the foresight they gave YL on this, it is a really well worked solution to a difficult problem so thank you.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): Thank you, then I can say that **amendment 103, 105 and 5** are accepted, so we will not further discuss them, and we will start with **amendment 102**. Please, the mover of the resolution, the floor is yours to introduce the resolution.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): Thank you very much indeed Chair. I can say that I very much appreciate the fulsome parentecicing of this debate and the framing of it. However, I do think that it is unnecessary, all of us around this table are liberals working towards a concrete solution to a challenging problem. Friends, the motion that is brought before us is the start of this process, not the end. This is the start of updating the Policy book on Brexit and the start of opening a new chapter for the EU-UK relations. This is a very exciting time for YL, the first time in many years that we have brought a resolution to a LYMEC Congress so we are very excited and many thanks to the delegates supporting us and thank you for understanding, this is a really really important matter. What this motion seeks to do, is to align the UK closely to the European Union without rejoining in the short immediate term. We understand that Brexit has passed, we understand the direction that was taken. We are looking for a new liberal future for the United Kingdom and the European Union where we are an external member, engaging with those on the inside. We were never sold a European deal that did not include Erasmus+, we were expecting to stay in the EU. What this does is, it aligns us as closely as possible, it maintains Britain's liberal and European backbone without maintaining a view to rejoin the European Union. What I would say to all delegates, that if you believe this motion

misses something, vote for it, if you believe that this motion doesn't go far enough, vote for it, because this is a process, this will take years to sort and I hope that together, as LYMEC, we will create a new vision, a new chapter for EU-UK relations. Please vote for this motion, with the amendments as a package and without any further amendments, thank you very much.

❖ Amendment 102

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks if the mover of the amendment wants to say anything.

Clara Puig de Torres Solanto (IMS): I am not the amendment mover, but I would actually contest it, in the sense that though there is the mentioning of the special status of Northern Ireland, there were many counties which did not vote for leave, and if we put that as grounds to ask for a status or to even secede from the UK, it can be very risky. If we mention that these counties voted to stay, we should mention all the other counties that voted to stay or not mention it at all, that is my point on this amendment. I like the resolution as a whole, I just don't like this amendment.

Tim Robinson (IMS): Referring to what **Clara Puig de Torres Solanto (IMS)** said, there are plenty of other places in the UK that voted to remain. I am from London, we voted to remain. The first point is that there is factual accuracy, because in fact counties such as Cos Down and Antrim did vote 'leave'. The second point is, language is very sensitive in Northern Ireland, we should be careful of how we use terminology and the way this amendment is phrased, referring to the six counties and naming them and then putting Northern Ireland in quotation marks, comes across as explicitly nationalist language. Even if we were just making an objective point about the fact that Northern Ireland voted remain, I don't think that this is the way you want it to be phrased in a LYMEC resolution, should it be passed.

Kent Szabó Do (CUF): Thank you, I would just like to point out the situation between different counties in the United Kingdom and the counties in Northern Ireland are slightly different, because Northern Ireland has a different local history due to the Good Friday Agreement, there is some difference there. But I do agree that the phrasing is problematic and unnecessary.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): I want to underscore **Tim Robinson (IMS)**'s comments, as a representative from the Northern Irish Associate Youth Party of this Congress. Ultimately, a lot of the work that Alliance Youth does from campaigning, from a policy making point of view, from a governance point of view as well involves overcoming situational and divisive language like this. As much as many OFF have meant this, in a purely harmless and descriptive manner, the use of 'six counties' is a political formulation, therefore to include such language in this resolution would do more harm than performing any form of explanatory value in it.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that the speakers' list is closed and the Congress will proceed on a vote on the amendment. The point of orders are not showing, people are asking to speak on the resolution as well as the amendment but it is not fully correlating here. There was earlier time to speak on the resolution, so as a compromise, I suggest that we continue

with the amendments and later open the floor for comments. She calls for a vote on this amendment.

Vote for amendment 102

For - 29

Against - 97

Abstain - 27

Amendment 102 was NOT carried by the Congress

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) reminds delegates to use the autopilot function to know where we are and proceeds to give the floor to the mover of **amendment 104**.

❖ Amendment 104

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to the mover of the amendment.

The mover does not take the floor.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): Point of order - I would like to suggest showing the amendments on the screen, if it is possible. I do not know if it is technically a problem. It is really difficult to follow the amendments if you do not hear which one is being debated

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): Technically it is possible but we discussed it and I would like to present only the very critical ones, otherwise there is too much to do in the background. I would direct you to open the resolution and the amendments on the sheet that was sent by **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and keep them open in parallel, but maybe for this amendment we could project it.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer) reminds the delegates that you can go into the resolutions on OpenSlides, there you will see all the amendments, and then we don't lose time projecting them.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): Of course I do, I have both of them on my screen, I just think that if you do not hear the amendments when you are discussing them at the beginning, you do not know which is being discussed. Maybe you can just put the number of the amendment? I think that the Congress agrees with me.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that she will take that on board and be clearer about which amendment we are discussing. Now it is about **amendment 104** and invites the next person on the speakers' list.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): Point of order - during the last vote it was too short of time for the vote, and as we can see in the result that there were an unusual amount of people abstaining. I do not think that this was actually the case of many, especially not in the case of CUF. We

did not want to abstain, we just did not have proper communication when the vote took place and it was closed very fast. Can we please clearly announce when the votes are taking place so that we do not make the same mistake in the future.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): I will consider that, thank you.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): This is just to comment on what **Elsie Gisselgård (CUF)** said, so it's not my own point of order. In the working groups, there were a lot of abstentions on these amendments, I think it is because they are very contemptuous and a lot of people do not want to vote, rather than because they did not have enough time.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): Are you suggesting to vote again on **amendment 102?**

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): I am not asking for a new vote, we already had that circus, so let's keep the results as they are and move forward but let's be clearer, that is all I want. Thank you.

Tim Robinson (IMS): I do not think that we have to do a revote.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to **Hannah Irwin (Alliance Youth)** to comment on **amendment 104**.

Hannah Irwin (Alliance Youth): Just to make a short comment on this amendment, just to say that the reason Alliance Youth did not submit an amendment to this amendment, as we believe the substance has been covered by our changes to other amendments such as 103 and 105. Therefore, this amendment is not required in the body of this resolution. I would suggest that we vote against this amendment, as there is clearly not a need to repeat this information.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that there was no one on the speakers' list and proceeds to open the vote on **amendment 104**.

Vote on amendment 104

For - 41

Against - 78

Abstain - 53

Amendment 104 was NOT carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 107**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to the mover of the amendment.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): This amendment is very important to us to be able to accept the entire resolution. We believe that circumstances of joining the European Union should be considered at a time that there is actually interest in joining the European Union, that the future board of Jong VLD should decide, the future Congress of LYMEC, that's the main point here in this amendment. Secondly, we also want LYMEC to learn from the past. We do not think that just saying now that we want the UK in the EU, it does not go nearly as far enough. We should say that, if they want to rejoin the European Union, there should be no more exceptions, they need to fully rejoin the European Union, to be a full member state, and not with all the exceptions during their last membership.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to the first person on the speakers' list.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): Thanks **Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)** for submitting this amendment. Unfortunately, we do not agree. YL can't agree to this amendment, we believe that it is fundamentally important that LYMEC works to support our aims as young liberals in the UK. Which is, and I must stress this to my colleagues, this commitment is not in any way in the short or medium term. We are talking decades away, when the UK will rejoin and seek to join on the terms that are open to them. I believe that, as it is made clear in the resolution later on, we would not seek special arrangements, we would be seeking to re-enter the European Union on the terms that we were offered, not retroactive. This does not bind anyone in the short or medium term. There is in fact scope to re-evaluate here, all this is part of the resolution as it is saying that LYMEC encourages in principle the idea of the UK rejoining the EU, or the possibility of the UK rejoining the EU in the long term. That is something that I hope, friends at the Congress will agree with, that it is a good aim, having the UK back in the European Union. It is certainly something that YL will continue to push forward and hope that the delegates of this Congress will agree with us, that this is the course to push and vote against this amendment.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): Point of order - we thoroughly discussed this resolution last week with the Working Group, and I think a lot of people have made up their minds about the resolution and about the amendments. Can we maybe go through this a bit quicker, maybe shorten the time we can speak, because two minutes is quite long. We have about 37 resolutions and it would be good to be able to speak about as much as possible. I would like to request that we ask as few questions as possible, because it was thoroughly discussed already in the Working Group, thank you.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): Thank you - you suggest speeding up the speaker time, I would limit it to a 'one minute' limit. Any objections?

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Outreach and Cooperation Officer) states that there is a point of order.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): I have a point of order - I would suggest 30 seconds.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that we will then have a vote on limiting the time that each speaker has.

Vote on limiting speakers' time to 30 seconds.

For - 86

Against - 42

Abstain - 21

Time limit for speakers' interventions during Congress is therefore set to 30 seconds. It was passed by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that there will be a countdown on the projector, indicating how much time the speaker still has left. She proceeds to give the floor to the first speaker on the speakers' list.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): Point of order - but also a question to the Chair: does this 30 seconds also include the first motivation behind the resolution, or is it only for amendments? Because if that is the case, I suggest that we have one minute for the motivation of the resolution to give time to those who spent a lot of time on making these resolutions per say, to talk about it for at least one minute.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): I would suggest that the introduction will take one minute, and then arguments for or against will be 30 seconds each. There are no objections so I would like to proceed like that.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): Point of order - I'd like to remark on the irony of having a three, four minutes discussion, debate and vote to shorten the time to fit people's resolution in, and then restricting the time which doesn't give the right amount of time to discuss these problems and issues. That was my point of order and I do think that it is dissatisfactory that the Congress has taken such a decision in such a manner.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): There is always a possibility to have another vote on that, but I would like to proceed with the speakers' list.

Hannah Irwin (Alliance Youth): Point of order - I don't want to step on **Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth)**'s toes to much, but this is a point of order that I put in before the vote took place and now I want to express my disappointment, that people now are choosing to limit the debate of motions for the sake of time. If we are that concerned about the time that motions are taking, are we going to limit them time on all of the motions or just the ones that people do not want to discuss? I just want to express my disappointment with that decision.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): I agree with **Hannah Irwin (Alliance Youth)** and **Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth)**. It is not a good way to run this debate, there are so many ways to be quicker, for example we could make an extraordinary Congress in the year, 30 seconds is not enough.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): I agree with Alliance Youth.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): I will try and convey my objections in the limit of time that has been decided on. Crucially, I think that there is a bit of an irony, because obviously **Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)** has brought this amendment in order to not bind LYMEC to any kind of position, but by binding LYMEC to a hardline negotiating position if such negotiations occur would kind of be ironic, not hypocritical that is a too strong of a word, but it doesn't balance correctly with the aim of the amendment itself.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): I understand your concerns, but this is what Congress has decided upon. This is what we have collectively decided on, so please respect it or otherwise have another point of order. There are no more speakers, and it is hard to see who is making a point of order and who wants to speak on the resolution. But we have **Christopher Johnson (Young Liberals)** on the speakers' list.

Christopher Johnson (Young Liberals): Point of order - If it is at all possible, I would like to have a vote on whether we still agree with the last one on limiting the speaker's list. I agree with Alliance Youth and **Peter Banks (Young Liberals)** on that.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): Can you clarify your point of order?

Christopher Johnson (Young Liberals): I'd like to have another vote on returning the speaker's time to two minutes.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): I see that there are a lot of speakers on the speakers' list. We will make a final decision, to vote one more time to increase speakers' time to two minutes.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): Point of order - I would like to say that this is utterly embarrassing, I am very disappointed here. 80 % of the Congress has said that they are happy with 30 seconds for the speaker's time. You complain that you can't express yourself in 30 seconds, yet you do it over and over again. You had the committees, you had the snap vote, all the ability to cooperate between Northern Ireland and the UK on this issue. Because right now, it is only these two parts discussing this motion. This is a waste of time, instead of making a fuss about it and voting again, get to the point and pass the motion and we are good. Please stop making points of orders and put up on a 30 seconds speaker time. This is ridiculous, let's go through this, let's continue.

Kent Szabo Do (CUF): I would like to echo the fact that 80 % of the delegates already voted in favour, if it would have been a 50/50 then it would have been more reasonable, but right now, doing a vote again on an item which was already unanimously decided is a waste of time.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that the vote is open for increasing the speaker's time from 30 seconds to two minutes.

Vote on extending the speaking time from 30 seconds to 2 minutes.

For - 38

Against - 116

Abstain - 18

The vote on increasing the speaker's time to two minutes was NOT carried by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): This means that we stick to 30 seconds, if you want to speak about the amendment, put yourself please on the speakers' list, I will allow one in favour and one against.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): I ask people to please read article 18 of our Congress Rules about what a point of order is. A point of order is a motion addressing the Congress on how it is run. It is not to make a comment or comment on something that someone else said. It's about a brief motion on how the Congress is run, so please it does not mean that it is used for any comment on any topic, so stop over using the point of order please.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): Point of order - just to clarify whether or not this only applies to this resolution or all resolutions, I think it's really unfair to just tackle one resolution where you go to 30 seconds of speaker time. I think that the decision taken now should be for the whole Congress, not only for this resolution.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks **Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)** to clarify his point of order.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): That we move to do this for the entire Congress and not only for this resolution. Otherwise you are just targeting one topic, I think it is not normal.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) explains why she only wanted to impose this rule for this resolution. After the experience from the Working Group, there was a lot of debate, whereas the next resolutions on education, vaccination etc were not so controversial in the Working Group.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): My point of order and the proposal I put forward was **30 seconds speaker time for the entire Congress**. I do not know if that was clear to everyone, I don't in any way want to discriminate against a specific resolution, to be the only subject under the 30 seconds rule.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) suggests that we will stick with the 30 seconds rule for the entire Congress and if anyone during the congress feels like this is not enough, they can make a point of order to this decision.

She proposes to move forward with opening the vote on amendment 107.

No one took the floor to object.

Vote for amendment 107

For - 102

Against - 31

Abstain - 31

Amendment 107 was carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 3**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that there was a positive recommendation on **amendment 3** from the Working Group and invites the mover of the amendment.

Johannes Brill (LHG): First of all, I would like to add that this amendment does not mean that we do not support cooperation in the medical sector between the EU and the UK, we do support it but it is a rather technical aspect. The European Medicines Agency is not an operating agency but a scientific agency which supports the Commission in its scientific assessment and supports the institutions assessing risks. It is no operating agency working across borders, but it is an EU agency that specifically serves the Commission. Therefore, it technically does not make sense for the UK to rejoin as it only serves the Commission and does not cooperate in the field of trans-European politics. Thank you very much.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): We understand LHG's objections, but we will continue to vote against, because it is a slightly different field to the other organisations that we wish to rejoin. At various points throughout the renegotiations of our new deal following Brexit, it was positive that we would remain in the European Medicines Agency and there is considerable desire to remain within our party to push forward a membership of this.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) suggested moving to a vote on **amendment 3** since there was no one else on the speakers' list.

Vote	on	amendment	3
For - 68			
Against - 57			
Abstain - 39			

Amendment 3 was carried by the Congress

❖ **Amendment 114**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) invites the mover of the amendment to the floor.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): This goes in the same direction as previous amendments, we can't at this point tell whether or not we want the UK in the EU and it should be considered when it is actually on the table.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): It's a big statement to say that LYMEC doesn't or does want the UK back in the EU, if we don't want the UK back in the EU then what are we all here for. I think that wanting to expand the EU and to bring European values throughout the whole continent is the whole point of what this organisation exists to do.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): Thank you very much **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)**. I think that there are other reasons that people might be here for, apart from wanting the UK to join the EU, but it is sadly one of the reasons YL is here. Thank you very much for this support and I would urge the Congress to likewise the other amendments, also vote against this one.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): Maybe I was too short this time, just to clarify, we are not against the UK in any way, we believe that a membership of the European Union is highly beneficial. However, it should be considered on specific issues where the question arises. Also I want to mention that voting on this amendment would not give any direction on how Jong VLD would vote on the entire resolution.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that there is no one else on the speakers' list so the Congress moves to a vote on the amendment.

Vote on amendment 114

For - 65

Against - 58

Abstain - 39

Amendment 114 was carried by the Congress

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks the mover of the resolution if there are any other remarks to give on the whole resolution as such before moving on to voting.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): Thank you, all of the delegations that brought amendments, thank you so very much, for being critically engaged in the work of Young Liberals. We believe strongly in this resolution as it is in a very strong position to be passed now and I really hope that all member organisations will do so, and put something from the Young Liberals in the Policy Book after many years. Thank you very much to all delegations and we do recommend this resolution to this Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that the Congress proceeds to vote on the resolution as a whole and as amended.

Vote on the resolution as amended

For - 154

Against - 3
Abstain - 8

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

7. Enabling educational mobility in pandemic times

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) invites the mover of the next resolution, **Felix Häring (HG)** to speak.

Felix Häring (HG): Hello again, we are going to talk about education, I will keep it very short. I think we all agree that educational mobility is beneficial and has been affected by the pandemic. This resolution aims at setting some preconditions to enable educational mobility.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that there were no amendments and no-one on the speakers' list and therefore proceeds to voting on the resolution as a whole.

Vote on the resolution

For - 151

Against - 0

Abstain - 11

The resolution was carried by the Congress

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to **Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth)** who has made a point of order.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth) made a point of order about the procedural issues. The only point that I would like to make is to refer to the Bureau and Congress, if it is possible to bring to the Congress some kind of review of the voting rules over the competences of association members, where it affects associate members. I think from my point of view and my partner delegate **Hannah Irwin (Alliance Youth)**'s point of view - it is one of the reasons why we were so frustrated about the situation regarding speaking times. As associate members, we do not get a right to vote on those situations and ultimately we have not had a say whether we consent to the limiting of speaking time. Obviously that requires a change in the Congress Rules so it, as a matter of we as a Congress, could be referred to the Bureau to look at the voting rules and associate members voting rights and how it would affect our competences during the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) explains the difference between full and associate members. There has to be a differentiation between full and associate members, that's why there are these different rules on which organisation can vote on what and what they can speak on. If you want to change it, you are welcome to submit a resolution or an amendment to statutes,

but that has to be discussed during the next Congress. It is also about membership fees that differ between the two memberships.

8. A vaccinated world by the EU

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to Radikal Ungdom, the mover of the resolution.

Anne Jensdatter (Radikal Ungdom): Two days ago, India set a devastating world record. They had caught more than 300 000 new daily cases of Covid-19. As the second wave is finally losing its grip on the European Union, a third wave is reaching across the borders and the rest of the world, and soon it will reach the European Union as well. There are a few main reasons why you must vote in favour of this resolution today. Firstly, it will cost the world 9 tn dollars in 2025 if we have not fully vaccinated our population. New mutations will occur and that will influence us as well. Second of all, for humanitarian reasons, it is just not only in our favour to vaccinate the entire world, more than 125 000 mn people are pushed into poverty because of the coronavirus and we can stop this by vaccinating more people.

Irene Terrazas Negro (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): We completely agree with this resolution, it is very important to have a vaccination plan that works globally so we can avoid future pandemics and avoid mutations, we encourage everyone to vote for this great resolution.

Katherine Macy (Young Liberals): I really want to highlight the importance of this motion, especially for disabled communities who have been disproportionately hit economically and many of us have lost our lives. I have friends who can't be vaccinated due to their disability and herd immunity is vital for them to leave their house again.

Sean Bennet (Young Liberals): To draw the Congress' attention to the fact that we can set a precedent here - the Covid-19 has set a steep learning curve for many countries and this is not the last pandemic we will face, but motions like this lay the groundwork for a better response in future.

❖ Amendment 30

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that the amendment had no positive recommendation from the Working Group and proceeds to give the floor to **Abel Hartman (JD)** who is the mover of the amendment.

Abel Hartman (JD): All the numbers here are slightly arbitrary, but the objective we have is to be more ambitious hence the five percent here and we are curious to see and hear what the Congress had to say about this.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that there is no one else on the speakers' list so the Congress moves to a vote on the amendment.

Vote on the amendment

For - 84

Against - 48

Abstain - 30

The amendment was carried by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks if there are any remarks on the resolution as a whole? If not, we will move to a vote on the resolution as a whole as amended.

Vote on the resolution as amended.

For - 118

Against - 23

Abstain - 28

The resolution was carried by the Congress as amended.

9. The Adoption of CO2 Taxes and Tariffs by the EU

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to Radikal Ungdom, the mover of the resolution.

Laurits Rasmussen (Radikal Ungdom): For the next decades, the debate will be on how to transform a European society to a more sustainable and green way of living, based upon what we as liberals know works best, otherwise we lose out to other parties such as the greens, social democrats and conservatives. Adoption of taxes based on market principles is a crucial part of this transformation. We must get the whole world on board, this is the solution.

Nemir ALi (JuLis): I am going to speak against this resolution, we already have a great and innovative solution, which is the European Emission Trading System. It works perfectly in the sectors where we use it, so we need to extend to other sectors, which we agreed on in 2019.

Laurits Rasmussen (Radikal Ungdom): The current system is not perfect, we have too much CO2 getting out in the air and we do not have the necessary incentives for organizations to foster the right technology. The current trading system is not working and we believe that this is the way to move forward.

Alice Katherine Schmidt (JuLis): CO2 tax is just a policy against the poor because if you think about it, rich people don't care about paying more and therefore this solution is not fair to our social system.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): Same point as **Alice Katherine Schmidt (JuLis)**, we feel it is a poverty tax, therefore we are for the moment not open to supporting this idea - we will abstain.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): I agree and I do not think that taxing more the European citizens can help - I'm against it.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I am hoping this will address the comments made. The fact that taxes will disproportionately affect the poorer people, is the reason why I submitted some amendments that were accepted by the mover. The amendments aim at using the proceeds from the tax to pay out a cash payment to every single person in the country, which is what they have done in Canada starting this year. They have found that for those with low incomes, the payment is actually larger than the extra taxes they will pay so there is no poverty tax at all.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): We do need to start paying for pollution, but do we want the EU to have the power to tax - who would collect these taxes? I would like for some clarity around that please.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): The resolution says it's the member states that administer this tax, but the EU sets the amounts. Thanks **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** for the improvements that you made, addressing all the above mentioned concerns.

Franziska Brandman (JuLis): I want to highlight what **Elsie Gisselgård (CUF)** said, I dislike this resolution. The goal here is to restrict pollution, making people pay for it is not the solution. I would like us to continue with previous resolutions on this problem.

Abel Hartman (JD): I just want to address a specific point between the linkage of the ETS and the CO2 tax. This resolution addresses that, which is being overlooked in this discussion. I would just refer you to the third point on the calls for.

Lucas North (Young Liberals): We can all agree that climate change affects us all and it is a massive issue, and this is an area where the EU has the power to change things for the better. Resolution is clear on how this tax would work, and it is not on individuals but on corporations.

Josep Fusté Badana (JLA): In Andorra, we already have this tax and it's on corporations and citizens. What will happen if there are countries that have a tax on top of the EU's minimum tax that is mentioned in the resolution?

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): I apologise but I don't understand the question.

Josep Fusté Badana (JLA): We are implementing this in Andorra already. If the EU also implements this tax, would it be attached on top of the tax already implemented?

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): As the resolution mentions, this is a tax shift and not a tax lift, so that would be construed as the same tax and it would not increase the taxes for your citizens.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks the mover if there are any amendments that they are willing to accept.

Kasper Landelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom) states that they will only accept **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)**'s amendments **91, 92, 93 and 94**.

❖ **Amendment 42 and 43**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) proceeds to give the floor to Jóvenes Ciudadanos, the mover of the amendment.

Antonio Martínez Gil (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): Point of order - can we discuss and vote on **amendment 42 and 43** together?

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): We have a point of order to discuss and vote on these two together. Any objections?

There were no objections. The Congress will therefore proceed with both amendments together.

Antonio Martínez Gil (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): We have two main reasons to suggest these amendments. Firstly, we should tackle the challenge through liberal solutions and innovation but also develop new and cleaner energy sources. Since there are many parties that might be affected by these measures, we need to take them all into consideration.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): I think this amendment is very unambitious. Something that the youth hate is politicians that don't fulfil their promises. Sure we can study it and see how it works in five years but this is too late.

Kristine Miling Oddershede (VU): I want to support not amending this resolution since taxes should be administered by Member States themselves.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) suggested moving to a vote, since there was no one else on the speakers' list.

Vote on Amendment 42 and 43 together:

For - 38

Against - 91

Abstain - 41

Amendments 42 and 43 were NOT carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 44**

Antonio Martínez Gil (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): We suggest a study from the European institutions on the impact of any measures from any tax which might enter into force. We believe that it's better to take a longer view and base it on evidence.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): It will take slower time to study before we do anything. LYMEC must be progressive and radical - we have the solutions. We are not fossils after all. We want something new and we want it now.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): We don't need more studies on carbon taxes, the answer will always be the same. This so often happens with resolutions, they call for studies rather than concrete actions.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that there was no one left on the speakers' list and moves on to the voting on the amendment.

Vote on amendment 44.

For - 22

Against - 113

Abstain - 32

Amendment 44 was NOT carried by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks if anyone wants to speak for the resolution. There was no one on the speakers' list and therefore proceeded to the voting on the resolution as amended.

Vote on the resolution as amended.

For - 93

Against - 50

Abstain - 19

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

10. Recognition of the treatment of the Uyghurs by the People's Republic of China as a Genocide

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to Jeunes MR to present the resolution.

Alexandre Servais (JMR): I think as Europeans and progressive liberals it is important that we have a resolution on this in our agenda. It is really important that LYMEC has a resolution on the subject.

Alex Alvarez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): We welcome the resolution as genocide is something that has been recognised by multiple conventions and the international community should at

least be aware of these crimes. We agree with the text, but cannot accept the amendments submitted about the boycotts because they will have the opposite effect. We need to be pragmatic on this matter.

Arthur Kharytonov (LDLU): It is really important, we need to recognise that the Uyghurs are facing a genocide. If we could push this topic to ALDE and a European Parliament level, it would be beautiful. Thank you.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): I believe that this is important, it is a message we need to all agree to. Lithuania has recognised this genocide recently although there was a lot of pressure from the Chinese government not to. I believe that it is in our duty to send a strong message about this.

Alice Schmidt (Julis): It is a great resolution but it is also important to have our amendments in. What we are putting forward is just the consequence of the already existing escalation and it is a part of other resolutions and should therefore not be a problem.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that **amendment 10** was accepted by the mover of the resolution. She also asks if the mover of the next amendment can accept the **amendment to amendment 11** made by Jeunes MR.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis) states that they can accept it since it's only a matter of wording that is changed.

Amendment to amendment 11 was accepted by the mover of amendment 11 and will therefore not be discussed. There are no objections.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks if the mover will be accepting any of the other amendments.

Alexandre Servais (JMR): We will accept **amendment 8** on sanctions like travel bans and freezing of assets.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): **Amendments 10, 11 and 8** are accepted by the mover, we will discuss **amendment 12, 14 and 9.**

❖ **Amendment 12**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) continues to give the floor to Julis for **amendment 12.**

Nemir Ali (JuLis): We are proposing concrete actions to show China that we do not accept their genocide. A genocide is a crime that can be never accepted. The international community must take harsh measures to show that we are serious. That is why we want to boycott the 2022 Winter Olympic Games which will take place in Beijing.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): Point of order - on the online tool **amendment 11** is rejected, what does it mean?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that **amendment 11** as amended by the **amendment to amendment 11** is approved, and that the former amendment 11 is therefore rejected.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) continues to give the floor to **Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)**.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): For us, the Olympic Games should not be about politics, these boycotts don't change anything, it just hurts the athletes.

Alexandre Servais (JMR): I am speaking against this amendment - boycotting the Olympic Game will not do anything to change the situation of the Uyghurs. We should use the Olympic Game to put more pressure on the Chinese instead.

Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD): I would agree with **Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)** and say that it's like Eurovision, you use it to open channels of discussions. Removing those channels just because we do not agree with them is childish and petty.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): I have a very sad example of what happens when we say that these events are not political. In Germany, we had the Olympic Games with Hitler. This was one of the worst signs that the world sent in those days and I think that unfortunately sports are political.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): I want to underline **Alice Schmidt (JuLis)**'s point, and speak against the speakers that were saying that the Olympics aren't political. You have the International Olympic Committee banning political statements on the podium for athletes speaking out. How are we going to use the Olympic Games to start a dialogue, when there is a ban on freedom of speech there on spot during the Games.

Franziska Brandmann (JuLis): So we can hope that the Olympic Games are not political but this just isn't the case. Taking part just allows China to politicise the event in their favour and we need to make sure that this is not the case, by agreeing to this amendment.

Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegate): I want to add to what has been said. The Olympic Games cannot be used that way, because how can you guarantee that there would be space to speak out, there is nothing petty about boycotting a genocidal country and taking harsh measurements.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) proceeds to a vote but first there is a point of order.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): Point of order - I could not add myself to the speakers' list. Just remember the 1936 Olympic Games, and remember Jesse Owens' story and not only the Hitler part.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): This was not a point of order, please don't misuse it that way. Now we move to a vote on **amendment 12**.

Vote on amendment 12:

For	-	77
Against	-	71
Abstain - 21		

Amendment 12 was carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 14**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) continues and gives the floor to Julis for **amendment 14**.

Nemir Ali (JuLis): We all know about people's right to self determination, but it is disputed in international law what exactly gives them this right, does it include a right to secession and the right to build a state? When a group is the victim of a genocide and crimes against humanity, the right to establish a state is derived from the right to self determination, like in the case of Kosovo.

Abel Hartman (JD): This is such a substantial task and it should be in a separate resolution, where more context could be given. Here it distracts from the main point of the resolution.

Alexandre Servais (Jeunes MR): I want to add to what **Abel Hartman (JD)** said. This should be complimentary with other amendments in the resolution. One of the main points of this resolution is to strengthen our position on this topic in LYMEC and give us the arguments to use in the debate on this topic.

Johannes Brill (LHG): I agree with **Abel Hartman (JD)**, that it should go in another resolution. The aim is to put pressure on China, supporting secession might further antagonise China against the Uyghurs and by doing so, it would lead to a greater tension for the minority that we are trying to protect.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): We also agree that this doesn't belong in the resolution. Please vote against this amendment.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) reminds the delegates not to repeat themselves and other speakers so that we gain time.

Alice Katherine Schmidt (JuLis): My argument is that we can always write another resolution, but we do not have enough time, it is therefore better to put this in this position and have a voice on this issue .

Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegate): I understand that we worry about antagonising China, but this resolution aims to deal with the genocide. Can we guarantee that this will not happen if we do not give them the right to govern themselves? Do they not have a greater risk of being massacred if they are staying under the government of China?

Alexandre Servais (Juenes MR): We welcome the other amendments from Julis, but this one just jeopardises what we are trying to do, which is to stop the repression of the Uighurs by China and it should be kept as our main point.

Calvin Löw (JuLis): Our amendment is in the spirit of the motion, if we are to recognise genocide, we have to come up with a plan on how to prevent them in the future.

Abel Hartman (JD): This isn't something that can just be tacked on to the international legal aspect to this, but that is not recognised in this resolution and that is why it needs to be in a different resolution.

Franziska Brandmann (JuLis): Everyone who has just spoken and are encouraging a new resolution is welcome to do it, but as we don't have such a resolution yet let's pass this amendment since it gives a more general aspect of this topic and you can pass a new resolution in the future.

Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux): I agree with **Abel Hartman (JD)**. We cannot talk about genocide just in one sentence, this is important in international human rights organisations, and if we want to talk about genocide, we need to make a proper statement.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) proceeded to a vote on the **amendment 14**, since the speakers' list was closed.

Vote on amendment 14

For - 37

Against - 114

Abstain - 13

Amendment 14 was NOT carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 9**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) continues to give the floor to Julis for **amendment 9**.

Nemir Ali (JuLis): The EU and China have negotiated a comprehensive EU treaty on investment. This treaty is in some ways a step forward, but politically it sends the wrong message to negotiate this when there is an ongoing genocide in east Turkistan. We should send a strong message that this treaty should not be discussed during an ongoing genocide and the European Parliament should not ratify this treaty.

Fabian Grupper (JFS): We from JFS support this amendment and want it to pass, we think it's a good thing.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) suggested moving to a vote on **amendment 9** since there was no-one else on the speakers' list.

Vote on amendment 9

For - 99

Against - 42

Abstain - 32

Amendment 9 was carried by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) moves on to the vote on the resolution as a whole as amended.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) points out there was someone on the speakers' list.

Alexandre Servais (JMR): I just want to thank JuLis and all member organisations who helped strengthen this resolution. It is really important for LYMEC to have a strong and progressive opinion on this issue.

Vote on the resolution as amended.

For - 135

Against - 6

Abstain - 21

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

11. A Ban on Wild Animals in Circuses within the EU

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to the mover of the resolution.

Matilda Kylefors (Centerstudenter): We want to submit this resolution because this is a hot topic in animal rights and it is very important to have this ban on a European level. National bans may prevent exploitation in one country, but they do not stop transportation through these countries. We also want animal welfare to be part of the policy book, to open up the possibility of more resolutions on this topic. Regarding amendments, one amendment was withdrawn and another one was compromised so there is nothing else to discuss here. Please vote in favor of this resolution.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that **amendment 45** was withdrawn and **amendment 1** had an amendment to amendment which has been agreed upon so no need to vote on it or

discuss further unless anyone objects to **amendment to amendment 1**. No one objected and therefore we can move on to a vote on the resolution as amended.

Vote on the resolution as amended.

For - 142

Against - 0

Abstain - 10

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

12. Combating Antisemitism in Europe

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) informs the Congress that we will stop discussing resolutions at 16 h 30 and proceeds to give the floor to JuLis as the mover for the next resolution.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): This is one of the most important things we can do against rising antisemitism, which is still a topic and a topic that is getting more important. We have more and more cases and this definition is very important to us, we must do something against it. The Working Group worked closely and successfully with us on this definition to give us the right tools against antisemitism.

Isabel Esain García (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): We are in favour of this resolution, it is heartbreaking that this behaviour is still around. By approving of this resolution and adopting it, it will help us get a step closer in combating antisemitism in Europe.

Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegate): We applaud the Working Group and the creators of the resolution, it combines recognising the problem and taking combined action against it.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): I agree with **Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegation)** on congratulating the Working Group on this motion, we are happy to support this. The UK has had very big issues with antisemitism in the Labour party and elsewhere therefore Young Liberals are happy to support this resolution.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks the mover if **amendments 2, 83 and 28** are all accepted by them.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): Yes

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks if the **amendment to amendment 86** is also supported by JuLis.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): Yes.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): Point of order - She is wondering if it is possible to discuss and vote on the rest of the amendments in one package because they are all addressing the same issue.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that **amendment to amendment 86** and **amendments 2, 83 and 28** do not need to be further discussed as they were carried by the mover. Are there any objections regarding discussing and voting on **amendments 81, 82, 84, 87 and 89** in one package?

There were no objections and therefore the process is carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 81, 82, 84, 87 and 89**

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to the mover of the amendments.

Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD): This resolution is good as it is, but the definition used has not been accepted by the European Commission. It is a guideline for its members to implement. Going further than a guideline may inhibit freedom of speech, especially when it comes to criticising Israel.

Katharine Macy (Young Liberals): I'm against this, it wrecks the motion. The European Union of Jewish Students organisation spoke to the Working Group and made it clear that accepting the definition fully is important. Antisemitism in Britain is why I am ashamed to be British and we need to have a clear definition of this.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): Firstly, this definition is produced by the Jewish community themselves to define their own suffering. Secondly, it does not inhibit legit criticism of Israel.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): No one is prevented from criticising Israel. However, there is a connection between some types of criticism and antisemitism.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): That applies to people rather than to the government of Israel. This reflects an asymmetrical conflict, we don't get to define other people's suffering. That is the same for the Jewish people, Northern Irish people, the Bosnian people, for every single person in a similar situation.

Eduardo Fialho Teixeira (Jong VLD): To highlight that, yes it permits some criticism, but does not allow criticism of Israel's right to exist.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) proceeds to open the vote on the five amendments together, **amendment 81, 82, 84, 87 and 89.**

Vote on amendments 81, 82, 84, 87 and 89.

For - 47

Against - 75

Abstain - 38

Amendments 81, 82, 84, 87 and 89 were NOT carried by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) moves on to a vote on the resolution as a whole since there was no one else on the speakers' list.

Vote on the resolution as amended.

For - 116

Against - 23

Abstain - 7

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

13. For the democratic transition and future of Belarus

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Lukas Stravinskas (LLJ): This resolution is focused on the role of the Belarussian opposition in their fight for democracy. We must show that we are in favour of democracy in Belarus and free and open elections. The EU must step in and provide aid to facilitate democratisation and re-establishment of the rule of law in Belarus.

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): We are very happy to see this motion, this is what LYMEC does really well at, we support it.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): I agree with **Peter Banks (Young Liberals)**, the basic principle of liberalism is upholding democracy and human rights which are both being abused in Belarus. It is our duty to put these topics on the agenda and to get the European community to take action.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): It might seem like a small thing, but for the people fighting there, it makes a big difference to see our support for so many, especially young people.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that no amendments were submitted and therefore proceeded to the vote on the resolution.

Vote on the resolution.

For - 137

Against - 9

Abstain - 8

The resolution was carried by the Congress.

14. For Freedom and Democracy in Russia

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): The situation in Russia is an opposition to our ideology of freedom and democracy. Putin has shown us how important it is to have a big structured plan when it comes to our relations with Russia. We are presenting such a plan here, so that we can provide security and fight for our values.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that **amendments 53 and 54** were accepted by the mover.

❖ Amendment 112

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to the mover of the next amendment.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I will withdraw this amendment as it was discussed in the resolution on 'EUnited against China'.

Amendment 112 was withdrawn by the mover and will not be discussed.

❖ Amendment 55

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the floor to the mover of the next amendment.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): I will withdraw the amendment, but I would like to draw attention to the fact that Russian foreign policy is unpredictable, that is why we always need to be ready for new policies on the matter.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that **amendments 54 and 53** were accepted, **amendments 55 and 112** were withdrawn and they therefore will not be discussed by the Congress.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): Point of order - I would like us to vote on **amendment 112**, I think it's important and belongs in the resolution.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that it cannot be done. The amendment was withdrawn and that is why we cannot vote on it anymore.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) reminds that since it was withdrawn it cannot be discussed.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) opens the floor for discussion about the resolution as a whole before proceeding to a vote on the resolution.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): Unfortunately, since we can't get rid of that clause, we will have to vote against the whole resolution which calls for a simple majority in foreign and security policy, it would stop the EU from acting as an unitarian body. It wouldn't work and we can not force EU countries into this - it would divide us instead of acting against Hungary or Poland. That is why we encourage people to vote against the whole resolution.

Lucas North (Young Liberals): Point of order - Just to return to **Elsie Gisselgård (CUF)**'s point. You can actually propose a change to the agenda and there is nothing that allows for amendments to be withdrawn after the agenda has been adopted. In the interest of following the rules of the Congress, I think we should be allowed to vote on this amendment.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): The rules are not that clear, but what I am saying is that any resolution or amendment can be withdrawn before it is discussed. Since we did not start to discuss the amendment, **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** was allowed to withdraw it.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): It is correct, the amendment was withdrawn before it was discussed and if **Lucas North (Young Liberals)** could clarify from where he saw this in the Congress rules, because you are talking about the agenda, but the amendments are not an item of the official agenda.

Lucas North (Young Liberals): It is in article 10, paragraph 2.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): This is not a change of the agenda, the amendments are not on the agenda, only the resolutions as one agenda point.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): Do you accept this **Lucas North (Young Liberals)**?

Lucas North (Young Liberals): I would prefer a vote but we will not pursue this point further.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that the debate will then continue.

Nemir Ali (JuLis): I would urge a vote in favour of this resolution, because a qualified, not simple majority is one of the necessary pillars for a common strategy confronting Russia. Without a common foreign policy, the EU will not be able to act.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): I would also like to speak in favour of this resolution, I don't see a problem with a qualified majority voting, it will create a joint response of all EU Member States.

Franziska Brandmann (JuLis): I urge you to vote in favour. Please look at who proposed the motion, it is a diverse group. The resolution is courageous and asks the EU to come together. It would be a great addition to the Policy Book.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) proceeds to move to a vote on the resolution as amended.

Vote on the resolution as amended.

For - 112

Against - 24

Abstain - 24

The resolution as amended was carried by the Congress.

15. Urgency Resolution on Czech out the Russian influence

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks if we should discuss this resolution, although we have run out of time?

Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO): Point of order - Please prolong the discussion, it would make no sense to discuss this at a later Congress.

Cas Cratsborn (JOVD): I agree, it is important to discuss this now.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks if there are any objections?

There were no objections so she moves to discuss the last resolution and invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO): We were talking about the situation in Russia in the internal sense earlier, now we are talking about something Russia did on European soil, on European territory. The Czech Republic, in this conflict, demonstrated our self-confidence and our capacity for resilience, but our final efforts depend on support from our allies in the EU and NATO. The Kremlin's goal is to divide, and intimidate, but by a common action we can show them that this strategy has backfired. Together, we need to send a message that we will not tolerate continued attempts to hurt international law. This is an opportunity to make a new stand in international relations, and to show that a threat to one Member State is a threat to us all.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): Since there was no one else on the speakers' list, we move on. There is one amendment, from Venstres Ungdom. **Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO)** do you accept it?

Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO): We would not accept it, we are willing to compromise and put something like 'it's not mandatory but the Member States should consider expelling diplomats.'

Katharina Schreiner (Chair): We are already discussing **amendment 119**, so I invite **Kristine Oddershede (VU)** who is the mover of **amendment 119** to take the floor.

❖ Amendment 119

Kristine Oddershede (VU): We just believe that expelling the diplomats doesn't add up to the dialogue we wish for. We are however totally in favor of the resolution as a whole. We just do not believe that escalating with expelling diplomats would help.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): For historical context, when the Salisbury poisoning happened, the UK expelled Russian diplomats and Russia expelled British diplomats, other EU countries acted in solidarity and also expelled Russian diplomats. We need to show the same solidarity with Czech Republic that we showed with the UK and treat the situation the same way.

Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate): I'm in favor of the amendment. In my opinion, expelling diplomats is not the way to deal with Russia because there will be no dialogue. There is no policy towards Russia and until the policy is amended, we should keep in touch with Russia.

Felix Häring (LHG): I want to add that I am against the amendment, some EU countries have shown solidarity such as the Baltics and Germany. They are still negotiating but I think that it would be a good sign if all the EU Member States would show solidarity and do the same.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen (Radikal Ungdom): There has been an attack on EU soil, and it does not say that we should expel all diplomats, but that we should expel some diplomats. This is such a minor response: we should increase sanctions and show solidarity.

Clara Puig de Torres Solanot (IMS Delegate): This is a security issue, not a diplomatic issue. It is not only about solidarity but security. We need to make sure that the people on our soil do not carry out these attacks in the future.

Cas Cratsborn (JOVD): It is important to send a strong message, if you accept this amendment you are condoning Russia's behaviour.

Franziska Brandmann (JuLis): We must stay in contact with Russian civil society, not this regime, so I would urge you to vote against this amendment.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the amendment.

Vote on amendment 119:

For - 44

Against - 72

Abstain - 38

Amendment 119 was NOT carried by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the resolution as amended since there was no one on the speakers' list.

Vote on the resolution as a whole.

For - 127

Against - 0

Abstain - 16

The resolution was carried by the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) thanks everyone for the discipline in the debates and states that it was clearly shown that the 30 seconds rule helped, since a total of 15 resolutions were discussed and adopted.

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

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) opens the floor for the delegates to give news from their member organisations and asks those who want to speak to put themselves on the speakers' list and take the floor.

Oriol Marin Subira (JNC): A month ago, JNC elected a new Bureau and I was elected International Officer of LYMEC and IFLRY. I would like to invite you to the JNC and YLG cooperation project about battling youth unemployment, and we want all points of view and invite everyone to participate, especially countries suffering from these problems. The application will close in 2 weeks and if you want to know more you can contact me or Eleni from YLG.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): Thank you for organising the Congress and the idea to get to know more about everyone gives more interaction, almost as if we are in a real Congress. I want to pinpoint two events. We do not have the ability to organise events in person, but first we have an event called Bucharest Talk in June about the environment and sustainability and rights of LGBTQ+ minorities in Europe in hybrid format. Secondly, we have the cooperation project event called Bonding Liberal Youth - Renewal Education in July in Timisoara. In Moldova, yesterday the following things happened: they were supposed to have early elections because they could not form a government, but the socialists in the parliament, who are also Russian majority, decided to break the constitution and suspend the President of the constitutional court, which is illegal. We put it out on our social media and I advise you to be alert about this, they are important and need to be addressed.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): On behalf of Jong VLD and all the other Belgian organisations, this year is going to be important as the Belgian liberal party was founded 175 years ago and we hope that some of you can attend the parties to celebrate this with you and we hope to meet you all. Invitations are going to be sent out during the summer and we hope to see you all in the Autumn!

Lucas Cyprès (Jeunes Radicaux): Thanks everyone and **Victor Jacquet (Jeunes Radicaux)** who is the new International Officer, we at Jeunes Radicaux are looking forward to seeing you all in Paris in the next Congress. We hope it to be a European moment, since it is close to the Presidential elections and the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): We are happy that a lot of you know the liberal victory in the Netherlands and that our mother party and the mother party of Jonge Democraten have won the parliamentary elections. We want to cooperate with the D66, we hope that Jonge Democraten is open to cooperation, they are not too eager right now but we think it is a good idea. I am happy to announce that during our next assembly we are going to have a Bureau member especially for international affairs. That means we will be more active. Hope to see you all soon!

Peter Banks (Young Liberals): I am the International Officer of Young Liberals of the UK, I was elected a couple of months ago, I have been to a few Congresses before and I am happy to be here as an international officer. It has been a strange year. We have not been able to do the activities we want, but we are excited for our local elections. We are proud of our vaccination programme and in the summer we are hoping to host an in-person conference in Manchester and hope to see as many of you there. We are planning to host virtual coffee mornings with various Member Organisations from Europe, we have missed getting together talking about liberalism and we invite you there to exchange best practices.

Ellinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom): Thank you for a great Congress. In Finland, we have the municipality elections coming up in June, they were postponed since they were supposed to be last weekend. We have a record number of candidates and the lists are to be handed in next week. We hope to be the party with the most young candidates and hope to see you at the next Congress.

Alistair Spearing Ortiz (IMS SC): Nice to see you all, the Steering Committee is halfway through its term, I want to thank **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)**, **Clara Puig Torres de Solanot (IMS Delegate)** and **Khrystyna Khomyk (IMS Delegate)** for their work. We had a surge of IMS applications and we are happy to have IMS's from countries where there are no liberal organisations. We have updated our IMS rules concerning disciplinary actions since it did not cover enough in guaranteeing the rights of affected IMS's. We will be having our ELF IMS Skill Camp in Ljubljana. Finally, the CAP Working Group is already up and running and has been doing excellent work so far, having a wide range of resolutions submitted is the objective in the future.

Tanzer Yuseinov (YMRF): Hi, I am the Vice-president of YMRF, in Bulgaria we had parliamentary elections and I am happy to inform you about the outcomes of the elections. We are the only party that increased the votes and seats, 4 of our Bureau members are members

of the parliament (MPs). We are closely following what will happen with the new government and hope for it to be formed very soon. I would like to thank the LYMEC Bureau and the other MO's for sending video support for the campaign.

Elsie Gisselgård (CUF): Greetings from CUF, we have been working on our communication as an international committee. We have an instagram account and we are also working on opportunities for our members to get engaged in international relations. We have hosted global talks with sister organisations from around the world to talk about liberalism: for example, we have a talk with the Israeli ambassador next week. Currently, we are looking at how we do things internationally and inside our organisation, it is changing time for CUF. We are slowly getting ready for the elections in a year, we have our Congress in less than a month and hopefully we are going to vote on some foreign policy proposal. Thank you for a fantastic Congress and looking forward to seeing everyone in Paris, hopefully.

Maarten Tollenaar (JD): First of all, great Congress, thank you to the Bureau and organisers. We did have some great elections in the Netherlands: the liberals came out on top and our mother party equaled our previous seat record from 1994. The government is going perhaps less smoothly: Mark Rutte, the prime minister and leader of VVD, is more controversial than he's ever been. So our mother party is looking forward to working the VVD but ideally without Rutte. We're not intending to form any kind of majority coalition with VVD- we do not consider their policies to be progressive or green enough. We look forward to putting forward the Netherlands' first female prime minister, Sigrid Kaag.

Eleni Siapikoudi (YLG): Good evening, I am the President of YLG and I urge all to follow and participate in the cooperation project on Renewing Education and also the other one with JNC about youth unemployment, it is going to be a hybrid event. We are still in lockdown and urge you to come up with ideas for our live podcast and we are open for discussions on various topics.

Felix Häring (LHG): As you know, we are going to have elections in Germany in the autumn, and preparations are going well. I am going to announce a new event: it's a socializing event about the Eurovision song contest. Today, 39 years ago Germany scored its first Eurovision victory. On the 22nd of May, there is going to be the Eurovision Song contest final and we are hosting a socialising event called "Can't wait until tonight" so it's going to be a Eurovision watch party. It is going to be an internal vote and you can give points and in the end we are going to find out if we are just as tasteless as the rest of Europe. Everyone is invited, some may feel guilty for not giving points to us, but everyone is invited. It's going to be on Facebook and I'm looking forward to this meeting.

Barnabás Gádor (TizenX): First, I want to thank you for the huge support during the Congress and the great discussions. This is my first time as International Officer at a LYMEC Congress and it was really inspiring to hear your point of views. We had a quite packed year, we had two successful campaigns, but we are looking forward to defeating Orban in the next primary elections in 2022. We have candidates in the election from our youth organisation on the forefront of battling for liberalism. That is why we need all the knowledge and best practises

and hope that everyone can help and maybe you can learn something from us. We want to thank you all for the Congress, if anyone has questions about Hungary feel free to contact me.

Jean-Clément Lemaire (NLSF): It was quite entertaining to be here, thank you for a good Congress. We are going to have elections in September, the preparations look better than the polls, but we still have some time to improve. Positive news: Venstre has decided to stop all gas exploitation outside of Norway, which I think is good news.

Margaux Carron (Young Green Liberals): We are happy to be here at the congress. I am happy that you accepted the CO2 resolution. We just voted on changing our CO2 taxes as well, so that is a nice coincidence. We are trying to do an event on liberalism and the environment in the summer and if anyone wants to do similar events, do not hesitate to be in contact. We are happy that we are going to celebrate our 5th year as an organisation and we invite you all to this event.

Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO): Thank you for your support on our resolution and we are planning in a few days to celebrate our 6th anniversary. We are going to postpone it and arrange it together with our Congress in June or July and we invite you all there. If you cannot join we are going to have some online networking as well. We are doing a publication project with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation about young liberals in politics. One part is in Czech Republic about inspirational stories behind the scenes in politics and we are going to translate it to English, we are going to share some interesting stories across Europe. We are planning a few bigger events because we have our national elections in October. Before that, we want to organise an event called Political Festivo, most will be in Czech but doing some international liberal discussions as well, hybrid or online, we are happy to show young Czech people in our discussions with other liberals.

Paolo Pelesk (Istrian Democratic Youth): At the end of last year we had a party election and we have a new President and I am the new International Officer. Currently, we are campaigning together with our mother party because we have our local elections. We are also working with our members and motivating them to get in touch. We are happy for everyone who contacted us on the resolutions and thank the Bureau of LYMEC.

Venla Luttinen (KOL): In KOL, we haven't been able to hold physical events, but currently we are lobbying to support students in health concerns during corona times. Last year, we accepted a strategy on tackling youth exclusivity in Finland. Besides upcoming elections, we are living interesting days here in Finland, because our government has a follow up budget negotiations and it will be interesting to see if we have a government next week. I hope that we will do more international cooperation and we were happy to participate at the Congress.

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) states that we are soon out of time. Please put yourself on the speakers' list now because we have to close the speakers' list.

Matilda Kylefors (Centerstudenter): Thank you for a great Congress. Centerstudenter is having its Congress at the moment and by now we should have a new Board. Other than that,

the elections in Sweden are next year so we will be preparing for that. I will be stepping down as an International Officer and I will let you know who is the next international officer.

Sandra Daniel (LUF): I am the international officer of LUF. Thank you all for this amazing Congress, we are proud of being active changemakers during difficult times like this. For LUF, it has been an interesting year. We are planning study trips, seminars with MO's and we are trying to be active about education policy on social media and how we work internally. Truly thank you for this Congress and looking forward to seeing you next time.

Lukasz Kazmierczak (Nowoczesna Youth): I am the International Officer of Nowoczesna Youth. It is the first time in maybe three years that NY has participated in a LYMEC Congress, thank you for the support on the debt relief. Our Mother Party is soon getting funding from the state. For six years, we were deprived of public funding but now it has been settled in the European Court of Human Rights and they share our view that we were deprived of public money unlawfully, that's why we will receive around 1M EUR this year and hopefully next year we can pay for the membership fee normally. Thank you for the support on the resolution submitted together with the Hungarian TizenX. In Poland, the government has not submitted the national recovery plan which should be confirmed by the end of this month, the government is on a brink of relapsing and we have to prepare for any scenario.

Maria Pulkka (Finnish Center Youth): I am from FCY and I am the International Officer. As Swedish Youth and KOL had already said we have interesting times in Finnish politics, we have our municipality elections, the Central party is really looking forward to that. Thank you LYMEC, this has been a really nice Congress.

17. Any other business

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) asks whether there is any other business or any other issues.

There were none.

18. Closing from LYMEC President

Katharina Schreiner (Chair) gives the chairing back to **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)**, and mentioned that it is **Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)**'s birthday next week and wished her a Happy birthday.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President): I want to start with thanking our Chairs - **Slaven Klobucar (Chair)**, **Lena Höglund (Chair)** and **Katharina Schreiner (Chair)** for making these two days successful, and streamlining our not-so-simple rules. 23 Member Organisations shared their news and I want to thank you for this, it was great to get to know the hurdles. We also managed to adopt 15 resolutions and I want to congratulate you all on this effort. As mentioned before, this past year you have managed to do a great job in bridging your

different opinions on how you want to shape Europe. I will take the idea of institutional reform and the political focus by encouraging all of you to share these views on social media, starting with an online discussion with the ALDE Party President on the 4th of May, followed by an online event on the Conference for the Future of Europe on 11 of May. I want to invite you to participate in these events, and take advantage of the digital platform on what Europe should look like, and make a true impact and let things happen. Don't forget that unity makes power and only together we can make a difference. A big thank you to our Bureau, Secretary General, our Administrative Assistant, our Policy Intern and ELF for the Zoom platform and for the testing the 'Liberal Cards against Humanity' after this event.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) stresses that the Congress is now closed at 18 h 36.