LYMEC (European Liberal Youth - LYMEC asbl)
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MINUTES
Bureau Meeting
03-04 July 2026

The meeting was held from 16:00 CEST to 17:30 CEST on 03/07/2026 and from 16:00 CEST to 17:00 CEST on 04/0/2026. It was held in person in Vienna, Austria.

Present: Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP), Martina Barres Sabartes (MBS), Anes Hodzic (AH), Ilija Jerković (IJ) and Even Diot (ED)

Excused: Tommy Monnahan (TM)

MP welcomes the Bureau members and starts this Bureau meeting with the first point of the agenda.

1. **ELF Updates**

- Strategic Partnerships ELF - LYMEC

ED presents the Strategic partnership for 2027-2029, which ELF agreed on with LYMEC. The strategic partnership will continue in its current form, with a yearly budget of 75.000 to organise events with ELF. The next drafting phase is the concept notes and the budgetary planning for the next 3 years.

IJ highlights the importance of thinking strategically about the selection of the KPIs to offer opportunities for all participants and not only recurrent ones, as well as taking geographical disparity into account.

- YLM - Flight Booking options

ED asks the Bureau Members to provide the LYMEC Secretariat with their travel details for the Young Leaders Meeting 2026.

MBS reminds the BM that she will not be able to attend the YLM this year due to previous commitments.

SB will adapt the programme accordingly. He informs the Bureau that 28 Participants registered for the event. The selected participants and the trainers will be contacted by him.

MBS shares with the Bureau some feedback from the presidents of Member organisations which would like to focus on peer learning, collecting inputs and cooperation between Member Organisations during the coming YLM event.

SB takes notes of the feedback and reminds the Bureau that LYMEC needs to manage the expectations from ELF and the participants regarding desired impact and outcomes of the YLM event. **SB** will adapt the programme accordingly in coordination with the LYMEC Secretariat and ELF.

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2. Digital Assembly

- Updates / Theme of the DA

ED informs the Bureau that the plan of organising the DA in collaboration with APPLE in Naples, Italy, in their research centre will be postponed to 2027. Thanks to the support of FNF Baltics, LYMEC is, however, in the capacity of organising the second Digital Assembly in one of the Baltic States.

ED proposes to organise it in Tallinn, Estonia, on August 29th of 2026.

Decision: Approved

3. LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026

- Organisational updates and timeline

ED updates the LYMEC Bureau about the latest developments for the LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026. After a meeting with the IMS SC, **ED** presents the possibility of offering an additional spot to IMS for a non-voting delegate. At previous Congresses, an additional non-voting delegate position was a possibility for IMS; however, this has not been implemented since the introduction of the Rules of Procedure. **ED** proposes to invite an additional non-voting delegate from the IMS when additional positions are available for the Congress. The IMS will be selected after the 4th delegates from Member Organisations are selected.

Decision: Approved.

ED presents the idea of offering the delegates the possibility to join a Lithuanian-based NGO in Vilnius during Congress to craft camouflage nets for Ukraine. A group of 25 delegates could be attending this session.

MP agrees with the idea, but states that it will be difficult to organise it on Friday and Saturday due to the programme. A request will be made to the NGO if a visit to the centre on Sunday can be organised.

MP informs the Bureau that Member Organisations want to have more space to discuss and exchange information about their events and programmes. A space will be allocated during Congress in the coffee break area on Saturday during the Policy Resolutions Discussions.

ED presents the fringe event supported by FNF Baltics. It will take place on Friday from 14h to 15h30 at the Freedom Centre of FNF Baltics; the theme will be agreed with the partner shortly, and a specific registration form will be shared with the delegates.

ED informs the Bureau that we also booked the Constitutional Hall within the Seimas.

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This would make it possible to organise a closed session for first-time women delegates and women delegates of LYMEC's Congress as an informal exchange ahead of the event. The objective is to share information and opportunities within LYMEC's network, empowering women delegates of the member organisations. The Session will be led by **DP** and **LS** (LYMEC Communications Assistant)

- Flight Option

ED asks the Bureau Member to provide the LYMEC Secretariat with their travel details for the Autumn Congress 2026

- Selection process of Interim IFLRY Representative - Written decision during the Summer

ED: The Call for the IFLRY Representative is open until July 10; the selection process will be made during the Summer through a written procedure. The name of the selected IFLRY representative will be shared at the 8-week deadline and proposed for approval at Congress.

- Programme of Action

MP informs the Bureau that the document of the Programme of Action will be drafted during the Summer with your inputs. This document will guide the work of the organisation for the entirety of the mandate. A special meeting will be organised in July as a brainstorming session and will be finalised and presented at the Digital Assembly. The Programme of Action will be approved at the Autumn Congress.

4. Erasmus +

- Reminder: Deliverable Deadline and Autumn Application

ED reminds the Bureau of the upcoming deadline related to Erasmus + with the application for the SGA 2027 and the periodic and final reporting for the SGA 2026. The inputs from the Bureau are crucial as they will guide our work for 2027.

MBS informs the Bureau that the policy briefing will be redesigned, in collaboration with SB, to better answer the needs of our membership.

ED also reminds the Bureau of the importance of translating some of our materials. As part of the feedback received by Erasmus +, the diversity of our work languages was highlighted; therefore, the Voices from Ukraine Report will be translated into Ukrainian. Additionally, every statement from Member Organisations will also be drafted both in English and national languages.

5. RENEW

- RENEW Youth Summit 18-20/26

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ED informs the Bureau of the incoming RENEW Youth Summit which will take place in Brussels on November 18-21, 2026, together with YDE and les JEM. The sessions are being defined now by the RENEW Secretariat.
For the Adoption of the Youth Resolution during the event, **ED** presented LYMEC'swork via OpenSlides. RENEW agreed to use the platform and LYMEC's expertise for this simulation. The organisation will need to support the chairing of the working groups as well as the work on amendments during the event through OpenSlides.

The LYMEC Secretariat will draft two guides for this event, one for the participants and one for the chair and co-chair.

LYMEC has 25 reserved spots for this event with the possibility of additional spots.

ED will send a Save the Date to the Bureau for this event.

6. Secretariat Updates

- HR Updates

ED informs the Bureau that **LMH** will not extend her contract on October 1st. Therefore, a recruitment process will start on July 6th with the first round of Interviews on August 17th.

The expected start date is September 14th.

IJ asks if LYMEC is going for an entry position/junior position or if the organisation is aiming for a higher position and more expertise on Erasmus+. **IJ** will see with the Budget for 2026 and 2027 what is possible and present the options at the next Bureau Meeting.

- ALDE Youth Forum Leader / Network of Young MEPs

ED informs the Bureau of the ALDE Youth Forum Leaders, which will take place at the ALDE Council in Dublin in November. As part of Erasmus+, LYMEC will organise a Panel discussion with the MEPs from our network of Young MEPs.

- 50 Liberals to Watch
DP presents the 50 Liberals to Watch campaign that started ahead of the ALDE Congress

- YELL Summit - RENEW COR

ED informs the Bureau of the YELL Summit, which will take place in Brussels, September 22-23, in cooperation with YDE.

- December Bureau Meeting

ED informs the Bureau that thanks to the support of FNF Europe, LYMEC will be organising a final in-person Bureau Meeting in 2026 which will be used as a capacity-building training for the Secretariat and Bureau.

- Unavailabilities over summer/OOO

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SB presents the Bureau with an updated Policy for office closure for the LYMEC Secretariat for August and December.

The LYMEC office shall be closed for one week in August (summer closure) and one week in December (winter closure).

The summer closure shall, unless otherwise agreed by the Bureau, take place for the duration of the week during which the public holiday of accession is celebrated in Belgium.

Full-time staff, excluding interns, shall be required to utilise amassed recuperation days for each day of the summer closure that would have otherwise been a working day (excluding public holidays).

To this end, from the beginning of each calendar year, in any instance where more than one recuperation day would be allocated to a staff member, that staff member shall instead receive only the first of those recuperation days. The other allocated days shall be set aside for the summer closure and will not be available for other use. Once a sufficient number of recuperation days to cover the summer closure have been set aside, further recuperation days gained may be allocated and taken as normal.

Should the case arise where a staff member's employment is due to end before that year's summer closure, any set aside recuperation days for that staff member shall be released to them for use as normal, and no further recuperation days of theirs will be set aside for the remainder of their employment.

Interns shall receive the summer closure days as unconditional leave, in addition to and without any effects on existing forms of leave available to them.

The winter closure shall, unless otherwise agreed by the Bureau, take place between Christmas Day (December 25th) and New Year's Day (January 1st) inclusive.

All staff, including interns, shall receive the winter closure days as unconditional leave, in addition to and without any effects on the existing forms of leave available to them.

The dates, terms, and lengths of closures as stated in these statutes may be deviated from within a Bureau's own mandated term by means of a Bureau decision, without the need to amend these statutes. However, any such deviations must be agreed and communicated to staff no less than eight weeks in advance of the first affected closure.

Changes to the terms of these closures which are intended to be permanent, or which shall affect closures beyond the mandated term of the current bureau, must be enacted through a written amendment to these statutes. Such changes must be agreed and communicated to staff no less than eight weeks in advance of the first affected closure or no less than eight weeks in advance of the end of the current bureau mandate, whichever is sooner.

Decision: Approved

ED presents the Bureau with the Days off currently planned for the Secretariat.

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7. IMS

- IMS Steering Committee

ED informs that the new IMS Steering Committee started their mandate for 2026-2028 with a handover meeting between the new and old Steering Committee.

8. Libertas

- New Editor-in-Chief Selection

AH informs the Bureau that Vinnayakan Sajeev Beena is now the new Editor-in-Chief of Libertas, and Mikael Freitag Pedersen remains as the Managing Editor.

First article of the Libertas Bootcamp 2026 to be published in early July.

9. Tour du table (going over outstanding tasks)

MBS will draft the Policy Debate Report for the Erasmus + reporting, coordinate with LS for the drafting of the Monthly Policy briefing and prepare a schedule for the publication until the end of the year for visibility with the Secretariat. MBS will also update the Policy Book following the LYMEC Spring Congress and prepare the list of Resolutions to be proposed for archiving as per the sunset clause. MBS will also send a feedback form to the LYMEC delegates of the ALDE Congress.

SB - **AH** will work together on the Libertas toolkit over the summer and present it at the Follow-up Webinar on September 8th.

SB will also work on the YLM for September and make sure to implement a task manager for both the LYMEC Secretariat and Bureau. SB will also update the HR Document with the newly adopted Summer and Winter break.

DP will work on the LYMEC 50 merch. The order will be placed on July 25, and the shipment to the supporters of LYMEC will be done the last week of August.

DP will join the Women Leadership Accelerator next week in Bucharest for the first training with ELF. As part of the follow-up webinar, the Rainbow platform will join to present their work on inclusivity and empowerment.

DP will also launch the next call for the Communications team

TM - (*in absentia*) ‘’Last month, I attended the latest meeting of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group in Brussels. The Group brings young people and youth-sector stakeholders together for consultation on EU policies, supports the Commission’s Youth Check, and helps ensure that policymaking in the EU reflects young people’s priorities.

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On the agenda were Youth Checks on the Quality Jobs Act and Education Package, alongside consultation on the post-2027 EU Youth Strategy. On behalf of LYMEC, I advocated for stronger AI literacy and resilience to disinformation as well as greater focus on workers' mental health and job-market flexibility. We also advocated for simpler, more representative youth consultations that better reflect the views of young people, with PPYOs properly represented in EU decision-making, following up on our letter to President Von der Leyen last year on this issue.

I am planning to write a blog post about the event next week ''

TM - (*in absentia*) '' You will have received an email from me regarding a Commission consultation on the EU Youth Strategy post 2027, where they are asking for feedback from stakeholders on how they approach youth engagement in the coming years. I have completed this and sent you a copy of the responses. Thank you to ED for your feedback, but if anyone else has any feedback or inputs they'd like to share, please let me know in the coming week, as I plan to submit it around 10 July.

I will also be working on a YFJ Consultation around the EU Youth Goals. I will share my responses in the middle of next week for your feedback.''

IJ - presents the work done on the partnership brochures with the support of ELF, which will be shared with corporate partners shortly. **IJ** updates the Bureau about the work done for the ESC Quality Label, which LYMEC is applying to be recognised as an organisation.

IJ presents the outstanding debt from member organisations. YMRF - PAR - Norwegian Liberal Students - Membership fee for 2026

IJ informs that Unge Moderater from Denmark will apply for full membership at the LYMEC Autumn Congress.

AH will work on and set a date for the second Voices from Ukraine for 2026 in September. AH will organise the Transition for Libertas and contact the YCA participants for the E-Module and to put them in touch with their mentors for 2026. **AH** also mentions a call set up with NOVA and shares positive feedback with this newly established organisation.

MP will work on the Programme of Action 2026-2028, which will be shared with the bureau shortly.

10. Invitations

- Ventres Ungdom - Attendance not possible due to a conflicting event with the YLM 2026.

- Unge Moderater - **IJ** will attend on August 21-23rd

- Radikale Ungdom - 14-16 August

- JD Summer School - 17/07 **ED** will lead a session on Youth Activism

- Better Politics Week - **IJ** will follow up with the Bureau via email.

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11. AOB

- EYF Libertas Bootcamp 2027

ED informs that LYMEC was awarded a grant for an International One-Off Activity for 2027 from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe to organise the Libertas Bootcamp 2027.

- EYF Call on Ukraine.

ED informs the Bureau that LYMEC will apply to the Special Call of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The deadline for applications is September 1st.

- Chairs LYMEC Congress.

ED mentions that we would need to select the Chairs for the upcoming Autumn Congress. The following names are put forward and will be contacted shortly.

- Izide Marcinkute, Former president of the Lithuanian Liberal Youth.
- Willemijn Krans, Former LYMEC Bureau member.
- Laia Comerma, Former LYMEC Bureau member.

The meeting ended at 17:15 CEST

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