

Motivation Letter – Individual Member Section Delegate (IMS), LYMEC

Dear fellow members,

I am applying for the position of IMSr Delegate of LYMEC because I believe that European youth representation only has value if it is concrete, demanding, and reform-oriented.

Through my experience of studying and working across four European countries (Austria, Germany, Belgium and Sweden), I have developed a strong understanding of both the diversity and the fragmentation of Europe. I see myself as a bridge builder between European cultures across borders.

As a youth organization, LYMEC has the responsibility to make the voices and needs of young Europeans heard where decisions are made. This requires more than symbolic participation. It requires clear political priorities, evidence-based demands, and the courage to challenge outdated structures that limit opportunity for younger generations.

I am politically active with *NEOS* in Austria where I engage with liberal policy positions and practical political work. This involvement has given me firsthand insight into how policy ideas are translated into political processes and where they fail due to institutional inertia or lack of European coordination. It has reinforced my conviction that many of the challenges young Europeans face cannot be solved at the national level alone.

My personal policy focus lies in the field of startups and innovation. Through hands-on experience with founders and venture initiatives, I see a persistent structural problem: entrepreneurial ambition is European, but regulatory frameworks remain national and fragmented. I strongly advocate for a unified European startup ecosystem. A concrete reform I consider essential is the creation of a European residency framework for founders. Enabling founders to live, work, and build companies across borders without excessive administrative barriers would boost innovation, attract global talent, and strengthen the European economy as a whole.

On the smaller scale I do my best to lower entry barriers and make entrepreneurship accessible to broader groups by organizing multiple founder circles targeted at women and young people. In parallel, I am engaged in other initiatives that aim to generate direct tangible impact. I am an active member of *Filter the Future*, which advocates for stricter regulation of the tobacco industry to reduce water pollution, and of *Influencers@School*, which focuses on strengthening media literacy and critical thinking among young people.

As an IMS Delegate, I would contribute an analytical, policy-focused, and results-oriented perspective to LYMEC's work. I am comfortable working across borders, building coalitions, and challenging consensus when it risks becoming complacency.

Kind regards,
Sonja Brandmayr