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MINUTES
Bureau Meeting
29 - 30 August 2025 Online

The meeting started at 14h30 CEST 29/08/2025 and ended at 19h15 CEST 30/08/2025. It was held in Belgrade, Serbia and online via ZOOM.

Present: Ines Holzegger (IH), Marten Porte (MP), Alexandre Servais (AS), Sean Bennett (SB), Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP), Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (SNC), Martina Barres Sabartes (MBS), Even Diot (ED) and Chiara Liguori (CL).

Excused: Willemijn Krans (WK)

IH opens the Bureau meeting and introduces the first agenda point.

1) **50 years of LYMEC / Spring Congress 2026** (ALL: 2h)
   - Location Congress
   - ELF - LYMEC
   - Draft Budget
   - Draft Programme

MP presents the possibility of hosting the LYMEC Spring Congress 2026 in Vienna in cooperation with the European Liberal Forum. This event would be a joint event starting with the General Assembly of ELF and followed by the LYMEC Spring Congress 2026. ELF would support us in organising the Fringe event as well as the Reception on Friday evening. This event would be supported on the ground by NEOS Lab, the Political Foundation of NEOS, and JUNOS, their youth branch. In addition to connecting with our partner ELF there would be the benefit of cost reductions on the side of LYMEC when combining the two events.

SB asked about the possibility for Member Organisations to still apply to host the Autumn Congress 2026.

IH agrees that a call should be opened for the Autumn Congress 2026 will be opened before the next Spring Congress, so the next Bureau can select the location during the first Bureau meeting of the next mandate.

AS reminds that the calls for hosting Congresses have historically not always opened. The ultimate decision point is the financial support. In this case, a joint ELF event makes sense both financially and strategically.

SNC stresses the importance of being transparent on how we select the location of our Congresses.

SB adds that the Bureau knows a Congress location is a sensitive decision, and this Bureau is putting a fair amount of work into transparency, and we must keep up this trend.

IH agrees with the statements made previously, and the decisions will be shared with all the members of the network once all the details have been settled with ELF, NEOS Lab and JUNOS, so it is communicated in a timely manner.

Vote on the location of the Spring Congress 2026 to be held in Vienna, Austria

Vote in favour: 5
Abstention: 1
Decision: the LYMEC Congress 2026 will be held in Vienna, Austria, on April 17-19.

ED highlights the potential date for the IFLRY General Assembly to also be held in late April. The new ILFRY representative will inform the IFLRY Bureau about the date of our General Assembly to ensure smooth coordination.

- 50 Years of LYMEC Publication
  - Budget
  - Authors / Editors
- Ideas for the Reception

DP presents a Miro to collect ideas for the project for next year to all Bureau Members to fill.

MP asks about the Budget, whether we are planning to be budget-neutral or not for this project.

IH confirms that we need a balanced budget, even though some investment will be made for video content at the beginning.

SB disagrees. Indeed, it is a reasonable approach to reach budget equilibrium; however, we must be bold if we want to reach a broader audience and engage our community more broadly, including the alumni and others who could be interested in joining.

AS adds to this topic, proposing some networking opportunities, keynotes from guests, and a formal party.

SB, if we are trying to fundraise, we need to be comfortable with taking risks

IH there is a wish to be financially responsible and to be ambitious, especially in fundraising. However, looking at previous efforts, we need to be realistic. We will not leave the organisation with what could be a budgetary dent.

MP talks about the reception and the possibility of inviting the founding bureau.

AS talks about the possibility of presenting some of the Archives documents, Memorandums and resolutions.

DP Add the possibility to realise some podcasts, interviews, to travel to Gummersbach to the Archives of Liberalism, and organise a Joint Bureau meeting with the former Bureau Members.

SNC will check from the archives of Ogra Finna Fail for LYMEC Content.

IH agrees to conduct some interviews with Alumni during the ALDE Congress 2025.

AS To draft a Concept note for the Publications with the different Chapters we would like to have in the publication (Including a chapter on how our policy evolved, and how our membership evolved in 50 Years)

SB proposes to involve Libertas for the publication.

DP proposes to involve the Communication Team for the design of the Publication.

MP proposes to involve the Alumni in the publication

IH a decision and separation of tasks will be decided at the next Bureau meeting.

2) **Autumn Congress** (IH, MP: 20min)
   - Proposition for Statutory Changes

IH notes that, following some recent issues with an IMS member, it is necessary to edit the statutes so that the Congress is not required to disaffiliate an IM, as it is presently the case. The Rules of Procedure already foresee a different procedure, but a contradictory procedure is still in the Statutes. Given the fact that the Bureau approves IM's, it also makes sense they can be disaffiliated by the Bureau.

The Bureau agrees, and the Statute change will be proposed for edition at the next Congress.

IH proposes to discuss revising our policy of Minutes for both the Congress and the Bureau.

SNC highlights that some delegates share personal details that are indeed shared within Congress Minutes.

AS presents the possibility of putting the Minutes only available to the International Officer on the upcoming LYMEC HUB. However, AS stresses that for the Bureau and the Congress, some administrative processes must be made public.

MP outlines that we have some legal requirements; therefore, the names of the Bureau Members need to be kept on all Bureau Minutes. For the Congress Minutes, putting initials could be a solution for delegates.

DP agrees with MP that initials should be preferred and that we should remind MOs to be responsible and not share personal details.

IH asks CL to take the floor as she took minutes in the previous Congresses.

CL outlines that using an AI tool is not the solution. Asking delegates for their written speeches after they took the floor is a possibility, but not all speeches are written in advance.

IH would be in favour of summarising with a brief sentence stating whether the speaker is in favour or against.

AS disagrees. With the current situation, we have proof of what is said on the Congress floor. With summarised Congress minutes, there are no nuanced messages; having a verbatim is the objective way of portraying what was discussed. It is important as an organisation to know where and what each organisation stands.

IH stresses that the work of the Secretariat is blocked by doing the Congress Minutes for weeks, and a change in the way we write the minutes is necessary.

DP stresses the importance of accountability to have the spirit, some details of what is discussed.

AS strongly disagrees and asks for the Congress Minute to stay detailed as it allows accountability for their members and arguments.

SB adds that there are reasons for wanting to protect our members, but shares AS's concerns about accountability and that it is a public forum where responsibility is required

MP mentions some problems related to the use of AI and proposes a compromise where the discussions are not minuted verbatim, but if a delegate requests a part of a discussion to be included verbatim the Congress recording will be consulted and that part of the discussion will be included in the minutes verbatim.

Vote for the recording of the LYMEC Congresses to be consulted upon request by the Bureau.

Vote In favour: 6
Decision: Approved

Vote for the LYMEC Congress Minutes to be simplified (''speaking in favour" / ''speaking against"), with the opportunity for the delegates to request it to be Verbatim when taking the floor. This request for Verbatim does not require a Point of Order.

Vote In favour: 6
Decision: Approved

Vote for the LYMEC Congress Minutes to replace the Full Name of the Delegates and their Member Organisation, with their Initials and their Member Organisation:

In favour: 5
Against: 1
Decision: Approved

IH propose that the Bureau Minutes be archived internally after the new Bureau is elected.

MP disagrees as the Bureau is still responsible until the financial report is approved the following year after the mandate ended. The Bureau minutes should at least be kept until then.

IH propose to archive them on the LYMEC Hub until the discharge of the Financial year, after which they will be archived.

DP, there are no benefits to having these additional steps, which add more work for the Secretariat.

Vote for keeping the Bureau Minutes available on the LYMEC Website until the following January after their discharge.

In favour: 6
Decision: Approved

Vote for keeping the Congress Minutes available on the LYMEC Website until the following January after the Bureau discharge.

In favour: 6
Decision: Approved

END OF Bureau Meeting Day 1 29/08 at 18h00

START OF Bureau Meeting Day 2 30/08 14h10

- Finances
    - Updates Budget 2025

MP informs the Bureau Members that the Internal Audit will take place next week. This is a small audit focused on Financial matters. MP will report to the Bureau following the internal audit during the next Bureau meeting.

    - Draft Budget 2026

MP will draft the 2026 budget to be presented at the next Bureau meeting, taking into account the cost related to the 50 Years Anniversary project.

SB will draft an overview of merch prices for the 50 Years Anniversary project.

    - Suspension Disaffiliations of Members

MP presented an overview of the outstanding Membership fee for 2025.

- UDI Jeunes (Suspended) - Old debt

- Jeunes Radicaux (Suspended) - Old debt
- Forum mladih Nove stranke (Disaffiliated since April 2025)
- Civil Forum Youth (Suspended)
- PSG Youth (Paid since the Bureau Meeting took place)
- 3H (membership fee)
- CUB Junior (membership fee)
- Liberal Student of Norway (membership fee)
- Liberal Youth of Montenegro (Congress fee and No-Show Fee Zagreb 2025)

IH proposes to disaffiliate members who have long outstanding debts and are already suspended.

Decision: Jeunes Radicaux - JR, Civil Forum Youth , and Jeunes Union des démocrates et indépendants (UDI) to be proposed for disaffiliation at the next LYMEC Congress.

IH proposes to cancel the participation fee and no-show fee associated with the Liberal Youth of Montenegro, as no costs were incurred.

Decision: Approved

- Membership fees

MP will present the new Membership fees for 2026 to be approved at the next Bureau Meeting

- Decision: Chairs

IH propose CL as the next Chair for the LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025.

Decision: Approved

ED propose the International Officer from Young Progressive Slovakia (YPS), Martin Horný.

IH propose Doris Lisett Rudnevs from the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage.

ED will contact Martin Horný and Doris Lisett Rudnevs to confirm their availability.

- Roles of Bureau members

The role of the Bureau Members during the LYMEC Autumn Congress will be discussed at the next Bureau meeting.

3) **European Liberal Forum**
- Planning events 2026

CL presents the tentative planning for the ELF Activities for 2026 and the reasoning behind the pre-selection.

IH proposes to change the location of YCA I, 20 to 22 March, to Greece and YCA II, 24 to 26 April, to Hungary. YCA III will be held in Brussels from 16 to 18 October.

IH proposes the YLM to be held on 11-13 September 2026
IH proposes the LH to be held on 05-07 June 2026
IH proposes the LCN to be held on 15-17 May 2026
IH proposes the Digital Assembly I to be held in Moldova, a country we have not travelled to in a while. They are holding Parliamentary elections in September 2025, and we need to show support as well to our member.

Decision: Approved upon confirmation with ELF.

- Nomination Liberal Awards 2026

DP proposes for the category Liberal of the Year, the 7 students from PSG Youth, currently under house arrest and imprisoned in Serbia because of their participation in the student protests in their country.

AS proposes for the category of the Rising Star, Matej Grah, former president of Gibanje Svoboda Mladi (GBS) and now Secretary General of the party.

Decision: Approved

4) Update from the Secretariat

- Project Officer - Call

ED updates the Secretariat on the current call for applicants for the position of Project Officer.

AS adds that for the specific support of the Grant Application on Erasmus +, we could reach out to FNF Europe for some expertise during the Autumn.

- RENEW Youth Summit Call

ED presents the current proposition to have a RENEW Europe Youth Event in Brussels, November 20-21, 2025, in collaboration with YDE and JEM. The dates will be confirmed soon, and LYMEC will be able to invite a minimum of 25 participants.

SB mentions that it would be needed to reopen the discussion with RENEW Europe between support to Youth Organisations and organising events for the youth, which do not have the same impact for our members.

IH LYMEC will open the call for participants for our members upon validation of the event date.

- Review Staff Reward Scheme is worked on - to be discussed at a later Bureau meeting

This Scheme is being reviewed and will be discussed at the next Bureau Meeting.

5) **Upcoming Events**
- Young Leaders Meeting 12-14/09
- Young Changemakers III 17-19/10
- Liberal Hack' Winners Meeting 29-30/09
- Liberal House Opening 04/11 - IH will travel to the opening in Brussels
- European Youth Forum
    - COMEM/General Assembly 07-08/11/2025.
        - WK is Delegate I. MBS will coordinate with IFLRY to nominate a joint delegate.
    - Council of Europe Ministerial Conference, 6-10 Oct, Malta. Call for delegates from the European Youth Forum.
        - DP apply on behalf of LYMEC
        - MP as a second delegate if DP is unavailable
- Alliance of Her Summit 23/10
    - LYMEC will have a side event during the Alliance of Her event. DP will present the programme at the next Bureau Meeting

6) **Next 50 years of LYMEC** (Brainstorming ALL: 1h)
- SWOT analysis

The SWOT Analysis will be accessible to the membership on the IO Hub.

7) **IFLRY Representative** (15min)
- Presentation

MBS entered the meeting

IH welcomes MBS as the new IFLRY Interim Representative of LYMEC and presents the tasks associated with the position, including

- revising the current Memorandum of Understanding
- selecting a joint delegate for the upcoming YFJ COMEM/General Assembly.

MBS left the meeting

8) **ALDE PARTY Congress 2025**
- ALDE Fringe: Advocacy Campaign - decision: topic (ALL: 30min)

IH opens the discussion for the Advocacy campaign theme of the upcoming ALDE Congress.

The theme of European Defence, Trans Rights, Free Trade (Mercosur), Climate and Sustainability, Nuclear Energy and Cybersecurity (chat Control) are discussed.

IH informs the Bureau that a decision needs to be made. Due to the time limit of this Bureau decision, a communication will be sent for approval for a Bureau Decision in the coming days.

- Brief update on work by delegation (SNC: 5min)

SNC update the Bureau on the work of the delegation.

9) AOB

SNC informs the Bureau that the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) will be reviewed in January. SNC will coordinate with some MOs to draft a statement recalling our position and prepare some communications for Bureau approval in December and January including a letter to the European Commissioner in charge.

SB updates the bureau about the current situation within Libertas and will create, in collaboration with the Editor in Chief, guidelines highlighting the procedures for submitting and drafting articles.

The Bureau Meeting ended at 19h15

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