

Minutes of Congress

Utrecht, The Netherlands, 6.-7. May 2011.

1. Opening by the LYMEC Bureau

LYMEC President, Alexander Plahr opens the Congress. He notes that the Congress has been called in accordance with the regulations laid out in the statutes.

Welcome speeches are given by JD President, Maarten Koning, JOVD Vice-President, Dennis van den Oever, VVD MP, Han ten Broeke.

2. Roll call and voting rights

Secretary General, Slaven Klobucar, made a roll call and the votes were distributed in following order:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Civil Forum, Belarus * | 3 |
| CS, Sweden | 3 |
| CSL, Romania | 8 |
| CUF, Sweden | 5 |
| ERPY, Estonia | 6 |
| FCY, Finland | 10 |
| FEL, Belgium | 3 |
| GIV, Italy * | 6 |
| GLI, Italy | 3 |
| IMS | 3 |
| JD, Netherlands | 7 |
| JNC, Catalonia * | 8 |
| Jong VLD, Belgium | 6 |
| JOVD, Netherlands | 6 |
| Julis, Germany | 10 |
| LUF, Sweden | 6 |
| LY, UK * | 8 |
| NUV, Norway * | 5 |
| RU, Denmark | 4 |
| SU, Finland | 6 |
| TNL, Romania | 10 |
| YLS, Slovakia | 3 |
| YMRF, Bulgaria | 10 |
| TOTAL | 139 |

Secretary General established that the Congress has legitimacy and quorum. Organisations marked with (*) received their votes after the initial roll call.

3. Election of Congress chairs and secretaries

The Bureau proposes the following persons as the chairs of the Congress:

1. Mina Lindberg
2. Laurens Heinen

3. Ivo Thijsen

There are no other candidates. The proposal is put on vote and adopted unanimously.

Proposed Congress minute takers by the Bureau are:

1. Lorenzo Marchese
2. Daniel Hinst

They are adopted unanimously.

Proposed Congress scrutinizers by the Bureau are:

1. Emma de Leeuw
2. Ralph Aerts
3. Roman Levi
4. Bastan Schrøeder Larsen
5. Marco Njeweide

They are adopted unanimously.

4. Urgency of resolutions

1. Urgency resolution “Respect for Human Rights and Freedom for Europe’s neighboring nations” :
Stanislav Anastassov(YRMF) speaks in favor of the urgency of the resolution.
Tomas de Jager(JD) speaks against.
Resolution is rejected as urgent with 23 votes in favor, 43 against and 28 abstentions.
2. Urgency resolution “Health is Wealth”:
Alexander Plahr speaks on behalf of the Bureau in favor of the urgency of the resolution. Resolution is voted as urgent.
3. Urgency resolution “Free Armenia”:
Ben Burgers (IMS) speaks in favor of the urgency of the resolution. Resolution is voted as urgent.
4. Urgency resolution “Bringing Moldova closer to the EU”:
Lukas Schweiger (LUF) speaks in favor of the urgency of the resolution. Tomas de Jager(JD) speaks against. Resolution is voted as urgent.
5. Urgency resolution “On the new Hungarian Constitution”:
Lukas Schweiger (LUF) speaks in favor of the urgency of the resolution.
Tomas de Jager(JD) speaks against. Resolution is voted as urgent.
6. Urgency resolution “On Europe’s Sovereign Debt Crisis”:
Lukas Schweiger (LUF) speaks in favor of the urgency of the resolution. Tomas de Jager(JD) speaks against.
Resolution is rejected as urgent with 33 votes in favor, 34 against and 37 abstentions.
7. Urgency resolution “Resolution on Pension Systems”:
Paul le Doux (JD) speaks in favor of the urgency of the resolution. Resolution is voted as urgent.

5. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is amended to include the presentation of Members Organization at point 17, hereby moving Any Other Business to point 18 and the Closing to point 19.

The agenda, accordingly changed, is put to the vote and adopted unanimously.

6. Adoption of minutes from the Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Following persons took the floor:

Lukas Scheiger(LUF), Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS).

The minutes are adopted unanimously.

7. Snap vote on order of resolutions

The Secretary General, Slaven Kobucar makes a new roll call to distribute voting ballots for the vote on the order of resolutions. The result of the vote is as follows:

1. "On the new Hungarian Constitution" with 26 votes
2. "Freeze the Assets of Dictators!" with 24 votes
3. "Stop Discriminatory Measures Regarding Romani People" with 20 votes
4. "Bringing Moldova closer to the EU" strategy with 20 votes
5. "Resolution on the political situation in Belarus" with 19 votes
6. "The future of nuclear power in Europe" with 17 votes
7. "Resolution of visa-free regime between Ukraine("Eastern Partnership" countries) and EU" with 15 votes
8. "Single European Time" with 13 votes
9. "Let justice between generations prevail!" with 11 votes
10. "Resolution on pension systems" with 11 votes
11. "Revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East" with 7 votes
12. "On the completion of the single market for pharmaceuticals" with 6 votes
13. "Health is wealth" with 5 votes
14. "Motion for a resolution aiming at legalizing the production, the trade and the use of soft and hard drugs" with 3 votes
15. "Free Armenia!" with 3 votes
16. "Resolution on the fact of curtailing democracy and freedom in Ukraine" with 2 votes
17. "Towards a more transparent and accountable Europe" with 0 votes

8. Bureau Members reports - for information

Vice President Mette Lykke Nielsen reports about the activities of the Bureau from December 2010 - May 2011.

9. Secretary-general report

Secretary General Slaven Klobucar gave his report on the work of LYMEC secretariat from the last Congress.

10. Debate about the reports by Bureau and Secretary General

Following persons took the floor:

Anna van der Graaf(JD), Tomas de Jager(JD), Hugo van Haastert(JD), Daniel George(IMS), Alexander Plahr(Bureau), Vedrana Gujic(Bureau), Mette Lykke Nielsen(Bureau), Jeroen Diepeemat(Bureau).

11. Annual Report 2010

Vice President Mette Lykke Nielsen took the floor and presented the annual report for 2010. Following persons took the floor:
Siarhei Varankevich (Civil Forum), Erik van der Meji(JD), Igor Caldeira(IMS), Matilda Flemming(Bureau).

12. Election of delegates for the ELDR Congress in Palermo, Italy

The Secretary General, Slaven Kobucar makes a new roll call to distribute voting ballots for the vote on the 10 LYMEC delegates for the ELDR Congress in Palermo, Italy to be held on. The result of the vote is as follows:

1. Vedrana Gujic(Bureau) with 127 votes
2. Lena Höglund(SU) with 125 votes
3. Lukas Schweiger(LUV) with 121 votes
4. Stanislav Anastassov(YMRF) with 116 votes
5. Andreas Skjæret(NUV) with 107 votes
6. Mette Lykke Nielsen(Bureau) with 102 votes
7. Alexander Plahr(Bureau) with 97 votes
8. Anna van der Graaf(JD) with 94 votes
9. Jeroen Diepemaat(Bureau) with 87 votes
10. Virgil Adrian (CSL)with 59 votes
11. Aleix Sarri (JNC) with 44 votes (Substitute)
12. Igor Caldeira(IMS) with 44 votes (Substitute)
13. Tomas de Jager(JD) with 26 votes (Substitute)

13. Resolutions

1. On the new Hungarian Constitution

Lukas Schweiger(LUF) presented the resolution

The resolution was adopted.

2. Freeze the Assets of Dictators!

- Amendment from Anna Catharina Müller (JuLis)

Line 1-38 *Replace*

Whole text

With

'Improving the Coordination of Security Policy in Europe

The European Union is based on the values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. It is our common interest to support these ideals not only within Europe but beyond our

borders. Therefore, the European Union should make use of the measures provided by the Lisbon Treaty and the members should aim at coordinating their national policies.

Particularly the democratic movements in the Middle East and Northern Africa require this right now. This should include the idea of confiscation of property.'

Amendment accepted by movers

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

3. Stop Discriminatory Measures Regarding Romani People

Alicjia Verhagen(JD) presented the resolution.

Timo Roeleveld(JOVD) and Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS) took the floor.

- Amendment from Timo Roeleveld(JOVD)

Line 32-33 *Replace*

'That affirmative action towards Romani people in particular, could enlarge the tensions with non-Romani citizens.'

With

'Problems should be addressed based on individuals living in a common European Union.'

Timo Roeleveld(JOVD) and Hugo van Haastert(JD) took the floor.

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Alicjia Verhagen(JD)

Line 41-42 *Replace*

'The LYMEC Bureau to closely monitor the situation of the Romani people and report on their situation to the Member Organizations and the Individual Member's Section.'

With

'The Member Organizations and Individual Member's Section to monitor the situation of the Romani people within their own countries and report on their situation to the next Congress.'

Alicjia Verhagen(JD), Fredrika Akerö(SU), Matilda Flemming(Bureau) and Hugo van Haastert(JD) took the floor.

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Timo Roeleveld(JOVD)

Line 38 *Add*

'and other oppressed minorities' at the end of the line, after 'concerning Romani people'.

Timo Roeleveld(JOVD), Ed Sanderson(LY), Alicjia Verhagen(JD), and Hugo van Haastert(JD) took the floor.

69 In favor, 73 against, 3 abstentions.

Amendment rejected

- Amendment from Fredrika Akerö(SU)

Line 41-42 *Replace*

‘The Member Organizations and Individual Member’s Section to monitor the situation of the Romani people within their own countries and report on their situation to the next Congress.’

With

‘The Member Organizations and Individual Member’s Section participating in the next Conference on migration, preceding the next Congress, would monitor the situation of the Romani people within their own countries and report on their situation to the event.’

Amendment accepted by movers

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

4. Bringing Moldova closer to the EU

Lukas Schweiger(LUF) presented the resolution.

- Amendment from Lukas Schweiger(LUF)

Line 13-14 *Remove*

‘With an accession date well within this decade’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV), Lukas Schweiger(LUF) and Lena Höglund(SU) took the floor.

Amendment accepted by movers

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

5. Resolution on the political situation in Belarus

Kseniya Shvedova(IMS) presented the resolution

The resolution was adopted.

6. The future of nuclear power in Europe

Anna van der Graaf(JD) presented the resolution.

Sergio Fedele(GIV) and Kseniya Shvedova(IMS) took the floor.

- Amendment from Boye Bjerkholt(NUV)

Headline *Replace*

‘The future of nuclear power in Europe’

With

‘Safe nuclear power for Europe!’

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Boye Bjerkholt(NUV)

Line 7 *Replace*

‘Nuclear energy remains a contentious source of energy in Europe (...)’

With

‘Nuclear energy remains a contentious source of debate in Europe (...)’

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Boye Bjerkholt(NUV)

Line 17-18 *Replace*

‘Nuclear energy remains an essential part of the European energy mix’

With

‘Nuclear energy remains an essential provider of CO2-clean energy for Europe’

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Armin Reinartz(JuLis)

Line 16 *Add*

‘The realization of this transition should be accomplished as soon as possible’ as a bullet point

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Armin Reinartz(JuLis)

Line 21-22 *Replace*

‘the EU member states to pay close attention to the health and safety standards of the nuclear power stations on our continent’

With

‘the EU member states to increase constantly health and safety standards of the nuclear power stations on our continent according to the latest scientific development’

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Armin Reinartz(JuLis)

Line 26 *Add*

‘the EU commission to develop a European plan for a nuclear-free continent and to support the member’s states in coordinating their effort as to that’ as a bullet point

Tomas de Jager(JD) and Anna van der Graaf(JD) took the floor

Amendment withdrawn

- Amendment from Armin Reinartz(JuLis)

Line 26 *Add*

‘the EU to support measures of improving the European Electricity net’ as a bullet point

Ed Sanderson(LY), Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS), Armin Reinartz(JuLis), Alicja Verhagen(JD) and Anna van der Graaf(JD) took the floor

47 In favor, 45 against, 33 abstentions.

Amendment carried

- Amendment from Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS)

Line 5-6 *Remove*

‘The earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan have caused severe damage to the nuclear power plant in Fukushima’

Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS) and Anna van der Graaf(JD) took the floor

36 In favor, 45 against, 10 abstentions.

Amendment rejected

- Amendment from Julia Hesse(JuLis)

Headline *Replace*

‘Safe nuclear power for Europe!’

With

‘Increase security of nuclear power in Europe’

Amendment accepted by movers

Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS), Anna van der Graaf(JD) and Lukas Schweiger(LUF) took the floor

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

7. Bringing Moldova closer to the EU

Yevgeniya Kovalchuk(EYU) presented the resolution.

Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS) and Mike Hodzelmans(JD) took the floor

- Amendment from Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS)

Line 32 *Add*

‘and Poland’ in between the words ‘Ukraine’ and ‘in 2012’

Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS) and Mike Hodzelmans(JD) took the floor.

Amendment accepted by movers

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

8. Single European Time

Lukas Schweiger(LUF) presented the resolution.

Mike Hodzelmans(JD), Lukas Schweiger(LUF), Igor Caldeira(IMS), Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS), Andreas Skjæret(NUV), Ed Sanderson(LY) and Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS) took the floor.

- Amendment from Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS)

Line 36-37 *Replace*

‘LYMEC urges the European Union to adopt Central European Summer Time as the new Single European Time(SET) applying year-round in the EU/EAA’

With

‘LYMEC urges European countries to adopt Central European Summer Time as the new Single European Time(SET) applying year-round in the EU/EAA’

Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS) and Mike Hodzelmans(JD) took the floor.

45 In favor, 82 against, 0 abstentions.

Amendment rejected

The resolution was not adopted.

9. Let Justice between Generations prevail!

Alexander Plahr(Bureau) presented the resolution.

Mike Hodzelmans(JD) and Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS) took the floor.

- Amendment from Hugo van Haastert(JD)

Line 28 *Replace*

‘social security rightly lies within the sole competence of the member states’

With

‘social security is primarily the competence of the member states, but keeping in mind that the European Union has a vested interest in developing social security in a sustainable way that is both in line with responsibilities flowing out of the European Convention on Human Rights and with keeping social security payments within sustainable limits’

Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS), Hugo van Haastert(JD) and Alexander Plahr(Bureau) took the floor.

Amendment carried.

- Amendment from Hugo van Haastert(JD)

Line 36 *Add*

‘Not all parts of Europe are equally affected by the ageing of the population and that the Turkish population still has a largely young workforce, which would greatly enhance the

capacity of the Union to cope with the consequences of an ageing society which sheds new light on the Turkish bid for EU membership'

Igor Caldeira(IMS), Hugo van Haastert(JD), Ed Sanderson(LY), Paul le Doux(JOVD) and Alexander Plahr(Bureau) took the floor.

Amendment rejected

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

10. Resolution on Pension System

Paul le Doux (JOVD) presented the resolution.

Pim de Vink(JD) and Mette Lykke Nielsen(Bureau) took the floor.

- Amendment from Timo Roeleveld(JOVD)

Line 28-30 *Delete*

Amendment carried

- Amendment from Sissel Kvist(RU)

Line 34-37 *Delete*

Igor Caldeira(IMS), Fredrika Akerö(SU), and Sergio Fedele(GIV) took the floor.

49 In favor, 51 against, 3 abstentions

Amendment rejected

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

11. Revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East

Mike Hodzelmans(JD) presented the resolution.

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV) took the floor.

- Amendment from Stanislav Anastassov(YRMF)

Line 5 *Replace*

'a new momentum'

With

'an historic opportunity'

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Timo Roeleveld(JOVD)

Line 7 *Replace*

'European nations have longtime backed dictators in Northen Africa and Middle East'

With

‘European countries are supporting the current democratic movement in Northern Africa and Middle East’

Paul le Doux (JOVD), Ed Sanderson(LY) and Mike Hodzelmans(JD) took the floor.

53 In favor, 58 against, 0 abstentions

Amendment rejected

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 14 *Replace*

‘Revolutions are revolutions of the people and can not be enforced by other nations’

With

‘The free and democratic nations of the world have a duty to assist people who, in the fight for democracy and human rights, are rising up to rid their country of tyrants and autocratic regimes’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV), Igor Caldeira(IMS), Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS) and Lukas Schweiger(LUF) took the floor.

Amendment carried

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 16 *Delete*

‘Unilateral intervention by (Western) countries would suggest a Western invasion’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV) took the floor.

Amendment carried

- Amendment from Stanislav Anastassov(YRMF)

Line 17 *Delete*

‘and the Arab League’

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 17-18 *Replace*

‘Reconciliation with the United Nations and the Arab League would provide the greatest legitimacy to any intervention or sanctions on autocratic regimes’

With

‘While reconciliation with the United Nations and the Arab League would provide the greatest international legitimacy to any intervention or sanctions on autocratic regimes, these bodies - composed as they are of some countries that are themselves brutally oppressive, autocratic regimes - should not stop the free and democratic nations of the world from acting unilaterally when absolutely necessary to protect people from mass slaughter’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV), Igor Caldeira(IMS), Alexander Plahr(Bureau), Hugo van Haastert(JD) and Florent Baudewyns(FEL) took the floor.

Amendment rejected

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 19 *Add*

‘Recalling

The international community's miserable failure to prevent enormous human tragedies and massive loss of lives in the Balkans and Rwanda in the 1990s’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV) and Hugo van Haastert(JD) took the floor.

Amendment rejected

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 19 *Add*

‘Applauding

The leadership and resolve of France and Britain in establishing a no-fly zone in northern Libya, saving the rebels from what would else have been certain death’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV), Pim de Vink(JD) and Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS) took the floor.

Amendment rejected

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 19 *Add*

‘Applauding

The broad participation in the now NATO-led effort to maintain the no-fly zone’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV)took the floor.

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 26-29 *Replace*

‘NATO, the European Commission and the Member States to involve the Arab League and Arab nations in any military intervention or sanction that would hit an autocratic government in the region of North Africa and the Middle East and minimizes civilian casualties’

With

‘NATO, the European Commission and the Member States to invite the Arab League and Arab countries to participate in any military intervention or sanction that would hit an autocratic government in the region of North Africa and the Middle East to minimize civilian casualties’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV) and Alexander Plahr(Bureau) took the floor.

Amendment rejected

- Amendment from Hugo van Haastert(JD)

Line 26-29 *Replace*

‘NATO, the European Commission and the Member States to involve the Arab League and Arab nations in any military intervention or sanction that would hit an autocratic government in the region of North Africa and the Middle East and minimizes civilian casualties’

With

‘NATO, the European Commission and the Member States to strive to involve the Arab League and Arab countries to participate in any military intervention or sanction that would hit an autocratic government in the region of North Africa and the Middle East to minimize civilian casualties’

Amendment accepted by movers

- Amendment from Julia Hesse(JuLis)

Line 31-31 *Replace*

‘the Mediterranean Union’

With

‘European Neighborhood Policy’

Julia Hesse(JuLis) and Hugo van Haastert(JD) took the floor.

Amendment carried

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 32 *Add*

‘All NATO and European Union member states to support the no-fly mission in Libya’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV) took the floor.

Amendment carried

- Amendment from Andreas Skjæret(NUV)

Line 32 *Add*

‘NATO to remain a force for good in the world, able and willing to intervene in internal conflicts when brutal autocratic regimes attempt mass slaughter of their own people’

Boye Bjerkholt(NUV), Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS), Timo Roeleveld(JOVD) and Mike Hodzelmans(JD) took the floor.

Amendment rejected

With adopted amendments, the resolution was adopted.

14. Membership issues: disaffiliations

Alexander Plahr took the floor and proposed following organizations for disaffiliation;

- LSA, Croatia
- JLC, Lithuania
- Canary Islands Liberal Youth, Spain
- LRK, Kosovo
- Musavat Youth, Azerbaijan
- Ukraina Youth Sabor, Ukraine
- YC Poland, Poland

Following persons took the floor:

Vedran Gujic(Bureau), Matilda Flemming(Bureau), Alexander Plahr(Bureau), Julia Hesse (JuLis) and Erik van der Meji(JD).

Following organizations were disaffiliated from LYMEC:

- LSA, Croatia with unanimity
- JLC, Lithuania with unanimity
- Canary Islands Liberal Youth, Spain with unanimity
- LRK, Kosovo with unanimity
- Ukraina Youth Sabor, Ukraine with unanimity
- YC Poland, Poland with unanimity

Following organizations were not disaffiliated from LYMEC:

- Musavat Youth, Azerbaijan - motion of disaffiliation withdrawn

15. Membership issues: Reduced membership fees

LDY, Bulgaria, Liberal Youth, UK and MHL, Croatia submitted their requests for reduced membership fees. LDY and MHL were not present.

Following persons took the floor:

Matilda Flemming(Bureau), Anna van der Graaf(JD) and Stanislav Anastassov(YRMF)

Reduced membership fees were accepted for:

LDY, Bulgaria (1 Euro) with unanimity
MHL, Croatia (155 Euro) with unanimity

LY, UK - withdrew the application for reduced membership fees

16. Finances

Treasurer Matilda Flemming presented Financial report, Financial report January-April 2011 and proposal for updated Budget 2011. Matilda Flemming also presented the External Auditor's Report

Following persons took the floor: Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS), Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS), Anna van der Graaf(JD) and Sergio Fedele(GIV).

Financial report 2010 was adopted with unanimity

Financial report January-April 2011 was adopted with unanimity

Updated Budget 2011 was adopted with unanimity

After the adoption of the reports and budget Internal Auditors Lukas Schweiger and Daniel George took the floor and presented the Internal Auditor's report.

17. MO Presentations

Following persons took the floor:

Timo Roeleveld(JOVD), Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS), Fredrika Akerö(SU), Sissel Kvist(RU), Andreas Skjæret(NUV), Igor Caldeira(IMS), Pauline Kastermans(JD), Sami Hänninen(FYU), Julia Hesse(JuLis), Kristina Kämpfer(LHG) and Ivo Thijsen(IFLRY).

17. Any other business

Following persons took the floor:

Jeroen Dipeemat(Bureau), Allan Siao Ming Witherick(IMS), Sissel Kvist(RU), Fredrika Akerö(SU) and Mattheus Cristian Huiskes(IMS).

18. Closing

President, Alexander Plahr takes the floor and closes the Congress.