

LYMEC Policy Book

1992–2026

Resolutions in force

231 resolutions

Last updated: 2 November 2026

Contents

Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform 8
1.33 A Better European Response to Health Crisis Management . . . 8
1.34 Officiality and Promotion of Regional and Minority Languages in Europe . . . 10
1.35 European funds for European values! . . . 13
1.36 A fight against the far-right is a fight for liberalism and democracy . . . 15
1.37 Defending Europe in times of need . . . 17
1.38 Europe's Collective Defence . . . 21
1.39 Is It a Bird, is It a Plane? It's a Russian Drone – Protecting European Airspace from Drone Attack . . . 24
1.40 No Union without values: defending the Rule of Law in the EU . . . 27

Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights 30
2.09 A Uniform ID Card for a More Effective and Safer Schengen . . . 30
2.10 Recognising the Armenian Genocide . . . 31
2.11 Legal right to euthanasia in the European Union . . . 32
2.12 Resolution on the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD2) . . . 34
2.13 Resolution on privacy and data protection . . . 35
2.14 Urgency resolution on the current situation in Catalonia . . . 37
2.15 Women's right over their own body . . . 39
2.16 For full voting rights of EU citizens in all member states . . . 41
2.17 Resolution on the Istanbul Convention . . . 43
2.18 Resolution on Minority Rights . . . 45
2.19 Resolution on the Rights of Linguistic Minorities . . . 48
2.20 Expanding Freedom of Speech . . . 50
2.21 Eliminate Pink and Tampon Taxes . . . 51
2.22 Legal Protection for Whistleblowers . . . 54
2.23 Resolution on condemning the persecution and torture of journalists and activists . 56
2.29 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression as Grounds for International Protection . . . 58
2.30 Recognise Same-Sex Marriages in the EU . . . 60
2.31 Freedom of Gender Identity as a Fundamental European Right . . . 61
2.32 Urgent Resolution on Harmful Content Online . . . 63
2.33 Stop Discriminatory Measures Towards Roma People . . . 65
2.34 Ending Female Genital Mutilation . . . 67
2.35 Freedom of Belief . . . 69
2.36 Right to Abortion . . . 71
2.37 Freedom from Rape . . . 74
2.38 Situation in Belarus . . . 76
2.40 Condemning Racism and Xenophobia in the EU . . . 78
2.42 «A liberal drug policy» (JGLP / JFS Schweiz) . . . 81
2.43 Freedom of Press and Media in Central-Eastern Europe: Attacks on the media, press and journalists . . . 82
2.44 Resolutions for the rights of Climate Refugees . . . 85
2.45 Effective legal protection in the European Union . . . 86
2.46 Project Pegasus: protecting our privacy . . . 87
2.47 A Migration Policy Fit for the Future . . . 89
2.48 Human Rights in International Sports Events . . . 91
2.49 Towards a more inclusive European Union . . . 93

2.50 The EU Shall Contribute to Free Internet in Authoritarian States 96
2.52 Keep governments out of our underpants, chromosomes and personal identities . 98
2.54 Liberal consolidation needs to be implemented to prevent the spread of authoritarian nationalist tendencies in Europe 100
2.56 Better Safe Than Sorry - Establishing a European Crisis Mitigation and Resilience Framework 103
2.57 Can't Pray the Gay Away: Put an End to Conversion Therapy 105
2.58 Keep your hands off our Schengen Area 108
2.59 Strengthening Peacebuilding across Europe: Recognising and Reinforcing our Commitment to Conflict Resolution 110
2.60 Recognition of the Rights to Sexual Reproductive Health and Abortion 112
2.61 Privacy 117
2.62 No Freedom Without Equality: Tackling Transphobia and Discrimination Across Europe 125
2.63 Towards a fairer and more efficient European asylum system 128
2.64 Preserving Democracy and Protecting European Values through the new EU Budget 131
2.65 Equal marriage. Equal Europe. 133

Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology 135
3.01 Freedom of Scientific Research 135
3.02 A Liberal Approach to Education in Europe 137
3.03 Science not Stigma: Ending the Blood Ban 142
3.04 Urgent Resolution on Mobility in Europe 143
3.05 Unified Grading System for Schools and Institutions of Higher Education – Easy, . 145
3.06 Let Justice Between Generations Prevail! 146
3.07 A Truly Global Bologna Process 148
3.08 Open your mind with open access 150
3.09 A welcoming student culture – establish language courses for refugees 151
3.10 Youth Employment in Europe 153
3.11 Resolution on Countering Radicalisation of Youth in Europe 155
3.12 Joint degree Programs integration in Erasmus 157
3.13 License to Heal 159
3.14 5G wireless – let's start the future 161
3.15 Industry 5.0 – A European Initiative 163
3.16 Taking responsibility on protecting our health with vaccinations 165
3.17 Recognition of upper secondary qualifications across Europe 166
3.18 Secure Innovation, how to secure smart devices 167
3.19 Tackling Cyber Attacks 168
3.20 Combating Antisemitism in Europe 170
3.21 Defending Academic Freedom 173
3.22 Enabling Educational Mobility in Pandemic Times 174
3.23 Mental Health Matters for Europe's Students! 175
3.24 Freedom of expression and Campus Police 178
3.25 Inclusive education for an equal society 180
3.26 Mandatory Provision of National Electronic Identification within the EU 182
3.27 Reform the concept of NEET 184
3.28 Time To Act Against Healthcare Associated Infections 186
3.30 The EU in cybersecurity: moving from Windows 95 to the AI of the future 190
3.31 Building Resilience: Counterin Disinformation Through Education 192
3.32 Let Bulls Smell Flowers, Not Blood: A Call to Ban Bullfighting 195
3.33 Securing Europe's Digital Future 197

Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies 202
4.01 Liberal ideas on the Future of the Single Market . . . 202
4.02 No to EU Tobin Tax . . . 205
4.03 On the Completion of the Single Market for Pharmaceuticals . . . 206
4.04 Enhancing the Single Market for Retail Financial Services . . . 207
4.06 Resolution on Competition in the European Community . . . 209
4.07 Globalisation is an Opportunity, Not a Threat! . . . 210
4.08 Telecommunication in Europe . . . 212
4.09 Resolution on Free Market in developing countries . . . 213
4.10 Audit Market reform . . . 215
4.12 Seize the possibilities of the sharing economy . . . 217
4.13 Urgent resolution in defence of CETA and free trade . . . 218
4.14 A proposal for the withdrawal of small-denomination euro coins . . . 220
4.15 A step forward for digital entrepreneurship in Europe . . . 222
4.16 From an economic and monetary union (EMU) to an economic, budgetary, fiscal and monetary union (EBFMU) . . . 224
4.17 Motion for a resolution against new taxes on innovation (especially taxes on automation) . . . 226
4.18 Menstruation: Breaking the taboo . . . 228
4.19 Standing behind our SMEs . . . 229
4.20 A Liberal Tax System for Europe: Simpler, Smarter, Fairer . . . 231
4.21 Cutting the Red Tape: Unleashing Europe's Economic Engine . . . 236
4.22 Houses for the Future: Addressing the EU Housing Crisis . . . 239
4.23 Catching Up the Productivity Gap: Make the European Economy Great Again . . . 241
4.24 Fostering a Thriving Tech Ecosystem and Supporting Young Entrepreneurs in the EU . . . 243
4.25 Resolution on EU-INC (28th Regime) and European Competitiveness . . . 246
4.26 Together We Spend, United We Ball - More EU Defense Joint Venture Projects! . . . 251
4.27 Deregulate to Liberate: Making Life Affordable Again in Europe . . . 253
4.28 Making Europe a Global Leader in Pharmaceutical Innovation . . . 256

Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights 259
5.01 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market . . . 259
5.02 Resolution on the Pension Systems . . . 261
5.03 Liberal approach to the sex industry . . . 262
5.04 Creation of a “student-entrepreneur” status in all European countries . . . 264
5.05 Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families . . . 266
5.06 Generationally fair and sustainable European pension policy . . . 268
5.07 European Menstruation Equity . . . 270
5.08 Protecting the Budapest Pride march and the freedom of assembly in Hungary . . . 273

Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources 275
6.01 Reforming the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) . . . 275
6.04 Resolution on the Protection of Arctic Area . . . 277
6.06 Precautionary principle on shale gas extraction . . . 280
6.07 Resolution on LULUCF sector regulation . . . 282
6.08 Resolution for a common container deposit scheme in the European Union . . . 284
6.09 Stop Nord Stream 2 . . . 285
6.10 Resolution on the future of our environment: climate change, pollution and looking forward to sustainability. . . . 286
6.11 The Adoption of C02 Taxes and Tariffs by the EU . . . 291
6.12 Making ‘Fit For 55’ fit for purpose . . . 293

6.13 Cutting the European dependence on energy resources from the Russian Federation 295
6.14 Resolution on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Restoration . . . 298
6.15 Create a European market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) . . . 300
6.16 Climate justice . . . 301
6.18 An EU Energy Security Policy . . . 302
6.19 Establishing Standards for Ethical and Sustainable Fast Fashion in the EU . . . 305
6.20 Strengthening European Energy Interconnection to Safeguard Security of Supply and Prevent Blackouts . . . 307
6.21 Powering Europe Freely - A Technology-Neutral, Competitive and Resilient European Electricity System . . . 309
6.22 Let the Market Split the Atom: A Technology-Neutral Framework for Nuclear Energy and a Competitive European Electricity Market . . . 314

Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare 318
7.01 A Pulse for progress: Fishing for the future . . . 318
7.02 Securing our rural economies . . . 320
7.03 Resolution on the matter of antimicrobial resistance in Europe . . . 322
7.04 More bzzz in the food! . . . 323
7.05 On the need for a blue economy . . . 325
7.06 Legalisation of snus and tobacco products with flavours or certain additives . . . 327
7.07 A Ban on Wild Animals in Circuses Within the EU . . . 329
7.08 A CAP fit for the 21st century . . . 330
7.09 Better, stronger, faster – Food for the EU . . . 332
7.10 A silent Tsunami - Battling multiresistant bacteria . . . 335

Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development, Transport and Travel 337
8.01 Connecting European Regions . . . 337
8.02 Resolution on the phase out of combustion engines by 2035 and the use of sustainable fuels . . . 339
8.03 Connecting Europe: Completing the High-Speed Rail Union . . . 341

Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs 344
9.01 Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996 . . . 344
9.02 Future of relations between EU and the European Neighborhood . . . 349
9.03 Political Map of Europe Must Match Geographical Map of Europe . . . 352
9.04 Mutual Energy Assistance Pact . . . 353
9.05 Resolution on EU-U.S. Economic Relations: Free Trade and Economic Integration 354
9.06 Resolution on Europe in Change . . . 355
9.07 Motion for a Resolution Demanding the Immediate Release of Political Opponents in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Burma) . . . 357
9.08 Resolution on Middle East Relations . . . 359
9.09 Fight against Terrorism . . . 360
9.11 Urgent Resolution on Darfur Crisis . . . 362
9.12 Urgency Resolution on Action against Piracy . . . 364
9.13 Improving the Coordination of Security Policy in Europe . . . 365
9.14 E.U. Must Maintain the Weapons Embargo Against China . . . 366
9.15 Resolution on Gibraltar . . . 367
9.16 Resolution on Cyprus . . . 368
9.17 Towards a Stronger Euro-Mediterranean Partnership . . . 371
9.18 Urgency Resolution on the Situation in BiH . . . 373
9.19 Resolution on Transnistria . . . 376
9.20 Resolution on the Situation in Kosova . . . 379

9.21 In defence of freedom and fundamental rights in Cuba 381
9.22 Promoting sovereignty over natural resources for the people of Western Sahara . 384
9.24 Resolution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) 387
9.25 A coherent and ambitious EU development policy 389
9.26 Tackling propaganda and fake news 391
9.27 Resolution on the Western Balkans Enlargement Process 394
9.28 Resolution on the racist and xenophobic riots in the USA 397
9.29 Transparency and human rights led approach to EU deals with other countries on irregular migration 398
9.30 Support student activism internationally 400
9.31 EU support for sustainability and democracy in Tunisia 402
9.32 The relationship with Turkey under assessment 404
9.35 Urgency Resolution on Peace and Stability after the Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Deal 407
9.36 Let Taiwan be Taiwan: Recognise Taiwan as an Independent Sovereign State . . 409
9.37 Resetting the EU-UK Relationship 411
9.38 Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Geoeconomic and Geopolitical Factors in the Arctic 414
9.39 A Vaccinated World by the EU 416
9.40 For the Democratic Transition and Future of Belarus 418
9.41 EUnited Against the Communist Party of China 421
9.42 Recognition of the Treatment of the Uyghurs by the People's Republic of China as a Genocide 426
9.43 For Freedom and Democracy in Russia 428
9.44 Urgency Resolution on Czech Out the Russian Influence 433
9.45 Demand to Stop Political Repressions Against Young Civil Rights Activists and to Restore the Rule of Law in Ukraine 434
9.46 The Future of EU – Afghan Relations 437
9.47 In response to the asylum seekers' influx provoked by the illegitimate government of the Republic of Belarus 440
9.48 Political Situation in Venezuela 442
9.49 Europe stands with Ukraine: Stop the Russian war 444
9.50 Recognition of the Genocide of the Ukrainian People by the Russian Federation . 449
9.51 In solidarity with the Iranian women for freedom 452
9.52 Urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens 455
9.54 Recognizing the Russian Federation as a Terrorist State 459
9.55 Escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean 462
9.56 Stop Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe 465
9.57 Towards Stricter Screening of Foreign Direct Investments Into Critical EU Infrastructure 467
9.58 Closing Putin's gates means welcoming allies - Extending an invitation to Georgia 469
9.60 Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh 471
9.61 A Stable Future for Northern Ireland: Addressing the unique challenges facing the European Peace Project since Brexit 475
9.62 Stop the Gas (It's Probably Russian) 479
9.63 Resolution on strengthening liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern Partnership 481
9.64 The European Union Needs a Single Sanctions Coordinator 483
9.65 Ban Imports from Chinese Regions and Market Sectors Tainted by Forced Labour 486
9.66 Preparing for a Trump Presidency: liberal, rules based order under threat 488
9.67 When women are forced to silence, liberals speak up 491
9.68 Accelerated pathway for Ukrainian EU membership 493

9.69 The case Moldova: Russian meddling in European democracies, time to act . . . 494
9.70 Stop teaching hate: End of genocide denial in European classrooms 496
9.71 For a Free Tibet 498
9.72 Secure the Eastern Flank: Secure the Union 501
9.73 In solidarity with the people of Georgia 504
9.74 Resolution on Strengthening EU Foreign Aid to Countries in Crisis 506
9.75 Standing up for Justice: Supporting the Serbian Student Protests 509
9.76 A coalition of the trading; leading by example 511
9.77 End the Systemic Corruption: Justice for Victims of Kočani Tragedy 513
9.78 Defending Democracy in Türkiye: Condemning the Arrest of Ekrem Imamoğlu and Political Repression against the Opposition and Civil Society 515
9.79 Crime and Punishment - Make Russia Pay For Its War 517
9.80 A Call for a Lasting Ceasefire in Gaza, Accountability Under International Law, and a Durable Two-State Solution for the People of Israel and Palestine 520
9.81 Cold front: A new era of security in the Arctic 525
9.82 A Continent of Opportunities: A Liberal Strategy for Development Cooperation with Africa 528
9.83 Lost in Time and Lost in Space? Europe's Wake-Up Call for Space Security and Sovereignty! 532
9.84 Defending Greenland's Sovereignty: A Liberal European Response to Modern Imperialism 535
9.85 Guaranteeing peace and freedom on our continent: Towards a Credible European Nuclear Deterrent 537

Index by congress **539**

Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform

1.33 A Better European Response to Health Crisis Management

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, Jong VLD, Jovenes Ciudadanos, Jonge Democraten, Uppreisn

---

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, on 14th November 2020

Noting that:

- Per article 168 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union: "Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing physical and mental illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health. Such action shall cover the fight against the major health scourges, by promoting research into their causes, their transmission and their prevention, as well as health information and education, and monitoring, early warning of and combating
serious cross-border threats to health. »
- One of the three strategic objectives of the EU health policy is: "to improve surveillance and preparedness for epidemics and bioterrorism and increase capacity to respond to new health challenges such as climate change"
  - The EU Parliament has pointed as "essential for the EU to have a rapid response capacity to enable it to react to major health threats in a coordinated manner, especially given the threat of bioterrorism and the potential for worldwide epidemics in an age in which rapid global transport makes it easier for diseases to spread.
  - "Monitoring and assessing threats to public health in Europe from infectious diseases" and "providing technical support to the EU-level response to such threats" are already core missions of the ECDC.
  - European coordination has been of the biggest challenges in dealing with the Coronavirus crisis while Member States chose different strategies to tackle the health crisis

Considering that:

- A harmonized, strong and fast answer is required to face current and future pandemics and major public health challenges
- The EU has an important role to play in improving public health, preventing and managing diseases, mitigating sources of danger to human health, and harmonizing health strategies between Member States.
- Institutions such as the European Center for Disease protection and Control (ECDC), the Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC) or the Consumers, Health, Agricultural and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA) already exists

- The Covid-19 crisis is a reminder of how slowly paced the EU institution aforementioned were to intervene.
- The EU Institutions have a key role to play and a leadership position to take to support Member States and EU citizens to overcome pandemic related challenges

LYMEC calls for:

- New competencies to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The following competencies are ought to be implemented:
- To grant the power to the ECDC and/or the ERCC to intervene rapidly and efficiently in times of severe health crisis such as the COVID-19 crisis
- The creation of an EU Infection Protection Regulation which empowers the

European Commission to implement travel restrictions regarding the entry into the European Union including mandatory health checks, mandatory quarantine and for non-EU/EFTA/AND/MCO/SMR-citizens without resident status or asylum demand also travel bans if necessary to repel a concrete danger for the public health. As this prerogative would enhance greatly the competence of the Commission, it should be limited by the necessity for the Commission to ask for special powers to the Parliament. Then, and only then, could the Commission activate the EU Infection Protection Program.

- the European Commission to take a role of coordination in times of pandemics to ensure a coherence of measures and solidarity between all Member States
- The Member States to grant each other unlimited support in times of health emergencies by taking care of patients who cannot get hospital treatment in their respective home country and the EU to enforce this solidarity among the Member States if necessary.
- the promotion by the European Commission of international coordinated measures and solidarity to fight against pandemics in WHO and other relevant fora.
- The creation of centralized and easily deployable multidisciplinary teams of health professionals able to work together in and outside Europe attached to the ERCC: the “health corps”.
- The creation and management of decentralized stocks of materials such as masks, EPI’s, gloves, essential medicines and medical devices managed by the ECD.
- Coordination and implementation of a vaccine strategy to ensure a equal access to vaccination to every EU citizen.
- To ensure the diversification of sourcing for imports of medicines, vaccines and medical products essential to the health infrastructure of the EU. It is of critical importance to ensure that the EU and its member states are not dependent on imports of pharmaceutical products and medical supplies from autocratic states.

1.34 Officiality and Promotion of Regional and Minority Languages in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, Jong VLD, Jovenes Ciudadanos, Jonge Democraten, Uppreisn

---

Adopted at LYMEC Paris Autumn Congress, on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- The protection of minorities in Europe is a relatively recent phenomenon. When the EEC was founded the authorities avoided approving regulations specifically aimed at protecting minority rights, the objectives were mainly of an economic nature, later moving on to achieve purely political goals, in these circumstances issues relating to minorities were very much of secondary importance;
- It was not until the adoption of the 1992 Maastricht Treaty when attention was drawn to the fact that there existed within the Union a multitude of minorities who were unprotected, in the light of which the community institutions have become increasingly aware of the need to adopt measures to foster care for the existing diversity;
- 1979 United Nations Subcommittee stated that: "*A minority is a group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a state whose members -*

  -despite being nationals of the State-- possess distinct ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics that are distinct from the rest of the population and who, even if only implicitly, maintain a sense of solidarity, directed towards preserving their culture, traditions, religion or language.";
- Subsequently in 1993, the Presidential Conclusions of the Copenhagen

European Council determined that any State seeking admission into the Union was under an obligation to demonstrate its commitment to protecting minority rights in its territory; this requirement has since became a sine qua non of EU membership;

Noting that:

- The current EU comprises a territory in which linguistic diversity is a defining feature, with 23 officially recognized languages in addition to various regional languages. The EUROMOSAICO report states that the number of minority languages (RMLs) used within the European Union amounts to 36, and these comprise some 60 language groups, each receiving different degrees of constitutional recognition;
- Official linguistic status guarantees two rights, namely the right to send documents to the Community institutions and to be answered in the same language, and that regulations and other legislative documents-- in addition to the EU0s Official Journal.. be published in these languages;
- In the European Union, some 20 million people speak one of these languages, in addition to the official language of the state in which they have citizenship. Almost 50% live in Spain and 23% in France, with the rest being found mainly in Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands;

- RMLs are in competition with the dominant languages and under pressure from the population's assimilation tendency. As long as a language is used by speakers of all ages and in all domains, there is no danger to it. Once the scope of its use shrinks and becomes limited to certain domains and age groups, the risk level of extinction rises. A diminishing population of speakers leads to the extinction of the linguistic community and the disappearance of the language;

Recalling that:

- RMLs account for linguistic diversity and belong to humanity's intangible cultural heritage. International organisations, such as UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, are concerned with the risk that RMLs face and undertake actions to protect their linguistic rights. Non-respect for regional or minority communities' linguistic rights is qualified as racial discrimination, a breach of human rights;
- Both the **Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (**

FCNM) and The **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)** consist in multilateral treaties of the Council of Europe aimed at

protecting minority rights, the former, and minority linguistic rights the later. These conventions have come under some criticism. First of all, not all member states of the Council of Europe have signed and ratified them.
Furthermore, they are hedged around with many phrases including 'as far as possible'. The conventions do not define "national minority" and several countries set their own definition of the term when they ratified the treaty. Saying that, both treaties lack the power and the influence needed to conduct their respective duties;

- Also, there is no official studies/reports conducted on a European level analysing the health of the RMLs within Europe, making it hard to monitor the effectiveness of all policies aimed to their protection or promotion;
- After all efforts, many languages that fall under the description of RML have seen their amount of speakers decreasing over the years due to many reasons other than demographical;
- Many European RML find themselves in one of the five-level scale of endangerment by UNESCO’s Atlas of World Languages, being them;

‘**vulnerable'** : still used by children, but restricted to certain domains (for example, in the home);
'definitely endangered' : no longer spoken as mother tongue;

'severely endangered' : spoken by older generations; parents understand it but do not speak to their children in it;
'critically endangered' : infrequently spoken by the elderly in a limited scope;

'extinct' : no speakers left.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Council to revise the FCNM and ECRML treaties, updating their parameters and promoting the ratification of all Member States;

  – the European Commission to promote the establishment of a research body to conduct annual or biannual analysis of the state of RMLs in Europe in order to measure the impact of policies at all levels of administrations in the EU;

  - the LYMEC member Organizations to condemn any type of policy that that seeks to harm the health of minority languages, be it the reduction of teaching hours in the said language, the non-guarantee of the use of said language in all levels of administration, or the imposition of the state language for political reasons, while keeping the situation and opinions of the community that uses these RMLs in mind;

- the LYMEC Member Organizations to support measures to protect minority languages within Europe and prevent them from disappearing;
- all Member States to promote the usage of these languages and to stop any policies that seek to harm the health of RMLs and to seek out representative organisations for RMLs in their territories, so that the effects of policies on theses RMLs is not forgotten in cases where an effect on them is not the intended effect.

1.35 European funds for European values!

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: Momentum TizenX
Co-signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, USR Tineret, Mladí progresívci, European Youth of Ukraine, Liberal Democratic Youth of Ukraine, Centre Party Youth

---

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Believing that:

- The European Union needs to actively protect its values laid down in the Treaty on the European Union and subsequent treaties, such as respect for human rights and the rule of law (TEU, Preamble) [1];
- European funding should not contribute to the establishment and sustenance of an antidemocratic regime;
- The malevolent actors, rather than the population should be punished for the mishandling of funding;
- The European Union is committed to the well-being of all of its citizens equally (Article 3 of the TEU);

Considering that:

- The Hungarian government has been found in violation of European values on multiple occasions and declared an electoral autocracy by the European Parliament;
- The party of Viktor Orbán consolidated absolute power over the Hungarian state apparatus, the media market, and a substantial section of private enterprises by systematically funnelling European funding into their own pockets;
- Hungarian municipalities have been stripped of their funding and autonomy to implement local taxes, and further considering that the Fidesz government has used the withholding of European and state funding from projects as leverage;
- The social- and energy crises of this winter caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and gas manipulations could further impoverish the most economically and socially marginalised groups, and European funding is indispensable for the prevention of a humanitarian catastrophe therefore it is important to make sure that there are ways for funds to reach the people who need them even if they are withheld from national governments;
- The European Union's answer to these crises will determine the extent of Euroscepticism and pro-European attitudes in Hungary and throughout the continent;
- Directly accessible EU funding is in line with Renew Europe's policy on the Conditionality Mechanism;

LYMEC calls for:

- Recognizing the fact that the prolonged inaction of European institutions allowed Fidesz to consolidate power over large parts of the media and the economy, transforming Hungary from a democracy, where people can easily remove the government into an "electoral autocracy";

- The vigilance of liberal and democratic actors throughout Europe to be on guard concerning the early signs of democratic backsliding;
- Passing European legislation to allow municipalities, NGOs, and local citizen's initiatives to access the Cohesion Fund and the Recovery and Resilience Facility;
- European institutions to set access criteria for this funding that prohibits the mishandling of the resources and ensures that the projects are in line with the values of sustainability, social inclusion, and free competition.

1.36 A fight against the far-right is a fight for liberalism and democracy

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2024, Brussels, 24 March 2024
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: JuLis (Germany)

Co-signers: Jonge Democraten (Netherlands), Mladé Progresívne Slovensko (Slovakia), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Young Liberals (United Kingdom), LUF (Sweden), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (Ukraine), USR Tineret (Romania), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Unge Venstre (Norway), European Youth of Ukraine (Ukraine), Jungfreisinnige (Switzerland), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania), Liberale Hochschulgruppen (Germany), CUF (Sweden), Centerstudenter (Sweden), Fédération des Etudiantes Liberaux

(Belgium), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), YMRF (Bulgaria), Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (IMS), JUNOS

(Austria).

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress 2024 in Brussels, Belgium on 24 March 2024

Considering that:

- the European elections 2024 come at a crucial moment for the European Union and the future of European integration;
- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly shown their true selves as antidemocratic and anti-European parties riddled with racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, romaphobia, misogyny, and homophobia;
- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly tried to use their mandates to incite violence and hate;
- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly shown unambiguous hostility against liberal values and the open society;
- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly tried to undermine democracy by staging their parliamentary appearances as pro-democratic;
- Standing for and winning elections does not equal support for democracy, and the electoral tactics, rhetoric, and policies of many far-right parties threaten to undermine the democratic processes of Europe from within

Believing that:

- liberals stand unequivocally against any form of extremism;
- democrats stand unequivocally against any form of fascism;
- the rise of the far-right is the greatest internal threat to liberal and European democracy;
- the fight against the far-right is inherently a fight for liberal values, democratic principles, and the open society;

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to explicitly exclude any coalition with far-right parties in the European Parliament;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to not prepare and submit any resolutions, motions or amendments together with the far-right;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to vote against any resolutions, motions or amendments submitted by the far-right;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to not organise any meetings or events with the far-right;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to vote against any far-right candidates for electoral offices in the European Union;
- the ALDE Party's and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament's Members to continue to reject any electoral offices in the European Union which they achieve only through the help of votes by the far-right;
- the ALDE Party's Members of the European Parliament to ensure these rules are upheld by the Renew Europe Group;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to debunk the seemingly simple but populist solutions by the far-right through innovative, liberal policy solutions tackling the societal issues which may lead people to vote for the far-right;

The LYMEC Congress instructs the LYMEC Bureau:

- to closely monitor the behaviour of the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament regarding the far-right;
- to call out any deviation by the ALDE Party's Members of the European Parliament in this regard;
- to call out any attempts of other democratic groups in the European Parliament to cooperate with the far-right in any of the ways mentioned above; to reach out to other democratic, pan-European youth organisations to give a common pledge against the far-right before the European elections 2024.

1.37 Defending Europe in times of need

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Jongliberalen and Junge Liberale (JuLis)

(Passed Spring 2025)

Co-Submitters:

Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Jonge Democraten (JD), Lithuanian Liberal Youth, JUNOS, ZeMolodizhka, Silvia Fernández, Adam Wolf (IMS), Young Progressive Slovakia, Youth Forum of Naša stranka (YFNS), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Liberal Democratic Youth (LiDEM), USR Tineret, Estonian Reform Party Youth

The Assembly,

Considering That:

European defense industry and strategic autonomy:

- A strong European defense industry is crucial for strategic autonomy, reducing dependence on non-European actors, and securing the continent's long-term stability.
- The European Defense Fund (EDF) was created to enhance the EU's security and defense capabilities by funding research and development in the defense sector. However, its accessibility and impact remain limited due to administrative complexity and lack of private sector engagement.
- European startups and SMEs specializing in defense technologies face significant financial and bureaucratic barriers, limiting their potential to contribute to a stronger European defense sector.
- While third-country investments in European defense companies have increased, this raises concerns over strategic dependencies and the protection of sensitive technologies.

Military preparedness and security situation:

- Current Defense Expenditure: European nations' defense spending averages around 1.5% of GDP, below the NATO-recommended 2%, highlighting the need for increased investment.
- To ensure adequate defense, Europe may need to recruit an additional 300,000 troops, addressing both quantity and specialized skill gaps.
- If U.S. military support were to decrease, Europe would face major capability gaps in air defense, logistics, and intelligence, which require urgent investment.
- The European Court of Auditors' Special report 04/2025 highlights significant delays in the EU's military mobility, which is hindering rapid deployment of armed forces across member states.
- Despite allocating 1,7 billion euros to 95 projects across 21 member states, Europe's military mobility remains sluggish, emphasizing the need for more efficient investments in improving the overall mobility.

Economic considerations:

- Defense innovation and industry growth are key drivers of economic development, reducing unemployment and brain drain by creating highly skilled jobs in technology, engineering, and security sectors.
- Europe's defense industry is fragmented, leading to costly inefficiencies and reliance on non-European suppliers for critical military equipment.
- Civil clauses at several European universities severely limit the application of academic research results by restricting their usage exclusively to the civilian sector.

Believing that:

European investments and strategic autonomy:

- A robust European defense sector is a pillar of sovereignty, economic resilience, and technological advancement.
- Encouraging private investment in defense industries, alongside EDF support, will strengthen the EU's industrial base and foster innovation.
- Public-private partnerships are essential to advancing defense innovation and ensuring Europe remains competitive in high-tech security and military sectors.
- Investing in the defense industry can contribute to youth employment, providing opportunities for European talent to remain and thrive in the region instead of seeking employment elsewhere and having a brain drain.
- A robust and self-reliant European defense capability is crucial for the continent's sovereignty and security.

Private sector and economic benefits:

- A coordinated European approach is necessary to address industry gaps, develop a sustainable defense ecosystem, and counteract external influence on strategic sectors.
- Simplifying funding procedures and increasing transparency in the EDF would ensure that more companies, particularly SMEs and startups—can benefit from European support.
- Investments in defense can stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and drive technological advancements with civilian applications.
- Engaging private enterprises, especially SMEs and startups, can foster innovation and address specific defense needs.
- Promoting defense-related education and career paths can mitigate brain drain and retain talent within Europe.

Military mobility:

- Efficient military mobility across Europe is essential for its strategic autonomy and rapid response capabilities.
- Streamlined procedures and infrastructure enhancements are vital to facilitate swift movement of military personnel and equipment across borders
- Enhanced oversight and coordination between EU institutions and member states are crucial for effective implementation of military mobility projects.

Concludes that:

Policy and investment measures:

- Awareness must be raised on the economic and security benefits of investing in European defense industries.
- Cooperation between member states, private investors, and European institutions should be strengthened to ensure a coherent defense investment strategy that prioritizes military mobility.
- Simplified and faster access to the European Defense Fund is needed to maximize its impact, particularly for SMEs and startups working on defense-related innovation.
- The defense industry should be positioned as a key sector for employment and technological growth, with initiatives to attract young professionals.

Defense spending and production acceleration:

- Efforts should be made to streamline the European defense industry, reducing fragmentation and enhancing production capabilities
- European countries should increase military stockpiles and accelerate production capacity for key equipment, ensuring rapid mobilization in case of conflict.
- European nations should spend 3.5% to 4% of GDP on defense to adequately address current security challenges, with a portion dedicated to improving military harmonization.
- Recruitment drives should be initiated to increase military personnel by approximately 300,000, focusing on both combat and technical roles.
- Significant resources should be allocated to research and development in emerging defense technologies, such as AI, unmanned systems, and cybersecurity.

Calls for:

Policy and investment reforms:

- European governments to facilitate private investment in defense industries by providing financial incentives, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and ensuring a stable regulatory framework.
- Partial tax exemptions for European companies investing in defense R&D, ensuring sustained innovation while reducing reliance on external funding sources.
- A structured regulatory framework for public-private partnerships in defense, allowing corporations to invest in military R&D with incentives while ensuring national security oversight.
- The institutionalization of a European Defense Technology Accelerator, modeled after the U.S. DARPA, to push cutting-edge defense innovation forward.
- The institutionalization of a European framework for defense sector transparency, ensuring accountability in investments while maintaining security priorities.
- The European Commission to reform EDF procedures to make funding more accessible, particularly for SMEs and startups engaged in defense research and development.
- The creation of a European Defense Investment Board composed of policymakers, industry leaders, and defense experts to monitor investments, guide industrial strategies, and safeguard Europe's strategic interests.
- The establishment of a European Defense Industrial Strategy, reducing reliance on third-country suppliers and fostering intra-EU cooperation in military production.
- The abolition of civil clauses at European universities, thereby enabling research results to equally benefit the civilian and military sector.

Industrial capabilities and innovation:

- The acceleration of joint procurement programs to develop and deploy next-generation European-made fighter jets, armored vehicles, and naval assets.
- The expansion of military stockpiles for ammunition, fuel, and critical spare parts to ensure readiness in prolonged conflicts.
- European governments to increase defense spending to a minimum of 3.5% of GDP, ensuring sustainable long-term investments in strategic defense capabilities.
- European governments should work together on a comprehensive strategy for purchasing large quantities of new equipment to enable all armed forces to operate efficiently with each other in times of crisis.
- The creation of a European Defense Innovation Fund to finance startups, SMEs, and research institutions working on advanced military technologies.
- The promotion of dual-use technologies that serve both civilian and military applications, increasing market competitiveness and innovation within the sector.
- The establishment of industry-academia partnerships to provide scholarships, internships, and training programs that encourage young professionals to enter the defense sector.

Intelligence and military efficiency:

- The development of an EU-wide security clearance system to facilitate the exchange of classified intelligence between member states and defense companies.
- A long-term recruitment and training plan for expanding Europe's defense personnel, ensuring the armed forces have access to skilled engineers, cyber experts, and AI specialists.

Enhanced military mobility:

- Improved coordination among EU institutions, member states, and NATO to align military mobility initiatives with broader defense strategies.
- Investing in infrastructure projects that are dual-use, serving both civilian and military purposes to maximise investment efficiency and military logistic mobility.
- Standardizing cross-border military transport procedures to reduce delays caused by different national regulations on military mobility.
- Establishing clear guidelines for the movement of military personnel and equipment across member states, minimizing bureaucratic obstacles.
- Conducting regular joint military exercises that are specifically focused on testing our European military mobility and using its results in making further improvements to military mobility in Europe possible.
- Developing training programs for military logistics personnel to increase their capabilities in executing rapid deployment and movement of military personnel and equipment.

1.38 Europe's Collective Defence

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: USR Tineret (Romania)
Co-signers: Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Young Liberals

---

Passed Autumn 2025

(UK), Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (Spain) Considering that:

- Europe is increasingly facing internal and external threats to its peace and security, including regional conflicts, potential terrorism, hybrid warfare, cyber threats, erosion of democratic structures, human rights violations, and economic instability;
- Security is the foundation and precondition of economic prosperity, stability, human rights and democracy within and around the European Union;
- To secure European interests and liberal values, the EU must complement soft power with defence-oriented capabilities, such as strong alliances and well-equipped and coordinated militaries that strengthen diplomacy and deterrence,
  while prioritising conflict prevention, de-escalation, and international law;
- The Russian Federation's unlawful invasion of Ukraine and its continuing hybrid war waged upon the EU and its allies and partners demonstrate the reality of

these threats and the need for prompt, decisive action;

- The Russian Federation's unlawful invasion of Ukraine and its continuing hybrid war waged upon the EU and its allies and partners demonstrate the reality of

these threats and the need for prompt, decisive action;

- The Russian Federation's unlawful invasion of Ukraine and its continuing hybrid war waged upon the EU and its allies demonstrate the reality of these threats

and the need for prompt, decisive action;

- The Russian Federation could well start another major war on the European continent within five years;

Noting that:

- EU Member States maintain 27 largely parallel defence systems. This fragmentation creates duplication in planning, procurement and sustainment,

  leading to inefficient use of funds that closer cooperation and interoperability

  can reduce;
- CSDP already provides the EU's security and defence framework, now guided by the

2022 Strategic Compass with a concrete implementation timetable;

- Practical cooperation runs through PESCO for collaborative capability development, the European Defence Fund for joint R&D/procurement, and the

  European Defence Agency to ensure coherence between these institutions and with

  NATO;

Recalling that:

- LYMEC already supported closer European military cooperation in 2019, and that

the security situation in Europe has dramatically worsened since; LYMEC calls for:

- European Member States to intensify the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) under the Strategic Compass and, as a practical step toward

greater

European defence integration, prioritise joint planning, standardisation and transparent defence procurement, all to be subject to robust parliamentary scrutiny;

- Member organisations to advocate within the ALDE group for deeper European defence cooperation, centred on interoperable, deployable CSDP forces and shared enablers, as well as initiate discussions on reforming and integrating European-

  level defence and security institutions with the long-term vision of a unified European defence force under clear civilian control and parliamentary oversight.

  The goals of such an institution should be limited in scope, to ensure that the sovereignty of all member states is safeguarded: securing European territory,

protecting international peace and stability, as well as disaster relief and humanitarian aid, both inside and outside of the EU;

- All European states to maintain their defence spending at no less than 2% of GDP in accordance with the 2006 agreement, while progressively aiming toward the 5% of GDP target set under the NATO 2025 commitments;
- EU member states that are currently not members of NATO (Austria, Cyprus, Malta) to join NATO.
- Europe to reach a defense readiness level by 2030 such as to be able to deter,

and if necessary fight and win, against a peer threat such as Russia;

- Member states, European institutions, member organisations and ALDE to ensure

  public communication which demonstrate that coordinated defence efforts

  strengthen, rather than diminish, national sovereignty by improving interoperability, cross-border mobility and access to shared enablers that no single Member State can field alone, while respecting subsidiarity and national

  prerogatives;

- Reinforced counter-disinformation, cyber defence and hybrid-threat resilience

  under CSDP and existing EU frameworks: shared situational awareness, rapid-

  response support to Member States (including electoral-process protection and

critical-infrastructure defence), common exercises, and clear safeguards for

media freedom, data protection and fundamental rights, implicating non-EU

European partners where sensible;

- The Republic of Malta to join PESCO, so that all Member States are part of the framework;
- Rapid scaling of Europe's defence industrial base to build lasting production capacity that could reliably supply and sustain allied forces in crises and reduce dependency on non-European suppliers, while ensuring strong democratic

oversight, clear limits on sales and use, and full respect for human rights and non-proliferation;

- Prioritisation of joint European procurement, production and fast-ramp industrial mechanisms, such as grants, loans, via the European Defence Fund, and public-private partnerships to convert short-term procurement into sustainable capacity. Procurement efforts must be joint, more rapid and iterative.
- The implementation of strong EU mechanisms to ensure rigorous export controls

  and strict end-use monitoring on all EU-made weapons, ammunition and military

  materiel;
- The implementation of strong mechanisms to ensure democratic control and safeguards over European defence and security structures, covering but not

  limited to budgeting, mandates, operational and strategic directions, guaranteed

transparency, accountability, democratic legitimacy and full respect for International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law and liberal values;

- European states and the EU to also focus on conflict prevention through development aid, diplomacy, police, justice, sanctions, cyber capabilities and

defence so that crises don't escalate into long-term violent conflicts.

1.39 Is It a Bird, is It a Plane? It's a Russian Drone – Protecting European Airspace from Drone Attack

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth

Passed Autumn 2025

Co-signed by: Jongliberalen, ZeMolodizhka, Venstres Ungdom, TizenX, Attīstībai Youth,

Jonge Democraten, Young Green liberals Switzerland, USR Tineret, Young Progressive Slovakia, Silvia Fernandez (IMS), Naša stranka, Jóvenes de Ciudadanos, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Nowoczesna Youth, Young Liberals, JOVD, Estonian Reform
Party Youth, Junge Liberale, Centre Party Youth, For Youth! (Latvia), Mladi Pokreta slobodnih građana, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen, Liberal Democratic

League of Ukraine, Alliance Youth Considering that:

- War technology is rapidly evolving and changing the present warfare doctrine,

  evidenced by the increasing use and development of unmanned drones, small-scale

terrorism, and diverse hybrid attack tactics;

- Russian hybrid attacks on the European Union (EU) and its infrastructure, including cyberattacks on various national agencies, Russia's shadow fleet and

  energy disruptions in the Baltic Sea, and especially recent drone sightings, cause widespread panic and undermine trust in the ability of states and institutions such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the EU to

ensure national security;

- Shooting down drones in densely populated areas poses significant risks, including the potential damage to civilian infrastructure and threats people's
  lives and health;
- Since the beginning of 2025, Russia has launched several drones targeting EU countries, including areas around Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Denmark, France,

Belgium, Germany, Poland, and Romania;

- Drone sightings at several European airports, where experts speculate Russian involvement, have disrupted air traffic, caused chaos, and created hazardous

  conditions;

- Drones have also been sighted at military bases such as the Belgian base Kleine

Brogel which also stores US nuclear weapons; Noting that:

- Russia's hybrid attacks on the EU have nearly doubled in frequency since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with 86% of the 2,019 recorded incidents
  occurring after 2022;

- Some drone sightings, in the event of an explosion, could cause injuries or fatalities within a 50-meter radius;
- Recent Russian drone sightings clearly test and undermine NATO's responsiveness

to hybrid actions, especially given the current absence of a legal framework;

- Most EU and NATO Member States have not sufficiently invested in anti-drone defense technologies, making the cost of drone neutralization technology higher

than the cost of producing the drones themselves;

- Some EU countries', laws restrict security forces from shooting down unknown drones unless they are armed or pose a direct threat to critical infrastructure;
- Besides drones, unmanned Belarusian helium Balloons have causes similar issues

for Baltic states and airports; Believing that:

- All EU and NATO countries have the right to equal safety and protection;
- Russia's hybrid warfare tactics are aimed at undermining EU democracy;
- Securing the airspace of EU and NATO Member States is becoming increasingly

vital for maintaining our security;

- NATO's deterrence strategy against Russia's continued attacks on EU countries

cannot succeed without the proper technology and tools to counter drone incursions;

- The security of the EU depends significantly on the security of Eastern European

states, especially those bordering Russia; LYMEC calls for:

- NATO to recognize the security of Eastern borders as a priority for the security of all of Europe;
- The EU to immediately increase funding for anti-drone defense systems and drone

walls, technology capable of tracing, identifying, and seizing unauthorized drones in countries bordering Russia;

- The EU to invest and collaborate with European start-ups specializing in drone defense manufacturing;
- European States to invest in drone detection systems, especially around critical infrastructure such as airports, along with training for field professionals and eventually create an integrated EU web of anti-drone systems;
- The EU and NATO Member States to accelerate initiate the creation and implementation of new response procedures and laws to address Russian hybrid

attacks and enable states to take down unauthorised drones entering their territory;

- European States to prioritize the procurement of affordable drones and anti-drone technologies, such as small, inexpensive missiles or low-range attack drones, that can be reused multiple times, minimizing financial loss;

- All EU countries to invest in intelligence on Russian and Belarusian military strategies and technologies, adjusting EU defense systems accordingly by employing radio detector sensors, radio frequency and physical jammers, and
  other interception technologies;
- European states to continue increasing support for Ukraine while minimizing relations with Russia;
- Strengthen collaboration between the EU, Ukraine and partner European states,

learning from Ukraine's experience and its implementation of a drone wall.

1.40 No Union without values: defending the Rule of Law in the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 1 – EU Institutions and Institutional Reform
Status: In force
Submitted by: USR Tineret

Considering that:

- Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union establishes respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights as fundamental values on which the European Union is founded;
- the European Commission assesses the rule of law in Member States through four key areas: the justice system, the anti-corruption framework, media freedom and institutional checks and balances;
- LYMEC has previously called for liberal and democratic actors throughout Europe to remain vigilant regarding early signs of democratic backsliding, and has affirmed that European institutions have a responsibility to actively defend the values enshrined in the Treaties (Policy Book - 1.35 – “European funds for European values!”);

Remembering that:

- the Economist Intelligence Unit’s 2024 Democracy Index downgraded Romania from a “flawed democracy” to a “hybrid regime”, following a decline in Romania’s overall democracy score from 6.45 to 5.99, citing deterioration in electoral processes, the functioning of government, public trust and corruption;
- the European Commission’s 2026 Rule of Law Report continued to identify challenges in Romania concerning, among others, judicial independence, the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, media independence, and the transparency and predictability of the legislative process;
- in August 2026, the Romanian Parliament adopted legislation removing Dominic Fritz, the democratically elected Mayor of Timișoara and leader of Romania’s main reformist party USR, from office. This legislation applied a new legal consequence to a pre-existing situation, in breach of the prohibition of retroactive legislation under Romanian constitutional law and the EU principle of legal certainty, but the Romanian Constitutional Court nevertheless upheld the measure;
- Dominic Fritz was removed from office based on an administrative conflict of interest for which no concrete financial damage was established rather than a criminal conviction or finding of corruption. This conduct dated November 2020, during the first days of his first term as Mayor of Timișoara, when, instructed by municipal officials, he signed a document concerning a pre-existing urban-planning project whose documentation had been prepared before he took office and had already been signed by his predecessor.

Noting that:

- democratic backsliding rarely occurs through a single institutional change, but can develop through a series of measures which gradually erode checks and balances, judicial independence, political pluralism, institutional accountability and, ultimately, the foundations of liberal democracy;

- the weakening of democratic safeguards can occur through formally legal procedures when such procedures are used to undermine institutional independence, restrict political competition or reduce the ability of elected representatives and independent institutions to exercise their mandates.

Believing that:

- the continued recurrence of rule-of-law concerns in Romania and other EU Member States, despite successive monitoring and recommendations by European institutions, demonstrates the limitations of a system that relies primarily on dialogue and recommendations without sufficiently effective enforcement mechanisms;
- any political use of the justice system, including the removal of political opponents from office, as it has happened in Romania, is unacceptable and must never be tolerated within the EU. Wherever attempted by Member States, such actions must be prevented or appropriately sanctioned;
- the European Union cannot fully safeguard its democratic foundations when Member States are permitted to progressively abandon the principles of liberal democracy while retaining the benefits and decision-making rights of Union membership;
- early signs of democratic backsliding must be addressed promptly, before they become systemic;
- independent courts and constitutional institutions are essential safeguards of democracy only when their independence, transparency and accountability remain protected from political interference;

Local democracy and local self-government are integral parts of European democracy. National oversight and institutional cooperation are essential, but must not be misused through arbitrary interventions or retroactive legislation to undermine the autonomy of democratically elected local authorities.

- anti-corruption and integrity legislation is essential to liberal democracy, but its credibility depends on transparent, proportionate and politically neutral enforcement.

LYMEC calls for:

- European institutions to make full and consistent use of the legal instruments already at their disposal to address democratic backsliding, strengthen the rule of law, and protect fundamental rights across all Member States;
- EU institutions to develop stronger early-warning mechanisms allowing potential rule-of-law violations to be addressed before they become systemic;
- Member States to work towards a new European treaty that establishes binding non-regression standards, proportionate enforcement mechanisms subject to judicial review, and permanent rule-of-law safeguards;
- the European Commission to establish clear benchmarks and deadlines for addressing persistent rule-of-law deficiencies identified in its annual Rule of Law Reports, and to make greater use of infringement proceedings where national legislation or administrative practice undermine judicial independence, legal certainty, democratic participation or other rights protected by EU law;
- EU institutions and Member States to include robust and legally enforceable rule-of-law safeguards in future EU accession treaties, allowing for proportionate corrective measures in cases of serious democratic backsliding after accession, based on clear and objective criteria and subject to judicial review;

- ALDE Party, Renew Europe and LYMEC Member Organisations to continue to address rule-of-law concerns in all Member States, regardless of the political affiliation of the governments concerned.

Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights

2.09 A Uniform ID Card for a More Effective and Safer Schengen

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2004, Zagreb, 28 April 2004
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force

(Former 2.14 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Considering that

- The European Union has brought us several benefits, which we can enjoy in our daily lives. One of the biggest and most useful benefits is the freedom of movement, originating from the Schengen Agreement signed by the five initial EU states in 1985, and freeing citizens of these countries from border controls and special security controls within the Schengen area. The only criteria is being able to prove one's identity with a valid travel document (EU ID card or passport).
- As of today, there are already 29 European signatory states to the agreement, with Croatia and Romania being added to that number in a near future.
- As the Schengen area has expanded, the Schengen outer border governments carry a large responsibility to ensure effective border control. One of the most recent improvements in internal safety measures employed by the Schengen area was the introduction of biometric passports.

Noting that

- Many people living in the Schengen countries prefer using an ID card as a travel document rather than a passport. In some countries, ID cards are also more affordable than passports.
- The ID cards vary greatly from one state to another, and there are currently numerous types and forms of ID cards used in the Schengen Area.
- The freedom of movement also brings about new challenges and risks. Ensuring that ID cards used inside the Schengen Area are valid and fills the same requirements everywhere is of great importance.

European Liberal Youth (LYMEC), at its Congress in Zagreb, Croatia, calls for

- The introduction of uniform ID cards for Schengen countries, in order to increase the effectiveness of border controls. Such ID cards could carry a uniform design and hold the same information, facilitating travel documentation controls as well as cross border security cooperation and detection of falsified travel documents.

2.10 Recognising the Armenian Genocide

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2015, Rotterdam, 2 May 2015
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JOVD

(Former 2.15 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

LYMEC, gathered in Rotterdam on the 3rd of May 2015.

Considering that:

- there is widespread debate between specific nations over the definition and, or, classification, of the killings of Armenians that took place from the 24th of April 1915 onwards,
- vast majorities of scholars, including those of Turkish origins, have labelled the events of 1915 as genocide,
- the written order of Talaat Pasha of the 23rd of April 1915 mentioned specifically of Armenians, thus aiming at a People which is a key prerequisite for genocide,
- the recognition of mistakes and crimes of the past is a precondition for reconciliation between peoples and that there cannot be peace without justice, either in Armenia or elsewhere.

Noting that:

- there cannot be the slightest doubt over the historical evidence regarding the organized and systematic murder of the Armenians
- the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG) provides a well carried framework regarding the definition of genocide,
- the abovementioned atrocities fall within the framework of the CPPCG and can thus be classified as genocide.

While furthermore stressing that:

- by recognising the atrocities to the Armenian People in 1915, the suffering of the Turkish people in the same timeframe, for example in the Battle of Van, is by no means to be denied or played down.

LYMEC hereby:

- recognises that the Armenian People living in Turkey in 1915 was the victim of a genocide which commenced on the 24th of April, perpetrated by the then government of the Ottoman Empire.
- calls upon the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe to join the European Liberal Youth in doing so.

2.11 Legal right to euthanasia in the European Union

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2015, Rotterdam, 2 May 2015
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jong VLD

(Former 2.16 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Approved in the Congress of Rotterdam, May 2015 Keywords: Euthanasia

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

- That thousands of people are suffering from an incurable disease within the borders of the European Union;
- That some of those people do not want to go on fighting a battle they are going to lose in the end;

AWARE OF

- The fact that there is a humane way to allow those people to end their lives in a dignified manner, in the form of euthanasia;

LYMEC PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING:

EU member states to facilitate the legal right to euthanasia for their citizens in accordance with the below mentioned principles.

An adult patient can legally request euthanasia if:

- He/she is legally competent;
- He/she has voluntarily and in sound mind submitted a written or oral request in presence of an independent notary (or in case he/she is not physically capable of doing so, has submitted a legal declaration of their wish to end his/her life in a hopeless situation to a notary no longer than 5 years ago)
- He/she is in a medically hopeless situation;
- His/her physical and/or psychological suffering is persistent and cannot be alleviated;
- The situation of the patient is due to a severe and incurable condition, caused by accident or sickness
- Doctors should have the right to refuse requests for euthanasia **Before a doctor can carry out euthanasia on a patient, he has to:**
- Inform the patient of his health condition and life expectancy;
- Discuss the treatment options with his patient and establish, together with his patient, that no other reasonable solution for the patient's situation can be found;
- Be sure the suffering is lasting and the request to end this suffering is well-considered and repeated;
- Consult another doctor about the severe and incurable character of the condition;

- Discuss the request with the relatives of the patient and – if applicable – with the nursing team that has regular contact with the patient;
- Ensure the patient had the chance to consult everybody he wanted to consult;
- Wait at least a month after the written request of the patient to actually carry out euthanasia.

2.12 Resolution on the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD2)

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2016, Vienna, 30 April 2016
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JDL

(Former 2.19 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021) Minor updates made at LYMEC Spring Congress 2021

Tobacco Products Directive, labelling, tar, nicotine, carbon monoxide, menthol cigarettes

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna, Austria on 29-30 April 2016

Noting that:

- the last Tobacco Products Directive (2001/37/EC Article 5.1) stipulates that cigarette packs must be labelled with tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide yields in cigarettes. On 4 April 2014 the EU Parliament and EU Council approved a new directive (2014/40/EU) that excludes the labelling of these substances.
- the new Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU Article II.7.1) aims to ban Member States from making flavoured cigarettes, which contain flavours such as candy, menthol or vanilla.

Considering that:

- regarding labelling procedures: consumers have the right to be informed in a transparent way about ingredients. Therefore article 5.1 of the last directive (2001/37/EC) should be maintained in the current directive (2014/40/EU).
- Regarding a ban on flavoured cigarettes: everyone should be allowed to choose between flavoured cigarettes and traditional cigarettes. This freedom should not be taken away

LYMEC therefore calls upon its member organisations to:

- demand the labelling of tar, nicotine and monoxide yields of cigarettes in their respective European countries in order to allow consumers to make a free, transparent and well-informed choice.
- Oppose the ban on flavoured cigarettes in their respective European countries in order to give consumers the freedom of making their own informed decisions, while recognizing the need to provide the consumers with data on the nature of the risks encountered.

2.13 Resolution on privacy and data protection

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, Tallinn, 12 November 2016
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal

(Former 2.20 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on

November 11-12 2016

Updated at the 2021 LYMEC Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

This resolution updates 2.20 and archives 2.13

Considering that

- Big Data[1] and Internet of Things[2] have become an inevitable and essential part of our society,
- EU regulations on the use of personal data were recently updated, most notably through Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the General Data Protection Regulation, which became applicable in May 2018,
- the right to privacy protects the personal sphere. Interference with this right requires the freely given consent of the individual concerned.
- only when there is an overriding interest (e.g. national security) may privacy be infringed without consent by a public body,
- this position is in line with the general consensus on the right to privacy found in Art. 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Art. 7 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Appreciating that

- there is continuous research in the EU on new IT developments and corresponding policy challenges,
- the transparency principle is strengthened and guaranteed in European data protection law,

Recalling that

- The revelations made in 2013 by Edward Snowden about the surveillance practices employed by the US National Security Agency shed a troubling light on the consequences of failing to enshrine and protect the individual right to privacy
- The mass surveillance abuses in the United States were facilitated by an imbalance of power between government institutions, which has subsequently led to the inevitable consequence that these actions now form part of American foreign policy;

Believing that

Big Data and Internet of Things offer potential solutions to some of the defining socio-economic challenges of the modern era, but also bring an increased risk of abuse and fraud,

- data is a fundamental resource in the digitized economy,

- the protection of privacy is recognised as a fundamental human right, and all users of modern technology should have control over their personal data,

Stressing that

- users seldom read privacy notices, do not always comprehend them fully, but consent to the processing of personal data nonetheless[3]
- stronger, explicit consent mechanisms might actually have the effect that users will make less informed decisions about their privacy, or at least, it will not
  make their decisions more informed than they are now (consent transaction overload may lead to consent fatigue),
- data privacy principles such as purpose binding and data minimisation may be difficult to reconcile with the constant development of big data technologies and softwares;

This LYMEC congress therefore:

- calls upon the LYMEC Board and its member organisations to put pressure on the EU and ALDE to keep fighting for the fundamental right of privacy and data protection of its citizens both in its internal legislation and in its treaties and agreements with third parties;
- calls upon the EU to look towards practical and fair alternatives to the strengthening of consent based the autonomous authorisation model calls for further investment in research in the EU on technological developments in order to find solutions for these challenges posed by the new digital environment in Europe and abroad.
- calls for the Court of Justice of the European Union to prosecute European governments and the European Commission if citizens and allied government officials have their communication intercepted in any way that differs from current law and agreements.

1. Big data is high-volume, high-velocity and/or high-variety information assets that demand cost-effective, innovative forms of information processing that enable enhanced insight, decision making, and process automation.
2. The Internet of Things (IoT) describes the revolution already under way that is seeing a growing number of internet enabled devices that can network and communicate with each other and with other web-enabled gadgets. IoT refers to a state where Things (e.g. objects, environments, vehicles and clothing) will have more and more information associated with them and may have the ability to sense, communicate, network and produce new information, becoming an integral part of the Internet
3. http://consent.law.muni.cz/storage/1365167549_sb_consentonlineprivacyconfere ncemar ch20 52

13-consentprojectresultswhatconsumersthink.pdf

2.14 Urgency resolution on the current situation in Catalonia

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2017, Sofia, 14 October 2017
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JNC

(Former 2.21 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Summary

- The Spanish government has refused to negotiate on the subject of a referendum despite an overwhelming majority (80%) of voters in Catalonia wanting a vote and the results of the 2015 Catalan election, in which 59.19% of the votes and 83 out of 135 seats went to parties supporting a referendum.
- The Spanish government has made use of the inadequate separation of powers
- The regional government of Catalonia held a referendum on Catalan independence after their legal framework for the referendum was suspended by a ruling of the Spanish constitutional court. The regional Government of Catalonia reported a result of 90,09% in favour among ballots counted and a ballot turnout of 56.75% including ballots which were seized by the Spanish police and therefore not counted.
- Appalling scenes of police brutality, which were roundly condemned across Europe and the world, unfolded in Catalonia on the date of the referendum as Spanish riot police made use of force against protesters and against voters to take away ballot boxes and ballot papers.

Whereas*:*

- LYMEC has recognised the right of people in Catalonia to decide their political future in a referendum, both in public statements and in its policy book.
- The current president of the ALDE Party, Hans van Baalen, has called for negotiations between the Spanish national and the Catalan regional government. His predecessor, Sir Graham Watson, has voiced support for a

  Catalan referendum

IFLRY has also called for Catalan citizens to express their democratic will freely in a referendum on the political future of Catalonia; and the Liberal International has also stated its support for any decision taken by the Catalan people on their future.

Considering that:

- Whatever their views on independence, 80% of people in Catalonia want the issue put to a referendum;
- The Spanish government has refused **to negotiate** a referendum despite the aforementioned level of popular support and repeated entreaties from international politicians and political movements;
- A referendum was held on 1 October 2017 by the Catalan regional Government, despite the Spanish constitutional court suspending their *Law on a Self-determination Referendum on the Independence of Catalonia*, passed by the Parliament of Catalonia on 6 September;

- The Spanish Constitutional Court has provisionally suspended said law pending its judgement on the case, while the Spanish government claims that it is illegal
- The Spanish government has had beforehand warned it might exert its power to uphold the courts suspension of the referendum law by arresting the arrest of journalists, civil servants and 712 out of 947 mayors in Catalonia for taking part in preparations for the referendum;
- The power exertion by the Spanish national government has prompted 17 members of the Parliament of Denmark, representing seven different parties, to write to the Spanish government expressing their "deep concern for the situation in Catalonia, which has reached a critical point" and urging Madrid to refrain from using threats and repression;
- On 20 September, the Spanish national paramilitary police stormed several Catalan ministries and government buildings and arrested a

dozen officials for conducting the referendum, in a move which was roundly condemned throughout the political spectrum, including ALDE national MPs and MEPs;

- The OHCHR issued a statement in which UN rights experts warned that "[t]he measures we are witnessing are worrying because they appear to violate fundamental individual rights, cutting off public information and the possibility of debate at a critical moment for Spain's democracy."

British MPs and peers also wrote a letter voicing their concerns and calling on the Spanish government to cease repression and allow the referendum;

- On 1 October, scenes of shocking and police violence against voters left 893 people injured and were roundly condemned all over the world;
- The pro-independence drive in Catalonia is, partly a pro-European civic movement with a strong commitment to the values of the European Union. **LYMEC:**
- Calls for de-escalation and nonconfrontational approaches from all parties involved in the conflict
- Calls for international mediation between the Spanish national and the

Catalan regional government under EU involvement

- Rejects any abuse of the judiciary forces as a means of repression against journalists, elected officials and volunteers taking part in a peaceful referendum in Catalonia;
- Strongly condemns the brutality of Spanish police forces against voters on the date of the referendum
- Takes note of the result of the referendum held on 1 October 2017 in Catalonia; and urges the Spanish government to negotiate in good faith with the Government of Catalonia.

2.15 Women's right over their own body

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2017, Sofia, 14 October 2017
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: CS

(Former 2.25 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Notes that:

- Every year ca 20 million illegal abortions are made all over the world, mostly in poor parts of the world and more than 70,000 of the deaths are a consequence of illegal/unsafe abortions;
- These procedures are often made in the later stage of pregnancy, either made by the woman herself or by people lacking sufficient medical education;

Every year 15,000 women suffer from severe consequences like physical disabilities and infertility as a consequence of illegal abortions;

- The principle of informed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family planning programmes;
- Some countries in the European Union are facing calls for legislation that would severely restrict or even prevent access to reproductive health services, including family planning and safe abortions;
- A ban on abortion, except when there is an immediate and undeniable threat to a woman's life, will mean that victims of rape and incest will be forced to give birth. Doctors will refrain from performing vital pre-natal tests for fear of possible prosecution, and that miscarriages will be met not with care from a medical professional, but questions from a prosecutor;
- Taboos and the lack of availability of measures of planned parenthood inter alia contraception leads to the rise of unplanned pregnancies, abortion and infectious diseases.

Considers that:

- The empowerment and autonomy of girls and women, and improvements in their political, social, economic and health status, are essential to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Sexual and reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the human rights of women's right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their own bodies;
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights are based on four separate notions, namely sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive rights and reproductive health, within the framework of human rights;
- It is crucial for liberals to fight for the right of individuals to take autonomous decisions over their own sexual and reproductive health rights;
- Forcing women to procure illegal abortions jeopardises women's health and potentially threatens their lives;

- Forcing victims of rape and incest to carry pregnancies to term is an assault on their autonomy and dignity, and jeopardises their mental and physical health;

  Criminalising abortions in circumstances where the pregnancy is likely to result in death is an unacceptable violation of reproductive health.

Calls on:

- LYMEC member parties to actively work to uphold the principle that the human rights of girls and women are an inalienable and indivisible part of human rights, to be protected not only in areas of public life but also in the privacy of the home;
- Member parties to recognize reproductive decision-making, including choice in marriage, family formation, and determination of the number, timing and spacing of one's children; and the right to the information and the safe means to exercise those choices;
- LYMEC calls for the advocacy for open discussions between Member States regarding the access to safe abortion and would encourage Member States to seek consensus on this matter
- The EU Member States and the LYMEC Member Organisations to openly support the She Decides Initiative

2.16 For full voting rights of EU citizens in all member states

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force

(Former 2.26 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Whereas:

- democracy is one of the core values of the United Nations;
- the European Union is founded on the principles of liberty, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, and democracy;
- the right to participate in the democratic life of the society one lives in lies at the heart of European and liberal values; and
- millions of Europeans live and pay taxes in EU Member States other than that in which they have citizenship, but many of them do not have the right to vote in regional, parliamentary and/or presidential elections.

Considering that:

- it is unfair and absurd that European citizens are deprived of their right to vote in the countries where they live, have a family, work, pay taxes and have a direct stake in;
- having the right to vote would be a powerful engine of integration for EU citizens residing in another Member State and help to strengthen their engagement with the civil society of the country where they live;
- it is true that Member States offer a path to voting in these elections by acquiring the nationality of the corresponding Member State;
- however, LYMEC, ALDE and many other pro-European forces are trying to build a Europe in which multiple identities are compatible and in no case mutually exclusive, so people should not be forced to choose between one identity and another to get something as basic as the right to vote where they pay their taxes; and
- furthermore, many EU Member States still require very long periods of residence (8 years or more) before people born in other Member States can apply for citizenship, leaving them disenfranchised for a significant part of their adult lives.

Remembering that:

- article 22 of the TFEU already grants EU citizens residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in both municipal and European elections.

LYMEC:

- calls upon all relevant stakeholders (political parties, public authorities, European institutions, etc.) to redouble their efforts to make EU expats aware of their current right to vote in local and European elections in the Member States where they live;

- urges EU Member States to amend their electoral laws and conclude reciprocal agreements so that citizens born in other Member States can vote and stand as candidates in the regional elections of the countries where they have their main residence(instead of, not in addition to, the countries where they have their nationality), starting from the second election of each type following their arrival; and
- urges the European Commission to launch a review of Directive 94/80/EC of 19 December 1994 with a view to repealing those provisions which allow Member States to reserve certain elected posts in local government to nationals.

2.17 Resolution on the Istanbul Convention

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JD

(Former 2.27 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Recognizing that:

- The Council of Europe has undertaken a series of initiatives to promote the protection of women against violence since the 1990s. Resulting from these initiatives and the following processes and negotiations, the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

(also known as the Istanbul Convention) was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 7 April 2011.

- The Convention is the first international treaty containing a definition of "gender" as "social roles, behaviours, activities and characteristics that a particular society considers appropriate for women and men" – according to Art. 3 of the Convention.
- The Convention focuses on four aspects, including:
- Prevention - through training of professionals, regular awareness-raising campaigns; including issues such as gender equality in teaching material; set up treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence and for sex offenders, etc.
- Protection - including police intervention and protection as well as specialised support services such as shelters, telephone hotlines etc.
- Prosecution - as the Convention defines and criminalises the various forms of violence against women as well as domestic violence.

Integrated policies - an effective response to such violence requires concerted action by many different actors, therefore calls for integrated policies involving government agencies, NGOs as well as national, regional and local parliaments and authorities.

- Since the adoption of the Istanbul Convention, 17 EU members have ratified the Convention, along with non-members Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. To those countries which ratify the Convention, it becomes a binding treaty.

Considering that:

- It is necessary to set comprehensive standards to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. 1 in 3 women have reported some form of physical or sexual abuse since the age of 15, according to the survey on "the extent of violence against women across the European Union (EU)" carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2014. Further, most violence is carried out by a current or former partner, with 22% of women in relationships reporting partner abuse.

- Recently a wave of opposition has become visible in Central Europe. Critics of the Convention claim that its definition of "gender" opens the door to legalising gay marriage and promoting homosexuality in school by so-called promoters of "gender ideology".
- These criticisms have led Bulgaria on 15 February 2018, and then Slovakia (22 February) to oppose ratifying the Istanbul Convention. While there is no explicit mention of gay marriage in the treaty, its wording is seen as a threat to the traditional family structure.

Therefore, this resolution calls upon:

- LYMEC to condemn gender-based violence (including sexual harassment and psychological coercion) and domestic violence, and to actively promote and campaign for the Istanbul Convention.
- Member organisations to push the ALDE group and its member organisations to support and promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the national governments.

Member organisations to set up campaigns to inform and raise awareness on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and where necessary apply fact-checking campaigns.

2.18 Resolution on Minority Rights

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force

(Former 2.28 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Whereas

- Europe is not, and has never been, a continent of homogeneity, and that it is this diversity of human experience that constitutes Europe's greatest wealth;
- Europe contains within its borders a myriad of different cultures, languages, religions, … beyond the ones officially recognised by the EU and by member states;
- it is estimated that national minorities make up 8% of the EU's population;
- aside from the 24 official languages of the EU, there are a further 60 regional and minority languages, the total speakers of which is estimated to be at 40 million citizens;
- Article 1 of the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities defines a minority as persons belonging to a "national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity";
- the LYMEC Working Group on Minority Rights considers this definition too narrow, and will expand it to include gender, sexuality, and people with disabilities with the possibility to also take into account other factors (as new insights determine new factors);
- the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), while not including a

provision specifically referring to minority rights, includes many provisions that nonetheless ensure these rights are protected; these include Article 8 (Right to respect for private and family life), Article 9 (Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion), Article 10 (Freedom of Expression), and importantly Article 14

(Prohibition of Discrimination);

the ECHR has been signed and ratified by all member states of the European Union and the Council of Europe, and that thereby they have a legal responsibility to protect the rights of minorities;

- Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights prohibits discrimination based many features, including sex, race, colour, language, religion, membership of a national minority, and sexual orientation;
- the Copenhagen Criteria specifically refers to the respect for and protection of minorities;

Aware of

- the fact that the present definition of minority rights might not be shared by all actors; this cannot, however, be used as an excuse to curtail fundamental rights as delineated in the ECHR and in the aforementioned 1992 Declaration;
- the fact that cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic differences can be the source of tension between communities;

Considering

- that identity is a complex and heterogeneous construct that is formed as a result of a myriad of factors, including history, biology, daily experience and personal choice;
- That identity is fluid and can change over time;

Concerned

- by the discrimination being faced by minorities across Europe and beyond;

Believes that

- humans are not born discriminatory, that this behaviour is learned, and that it can therefore be unlearned;
- the defence of the right of the individual, regardless of any natural or constructed differences, is a fundamental liberal value;

it has always been the duty of the liberal to stand against the tyranny of the majority, and that the protection of the rights of minorities is crucial for the construction of a truly liberal democracy;

- the ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and even personal diversity of Europe constitutes an invaluable asset to European society, that Europe is a product of this diversity;

Stresses that

- any attempt by a state to impose a homogeneous identity on any individual in society to the detriment of otherwise held ethnic, cultural, religious, linguistic, gender and sexual affiliations is a violation of fundamental human and civic rights;
- a democratic system, constructed without any thought to checks and balances, and without being rooted in the principle of minority right protection, has the potential to be just as oppressive of these rights as any other system;
- democratic states in Europe and across the world should not cease their efforts to ensure that all of their citizens have the exact same rights and make sure that such a situation remains overtime;
- differences should not in any context be used to justify the oppression of minorities within minorities, and that the respect for fundamental universal human rights must remain a goal in and of itself. Human rights must always take precedence when cultural norms violate these rights;

Condemns

- the acts of violence and discrimination that are taking place across Europe fueled by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racism; equally condemns acts of violence and discrimination against LGBT individuals, women and people with disabilities;

Calls on

- all member states of the European Union and of the Council of Europe to

protect the rights of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious, gender and sexual

minorities, as well as of people with disabilities, thereby ensuring full equality before the law;

- member states of the European Union and Council of Europe to work on establishing a common definition of ‘minority';
- the European Union to take more active steps to ensure the protection of minority rights within its borders, and to actively promote the protection of minorities abroad to set an example in the first place to the member states, but even to the rest of the world;
- the Commission of the European Union to develop a mechanism to monitor the respect for minority rights within member states, and to provide recommendations on improvements to be made;
- member states to make topics of human rights in general, and minority rights in particular, an important focus of the primary and secondary school curricula;
- the ALDE Party to make the defence of Minority Rights both in Europe and beyond one of its key banners in the upcoming 2019 European elections;

Proposes

- making the defence of minority rights in Europe and beyond a key banner in

LYMEC's work, and to include it in the programme for the upcoming 2019 European elections;

- developing a campaign with member organisations to ensure the protection of minority rights stays on the agenda at both a European and a national level.

2.19 Resolution on the Rights of Linguistic Minorities

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JNC

(Former 2.29 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Whereas

1. speaking and using one's own language is a basic human right;
2. linguistic diversity makes a society richer, not poorer;
3. this principle is enshrined in article 22 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union;
4. the European Union has 24 official languages and dozens of regional and minority languages;
5. a more multilingual Europe will be a more integrated Europe as language barriers fall serving the creation of a common European sphere; and
6. the benefits of multilingualism on the brain also make it easier for people to acquire other, linguistic and non-linguistic skills, thereby improving the qualifications of the European workforce and its productivity.

Considering that

- the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, a treaty adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe, has been ratified by all EU

Member States except France and Italy;

- proceedings in the European Parliament may only be conducted in the official languages of the EU, thereby excluding the languages of millions of European citizens and, in some cases, languages with many more speakers than some of the official ones;
- in the past, countries that now make up the EU used to stigmatise speakers of regional languages as backward, illiterate or unsophisticated; some continue to do so by subtler means, such as repeatedly stressing the differences between these languages and "cosmopolitan" languages such as English, French or Spanish; and
- simply keeping a regional or minority language alive as a folkloric curiosity is not enough; protecting a language also involves ensuring speakers can use it in any sphere of life and without fear of social or class stigma;
- languages, especially at local and regional levels are going beyond borders implying the development of a framework at European level to deal with them;

LYMEC

- reaffirms its view of language diversity as an asset to European society and a tool for European integration;

invites ALDE to distance itself from the political, cultural and linguistic centralism of the EPP and S&D groups by unambiguously reaffirming its support for regional and minority languages all over the EU and beyond through its member organizations;

- urges France and Italy to carry out the necessary legislative changes to ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- urges the members of the Council of Europe who have not yet signed or ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to do so;
- calls for the relevant regulations to be amended so that EU languages other than the official ones can be used in the proceedings of the European Parliament as long as qualified translators and interpreters can be found and an EU-based [regional] government or organisation bears the translation costs;
- and urges Member States of the European Union to cease painting regional and minority languages as folkloric curiosities, and instead foster a situation in which these languages can be used in any sphere of life without any attached stigma.
- urges the creation of a European framework to protect minority languages and give general overview and assessment in this field.

2.20 Expanding Freedom of Speech

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius, 13 October 2018
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JnC, FEL, VU, JD, UV, SU, JL

(Former 2.30 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Considering that:

- freedom of speech is a core liberal value;
- there remain barriers to free speech that are relics of a bygone era in which the ruling class was exempt from any sort of criticism;
- several European countries still have lèse-majesté laws on their books, which can be used to prosecute anyone who insults their heads of state or

government or those of third countries

generic libel laws already exist to protect the rights of people whose reputation has been unfairly tarnished; under the principle of equality before the law, there should not be separate laws for members of the ruling classes;

- several European countries still have blasphemy (or similar) laws on their books, which can be used to prosecute anyone who insults a religious figure or deity; and
- free speech should remain free, and every individual should be protected by the same universal laws, no-one should be more or less protected than others;
- true equality doesn't origin from special laws, but a change of mindset; and
- a liberal conception of the very idea of freedom of speech should include a peculiar tint of philosophical republicanism, meaning that no citizen stands outside the reach of the law, nor the exposure to public opinion and sanction.

LYMEC:

- calls upon all EU Member States that still have lèse-majesté or similar laws to abolish them;
- urges all EU Member States that still have blasphemy or similar laws to abolish them;
- calls upon all EU Member States to make sure that a law on defamation is enforced;
- encourages EU Members States whose legislative procedure makes the simple act of striking down a law intricate to add a "freedom of speech" article to their constitution in order to render the above mentioned norms de facto unlawful; and reiterates its commitment to defending freedom of speech.

2.21 Eliminate Pink and Tampon Taxes

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius, 13 October 2018
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force

(Former 2.32 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers FEL & IMS John De Coster

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018 Minor updates to text made at LYMEC Spring Congress, online, 24th April 2021

Referring to:

Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13.12.2004 implementing the principle of equal 5 treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services, 6 OJ L 373, 21.12.2004;

- Research paper “Gender equality and taxation in the European Union”, requested by the 8 European Parliament's Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality and 9 commissioned, overseen and published (2017) by the Policy Department C: Citizens’ 10 Rights and Constitutional Affairs (Directorate General for Internal Policies) whose aim 11 was “to evaluate how tax systems and tax policies at EU and Member State level 12 contribute to – or hinder – gender equality”;
- Recommendations listed at the end of the latter research paper, including to:
  - Strengthen policies to promote the equal intra-household distribution of paid and unpaid work
  - Take account of the distributional and allocative impact of tax expenditures
- Promote and conduct research on gender aspects of taxation, and
- ensure the availability of appropriate gender-disaggregated data
  - Take legal obligations to prohibit discrimination and ensure substantive gender equality with regard to taxation seriously
- Ensure political commitment at the European level
  - define targets and indicators to 23 achieve substantive gender equality with regard to taxation
  - Ensure the implementation of gender analyses and compliance with gender equality 25 objectives with respect to taxation at Union and Member State level
- Commissioner Věra Jourová written answer (d.d. September 9, 2015) to MEP Ernest 27 Urtasun (Verts/ALE) written question (d.d. June 26, 2015) reading as follows : "Equality between women and men is a fundamental right and one of the founding principles of the European Union, Directive 2004/113/EC prohibits direct and indirect discrimination between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services. Indirect discrimination occurs where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice would put persons of one sex at a particular disadvantage compared with persons of the other sex, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary”;

Acknowledging that:

- Such things as a “pink tax” and a “tampon tax” really do exist; **Considering that:**
- The "Pink Tax” could be defined as followed : "refers to the additional costs for products 39 or services, specifically targeted at women” ("Gender equality and taxation in the European Union", p14);
- “Overall, women pay 13% more for personal care products, 8% more for clothing, 7% more for girls’ toy, 8% more for health care products”, a study of the NYC Department of Affairs finds;
- The “Tampon Tax” could be defined as levying “VAT on women’s sanitary products” (Collins online);
- The tampon tax has become a source of social and economic unfairness to women given that the “potential regressive effects of VAT on basic needs are also at the heart of the present debate on tampon taxes, which obviously are goods only consumed by women” (“Gender equality and taxation in the European Union”, p44);
- The rate at which women’s hygiene products are levied varies within the EU and thus may reach alarming percentages (5,5% in France, 6% in Portugal and Belgium, 7% in Germany, 10% in Spain, 23% in Greece, 25% in Denmark, Croatia and Sweden, 27% in Hungary);
- Plan International published a study that showed that 45% "of girls in Scotland have had to use alternatives such as toilet paper, socks and newspaper during their periods because they could not afford to buy sanitary products”, a rather saddening established fact which refers to the concept of “periods poverty”, defined as "a phenomenon in which people struggle to pay for basic sanitary products on a monthly basis, resulting in a negative impact on their hygiene, health and well-being” by grassroots group Women for Independence;
- taxation not only unfairly impacts women through VAT on feminine hygiene products, as the above mentioned study states : “there has been a longstanding debate and increasing concern that the burden of VAT falls

disproportionately on women” ("Gender equality and taxation in the European Union”, p43);

Further acknowledging:

- Scotland’s decision to make sanitary products free for all students in order to "banish the scourge of period poverty”;
- Susannah Lane's (Head of Public Affairs at Universities Scotland) way of putting things sound and clear: "Periods are a part of life but they shouldn't be a point of inequality, compromise someone's quality of life or be a distraction from making the very most of time spent at university”;
- That measures aiming at doing away with the very existence of a tampon tax have been taken in various not-so-far-away-from-home countries, f.i. Ireland (0% VAT), the United Kingdom (abolished the tax on January 1st 2021), or Canada (removal of the “Goods and Services” tax (GST) on feminine hygiene products);
- The "lack of research based on gender-disaggregated data that can show what impact specific rates and exemptions have in relation to certain consumption patterns” (p43);

LYMEC urges:

- to endorse the previously mentioned recommendations, more distinctively;

- to promote research on gender aspects of taxation and ensure the availability of appropriate gender-disaggregated data;
- to ensure political commitment at the European level and define targets and indicators to achieve substantive gender equality with regard to taxation;
- Member States to follow the Republic of Ireland's example by removing VAT on all feminine hygiene products; and ideally,
- Member States to contemplate the possibility to follow Scotland's footprints by delivering feminine hygiene products for free on campus and to women with lower income.
- To urge member states to make female hygiene products more easily accessible - for example by providing them in public lavatories. against the new wave of xenophobia and racism in the EU.

2.22 Legal Protection for Whistleblowers

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels, 6 April 2019
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale

(Former 2.34 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Considering that:

- Democratic society thrives on transparency and openness, which makes it necessary to protect those who draw attention to irregularities which serve the public interest.
- The currently missing legal bases and the unclear jurisdiction make it almost impossible for informants to draw attention towards infringements, corruptions or other wrongdoings in enterprises or authorities.
- The case of Chelsea Manning showed that there can be situations in which single countries have to fear massive economic and political difficulties if they provide asylum to whistleblowers.

Recognizing that:

- In 2011, the European Court of Human Rights determined that the termination without notice of an employee on the basis of the publication of irregularities at her employer's company has been a violation of the Human Rights Convention.

Believing that:

- A fair balance between the public information interest on one side and the protection of commercial interests or possible state secrets on the other side is of crucial importance.

The European Liberal Youth calls for:

A European legal framework regulating how employees or civil servants who witness irregularities can report them while ensuring that they are protected and confidentiality is maintained. Reporting persons should preferably report through internal channels but should also be able to report externally to the competent authorities. The reporting person should also have the right to make the matter public in cases where:

1) He or she reported internally and externally or directly externally and the matter was not addressed;
2) The interest of the public prevails considerably in comparison with the interest of the business to keep their matters private;
3) There is a significant risk that reporting internally or externally would put him or her at risk or jeopardize evidences.

   In specifically difficult cases, the European Union should be enabled to provide asylum to whistleblowers as a representative of the member states. Member states taking whistleblowers into their countries can then be certain to receive solidarity from the other member states.

An international convention for the protection of whistleblowers. Inspired by the United Nations Convention for Refugees, states should be obligated to take whistleblowers under their wing, if they must fear criminal prosecution in their home countries due to their disclosure of relevant irregularities.

2.23 Resolution on condemning the persecution and torture of journalists and activists

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels, 6 April 2019
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Young Liberals (YL), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Ógra Fianna Fáil (OFF), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Jong Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Jong VLD), Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Jonge Democraten (JD), Venstres Ungdom (VU)

(Former 2.35 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Endorses:

UN resolutions on safety of journalists, in particular Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/RES/33/2) on the Safety of Journalists (2016), the UNGA 3rd Committee Resolution (A/C.3/72/L.35/Rev.1) on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (2017), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, the European Convention on Human Rights and EU Treaties; **Recognizes that:**

- LYMEC has been vocal over the years in defending the rights of young activists (2.43, 2.49).
- over the past decade, according to information of Committee to Protect Journalists, more than 1337 journalists around the world were murdered for bringing news and information related to corruption investigation to the public;
- in reviewing the facts of persecution within and out the EU, Daphne Caruana

Galizia, was blown up in her car on Malta (2017); activist Nikolai Andrushchenko from Russia was attacked and afterwards died (2018) for reporting on issues provocative to the Russian regime, including corruption; Slovak journalist Jan Kuciak was shot dead (2018) for investigating probabilistic political corruption; Ukrainian activist and civil servant Kateryna Gandzyuk, was drenched with acid and died (2018) in hospital;

**Alarmed:*

- that journalists and activists are murdered in fight for truth representing anti-corruption news in violation of international/regional and national provisions on freedom of speech and expression;
- many of the killings are not investigated and the perpetrators are rarely identified;

Concerned:

that journalists and activists have the right to hold opinions and to impart information without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers due to international and European standards on human rights; **LYMEC calls on:**

- the ALDE Party and LYMEC Bureau to lobby within the ALDE Group of the European Parliament to support the proposal for a regulation on condemning the persecution and torture of journalists and activists, as well as to monitor the compliance of EU member countries with the provisions of the European Parliament resolution on media pluralism and media freedom in the European Union (2017/2209(INI)) of 3 May 2018;

- its member organizations to bring the topic into discussion in their respective mother parties, partner organizations and government bodies;
- Member organizations should ensure the implementation of this resolution.
- the EU institutions to defend the legitimate rights of European citizens and to condemn any violation of their freedoms.

2.29 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression as Grounds for International Protection

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Policy Book Renewal Working Group, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.41 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

This resolution archives Resolution 2.09 on the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender

Expression as Causes for International Protection and Asylum in the European Countries

Considering that :

- The attention given to LGBTI rights in the processes connected to international protection and asylum has developed significantly in recent years, as it has been acknowledged that sexual orientation could be considered as grounds for asylum. According to article 2(d) in Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection 'refugee' means a third-country national (or stateless person) who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country. According to article 10(d) "Depending on the circumstances in the country of origin, a particular social group might include a group based on a common characteristic of sexual orientation...Gender related aspects, including gender identity, shall be given due consideration for the purposes of determining membership of a particular social group"
- there are still considerable differences in the way in which the EU member states examine LGBTI asylum applications.
- homo- bi- and transsexuality is still criminalised in a number of countries in the world and people are persecuted and sentenced to prison or even to death penalty because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- Although the ECJ has ruled out the "discretion requirement" and rejected concealing one's sexual orientation as means to avoid persecution, LGBTI asylum seekers are still facing difficulties in legal and asylum proceedings
- the lack of official statistics on the number of LGBTI asylum claims in Europe is alarming, as it further contributes to the discrepancies in providing protection of LGBTI asylum seekers among the Member states;

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- The Fundamental rights agency to conduct and issue an yearly report containing comparative disaggregated data, and Eurostat to publish statistics on applications on the grounds of sexual orientation and their refusal rates by country.
- EASO to consider the adoption of guidelines on the assessment of LGBTI asylum cases for case handlers and judges in the member states, in accordance with existing UNHCR guidelines.

- the Member states of the European Union to ensure a harmonised application and interpretation of the “Qualification Directive” with view of

the requirements set up in the directive and to ensure equal and adequate protection of LGBTI asylum seekers throughout the Union.

2.30 Recognise Same-Sex Marriages in the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.44 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archives Resolution 2.10 on Recognise Same-Sex Marriages in the Entire EU

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Same-sex marriages are still not legal in a number of member states of the European Union. Other regulated forms of partnerships, such as civil unions or registered partnerships, are available to same-sex couples in several member states, but often do not afford the same scope of rights as marriage.
- Some member states do not legally recognize same-sex relationships at all, and in some member states, the constitution limits marriage to different-sex couples.
- Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is incompatible with liberal values.
- While the status of contractual interpersonal partnership is a fundamental concept in family law, there are no legitimate grounds to restrict the freedom to enter into such an agreement on the basis of sexual orientation, and therefore all contractual interpersonal relationships deserve the same respect, recognition, rights and aid in all countries of the European Union.
- The free movement of individuals is at the core of the founding values of the EU.

LYMEC calls for:

- all family legislation and family recognition on a European level shall include same-sex couples, affording equal treatment of all contractual interpersonal partnerships by the European Union.
- all member states to recognize same-sex couples who have married or entered into a civil union, cohabitation or similar arrangement in other states, even if the member state does not itself perform such marriages or arrangements. The concerned arrangements should retain the same legal protection in all member states.
- That the European Commission step up its actions in enforcing the existing anti-discrimination policy in case of violations in a Member state or a EU candidate country.
- The EU treaties to be amended to introduce same-sex marriage in every member state thus it would be mandatory for every country joining the EU.

2.31 Freedom of Gender Identity as a Fundamental European Right

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.43 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archives Resolution 2.13 on Freedom of Gender Identity as a Fundamental European Right

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Despite the promising developments in individual countries, trans and intersex

people still confront significant levels of inequality across the European Union.

- In recent years increasing attention has been paid to the human rights of trans and intersex people and to discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sex characteristics.
- International and regional protections for trans and intersex populations are currently in a state of flux.
- No international human rights treaty specifically acknowledges trans and intersex individuals;
- EU primary legislation also provides no explicit references to gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, although the Charter of

fundamental rights of the European Union does list genetic features and sexual orientation in the list of non-discrimination grounds (Art. 21(1)).

- EU secondary law does contain reference to trans identities. Recital 3 of the EU equality directive (2006/54/EC) provides that the Directive also applies to discrimination arising from “gender reassignment”. The baseline obligation for EU Member States in relation to trans non-discrimination has thus mostly been looked at through the lens of “gender reassignment”, resulting in a highly medicalised picture of trans populations, which frames trans equality as contingent upon medical interventions. This calls into question the utility and applicability of EU non-discrimination guarantees for the large population of trans people in Europe who cannot or will not access gender confirmation healthcare.
- No judgments have been issued regarding intersex or non-binary individuals and it remains to be seen whether EU sex equality law – in its current formulation – has the capacity to accommodate and safeguard gender beyond the binary.
- The conditions for legal gender recognition varies greatly in Europe. In some countries, there are still no legislative, administrative or judicial guidelines for acknowledging a preferred gender.
- According the Amnesty International Annual Report 2017/2018, children and adults with variations in sex characteristics continue to face human rights violations, perpetrated in the course of non-emergency, invasive and irreversible medical intervention which often have harmful consequences on physical and psychological health.

- In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights found that the sterilization requirement for legal gender recognition violates human rights.
- that in some countries, a mental health diagnosis is a requirement in order for one to be able to change their gender.

Noting that:

- The freedom of identity and expression is a fundamental human right; ● The availability of non-discriminatory public health care is the foundation of a modern liberal society.
- In states where gender confirmation treatments are not available, obtaining such services abroad can result in national authorities refusing to recognize the medical interventions. This creates a possible breach of the freedom to provide and receive services across the EU

LYMEC calls for:

- Gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics to be added to EU non-discrimination grounds, making discrimination and refusal in the provision of healthcare to trans and intersex individuals illegal.
- Gender confirmation treatments should be made available to all.
- All EU and EFTA member states to adopt legislation that affirms preferred gender through a model of self-determination.

2.32 Urgent Resolution on Harmful Content Online

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, YMRF, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.44 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archives Resolution 2.15 on The Plan of the EU to Block Websites

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considers:

- that any case of child abuse published on the internet to be deeply disturbing, but that it is important to fight child abuse effectively instead of only making such content invisible when hosted on EU servers;
- that blocking web sites is not the only, nor the most effective instrument to avoid harmful content online. That there effective initiatives in this field - such as INHOPE, a network of hotlines reporting on child abuse online cases that works with representatives of the technology sector, child advocates, and law enforcement, need to be supported;
- that the EU Internet Forum was launched in the EU in 2015 to stop the misuse of the internet by international terrorist groups and that the Forum provides a framework for voluntary cooperation with the internet industry to remove online terrorist content, bringing together governments, EU Agencies, academics, and internet companies such as: Google/YouTube, Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter, Justpaste.it, Snap, WordPress and Yellow;
- That currently the Dissemination of terrorist content online Directive is being negotiated between the European parliament and the Council. That amongst other sensitive elements, the Directive contains the so called “one hour rule” a legally binding one hour deadline for content to be removed by platforms and server providers following a removal order from national

competent authorities, and also, a “duty of care obligation”, rendering all platforms to ensure they are not misused for the dissemination of terrorist content.

- Considers these provisions, while fully adequate for hosting platforms with significant market power, might put inadequate pressure to smaller platforms, operated by SMEs;
- that Since May 2016, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Microsoft, Google+ and Instagram have committed to combatting the spread of illegal online hate speech in Europe through a Code of Conduct, committing to review and remove content in less than 24 hours. When they receive a request to remove content from their platform, the companies assess the request against their rules and community guidelines, national laws on combating racism and xenophobia. That according to the European Commission this has led to a removal by the signatory platforms of an average 70% of illegal hate speech notified to them and in more than 80% of these cases, the removals took place within 24 hours;
- That despite the broad public outcry on the legal uncertainties and ambiguities of the Directive on the copyright in the digital single with its liability regime for content-sharing platforms, it was adopted by the European Parliament with a narrow majority, and its impact on the way the Internet and its digital market operates is yet to be seen.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC):

- Strongly condemns any form of child abuse and child pornography, calls the European institutions and Member states for a joint effort to fight any kind of child abuse with effective measures inside and outside the internet, and for support to initiatives that fight this phenomenon and provide victim support;
- Reaffirms its stand that the internet is a fundamental right in an age of digitalization and calls for its protection as such;
- Calls the liberal MEPs to oppose censorship of the internet, and insists that actions, such as website or content blocks, shall be subject to transparent, fair, binding and uniform standards and procedures for content moderation, and to ensure accessible and independent recourse to judicial redress.
- Calls the liberal MEPs to foster a future European regulation that does not establish any mandatory form of fully automated ex-ante controls of content for hosting platforms unless otherwise specified in existing Union law, and to ensure that mechanisms voluntarily employed by platforms do not

lead to ex-ante control based on automated tools without possibility of a final human review.

- Calls for thorough impact assessment to be provided in any further legislative proposals dealing with the functioning of freedom of speech in the internet and the digital single market.

2.33 Stop Discriminatory Measures Towards Roma People

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, YMRF, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.45 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archives Resolution 2.16 Stop Discriminatory Measures Regarding Roma People

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Notes:

- the systematic discrimination of Roma minorities on the territory of Europe;
- that Roma children are still frequently taught separately in all-Roma classes or all-Roma schools in some European member states, even after the introduction of the measures against this;
- the gap between the employment rates of Roma people and of the majority population, and the stigmatization and prejudice towards the minority at the labour market in Central and East European countries;
- Roma people in Paris who have been object to a series of vigilante attacks sparked by false reports of attempted child abductions in March 2019;
- the that In July 2017, 150 Roma adults and children were subjected to forced

  eviction in Naples;

that many Roma communities in Slovenia as well as in the Balkan parts of Europe often do not have access to sufficient and safe drinking water as they live in isolated, overcrowded and informal settlements.

Considering:

- the fact that the countries of the European Union signed several international human right declarations and treaties like the European Convention of Human Rights, the EU Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC) and the European Framework Convention for Protection of National

  Minorities;
- that European countries have a shared responsibility towards all European citizens, including those belonging to minorities;
- that ethnic registration and ethnically-based measures are objectionable;
- that separate measures could promote further discrimination and isolation, and incentive measures must be incorporated in regular policies, accessible for all people in comparable situations; that affirmative action towards Roma people in particular, could enlarge the tensions with non-Roma citizens.

Calls upon:

- the European Commission, ALDE Party and Renew Europe Group in the

European Parliament to evaluate integration policies across the European Union to compare strategies, mechanisms and results of exceptional policies concerning Roma people and propose best practises for better integration, labour market and social inclusion;

- the European Commission to ensure that Member States of the European Union respect the rights of minorities as stated in the treaties mentioned above;
- that LYMEC and its Member organisations will take firms and vocal stand condemning any form of violence or hate speech against Roma people.

2.34 Ending Female Genital Mutilation

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.46 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archives Resolution 2.21 Aiming at Ending Female Genital Mutilation Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Having regard to:

- the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and its Optional Protocol (1999), as well as the specific;
- the convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- the report of the UN Secretary General of 5 December 2012 “Ending Female Genital Mutilation”;
- the Council of Europe Convention of 12 April 2011 on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- the European Parliament resolution of 12 February 2020 on an EU strategy to put an end to female genital mutilation around the world;
- the Sustainable Development Goal, sub-goal 5 (Gender Equality);

Considering:

- that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an irreparable abuse, intentionally causing injury to female genitals for non-medical reasons, with irreversible consequences;
- that according to the WHO it is estimated that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation in the countries where the practice is concentrated. Furthermore, there are an estimated 3 million girls at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation every year.
- that it also happens in European countries; According to the European Parliament, the most recent national data available across Europe, estimates for around 600 000 women and girls in Europe living with lifelong physical and psychological consequences of FGM, and a further 180 000 girls are at a high risk of FGM in 13 European countries alone[1];

that any form of FGM as harmful traditional practice should not be considered as part of a religion as such, but as act of violence and torture against girls and women; thus any form of FGM is a violation of human rights;

- the serious and irreparable injuries caused by FGM, in the short and long term, to the physical and mental health of the girls and women who underwent it:
- that they are at risk of further infections, sickness and injuries in case of use of rudimentary instruments and the lack of antiseptic precautions;

- the effect FGM can have on their future relations – pain during sexual intercourse, childbirth, and the possible complications (haemorrhaging, shock, infections);
- that FGM is an expression of inequality between women and men;
- that a global approach to fight FGM is a necessary tool in the fight towards gender equality;

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) Congress:

- Expresses its deep concerns about the fact that FGM is often practiced on girls younger than 15 years, violating as such the United Nations' 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Recalls that every Member State of the European Union are committed to protecting the Children's Rights;
- Calls on the EU member states to urgently ratify the Istanbul Convention, and insists that the ALDE party members and ALDE Prime ministers should also urges for the Convention’s ratification[2];
- Calls on the Member state to enforce legal measures to end female genital mutilation, including penalizing offenders;
- Calls on the European Commission to include actions to end FGM in the EU Gender Equality Strategy;
- Calls on the Commission to ensure its full integration into the EU legislative framework to ensure the prevention of FGM, protection of women, prosecution of offenders and adequate provision of services in response to FGM, including providing care for survivors.[3].
- Member States of the Council of Europe to take preventive and protective initiatives for girls and women at risk, particularly from immigration groups;
- Proposes that every European country should develop a mechanism to allow and encourage victims to report any case of FGM;

Believes that international cooperation is needed to end female genital mutilation, not only in Europe, but on a global scale;

- Urges the Renew group in the European Parliament to support the European programs on Justice, Health and Development and Cooperation, to insist on providing them with sufficient resources to face the needs and the priorities of girls in a vulnerable situation, including the ones at risk of FGM;
- Asks for the inclusion in every European or bi- and multilateral development and cooperation plan of a program aiming at gender equality, women empowerment and the fight against violence and discrimination against women;

2.35 Freedom of Belief

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.47 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archives **Resolution 2.23** on "The Liberal-Democrat Attitude Towards Religion" adopted in Sinaia, Romania in March 2002, **Resolution 2.25** on "Stop the Islamophobia and Respect Religious Diversity" adopted in Sinaia, Romania in April 2010, **Resolution 2.26** on "True Religious Freedom in the EU" adopted in Sofia, Bulgaria in October 2012 and **Resolution 2.43** on "Blasphemy is a right, freedom is not a crime!" adopted in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in May 2015

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering:

- the increase in discrimination on the grounds of religion and a rise of islamophobia in Europe[4]
- the legislation passed throughout the European Union on stripping down the right of individuals to wear religious symbols[5]

Believing that:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and possess rights, regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;[6].

- The freedom to choose one's religion and beliefs is a fundamental human right and the right to carry religious symbols is part of this freedom[7]
- Religious freedom is a cornerstone of Liberalism and was a constitutive element of the Enlightenment movement that gave birth to our modern, democratic, pluralistic and secularized societies;[8]
- No European citizen should be discriminated through prohibitions in the labour market , educational system or in any other way hindered from fully participating in society due to religious reasons;[9]
- the state should be secular and individuals must have the freedom of expression and religious freedom as long as it is not harmful against others[10]; ● respect of freedom of thought and religious diversity is a core liberal value, as well as freedom of expression[11];
- criticizing religions, and even using satire towards them, cannot be forbidden in a Liberal society, and that such criticism may never incite violence[12].
- freedom of conscience and freedom of expression are not manifestations of Western culture, but universal aspirations to freedom of all rational beings and rejects any return of blasphemy laws under the false premises of cultural relativism[13];
- there cannot be successful coexistence in without mutual understanding between religious believers of any confession, as well as between atheists and agnostics[14];

- scapegoating by targeting one specific religion is a highly unacceptable as all religions in Europe should have the same standing before the law[15].

LYMEC calls for:

- countries to respect the religious diversity and be truly secular, therefore refraining from imposing obligatory lessons of religion or religious taxes[16];
- governments and the EU to refrain from institutional display of religious symbols in public schools and universities, while recognising the right of any individual to display their private religious affiliation[17];
- fighting religious intolerance and all religious extremism, regardless of their nature and origins[18]

The EU Member states and the institutions to respect the religious freedom of the individual and remove the bans on displaying certain religious symbols[19];

- Member states to regard the subject of religion in education as a historical, and cultural phenomenon, free of any preaching, in order to create mutual understanding[20];
- Member states to guarantee freedom of speech in Europe, by removing legal restrictions on religious grounds or otherwise, including but not limited to blasphemy and lese-majesty laws[21];
- Appeals to European institutions to cease giving a privileged position to certain religious groups and integrate representatives from non-religious international organizations in social dialogue[22].

2.36 Right to Abortion

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Uppreisn, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Young Liberals (LY), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Centerstudenter (CS), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Jeunes Radicaux (JR), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)

(Former 2.48 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- According to the latest estimates by the WTO and the Guttmacher Institute, 25 million unsafe abortions were performed across the world in 2014. In the same year, about 56 million abortions were performed across the world. Slightly under half were high-risk abortions.
- The right to abortion is still limited in more than two-thirds of all countries.
- Europe has always been at the forefront of the fight to liberalise abortion laws and the legalisation of women's access to safe and legal abortion.
- The WTO specifies that laws should not impose medically unnecessary delays to a requested abortion, such as mandatory waiting periods.

In some European countries, short time limits for access to abortion on request can have harmful impacts on women and may impede them from obtaining the health care they need. When applied in a restrictive manner short time limits can be particularly harmful for adolescent girls and women belonging to marginalized

communities who may not always be able to obtain care within the legal

timeframe. This may result in women needing to travel to other jurisdictions to access legal abortion or accessing abortion care at home outside of the scope of the law and under threat of criminal prosecution.

Condemning that:

- Six European countries still do not allow abortion on broad social grounds and two of them, Poland and Malta, are members of the EU.
- Pope Francis, who is known for having a more progressive ideology as compared to his predecessors, declared in 2019 that abortion is always unacceptable, regardless of whether a foetus is fatally ill or has pathological disorders. He also urged doctors to help women bring to term pregnancies likely to end in the death of a child at birth or soon after, thus denying condonement to any Catholic who had carried out such practice. A similar story can be said of the Orthodox Church and other religious institutions that also largely oppose abortion.
- This stance has significant negative consequences for women in countries where religion legitimises doctors not to perform their duty on grounds of conscience.
- Although the general trend has been one of progress towards liberalization, in

recent years some countries in Europe have witnessed attempts to roll back existing legal protections for women's access to abortion. At times they have

led to the introduction of new regressive preconditions that women must fulfil prior to obtaining abortion care. These include mandatory biased counselling and mandatory waiting periods. There have also been attempts to completely ban abortion or to remove existing legal grounds for abortion.

There have also been a number of court challenges contesting the constitutionality of access to abortion and seeking to advance medical professional's entitlements to refuse to legal abortion care.

Believing that:

- Each person has the right over their own body.
- There has been a regression on sexual rights, and we, as liberals, must not allow or stand for these rights being taken away or limited, but instead widen them on grounds of freedom and individual autonomy.
- Measures that roll back reproductive rights, by introducing new barriers or scaling back the legality of abortion care, violate the principle of non retrogression under international human rights law.
- Third party authorisation procedures, requiring prior permission from parents, guardians, doctors or official committees before a woman can access abortion care, disproportionally impact adolescent girls, women with disabilities, women living in poverty and women belonging to marginalised communities and undermine

their human rights and place them at risk.

- Sexual education for teenagers should never be dependent on their parents' beliefs, as it is necessary information for a healthy life and relationships.

Defending that:

- No doctor should be compelled to perform a surgery that goes against their personal beliefs, as freedom of religion is a core liberal value, but, at the same time, this should not prevent a woman from receiving the care she has requested. Another doctor should then perform the surgery in a timely and secure manner.
- Reform processes, such as the ones that Northern Ireland and Gibraltar have gone through in order to repel highly restrictive abortion laws, are the only way forward in a true liberal and democratic European Union.

LYMEC:

- Rejects any mandatory waiting period for abortions at request, as these waiting periods undermine access to timely and affordable care and restrict women's human rights and autonomous decision-making;
- Believes in providing abortion upon request up to and including the 22 week of pregnancy. Abortions should be performed as soon as possible upon request. However, in circumstances where the pregnancy was caused by rape or other

condemnable criminal offenses, a woman's life is threatened or a foetus is unlikely to survive, an abortion may be performed after the 22nd week.

- Rejects compulsory counselling for requested abortions, as they compel a woman to wait before she gets to make a decision she has already taken.

They should be available but not compulsory.

- Requests institutions to ensure that all abortion counselling is impartial and factual, regardless of the counsel's personal morals and/or beliefs.
- Only accepts third-party authorisation procedures for women with mental illnesses or mental disabilities so severe that they are unable to make an informed adult decision about their body and future.
- Rejects rules requiring women to explain that they are seeking an abortion

because of their social or family circumstance or on grounds of distress, as they stigmatize abortion, undermine autonomous decision-making and should be removed.

- Urges EU countries to remove criminal sanctions for abortion practices, as they can cause significant harm to women's health and wellbeing, can delay or prevent access to post-abortion care, intensify abortion stigma, heighten barriers in access to legal care and create a chilling effect on medical professionals'

provision of information and care.

- Believes sexual education beyond abstinence should be compulsory in schools. This includes comprehensive courses on contraception and the effects of pregnancy on a body
- Condemns the Catholic Church's and other religious institutions' treatment of members who have abortions.
- Shall forward this resolution to the ALDE Party as well as the Renew Europe Group and promote it among member organisations and member contacts in EU member states and applicant countries

2.37 Freedom from Rape

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Uppreisn, Radikal Ungdom (RU), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Young Liberals (LY), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Centerstudenter (CS), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Jong VLD, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Jeunes MR, Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)

(Former 2.49 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archived resolution 2.22

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Sexual violence is widespread and systemic worldwide.
  - There are no countries where people live free from its threat, and no gender or group of people are exempt from its destructive effects.
  - Rape and other sexual crimes are an attack on the physical and mental integrity and sexual autonomy of the victim. They are violations of human rights and also impair the victim's enjoyment of other human rights such as the right to life, physical and mental health, personal security, freedom and right to be free from discrimination, torture and other ill treatment.
  - Sexual assault, including rape, should be defined by the lack of consent to sexual activity. Consent must be given voluntarily and as such can be rescinded at any time. The definition should include a broad range of coercive circumstances where consent cannot be freely given. Outside such circumstances, the evidence should be carefully weighed to ascertain whether the complainant/survivor was consenting.
  - All victims of rape should be equally protected by law from violence without any discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, religion, marital status, social status, caste or descent, migration status, employment (including sex work), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or appearance.
  - Legislation on rape should include a combination of gender-neutral and gender-specific provisions to reflect the specific experiences and needs of women and girl survivors of violence, while allowing the prosecution of gender-based and sexual violence against men and boys too.

Recalling that:

- In 2011, the Council of Europe adopted the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), which entered into force in 2014.
- The Istanbul Convention requires the criminalization of rape and all other non- consensual acts of sexual nature.
- Out of the 31 EEA states, 23 have ratified the convention and 8 have signed but not yet ratified, the EU signed the convention in 2017.
- Only 6 of those states have a legal definition of rape that is in line with the consent-based standard set out in the convention.

- The majority, or 23 of those countries, have a legal definition of rape based on force, threat of force or coercion - and not on lack of consent.

Noting that:

- Although both men and women are victims of rape, the majority of the victims are women.
- According to the most recent EU-wide prevalence survey, the 2014 Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) survey on violence against women, one in ten women in the EU (11%) has experienced some form of sexual violence from the age of 15. One in 20 women in the EU (5%) has been raped post age

  15. The FRA assesses that this

corresponds to over 9 million women in the EU who have been raped since they were 15 years old.

- Human rights and equality are considered universal.
- It is clear that inadequate and ineffective legislation criminalizing rape remains a problem in Europe.
- The predominant trend in Europe has been an increase in the number of reported rapes alongside static or falling prosecution and conviction rates. When offences come to light the victim usually only has a small chance of having their case tried by a court of law as cases are often dropped at various stages of the legal process, with alleged perpetrators never being prosecuted or convicted and never held to account for their crimes. This problem is known as attrition. The widespread levels of attrition in Europe suggest that states are failing the due diligence obligations they have under international and regional human rights law.

LYMEC Calls :

- On all European states to ratify and fully implement the Istanbul Convention without delay.
- on European states to bring their legislation on rape in line with international standards and to define rape on the basis of the absence of consent.
- On European states to provide legal, economical and psychological aid to the victims who have suffered rape, in line with the Istanbul Convention.
- For the promotion of changes in social and cultural patterns across the entire sexual spectrum, as to eradicate harmful gender stereotypes and myths around sexual violence.
- On European societies to raise awareness and to play an active part in showing dismay with sexual violence against all genders. We must remove the stigma around sexual violence to facilitate a better, and more meticulous dialogue on the issue.
- For better and more thorough sexual education in the school system, with a strong focus on consent, boundaries and the diversity of sexual and gender identities.
- For a strengthened focus on the education of police officers, both criminological and psychological, in an effort to enhance their capabilities in regards to rape and similar sexual offenses.

2.38 Situation in Belarus

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

(Former 2.50 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

This resolution archives Resolution 2.17 on Capital punishment in Belarus, resolution 2.32, 2.33,

2.34 and 2.35 on Belarus

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering:

- That Belarus is currently the only country in Europe that is still carrying out the capital punishment;
- That the European institutions have been calling on numerous occasions on

Belarus to abolish the death penalty. That after yet another death penalty was pronounced in 2019, the European External Action Service insisted that “the death penalty is not a factor to decrease crimes, and mistakes inevitable in any justice system become irreversible if capital punishment is practiced.”;

- that there were cases in the past, when capital punishment convictions were performed swiftly, with arguably insufficient time for appeals ;
- that it is often the case that the election campaigns in Belarus are conducted with lack of media access for opposition campaigners;
- that the democratic principles and constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of expression, association and assembly continue to be infringed by Belarusian authorities.

Congratulates:

- the Belarus opposition movement for being awarded in October 2020 with the Sakharov Prize, which was proposed by the Renew Europe group;

Calls upon:

- LYMEC and its member organizations to raise awareness on the capital punishment performed in Belarus;
- The European institutions to support the development of a conscious civil society by encouraging and supporting NGOs and pro-democracy activists, and promoting cultural and educational exchange between young people from Belarus and EU, especially with view of supporting young human rights and minority activists;
- calls on the European Commission to support independent media and media organizations in Belarus;

- extensive review of the EU policy towards Belarus, considering possible targeted economic and travel sanctions including Schengen visa restrictions and freezing of bank accounts and assets to be applied to the senior representatives of the regime, chairs of electoral commissions, heads of military, police etc., who are engaged in civil rights violations in Belarus.

2.40 Condemning Racism and Xenophobia in the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal

Adopted at the LYMEC Online Congress, 23-24 April 2021

This resolution merges resolution 2.12 ‘Tougher measures against racism within the EU’ and

2.33 ‘Against the new wave of xenophobia and racism within the EU’

Noting that:

- In 2012, the EU won the Nobel peace prize - a powerful reminder about its founding principles, which include human rights protection.
- All EU member states have accepted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). They are therefore obliged to prevent, prohibit and eradicate all forms of racial discrimination and incitement to racial injustice.
- EU legislation requires Member States to introduce laws prohibiting racial discrimination in many aspects of everyday life, such as employment, education, healthcare, and housing (2008/913/JHA).

Considering that:

- public figures, including holders of political office, use their platforms to stoke fear and scapegoat migrants, refugees and minority groups
- The consequent fear and hate felt by some citizens in society leads to “witch hunts” and other types of violence that have to be eradicated

Recalling that:

- the LYMEC Policy book currently has several resolutions on the matter
- LYMEC is one of the European political umbrella organisations with the most thorough anti-xenophobia stance.

LYMEC:

- Reiterates its determination to fight all forms of racism;
- Rejects and condemns racist and xenophobic comments made by elected officials as well as any type of discriminatory policy in European countries; ●
  Understands it to be self-evident that the ALDE Party and its Member Organisations as liberal organisations must refrain from making racist or xenophobic comments or discriminatory policies
- Urges the European Union not to overlook violations of human rights and undertake to monitor that the member states comply both international law and EU law, and utilise political tools that are necessary to combat racism within the EU.

41. **Solidarity with the Polish and Hungarian LGBTQ+ Community**

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress, 23-24 April 2021

Presented by Nowoczesna Youth and Momentum TizenX

Movers: Lietuvos Liberalus Jaunimas, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Junge Liberale,

Young Liberals Greece, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen,

Young Liberals, Jonge Democraten, Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie

Considering that:

- The incumbent President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda claimed that LGBT 'ideology' is worse than communism
- Numerous Polish municipalities enacted resolutions that are aimed to stigmatize LGBTQ+ community (*so-called LGBT-free zones*)
- Members of the LGBTQ+ community experience violence, such as the recent attack in Gdansk on people who were exercising with the rainbow flag or stab of a man who was walking down the street hand-in-hand with his partner in Warsaw
- The Minister of Justice, Zbigniew Ziobro, announced that the government would propose a bill aimed to outlaw the adoption of children by same-sex couples
- The Hungarian Parliament on the 18th of May voted in favour of Section 33, which contains the following: the gender identity of transgender people would not be recognized before the law.
- According to the above-mentioned definition, this will result that the identification documents of the individuals are unchangeable. This applies to transgender and intersex people's sex by birth in the national registry of birth, marriages, and death. After approving the law, all references to sex now will mean "sex assigned at birth" in any form of identity documents and the national registry.
- Section 33 contradicts human rights obligations in relation to several rights both on the international and on the national level. For instance, last year, the World Health Organisation reclassified "gender identity disorder, or identifying as transgender, in terms of sexuality", which is now not considered a mental disorder. Moreover, the European Court of Human Rights establishes "the right to legal gender recognition for transgender people."
- The only possible form of legal union between a couple of the same sex is a registered partnership, which deprives couples of the right to adopt as a couple and to legally take the other person's name. This classification also signals the symbolical disapproval of the Hungarian state.
- The publishing of an inclusive children's book stirred resentment on the far-right, which the Government and the prominent member of Fidesz did not condemn or in some cases even endorsed.
- The Hungarian Government has practically ended the adoption for same-sex couples by tying the adoption of non-married people to the personal approval of the Minister for Family Affairs.

LYMEC calls for:

- A discussion on the enforcement of the protection of the rights of the LGBTQ+ community with special regards to the universal right to marry and to gender self-determination.

- The EPP and YEPP to publish a statement of solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community of Hungary.
- The EU to actively pursue avenues to ensure the rights of LGBTQ+ people within all parts of the union.

2.42 «A liberal drug policy» (JGLP / JFS Schweiz)

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (Young Liberals Switzerland), Junge Grünliberale Schweiz (Young Green'Liberals Switzerland)

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021 **Noting that:**

- LYMEC has previously called for the implementation of liberal drug reforms;
- LYMEC has previously called for the legalization of soft drugs;
- LYMEC has previously called for the improvement of the Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT).

Considering that:

- LYMEC supports free trade and economic activity;
- The penalization of the production, possession, use and trade of drugs overly burdens the criminal systems, producing a cost for governments while preventing the generation of capital and legal labour;
- The criminal prosecution of drugs creates huge costs, while mobilizing administration and human resources which would be better allocated in prevention or the health system;
- Criminal and illegal activity around the production, use and trade of drugs comes at a cost to human rights and safety;
- Criminal and illegal activity around the production, use and trade of drugs comes at a cost to the environment and cannot be controlled with regards to climate 2030 goals;
- The use of drugs should be perceived as a health issue; There are proven positive results of the use of particular drugs in medical and mental health treatments;

Calling for:

- LYMEC to actively support and campaign for the complete legalization in its production, possession, use and trade of Cannabis and related soft drugs; LYMEC to actively support and campaign for the legalisation of the use of all drugs, plant or chemical based ; LYMEC to work towards the legalisation of all drug related activities; the production of and trade with drugs for commercial purposes should require a license and the sale to consumers must require a mandatory health consultation;
- LYMEC to support harm reducing initiatives which position the use of drugs as a health care issue and invests in user prevention and support;
- LYMEC to support the implementation of trade and commercial legislation around drug activity, which reinvest market profits into the national health system, social services, prevention and information;
- LYMEC to support the use of specific, now illegal, drugs in medical and mental health treatments, in which adequate vocabulary should be used.

2.43 Freedom of Press and Media in Central-Eastern Europe: Attacks on the media, press and journalists

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JOVD & JD, Young Liberals, LHG, Jong VLD, Mlodzi Nowoczesni, Civil Forum, Momentum TizenX, JUNOS, Centerstudenter, Centre Party Youth (CUF)

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- The Reporters Without Borders Index has reported on the strong decline in the freedom of press and media throughout several countries in Central and Eastern Europe.
- In May, the Belarussian authorities hijacked a fight carrying the independent journalist Raman Pratasevich, an outspoken critic of Lukashenko's regime. After forcing the plane to land in Minsk Pratsevich was arrested. Moreover, many journalists have been detained or physically abused.
- The Belarusian authorities, furthermore, exercise absolute control over the media while independent newspapers and websites are being closed and state-owned media and newspapers adhere to hate speeches, point-blank fake news, and propaganda.
- In August, the Polish parliament passed the new media ownership law banning companies outside of the European Economic Area from holding shares in Polish media companies. As a result, the American company Discovery would have to sell a majority stake of the independent television channel TVN24. It is feared that a state company would then buy TVN24, thus silencing the critique it has towards the Polish government. Even though the Polish president has said he would veto the bill, it is very likely the PiS party will try to introduce another bill in the future.
- Since March 2020, Hungary has enforced emergency legislation criminalising "fake news". In practice the law has given the government authority to decide whether it considers reports true or false, thus, giving the officials the jurisdiction to regulate news outlets that do not follow the government line of thought.
- A less well documented issue that government-critical independent outlets in Hungary face is that they are unable to benefit from governmental advertising, meaning they often face considerably more financial pressure than pro-government newspapers who do benefit from revenues derived from government advertising in their publication.
- Problems related to the freedom of the press also continue to exist in Ukraine, where there have been a number of notable violations of the freedom of the press.
- In June, the Slovakian Supreme Court overruled the not guilty verdicts in the murder case of the journalist Ján Kuciak who was murdered in 2018.
- Since March 2020, the Slovenian government has launched a campaign against the critical media in the country. The Slovenian government has been actively trying to change the media landscape in favour of the government by, among others, draining the Slovenian Press Agency from funding.

- Although Russia has been destabilising media outlets for years now, the new “foreign agents" law introduced in 2017, and amended in December 2020 to include individual journalists and bloggers, has been killing off even more independent media. The last victim of this law was the independent news website VTimes.

Believing that:

- Freedom of expression is essential for the foundation of a democratic society, as established in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- This freedom of expression includes the freedom of press and media and news outlets require a particular protection as defenders of the freedom of expression.
- The freedom and pluralism of the media should be respected and public authorities should not intervene in the media.
- Freedom of press forms one of the cornerstones of the rule of law, as expressed in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.
- Freedom of press should be unconditional.
- Breaches in the freedom of press can result in a lack of coverage concerning EU politics, which in turn causes a lack of democratic involvement of citizens in the European Union;
- A lack of reporting about EU political affairs results in less oversight within the European apparatus, which means that the interests of the European citizens are not always represented;
- Further news coverage concerning the European Union also contributes to the sense of European citizenship and the creation of a European identity;

LYMEC calls for:

- The implementation of the conditionality mechanism in the Member States in breach of the freedom of press, as provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget.

The implementation of (financial) sanctions towards the States outside of the European Union that are in breach of the freedom of press.

- The implementation of a mechanism designed to increase independence, transparency and freedom of press while simultaneously establishing accountability for actions threatening the freedom of press. An example could be the prospective European Media Freedom Act.
- The facilitation of access to funds provided for by the European Union, to help independent media companies. Within this fund, special attention could be given to ensure funding goes to those outlets who cover European news and news about the bread and depth of EU institutions, noting the relative scarcity of EU media outlets that actively cover the EU institutions.
- The European Union to offer scholarships and grants to aspiring journalists in order to create a new generation of independent journalists and facilitate the exchange of democratic values.
- The support of civil society organisations, especially in the States breaching the freedom of press.

- The Member States to condemn these developments and take measures on national level, i.e. support of journalists in the respective countries, support of national civil society organisations promoting freedom of press, etcetera.

1: “RSF 2021 Index: EU struggles to defend values at home,” Reporters Without Borders, accessed September 12, 2021 https://rsf.org/en/rsf-2021-index-eu-struggles-defend-values-home.

2: “Repressions against journalists in Belarus, 2021 (chart)” Belarusian Association of Journalists, June 5, 2021, https://baj.by/en/analytics/repressions-against-journalists-belarus-2021-chart

3: Euractiv, “Discovery group threatens legal action over Polish media law” August, 13, 2021, https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/discovery-group-threatens-legal-action-overpolish-media-law/.

4: Jakub ukaszewski, “Szef gabinetu Andrzeja Dudy: Prezydent zawetuje "lex TVN" w obecnym ksztacie” Wyborcza, September 6, 2021, https://wyborcza.pl/7%2C75398%2C27540922%2Cszef-gabinetuandrzeja-dudy-prezydent-zawetuje-lex-tvn.html

5: “Orbán’s Orwellian law paves way for “information police state” in Hungary” Reporters Without Borders, accessed September 12, 2021, https://rsf.org/en/news/orbans-orwellian-law-paves-wayinformation-police-state-hungary.
6: “Slovakia: Supreme Court overturned not guilty verdicts in Ján Kuciak murder case” European Federation of Journalists, June 15, 2021,

https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2021/06/15/slovakia-supreme-court-overturned-not-guilty-verdicts-in-jan-kuciakmurder-case/

7: “Slovenian government eroding media freedom as it takes over EU Presidency” European Federation of Journalists, June 30, 2021, https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2021/06/30/slovenian-government-eroding-media-freedom-as-it-takes-over-eupresidency/
8: https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-convention/expression

9: Luca Bertuzzi, “Commission to propose a European Media Freedom Act, Breton sys” Euractiv, April 20, 2021, https://www.eu

2.44 Resolutions for the rights of Climate Refugees

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: LUF (Liberala ungdomsförbundet)

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- Climate Refugees do not fit into the current definition of what a refugee is according to the United Nations Refugee Convention.
- Since the industrial revolution, we have used fossil fuels and natural resources for decades despite the harmful consequences it has on the planet. As a result of this, our technology and standard of living improved but so did the need for energy.
- Due to these requirements, we now have the largest amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in over 800,000 years.
- Global warming is human-induced and creates large changes in weather patterns. The result of these changes have led to an increase in earth temperature, causing the rise of sea levels, forest fires, and severe droughts.
- The Climate Vulnerable Forum Summit believes that by the year 2100, 48 of the world's islands will be completely underwater. These are islands with people's homes and livelihoods and they will no longer exist in less than 80 years.
- During 2018, more than 17 million people were forced to flee from their homes due to climate change. According to the World Bank, there will be 143 million climate refugees by 2050.

Believing that:

- All people who need to flee from their homes should have the same rights and that countries responsible for climate change need to take responsibility in the current climate refugee crisis.

Calls for:

- An amendment to the Refugee Convention which guarantees the rights of refugees who fee due to climate change

The EU to welcome climate refugees and make suitable changes for the betterment of the situation in the countries most affected by climate change.

2.45 Effective legal protection in the European Union

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, Centerstudenter, Lietuvos liberalus jaunimas, Junos, JNC

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021 **Considering that:**

- According to Article 51 (1) Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFR) the provisions of the Charter are addressed to the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity and to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law; Since the industrial revolution, we have used fossil fuels and natural resources for decades despite the harmful consequences it has on the planet. As a result of this, our technology and standard of living improved but so did the need for energy.
- According to Article 6 (2) Treaty of the European Union the Union (TEU) shall accede to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR);Global warming is human-induced and creates large changes in weather patterns. The result of these changes have led to an increase in earth temperature, causing the rise of sea levels, forest fires, and severe droughts.
- The EU has to this day not acceded the ECHR;
- According to Article 263 (4) Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) any natural or legal person may, under the conditions laid down in the first and second paragraphs, institute proceedings against an act addressed to that person or which is of direct and individual concern to them, and against a regulatory act which is of direct concern to them and does not entail implementing measures.
- The word “regulatory act” excludes directives and regulations leading to an absence of effective legal protection regarding the aforementioned legal acts insofar as they do not fulfill the strict criteria of “individual concern” (the contested act must affect the claimant “by reason of certain attributes that are peculiar to them or by reason of circumstances in which they are differentiated from all other persons, and by virtue of

these factors distinguishes them individually just as in the case of the addressee”).

Believing that:

- Effective legal protection as well as sufficient and unionwide minimum standards for the protection of fundamental rights are of utmost importance.

Calls for:

- The expansion of the scope of the provisions of the CFR to cases where national law is applicable as a unionwide minimum human rights standard;
- The EU to accede the ECHR as soon as possible, without going against the European Court of Justice's opinions.
- The EU to reform Article 263 TFEU in order to enable natural and legal persons to institute legal proceedings against any legal act of the EU which might infringe their fundamental rights and freedoms.

2.46 Project Pegasus: protecting our privacy

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Momentum TizenX, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Attistibai Youth, USR Tineret, Lithuanian Liberal Youth

---

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- The European Charter of Fundamental Rights gives distinguished importance to the Protection of Privacy and Personal Data in Articles 7 and 8;
- The extra-judicial monitoring of individuals is in breach of these rights;

The illiberal government of Hungary has reportedly used the Pegasus spy program to monitor:

- journalists researching corruption,
- opposition politicians, and businessmen,
- refused to answer questions related to the issue, with the Minister of Justice running away from questions,
- classified the verbatim of the Committee of National Security until 2050, following the inquiry of opposition MP;
- Traces of usage of the spy software have been found around the world, for example on the phones of French journalists, Bahraini activists, and Indian deputies.

Recognizing and condemning that:

- The authoritarian, communist government of China uses surveillance to trample and terrorize citizens from Hong Kong to Xinjiang;
- Surveillance is one of the six key tools of digital oppression, alongside censorship, social manipulation and harassment, cyber-attacks, internet shutdowns, and targeted persecution against online users;
- Authoritarian regimes might use these tools in the future to persecute religious, ethnic, or sexual minorities **Realizing the importance of:**
- The work of journalists uncovering the abuse of power from renowned newspapers such as The Guardian, Le Monde, or Telex;
- The judicial and well-regulated use of digital monitoring in the special cases of terrorism and child abuse.

LYMEC calls for:

- Passing European legislation to
- Strictly regulate the production and trade of military-grade technological equipment, prohibiting states with authoritarian tendencies from getting their hands on spying software,

- Create a clear and strictly limited legal framework to prohibit the usage of surveillance outside the strict scope of national security and child protection,
- Determine a universal judicial authorization process, to make it clear who and why can approve the usage of such technology;
- Founding a study group to determine the extent of these regulations and to further research violations of privacy;
  - Organizing a global campaign to raise awareness of the usage of surveillance technology being used to trample democratic movements opposing authoritarian regimes.
  - Ensuring the right to encryption and prohibiting the use of backdoors, zero-day exploits and other ‘govware’, which can potentially harm the cybersecurity of all citizens.

2.47 A Migration Policy Fit for the Future

Adopted: LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress 2022, Prague, 21 May 2022
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centre Party Youth (CUF)
Co-signers: Unge Venstre, Svensk Ungdom, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals, JOVD, European Youth of Ukraine, Centerstudenter, JUNOS

Adopted at Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Noting that:

- The Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) was activated for the first time since its inception following Russia's brutal war against Ukraine.
- The Temporary Protection Directive has not been activated during previous episodes of mass migration to the EU.
- There is a discrepancy between the TPD and LYMEC core values, as well as the modern realities of migration in Europe.
- The Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management (RAMM), as proposed by the commission, does not abolish the Dublin system as it was meant to, but rather only modifies it slightly through tools supposed to increase the use of criteria other than first country of entry.
- The contents of the RAMM has a stronger emphasis on increasing the number of returns, rather than creating a fair and humane system of migration and asylum.

The war in Ukraine means the widespread destruction of vital infrastructure and homes, which means Ukrainian refugees will not be able to return immediately after a peace has been reached.

- Refugees from Ukraine are being given refuge primarily in neighbouring countries, which creates a risk of humanitarian crises and logistic problems overtime when they reach their maximum capacity.

Considering that:

- The context of when the TPD was designed impacts the underlying assumptions upon which the TPD is built.
- The temporariness of the TPD assumes that causes of migratory streams are within the control of the EU and thus can be mitigated to ensure swift return migration, something that does not hold up to the reality of the war in Ukraine or other driving factors behind migratory waves in the past or expected future.
- The vagueness of the activation clause regarding the definition of mass displacements and the absence of objective indicators leaves room for member states to act in self interest rather than in the spirit of the TPD and the interests of migrants.
- There is currently a challenge in securing a qualified majority vote in the Council, in the face of an influx situation which only impacts a handful of member states.
- EU member states consider the protections given to migrants as a result of the successful activation of the TPD too high and risk being a "pull factor", and are therefore reluctant to activate the TPD.

- The new RAMM rules and solidarity mechanisms would, in practice, serve to increase the number of returns through incentivising countries to expedite the return process at the cost of the rights of the individual.
- The pre-entry screening would mean automatic detention for all individuals, including children, applying for asylum at the external borders of the EU, which would threaten the right of childrens' access to their guardian, or the right to healthcare and legal assistance.
- The pact would risk excluding access to existing national residence procedures based on medical grounds, for victims of domestic violence, or for children, families and stateless people.

Believing that:

All EU migration policy needs to be based on a shared responsibility applicable to all EU member states, and all proposals need to uphold the fundamental EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom and human rights.

Calls for:

- The undertaking of a more precisely defined activation clause of the TPD which secures the rights of migrants and leaves less room for member states to act in self interest.
- The possibility of prolonging the TPD, in order to meet the reality of current and future causes of mass migration to the EU.
- Any return policy present in the RAMM or TPD to make sure that the principle of non-refoulement is not violated, that the fundamental rights of the individual is upheld, and to make sure that the best interests of children are taken into account.
- The RAMM to include an improved and less ambigous solidarity mechanism that introduces a quota system oriented, among other things, to population size, economic strength and unemployment rate to ensure that all EU countries make a meaningful contribution.
- At the same time, this is intended to reduce dependence on the criterion of the first country of entry.
- Any external screening process to exclude those individuals already living inside the EU, and for the process to avoid the usage of detention where it is not neccessary or proportional, especially when it comes to unaccompanied children.
- The RAMM to clarify that access to existing permits regulated at the national level will be maintained, and recognize that asylum and return are not the only two options available to an asylum application. An individual who qualifies for a national permit should never be subjected to the return process. ● All EU countries to join in EU-wide migration pacts and directives in the future, as opt-outs undermine the proper functioning of the common systems and the principle of solidarity.
- The EU to aid the Ukrainian people in rebuilding their country after the war, and ensure asylum for all Ukrainian refugees during the process.
- The EU member states to acknowledge that Ukrainian refugees are part of our communities and should be given the right to stay past the end of the war.

Emphasising the potential choice to return should be based on free will.

2.48 Human Rights in International Sports Events

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom, JuLis, Svensk Ungdom, USR Tineret, Centerstudenter, Liberal Youth of Sweden, Centre Party Youth, Unge Venstre, Young Liberals, Uppreisn, JNC

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022
Considering that:

- International sport events such as the FIFA World Cup or the Olympic Games can have a considerable impact on a variety of human rights, including the rights of citizens in the host countries; the fundamental freedoms of athletes, journalists and spectators; and the rights of workers involved in construction sites and supply chains.
- A culture of corruption has been established in many of the major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC.

Remembering that:

- In the past time numerous major international sport events either have been or are to be held in countries with critical human rights situations, for instance:
- The 2022 winter Olympics held in the People's Republic of China, a nation currently, among other things, violating the basic human rights of the Uyghur people in Xinjiang, oppressing the populations of Tibet and Hong Kong, as well as silencing regime-critics by the use of force.
- Russia, a nation lacking basic civil liberties and rights that openly strives to destabilize international rule of law and is currently engaging in an illegal invasion of Ukraine, hosted the 2014 world championships.
- The 2016 Olympics held in Rio de Janeiro, where countless vulnerable families and members of oppressed population groups were displaced, losing accommodation and livelihood, to make place for the Olympic village
- The 2022 football World Cup in Qatar, a nation currently violating countless fundamental human rights, where workers preparing the tournament have been and are still forced to work under slave-like conditions.

Believing that:

- International sports have the potential to transcend national borders, reduce prejudices and promote intercultural understanding.

The independence of sport is a great achievement that must be defended against the desires of national governments to abuse sport events as an instrument of propaganda.
Without the common values of human dignity, freedom, equality and tolerance a peaceful, fair and respectful sport competition is not possible.

While also noting that:

- Hosting an international sports event works to empower the political regime of the concerned nation, by legitimising its political system and policy decisions including those violating basic human rights.

- International sport events have the potential of stimulating the economy of the hosting nation through the economic effect of increased tourism and international investment, as well as increase the soft power and cultural influence of the nation.

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- FIFA to adopt a legally binding code of ethics prohibiting the hosting of major international sport events in states that are guilty of serious human rights violations.
- The further introduction of an international committee working closely with human rights organisations in monitoring the nation chosen as host, making sure that basic human rights are continuously being respected at all levels of state.
- The establishment of a mandatory implementation of independent anti-corruption institutions in international sport organizations and a comprehensive strengthening of transparency and compliance.
- All attempts of corruption to lead to the withdrawal of an already given commitment and a long-term exclusion from future applications for all major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC.
- The worldwide consistent taxation of major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA, IOC and their activities under the laws applicable to all.
- A reform of the governing bodies of major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC; in particular active and former athletes, must have a stronger influence.
- A reform of Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter and of FIFA Rule 4 to strengthen athletes' rights of expression and participation.
- Binding rules for social and environmental sustainability, in particular compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement and ILO core labour standards in all major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC.

All EU member states (and their corresponding national sports organisations) to boycott additional future sports championships in nations that do not comply with basic human rights standards.
All EU member states (and their corresponding national sports organisations) to introduce ethical standards of sponsors and financial partners and to evaluate sponsors and financial partners regarding their involvement in disregard of human rights.

- The suspension of states, which show the utmost disregard for international law by conducting unlawful warfare, from participating in all international sporting events.
- LYMEC to publicly condemn not only the 2022 FIFA World Cup held in Qatar but also all participating national governments that continue to take part in the event.

2.49 Towards a more inclusive European Union

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: LHG
Co-signers: Ógra Fianna Fáil, Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, JNC, Jungfreisinnige, Jóvenes Ciuadanos, European Youth of Ukraine, Centerstudenter, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals

---

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Recognising that:

- People often suffer from chronic illnesses (psychological and physical).
- People are confronted by physical impairment.
- People are confronted by psychological impairment.
- Impairment may not always be clear to other individuals and may manifest in the format of an invisible disability.
- The Renew Europe Group, European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) and the ALDE

Party strive to make Europe more inclusive for all people

- Disabled EU citizens are especially vulnerable to climate change related emergencies, infrastructure failures and violence.
- Access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a key to social participation.

Keeping in mind that:

Mentally and physically disabled people are often left out in crisis management and not included in emergency planning which can impact representation in policy.
Some disabled people (visible or invisible disability) may need to rely on assistance

We are able to identify:

- Deficits in the accessibility of Information and Communication Technology

  (ICT).
- A lack of inclusion in crisis management and emergency planning.
- Accessibility barriers to the active participation in the labour market for disabled people.
- A lack of awareness among social stakeholders with regard to the needs of disabled individuals.

Therefore we call for:

Information and technology accessibility

- For a solid and forward looking legal and regulatory framework for ICT accessibility, that standardised the implementation of all EU member states of the EU Directives (EU) 2016/2102, 2018/1808, 2018/1072, 2019/882 in order to harmonise ICT accessibility in the EU.

- Recognizing national sign languages in legislation to guarantee linguistic rights for all deaf persons. Acceptance and facilitation of communication tools such as sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication methods, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions.
- Provision of guidelines for various sectors and situations in which accessible means, modes and formats can be requested and obtained by persons with disabilities, including closed captioning, real-time translation (CART), sign language, Braille, simple language, etc.
- Developing ICT accessibility policies, strategies and action plans, and align organisational structures and processes for effective implementation, by following good practices tailored to national circumstances.
- Provision of equitable access to information by making websites and mobile applications of all public-sector bodies accessible, including those providing services partially or fully financed by public funds.

Gradually extending the requirements for equitable access to information to the private sector, including the mass media and providers of information over the Internet.

Provision of digital services that are affordable, secure and accessible to all, regardless of their skills, abilities and economic means.

- Defining accessibility requirements and targets for audiovisual media services and requiring service providers to prepare accessibility action plans and regularly report on their implementation to national regulatory authorities or bodies.
- Increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by using accessible ICT products and services.
- Ensuring equitable access to education and skills through accessible ICTs.
- Developing accessibility curricula to be incorporated in all levels of education and provide ICT accessibility training for teachers.
- Providing ICT accessibility training for bodies and businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in cooperation with academia, including on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities.
- Providing support to persons with disabilities so that they can improve ICT accessibility skills and use accessible ICTs.
- Fostering economic and social development for all.
- Establishing an observatory of national accessibility developments and promote good practices.

Inclusion in crisis management

The disabled individual's needs should be built directly into every possible crisis response strategy, and where possible, consultation with stakeholders associated with disabled people's organisations and representative bodies should take place to ensure appropriate and suitable policy is in place.

Challenges of active labour market participation from disabled people

- European financial support of social enterprises that enable labour market participation for disabled citizens through a European Fund for disabled people.

- Provide financial incentives as tax benefits for impact investing in inclusive industries.
- Provide financial incentives as tax benefits for sustainable social innovative companies that implement and embrace inclusion.

Lack of awareness among stakeholders

Consult with representative organisations of persons with disabilities and all other relevant stakeholders, but also with those that are not members of national level unions, and involve them in the process of developing accessibility laws, regulations, policies, strategies and action plans.

- A regular exchange between stakeholders that are involved with inclusion (schools, academia, policymakers, industry).

2.50 The EU Shall Contribute to Free Internet in Authoritarian States

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter (Sweden)
Co-signers: Unge Venstre (Norway), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (Germany), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), Keskutan Opiskelijaliitto (Finland), The Centre Party Youth (Sweden), LLY (Lithuania), Liberal Youth of Sweden (Sweden), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Noting that:

- The internet is today the main source of information. Historically, most people have gathered their information from newspapers, radio and speech. During the cold war the Soviet Union and Sweden for example introduced a prohibition on radio stations and newspapers which were not government owned media. In the free world numerous different news sources are available today, which is favourable in a democracy.
- Noting with deep concern that the crisis in Iran has shed light on the problem of authoritarian states controlling the internet. With a controlled internet the government can choose what information the citizens are admitted to see. The EU should contribute to people in authoritarian states to have a chance of obtaining valuable information.

Considering that:

- One of the EU's global goals is to contribute to sustainability and promote EU's values. One of these values is democracy, and in democracies, one important aspect is that people should be able to acquire solid and diverse information from different sources and be able to create their own opinion.
- It is established that one of the main methods for dictatorships to maintain power is to have control over information and dissent opinions. As mentioned before, most people gather information on the internet today. With the use of different free discussion forums humans can more easily find social communities and form groups with those with the same values and thereby gain greater power and opportunities to question the oppressing regime. One example of when the internet played a contributing role for civil society when the people wanted to see a liberalization and overthrow dictatorship is the Arab Spring.
- There is a risk that offering uncensored internet can be seen as an attack and a violation of a state's sovereignty. One must then take into account that measures like these are not a real attack, instead we only enhance the possibility for people to gather authentic news. In our liberal democratic societies many see the possibility of taking part in discussion forms and watching different news channels as something we can take for granted. We only plead for people living in authoritarian states to have the same opportunity of receiving legitime news.

Believing that:

- The EU can make sure that people living under authoritarian regimes have access to the internet by procuring and financing agreements with companies like SpaceX who already have shown that it is possible for an outside actor to guarantee the right to the internet in the example of Ukraine.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- The EU to carry out an inquiry of how it can procure and finance access to free and uncensored internet in authoritarian nations during times of crisis.
- The EU to procure and finance access to free and uncensored internet in Iran until the regime itself opens up the internet access for their citizens again.

2.52 Keep governments out of our underpants, chromosomes and personal identities

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jonge Democraten
Co-signers: JNC, Centerstudenter, Radikal Ungdom, Young Liberals, Jong VLD

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Noting that:

- Travel documents currently need to display a person's sex as a result of document 9303 by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);
- This requirement means that many governments keep gender or sex information of its citizens on file;
- Discrimination on the basis of gender or sex is prohibited by the European

Convention on Human Rights as well as by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;

Considering that:

- Displaying someone’s sex on their travel document is of negligible value in the identification process since photographs were added;
- It is possible to keep records of relevant medical data separately from general government registries for population screenings, which would also avoid issues like transgender or nonbinary people being called on for irrelevant screenings;
- Different governments use gender identity or biological sex to determine what should be displayed as ‘sex’ in travel documents;

Believing that:

- Both a person’s gender identity and biological sex are highly personal and unnecessary for governments to know;
- Privacy should prevail if a government can not present a valid reason for storing information about their citizens;

Calling for:

- The EU, EU Member States and other European states to lobby the ICAO for the removal of the display requirement for sex from the ICAO’s rules on travel documents;

The subsequent removal of sex from travel documents issued in the future;

- Governments to generally stop keeping record on the gender or sex of their citizens. The only exception should be specific cases where the information is essential for a government‘s programme, for example to reach beneficiaries in actions tackling discrimination. These exceptions shall be subject to a public necessity assessment by the equivalent Data Protection Supervisor.

- Until governments generally stop keeping record on the gender or sex of their citizens with the exceptions mentioned, they should at least stop

having discriminatory administrative documents and forms that only have binary gender options.

2.54 Liberal consolidation needs to be implemented to prevent the spread of authoritarian nationalist tendencies in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Momentum TizenX
Co-signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, USR Tineret, Mladí Progresívci

---

LYMEC working group on civil and minority rights, Young Liberals, Nowoczesna Youth

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Considering the fact that:

- Authoritarianism fuelled by nationalism is an existential threat to liberal democracy and international peace, especially in the light of Russia's war of aggression towards Ukraine.
- Several examples like Orban, Netanyahu, Trump, Fico and Babis prove that liberal democracy is endangered by populist leaders with authoritarian tendencies.
- These tendencies create division, polarization, discrimination and are a threat to national security.
- The electoral base for this far-right political wave is nationalism and untreated historical grievances, as demonstrated by the rhetoric of Putin, Trump and Orban.

Believing that:

- As liberal youth, it is our objective to facilitate international cooperation, incentivise tolerance towards all kinds of identity minorities, be that sexual orientation, racial group, ethnicity, religion or nationality.
- As liberal democrats, we strongly oppose any violation of citizens' private property.
- To prevent the further advance of far-right parties in Europe, especially with concern to the nearing European Parliamentary election, we have to treat these problems at the root in a liberal way, offering alternatives to the voters that would otherwise turn to the right.
- As LYMEC, it is our mission to support European cooperation and reinforce member countries' commitment to the European values and agreements.

Recalling that:

- All member countries have committed themselves to respect the Charter of

Fundamental Rights of the European Union which include all European citizens' rights to private property (Article 17) and prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity

(Article 21).

- During the accession process of Eastern European countries to the European Union, their governments at the time have made explicit promises to the European institutions that discrimination based on nationality will cease to exist.
- There are still ongoing procedures of land confiscation based on ethnicity in Europe, which goes against liberal and European principles.

Despite all that, acknowledging that:

- Since Slovakia's accession to the European Union, several judges and prosecutors in the country have repeatedly and retrospectively relied on the usage of outdated discriminatory laws to unilaterally confiscate the private property of its citizens on the basis of their ethnicity.
- With that, creating division and sparking nationalist feelings and polarization that serves as the foundation for populism.
- Orban's government has repeatedly relied on these feelings to build support for and control ethnicity-based parties abroad, and with that threatening the doctrine of national sovereignty of Slovakia and Romania.

We call for:

- LYMEC to officially oppose any kinds of discrimination toward ethnic minorities, including but not limited to the forceful confiscation of property.
- The Court of Justice of the European Union to examine if there has been any kind of such discrimination in practice since Slovakia's accession to the European Union in 2004.
- The proper actions to be taken by the Court of Justice of the European Union in case they find proof of the above mentioned discrimination that they

might find to be incompatible with European Law and to be infringing on the rights of European citizens.

55. **Non dica gay - a resolution concerning the situation for LGBTQ+ people in Italy**

Submitted by: CUF

Co-signed by: JOVD, Centerstudenter, FCY, Young Liberals, FEL, Junge Liberale, Venstres Ungdom, Mlade ano, Norges Unge Venstre, LUF, Svensk ungdom, FY, Radikal Ungdom, Uppreisn, LHG, Jong VLD, Jonge Democraten

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- According to ILGA-Europe's 2021 report, the status of LGBTQ+ rights in Italy is the worst among Western European countries.
- The country does not allow same-sex marriage and refuses to recognize marriages of its citizens performed abroad between same-sex couples. Instead, the marriages are registered as civil unions, which do not provide the same rights as heterosexual marriage, notably the right to adopt as a couple.
- The Fratelli d'Italia government led by PM Georgia Meloni has pushed policy, opinion and legislation to perpetuate the heterosexual norm in Italian society.
- One of these policies include that in same-sex couples only the biological parent is to be officially recognised as parent.
- Many of these parents have received notice that they are to have their names retroactively removed from their children's birth certificates. This action constitutes such violations as of the child's right to family and private life and poses an obstacle to obtaining identity documents that will lead to a denial of the exercise of the child's rights as an EU citizen, including the right to free movement.

- Furthermore, the Italian government is seeking to ban and severely punish the execution of surrogacy abroad– a severe blow to same-sex couples in a country where domestic surrogacy is already banned.

Believing that:

- All humans are born free and equal.
- Discrimination of same-sex couples is incompatible with liberal values.
- Every individual has the right to be themselves, regardless of sexuality and gender identity, without being limited by the state because of this.
- The recognition of parentage and acquisition of nationality fall within the ambit of protection and fulfilment of children's rights in line with international human rights law.

Recalling that:

- All member countries have committed themselves to respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which include all European citizens' rights to private property (Article 17) and prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity (Article 21).
- During the accession process of Eastern European countries to the European Union, their governments at the time have made explicit promises to the European institutions that discrimination based on nationality will cease to exist.
- There are still ongoing procedures of land confiscation based on ethnicity in Europe, which goes against liberal and European principles.

We therefore:

- Call upon EU member states and representatives to maintain pressure on Italy to back down from these latest queerphobic policies.
- Call upon EU member states and representatives to continue to put pressure on the Italian government to respect the civil liberties and political rights of LGBTQ+ people.
- Call upon the EU to support Italian civil society and activist groups fighting for LGBTQ+ rights.
- Call upon the EU to urge the Italian government to grant the protection of children raised by rainbow families and their right to preserve their identity, including their nationality, name, and family relations.

2.56 Better Safe Than Sorry - Establishing a European Crisis Mitigation and Resilience Framework

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)

Co-signed by: Ógra Fianna Fáil (OFF), Centerstudenter (CS), Jungfreisinnige (JFS),

Venstres Ungdom (VU), Jovenes Ciudadanos (JCS), Junge Liberale (JULIS), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Felix Schulz (IMS), ZeMolodizhka (ZM), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Noting that:

- In recent years, the European Union has faced various crises in short succession, ranging from economic downturns and migration challenges to health pandemics, energy shortages and armed conflicts at its borders.
- The frequency, rapidity and unpredictability of these crises have demonstrated the necessity to develop robust and adaptable resilience strategies.
- Past crises have had a profound impact on public life in the Union, including the closure of borders, temporary shutdown of educational institutions, and restriction of access to public spaces.
- Many recent crises have shown to be transnational in nature, affecting multiple member states simultaneously and thus requiring cross-border cooperation and supranational coordination in order to be resolved effectively.
- Unforeseen crises have the potential to evolve so rapidly and unpredictable that impromptu decision-making may prove insufficient to adequately tackle the issues at hand.
- Currently existing crisis mitigation measures, such as the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR), are primarily reactionary and not preventive in nature.
- While the EU has historically shown its ability to weather many storms, an evolving global landscape means that new approaches are required to fortify against unforeseen challenges.

Believing that:

- The European Union, as a collective of diverse member states, plays a critical role in ensuring stability, prosperity, peace and unity across the continent.
- Crisis resilience is not only about swift reactions to evolving situations but equally encompasses proactive measures, long-term planning, and the ability to learn from past events.
- The free movement of persons, goods, services and capital are among the fundamental cornerstones of the Union, which should be striven to be upheld at all times.
- The right to education plays a crucial role in attaining the liberal ideals of equality of opportunity and self-reliance.

- The deep integration of the Union in times of stability and prosperity should also extend to mutual assistance in times of crisis.
- A thoroughly designed crisis mitigation and resilience framework can help lessen the otherwise profound impact of crises on the Union.
- A resilient European Union is better equipped to protect its citizens, its economies, and its core values in the face of unforeseen crises.

LYMEC calls for:

- The creation of a European Union Crisis Prevention and Resilience Committee (EUCPRC), dedicated at analyzing potential threats, formulating preventive crisis resilience strategies and coordinating their implementation in the member states and institutions.
- The strengthening of cross-border cooperation mechanisms, ensuring that member states can swiftly share resources, intelligence, and expertise during a crisis.
- A thorough analysis of past crises, with the aim of identifying best practices as well as negative examples in order to devise effective crisis-solving strategies for the future. Additionally, clearer distinctions between crisis and not-just-crisis coordination efforts should be made for a more swift response.
- The formulation of extensive contingency plans for various potential types of crises, so that EU institutions are well-prepared when confronted with unforeseen situations.
- Enhanced intra-EU communication and collaboration to include a broader spectrum of stakeholders, encompassing DGs (HOME, EEAS, DG, INTPA, and DG ECHO), alongside EU agencies, and international organizations, to create a more resilient and coordinated response framework.
- A commitment of the Member States to regard the closure of intra-European borders as an ultima ratio measure, which is to be generally

avoided and only applied as a last resort if all other means of crisis prevention have been exhausted.

- Member States to take the necessary measures to be able to provide unhindered access to education even in times of crisis. This includes the establishment of robust hybrid education facilities that can be drawn upon in case of emergency.
- Encouraging member states to adapt national resilience strategies that align with the broader objectives of the European Union, ensuring a cohesive and united approach to crisis management.
- Continuous education and training programs for policymakers, governmental agencies, and public servants to ensure that best practices in crisis management are widely disseminated and adopted.
- The necessary steps to be taken to establish a dedicated crisis communication faculty, emphasizing the importance of pooling and streamlining information in a centralised repository in order to combat the spread of potentially harmful misinformation in times of crisis.
- A commitment by the Union and all member states to minimise the curtailment of civil rights in terms of severity and duration to the bare minimum necessary to contain a crisis, whilst always respecting the principle of proportionality.

2.57 Can't Pray the Gay Away: Put an End to Conversion Therapy

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2024, Brussels, 24 March 2024
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Unge Venstre (Norway) and Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland)

Co-signed by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (Germany), Centerstudenter (Sweden), EYU (Ukraine), FEL (Belgium), For Youth! (Latvia), Jeunes MR (Belgium), Jóvenes Ciudadanos (Spain), Junge Liberale (Germany),
Jungfreisinnige (Switzerland), Keskustanuoret (Finland), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania), LUF (Sweden), Mladé ANO (Czech Republic), Mladé Progresívne Slovensko (MPS), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), The Swedish Center Party Youth (Sweden), Uppreisn (Iceland), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), JOVD (Netherlands), Young Liberals (United Kingdom), Adam Volf (IMS), Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (IMS).

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2024 in Brussels, Belgium on 24 March 2024.

Defining:

- Conversion therapy, also referred to as conversion practices or reparative therapy, as any practice or intervention that seeks to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression to align with heterosexual and cisgender norms.

Recognising that:

- Conversion therapy can take many forms, including but not limited to medical, psychiatric, psychological, religious, and cultural interventions.
- Such practices are widely discredited by those in the medical field, and rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organisation, as they are ineffective, unethical, and cruel.
- Conversion practices are proven to have devastating and long-term psychological and physical effects on those subjected to them.
- People who experienced conversion therapy are almost twice as likely to consider suicide compared to their peers who hadn't experienced conversion therapy.
- 7% of LGBTQ+ people in the UK have experienced conversion therapy, and that goes up to 13% of trans people. The real numbers are however thought to be much higher.
- Members of the LGBTQ+ community are already among the most vulnerable in our society due to continued social rejection, social exclusion, and lack of acceptance.

Noting that:

- The World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases in 1990 and stopped classifying transgender health issues as mental/behavioural disorders in 2019.
- Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights prohibits subjecting anyone to inhuman or degrading treatment, and Article 8 of the same convention recognises the right to respect for one's family and private life.

- The practice is criticised by international bodies at the UN, Council of Europe and EU level, who all call for bans to be implemented.
- In 2018, the European Parliament voted by 435 votes to 109 to condemn conversion therapy and urged its member states to ban the practice.
- In their 2020 report, the independent expert mandated by the United Nations Human Rights Council recommended that states ban conversion

'therapy'.

- An EU-ban on conversion practices on LGBTQ+ persons may be achieved through anti-discrimination legislation based on Article 19 TFEU.
- Several European countries, such as Malta, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Spain, Portugal and Norway, have already banned conversion therapies, acknowledging the harm that they can cause.

Reminding that:

- A ban does not prohibit the possibility of talking to someone about insecurities around sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Critics argue that bans violate the rights to freedom of religion or expression (Articles 9 & 10 ECHR). However, properly drafted bans should not interfere with the right to hold a belief or express an opinion on LGBTQ+ issues.
- As opposed to the freedom to have a religion and a belief, the right to manifest one's religion or belief may be subjected to limitations, in order to protect the fundamental rights of others.

Believing that:

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and should be allowed to live as their authentic selves, irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.
- The practice of conversion therapy legitimises the view of sexual orientations and gender identities diverging from heterosexual and cisgender norms as something undesirable.
- Pressure and power imbalances make consenting to conversion practices impossible

We conclude that:

- Conversion therapy is a coercive, degrading practice that causes significant harm to and undermines the liberties and freedoms of those who undergo it.
- Members of the LGBTQ+ community need to be protected from these so-called therapies that seek to 'cure' them.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- European governments to ban the advertising, promotion, facilitation, and carrying out of all types of conversion therapy, including medical, psychiatric,

psychological, religious, and cultural interventions, where the predetermined purpose is to change, cure, or suppress the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person.

- The EU and CoE to help accelerate the implementation of bans in the remaining European states, as well as advocating for bans globally.

- A clear and universal definition of conversion therapy that covers all practices seeking to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- A proper balance between the right to freedom of religion, belief and expression, and the protection of the fundamental rights of LGBTQ+ persons.
- Strengthening mental health services and making them identifiable and available for those affected by such therapies, reducing long-term trauma and suffering.
- This should include the provision of easily available, confidential, and specialised services for these individuals, such as a dedicated 24/7 toll-free helpline.
- Greater education on LGBTQ+ issues to increase understanding and to better inform wider society of the social exclusion and discrimination that LGBTQ+ persons face.

2.58 Keep your hands off our Schengen Area

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JD

Cosignatories: LHG (Germany), RU (Denmark), LUF (Sweden), CUF (Sweden), Centerstudenter (Sweden), Adam Volf (IMS), Silvia Fernandez (IMS), Norges Unge Venstre (Norway), Gibanje Svoboda Mladi (Slovenia), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (Switzerland), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), Youth Forum of Naša Stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Young Progressive Slovakia (Slovakia), JUNOS (Austria), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)

Considering that:

- being a part of the Schengen Area means having no internal border control, and therefore the member states do not carry out checks at their internal borders, except in cases of specific threats, and having harmonised controls carried out at the external borders of the Schengen Area;
- there are currently 29 members in the Schengen Area, which include 25 of 27 EU Member States as well as all members of the European Free Trade Association;
- since 2015 there has been a significant and continued increase in the number and duration of border control reinstatements;
- Schengen members are bound by the Schengen Borders Code which is the set of rules governing the Schengen area;
- there are approximately 3.5 million people that cross internal borders daily for work, study, or to visit families and friends and an estimated 1.25 billion journeys within the sector every year;
- the Schengen Borders Code sets out clear requirements for reinstating border controls, including the justification, duration, and procedural steps;
- the Schengen Borders Code clearly states that the reintroduction of internal border controls should only take place as a last-resort option, and only when internal security or public policy are at serious risk and the reintroduction is an effective remedy to that risk;
- the Schengen Borders Code is a part of EU law, but also binds the non EU member states in the Schengen Area;
- the European Commission has, as guardian of the treaties, as one of its core duties to ensure the correct and timely compliance with and application of EU law;
- the EU and its member states have established concrete measures to safeguard Europe's security and reinforce the EU's external borders, through the creation of Frontex and the Schengen Information System;
- the 'failure to act'-procedure, to force an EU institution to fulfil its duties under the treaties, cannot be brought against the European Commission for failing to start an infringement procedure by non-privileged parties;
- mutual trust and sincere cooperation are foundational principles of the European Union;

- reinstatements of border controls are a form of European disintegration, no matter the scale or size.

Believing that:

- free movement of people within Europe is a core pillar of European integration, essential to our rights as Europeans as well as our economic prosperity and the Schengen Zone its crowning achievement;
- the condition for the absence of internal border controls are effective and reliable controls of the external borders of the EU;
- a significant number of border control reinstatements in the Schengen Zone since 2015 have been pure political posturing, without addressing any real or significant threats, or not doing so effectively;
- a large number of border control reinstatements do not meet the legal requirements set out in the Schengen Borders Code, be that in motivation, procedure or duration;
- European disintegration for political posturing is directly opposed to the core principles of LYMEC, and as a tactic is a slippery slope that should never be attempted.

Calls for:

- Member States that have reinstated border controls to cease those controls as soon as possible;
- the European Commission to execute its role as guardian of the treaties by rigorously enforcing the Schengen Borders Code;
- Member States to start infringement procedures against violating Member States if the European Commission continues to fail to start these procedures, and for ALDE member parties to call for such action within their Member States;
- all privileged parties, and specifically the European Parliament to begin a ‘failure to act’-procedure against the European Commission if it continues to fail to enforce the Schengen Borders Code, and for the RENEW Europe group in the European Parliament to call for such action;
- Member States that have understandable concerns about border safety and lack of control over immigration flows to address those concerns through changing the policy of the EU’s external borders and immigration as well as increasing cooperation among authorities dealing with organised crime, instead of purely focussing on reinstating internal borders.
- All entries into the Schengen area to be recorded and stored in a centralised, EU-wide system at the borders in order to prevent people from entering the EU under false identities. To this end, we welcome the planned introduction of the EU Entry/Exit System (EES) in the Schengen area.
- To ensure further protection of the Schengen area's external borders, Frontex is to be expanded into an operational border police force with executive powers, with enhanced oversight by the European Parliament to ensure all human rights.
- We want to extend the possibility of association with the European Union. To this end, we want to open the Schengen area to countries that are not members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).
- The full accession of Bulgaria and Romania into the Schengen area.

2.59 Strengthening Peacebuilding across Europe: Recognising and Reinforcing our Commitment to Conflict Resolution

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Young Liberals (YL), Youth Forum of Nasa Stranka (YFNS)

Co-Signers: Arthur Wu (IMS) Adam Volf (IMS), Silvia Fernández (IMS), USR Tineret, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Alliance Youth (AYNI), Norges Unge Venstre (NUV), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), LUF, Jonge Democraten (JD), Jongliberalen (JL), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Young Greenliberals (YGL), Jeunes MR, CUF, Ogra Fianna Fail (OFF), Liberalno Demokratska Mladina (LiDeM), Radikal Ungdom (RU), JOVD, Liberale Hochschulgruppen (LHG) Radikal Ungdom (RU), YMRF*

Noting that:

- 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Accords, which brought peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina, whilst 2023 marked the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement which brought an end to The Troubles in Northern Ireland
- The history of peacebuilding in Europe is long and varied and the EU has played a crucial role within peace processes across Europe
- The EU and the Council of Europe have served as a forum for peacebuilding by establishing and deepening diplomatic relations between states
- The European Peace Facility was established by the EU in 2021 to prevent conflicts, 'build and preserve peace', and strengthen international security and represents a financial commitment of EUR 17 Billion to peace and security in Europe
- States outside of Europe, such as the USA, have also played a crucial role in enabling and supporting European peacebuilding efforts, particularly through funding from USAID
- Many post-conflict societies have experienced significant violence, major atrocities, and periods of targeted discrimination that hinders trust between communities
- Grassroots peacebuilding efforts play a crucial role in fostering a strong civil society in post-conflict states and enabling reconciliation.
- Youth peacebuilders often play an essential role in grassroots peacebuilding, both as participants and leaders.
- Young people in post-conflict societies are increasingly growing up not knowing the history of peace and conflict in their region.

Further Notes:

- Ongoing and historical peace processes are facing various political challenges, not least as a result of foreign interference and deliberate disinformation campaigns
- Conflict deprivation can have a lasting impact on post-conflict societies, especially minority communities and groups, and often poses a key obstacle to the success of peace processes and reconciliation.
- The Trump Administration's cuts to USAID pose a threat to international development and partnership funding which supports peacebuilding efforts within Europe

Believing that:

- The continued success of peacebuilding is essential for both Europe's internal security and enabling the EU's further enlargement
- The attitude of the current US administration threatens to undermine or derail existing and future peace processes
- The removal of USAID funding will leave a critical gap in support for post-conflict societies in Europe, especially those in the Balkan region.
- The process of building sustainable peace also leads to greater tolerance and respect within society, including to minority populations
- Ensuring trust in democratic institutions and the wider peace process is essential for peacebuilding efforts
- The threat of disinformation poses an existential challenge to peacebuilding within Europe as foreign actors seek to destabilise peace process for geopolitical gain
- That young people have the potential to make a unique and valuable contribution to peacebuilding efforts across Europe

LYMEC Calls For:

- The EU Commission to commit to supporting existing peace processes on the European continent, in the event that the US withdraws from its historical roles as a mediator and guarantor of peace within multiple peace processes.
- The financial and organisational expansion of the European Peace Facility and the addition of further financing pillars focused on supporting conflict resolution and enabling peacebuilding at all levels, including initiatives supporting youth peacebuilding
- The EU Commission to encourage and incentivise private investment in post-conflict regions of Europe and support their economic development.
- A Forum of European Peacebuilders to be established under the Council of Europe to encourage discussion amongst peacebuilders from across Europe.
- Support for educational programs across Europe which include topics on peace processes and the history of the European Peace Project to ensure that no generation forgets the violence of the past and the peacebuilding efforts undertaken by previous generations.
- Continued support to address novel security challenges, including disinformation and adversarial action aiming to counter peacebuilding efforts, and advance democratisation across Europe.

2.60 Recognition of the Rights to Sexual Reproductive Health and Abortion

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (Catalonia)
Co-signers: Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Jonk Demokraten (JD)

Passed Autumn 2025

Considering that:

- SDG 3.1 (By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.) is the most off track of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Maternal mortality has fallen by 37% since 2000

  - in

Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia, maternal mortality has declined

by around two-thirds - but maternal mortality ratio – the proportion of mothers

that do not survive childbirth compared to those who do – in developing regions

is still 14 times higher than in the developed regions.

- There were 36.9 million people globally were living with HIV in 2017, and every year more than 200 million women have unmet needs for contraception, leading to

  approximately 80 million unintended pregnancies, while a recent global modelling

  analysis (Stover J. 2014) estimated that condoms have averted around 50 million

new HIV infections since the onset of the HIV epidemic.

- Even though HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights are interlinked, it seems that budget allocations have favoured HIV/AIDS and neglected sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Sex education and access to family planning is integral to reducing maternal mortality rates and the number of unsafe abortions;
- According to the latest estimates by the WTO and the Guttmacher Institute, 25

  million unsafe abortions were performed across the world in 2014. In the same

year, about 56 million abortions were performed across the world. Slightly under half were high-risk abortions.

- The right to abortion is still limited in more than two-thirds of all countries.
- Europe has always been at the forefront of the fight to liberalise abortion laws and the legalisation of women's access to safe and legal abortion.
- The WTO specifies that laws should not impose medically unnecessary delays to a

requested abortion, such as mandatory waiting periods.

In some European countries, short time limits for access to abortion on request can have harmful impacts on women and may impede them from obtaining the

health care they need. When applied in a restrictive manner short time limits

can be particularly harmful for adolescent girls and women belonging to marginalized communities who may not always be able to obtain care within the

legal timeframe. This may result in women needing to travel to other jurisdictions to access legal abortion or accessing abortion care at home outside of the scope of the law and under threat of criminal prosecution.

Condemning that:

- Six European countries still do not allow abortion on broad social grounds and two of them, Poland and Malta, are members of the EU.
- Major religious institutions insist on an undifferentiated extreme stance against abortion, even in cases which will likely end in the death of a child

at

birth or soon after, thus denying forgiveness to faithful who have carried out such practices.

- This stance has significant negative consequences for women in countries where

  religion legitimises doctors not to perform their duty on grounds of conscience.

- Although the general trend has been one of progress towards liberalization, in recent years some countries in Europe have witnessed attempts to roll back existing legal protections for women's access to abortion. At times they have
  led to the introduction of new regressive preconditions that women must fulfil
  prior to obtaining abortion care. These include mandatory biased counselling and

  mandatory waiting periods. There have also been attempts to completely ban

  abortion or to remove existing legal grounds for abortion. There have also been

  a number of court challenges contesting the constitutionality of access to abortion and seeking to advance medical professional's entitlements to refuse to

  legal abortion care.

Believing that:

Everyone, including young people, has the right to make free and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive lives. this includes the right to information, services, and supplies necessary to implement those choices;

- Youth participation in this matter is essential, taking into account the

largest youth population in the world's history - one in four people are under 25 years old and 1.06 billion people are aged between 19 and 25;

- Reproductive responsibility should be shared: men and individuals capable of causing pregnancy must also take responsibility for contraception and
  family planning. Therefore, access to male contraceptive options should be expanded, and education should emphasize shared accountability in preventing unintended pregnancies.

- It is not possible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, if we do not tackle reproductive health issues; as a crucial part of economic development. This means intensifying efforts to promote women's rights, gender equality and implement greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning; and promoting the economic independence and empowerment of women;Each person has the right over their own body.
- There has been a regression on sexual rights, and we, as liberals, must not allow or stand for these rights being taken away or limited, but instead widen them on grounds of freedom and individual autonomy.
- Measures that roll back reproductive rights, by introducing new barriers or scaling back the legality of abortion care, violate the principle of non retrogression under international human rights law.
- Third party authorisation procedures, requiring prior permission from parents, guardians, doctors or official committees before a woman can access abortion care, disproportionally impact adolescent girls, women with disabilities, women living in poverty and women belonging to marginalised communities and undermine their human rights and place them at risk.
- Sexual education for teenagers should never be dependent on their parents' beliefs, as it is necessary information for a healthy life and relationships.

Stating that:

- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights should be promoted as well as an element of equal opportunity and development; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) should be eradicated entirely where it exists worldwide;
- Meeting the unmet need for Family Planning and providing the recommended package of maternal health care is cost effective: It saves the lives of the mother and the child and saves society money for medical care;
- The empowerment and autonomy of girls and women, and improvements in their political, social, economic and health status, are essential to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Sexual and reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the human rights of women's right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their own bodies;
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights are based on four separate notions,

namely sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive rights and reproductive health, within the framework of human rights;

- It is crucial for liberals to fight for the right of individuals to take

autonomous decisions over their own sexual and reproductive health rights;

- Forcing women to procure illegal abortions jeopardises women's health and potentially threatens their lives;
- Forcing victims of rape and incest to carry pregnancies to term is an assault on

their autonomy and dignity, and jeopardises their mental and physical health;

- Criminalising abortions in circumstances where the pregnancy is likely to result in death is an unacceptable violation of reproductive health.

Calls upon:

- The LYMEC bureau to actively promote Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights policies through public campaigns, advocacy and partnerships with civil society.
- LYMEC member parties to work to uphold the principle that the human rights of girls and women are inalienable and indivisible, and must be protected not only in areas of public life but also within the private sphere.
- Member parties to recognise and protect the right to reproductive decision-making, including choices around marriage, family formation, and the number, timing, and spacing of children supported by access to accurate information and safe services.
- of one's children. This includes the right of individuals to be fully informed and have access to unbiased medical data before making reproductive decisions, as well as having the safe means to exercise those choices. Policies should promote both personal freedom and responsibility.
- Member organisations of LYMEC and member parties of ALDE to advocate for

  mandatory, age-appropriate, evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education in

all school curricula, independent of parental ideology.

- LYMEC calls on all member states to guarantee timely, safe, legal and affordable

access to abortion for all individuals with unwanted pregnancies.

- LYMEC encourages all member states to provide its citizens with affordable contraceptives.
- National governments should increase research funding and streamline market

  approval processes for male contraceptive methods, ensuring that contraceptive responsibility does not fall disproportionately on women and people with uteruses. They should also ensure that comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services include readily available and affordable access to HIV prevention and treatment measures, including Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for individuals at high risk and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for those who may have been exposed.
- LYMEC to reject any mandatory waiting period for abortions at request, as these waiting periods undermine access to timely and affordable care and restrict women’s human rights and autonomous decision-making;
- LYMEC to believe in providing abortion upon request up to the point of fetal viability, which is currently around the 22nd week of pregnancy. Abortions should be performed as soon as possible upon request. However, in circumstances where the pregnancy was caused by rape or other condemnable criminal offenses, a woman’s life is threatened or a foetus is unlikely to survive, an abortion may be performed after the point of viability.
- Rejects compulsory counselling for requested abortions, as they compel a woman to wait before she gets to make a decision she has already taken. They should be available but not compulsory.
- Requests institutions to ensure that all abortion counselling is impartial and factual, regardless of the counsel's personal morals and/or beliefs.

- Only accepts third-party authorisation procedures for women with mental illnesses or mental disabilities so severe that they are unable to make an informed adult decision about their body and future.
- Rejects rules requiring women to explain that they are seeking an abortion because of their social or family circumstance or on grounds of distress,

as they stigmatize abortion, undermine autonomous decision-making and should be removed.

- Urges EU member states to remove criminal sanctions for abortion practices and to ensure access to comprehensive, high-quality post-abortion care. This includes timely medical treatment, psychological support, and contraceptive counselling, provided in a nonjudgmental and rights-based manner, regardless of the circumstances under which the abortion was obtained.
- Sexual education beyond abstinence should be compulsory in schools. This includes comprehensive courses on contraception and the effects of pregnancy on a body
- LYMEC condemns all institutional practices - including those by religious or cultural bodies - that stigmatise, ostracise, or penalise individuals for exercising their right to access abortion care.
- LYMEC shall forward this resolution to the ALDE Party as well as the Renew Europe Group and promote it among member organisations and member contacts in EU member states and applicant countries

2.61 Privacy

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jongliberalen, Jonge Democraten, Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie, Junge Liberale, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya
Co-signers: Norges Unge Venstre, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, JUNOS, ZeMolodizhka, Nowoczesna Youth, Mladi Pokreta slobodnih građana, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen, Jeunes MR

Passed Autumn 2025

Considering that:

On Big Data and Data Autonomy

- Much of our modern lives take place in an online environment;
- Big Data drives much of how online environments function;
- Many data driven algorithms function as black boxes which obfuscates what personal data is used for;
- For many, the online sphere has become their primary source of information, where their personal data is constantly collected and processed;
- It has become virtually impossible to avoid leaving a digital footprint;
- The data persons leave behind in their digital footprint is deeply valuable to companies, but also to criminals for nefarious purposes such as identity theft

  or identity fraud;
- Data breaches in both governmental institutions and private entities are preventable;
- Dark patterns and manipulative interface designs exploit cognitive biases, undermining genuine consent and user autonomy;

On Chat Control and Surveillance

- Extra-judicial monitoring of individuals is in breach of fundamental rights to privacy and data protection;
- The Child Sexual Abuse Material Regulation colloquially known as Chat Control is put back on the EU agenda by the Danish Presidency of The Council of the European Union;
- Messaging and email services will be mandated to scan all private communications

as currently proposed in the CSAM Regulation;

- Unknown content that has not been previously identified as illegal can still be flagged using experimental AI as currently proposed in the CSAM Regulation;
- Services will be mandated to age verify users, effectively ending anonymous communication as currently proposed in the CSAM Regulation;
- Government and Military communication will be exempted from scanning as currently proposed in the CSAM Regulation;

- Mass surveillance disproportionally affects activists, journalists, and minorities;
- Surveillance measures often end up expanding past their original announced scope and purpose;

On Encryption and Cybersecurity

- Encryption is a powerful tool that is indispensable and for many industries and sectors to function;
- Much of our finances run through secured electronic channels, which would be undermined if encryption is weakened;
- Weakened cybersecurity undermines trust in digital services and governmental institutions;
- Technological breakthroughs in quantum computing might end up breaking modern advanced encryption methods;

On Identity Verification and Biometrics

- The European Commission is working on an age verification scheme for the EU;
- The growing use of identity verification tools make it increasingly important to have a clear legal framework that protects personal data and limits risks like f identity fraud and misuse
- Biometric verification is not alterable after its compromised;
- The United Kingdom Online Safety Act came into effect as of July 2025 which requires all websites hosting erotic content to age verify its users;

On International Agreements and Data Transfers

- Global cooperation is growing more uncertain with more and more foreign entities turning authoritarian;
- In 2013 WikiLeaks exposed systemic surveillance practices by the US National Security Agency, demonstrating the dangers of unchecked government overreach and the erosion of individual privacy rights;
- These abuses were enabled by an imbalance of power between government institutions and citizens, setting a precedent that has since influenced global surveillance policies, including those of foreign allies and adversaries;
- Subsequent revelations, such as the 2021 Pegasus Project, have further underscored the global proliferation of surveillance technologies, often deployed without adequate oversight or accountability;
- The normalization of mass surveillance has emboldened authoritarian regimes to adopt similar practices, exacerbating risks to human rights and democratic values worldwide;

On Accountability and Enforcement

- Many public and private entities fail to provide clear, accessible information about how they collect, use, and share personal data, making it difficult for individuals to hold them accountable;
- High legal costs, complex procedures, and unequal power dynamics between

individuals and corporations or governments create barriers for victims of privacy violations seeking redress.

Noting that:

On Big Data and Data Autonomy

- Personal data shall be kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal

  data is processed;
- The EU General Data Protection Regulation already took big steps in increasing

  people's data autonomy. though ensuring consistent compliance and user-friendly

access to these rights remains a priority;

- The EU Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act both already address issues

such as user protection and digital markets;

- The EU Digital Governance Act already addresses and aims to facilitate secure

data sharing in public and private sectors;

- Due to the often large and complex nature of privacy notices, users grow fatigued, which leads to them regularly blindly accepting them, meaning users

are seldom sufficiently informed;

- Data is essential to technological development, and is thus needed for private

  entities to thrive;
- The demand and usage of data rapidly changes in time with its continuous technological development, which makes regulation a complex and continuous

  process;

On Chat Control and Surveillance

- Article 7 of The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union directly states: 'Everyone has the right to respect for his or her private and family life, home and communications.';
- Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations directly states: 'No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence...'
- Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations directly states: 'Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek,

receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of

frontiers.'

- Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights of the Council of Europe

  directly states: '(1) Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.' and '(2) There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the

  interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the

country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.'

- The European Court of Human Rights has consistently interpreted Article 8 of the

  European Convention on Human Rights of the Council of Europe as covering

  personal data protection and the individual's control over information relating

  to them;
- Secrecy of correspondence is a constitutional right in many countries;
- The CSAM Regulation proposal is unambiguously mass surveillance legislation;
- Child protection experts warn the CSAM Regulation proposal would actually be

counterproductive to child safety;

- Under extraordinary circumstances some tightly targeted and regulated forms of

surveillance might be justified if it concerns matters such as national security bearing necessity and proportionality in mind;

- Traces of the Pegasus spy software have been found globally, including on the

  phones of French journalists, Bahraini activists, and Indian deputies, and over

60 Catalan citizens including three Members of the European Parliament, demonstrating its widespread misuse;

On Encryption and Cybersecurity

- The CSAM Regulation proposal will break end-to-end encryption exposing everyone’s communication;
- Cybersecurity experts warn weakening encryption will significantly increase the

risk of highly personal communications leaking to the hands of

cybercriminals

when data breaches inevitably occur;

- If criminal content currently runs through legal encrypted channels, introducing

a backdoor would simply drive criminals to use illicit mediums;

On Identity Verification and Biometrics

- In the event of a biometric data breach, the risk of identity theft,

surveillance, and misuse is permanent, making biometric breaches far more damaging than traditional data leaks;

- Biometric databases are high-value targets. Breaches can reveal not just identity but also sensitive personal behaviors, amplifying the potential for abuse and long-term harm;
- Hospitals are already often targets for hacking attempt due to the value of the

compromised data that they store;

- Biometric systems can be spoofed or bypassed using AI or forged materials, making them less secure than often assumed;

On International Agreements and Data Transfers

- The EU-US Passenger Name Record agreement is still legally in force; [1]
- The EU-US Passenger Name Record agreement is a violation of fundamental citizen's rights; [2]
- Passenger Name Record agreements with countries such as Australia,

  Canada, and

the UK could or already pose similar threats to citizen's rights;

- The Court of Justice of the European Union invalidated the EU-US Privacy Shield

  in the Schrems II decision citing amongst other reasons, a lack of necessity and

proportionality in US surveillance programs; [3,4]

On Accountability and Enforcement

- The EU already regularly hands out sizable fines to large companies for breaching GDPR rules;
- Enforcement of privacy laws against large corporations remains inconsistent and many breaches still go insufficiently penalized despite growing regulatory action.

Believing that:

On Big Data and Data Autonomy

- The right to privacy is a fundamental right and one of our core values;
- Our fundamental rights of privacy need to be safeguarded for all citizens;
- Every person should have the right to autonomy over their personal data;
- Every person should be sufficiently informed on the data they opt to share and

which is collected regarding them;

- Internet standards bodies are best-placed to develop technical standards related

to Internet services and apps;

On Chat Control and Surveillance

- The CSAM Regulation proposal is a thinly veiled attempt to introduce mass surveillance legislation under the gist of child protection;
- Anti-crime and anti-terrorism legislation should always bear necessity and proportionality in mind;
- Citizens should never fear prosecution for proclaiming their ideals, thoughts, and opinions;
- The CSAM Regulation risks having a chilling effect on freedom of expression in Europe.
- Allowing any form of chat control for any reason risks function and mission creep;
- Introducing such far-reaching measures as the CSAM Regulation carries the risk of setting a precedent for further encroachments on individual privacy. As the

saying goes, “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.”

- Resources should be directed towards targeted, effective law enforcement and

prevention strategies, not blanket surveillance of private conversations.

- Protecting children online requires smarter solutions, such as better education, more resources for investigative units, and stronger international cooperation.

On Encryption and Cybersecurity

- Encryption is a technology that every person has the right to use;
- Introducing a backdoor in legal encryption software and algorithms to fight criminality is a futile and thoughtless concept;

On Identity Verification and Biometrics

- Any form of identity verification should be handled with extreme care;
- All persons should always have full autonomy over their genetic information, and medical records;
- Medical privacy should be strictly respected;
- All persons should be protected from groundless discrimination or stigmatisation

based on their race, sexuality, gender, sex, medical conditions, mental conditions or any other matters that are part of their nature;

On International Agreements and Data Transfers

- Governments need international cooperation to fight terrorism and global crime;
- Governments should only be authorised to share personal data in circumstances

where it’s strictly necessary and proportional;

- Governments should be transparent with their data transfer conventions in accordance with public international agreements and legislation;

On Accountability and Enforcement

- Governments and private entities cannot be trusted to respect privacy or to handle sensitive data appropriately without proper legislation.

LYMEC calls for:

On Big Data and Data Autonomy

- The EU to collaborate with Internet standards bodies to develop a common data

mobility standard and establish an EU-wide data processor registry, with compliance mandated for large data processors, to ensure individuals can effectively access, review, modify, and delete their personal data;

- The Council of Europe to pass a new Convention to strengthen individual privacy rights;

On Chat Control and Surveillance

- An unequivocal rejection of any legislation opening the door to chat control by LYMEC, ALDE, and its Member Parties and Organisations;
- The LYMEC bureau to launch an awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of surveillance technology being weaponized against democratic movements and

marginalized communities;

- LYMEC, ALDE, and its Member Parties and Organisations, to fight against any form of chat control or other disproportionate surveillance measures at every step of

its possible introduction;

- LYMEC and ALDE to campaign against the current CSAM Regulation proposal;
- The EU to prohibit any indiscriminate scanning of private communication by any

public or private institution;

- A lean oversight structure using existing European Data Protection bodies rather

than new institutions or permanent taskforces;

- ALDE-PACE to pursue an unequivocal rejection of indiscriminate Chat Control and Surveillance;
- The Council of Europe to pass a new Convention to prohibit any indiscriminate

Chat Control and Surveillance;

On Encryption and Cybersecurity

- The EU to introduce comprehensive legislation to protect encryption technology

and its use, and to fund research in new methods proofed against possible quantum computing breakthroughs;

- The EU to prohibit Member States mandating backdoors in encryptions;

On Identity Verification and Biometrics

- LYMEC, ALDE, and its Member Parties and Organisations, to fight against draconian Identity Verification legislation or schemes;
- The EU to introduce comprehensive legislation to protect personal data such as,

  but not limited to: identifying information, genetic information, medical records, medical conditions, mental conditions, or any other matters concerning

  to one's nature;
- The EU to prohibit Member States introducing mandatory identity verification schemes on websites;

On International Agreements and Data Transfers

- The EU to introduce comprehensive legislation on personal data transfers to foreign entities;
- The EU to prohibit personal data transfers to foreign entities without due cause;
- The EU to homogenise and standardise personal data transfer regulations and

agreements across its member states and to foreign entities;

- The EU to reconsider its PNR and other international agreements on personal data

  transfers;

On Accountability and Enforcement

- The Court of Justice of the European Union to hold European governments and the

  European Commission accountable, including through prosecution, if citizens' or

  allied government officials' communications are intercepted in any manner

inconsistent with current law and agreements;

- The EU to introduce legislation against companies and governments violating privacy laws with meaningful penalties, including fines scaled to revenue and

criminal liability for egregious or repeated violations

2.62 No Freedom Without Equality: Tackling Transphobia and Discrimination Across Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jonge Democraten, Alliance Youth, Young Green Liberals (Switzerland)

Passed Autumn 2025

Co-signed by: Unge Venstre (Norway), JNC (Catalonia), Momentum TizenX (Hungary), Silvia Fernandez (IMS), Young Liberals (UK), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark),

Jongliberalen

(Belgium), Liberala ungdomsförbundet (Sweden), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (Sweden), JULIS (Germany)

Considering that:

- across Europe, transgender people are facing an uprise in discrimination, legal

uncertainty, and political hostility;

- recent developments, such as the UK Supreme Court's ruling limiting the definition of "woman" under equality law, and a surge in transphobic rhetoric among politicians in several EU Member States, highlight an alarming rollback in trans rights;
- Far-right parties and ultra-conservative groups have publicly used terms such as

'transgender brainwashing' and 'queer experiments' to stigmatise transgender and

gender-diverse individuals

- Single issue 'LGB' groups which focus exclusively on advocating against Transgender rights under the guise of 'protecting LGB' rights are spreading across Europe with the aim of enacting explicitly anti-transgender laws
- these rhetorical attacks are part of a broad, internationally coordinated conservative agenda using trans people as scapegoats;
- these rhetorical and legal setbacks result in concrete threats against trans people.

Recognising that:

- equality, dignity, and respect are founding liberal values which must apply to all individuals regardless of gender identity or expression;
- recent years have seen a considerable uptick in discrimination, hostility, and legal uncertainty for transgender people across Europe, including:
  - A rise in transphobic rhetoric among politicians in many EU Member States, including increased hate speech reported in countries such as Spain, Sweden, Croatia, Ireland, Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, and Portugal.

- European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) surveys showing that although the social acceptance of LGBTIQ+ people has increased overall, the incidence of hate-motivated harassment, physical and sexual attacks, particularly against trans, non-binary, and intersex people, is also increasing in many Member States.
- An overall regression in the protection of trans people's fundamental rights across Europe, as documented by the NGO TGEU in its 2025 Trans Rights Index.
- many European countries still lack adequate legal frameworks or have burdensome

medical and diagnostic requirements for legal gender recognition;

- Gender affirming healthcare such as hormone replacement therapy has been proven

repeatedly to improve the quality of life and mental health of transgender people

- public services, including schools and health services amongst other institutions, often fail to meet the needs of transgender people, leading to discrimination, exclusion and marginalisation.

Reaffirms that:

- liberal movements must continue to champion the rights of transgender people as

an integral part of defending freedom, equality, and human dignity across Europe;

- we believe that liberals must respond decisively to defend freedom, equality, and human dignity for all.

Calls for:

- The European Commission to encourage and support Member States in the development and implementation of concrete national actions, guided by the objectives set out in the European Commission's LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2026 - 2030, with a specific focus on transgender inclusion, and to regularly monitor

progress in eliminating systemic bias and discrimination at the national level.

- Member States to develop national action plans for trans inclusion with clear timelines, accountability mechanisms, and measurable outcomes;
- the reform and modernisation of gender recognition laws across Europe to establish simple, affordable, and transparent administrative procedures based on statutory declaration;
- the abolition of the obligation to provide medical or psychiatric expertise for the legal gender recognition procedure;
- European governments to work to improve the availability of gender affirming health care, including but not limited to hormone replacement therapy for transgender, gender non-conforming, and gender dysphoric patients
- health services excluding the pathologisation of trans identities;

- European governments and institutions to promote inclusive education and to implement comprehensive anti-bullying policies;
- public services that are designed and reviewed to meet the needs of transgender

and gender-diverse people;

- the European Commission and Member States to condemn and counter the spread of

transphobic disinformation and hate speech, especially through anti-discrimination legal norms;

- governments to support independent research and civil society initiatives documenting discrimination and violence against trans people;
- Member States to collect disaggregated data and establish indicators to monitor

progress on trans inclusion, including access to legal recognition, hate crime resolution, and inclusive education.

2.63 Towards a fairer and more efficient European asylum system

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge liberale NEOS (Austria)
Co-signers: Norges Unge Venstre (Norway), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (Catalonia), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Jongliberalen (Belgium), Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (Spain), JOVD (Netherlands), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (Switzerland)

Passed Autumn 2025

This resolution archives resolution 2.27 and 2.39

As an organization of liberal youth parties, we recognize the importance of addressing the question of asylum policy with a clear and balanced approach that is

neither blindly idealistic nor driven by fear. While parties on the left often focus solely on our humanitarian responsibility, and those on the right only raise concerns regarding security and culture, we seek a rational, solution-oriented path that strengthens Europe. Our goal is not to close borders, but to develop an asylum policy

that promotes integration, safeguards public order, and upholds European values, all

the while providing protection to those fleeing persecution and war.

Noting that:

- While migration and asylum are closely associated terms, a clear distinction is necessary to effectively discuss and create policy regarding these issues.

  While

  migration encompasses a broader definition of people moving to another country

for reasons of education, work, or family, asylum is defined as those seeking protection on the basis of being persecuted due to their religion, political beliefs, ethnicity or sexual orientation, and those fleeing from war and violence.

- Integration of admitted asylum seekers has not been as successful as was hoped at the onset of the refugee crisis in 2015. Labor force participation of those having arrived from the MENA region, Somalia, or Afghanistan is low [1][2][3],

cultural assimilation has been slow, and criminality of these groups is at a significantly elevated level compared to nationals, or migrants from most other

regions [4][5][6][7].

Believing that:

- We have a moral responsibility towards those fleeing war, famine, and persecution.
- While certain groups of asylum seekers may face challenges integrating into the

  labor market due to discrimination and lack of access to education, migrants

  contribute significantly to Europe's economy and social fabric in the long term.

- Providing asylum to those with a justified claim must be a shared responsibility among member states.
- Cooperation between member states will yield fairer and more efficient results, compared to certain member states having to shoulder a disproportionate burden

due to their geographic location, undercutting one another to make the country

unattractive to asylum seekers, or attempting to repatriate denied asylum claimants on their own.

- Europe will continue to attract many millions of migrants, due to its quality of life, job opportunities, welfare systems, and not least of all, the often desolate situation in origin countries. Of these millions, many will attempt to migrate on the grounds of asylum. Having efficient and well-functioning legislation is crucial to being able to help those deserving our protection, while quickly turning away those without a justified claim to asylum.
- The conviction to help people in need is juxtaposed with the practical consideration that we do not have an unlimited capacity for accepting asylum seekers within the EU and associated states. To help those most desperately in need of protection and deliver effective assistance, we must keep the number of people claiming asylum in the EU and associated states at a manageable level.

LYMEC - European Liberal Youth calls for:

- Harmonizing asylum procedures across member and associated states to enable

faster processing of asylum claims.

- all European asylum procedures to uphold the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

and the Refugee Convention, whereby efficiency goes hand in hand with humane

reception and fair procedures. Recognised refugees should have access to language training, education, and work to support their integration and participation in European society.

- A fair distribution of all refugees between member and associated states and suspension of the option for member states to provide only financial or organizational support instead of accepting asylum seekers, as this would once

again lead to an unsolidary distribution of those in need of protection.

- Registering all asylum claimants at the external border without fail to accurately document their entry date and travel history, facilitate their distribution among member and associated states, and enable the immediate

rejection of claimants who are clearly ineligible for asylum.

- A residence obligation for the asylum seeker in the country that is responsible for processing the asylum claim.
- Intensify efforts to sign agreements on returning asylum seekers who have been

denied asylum, or have been stripped of their asylum status with their destination countries or safe third countries, who signal readiness to accept these persons.

- If a country of origin persistently refuses to cooperate on the return of its citizens, the European Union should stop its development cooperation and review trade relations with that country, applying conditionality through diplomatic pressure and targeted incentives while maintaining projects that promote human

rights, democratic institutions, and local economic opportunities.

- The revocation of protection status if the applicant travels to their home country, or another non-EU or non-associated country.
- The suspension of the asylum claim if the applicant leaves the country processing the claim.
- The expulsion of persons with a legally binding negative decision on their need for protection within one week.
- Effective implementation of the denial or revocation of asylum protection in cases of serious crimes under Articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR.
- Stronger cooperation and joint action by Member and associated States in the

  fight against human smuggling, a criminal and morally repugnant enterprise

  behind unacceptable and well-documented cases of human suffering and death on

European territory and beyond.

- Increased efforts to further professionalize Frontex, in order to better protect the external borders while showing the utmost respect for human life and health.
- An increased focus on providing protection to people in safe places of the region from which asylum seekers are fleeing, for reasons of being more accessible, lessening the reliance on human smuggling to gain protection, being

  significantly more cost-effective, and allowing for a quick return home once the

reasons for claiming asylum subside.

- Strengthen and accelerate the EU's efforts to conclude return agreements, obliged to leave, with destination countries or safe third countries that are willing to cooperate, enabling effective repatriations of individuals who have been denied or lost their asylum status. Such agreements should include incentives for partner countries, such as easier access to working visa for highly skilled or needed professionals, or increased development aid.
- The possibility of comprehensive language and vocational training programs made

  in partnership with the private sector for all those granted asylum to ensure successful integration into the workforce and full participation in European society, as part of a broader effort to equip refugees with the necessary skills

  should they resettle. These programs should prioritize long-term employability,

  access to education, and skills development to reduce dependency on social

  welfare and help avoid segregation in marginalized communities while maximising

  economic potential.
- Addressing the causes of asylum migration and not only the consequences that are

  visible in Europe.

2.64 Preserving Democracy and Protecting European Values through the new EU Budget

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, Mladi Pokreta slobodnih građana

Passed Autumn 2025

Co-sponsored by: Alliance Youth, Arthur Wu (IMS), Attīstībai Youth, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund, Gibanje Svoboda Mladi, For Youth!, Jonge Democraten, Jongliberalen, Jóvenes de Ciudadanos, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, USR Tineret, Mladi hrvatski liberali, Momentum TizenX, Nowoczesna Youth, Radikal Ungdom, Young Green Liberals Switzerland, Youth Forum of Naša stranka, Young

Liberals, Young Progressive Slovakia Considering that:

- In times of heated political debate and increased polarisation, the pressure on civil society increased both by the means of extremist rhetoric and accusations

of “national betrayal” or propaganda, as well as by the start reduction in foreign aid.

- Beyond the EU budget, international public funding for democracy support has been reduced, including major cuts in USAID, the FCDO and Germany's BMZ aid streams, while national civic funding in Europe has declined as governments

prioritise defence and security spending, particularly within NATO member states.

Noting that:

- Eurosceptics and far-right Members of the European Parliament have launched attacks on civil society and NGOs under the false pretense of demanding higher scrutiny for EU spending.
- In several Member States, such as Hungary and Slovakia, political leaders have sought to discredit civil society, labelling it as “foreign-funded” or “propagandistic”, thereby undermining democracy and the rule of law.
- Europe has witnessed a growing crackdown on activists, with instances of the excessive use of force by police against those who exercise their right to peaceful protest, as well as harassment and physical threats targeting human-rights defenders and civil-society activists.

Believing that:

- A strong and independent civil society is indispensable to a liberal and democratic Europe, ensuring accountability, pluralism, and protection of fundamental rights within the European Union.
- Human rights and equality are not “niche” priorities or trading tokens in the EU budget negotiations, but the foundation of the European project, as enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

- Transparent, stable and directly managed EU funding mechanisms are the best safeguards against political interference or capture by illiberal governments.
- The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme has provided essential lifelines for organisations defending the rights of minorities and marginalised groups, including Muslims, Jewish and Roma communities, LGBTQIA+

people, migrants and refugees.

LYMEC therefore resolves to:

- Welcome the European Commission's current commitment to increase the overall budget for European values, democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms through

the newly established AgoraEU programme.

- Call on the European Commission and Member States to ensure that AgoraEU funding retains all key topics and objectives of the ongoing CERV programme (promoting equality and minority rights, improving citizen engagement and participation in democratic life, preventing gender-based violence and violence against under vulnerable groups, protect and promote Union Values), as well as to remain focused on defending democracy, individual rights, equality and media freedom,

without political interference.

- Recommend that the Commission establish a Civil Society Contact Point within AgoraEU to ensure inclusive access for grassroots organisations across Europe.
- Urge Member States to complement EU funds by maintaining or increasing national civic funding, and to strictly refrain from using "foreign agent" laws or administrative barriers that restrict NGO work.
- Urge that funding decisions remain transparent, depoliticised, and accessible to smaller and youth-led organisations through simplified application

processes and

stable operating funding and grant framework agreements.

- Advocate for EU diplomatic and budgetary leadership to counter the global decline in democracy assistance by restoring partnerships with the remaining

structures for U.S. foreign aid, as well as deepening ties with the FCDO and other liberal allies to strengthen transatlantic support for civic space.

- Defend civic space by ensuring that no EU funds are used to restrict NGOs, journalists, or activists, but rather to empower their independence.
- Promote independent media as a cornerstone of open societies and encourage targeted support to strengthen media pluralism and protect citizens from disinformation.

2.65 Equal marriage. Equal Europe.

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2026, Vienna, 19 April 2026
Chapter: Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Young Liberals (UK)
Co-signers: PSG Mladi, Young Green Liberals, Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka, Radikal Ungdom, Alliance Youth, Jonge Democraten, Gibanje Svoboda Mladi

---

Passed Spring 2026

Considering that:

- PWhilst 22 European states recognise same sex marriages, over half of all European states do not.
- Other regulated forms of partnerships, such as civil unions or registered partnerships, are available to same-sex couples in several member states, but often do not afford the same scope of rights as marriage.
- Some member states do not legally recognize same-sex relationships at all, and in some member, states including some which allow for civil unions, the constitution limits marriage to different-sex couples.
- Several European states who are currently applying for EU membership such as Ukraine, Montenegro and Türkiye fail either wholly or in part to provide legal recognition for same sex marriages and unions.
- Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is incompatible with liberal values.
- For many, the concept of marriage stills holds a particular cultural importance.
- The recent judgements in Fedotova v. Russia and Przybyszewska v. Poland have established that all European states owe an obligation to same sex couples to protect and recognise their legal partnerships.
- The free movement of individuals is at the core of the founding values of the EU.
- The right to privacy and a family life is protected by the European Convention on Human Rights

LYMEC believes:

- All Europeans must be able to exercise their rights regardless of their sexual orientation.
- Any attempt by the state to restrict who can marry who is an illegal attack on those rights.
- That subscribing to those principles should be a prerequisite for joining and participating fully in the European Union and other European bodies.
- Same-sex couples who have children through surrogacy, donors and other means deserve access to maternity and paternity leave, pay and rights.

LYMEC calls for:

- All EU member states to recognize same-sex couples who have married or entered in to a civil union, cohabitation or similar arrangement in other states, even if the member state does not itself perform such marriages or arrangements. The concerned arrangements should retain the same legal protection in all member states.
- All EU member states to introduce legislation to introduce equal rights for same-sex couples, including but not limited to recognising and allowing for same sex marriages and unions, affording those marriages and unions the same legal, familial rights as a heterosexual marriage or union, and removing any constitutional or legal discrimination against same sex couples
- The EU to introduce a chapter in to its Acquis communautaire requiring candidate states to prove that they will afford same-sex couples completely equal rights within a brief period of time after accession to the union, and an obligation to provide basic rights such as recognition of foreign same sex marriages and unions, the introduction of civil unions if not already in place, and the removal of all laws that explicitly forbid same sex marriages, unions and relationships.
- All European states that do not currently afford same-Sex couples equal rights to outline and pursue an immediate legislative pathway to satisfying their legal obligation to same sex couples
- All LYMEC members in states which do not currently afford same sex couples equal rights to lobby their mother party and others to change the law

Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology

3.01 Freedom of Scientific Research

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force

(Former 3.02 Prior to Paris 2021)

Innovation, Technology, Modernization of Society

Noting that:

- Science represents an opportunity to individuals, and to society as a whole.
- Scientific research and development is an occasion for creating new jobs and economic growth.
- Scientific research and development provides hope for people affected by genetic or chronic diseases.
- As a result of rapid advancement in scientific research, and in particular of the encouraging results of recent work with stem cells from human embryos, there exists today a genuine prospect that such research may result in cures for human diseases.
- In order to safeguard this research there must be adequate legislation, able both to safeguard respect for human dignity and prevent the imposition of moral or religious beliefs that might destroy the ability of scientists to advance the cause of human well-being.

Convinced that:

- Stem cell research has the potential to cure numerous diseases, especially curing some for which there is no cure today, and curing others more effectively than traditional treatments, thereby not only ease the suffering of many people but also ease the strain on increasingly expensive health care systems in Europe;

Recognising that:

- The human genome represents underlying unity of all human beings, and is the source of their natural dignity and diversity;

Reaffirming:

Once again the basic liberal principle that human beings must never be discriminated on the basis of their genetic characteristics; **Whereas:**

- Article 15 (3) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights lays down that the ratifying States "undertake to respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research";
- Article 12 lays down "the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health";

- General Comment 14 to said Article lays down the obligation of ratifying States "to respect, protect and fulfil" such rights.

Considering that:

- In many EU countries, scientific research is limited by ideological and moral conditions
- Stem cells and therapeutic cloning research is banned in some EU countries such as Germany, Austria, Ireland, Italy, and Portugal, meaning that there are no investments, publics or privates, in these sectors;
- General research funds and investments are very low in some EU countries, under 2% of GDP, insufficient to represent a growth potential;

The LYMEC Congress concludes that:

- Science must represent an opportunity for any individual that aims to enhance and improve his or her life, bringing a general benefit that the entire human race could enjoy as a result of his or her work.
- However, research in the field of human genetics must be carefully balanced against strict ethical and social constraints.
- Cloning human cells for reproductive reasons should remain banned, but all restrictions to human-cell cloning for therapeutic reasons should be removed.
- Human beings that may have been born so far as a result of cloning are human beings equal in rights to other human beings, including the right to privacy and protection from unwanted scientific research.
- Cloning techniques in the production of molecules, DNA, cells, tissues, organs and plants should be permitted across the EU
- All proposals aimed at the prohibition of scientific research on stem cells from human embryos for therapeutic reasons, either regarding the use of supernumerary embryos (otherwise to be destroyed) or the technique of cell nuclear transplant for the production of stem cells, should be rejected.

3.02 A Liberal Approach to Education in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force

(Former 3.04 Prior to Paris 2021)

Education, Students' Mobility

Noting that:

- The global health crisis which began in 2020 has led to radical changes in the way education is delivered at all levels and among all age groups
- The crisis has sped up the incorporation of technology into the education system and has led to great innovation among educators and learners
- However, the crisis has also exposed, and in many cases exacerbated, the inequalities which exist in the field of education

Believing that:

- Education is the foundation of a progressive society.
- Although the diversity of education within the European Union is in many ways a strength, the harmonization of some standards as well as common values would serve to strengthen the union and develop cooperation between the EU countries.

LYMEC reiterates its previous calls for the following educational reforms: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Considering:

- Early Childhood Education has an immense influence on the children's development and represents the foundation of knowledge and socialization skills.
- Reliable information on early childhood education and care (ECEC) systems in

Europe is essential to understand the challenges European countries are facing, what we can learn from each other and what solutions might be developed to meet the needs of the youngest members of society.

Welcoming:

- The establishment of and work by the network Eurydice and its report with Eurostat for the European Commission about key data on early childhood education and care in Europe.

LYMEC calls for:

- The promotion of more multilingual nurseries and pre-schools.
- The universal guarantee of a high quality first approach in education for young children so that the transition into primary school can easily be executed.
- Improvement in the five main aspects of ECEC: access, workforce (professionalization of ECEC staff), curriculum (developmental care, formative interactions, learning experiences, supportive assessment etc.)

- Pupils to be taught the European anthem in their language and, if possible, in English, French or German (the school would decide).

In order to have an equal system of early childhood education and care, LYMEC calls upon:

All the European countries to establish a pre-school year for 4-year-old children and to follow the goals of the European Commission.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Acknowledging that:

- Three main models of organization within compulsory education in European countries exist:
- First, single structure education which means no transition between primary and lower secondary education.
- Secondly, common core curriculum provision where all students progress to the lower secondary level where they follow the same general common core curriculum.
- Finally, differentiated lower secondary education. After successful completion of primary education, students are required to follow distinct educational pathways or specific types of schooling, either at the beginning or during lower secondary education.

LYMEC proposes:

- To aim for some harmonization between systems and promote one model which would be the differentiated lower secondary education in order to give opportunities to students to express their specific skills and knowledge at an early age.

Considering that:

- Primary education programs are typically designed to provide students with fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics (i.e. literacy and numeracy) and establish a solid foundation for learning and understanding core areas of knowledge, personal and social development, in preparation for lower secondary education.
- Age is typically the only entry requirement at this level. The customary or legal age of entry is usually not below 5 years old nor above 7 years old. This level typically lasts six years, although its duration can range between four and seven years.

LYMEC calls for:

- Maintaining legal entry to primary school between 5 and 7 years old in order to allow some flexibility
- The general promotion of a balanced 6 years each between primary and secondary education

Considering that:

- We need to have all children in primary education in the 21st century in the EU.
- Non-compulsory pre-primary education is increasingly provided free of charge. This clearly facilitates access to pre-primary education for all children and especially for those who belong to low income families. All these measures may explain the increasing participation in education at this level.

LYMEC calls for:

- European symbols, such as the anthem, the fag and a basic explanation of how the EU works to be taught.
- Backing free pre-primary education all over the EU because it can lead to more children in primary education.
- Coming up with a roadmap for making progressive steps towards free primary education. **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Considering that:

- The European Union provides European High schools, especially for the children of European employees, international ambassadors etc.
- The European Union has policies in primary education and has important policies and programs in higher education, but lacks action and policies in secondary education.

LYMEC Calls for:

- A common European set of guidelines for high schools in the member states. Creating a European sense of unity amongst young Europeans and helping all students realize the need, historical and current, for European unity across national borders.
- The introduction of more focus on critical thinking, either as a separate subject or through the curriculum and extracurricular activities offered by educational institutions.
- The implementation of a mandatory course on the European History, Institutions and main policy areas. **TERTIARY EDUCATION Considering that:**
- The Bologna process has come a long way in harmonizing the higher education system with regards to the well-known cycle structure of higher education. The system allows for easier exchange studying.
- The Erasmus+ program is mainly based on bilateral agreements. It mainly implies that you may study a part of your program at a partner university and credit for that period in your degree. The Erasmus+ program also revolves around activities such as sports. The Erasmus+ program costs some 2 billion euros yearly.
- There is no real competition among educational centres trying to incorporate the best students and professors.
- The budget of universities is determined by public administrations with few or no incentives by universities to strive for both public and private funds.
- The government heavily influences the curriculum in many European countries.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has vastly accelerated the move towards remote, student-led learning.
- The EU's NextGenerationEU programme places emphasis on the need for adults as well as young people to continue to upskill and develop their skill set.

LYMEC calls for:

- The establishment of a European Digital University (EDU), a European online university. The EDU would allow for online study all around Europe with a panEuropean approach.

- A greater supply of a wider array of education providers to fulfil the growing demand of students seeking higher education.
- A change in the funding of the European public universities to incorporate private funding with the aim to increase students' and researchers' possibilities, and accommodate it to the demands of the labour market.
- Greater freedom for universities within the EU to establish branches in other EU member states.
- An educational system based on incentives and promotion of excellence inside and outside the university.
- Effective policies to increase the mobility of students and researchers around Europe, being English the common second language.
- Erasmus and Erasmus + to become mandatory and offer suitable programs for higher education.
- Considering more inter-institutional harmonisation instead of bilateral agreements. This would allow students to more freely choose between different educational institutions.
- Greater harmonisation when it comes to grades, semester length, in order to increase mobility between different universities and increase screening of job-seekers
- An expansion of Europe's outreach in education to keep up with globalisation.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Considering:

- In most EU countries, vocational education is still under prioritised compared to studying.
- The quality of some jobs in countries of eastern Europe are considered lower by the countries of western Europe because of the bad reputation of vocational training.
- The European Union has taken the right step with the Copenhagen Process. Yet most of the points of this process have not been put into practice. The differences of education between countries are still too important.

LYMEC calls for:

- Harmonizing the standards of training to minimize the differences between the EU-countries.
- Enabling the recognition of all the vocational training from European countries within the EU.
- Erasmus+ programmes are to be extended to students at all educational levels.
- Those enrolled in vocational tertiary education to be given student status throughout the EU, enabling them to follow courses in, move to and live and study in other EU Member States.
- Students in vocational tertiary education and other forms of education which require the students to do an internship or exchange abroad should be enabled and encouraged to do so abroad under the Erasmus+ programme.

EU COMPETENCIES IN EDUCATION

Considering:

- Per Art. 6 TFEU, the EU has supporting competences only in the field of education, meaning that it can support, coordinate of complement the actions of Member States
- Regardless of this limited competence, the EU can do more to promote and support education across the EU, particularly in the context of the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan

LYMEC calls for:

- Creation of a specific budget line for education in the EU budget.
- Increased investment in national educational systems with a new investment plan at European level available in/for the Members States.

Increased spending at a Member State level in policies related to Education

- Creation of a benchmarking system regarding education with an EU educational scoreboard to highlight financial and structural weaknesses and propose improvements.
- Provide students and teachers with modern hardware and software, and greater training for teachers in how to use these resources effectively.
- The promotion of distance learning and massive open online courses (MOOCs).
- The use of technology to interconnect and interlink educational structures throughout the EU in order to enhance students mobility and improve exchanges across the EU. The use of ICT in education should always be a means to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness, and never be an end in itself.
- The development of digital teaching and research cooperation with European universities.
- EU to support diplomatic efforts with partner countries through bilateral and multilateral engagement in relation to incidents of concern involving threats or attacks on academic freedom.

3.03 Science not Stigma: Ending the Blood Ban

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2012, Copenhagen, 13 May 2012
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force

(Former 3.06 Prior to Paris 2021)

Modernization of Society Proposed by: LY, UK **LYMEC Congress notes that:**

1) In many European countries, men who have had protected sex with men (MSM) face lifetime bans on donating blood
2) Women who have sex with MSM can often face lesser bans, making bans inconsistent.
3) Heterosexual men and women who have had unprotected sex in a high-risk HIV country can face lesser bans then MSM 4. d) Many European countries currently suffer from low levels of blood stock, particularly for certain blood types.

LYMEC Congress believes that:

- The safety and well-being of those who require blood transfusions should always be paramount.
- Low blood stocks may put future lives at risk.

The restrictions placed on the MSM group are inconsistent with the restrictions placed on other high risk groups, such as those who have had sexual activity in Sub-Saharan Africa or people who have bought sex.

- The criteria for being eligible to give blood should be based on the risk posed by the sexual behaviour of the individual, not their sexuality.
- Each blood donation should be subject to the most sensitive forms of screening available, regardless of the sexuality of the donor.
- There is no scientific evidence to show the blood of MSM is more likely to be infected than blood of heterosexual sexually active individuals.
- The stigma attached to MSM has no basis in fact.
- Any outright blood donation bans on MSM or Women who have sex with MSM should be removed

LYMEC Congress calls for:

- Blood donations to be subject to thorough and advanced screening available to ensure minimal risk of transfusion-transmitted infections.
- Action to be taken to put pressure on the European Union to urge countries to remove restrictions and allow healthcare institutions to develop their own guidelines.

3.04 Urgent Resolution on Mobility in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Extraordinary Congress 2008, Brussels, 22 November 2008
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force

(Former 3.12 Prior to Paris 2021) Social Rights

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress

Assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

Noting that:

- Youth and student mobility is essential for Europe
- Student mobility is still marginal in some areas of Europe
- Workers' mobility across Europe would benefit from being streamlined and simplified
- Service mobility still has not reached its full potential
- Mobility plays an important role in forming a European identity

Acknowledging that:

Mobility is becoming increasingly important for educational policymaker, universities and colleges, they are also placing more and more emphasis on the importance of internationalisation

- The current iteration of the Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) envisages 10 million participants over the coming six years.
- A lot of students do not have an opportunity to participate in Erasmus for social, financial or other reasons. Also, since the United Kingdom left the European Union, students in Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland will be unable to participate in the Erasmus programme.
- Citizens should be provided the possibility of learning at least two European languages apart from their mother tongue
- Today workers' mobility is limited by bureaucracy and hidden protectionist measures that prevent the citizens from working in other countries

Considering that:

- The cost of mobility is still a limiting factor for citizens. Visa procedures are often unclear, time consuming, expensive and very bureaucratic. Extreme requirements such as proof of a large sum of money before travelling can make the visa application impossible, especially for young people involved in youth work coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Current visa systems recognize different categories of visas, such as business, tourism and other. However, the visa system does not reflect an important category of users, different from the existing ones, namely youth workers and volunteers.
- The Services Directive is not sufficient in providing true cross-border services

Concludes that:

- LYMEC should actively work to find solutions for young people that have not been given the opportunity to participate in Erasmus or other exchange programmes (e.g. virtual Erasmus or virtual mobility schemes)
- LYMEC calls for the European Union and its member states to further facilitate mobility of workers by cutting red tape and ceasing hidden protectionist measures
- LYMEC calls for the immediate abolishment of the transitional periods restricting workers from the new member states to work freely within the Union
- LYMEC strives for affordable mobility within Europe by means of a competitive market for transportation

Also

- LYMEC calls on the European Union to establish a visa category for youth workers and volunteers.
- LYMEC also asks for the implementation of the Schengen agreement: free movement of people carrying a Schengen visa should be allowed. Countries who signed the Schengen agreement should not be allowed to limit entries and exits when issuing the needed visa.
- Visa costs should reflect the real costs, not being regarded as an admission fee. Further on, application procedures should be transparent, fast and according to rules set and published.

3.05 Unified Grading System for Schools and Institutions of Higher Education – Easy,

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2009, Rome, 10 May 2009
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force

Transparent, Comparable

(Former 3.13 Prior to Paris 2021)

Education, Modernization of Society

LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,

The LYMEC Congress

Whereas

- There are many different grading systems in the EU member states and the rest of the world.
- Pupils and especially students studying in a foreign country often have to convert their grades into the foreign grade system, which in most cases can't be done without problems.

Considering

- That international mobility is of vital importance for the European Union and its goals in basic and higher education.
- That students' and pupils' international mobility has to be encouraged.
- That the international comparability of grades is getting more and more important.
- That a grading system based on percentages is coherent in all states.

Concludes

- That we need an inter-institutional and international standardization of the grading systems.
- That every performance evaluation should be done based on percentage (Anglo-Saxon model). The maximum outcome is 100 percent.
- Traditional grading systems can be used additionally but should be calculated on the base of the unified system.

3.06 Let Justice Between Generations Prevail!

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2011, Utrecht, 7 May 2011
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: LYMEC Bureau

(Former 3.16 Prior to Paris 2021)

Social Rights

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6th -8th of May 2011

Massive changes currently occur in our societies: people get older and older on average, while due to reduced birth rates, less and less young people are entering the labour market. Demographic change will thus be one of the biggest challenges in Europe in the years and decades to come, with European societies shrinking population wise, and citizens on average becoming older.

Considering that

- the share of the total population aged 65 years or older in the European Union is projected to nearly double from the current 17.1% to 30 % by the mid of the century
- costs of pension systems across the Union will therefore sharply rise
- pressure on health care systems will consequently increase
- the working-age population will decline steadily, as will overall population.
- In the coming decades, the population of Bulgaria is projected to decrease by almost 40% from 8 to 5 million, Germany's population will decrease by around 12 million (from 82 to 70 million) and Lithuania's population will shrink from 3,5 million to less than 2,5 million citizens.
- While some other parts of the Union will be able to enjoy more or less stable population levels, everybody will have to find ways to stay innovative and competitive with an aging population. Care for older people will also be one of the top challenges facing us in the nearer future.

Acknowledging that:

- 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
- Due to the connection through a single currency, there at the same time is a mutual interest in responsible politics regarding the field of social security as to ensure stable budgets across the Union
- A diminishing percentage of young voters means less influence of the younger generations on policy-making in the future
- The gradual shift in society that leads to a reversal of the age pyramid means that it is necessary to make reforms now, as it will become hard to impossible at a later time.

Appalled by

- the unsustainably high and still rising levels of sovereign debt of most Member States
- the worrying tendency to solve each and every political challenge by incurring more sovereign debt, thus seriously depriving coming generations of possibilities
- the irresponsible proposals of some to also allow the EU level to incur debt
- the unsustainable design and setup of pension systems in many member states
- the lack of future-proof long-time care insurance across many member states

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for

- Member States to stop incurring debt which will fall on the shoulders of coming generations and instead aim for balanced and surplus budgets
- self-commitment of governments to add a debt-brake to their respective constitutions in order to safeguard the mid-term process of first shrinking and then vanishing budget deficits
- the European Parliament and national governments to maintain the ban of EU debt-creation enshrined in the Treaties
- a thorough review of pension and healthcare systems in Member States in order to make them demography-proof
- where necessary, a move from pay-as-you-go to capital cover systems in social security
- eliminating subsidies of early retirement and encourage more people to stay active in working life longer
- overall measures to make the average pension age higher, while giving people more flexibility and choice when they as individuals want to enter pension age, thus abolishing mandatory pension ages
- political parties to keep in mind the need to also elect young people into parliament
- the creation of legal possibilities to migrate into the European Union
- increasing the efficiency of healthcare systems across the EU by increased cooperation
- Justice between generations needs to prevail in order to maintain stability, solidarity and peace in society. Only thorough reforms now can ensure that coming generations will be able to enjoy the possibilities to shape their own life-realities as previous generations of Europeans have done.

3.07 A Truly Global Bologna Process

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2012, Sofia, 14 October 2012
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter International

(Former 3.17 Prior to Paris 2021)

Education, Modernization of Society, Future of Europe

Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Congress, 12th0 – 14th of October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

The occurrence of the Grand Tour, a traditional trip of Europe undertaken by upper-class Europeans as an educational rite of passage, can be traced back to the 17th century. Prosperous citizens travelled across the continent to study art, history and bring back their impressions for far away countries, cultures and languages. In this age, travel is easy even for less privileged citizens and educational journeys occur constantly around the world. The introduction of the Bologna Process has enabled students to move between countries and universities for the purpose of study, but the benefits that could come from an enlargement of this process are enormous.

Considering

- that we live in a highly globalized world where prosperity and growth to a great extent depends on the mobility of both citizens and commodities.
- that one of the keys to success in a globalized world is the knowledge and understanding of such a world.
- that language skills and intercultural competencies are of increasing importance among employers, not least within the European Union.

Recognizing

- That despite the obvious benefits of mobility of citizens (especially students and young people) the extent to which European students study, work or do internships abroad varies between countries, cities and universities.
- Furthermore, the current economic instabilities and labour market situation in Europe, as well as an ageing population, makes the case for mobile citizens even more pressing.
- Mobility of students between signatories of the Bologna Accords and non-signatories is impeded.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for

- Further development of cooperation between universities within the EU, but also across the world, in establishing exchange projects and placement projects as the first step in a Global Bologna Process.
- The universities to better and more effectively promote and inform students of the importance of international experience and study abroad programmes.
- Raising the quality of universities in Europe by developing a plan to improve the pedagogical working methods in all institutions.

- The creation of a common European Higher Education Area, where academic degrees and quality of education are comparable in Europe.
- Increased amount of scholarships available for non-Union students for studies within the European Union.
- The promotion of an internationally competitive education area in Europe.
- Making the European universities more attractive to the countries beyond Europe's borders.

3.08 Open your mind with open access

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2013, Bucharest, 17 November 2013
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: LHG

(Former 3.20 Prior to Paris 2021)

Considering that

- In the field of academic literature there are only a few big publishers like

„Elsevier“ and there is no competition in the sector,

- Young academics are facing a dilemma: One the one hand they have to publish in high quality journals, on the other hand they lose all rights concerning the publication, which sometimes leads to absurdities (i.e. not being able to present the work on one's own website)
- Publicly financed research is baring twice the cost: Taxpayers can only access the academic literature they financed by buying the publications

Concluding that

- Open access is a chance for science as a whole: Researchers freely publish their academic works independently from big publishing companies, without enormous costs and accessible for everyone.
- At the same time, university students get free access to academic literature and don't have to rely on licenses bought by universities or libraries.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth demands

- The installation of an independent co-publishing right for researchers to release the post-print version of their works twelve months after the release of the original print. Individual contracts between the researcher and the publisher reducing this time period are appreciated.
- An obligatory open-access-publication of works funded on public finances.
- International contract-cooperation between universities, research facilities and libraries concerning the purchase of licenses from publishers.

3.09 A welcoming student culture – establish language courses for refugees

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force

(Former 3.22 Prior to Paris 2021)

Keywords: refugees, language courses, higher education system, integration

Noting that:

- Demographic and migratory trends mean that Europe will face the challenge of integrating large numbers of refugees in the coming decades.
- Demographic changes across Europe can be addressed by properly employing human capital. At present a lot of this capital is wasted due to a lack of concrete measures aimed at integrating refugees into education and the workforce.
- The correct implementation of these measures can yield higher productivity and integration, provided a common strategy is employed across all 27 member states

Considering that:

- Cooperation between all parts of society is absolutely necessary for complete integration of refugees. In particular, this includes colleges and universities.
- The integration process for the refugees has to start as soon as possible.
- Knowing the language of the host country is essential to a full integration since it allows a better integration on the labour market, a better understanding of one's rights and duties and a better monitoring of the educational path of one's children.
- Access to higher or further education opportunities for refugees is a crucial step towards ensuring rapid integration and successful long term outcomes for individuals

The European liberal youth:

- Therefore calls for the national governments of the EU-Members to offer refugees access to special language courses. At the very least, colleges and universities should provide rooms and equipment to voluntary language teachers. In addition, colleges and universities should actively consider supplying interpreters to refugee students in the short term and changing the course language in order to give refugees the linguistic prerequisites to be included in education as soon as possible. The funding for such actions ought to be funded by EU institutions.
- Calls for Europe's colleges and universities to give ECTS-points to students pursuing a Certificate in Education or in their national language for teaching their national language to refugees. With these opportunities and the realization of such language courses, students will gain more practical experience.
- Furthermore, calls for Europe's colleges and universities to ensure that regular students still get sufficient access to language courses without any disadvantages due to the support provided to refugees. Online or face-to-face classes must be included.

LYMEC additionally proposes:

An innovative four-stage plan aimed at tackling these issues: The SETL Program's four key pillars endeavour to take a holistic approach in addressing the refugee situation. This is achieved through measures assisting refugees before, during and after their course begins.

S – Support. Particularly during their studies, refugees need a dedicated support network tasked with acting on their behalf and offering specialist advice. This could be achieved through a counselling service, or an allowance for more contact hours on a degree course. Additionally, Universities could utilize innovative e-learning

platforms such as the Erasmus Program's online linguistic support. This could be achieved through a counselling service, or an allowance for more contact hours on a degree course. Additionally, Universities could utilize innovative e-learning platforms such as the Erasmus Program's online linguistic support, striving to get student associations in each university involved in the program.

E – Employment. Being one of the ultimate aims of University, it is crucial that refugees have the opportunity to enter the labour market with an equal chance of employment. A dedicated network of refugees both in employment and as employers around Europe could be established, and a refugee fair could be held yearly in conjunction with this. Any University employment service could also receive training in how to advertise refugees to potential employers, and in how to create an understanding that refugees can be a valuable asset to respective employers.

T – Training. Refugees may enter a country with no or limited skills, and so catch-up training could be provided to study effectively. This could be carried out both initially during the often-long refugee status waiting period and continuously during their period of study.

L - Learning. All the additional support previously outlined should ease the transition into study and provide a base of knowledge and guidance upon which academic study can be built. Dedicated courses built with refugees in mind could prove hugely beneficial, and may even persuade more refugees to enter tertiary education in the first place. More contact hours and lower course monetary requirements are just two possible examples.

In addition to the SETL Program, legislators must also address the recognition process concerned with previously held qualifications, and look to standardize refugee status waiting times so that courses with standard timeframes can be offered during this period. Currently this recognition process is massively disjointed, varying hugely across all member states

3.10 Youth Employment in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force

(Former 3.23 Prior to Paris 2021)

This resolution merges 3.23 Resolution on Youth Unemployment and 3.24 The role of Education in the Fight against Youth unemployment

Noting that:

- In April 2021, the youth unemployment rate across the EU was 17.1%, more than double the general unemployment rate of 7.3%. In some EU Member States, the rate of youth unemployment reached nearly 40%.
- Although unemployment levels are usually largely related to the general business cycle, the global recession associated with the Covid-19 pandemic has hit young people the hardest and has had long term consequences for this cohort, especially those without proper vocational education or those that are unable to compete due to discrimination or limitations. In particular, the COVID 19 pandemic has increased youth unemployment in low paid and already unstable sectors such as retail and hospitality.
- The European commission has called on Member States to draw up national plans to combat youth unemployment.
- European government investments are currently being encouraged to create state sponsored jobs for youth.

Considering:

- Unemployment at a young age is a predictor for unemployment and welfare dependence later in life. The cycle of unemployment or precarious employment can pass generation to generation if interventions are not made or opportunities made available to access work.
- Achieving decent work for young people is a critical element in poverty eradication and sustainable development for future generations.
- The government should support policies that promote a sustainable future.
- Intergenerational solidarity is not always a priority for several labor unions or several political parties.
- Not being in employment, education or training has a tangible negative impact on wider society, leading to social exclusion and underproductivity ● That pan-European internship and training possibilities are lacking.

Acknowledging:

- Record youth unemployment from the long term impacts of pandemic and global recession threaten the long-term future of our communities.
- The current young generation is the best educated and highest skilled youth ever.
- There is a widespread disparity in youth unemployment within Europe, with over 50 percent in Spain and Greece and less than 10 percent in Germany.

- A general trend within Europe exists with more youth unemployment than in the general population.
- Specific groups are under particular hardship based on discrimination and social exclusion, such as those in the LGBTQIA+ community, immigrants, ethnic minorities, those with disabilities and socially disadvantaged youth.
- Education should be tailored to job market demands and labour market policies should encourage new jobs to be created under proper conditions.

Calls for:

- LYMEC to focus on the problem of youth unemployment and the broad differences within Europe, to seek a solution to this pressing issue.
- LYMEC to focus and advocate on a European level for the removal of barriers; seeing to actions such as the mutual recognition of vocational and academic degrees, changing priority rules, apprenticeships, reformed employment services and better support in the transition; for entry on the job market by removing protectionist policies and supporting a single European Job Market.
- LYMEC to advocate for the sharing of best practices on how to integrate young immigrants and refugees into the European labor market, furthering a view of the refugee crisis as an opportunity in the making, and call for more coordination on how the education system needs to reflect the change in the European population. Recognizing degrees from outside of the EU calls for better and shared instruments for validating the degrees of incoming laborers to the EU labor market. And for LYMEC to advocate for a flexible labor market with lower thresholds, which are essential for creating both mobility and security.
- LYMEC to back the creation of more internship possibilities connecting young people all over Europe and offering them new opportunities.
- LYMEC to advocate for networks of start-up entrepreneurs and young chambers of commerce to be consulted when the European agenda on employment and entrepreneurship is set.
- LYMEC to call for the European institutions to designate more high risk funding to young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial networks in connection to academic institutions.
- LYMEC to promote liberal solutions to youth unemployment.
- LYMEC to advocate in favour of long-term reforms in the field of education allowing the reconnection between studies and the labour market, such as introducing dual vocational training programs that combine school and workplace learning

3.11 Resolution on Countering Radicalisation of Youth in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2016, Vienna, 30 April 2016
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: FCY

(Former 3.25 Prior to Paris 2021) Keywords: radicalisation, youth, exclusion

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna; Austria on April 29-30 2016

Considering:

- The recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels and the rise of extreme ideologies in Europe.
- The rise of radical movements is a severe security threat in Europe.
- Young people are an important group to focus on in the battle against radicalisation.
- That the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security laid great emphasis on the role played by young people in promoting peace and development and countering the spread of radicalisation

Believing:

- Radicalisation is defined as the ideological struggle in which individuals and groups adopt increasingly extreme views against - and intention to overthrow

  - the European model (focused on fundamental rights and minority rights) in favor of their own views.
- Among other key actors, youth can play a positive role in preventing and fighting against radicalisation and violent extremism.
- Young people are an important group to focus on in the battle against radicalisation.
- Preventing radicalisation is a key in preventing violent extremism and terrorism
- Factors that provide fertile ground for radicalisation, starting with racism and discrimination, but also consisting of lawlessness and areas with widespread organized crime, should be a focus of counter radicalisation efforts.
- Radicalisation does not occur only within a single religion or ideology.
- Social, cultural and economic integration plays a key role in preventing extremism and especially violent extremism.
- Radicalisation and extremism cannot be solved solely with better border control
- That radicalisation is an international phenomenon and that lessons can be drawn from the experiences of many other parts of the world;

LYMEC calls for:

- More attention to be paid to preventative measures against social, economic and cultural exclusion.

- European and national investments in building capabilities and skills of young people through education in order to meet labour demand.
- Cooperation between non-governmental actors, private sector and public sector to facilitate and innovate inclusive projects and formulas for young people.
- Political leadership promoting a culture of respect, tolerance and acceptance.
- The implementation of measures to prevent ghettoisation in the EU
- The root causes of radicalisation to be better understood so that the international community can take appropriate measures to prevent young populations from being attracted by extreme religious speeches.

3.12 Joint degree Programs integration in Erasmus

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2017, Stockholm, 14 May 2017
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: FEL (Fédération des étudiants libéraux)

(Former 3.27 Prior to Paris 2021)

Noting that:

- Joint degrees are often the product of a bilateral contract between two institutions. It provides the students from the concerned institutions with the possibility of studying abroad within the framework of one and only one studying program elaborated by the student and both universities they shall attend during a full academic year.
- A select number of joint master degrees (“Erasmus Mundus degrees”) are currently being funded by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 cycle. These degrees can be the product of cooperation between both European and International universities. However, the list of bilaterally elaborated joint degrees is quite short (around 110).
- Greater synergies exist when it comes to PhDs or joint academic research programmes led bilaterally or multilaterally.
- We already have lists of Universities involved in the Erasmus + program.

Considering that:

- Many MEPs now believe the Erasmus+ program (as it is constructed today) has reached the initial goals its founding fathers had expected from it in the past. It must evolve and meet the current challenges our Union faces.
- If we are to debate on the principles underlying Erasmus+ as a whole, it was Erasmus' very goal to undertake thorough and exhaustive studies within particular philosophical domains conducted across several European

universities. A joint degree program is much more valuable in the labour market than an exchange program.

- Future cycles of the Erasmus+ programme could be used to further develop and entrench the joint degree programme model

LYMEC calls for:

- Transforming our current "exchange program" into a real and ambitious European academic framework.
- The widening of possibilities for joint degree programs, and greater funding in support of this aim
- The effective establishment of two options within the Erasmus+ framework for following courses an institution established in another Member State:
- Further measures to promote multilingualism, both in official and non-official EU languages, to ensure the number of young people who can take an Erasmus+ opportunity continues to grow.

- Launching a platform to facilitate the access of students to the joint degrees, which would give easy access to relevant information for students and prospective students
- EU agreements with third countries regulating the non-discriminatory access of EU students to their education facilities, effectively replacing existing bilateral agreements

3.13 License to Heal

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2017, Sofia, 14 October 2017
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jonge Democraten (JD), Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)

(Former 3.30 Prior to Paris 2021)

Considering that:

- A third of the world's population has limited access to essential medicines.
- Costs of new expensive medicines cause problems of accessibility also in developed European countries.
- According to research there is no correlation between the innovative power and profitability of a pharmaceutical company.
- The pharmaceutical industry is a billion-dollar business operating on an international level.
- The high prices of drugs threaten patients' right to treatment, and put health budgets under unsustainable pressure.
- About a quarter of the available drugs were discovered by knowledge institutions such as universities. The government finances medical scientific

research, but sets no conditions on the price and accessibility of the discovered medication.

- Pharmaceutical companies are often left free to ask high prices which cannot be accounted for by research and development costs, which are often covered majorly by the nation states
- The UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, provides valuable recommendations for governments and international institutions to address inexpedient inconsistencies between public health, medical innovation and the current research investment incentives and legal framework.
- The UN Human Rights Panel (A/HRC/32/L.23/Rev.1) recognizes access to medicines as a fundamental human right.
- The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution ((2016/2057(INI)) on how to improve access to medicines in Europe, highlighting numerous areas where member states can take immediate action.
- The European Union invests 1.6 billion euros in the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a partnership of the EU with the pharmaceutical industry, without requiring conditions directed at access to the resulting drugs.

Believing that:

- The human right to health and appropriate medical care is essential in sustaining societies.
- European Member States do not work sufficiently together, nor do they have the proper policies to handle this situation causing the international operating pharmaceutical industry to have a huge advantage in selling drugs for a certain price putting unnecessary strain on the accessibility of drugs.

- To achieve affordability and accessibility, all stakeholders in the development and purchasing of medicine need to take responsibility.
- It is necessary for countries to implement policies and collaborate with other countries to safeguard the accessibility of drugs.

Calls upon LYMEC and its MOs to:

- Stimulate European Member States to implement measures to better the accessibility of medicine.
- Stimulate European Member States to require research institutions to responsibly license new active pharmaceutical ingredients which are discovered by these institutions using public funding. Preferably by incorporating the following criteria in the license agreements:
- Require the licensee to be transparent about the added value and cost structure of a drug (including marketing costs, public R&D investments and tax rebates).
- To require the licensee to ensure access to the drug originating from such institutions by asking a responsible price
- Stimulate collaboration between different countries to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies regarding the pricing of innovative drugs to gain bargaining power and ensure their accessibility of medicine and the sustainability of healthcare systems.
- Stimulate the European Commission to take the following measures:
- Promote the accessibility of medicines in low- and middle-income countries by making market competition possible through non-exclusive licenses of European
- public research in these countries;
- Implement criteria for funding the Innovative Medicines Initiative. The Innovative
- Medicines Initiative should safeguard the access to the resulting drugs of this public-private partnership.
- Set stricter rules for the fair and balanced sale of drugs throughout the European Union without allowing artificial pricing-gaps and loopholes on a national level

3.14 5G wireless – let's start the future

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: JuLIS

(Former 3.32 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Noting that:

- Digitisation is the mega-topic of the 21st century. Thanks to mobile networks, people are not only connected throughout Europe but also worldwide.
- The successor of 4G (LTE) is called 5G. It enables completely new possibilities of connectivity between people and machines and will change our daily life in a positive way.
- The main intention in the development of 4G was to massively increase the bandwidth (up to 600Mbps). This enables the users to send high-resolution images and videos, among other things, in the shortest possible time.
- The focus of the 5G development is on low latency of under 1ms and fast-reaction data transfer of up to 10G/bits.

Considering that:

- Fast data transmission is important for many fields of the future. This is the only way to ensure that consecutive processes in automation in industry 4.0 and

5.0 can function in a coordinated manner.

- Thanks to 5G, hospital operations can be performed remotely, cars communicate with each other and warning of traffic jams, dangers or other obstacles, robots in the industry can be better and faster controlled and linked, interactive 360-degree live broadcasts can be streamed on VR glasses, and so on.
- The connection quality of 5G is the same as that of fiber optics - and this is achieved via wireless transmission.
- With the introduction of 5G, 500 billion devices are now available instead of 7 billion devices. This will be connected to mass Internet of Things devices.

Believing that:

- Network operators do their business primarily with high data rates. But the industry needs short latency times, high reliability, high security and high availability.
- The new mobile communications standard will drastically change the way we deal with technical products in the future.

LYMEC calls for:

- 5G must become the new mobile phone standard and its research and upcoming expansion from 2020 should become the goal of the countries in Europe.

- The expansion must be performed much more quickly and comprehensively than with previous mobile phone standards.
- Europe's competitiveness depends heavily on digitalisation. European countries must continue to invest in research and become pioneers in new technologies such as 5G.

3.15 Industry 5.0 – A European Initiative

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Julis

(Former 3.33 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Noting that:

- The European Institutions, especially the national states, are interested in promoting digitization. However, there are over 30 regional and national initiatives to the fourth industrial revolution. The European Commission only took action on this topic in April 2016, with the aim of presenting an attractive location for the digitized industry. The EU serves as a networking platform for national initiatives that meet twice a year in Brussels for a pan-European exchange, with the aim of creating a single digital single market.
- The Member States of the European Union have failed to realize economies of scale and economies of scope advantages as a result of the large number of initiatives. Moreover, the limited exchange of experiences between member states causes a fragmented and inefficient European digital market. As a result, the potential of digitization is only partially exploited by the European Union.
- Digitization would have been much more successful and much more effective for the digital economy of all Member States, if there was one single European initiative, this mistake should be avoided for future developments.

Considering that:

- Digitization is accelerating and bringing Industry 5.0 closer, a European initiative is essential, as it creates challenges that the European Union must prepare to take on a pioneering role.
- Artificial intelligence, which is the cornerstone of the move to Industry 5.0, is creating new privacy requirements, European standards will become necessary.
- It is highly questionable whether further national initiatives can form these indispensable European standards, much more will this be possible through a single initiative of the European Union.

Believing that:

- Due to increasing global competition, higher pressures are needed on the digital single market.
- The privacy of EU citizens must be a top priority. The European Union is the right contact when it comes to the digital rights of citizens.
- The European Union must work out solutions for global challenges for and with the member states.
- Europe needs an Industry 5.0 strategy. These include future challenges, but also eliminating omissions. This requires stronger support for the creation of a sound digital infrastructure, not only in major cities, but especially in rural areas.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Institutions to establish a joint initiative to tackle the challenges of Industry 5.0.
- Among other things, the nation states should provide more money for the expansion of the digital infrastructure. The promotion of private initiatives must be a conceivable option. The promotion of private-public partnerships should be encouraged as a sustainable option in the long-run.
- The European Commission should create a cell of intelligence that keeps an eye on opportunities and risks for the creation of a European digital market. In addition to the joint initiative of the European institutions, Member States should agree on a joint roadmap to be followed in the EU regarding digitization order to give substance to the ‘European initiative – Industry 5.0’.

3.16 Taking responsibility on protecting our health with vaccinations

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius, 13 October 2018
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: FCY

(Former 3.37 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Considering that:

- Vaccinations are an easy and affordable way of securing the health of EU citizens;
- The number of measles cases has been on the rise for the past few years in Europe;
- In a report published in 2011 The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control states that more effort should be put to ensuring the coverage of vaccinations among the EU citizens.

Believing that:

- Citizens all around Europe should commit to preventing contagious diseases
- All nations of the EU should encourage their populations to vaccinate
- The opposition against vaccinations is higher than before due to misleading information in the media.
- Failing to vaccinate one's children is a form of child neglect.
- It is highly important to use vaccinations as a preventive measure to tackle different kinds of diseases
- The population should be well informed on the risks of not having enough vaccinated people in our society

LYMEC calls for:

- Actions to be made to prevent any further damage and spreading of diseases
- Tackling false information relating to vaccinations
- The EU member states and commission to take action on making sure that sufficient coverage is met in the percentage of vaccinated individuals in the EU area
- All individuals living in the EU area to take responsibility for vaccinating themselves and their children.

3.17 Recognition of upper secondary qualifications across Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius, 13 October 2018
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: ELSN, CS

(Former 3.38 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Notes that:

- While the Bologna Process has greatly facilitated student mobility across Europe, several obstacles remain;
- To date, a process for mutual recognition of diplomas only exists for higher education (bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees);
- It is particularly difficult for students to have their upper secondary diplomas recognised, and the time it takes to get qualifications recognised varies widely between universities.
- The European Commission published a proposal for a Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education diplomas and the outcomes of learning periods abroad. The Recommendation was adopted by the Council in November 2018.

Considers that:

- Studying abroad is of great value to students as it e.g. increases students' cross-cultural awareness, improves foreign language proficiency and enhances career prospects;
- A common framework for recognising upper secondary diplomas would facilitate student mobility.

Calls upon:

- European countries to improve procedures for the mutual recognition of qualifications in EU Member States by establishing a European Education Area by 2025.

3.18 Secure Innovation, how to secure smart devices

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels, 6 April 2019
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: JOVD

(Former 3.40 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Noting that:

- Innovation is occurring at a fast and ever-increasing pace
- Many devices have become smart and part of the so-called 'internet of things', including televisions, watches, toothbrushes, and cars
- These devices have access to the internet in some way, and cybercriminals can thus gain access to these devices
- No firewalls or other security measures are generally installed on these devices to keep hackers out
- Vendors oftentimes do not update these devices after they have been sold, only offer updates for a very limited time, or only at additional cost or effort to the consumer

Considering that:

- These devices are therefore vulnerable to cyberattacks
- Consumers generally seem to be unaware of this fact
- The hacking of internet-connected devices can bring serious disruptions in the day-to-day lives of citizens, or even wider dangerous situations, such as causing grave accidents with automobiles.
- Hacking into devices such as cars can cause grave accidents to happen
- Digital security should be just as much of a consideration in product safety as the various other aspects covered under European regulation

LYMEC calls

- for the European Union to implement European product regulations to require producers to update internet-connected devices for their expected economic lifetime with no charge for the customer when the update is compulsory and related with cybersecurity matters and to take appropriate steps such as the installation of firewalls and the use of randomised default passwords to increase cybersecurity.

3.19 Tackling Cyber Attacks

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Policy Book Working Group

(Former 3.41 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress on 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Continuous cyber-attacks against states, public institutions, political parties, are conducted in order to change the political heading of EU countries
- Non-governmental organizations can also be vulnerable targets, be it for relations with a given member state, economic influence, political stances, etc.
- Outrageous cyber-attacks are conducted on a critical infrastructure such as communication networks, power plants, hospitals, water distribution facilities etc. in order to destabilize EU Member States
- Insidious attempts to steal intellectual property are conducted by foreign governments and entities
- Cyber attacks are increasingly undermining free, fair and transparent elections within the EU and abroad
- Individual EU Member States have limited legal, operational, economic and technical resources to protect their cyber-space
- There is no universal convention on Cyber Warfare in International Law.
- Modern cyber warfare can be asymmetrical and the pace of innovation and change is growing precipitously each year.

Believing that:

- The EU is to play a key role in the field of cyber-security in the world
- EU countries shall cooperate, fully explore and take advantage of combined resources
- Cyber attacks pose a serious threat to the integrity of democracy and economy.
- Critical infrastructure, like power grids, and the health care systems must stay in place uninterrupted at all times
- Ensuring cyber security requires a robust and operational international legal framework adopted by as many countries as possible
- Legislation addressing this issue should be concerned with the nature of existing and potential cyber-warfare: The EU should maintain constant vigilance towards innovative cyber-attacks and have a forward-looking approach.

LYMEC calls for:

- Close and continuous cooperation among EU Member States fighting cyber attacks expansion of competence for the European Union for Cyber Security (ENISA), to enable it to secure the EU cyber space and critical infrastructure. ●

ENISA being fully funded by the EU budget.

- Creation of Units under ENISA focusing on cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism and cyber-security, equipped with the appropriate resources and mandate to fulfill these goals, as well as

  research units

- Regular and comprehensive cooperation between ENISA and its counterparts around the globe
- Building up resilience of Member States and private entities in the EU against cyber attacks under the support of ENISA by providing advisory support for public and private entities on how to make their systems less vulnerable.
- Regular support, increased funding and coordination of Anti-cyber-attacks workshops, hackathons, and training sessions for entities and individuals ●

Start the expansion of the Tallinn Manual 2.0 and lobby for Cyber Warfare to become an additional protocol in the Geneva Conventions.

- Member states to assist private entities in developing more robust cyber-security as improving their cyber-security infrastructure will act as a deterrent.

3.20 Combating Antisemitism in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale
Co-signers: Junge Liberale, LHG, Vesna, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, Jcs, Centerstudenter, Young

---

(Former 3.42 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Liberals Greece, JOVD, LDLU and LYMEC's Working Group on Civil & Minority Rights

Considering that:

- Antisemitism and antisemitic attacks against Jews and Jewish property have

increased significantly in the European Union, according to several polls and statistics. As of now, a majority of Europeans see antisemitism as a problem in their country which is a concern not only for Jews in Europe but also the European Union
itself.[1]

- According to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, 83% of Jewish Europeans aged 16-34 believe that antisemitism has increased in their country in the past five years, and moreover a worrying 45% of young Jewish Europeans have personally been a victim of or experienced at least one antisemitic incident in the past year.[2]

Recognizing that:

- In order to ally with Jewish communities in Europe in the fight against antisemitism, we must be able to identify this form of hatred and define it, in order to effectively work against and combat all antisemitic incidents wherever they occur in our societies.
- As liberals organized in a pan-European youth organisation with a focus on the topics of anti-discrimination, anti-racism and minority inclusion, LYMEC has a responsibility to be an ally of Jewish youth in Europe and, thus, should be at the forefront of pushing for the identification of antisemitism in Europe and promoting exchanges with Jewish youth organisations to help address injustices being faced, including antisemitism.

Believing that:

- Antisemitism is not only a "Jewish problem", but hatred that erodes the foundations of Europe and attacks core democratic values. In this fight, nothing less than the future of an open and liberal Europe is at stake.
- In order to combat antisemitism, one must first define this specific form of hatred, to fully comprehend what constitutes antisemitism. It is only once LYMEC effectively defines the concept when we can identify it fully and ultimately work towards eradicating it from our society.
- The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism is universally the most widely accepted framework of its kind and serves as an effective definition of antisemitism.

- That adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism will be a step towards highlighting LYMEC as a true ally to Jewish communities in Europe and grant LYMEC greater credibility in speaking on topics related to antisemitism and broader anti-discrimination topics as well.

The European Liberal Youth calls for:

- Fortifying its own commitment to tackle antisemitism in all of its forms.
- Adopting and applying the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, including all stated examples, in full (see Annex 1).
- Encouraging all our member organizations to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition of antisemitism within their own organisations.
- Promoting opportunities for training sessions provided by Jewish youth organisations on combating antisemitism in Europe among our leadership and LYMEC Individual Members, and work to promote such training sessions to be undertaken by the leadership of our member organisations.
- Publicly denouncing actions that are antisemitic.
- Recognising that the adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism merely represents a first step in the fight against antisemitism and should, thus, be viewed as a tool to continue our work towards achieving our collective goal of eradicating antisemitism from our society.
- Encouraging the Renew Europe Group and the ALDE Party to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in its fullest.
- Encouraging EU member states to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in its fullest.

ANNEX 1

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Non-Legally Binding Working **Definition of Antisemitism:**

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non- Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist

Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or

exaggerating the Holocaust.

- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis. ● Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews. **Antisemitic discrimination** is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

1. Special Eurobarometer 484 – Wave EB90.4 – Kantar Public Brussels
2. EU FRA (2019), Young Jewish Europeans: Perceptions and Experiences of

Antisemitism, < https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/young-jewish-europeans-perceptions-andexperiences-antisemitism>, accessed 4th March 2021

3.21 Defending Academic Freedom

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)
Co-signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLJ), JuLis, Centerstudenter, Junos, Radikal Ungdom, Nova Stranka, Istrian Democratic Youth, Nowoczesna Youth, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Movement For! Youth, Momentum TizenX, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals, JOVD, Joves Liberals d'Andorra (JLA), JNC, Attistibai Youth, Jonge Demokraten, Mladé Ano

---

(Former 3.43 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Considering that:

- Confucius Institutes are establishments located at universities controlled by the People's Republic of China, which serve the foreign policy goals of the People's Republic of China under the cover of cultural exchange and language teaching.
- There is a chair of Azerbaijani history at the HU Berlin financed by the Embassy of Azerbaijan and thus indirectly by the authoritarian regime of Ilham Aliyev.

Believing that:

- Science is global. It thrives on the transnational exchange of ideas and knowledge. Scientific exchange not only contributes to scientific success, but also to international understanding.
- Science as an institution is inseparable from the liberal rule of law
- Science that places itself at the service of a totalitarian power loses its credibility
- If the aim of scientific cooperation is unilateral influence, the dissemination of ideology and the proclamation of supposed political truths, science as an institution is threatened.

LYMEC calls

- On governments to increasingly gather intelligence on infiltration strategies of foreign powers in the higher education sector.
- On universities to scrupulously record and transparently publish direct or indirect funding from non-European countries:

A prerequisite for the establishment of cooperation financed by non-European countries are:

- the full disclosure of all financial circumstances to the university
  - employment relationships that offer sufficient guarantee for the independence of

researchers and teachers

- the exclusion of the transfer of sensitive information ▪ continuous proof of serious research and teaching.

3.22 Enabling Educational Mobility in Pandemic Times

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)
Co-signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLJ), USR Tineret, JuLis, Centerstudenter, Junos, Radikal Ungdom, Nova Stranka, Young Liberals, Istrian Democratic Youth, Nowoczesna Youth, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Movement For! Youth, Momentum TizenX, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals Greece, Joves Liberals d'Andorra (JLA), JNC, Attistibai Youth, Jonge Demokraten, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Jeunes MR, Mladé Ano

---

(Former 3.44 Prior to Paris 2021)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Considering that educational mobility has a profound impact on students' careers and, in turn, on their professional future and personal development, it must remain possible.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for

- universities to communicate at an early stage whether an Erasmus stay on site (or at least online) is possible or not.
- universities to provide all students - local and exchange - the same standards of teaching. If face-to-face teaching or hybrid teaching is accessible to students on site, then it must also be for Erasmus students.
- universities to issue certificates for their students which clearly state their study status and the indispensability of their presence, in order to enable them to enter the host country (keyword: visa application) or to apply for financial support.
- visa application centres to provide clear information on their public channels about application modalities, if necessary, indicate changed processing times by Covid 19.
- universities to offer alternative recognition options in the case of compulsory stays abroad, in order to ensure that students can adhere to the standard period of study, e.g. internships, traineeship, volunteer service with international connection.
- the home universities to offer the possibility to register for courses and, if necessary, to move up during the semester; formally speaking, there would be no problems, as you would remain enrolled at your home university and pay the tuition fees there.
- universities to offer the possibility to register for a semester of leave of absence at a later date.

3.23 Mental Health Matters for Europe's Students!

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: LHG, USR Tineret, Young Liberals Greece, FEL, Norges Liberale Studenter, LLJ, LDLU, Momentum TizenX, LiDeM, JD, Uppreisn, IMS delegates, SU, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, JuLis, JUNOS, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, ERPY, YMRF, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Nowoczesna Youth, Young Liberals UK, JOVD, Nova Stranka Youth, Istrian Democratic Youth, Attistibai Youth, NUV, Mladé Ano, Young Green Liberals Switzerland, EYU, KOL, VU, JDL, RU, Jeunes Radicaux, JNC, Jeunes MR, Finnish Center Youth, LUF

Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Mental health is a prerequisite for a self-determined and self-reliant life. At the same time, people with mental illnesses are often stigmatised and assistance is diffcult to obtain or even completely lacking. The moment you have a broken hand, it's clearly visible that you cannot carry out certain activities, but with emotional pain, it's not so visible - but it's still there. Anxiety, depression, the lack of motivation to wake up in the morning, the lack of motivation to study, the feeling of nonsense in everything that you have to do, are clear signs of mental health problems, but because they are not talked about, you end up blaming other things. This gives you low productivity and makes the problems worse - and that should not happen in the period you have to be the most productive and learn the information you will use your entire life.

LYMEC is committed to breaking down stigmas, counter prejudices, and improve care for those affected. Regardless of whether there is a physical or mental impairment, everyone should have the opportunity to achieve as much as they can and want to. To ensure this, prevention is an important part of promoting mental health.

Considering that:

- Mental health patients should have the same rights as physical health patients.
- Access to mental healthcare is equally important as access to physical healthcare.
- Several European states include mental healthcare in their health coverage.
- Although increases in the coverage of primary and specialist mental health services lead to growing costs for health systems, treatment and prevention of

mental disorders result in net economic savings which accrue to both health and other sectors even in the short term.

- Significant efforts have been made by the countries in Europe and the European Union, in collaboration with other international organizations such as the WHO and the OECD, to improve the mental health of their populations, efforts recognised by the Health at a Glance: Europe 2020 report and the European Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020.

Noting that:

- The European Commission has established a Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases to provide advice and expertise to the Commission on developing and implementing activities in the field of health promotion, disease prevention, and the management of non-communicable diseases. It also fosters exchanges of relevant experience, policies, and practices between the Member States.

- Especially for young people who do not have access to a local psychological outpatient clinic, it is difficult to take the first step and seek and find professional help.
- To this day there are a lot of prejudices about the validity and relevance of mental disorders. Often problems are diminished or not taken seriously. People still have to reckon with a stigma or negative consequences.
- Mental health must have a firm place in the view of the leadership at educational facilities.
- Prevention programmes are of great importance in order to be able to detect disorders and to develop individual strategies for dealing with them. Early childhood stress can greatly increase the likelihood of developing depression, diabetes, and other diseases later on. Attention should be paid to the mental health of children and adolescents already during their school years.
- Particularly for students who are prone to stress, part-time study programmes offer a better opportunity to manage their time independently and thus be able to master their studies safely and independently.
- Students with disabilities or chronic illnesses often cannot study as they would like. Compensation for disadvantages is an important instrument to ensure equal opportunities in studies and to avoid discrimination.
- Certain forms of examinations can be a strong stress factor for many students with mental illnesses
- The right to a semester or a year off is an individual right that must not be questioned or disregarded by any higher education facility. Students

should be given the opportunity through this regulation to better adapt their studies to their current life realities.

LYMEC calls for:

- The EU Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Noncommunicable Diseases to put a further emphasis on the situation of young people.
- Offers of psychosocial help at education facilities to be extended
- Education facilities to have a psychologist on staff for, at least, a day a week, to whom students can turn to on an occasional basis, and who can refer them, if the need arises, to a specialist.
- Further training opportunities for the staff of education facilities to prevent mental health issues and counter stigmatization, thereby supporting the staff as role models Incentives for young people to become mental health professionals as there is a lack of personnel
- An increased availability of study programs in the field of psychology as well as a higher number of professorships in the field in European states with a lack thereof
- Efforts to harmonize the requirements for study programs in the field of psychology in Europe
- Education facilities to provide access to online psychological counselling offers for all students and staff members who want to seek. Data protection and the anonymity of the individual must be guaranteed at all times.
- Education facilities to make available material on how to take care of one's mental health and where to find help. Offers on exam anxiety, stress, or overwork should be well-communicated throughout the institution.

- Decision-makers to integrate mental health issues (like bullying, sexual harassment, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, stress resilience, suicidal thoughts) into school curricula and into the curricula of all relevant courses of study (teachers, social workers, etc.)
- A consistent expansion of part-time as well as distant study programmes and their financial security to ensure the greatest possible choice and flexibility for all students.
- Education facilities to open up entitlements to compensate for disadvantages to students with a diagnosed mental disorder or aggravation in order to give all students the best chance to succeed in their studies. To simplify the use of disadvantage compensation, we demand that once approved, it can be automatically applied to all exams of a comparable nature.
- For the possibility of changing the examination form for students with disadvantage compensation for examinations, for example, but not limited to,

examinations in separate rooms, switching from written to oral and vice versa or an extended examination period for those affected. To prevent abuse, a psychological evaluation and recommendation is required. Student teachers should not be able to convert an oral examination into a written one because of the importance of public speaking.

- For a special status to be created in universities for people with diagnosed mental health disabilities that allows them the same rights as physically disabled people
- Registration and deregistration for examinations at universities to be facilitated to enable students to take examinations only if they feel able to do so at the time. Deadlines for deregistration for taking part in an examination must be abolished and general attendance requirements must be abolished.
- The abolition of certificates of incapacity for examinations at all universities without replacement. We also advocate that a digital submission of medical certificates should be sufficient.
- Higher education facilities to grant the possibility to apply for semesters or years of leave without giving a reason and to approve these as quickly as possible, whether online or physically. It also ensures greater data protection for students. The semester fee for semesters on leave of absence is to be waived as a matter of principle.

3.24 Freedom of expression and Campus Police

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Young Liberals Greece, Liberalno Demokratska Mladina (LiDeM), JNC, LHG, USR Tineret, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Youth Forum of Naa stranka, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Forum mladih Nasa stranka, Momentum TizenX, Nova Stranka Youth, Nowoczesna Yout

---

Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Considering that:

- Human Rights in Southeast Europe face severe challenges. Several governments have chosen illiberal and authoritarian policies, targeting certain social groups, such as women and the LGBTQ+ community or/and principles like freedom of expression. Nonetheless, the area of Southeast Europe is in a critical position concerning conservative policies and violations of human rights. The conservative governments of Hungary, Poland, Turkey and Greece promote more and more conservative policies, with limitations and restrictions for their population.
- The pandemic and lockdown were used by these governments to promote unpopular laws, having in mind that people do not have many options to resist or oppose to them. COVID-19 and the respective lockdown policies provided a great “social space” for many governments to expand their power over society. The examples of Poland, Hungary and Turkey are now accompanied by Greece, and its conservative government.

Noting that:

- During the past years, Greek universities have turned into dangerous spaces for students to study, due to high crime rates and lack of proper security. Over the years, unsolicited squatting, vandalism, and stealing took place inside universities. Moreover, a significant number of acts of violence have also been recorded, mainly involving politically motivated acts of violence, either among students, or violence and harassment against professors and members of the university’s administration. University education in Greece faces challenges related to underfunding, political interventions (especially from the neoconservative party), and institutional deficit. Nevertheless, the University remained a land of freedom of expression.
- Last year, the conservative Greek Government passed a new law, namely combating illegal actions on campus they established a new Campus Police at the expense of university research funds.

These few days of its function, Campus Police have clashed with students and faculty in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

- The research and operational funds of Greek universities are significantly low, (4.3% of the GDP, lower than the EU average 4.9%) in comparison with other EU countries, and the government is their sole financier.
- Campus Police intervention is anyway acceptable in Greek university campuses when illegal incidents take place, in order to combat unlawful actions. In principle, the police were always allowed to intervene -on campusif illegal activities take place provided they are called by the University authorities.

Recognizing that:

- Universities are places where students can openly and freely exchange ideas, discuss and focus on how we can improve our lives and our societies.
- The use of Covid-19 restrictions should be an instrument that helps reduce contagion risks for the population and not a tool for governments to use for control of the population or against political opposition. The presence of police forces in the universities polarises the environment and increases the incidents of violence and brutality
- Over the previous year Greek Government tried to stationed police forces inside the campus and with full authority to exert violence, but took the law back.
- Police brutality is apparent in every part of social life in our region; the police have been hitting civilians, families and individuals, in squares and streets because, as it was displayed on the news, they were identified as “anarchists”.
- Police suppression is used by the neoconservative Governments through the region of South-eastern Europe as a panacea for every problem.
- That the law in question offers no new solution to the deeper education problems of Greece.
- The conservative party in Greece runs its own student youth organization on campus as a propaganda group, recruiting new members in exchange for the exams topics and other benefits. Now, they will be operating under the full protection of the police.

LYMEC calls for:

The condemnation of government policies that act against human and civil rights, such as the freedom of research, the freedom of speech and the freedom of the Press.

- The condemnation of violence and practices against freedom of speech and expression within university campuses.
- The Greek state to repeal the law and all EU Member States to recognize the repercussions of what similar legislations can have.
- The withdrawal of police forces from universities and their substitution with security staff, employed by and accountable to the Administration of the University.
- The guarantee of research and opinion freedom in all European Universities. The students are expected to share their opinions freely and openly exchange ideas without fear of punishment by the government.
- The reallocation of the funds to fill the gaps and the deficiencies of the universities towards the research and new scientific personnel.
- Reshaping and reforming the legal framework, in order to clearly define the cases that police can enter into the campus (needed to follow the general legal procedures and justify their actions).
- In exceptional situations of conflicts, the limiting of the access on university campuses only to students having student cards and authorized guests and personnel, in order to reduce insecurity and prevent illegal acts.

3.25 Inclusive education for an equal society

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Svensk Ungdom, Jonge Democraten, Uppreisn, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen, IMS Delegates, Radikal Ungdom, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund

Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Considering that

- Education should promote equal treatment and gender equality, and everyone in the school environment should be heard, seen and treated on an equal basis and that together we should strive to create an atmosphere characterised by justice, security and acceptance.
- Teaching can encourage the development of an open and inclusive approach , where gender awareness, accessibility and acceptance are emphasised.

The importance of looking beyond traditional gender roles should be emphasised.

- Gender-conscious teaching and the importance of understanding the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities are often only present in the upper stages of compulsory education, if at all, when emphasis on LGBTQIA+ issues should already have taken place from primary school .
- One of the core objectives of compulsory education is to teach young people about sexual development and human reproduction. Students should learn about sexuality, different areas of sexual health and varied experiences of sexual development.
- there are still several groups in society that are overlooked in sex education such as sexual minorities and people with physical or mental disabilities.
- It is important that diversity is taken into account in teaching. It should be clear in the curriculum that students must learn about different sexual orientations.
- Sex education in schools is characterised by a largely heteronormative perspective and, put simply, heterosexuality is often seen as normal, while sexual minorities are othered .
- Sex education frequently neglects people living with a disability, their sexuality, and sexual rights.

Noting that

- Heteronormativity contributes to ongoing inequality, and nowhere is this more true than in sex education. To promote sexual and gender equality, we should teach young people to be more critical of established social norms ,and steer them away from heteronormative perspective.
- In 2018, Scotland became the first country in the world to include LGBTQIA+ topics in the country's state school curriculum, which will help the school system support more young people in reaching their full potential and ensuring that education respects diversity, which is something that we should also strive towards.
- We all need to understand LGBTQIA + issues and history, so we can create an inclusive society, free from prejudice and discrimination.

- Achieving gender equality requires measures at all levels in terms of critique of norms and gender awareness. Contributing factors to inequality include gender segregation and heteronormativity, inclusion and understanding of LGBTQIA + people is required to overcome these.
- Knowledge of LGBTQIA + history would contribute to inclusion. It would not only improve the learning experience of LGBTQIA + people themselves; all

students will learn to celebrate differences, gain understanding and include their peers.

- LGBTQIA + people's rights and inclusion are important issues and we should actively work to combat discrimination against LGBTQIA + people and further their rights, whether it concerns legislation or access to care.
- It is important that young people understand LGBTQIA + issues and their struggle for rights throughout our history This increases the likelihood that people who identify as LGBTQIA+ will feel included, and would have a positive social impact in the long run. This is another area in which we can become more active in terms of safeguarding the rights and inclusion of LGBTQIA + people in society.
- Prejudices and ignorance in our society leads people to falsely assume that people with disabilities are not sexually active, and have neither the ability nor the interest to engage in sexual activity.
- A broader sex education syllabus from a more inclusive perspective would contribute to inclusion, acceptance and understanding of sexual gender minorities, as well as people with disabilities. In addition to inclusion and acceptance, more inclusive sex education would provide important information about the right to one's own sexuality and sexual health for people at a crucial stage in their physical, social and sexual development. The foundations for sexual health, the right to one's own sexuality and information for all must be laid as early as possible.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for

- MOs to work for LGBTQIA + history to be introduced as part of the compulsory school curriculum.
- MOs to work for sex education to be broadened, and to include sexual minorities to a greater extent, as well as including people who live with a functional variation and information about their equal rights to their own sexuality, to sexual health and enlightenment.
- MOs to ensure that sex education syllabi include information about contraceptives, consent, safe sex and the pleasure of sex, including from an LGBTQIA+ perspective, to ensure that young people are protected when they begin to explore their own sexuality.

3.26 Mandatory Provision of National Electronic Identification within the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter

MO's supporting: Venstres Ungdom (VU), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (IMS), Christine Khomyk (IMS), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Liberale Studenter (NLSF), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)

Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Noting that:

- The covid 19-pandemic has radically changed the role of digitalization in society and has exposed the need to accelerate digital development. It has led to the European commission developing a vision for the EU's path towards a digital transition until the year of 2030, named "Communication 2030 Digital Compass: The European Way for the Digital Decade". The digital strategy contains several milestones regarding electronic identification (eID). For instance, all key public services should be available online and 80% of all EU citizens should use eID's in 2030. A compulsory implementation of national electronic identification within all of the EU's Member States would be a step in the right direction and corresponds well with the purpose of the strategy.
- Since 2018, an EU regulation called eIDAS, which forces all Member States to accept foreign eID's in their online governmental services, has been in effect. The aim of eIDAS is to make it easier to use eID's to carry out errands in other
  EU Member States' online services. However, there is no obligation on EU Member States to offer a national eID for their own citizens or make it compatible with services in other Member States. In reality, this has resulted in a limited number of business cases and a low take up. This leads to a big discrepancy between different countries, whereas some offer highly digitalized services to their citizens and others don't. We should work for a more unified EU when it comes to digitalisation and support the countries that are lagging behind in development. A mandatory implementation of national eID's would contribute to that development.
- The commission has presented a new proposal for a Regulation on digital identity which will complement eIDAS. In this proposal, focus lies on securing access to trustworthy electronic identity solutions, making sure that these solutions are linked to a variety of attributes, build an acceptance of qualified trust services in the EU and guarantee equal conditions for their provision. This regulation would be a solid foundation to lean back to and use as a support pillar if the EU also introduces a mandatory provision of national eID's in all Member States.
- Offering electronic national ID cards in all Member States would minimize the frequency of credit card fraud. eID's create a security barrier that can be used as a requirement for the use of credit cards during online shopping, thus an effective way to hinder unauthorized use of other people's credit cards.

- There are also economic benefits by using eID's, as it facilitates online transactions. If you have an eID it only takes a few clicks with your thumb to carry through with a business transaction. Before this technology existed you often had to show up in person to identify yourself before the transaction could be made, which could take days in comparison with a few seconds which is the case now. Besides online shopping, eID's can be used to make it easier to use essential government services. An example is simplifying the use of online healthcare. It is a great step in the direction of a fully digitalized union.
- Cybersecurity is of great importance when implementing eID's. The EU must work to guarantee that every Member State takes the necessary measures to ensure cyber security and personal integrity. This can be guaranteed by the help of the new Regulation on digital identity that has been presented by the Commission.
- eID hijackings are a common phenomenon in several countries within and outside the EU. Perpetrators of such crimes focus on non-digitally skilled groups in society, and elderly people in particular. We must ensure that these demographic groups are protected against cyber threats when developing eID's. An important part of this process is to do information campaigns and ensure that everyone who obtains eID's are well aware of both the possibilities as well as the risks.
- eID minimizes the risks of ID hijacking that is committed through postal mail. With an eID, the personal information is stored online in a secure, substantial space which prevents criminals from gaining access to it. The owner of the eID is the only one who can approve and gain access to his or her information through an eID.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Union to adopt a mandatory provision of national electronic identification in every Member State.
- The European Union to ensure that electronic identification used within the union are highly secure and trustworthy digital solutions.

The European Union to integrate the requirement for provision of national electronic identification in the EU regulation titled as eIDAS.

3.27 Reform the concept of NEET

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Venstres Ungdom (VU)
Co-signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals, USR Tineret Cluj, Movement For! Youth, Radikal Ungdom, Centerstudenter, Svensk Ungdom (SU), IMS delegates, Young Democrats of Netherlands, Uppreisn, Libearal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen

---

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

- Throughout the EU, it is vital to help and encourage young people to get an education, a job and in general obtain great opportunities despite and regardless of preconditions. Those people are defined as the NEETs, which stands for Not in Education, Employment, or Training. They are both the unemployed (individuals without a job and seeking one), as well as individuals outside the labour force (without a job and not seeking one).
- However, the initiative does not take into consideration that all EU member states have great differences in the way of implementing both education and initiatives for NEETs. Knowing that, it does not make sense to just invest money in a system hoping it will do the job. Rather the main focus should be on implementing and encouraging platforms and forums to share knowledge.

Considering that:

- The total budget of the Youth Implementation System is €8.8 billion from the period 2014-2020.
- Over the 2014-2020 programming period, the European Social Fund— in addition to the Youth Employment Initiative — directly invests at least €6.3 billion to support the integration of young people into the labour market across Europe.
- In December 2016, the Commission launched the initiative 'Investing in Europe's Youth', a renewed effort to support young people. Given the positive impact of the Youth Guarantee up to that point, the Commission increased

the finances available for the Youth Employment Initiative until 2020 to encourage more effective outreach to young people.

- NEETs are not a homogeneous group and knowledge about them remains limited – understanding the profile of the NEET cohort and providing services to meet their varying needs is therefore difficult.

Believing that:

- EU member states have a responsibility to their own national youth in making sustainable and long-term solutions in order to ensure their education and transition into the job-market.
- Knowledge of employments initiatives and outreach strategies have and had been available for every EU member state to commit themselves to nationally driven programs e.g.
- As liberals, we believe in the saying: “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime” Meaning that we should make long-term solutions instead of just paying for the problems to go away.

- We do not believe that the countries will develop a sustainable solution for themselves to solve this problem, if they do not have to, because the EU will pay for it anyways.
- In 2018, the Commission put forward a proposal to the Council on extending the age range from 15-24 years old to include 24-29 years old as well. This broad definition of NEET is problematic given the comparative differences of the EU members states in terms of educational systems and job initiatives.
- We do not believe that it makes sense for the EU to define how the EU member states should educate their population, noting the broad age range as mentioned above.
- Considering the fact that only 38.5 % of all NEETs aged 15-24 in the EU were registered with a Youth Guarantee provider in 2016 shows that even though the intentions have been great, increased efforts to support young people don't equal more money to the Youth Guarantee.

Calls for:

- LYMEC calls upon all EU member states to generally take care of the education of their own youth population and job-market initiatives. As it never can be a responsibility that you leave to the EU alone.
- LYMEC to support that the share of knowledge across EU member states is useful for future development

LYMEC to acknowledge that since there is no single method that works best to reach out to young people, the EU should focus on providing each EU member states ideas for long-term outreach initiatives instead of just investing

- LYMEC to call for the Council to continue its work on highlighting effective outreach work as an essential ingredient for early activation. However, the Council should rather encourage the EU member states to "develop outreach strategies and introduce mechanisms to identify and activate those furthest away from the labour market" by establishing a platform to encourage sharing of knowledge within the EU member states of the EU, and thus emphasizing the importance of local decisions instead of just investing.

3.28 Time To Act Against Healthcare Associated Infections

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centre Party Youth (CUF)
Co-signers: Venstres Ungdom, JOVD, Nowoczesna Youth, Ogra Fianna Fáil, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Svensk Ungdom, Jong VLD, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Centerstudenter, Jonge Democraten, Radikal Ungdom, LUF, ERPY, NUV, Young Liberals, JGS, LHG, Momentum TizenX, FEL

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Noting that:

- Approximately 4,1 million patients are estimated to acquire a healthcare associated infection (HAI) in the EU each year of which around 37 000 die as a direct consequence of the infection.
- About 50-100% of the healthcare associated infections can be prevented by basic hygiene routines.
- Healthcare associated infections are the most common healthcare injuries in the EU.
- 15% of the healthcare budgets in OECD countries are used to treat healthcare injuries. Money that could be used to treat more patients and investing in research.
- The lengthened time of care for patients acquiring HAIs prevents others from their necessary care and treatments.

The continuous increase of health-care associated infections caused by antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms that are difficult to treat, contributes to the morbidity and mortality of HAIs as well as higher healthcare costs.

- The number of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms in Europe is increasing rapidly and is the cause of death for 33 000 people yearly.
- Effective HAI prevention and control in healthcare organisations relies on specialised healthcare specialities in charge of elaborating, implementing, and monitoring preventive measures.

Considering that:

- Not all EU/EEA Member States have national recommendations for the management of infection control and hospital hygiene. In even fewer member states are they defined by law.
- 63% of doctors and 77% of nurses in EU/EEA Member states report having a professional profile for infection control and hospital hygiene doctors and nurses. However, approximately half of the Member States do not have a curriculum or programme for training doctors and nurses as infection control and hospital hygiene professionals.
- Basic training in infection control and hospital hygiene is only mandatory in 58% of medical schools and 66% of nursing schools in the EU.
- A high percentage of EU/EEA Member States seek EU-cooperation in managing a surveillance system and investigating healthcare-associated infections.

- The lack of funding for infection control and hospital hygiene training programmes are perceived as one of the main constraints to battling HAIs.
- The definition of good hygiene is very vague. It is of great value to have a standardised hygiene protocol for EU/EEA Member States to prevent local discrepancy.
- A higher percentage of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms are present in hospitals compared to other parts of society.

Believing that:

No patient nor healthcare professional should risk mortality or morbidity caused by an acquired healthcare associated infection that could have been prevented.

- One of the most effective ways to tackle the growing problem of antimicrobial-resistance is to stop the spread of microorganisms in hospitals.

Calls for:

- The undertaking of regulatory documents enforcing basic hygiene routines and infection control in EU healthcare to prevent healthcare associated infections and thus minimising hospital acquired injuries and the spread of antimicrobial resistance.
- All EU/EEA Member States to offer a curriculum or programme for training doctors and nurses as infection control and hospital hygiene professionals.
- All medical- and nursing schools in the EU to have basic hygiene routines and infection control as a mandatory part of the education.
- EU-cooperation in designing and managing a European surveillance system to evaluate infection control and hygiene routines to prevent healthcare associated infections.

29. **Cutting the Clutter to Bust Bureaucracy: Removing Bureaucratic Hurdles from ERASMUS+**

Movers: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)

Co-signers: Ze!Molodizhka, Silvia Fernandez (IMS), Junge Liberale, Young Liberals, Unge Venstre, Jonge Demokraten, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund, Radikal Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Venstres Ungdom, JOVD, Centerstudenter, Estonian Reform Party Youth, Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Uppreisn, Jeunes Mouvement Réformateur, Junos, Nowoczesna Youth

Noting that:

- The ERASMUS+ exchange program is one of the European Union's most successful and acclaimed initiatives, having positively impacted the lives of millions of students, enhancing cross-cultural understanding and academic growth.
- Despite its general success, the European Council is proposing to cut the budget for ERASMUS+ by 300 million euros in 2025.
- Furthermore, a considerable number of students and educational institutions have voiced concerns about the burdensome bureaucratic processes associated with participating in the program.
- The high bureaucratic burdens of the current ERASMUS+ program have been acknowledged by the European Parliament’s Committee on Culture and Education, recognizing it as being “excessively bureaucratic” in its report A9-0413/2023.

- High bureaucratic burdens of entry might prevent students from less privileged backgrounds or with less access to qualified assistance from participating in the ERASMUS+ program. In addition, the high bureaucratic burdens also pose a challenge to better-off students, who have to devote a significant amount of time and effort to navigate the arduous application process.
- A streamlined and bureaucratically efficient procedure not only encourages wider participation of students but also reduces administrative costs, ensuring that resources can be used more productively.

Believing that:

- The ERASMUS+ exchange program's true potential lies not only in facilitating academic exchanges but also in forging a connected, educated, and united Europe.
- Reducing bureaucratic burdens will make the program more accessible to students from all backgrounds, ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to benefit from it.
- Enabling more students to participate in the ERASMUS+ programme will not only positively impact their personal lives, but also boost academic exchange throughout Europe, benefit the economies of the host countries, and strengthen European integration.
- A leaner and more intuitive application process will enable educational institutions to spend their resources more efficiently and to focus more on academic collaboration rather than paperwork.
- A reduction of bureaucratic burdens would give effect to liberal values such as the belief in the equality of opportunity for everyone, the commitment to promoting efficiency, the facilitation of access to education, and fostering international cooperation.

Notwithstanding that:

- International academic exchange programs involving travels to foreign countries, the transaction of financial funds, and the seamless recognition foreign-earned study credits inevitably require a certain degree of bureaucratic processes.
- The reduction of bureaucratic burdens may under no circumstances come at the expense of negatively affecting the quality of education or the safety and wellbeing of the students.

LYMEC calls for:

- A comprehensive review of the current bureaucratic processes associated with the ERASMUS+ exchange program, identifying existing bottlenecks and locating areas for improvement.
- The elimination of superfluous bureaucratic processes, such as the redundant collection of personal data, with the aim of creating a more efficient and streamlined process.
- The European Commission and European Parliament to reject the proposed budget cut of ERASMUS+.
- The elimination of superfluous bureaucratic processes, such as the redundant collection of personal data, with the aim of creating a more efficient and streamlined process.
- Training programs for administrators at educational institutions to ensure a consistent understanding and execution of the streamlined processes, thereby enabling them to guide and assist students more effectively.
- The introduction of a centralised ERASMUS+ online platform that simplifies the application process, tracks student progress, and offers real-time support to both students and educational institutions.
- Enhanced coordination between sending and receiving institutions of higher education, so that agreements about mutual recognition of study credits can be transparently made before the beginning of the exchange.

- Periodic feedback collection from both participating students and educational institutions to continually refine and improve the streamlining process.

3.30 The EU in cybersecurity: moving from Windows 95 to the AI of the future

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: JeunesMR

Co signed by : Youth Forum of Naša stranka, Nowoczesna Youth, Adam Volf (IMS), Young Progressive Slovakia, ZeMolodizhka, Liberal Democratic Youth (LiDEM)

Objective : Strengthening the cybersecurity and intelligence capabilities of EU member states through artificial intelligence.

Considering that :

- Cyber threats and intelligence challenges are constantly evolving, requiring advanced
- technological capabilities.
- Artificial intelligence (AI) plays a key role in threat analysis, cyberattack detection, and enhancing intelligence capabilities.
- The European Union's (EU) technological dependence on non-European actors, particularly the United States and China, constitutes a strategic and sovereignty issue.
- The EU has an ecosystem of startups and companies specializing in AI that should be supported and integrated into the development of cybersecurity and intelligence solutions.

Noting that :

- The European Union's digital infrastructure has been increasingly targeted by state-sponsored cyberattacks, notably originating from Russia and China, with over 2.2 billion records breached across 556 publicly disclosed incidents in Europe in 2024 alone.
- Actors, particularly Russia, China, North Korea and Iran highlighting the vulnerability of its digital infrastructure.
- In 2024, hackers affiliated with these states targeted European institutions, including the UK Ministry of Defense and European parliamentarians, compromising sensitive data.
- Already in 2022, a Russian cyberattack against the Viasat satellite network disrupted communications in Europe, illustrating the strategic use of cyberspace.
- In response to these growing threats, the EU Council has identified key risks, including attacks on system availability, ransomware, and data threats.
- European companies are developing innovative technologies that can contribute to the EU's strategic independence.

Believing that :

- Given the increasing cyberattacks and geopolitical tensions, such as the war in Ukraine, Europe must be united and efficient in its cybersecurity efforts to respond swiftly and protect its digital sovereignty and strategic interests.

- By fostering independent expertise on cybersecurity, the EU can better protect its digital and strategic assets from external threats, reduce vulnerabilities, and ensure that its security measures align with European values and priorities, without relying on foreign influence or technologies.
- Supporting European AI companies strengthens innovation within the EU, enhances local job creation, and safeguards against potential geopolitical risks tied to foreign-controlled technologies. Reducing dependence on the

  U.S. and other powers helps the EU maintain its sovereignty and control over critical technologies.

Lymec calls for :

- The development of a European cyber-intelligence training program for the armed forces, intelligence services, and other relevant government institutions of EU member states, in partnership with European AI-specialized organizations.
- The deployment of a European roadmap for AI in defense, establishing a precise timeline with measurable objectives for the progressive integration of AI into cybersecurity and intelligence.
- Encouraging competitive calls for projects to attract top European companies and strengthen local innovation.
- The establishment of a public-private cooperation framework enabling European institutions and national governments to benefit from AI advancements without compromising the security and confidentiality of sensitive data.

3.31 Building Resilience: Counterin Disinformation Through Education

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2026, Vienna, 19 April 2026
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Co-signers: PSG Mladi (Serbia), Norges Unge Venstre (Norway), Young Progressive Slovakia (Slovakia), Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (Spain), Momentum TizenX (Hungary), Jonge Democraten (Netherlands), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (Catalonia), Young Liberals (UK), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (Sweden), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania), JUNOS (Austria), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia), Junge Liberale (Germany), Project NEON (Greece), Gibanje Svoboda Mladi (Slovenia) Jeunes MR (Belgium), Mladi hrvatski liberali (Croatia), Jongliberalen (Belgium)

Passed Spring 2026

Movers: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen, Young Green Liberals, Alliance Youth, Silvia Fernandez (IMS), Arthur Wu (IMS), representing the European Liberal Student Network/Education Policy Working Group.

Noting that:

- Disinformation campaigns are on the rise across Europe, originating not only from systemic rivals and foreign state actors but also from anti-democratic movements within Member States.
- Such campaigns aim to undermine public confidence in democratic institutions, electoral processes, scientific expertise, and independent journalism.
- Digital media platforms, while essential for free expression, can facilitate the rapid spread of manipulated or misleading information, especially among younger audiences.
- Existing national education systems often lack effective approaches to media and digital literacy, leaving citizens more vulnerable to manipulation.
- Traditional news outlets face persistent challenges in engaging the public, including declining audience engagement, the erosion of trust, and stagnant digital subscription growth, undermining their ability to effectively counter disinformation as highlighted by the 2025 Digital News Report.

Considering that:

- The spread of disinformation and misinformation poses a growing threat to democratic processes, social cohesion, and citizens' trust in institutions across Europe.
- Critical-thinking skills and media literacy remain underdeveloped amongst citizens in many Member States, leaving them more vulnerable to manipulation and false narratives.
- Finland has successfully implemented comprehensive media literacy education as part of its national curriculum, serving as a proven model for fellow European countries.
- Artificial intelligence is oftentimes used as a primary source of information, but it can be biased and respond incorrectly.
- A high proportion of youth regularly use social media, for example 6 in 10 teens use TikTok as highlighted in the Pew Research Centre Report.

- The Trump administration has cut the Corporation for Global Media and is cutting off funds to entities such as Radio Free Europe (RFE).
- The EU has already provided emergency funding to RFE in 2025.

Believing that:

- A strong and resilient Europe depends on informed citizens, capable of distinguishing facts from manipulation and engaging critically in democratic debate.
- Media literacy and critical thinking skills are fundamental liberal democratic values that empower informed citizenship and strengthen citizens' ability to engage responsibly in democratic discourse.
- Access to quality information from free press is necessary in order to counter the threat from authoritarian adversaries, such as Russia, in the dissemination of factual information.
- Strengthening education and media literacy is the most sustainable long-term strategy to counter disinformation whilst fully safeguarding freedom of expression and the free exchange of ideas that underpin liberal democracy, without resorting to censorship or restrictions on legitimate speech.
- Despite EU intervention as described below, significant gaps remain in addressing the rapid evolution of AI-driven threats.

Acknowledging that:

- The European Union has recognised the challenge of disinformation, notably through the European Democracy Action Plan and the European Democracy Shield.
- The EU Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) identifies media literacy as a key priority but implementation remains inconsistent across Member States.

Notwithstanding that:

- Combatting disinformation must never come at the expense of freedom of expression, media independence, or pluralism of opinion, as guaranteed by Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

LYMEC calls for:

- EU Member States to integrate media and digital literacy, critical thinking, and civic education as core elements of their primary and secondary school curricula.
- EU Member States to invest in comprehensive teacher training and provide adequate resources following Finland's example, including regularly updated teaching materials and digital tools, to strengthen educators' ability to train students to recognise and critically assess false or misleading information.
- EU Member States and the European Commission to develop awareness campaigns that strengthen media and information literacy among adults and senior citizens, ensuring that efforts to counter disinformation extend beyond schools and reach all generations of society.
- Private and public sector employers to integrate AI literacy training in the workplace to empower employees in detecting and countering AI-generated disinformation, creating a more resilient and better informed society.

- The Commission to ensure the long-term sustainment of independent quality broadcasters through mechanisms like funding schemes or resource support, in order to safeguard independent journalism as a natural defence against disinformation.
- The European Union to facilitate dedicated training for independent journalists and established media outlets to strengthen fact-checking, pre-bunking, and other measures countering disinformation, including AI-generated manipulation.

3.32 Let Bulls Smell Flowers, Not Blood: A Call to Ban Bullfighting

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, LUF, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya
Co-signers: Keskustanuoret, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund, Unge Venstre, Young Green Liberals, JOVD, Mladé Progresívne Slovensko, Jongliberalen, Jonge Demokraten, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jeunes MR

Recognising that:

- Bullfighting has existed as a cultural tradition in several European countries, including Spain, Portugal, and southern France, for centuries
- Traditions rooted in economic and cultural practice have already been overridden by the European Union on animal-welfare grounds.
- The European Union has previously exempted bullfighting from animal welfare legislation under the cultural heritage clause, allowing member states to maintain the practice.
- Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing excludes animals killed during cultural or sporting events from its scope, meaning bulls killed in the ring are not subject to the welfare standards applied to animals slaughtered for food.
- Bullfighting is a contest involving a human voluntarily immobilising, injuring and/or killing a bull. This should not be confused with other contests involving other animals, such as Swiss cow fighting, which do not involve direct human intervention and are not detrimental to animal welfare.

Noting that:

- Bullfighting causes severe and deliberate physical and psychological suffering to bulls, in direct contradiction with the principle of animal sentience recognised in Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
- Bullfighting also carries serious risks to human life: recorded data show that 134 people have been killed by bulls in Spain over the past century, with many more suffering serious injuries. These events require publicly funded emergency and security services, reinforcing the industry's public subsidy.
- Public support for bullfighting is in sharp decline across Europe, including in Spain, where a majority of the population, and particularly young people, oppose the practice.
- The framing of bullfighting as "cultural heritage" sets a dangerous precedent by allowing cultural tradition to override fundamental ethical and animal welfare standards.
- There are regions, such as Catalonia and the Canary Islands, where bullfighting is already mostly abolished.
- Bull-breeding farms continue to receive Common Agricultural Policy direct payments regardless of whether the animals are destined for the bullring, meaning EU taxpayers indirectly subsidise the practice.
- Spanish regulation (Real Decreto 1086/2020) classifies the killing of bulls in bullfights as "emergency slaughter" under Regulation (EC) 853/2004, a classification that raises food safety concerns where such meat enters the human food chain.

Believing that:

- The deliberate killing and torture of animals for entertainment is fundamentally incompatible with a humane society, regardless of cultural or historical tradition.

- No tradition should be permitted to override the Union's commitment to animal sentience and welfare.
- In Spain, France and Portugal, 77% of the population considers bullfighting to cause unacceptable animal suffering, and 58% want it banned, numbers that are difficult to reconcile with continued public support for the tradition.
- A just transition must be offered to workers and breeders currently dependent on the bullfighting industry, to ensure that ending the practice does not come at the expense of rural livelihoods.

LYMEC calls for:

- All member states to ban bullfighting, and calls on the Commission to support and coordinate such efforts.
- The revision of Article 13 TFEU to remove or narrow the cultural exemption insofar as it permits practices causing deliberate and severe animal suffering
- The European Commission to revise Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 to remove the exemption for cultural and sporting events, ensuring bulls killed in bullfights are subject to the same welfare protections as other slaughtered animals
- An immediate end to all direct and indirect public subsidies at local, regional, and national level, directed towards the breeding, training, or staging of bullfighting.
- The European Commission to investigate the classification of bullring killings as "emergency slaughter" under Regulation (EC) 853/2004, given its implications for food safety.
- The Commission and Member States to establish transition support schemes for workers and breeders affected by the phase-out of the bullfighting industry. The reallocation of Common Agricultural Policy funds currently supporting bull-breeding towards the conservation of rural ecosystems, ensuring that the animals currently bred for the bullring can be maintained in natural sanctuaries rather than being subjected to deliberate suffering.

3.33 Securing Europe's Digital Future

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology
Status: In force
Submitted by: JMR, JOVD, JNC
Co-signers: Svensk Ungdom, VU, Radikal Ungdom, Jonge Democraten, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Junge liberale NEOS - JUNOS, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz

---

Considering that:

- Cybersecurity threats, including increasingly AI-enabled attacks, are growing in sophistication and increasingly affect European democratic institutions, critical infrastructure and the economy, while growing reliance on digital systems makes cyber resilience essential to public safety, fundamental rights and European sovereignty;
- Fragmented implementation, overlapping reporting requirements and inconsistent supervision can undermine cybersecurity and the European Single Market;
- European cybersecurity companies face barriers to scaling, while public and private organisations need accessible, trustworthy and affordable security solutions;
- NIS2 transposition remains deeply uneven across Member States, with significant divergences in the definition of "significant incident", in notification deadlines and in administrative procedures, creating a fragmented compliance burden for companies operating across multiple markets;
- Advances in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and computing can strengthen cyber defence while changing attack capabilities and challenging existing safeguards, including cryptographic protection;
- Dependence on a single technology provider or jurisdiction can expose essential services to disruption, coercion and supply-chain compromise;

Noting that:

- European cybersecurity legislation, including NIS2, the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) and the Cyber Solidarity Act, together with the AI Act, provides a basis for enforceable protection that must evolve with threats;
- A dedicated EU-wide certification scheme for Managed Security Services (MSS) is being developed under the Cybersecurity Act, but the market is not yet fully covered by the "certify once, sell anywhere" principle;
- Interoperability, data portability and the ability to switch providers can reduce strategic dependencies and improve resilience;
- Cooperation through ENISA, national incident response teams and CERT-EU provides a basis for shared exercises, threat information exchange and assistance across borders; and can be extended through working arrangements to trusted European non-EU partners such as Switzerland, whose economies, supply chains and critical infrastructure are closely interconnected with the Single Market.
- Ensuring proportionate oversight and incident reporting for high-risk AI systems used in cybersecurity and critical services, including appropriate human oversight and safeguards for autonomous systems;
- The debate over the EU Cloud Services Scheme (EUCS) has been stalled for years by the conflict between sovereignty requirements (EU headquarters, European control) and open-market principles, without a stable balance having yet been found;

- The transition to post-quantum cryptography constitutes a strategic resilience challenge that current EU cybersecurity policy has not fully addressed, despite the timeline already set by the Commission and the NIS Cooperation Group;
- European SMEs, particularly cybersecurity startups, report regulatory compliance burden, not lack of market opportunity, as their primary practical obstacle;
- The European Union is exploring light mutual-recognition arrangements on cybersecurity certification with trusted non-EU partners, including Japan, Singapore, Canada and the United Kingdom, allowing EU-certified products and services to gain streamlined access to their markets;
- The application of the first reporting obligations under the CRA from September 2026 marks a turning point for product security, but risks adding a dual layer of incident reporting alongside NIS2 for hardware and software manufacturers;

Believing that:

- Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, requiring clear and proportionate duties for public authorities, technology providers and operators;
- Security requirements should reflect the likelihood and severity of harm and the criticality of services, with practical support for smaller organisations and public oversight proportionate to risk;
- Technology-neutral rules should protect innovation, competition and legitimate research, while requiring evidence of adequate safeguards for serious risks; building European capabilities should reduce strategic dependencies while preserving secure international cooperation;
- Strategic autonomy requires skills, secure infrastructure and viable alternatives, alongside cooperation with democratic partners and evidence-based assessment of foreign interference risks;
- European strategic autonomy in encryption and critical infrastructure must rest on clear, funded technical timelines, not only on general principles of dependency reduction;
- Cybersecurity must uphold privacy, strong encryption, due process and democratic accountability; technical standards must remain adaptable without weakening these principles;
- Mutual recognition of cybersecurity certification with trusted non-EU partners should be pursued as a complement to, not a substitute for, a strong and harmonised internal European framework;

LYMEC calls for:

1. Strengthening the European cybersecurity workforce by:

- Promoting common European cybersecurity skills frameworks and qualifications, while recognising practical experience and diverse entry routes;
- Expanding partnerships between education providers, public authorities and businesses for apprenticeships, traineeships and lifelong learning, including recruitment pathways for local government and underrepresented groups;
- Embedding practical digital security education in schools and regular workforce training, including for decision-makers, adapted to evolving fraud, social engineering and incident-response needs;
- Providing accessible funding and technical assistance to SMEs and municipalities for cybersecurity assessments, remediation and shared expertise;
- Supporting the CSC-EDIC in implementing the ECSF and encouraging broader Member State participation;

2. Strengthening the European cybersecurity Single Market by:

   - Calling on EU institutions and Member States to ensure coherent implementation, effective supervision and interoperable incident reporting, while regularly reviewing requirements to keep them proportionate and effective;
   - Promoting interoperable standards and proportionate certification and procurement requirements, ensuring that certification is carried out by independent conformity assessment bodies accredited by national accreditation bodies and supervised by national cybersecurity certification authorities under the Cybersecurity Act, and that valid certificates, including ISO/IEC 27001 certificates covering the relevant requirements, are recognised across Member States, while avoiding duplicate certification;
   - Harmonising the definition of "significant incident" and reporting timelines across Member States as a priority within the ongoing NIS2 review, to reduce the fragmented compliance landscape currently faced by cross-border entities;
   - Ensuring that manufacturers placing digital products on the EU market provide security by design and default, clearly disclose the applicable security support period before purchase and provide necessary security fixes during that period without separate charges, consistently with the Cyber Resilience Act;
   - Promoting clear end-of-support notices and practical migration guidance so that users can make informed choices about replacing unsupported products;
   - Establishing clear legal safeguards for good-faith security researchers who minimise harm, protect personal data and follow coordinated vulnerability disclosure procedures;
   - Accelerating the finalisation of EUCS through a risk-based approach that balances security, strategic autonomy and competition;
   - Completing an EU-wide MSS certification scheme that enables cybersecurity service providers, including SMEs, to benefit from the "certify once, sell anywhere" principle;
   - Addressing AI-related cybersecurity risks through existing regulatory frameworks, with any additional independent testing limited to clearly defined capabilities or uses presenting demonstrable risks of serious harm; recognising equivalent assessments, protecting confidential information and personal data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), and avoiding duplicate approval procedures;
   - Requiring operators deploying autonomous systems in critical services to limit access to necessary functions, maintain appropriate activity records and test human intervention and service recovery arrangements, proportionate to the consequences of failure; integrating serious-incident reporting into existing notification channels;
   - Ensuring that any authority-imposed remediation requirement or deployment restriction addresses a documented risk, is no broader or longer than necessary, and is subject to reasoned decisions, periodic review and effective appeal;
   - Reducing compliance burden for SMEs and startups through simplified reporting templates, a genuine one-stop shop for incident notification, and proportionate documentation requirements, in line with the Commission's Digital Omnibus simplification package, proposed in late 2025 and currently under legislative debate;

3. Strengthening European strategic resilience without protectionism by:

   - Calling on Member States and EU institutions to secure public services, including municipal services, through funded, risk-based requirements covering access control, updates, protected backups and tested continuity plans; requiring independent audits at risk-appropriate intervals, assigned remediation deadlines and supervisory follow-up, while testing essential service provision during digital outages;
   - Exploring a common European model agreement on 'data embassies', meaning the hosting of backup copies of critical government data and essential public-service systems of one

Member State on the territory of another under a treaty-based regime of inviolability and immunity, which would: cover government data only and define the permitted purpose of the facility; exclude remote access by the host State without consent; keep the facility under the sending State's control rather than a provider subject to third-country jurisdiction; apply recognised security and data-centre standards; provide for a joint committee, dispute resolution and orderly termination; and comply with the GDPR and NIS2.
- Strengthening cooperation between national incident response teams, ENISA and CERT-EU, including mutual assistance and exercises involving municipalities and essential-service providers; drawing on the expertise of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) in Tallinn, including tis Locked Shields exercise and the Tallinn Manual on international law applicable to cyber operations.
- Strengthening and adequately funding the EU Cybersecurity Reserve beyond its current scope and budget, so it can respond to a broader range of incidents and support Member States with limited national capacity;
- Calling on public administrations and critical infrastructure operators to inventory vulnerable cryptographic systems, prioritise data requiring long-term confidentiality, and establish phased migration plans with identified responsibilities, costs and supplier requirements, aligned with the European post-quantum roadmap;
- Supporting implementation through shared technical guidance, interoperability testing and pooled procurement; using existing funding programmes for targeted, time-limited assistance where SMEs and public administrations demonstrate capacity gaps, with progress measured against defined migration milestones;
- Requiring critical infrastructure operators to manage supplier concentration and supply-chain risks and maintain viable continuity and exit arrangements;
- Supporting European cybersecurity startups, SMEs and open-source security projects through access to research, finance and procurement;
- Exploring links between European cybersecurity industrial policy and the emerging European Defence Single Market to facilitate appropriate access to dual-use funding and cooperation;
- Deepening cooperation with democratic partners through joint cyber exercises, operational exchanges between incident response teams and cooperation on interoperable security standards;
- Opposing mandated encryption backdoors that weaken end-to-end encryption and indiscriminate scanning of private communications, while supporting targeted, judicially authorised and proportionate investigative measures consistent with Articles 7 and 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- Limiting threat information sharing to necessary, proportionate purposes, with data minimisation, retention limits and oversight by existing competent authorities;
- Pursuing mutual-recognition arrangements on cybersecurity certification with trusted non-EU partners such as Japan, Singapore, Canada, Ukraine, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, to open new export opportunities for European cybersecurity companies without compromising EU security and data protections standards

Strengthening Europe's capacity to independently develop, evaluate and operate capable AI models and secure computing infrastructure, reducing strategic dependencies on providers subject to US or Chinese jurisdiction, by:

- securing access to sufficient high-performance computing, secure cloud infrastructure and competitive research funding for European universities, public research institutions, startups and SMEs;
- supporting European AI research and development, including open-source models and tools, through transparent, competitive funding focused on research, shared infrastructure

and demonstrable capability gaps;
- ensuring that public procurement promotes interoperability, data portability and the practical ability to switch providers or operate models independently, with safeguards proportionate to the sensitivity and criticality of their use;
- diversifying critical hardware and infrastructure supply chains while preserving competition and scientific cooperation with trusted democratic partners.

4. Strengthening European operational crisis preparedness by:

- Expanding coordinated cross-border cyber crisis exercises building on existing EU exercise frameworks and the EU Cybersecurity Reserve;
- Supporting Member States with limited national CSIRT capacity through shared resources and mutual assistance mechanisms;
- Integrating post-quantum cryptography readiness into critical infrastructure resilience assessments;

Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies

4.01 Liberal ideas on the Future of the Single Market

Adopted: LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress 2022, Prague, 21 May 2022
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic (archived several previous)

Considering that:

- The Internal Market, as defined by the Maastricht Treaty, stands for the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, which means that all EU citizens should be able to live, work, study and do business throughout the EU as well as to enjoy a wide choice of competitively priced goods and services;
- Since its inception in 1993, the Internal Market has opened up economic and working opportunities that have transformed the lives of hundreds of millions of Europeans;
- The Internal Market is still largely incomplete, as several essential sectors remain to be harmonised/liberalised
- Removing the barriers that still prevent citizens and businesses from fully enjoying the benefit of the Internal Market is a key aim of the EU
- The Internal Market is instrumental in increasing economic ties between EU Member States and thereby promoting peace and democracy on the European continent

Calls for:

The completion of the Internal Market for services, particularly in the following areas:

- **Expansion**: The internal market must not be used as a protectionist tool in trade with third countries. Instead, Europe needs to focus on standards pertaining to human rights and production methods.
- LYMEC reaffirms its commitment to support enlargement of the EU to its maximum viable boundaries. Maximum extension also refers to current EU/EEA Member States, which we urge to comply with implementation of existing directives. Infringement procedures need to be more efficient and a proper mechanism for the penalisation of non-compliance should be introduced. Furthermore, derogations, exceptions and opt-outs are often additional obstacles and should be re-evaluated and removed.

Harmonisation and adaptation: especially the harmonisation of standards is an important part of the realisation of freedoms, it should not be self-serving. The EU needs to improve the new legislative framework to combat overregulation.

- LYMEC calls for the establishment of a common EU patent system (excluding computing-implemented inventions) in order to better protect intellectual property rights at European level.

- EU Member States must make greater efforts to ensure the compatibility of national social security systems (pensions, unemployment benefits etc.) and ultimately move towards privatisation of the social security systems, in order to facilitate the fluid movement of people across national borders.
- **Digital market:** Believing that a more integrated Digital Single Market can enhance growth to the benefit of all Europeans, and that building a digital infrastructure that is inclusive, will enhance the competition in the digital marketplace and the quality of life for those who previously had inadequate internet access, LYMEC calls for the member states to increase their use of the structural funds in investing in spreading internet access to the regions with inadequate or no internet access; the member states to convert analog broadcasts to digital and use unutilized, dedicated military frequencies in order to free up frequencies for mobile internet; the member states to eliminate copyright levies.

In light of this, LYMEC also:

- Reiterates and strengthens its call for the completion of the Digital Single Market, in conjunction with easements for European Venture Capital, and a free flow of data within the Economic Area and with credible trade partners.
- calls for acceleration in introducing new technologies like 5G, with a unified spectrum distribution procedure in all bands;
- calls for measures supporting schools in educating pupils in ICT skills, especially with the aim to increase pupils' knowledge of programming and of the threats to privacy a digital society may create, and focused retraining efforts for those negatively affected by the shift;
- Encourages its member organisations to push for the creation of Chief Digital Officers at school level and Chief Innovation Officers in their jurisdiction;
- Calls for the creation of new types of enterprises which make it easier to do digital business across the Union; Supports the commitment of the Commission to provide for a well-established network of Digital Innovation Hubs, and believes that harnessing their full potential would bring added value to the digitalis action of Europe and the promotion of R&I activities in the digital sphere.
- Calls for replacing the Official Secrecy by Freedom of Information in the process of the extension of Open Data initiatives, starting with the EU

  institutions itself
- **Environment:** Environmental concerns need to be taken more seriously and integrated into Internal Market policy and they must be reconciled with free market principles that we are committed to. We especially advocate the inclusion of environmental aspects in public procurement to ensure sustainability and work towards reaching ambitious emission reduction targets.
- **Liberalising state services:**
- As a matter of priority, railway operations between EU Member States should be liberalised. The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) should regulate operators as regards such traffic.
- the Internal Market for energy provision services should be fully liberalised as soon as possible and interconnections between national networks should be improved. The EU should play a key role in this project and promote the necessary investments.

Cross-border services: finally, LYMEC wants to point out the lack of liberalisation of cross-border services in Europe and calls for a new comprehensive Services Directive

encompassing also many services of general interest that are not excluded as well as the principle of origin. The EU should also promote Europass as a tool to make the European labour market more open and dynamic. LYMEC proposes a central organisation harmonising banking requirements to free mobility for all EU citizens regarding banking services. This should lead to a single, free European banking market.

4.02 No to EU Tobin Tax

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2010, Sinaia, 1 May 2010
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

Tax, Debt Crisis

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania (Former 4.06 prior to Prague 2022)

- Since 2010, the European Commission has come up with proposals in order to introduce a tax on financial transactions (EU FTT), never being able to find a majority. However, in 2019, Germany and France came to the consensus that the EU FTT should be negotiated using a proposal they submitted based on the french tax on financial transactions. Since then, the introduction of an EU FTT is discussed.

Noting that:

- The EU today does not have competence to levy taxes, and is restricted by the Lisbon Treaty to enacting legislation regarding direct taxation,

Believing that:

- Most taxes are harmful for the efficient functioning of the market economy,

a tax on financial transactions (formerly known as "Tobin tax") would most certainly severely hamper the free flow of capital, one of the four freedoms upon which the EU is founded,

- The Tobin tax is an idea generally associated with socialist and anti-globalization political groups,
- An EU tax on financial transactions would drive capital out of EU countries, to the disbenefit of the European economy,

LYMEC:

- urges the Member States, the Commission and the Council to reject the idea of a tax on financial transactions.

4.03 On the Completion of the Single Market for Pharmaceuticals

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2012, Copenhagen, 13 May 2012
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: JD, RU

Industry, Business, Tax

(Former 4.10 prior to Prague 2022)

Considering that:

- For new drugs, the authorization process is quite complex. Currently manufacturers have the option of choosing between two different procedures of authorization.
- The directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare clarifies the principle of recognition of medical prescriptions across national borders.

Believing that:

- In order for the single market for pharmaceuticals to function properly, the authorization of new pharmaceuticals should be based on uniform application of uniform rules in order to secure a transparent, smooth, and fair process. Pharmaceuticals are not different from other goods and should not be excluded from the single market by national regulation
- Subsidies from public and/or private health insurance must not favour certain manufacturers and/or retailers and thereby distort the market.

LYMEC Calls on:

- ALDE and the Renew Europe Group to work for complete harmonization of the procedures by which new medicines are authorized in the EU. These authorizations should be granted only by the European Medicines Agency based on objective, scientific criteria that are uniformly applicable.
- The European Commission to make sure that insurance subsidies can be granted for drugs regardless of the place of purchase as long as the following criteria are met:

1. that the drug would normally be covered by the insurance;
2. that these drugs are bought within the single market

4.04 Enhancing the Single Market for Retail Financial Services

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2012, Sofia, 14 October 2012
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom

Industry, ECB

(Former 4.12 prior to Prague 2022) Proposed by RU, Denmark

Considering that:

- Financial services are a crucial part of any modern economy.
- The process, when opening a bank account or procuring other financial services, is often more complicated for an EU citizen living in another EU country than it is for a national citizens.
- The costs of withdrawing money from and transferring money to a bank account in another EU country are often higher than the costs of withdrawing money from or transferring money to a bank account in the same country.

Believing that:

- There is no reason why financial services should be exempt from vision of the single market.
- In order for the single market for retail financial services to function properly, the technical barriers that currently exist must be eliminated. This means that the process for procuring financial services e.g. opening a bank account in another EU country should be identical for all EU citizens regardless of your national citizenship.
- Transaction fees levied against consumers should be the same for bank activities across member state borders as for cross bank activities within member states.

The LYMEC Congress calls on:

ALDE to work for the implementation of non-discrimination based on nationality in the field of retail financial services in order to achieve identical procedures for all EU citizens within this area.

- The European Commission to establish an expert group on technical barriers in the area of the single market for retail financial services. It shall be the task of this group to map the technical barriers within this area and to recommend to the Commission measures in order to eliminate these barriers.
- The LYMEC Bureau to advance this position through ALDE and Renew Europe Group.

5. **Resolution on Bank Reform** (Former 4.14 prior to Prague 2022) *Debt Crisis, Tax*

Alarmed by the recent economic developments in certain European member states such as Cyprus,

Noting with concern that banks in certain member states are bigger than the national economy of those member states,

Keeping in mind that the 2008 financial crisis and the 2008-2012 global recession have triggered the European sovereign-debt crisis,

Taking into account that the crises were essentially triggered by the collapse of large banks,
Fully aware of the fragile state of Europe's economy,

Realizing that further rises of sovereign debt by bailing-out large banks would be disastrous for the European economy,
Having further considered that at the same time many banks are too large for countries to allow them to fail,

Recognizing that a system in which profits are private, while losses are public and burden the taxpayer is not liberal,

Believing that organisationally separating the high-risk investment activities of banks from their private-saving activities creates more stable banks which cause less damage to the economy when collapsing,

LYMEC, gathered in Tallinn on 27 April 2013:

Endorses the reforms proposed by the Liikanen group to split high-risk investment-activities of banks from from the rest of their business;
Urges the European Commission to hasten the implementation of these reforms at a European level;
Strongly condemns any further bail-outs for banks involved in high-risk activities.

4.06 Resolution on Competition in the European Community

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 1992, Paris, 19 January 1992
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

Free Trade, EMU, Greece

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Paris, France on the 17-19thJanuary 1992.

LYMEC supports an economic policy of the EC commission that is based on a consequent application of the principles of a competitive market economy. Only an economic policy that thrives for true competition will be able to provide a healthy economic structure, a pluralistic offer of goods and services to consumers, a good chance for future development and thus a continuing ability to compete on the world market. Considering the principles, LYMEC requests that anti-trust decisions by the EC commission concerning mergers, acquisitions, fusion's and take overs between companies have to be ultimately judged in the light of maintaining and guarding competition rather than in the light of industrial policies. In this context LYMEC expresses grave concerns on a tendency in the EC commission to give aspects of industrial policy priority over principals of policy of competition. Thus, the danger exists that the coming European Union will rather be a union of big companies than a union with a pluralistic economic mixture in which small and medium-sized businesses find their place. LYMEC rejects the harsh criticism of the prohibition of a take over of Canadian aircraft manufacturer De Havilland by Aerospatiale and Alenia expressed by the governments of France and Italy and the conservative opposition in France. LYMEC turns against any attempt to provide for special authorities of the EC commission on industrial policy in the treaties of Rome.

4.07 Globalisation is an Opportunity, Not a Threat!

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2006, Winterthur, 9 April 2006
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

Free Trade, Tax

Resolution adopted by LYMEC Congress, 7-9 April 2006, Winterthur, Switzerland (Former 4.19 prior to Prague 2022)

Whereas:

- The world is moving from an industrial age to an information age in which geographic distance is becoming less important in building cross border relations.

Trade allows the production of goods and services by those who are most efficient, thus maximising their availability at the best price.

- Trade barriers serve to fund state budgets and protect otherwise unviable economic activities. As such, they are not in the interest of the consumers and in the long run, they harm the economy by giving it a false protection.

Noting that:

- There is clear danger in the gathering strength of opposition to globalisation.
- The campaigns by trade unions are often less concerned with supporting worker rights in poor countries than they are with protecting declining industries in rich ones.
- It is argued that globalisation ends cultural diversity and affects our environment.

Considering that:

- International trade and investment have been the engines of world growth over the past 50 years. The consequences of a decline in world trade would immediately be felt with rising unemployment throughout the trading world and a fall in development aid.
- World prosperity and environmental protection are enhanced by greater exchange between nations and that this is made possible by everyone agreeing to abide by rules.
- Companies moving to developing countries often export higher wages and working conditions compared with those in domestic companies. While wages are often lower in developing countries, they also reflect lower levels of education and productivity.

The European Liberal Youth – LYMEC believes that:

- The EU has to increase its competitive capacity by fully launching the Lisbon Agenda and develop into a dynamic knowledge-based economy that emphasises entrepreneurship and flexible labour, which will make emerging low-wage based economies around the world not a threat for EU's position, but an opportunity.
- Wealthy countries must accept risk losing labour intensive activities due to relocation to low-wage countries and that it would be condemning developing countries to even greater poverty to restrict their ability to compete in the world market.

- The EU should continue to use the WTO as the prime instrument in the attempt to reach global free trade and accompany this by development assistance to counter a digital divide and let developing countries reap the benefits of globalisation.
- The strength, democracy and transparency of the major multilateral institutions have to improve to successfully address the major global challenges of our time such as the environment, global free trade and the promotion of democracy and human rights.
- New global media and free trade have proven powerful means of projecting traditional culture, thereby opening up the world to all its citizens and thus enriching our lives.
- The growing gathering strength of opposition to globalisation calls for a LYMEC campaign arguing that “globalisation offers you a world of opportunities”.

4.08 Telecommunication in Europe

Adopted: Congress not known
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

Considering that:

- Freedom of movement should be extended to telecommunication operations.
- Removing barriers in telecommunication is elementary in a united Europe
- People living near border areas can inadvertently be switched to another network in case of low coverage.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for:

- Study the implementation of Free Roaming to other European states that are not part of the European Union
- All EU-internal mobile phone calls should be considered as domestic and priced the same, whether national or cross-border.
- Allowing customers to switch to another operator in the new country and being able to maintain the same phone number. This would add the international prefix to the phone number in order to avoid conflicts with that country's numbering system.
- The creation of an international prefix for Europe, recognising the success of .eu for the internet

4.09 Resolution on Free Market in developing countries

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 1992, Paris, 19 January 1992
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

Business, Free Trade, developing countries

Adopted by the Congress of LYMEC held in Paris, France on the 17-19th of January 1992.

(Adopted at Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic, archived several previous)

An international state of law is needed:

- Providing rules for multi-nationals with regard to environmental protection, the GATT negotiations must be successful in order to establish a multilateral worldwide free trade order.
- Permitting to help different countries in the peculiar way each needs, controlling that civil rights are not affected by free market economy (especially with regards to experiments of new medicines on developing countries**'** peoples).
- Lower European market protection in relation to developing countries and permit importation of more kinds of goods in the European markets.
- Decrease the help to European agricultural production and the production itself (gradually) in order not to produce more than we need so developing countries**'** markets are not invaded by European products and can develop alone. (eventually helping European regions that live on agriculture through the Regional Development Funding). This would lead to a free market in Europe (because artificial mechanisms that influence agriculture would be destroyed) and in the developing countries.
- We call on developed countries to sincerely consider ways of reducing the debt burden of developing countries by cancellation and or rescheduling of debts. Foreign aid from developed countries is an especially important key not only to immediate relief in the developing countries but, as far as it is cleverly done, also to the future wealth of underdeveloped societies. Very often foreign aid doesn't meet the needs of helped countries, and this happens basically because it is more controlled economically than politically, there is a lack of parliamentary control on ODA. In most countries, corruption in counterpart administrations, money given in not so much as needed.

The Congress points out that agriculture is not necessarily more clean than industry. New industries can be less polluting (high tech industry, computers...)

The Congress suggests to:

- Export know-how in a free market co-operative system into developing countries in sectors of production that permit this kind of aid, for example:

exporting farmers and clean farming techniques, the rural areas of the developing countries could be vitalised, reducing the problems of great cities.

- Pay attention to the NIC (Newly Industrialised Countries) the relations between the developed and developing countries should not permit the NIC to spoil developing countries indirectly damaging the 1st world too. (for example through the international global state of law).
- Begin a policy of convincing and actively supporting developing countries to reduce population growth. We are aware of the cultural problem connected to this policy but we are of the opinion that the economic advantage would be great.
- The EU should try to have only one common voice, with regard to these problems.
- The EU should contribute to the creation of the international state of law, in an international way of administration by the UN.
- LYMEC stresses the importance of foreign aid being used by non-governmental organisations for direct co-operation, while donor countries should keep rigid control against corruption both in NGOs, enterprises and third world administrations.
- Call upon all developed countries and international organisms to increase their aid to the Third World at least to 0.7% of their gross national income as suggested by the UNO.
- Stress the need for a European development agency. National governments should contribute to this agency, hence integrating European ODA. This should be a very executive body closely watched by an EP committee

LYMEC calls upon all developed countries and international organisms to increase their aid to the developing countries**.**

4.10 Audit Market reform

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2013, Bucharest, 17 November 2013
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: JOVD, VU

(Former 4.26 prior to Prague 2022)

Noting that:

- the role of an audit is to contribute to the credibility and reliability of financial statements;
- auditing is an integral part of the financial reporting environment and its importance is reflected in only registered auditors undertaking these statutory audits[1];

Considering that:

- Former financial crises have shown weaknesses of the current audit function being performed and it should be left to market forces to improve audit functions;
- increasing trust in the market is important to obtain trust in market functions and open enterprise;
- financial statements should be a statements of facts, considering the risk of future investments and cash-flows, reflecting the best current knowledge;
- auditors have an important function in building trust and should therefore be completely independent;
- auditors should adhere to the rules of the market and not be hindered by current regulations, preventing the audit industry to develop with new market insights;
- audit firms should have an open structure and adhere to best current compliance and audit practice;
- Government cannot impose trust on auditors, it can prosecute offenders of good audit practice;

Concluding that:

- EU regulations, create a new market for exchanging clients between big auditing firms;
- The goal of regulations should be to oversee a level playing field for all auditors and clients, without personal preferences;
- **LYMEC hereby calls** the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to revoke legislation that hinders the level playing field and market discipline to take effect.

11. **European Financial Sector** (Former 4.27 prior to Prague 2022) **Noting that...**
* The financial industry is seen as one of the most important sectors within

the European economy

  – The Financial Sector has seen its worst performance since the great depression in the 1930's.

  - 325 billion EUR was injected in the European financial sector by national governments and the European Central Bank to regain financial stability and to restore capital-asset ratios of financial institutions to the average level before the crisis.

Believing that...

- The financial sector is very important for further growth and recovery of the European economy.
- Systemic risk of large financial institutions should be limited both on the national level as well on the European Level to prevent financial and debt crises in the future.
- The financial sector itself should carry the risks of financial distress or going bankrupt instead of the European taxpayer.

Resolving that...

- LYMEC calls upon the introduction of the liquidity requirements of the Basel III package for banks, preferably at an international level, but at least at European level. The implementation should be done as soon as possible, but should not harm the early recovery of the European economy. Banks will be required to hold a significant higher capital conservation buffer of to withstand
- future periods of financial distress.
- Thereby not only banks should comply with these requirements but also other important financial institutions such as large insurance companies, hedge funds, structured investment vehicles (SIVs) and private equity funds should meet these requirements as well and have to prepare a "living will".
- Banks in the European Union must present a so-called "living will" spelling out how they would survive a crisis of financial distress without taxpayer aid. In this plan a bank states how to react in case of financial distress or in a situation of liquidation.

4.12 Seize the possibilities of the sharing economy

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2015, Rotterdam, 2 May 2015
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Svensk Ungdom, JD

Approved in the Rotterdam Congress of May 2015

(Former 4.28 prior to Prague 2022)

Considering that:

- New technology and devices are changing our consumption behavior the

possibilities of offering services, also making peer-to-peer services or so called

sharing economy services more accessible than ever before

Believing that:

- Such new innovative platforms for services increase the exchange of services, and offer new possibilities to both users and consumers
- The sharing economy lowers the threshold to entrepreneurship and boosts innovation and competition, which are cornerstones of a free market
- Such sharing economy platforms do not make traditional professional services redundant, but rather fill their own niche in the service sector and help diversify the market
- Increased use of sharing economy services may also have positive environmental and socioeconomic effects

Noting that:

- In Europe, such sharing economy services have not always been received well by policy makers and competing traditional businesses and have, for instance, faced office raids, bans and fines

Calls for:

- Regulators to address the sharing economy models on the European market constructively, in order to ensure room for innovation in the economy as a whole
- Clear and comprehensive information by sharing economy services to customers about the services provided and their quality standards
- A thorough evaluation of existing regulation and, wherever possible, a process of deregulation to ensure competition and innovation on a level playing field

4.13 Urgent resolution in defence of CETA and free trade

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, Tallinn, 12 November 2016
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: JNC, RU

(Former 4.30 prior to Prague 2022)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Considering that:

- Europe's prosperity was built to a great extent on free trade with countries all over the world;
- the creation and negotiation of trade agreements between the European

Union and 6 other parties is a cornerstone of the European Union;

- a sustainable economic recovery for European countries, businesses and workers can only be achieved by boosting growth throughout the continent;
- the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada can contribute to this growth by removing 99% of customs duties,[1] saving European exporters approximately €500 mln a year, opening Canadian public procurement to European SMEs, creating a more favourable environment for job creation, and making Europe wealthier by

  €5.8 bn a year.[2]
- Besides economic aspects, CETA is setting the new world standards for future negotiations.

Noting that:

- the Government of Wallonia refused to grant the Belgian government full powers to sign CETA following a vote on 14 October and subsequent negotiations with the EU and Canada;
- a tentative deal to provisionally implement CETA. was struck on 27 October;
- the "mixed-agreement" system chosen for signing CETA is an unwieldy process under which any single one of 38 national or regional parliaments can hold a treaty to ransom even if almost everyone else supports it;
- and failure to ratify the treaty with Canada would cast serious doubt on the EU's ability to formalise deals with other important trade partners such as Japan and the United States.

Believing that:

- the Parliament of Wallonia's reasons for rejecting CETA were hard to understand and, as highlighted by the ALDE member party in Wallonia, appeared to privilege party politics over good economic governance;[4]
- in light of Wallonia nearly sinking the free trade agreement with Canada, and as such 52 holding 500 million European citizens hostage, there should be a change in the approach for approving free trade agreements between EU and other parties;

- Canada and the EU have issued binding declarations to address previously raised concerns;[5] and there seems to have been no clear-cut legal requirement for the Commission to label CETA a mixed agreement.[6] LYMEC therefore calls for:
- the European Commission and EU Member States to fight for the ratification of CETA; European institutions to put food and safety standards at the heart of their negotiation strategy for future free trade agreements;
- LYMEC Board to call upon the EU, ALDE and ALDE member parties to mount a vigorous defence of free trade in words and action;
- LYMEC calls for the EU to follow the opinion of the Court of Justice of the European Union on whether the comprehensive free trade agreement between the European Union and Singapore is a mixed agreement or not.

That will create a precedent for the ratification of free trade agreements by the EU.

- Communication on free trade agreements to be improved, to allow stronger transparency throughout the stages of the negotiation process. The content to be explained in a clear language.

1. "Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)", European Commission, 2016 59 60 61
2. "Wallonia is adamantly blocking the EU's trade deal with Canada", The Economist, 62 22 October 2016 63 64 65 68
3. "CETA: quand le jeu politicien prime sur l'économie", Mouvement Réformateur, 19 October 69 2016 70 53 71 72
4. "EU and Canada move to allay concerns over free trade deal", Financial Times, 73

   23 September 2016. 74 75 76
5. As noted by Folkert Graafsma, a leading trade and customs lawyer at the VVGB law firm

4.14 A proposal for the withdrawal of small-denomination euro coins

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2017, Stockholm, 14 May 2017
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux (FEL), Jonge Democraten (JD)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

(Former 4.31 prior to Prague 2022)

Summary (optional)

- Rising production, productivity and handling costs associated with small-denomination coins have turned them into a liability rather than an asset to the Eurozone economy.
- Consumers who receive small-denomination coins as change tend to hoard them instead of recirculating them —as a result, these coins no longer fulfil their role as a medium of payment.
- The resolution proposes ending the minting of 1- and 2-euro cent coins.
- It urges the Eurozone to implement cash rounding as several Member States have already done successfully.
- It addresses some common concerns about small-denomination coin withdrawal and cash rounding.
- It sets out the legal basis for the Eurozone and its Member States to achieve this goal.

Believing that:

- Coins and banknotes of money exist to serve as an effective medium of payment.
- Small-denomination euro coins no longer fulfil this role and, furthermore, they impose significant costs on central banks and private businesses.
- Empirical data and practical experience in countries inside and outside the Eurozone prove that cash rounding solves this problem by enabling the withdrawal of small-denomination coins while safeguarding retailers' ability to make use of price optimization strategies and avoiding inflationary effects.

Considering that:

- The cost of minting small-denomination euro coins exceeds their face value and the cumulative difference since the introduction of euro coins in 2002 has risen to €1.4 billion.
- They make up about a half of all euro coins minted, but they disappear rapidly from circulation due to wear and the fact that consumers do not consider them a useful medium of exchange.
- The impact on productivity is even greater — European workers are estimated to waste tens of millions of hours every year looking for 1- and 2-euro cent coins as change in transactions.

- Handling charges for these coins (which can reach up to 80% of their face value) are ultimately passed on to consumers in the shape of fees or price increases.

Considering further that:

- Belgium, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and non-euro members such as Sweden, Denmark and Hungary have successfully tackled this problem by instituting rounding in all cash transactions.
- Under this system, prices are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5 cents.
- Individual items may continue to be priced at any amount (e.g. €0.99), and only the final tally is rounded up or down, so retailers can continue to use price optimization strategies.
- Theoretical studies and practical experience in countries which have already switched to this system agree that the inflationary impact would be negligible to non-existent.
- Minting of small-denomination coins would cease and, while they would remain legal tender for as long as they stayed in circulation, usual wear would eventually remove them.
- Polls show a sizeable majority of Eurozone citizens in favour of withdrawing 1and 2-cent coins, with popular support growing even in previously reluctant countries such as Germany.
- The European Union has the power to discontinue the minting of small-denomination coins under Art. 128 [2], sentence 2 of the TFEU.

LYMEC calls:

To keep ensuring the possibility to electronically pay unrounded figures, LYMEC calls on the European Commission to make a formal proposal to the European Council to:

- Discontinue the production of small-denomination coins by amending the Regulation on denominations and technical specifications of euro coins.
  - Issue a Recommendation for harmonized rounding rules under article 292 of the TFEU.

4.15 A step forward for digital entrepreneurship in Europe

Adopted: Congress not known
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

(Former 4.32 prior to Prague 2022)

Summary

1. The growth of innovative start-ups in Europe is often hindered by the Byzantine patchwork of digital laws of our States.
2. The ability of digital services companies to operate
3. under the same conditions throughout Europe would also bring a much-needed dose of free-market competition to certain Member States.
4. Streamlining the regulatory landscape has the potential to add €415 bn and hundreds of thousands of jobs to the European economy.
5. This resolution urges the EU institutions to move forward in the completion of the Digital Single Market, to tear down regulatory walls that only make it more difficult for digital entrepreneurs to succeed, and to make sure digital consumer rights are protected.

Considering that:

- The goals of the European Single Act in 1986 were explicitly to remove barriers between Member States in order to create the Single Market. This included the digital sector to allow entrepreneurs to thrive on the European market. ●

The 2012 LYMEC Congress in Copenhagen approved a resolution on “Completing the Digital Single Market”, which dealt essentially with digital infrastructure and copyright harmonisation.

- A true Digital Single Market is much more than that: it means that an innovative start-up can easily grow from a garage in one Member State to become a company active throughout the European Union, without an unnecessary regulatory burden.
- However, growing digital start-ups in Europe have more trouble expanding than their American counterparts because they have to ensure compliance with a different patchwork of digital laws every time they cross a Member State border.
- Completing the Digital Single Market has the potential to add about €415 bn to the European GDP and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.
- Some Member States have taken advantage of the lack of an integrated Single Digital Market to favor domestic companies over those based in other states. Such protectionist actions go directly against existing competition regulations in the European Union.
- There remains a substantial degree of fragmentation in the field of patents, with two pan-European patent offices, plus one in each Member State.

Believing that:

- The fact that distributors of digital content can have the rights to sell the exact same content in some Member States, but not in others, constitutes an unacceptable fragmentation and clear barrier to the completion of the European single market.

- Making it easier for digital services companies to expand into other Member States would increase competition, shaking up sclerotic markets and thereby resulting in better prices and services for consumers under free-market conditions.
- The European patent with unitary effect (EPUE) and the harmonisation of patent offices have the potential to slash patent costs for innovators across the continent, as well as making it easier for them to secure their products with less bureaucracy.
- Greater unity and transparency is required in the field of patents.

LYMEC urges European Member States to:

Participate in the unitary patent regulation and/or ratify the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court if they have yet to do so.

Calls on the European institutions to:

- Maintain the momentum for integration of the Digital Single Market despite the withdrawal of the United Kingdom, hitherto one of its leading proponents;
- Take steps towards closer unity and greater transparency over European patent policy, laying the groundwork for the European Patent Office to grant truly European patents with unitary effect instead of the bundles of national patents it currently grants;
- Move towards a streamlined legislative framework that enables digital companies to operate in other Member States just as easily as in their home states; and
- To do so while keeping in mind consumer rights such as personal data protection, warranties, a wide range of choice (free-market competition) and the availability of digital products and services all over Europe.

4.16 From an economic and monetary union (EMU) to an economic, budgetary, fiscal and monetary union (EBFMU)

Adopted: Congress not known
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force

(Former 4.33 prior to Prague 2022)

Considering that:

- The European Union is a supranational organisation where unanimity rule still prevails for several decisions; the economic and monetary union is part of these areas.
- The current decision-making process regarding economic governance and the management of the single currency is lacking efficiency and forces member states to push for national interests, leaving the common interest on the side.
- The Economic and Monetary Union is still lacking a real economic, fiscal and budgetary policy. Member states retain autonomy in these key areas.
- In the crisis situation and beyond, the lack of coordination in terms of fiscal and budgetary policies especially in the Eurozone have been proven destructive on the economic performances of the countries concerned.

Noting that:

- For example, the Quantitative Easing has been launched in 2010 by the Federal Reserve System in the USA to tackle the sovereign debt crisis after the financial crisis of 2007while it has only been launched in 2015 by the European Central Bank, in other words almost ten years later…
- One another relevant example might be the issue of fiscal dumping and the fact that some countries have very attractive tax rates for enterprises and represent an unfair competition towards the other members states. This is in fact possible because of the lack of common policies.
- Even though the EU establishes the legal framework for the macroeconomic indicators that are the government budget balance (max 3% of GDP) and the government debt rate (max 60% of GDP), it is strictly up to the Members States to define their policies. Hence, some states choose for fiscal austerity, others for public investment.
- Since all Member States of the Eurozone do have the same currency, this lead us to a quite schizophrenic and inconsistent system where some decisions enter in conflict with other decisions in the Eurozone and beyond.
- The actual executive body of the Eurozone is the Eurogroup, the regular meeting of the Eurozone's ministers for Economy and Finance, whereas the Council of Economy and Finance (ECOFIN) deals with economic and financial issues of all 28 Member States and takes into account the decisions of the Eurogroup, resulting in a two-speed approach. This often translates into inefficient decision-making dynamics.
- Some States, for example France but also Germany and Spain are in favour of a deep reform regarding the economic field in order to path the way towards a European Economic and Fiscal Union.

- The Single currency was designed at the Maastricht treaty as a goal to reach for all the Members States of the Union after complying with the criteria to apply for a membership.

Calls for:

- The creation of a European government, provided with its own budget, a common taxation policy and more to the point, a common strategy of economic growth in order to avoid the consequences of the current situation.
- A transfer of competences and sovereignty in order to allow this government to take all the decisions that might be needed to manage financial, budgetary and fiscal policies.
- The creation of an EU finance minister who will be responsible for the Euro and financial stability, and who will be democratically accountable to the European Parliament. If relevant, consultations might be carried out with the national counterparts.
- The democratization and the increase of transparency of the EMU (becoming EBFMU). In other words, strengthening the role of the European Parliament in economic, monetary and financial affairs.
- Urging all Members States to accelerate talks and reforms aiming at integrating the Eurozone in the near future.
- The creation therefore of the "Euro accession assistance structure" as presented by Jean-Claude Juncker in his "State of the European Union 2017"

to help catching-up with the 19 on the short-term and unify the 28 in the field of economic and monetary policies on the long-term.

- In return for reforms and with the empowerment of the Commission to sanction Member States
- The creation of a system of Eurobonds, with one interest rate for the entire Eurozone, and therefore banning the current acts of speculation caused by fluctuations in interest rates between member states.
- We ought to make sure that the Member States keep the freedom to choose which specific policies better suit them to meet the objectives set by the EU.

4.17 Motion for a resolution against new taxes on innovation (especially taxes on automation)

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

(Former 4.34 prior to Prague 2022)

Having regard to:

The Europe 2020 Strategy where: "[…] R&D/innovation and more efficient energy use makes us more competitive and creates jobs"

The propositions from more and more political parties to implement taxes on robots and therefore on the potential of innovation which they represent

LYMEC supports the freedom of Scientific Research and underlines that:

- Science represents an opportunity to individuals, enhancing their economic and social conditions
- Science is an occasion for creating new jobs and economic growth.

And LYMEC concludes that:

- The EU should support and respect the freedom of ethically acceptable research, considering that science must be safeguarded from any religious, political and ideological interference.
- Science must represent an opportunity for any individual that aim to enhance and improve his or her life, bringing a general benefit for the entire human beings that could enjoy as result of his or her work.

Considering that:

- Digital revolution is the 4th industrial revolution.
- Like every other industrial revolution, it is driven by progress and new technologies. These technologies are deeply disruptive. They affect every aspect of our society and our economy.
- If the benefits brought by the digital technologies are innumerous, they also have controversial impacts, as it is the case for any other industrial revolutions,
- The role of politics is always to deal with these negative impacts, i.e. try to contain them but also and foremost anticipate them.
- The negative impacts on jobs are real, especially for the jobs that can be automated or replaced by Artificial Intelligence.

Believing that:

- Progress cannot be impedimented with taxes.

- It is costly to implement taxes and subsidies designed specifically to help condemned economic sectors survive. More than the economic cost, it is devastating for the human workforce concerned. For example, in Belgium, the different government subsidized coal mines and the heavy steel industries for decades. It did not prevent the industries from finally closing, with the consequence that thousands of workers were put out of their jobs.
- The Creative destruction concept, developed by Schumpeter, has proved to be true with the previous industrial revolutions.
- Various studies indicate that up to 85% of the jobs in 2030 do not even exist yet
  - Innovation will be the key of new jobs creation
- To be able to fulfill these new jobs the EU will need, not to tax robots, but invest in Education to create a skillful workforce for the digital industry

Calls on:

- The European institutions to discourage Members State to implement fiscal barriers that would go against innovations and could put the EU at an economic disadvantage.
- The European Institutions and the Member States to invest in Education, to develop the skills needed to cope with the Digital Revolution.
- The European Institutions and Member States to promote and encourage technological progress, and to remove any barriers to the development of new, sustainable technologies.
- The Member States to actively invest in R&D, especially when it comes to green technologies.

4.18 Menstruation: Breaking the taboo

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius, 13 October 2018
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: JUNOS, JuLis

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018 (Former 4.36 prior to Prague 2022)

In many societies, menstruation is viewed as unclean and talking about it is still considered a taboo. Therefore, a lot of women feel ashamed and embarrassed during their periods. This often stems from a lack of education and misinformation of society on the topic.

Furthermore, even if education on menstruation is provided, sustainability may not be a part of it. However, female hygiene products pose a great challenge to the environment, not only due to the vast amount of waste that is accumulated, but also because they sometimes are not or cannot be disposed properly.

Considering that:

- Ireland already has 0% VAT on female hygiene products. This however, is not possible in many other EU states;
- A sustainable use of resources is important to guarantee a liveable world for future generations. Therefore, sustainability needs to be part of these measures of education on menstruation. Innovative and sustainable female hygiene products should be promoted as alternatives to regular products like tampons.

LYMEC Calls on:

- The EU to take measures and work on policies in order to ensure the removal of all taboos connected with menstruation with use of education;
- The EU to encourage education on sustainable use of hygiene products, especially on topic of disposal of waste.

4.19 Standing behind our SMEs

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels, 6 April 2019
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Venstres Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux

---

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

(Former 4.37 prior to Prague 2022)

Stressing that:

- SMEs are affected by EU legislation in various fields, such as competition (Articles 101 to 109 TFEU), taxation (Articles 110 to 113 TFEU) and company law (right of establishment – Articles 49 to 54 TFEU).

Noting that:

- The existing 23 million SMEs represent 99% of all business in the EU;
- In the past five years, they have created around 85% of new jobs and provided two-thirds of the total private sector employment in the EU;
- The SMEs are particularly a well-known source of entrepreneurship within the European economy, which is the foundation to ensure economic growth, innovation, job creation and social integration in the EU;
- After the economic crisis, as reported by the SME Envoy Network, there has been a strong recuperation and an increase in production and occupation in the SME sector, but that they are still losing export potential due to the existing cross-border barriers within the EU;
- The current SME Instrument will not exist under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027).

Considering that:

- The survey carried out to evaluate the performance of the Small Business Act (2008) as the overarching framework acknowledges the need for a renewed strategy for SMEs with a special focus on the five priority areas identified by the SME Envoy Network;
- The administrative and legislative burden remains the top concern for stakeholders;
- Access to finance remains difficult despite the actions taken both at the EU and member states' level;
- Six Member States still generated SME value added in 2017 which was still below their respective levels of 2008;
- The SME Instrument was particularly useful because it was self-beneficiary for the participating company.

LYMEC welcomes:

- The European Commission's decision to include a similar program to the SME Instrument under the European Innovation Council for incremental innovation,

called the accelerator programme, which will help SMEs to grow through grants with no budgetary limit;

- The SBA and the Commission's intention to work for the continuous improvement of the framework conditions for SMEs in the single market, as expressed in the "Towards a Single Market Act – For a highly competitive social market economy" (COM(2010) 0608) and the "Single Market Act II (COM(2012) 0573);
- The European Parliament's proposal that 70% of the European Innovation Council will be reserved to SMEs and start-ups.

LYMEC urges:

- The EU to take steps to remove cross-border barriers within its frontiers to facilitate the export of products and services by SMEs, paying special attention to administrative and legislative burdens;
- The EU to make a more efficient use of the existing instruments, particularly of COSME financial instruments;
- The EU to keep on improving access to new markets and the internationalisation of SMEs as an opportunity to grow, increase revenue and gain business experience, since currently only 20% of SME exports go outside the Single Market;
- To create synergies between existing programmes to promote "early stage" entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education and support youth start-ups and SMEs;
- The EU to provide educational support to SMEs, especially when it comes to the growing digitalisation of the economy and the spread of new technologies;
- To take into account the energy transition, which has to be fair and sustainable and be carried out in a proportional manner, for what the SMEs need to prepare themselves beforehand. In this regard, an incentives scheme would be a policy to consider
- The EU to go beyond research funding and innovation funding programmes and consider the unification of EU's fewer requirements or reduced fees policies for administrative compliance across member states;
- The EU to provide appropriate assistance to the SMEs in order to help them keep their commercial relations with the UK in light of the possibility of a so-called hard BREXIT.
- The member states to create similar national support programmes that could create synergies with the new EU funding programmes, respecting the principle of subsidiarity and avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy;
- The LYMEC Bureau to forward this resolution to the ALDE Party and to the ALDE Council;
- The LYMEC member organisations and member contacts in the EU member states and applicant states to pressure their mother parties and other politicians to achieve the aims of this resolution.

4.20 A Liberal Tax System for Europe: Simpler, Smarter, Fairer

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: LYMEC Individual Members, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Jeunes MR, Mladí Progresívci, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jonge Democraten, Young Liberals

---

Outcome of the IMS-led working group on Taxation.
Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Noting That

1. Although there are some common EU rules, particularly around VAT, taxation is still largely a member-state affair in the EU, with significant differences in tax rules and regulations between member states.
2. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), the practice whereby accounting methods are used to 'shift' profits from high tax to low tax jurisdictions in order to avoid taxation, has been widely used by transnational companies in the early 2000s.
3. In October 2021, the OECD and all G20 countries agreed a landmark international tax deal, that will aim to prevent the use of BEPS and reduce international tax avoidance. The deal consists of two pillars:
    1. The First Pillar is a set of profit-allocation rules that specifies where profits from a business should be taxed. It establishes the standard of territorial taxation, where profits should be taxed in the jurisdiction in which they were generated, with 25% of the profit from crossborder sales reallocated to jurisdictions in which the sales occurred.
    2. The Second Pillar introduces a minimum agreed corporate tax rate for large multinational businesses of 15%.
4. Many individuals have to pay taxes, or at least file tax forms, in multiple EU member states. This requires completely separate forms to be filed in each state. States also commonly have differing tax calendars, and use different terminology, and many states still rely on paper tax forms.
5. Cryptocurrency is a reality: companies trade or make use of cryptocurrency, but often there are no tax regulations to define how cryptocurrency should be accounted for.
6. Tax rules have often 'evolved' over a long period of time rather than having been conceived of as a holistic package: as a result, there are often unintended loopholes or rules that advantage some and penalise others for seemingly arbitrary reasons.
7. Many EU member states require taxpayers to submit long forms containing information that tax authorities are already aware of.
8. The EU has long discussed a 'Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base', but there is still little progress towards this goal. A CCCTB would entail every EU member state using the same rules and formula for calculating a corporation's taxable profit, regardless of the tax rate that is then actually charged.

Believing In

Simpler Taxes:

1. Taxation and government services should be as simple, accessible and transparent as possible, to increase public confidence and reduce administrative burdens on businesses and citizens.
2. Nobody should be taxed twice on the same income stream by two different states, nor should anyone avoid taxation altogether due to differences between tax laws in different states.
3. The filing of tax should be easy and unbureaucratic. Individuals who have to file taxes in multiple EU member states should not face bureaucratic hurdles from differing tax years, terminology or mountains of paperwork.
4. Measures should be taken to make cross-border tax administration easier for EU citizens and companies, whilst allowing Member States to retain their autonomy in the field of tax.

Smarter Taxes:

1. Every European will pay taxes, and so every European should be taught the skills necessary to file and pay their taxes.
2. More cross-border interaction and data sharing between tax authorities in different EU countries is needed, not only to prevent tax evasion, but also to protect taxpayers against double taxation and needless bureaucracy, whilst also protecting data privacy.
3. Better mechanisms are needed to ensure transfer pricing is not manipulated by transnational companies in order to engage in BEPS.
4. Taxes should be paperless in the 21st century: there should be a move towards faster, more efficient and more secure digital tax filing throughout Europe.
5. Where there is fiscal room for tax cuts, they should be 'smart' tax cuts that directly incentivise research & development, green practices, and investment in deprived regions.
6. Cryptocurrency is here, whether governments like it or not. States should regulate the tax treatment cryptocurrency to prevent abuse, rather than counterproductively pretending it doesn't exist.
7. The tedious and pointless bureaucratic procedure of filling in forms for tax authorities with information they already know must end: tax filing procedures should be as simple and user friendly as possible for the taxpayer.

Fairer Taxes

1. EU and International tax agreements should enshrine the 'single taxation principle': the same assets and income streams should never be taxed twice in different states, nor should they escape taxation altogether because of differences in tax rules.
2. Profits should be taxed in the jurisdiction in which they are generated, rather than being shifted to other jurisdictions.
3. It should not be possible to avoid taxation due to differences in the tax bases (i.e. how 'profit' or 'income' is calculated) in different states. All EU member states should use the same Corporate Tax Base. This does not necessarily prevent states from deciding what the rate of tax itself should be.
4. Many European tax systems have unfair rules that defy common-sense principles of fairness, such as:

- Effective penalties for marrying one's domestic partner;
- 'Cold progression', whereby tax brackets are not adjusted for inflation;

- Inexplicable differences in the overall amount of tax paid by a trader if they are self employed, versus if they set up a company and pay themselves through dividends, versus if they set up a company and pay themselves a salary;
- Inadvertent tax advantages for 'personal service companies' (where an "employee" is instructed to form a company and the "employer" then contracts services from this company rather than employing the individual directly);
- Inadvertent tax advantages for employing individuals on a 'gig' basis, whereby they are theoretically self-employed and payments are theoretically a payment for services rather than a salary;
- Taxes that are regressive, meaning those on a higher income or of higher wealth pay less tax overall relative to the tax base than those on lower incomes.

5. It should not be possible for foreign companies to operate in the EU without having to declare their beneficial owners (i.e. who ultimately controls the company) or publish global financial statements.

LYMEC Calls For Simpler Taxes:

1. The implementation of a common EU-wide tax year for personal taxation, that aligns with the calendar year (1st Jan - 31st Dec).
2. The use of common terminology and definitions in national regulations around taxation to avoid situations where tax jargon has different meanings in different jurisdictions.
3. The use of a common EU tax residency test, designed such that an individual is always a tax resident of precisely one country: never multiple and never zero.
4. A harmonised tax hierarchy in all EU countries for double-taxation, whereby it is clearly defined which state has first rights to tax an income stream or asset (e.g. first the country in which the stream was earned/paid, second the country of tax residence, third the country of nationality etc)
5. The introduction of an EU-wide digital value added tax (VAT) administration platform to complement national systems, allowing SMEs to more easily administer cross-border VAT.
6. An EU-format electronic personal income tax form with standardised, numbered fields (similar to the EU format driving licence), in addition to member state-specific forms, for individuals who have to submit tax forms in multiple EU member states.

Smarter Taxes:

1. An introductory education programme on the practicalities of taxation by member states to be made available to students reaching taxation age and any other citizen that needs resources on taxation.
2. The implementation of an EU wide database of individual taxpayers to streamline cross-border tax administration and avoid both tax evasion and double taxation . This can be done on an opt-in basis, for protection of personal data rights.
3. Common EU rules for calculating fair market value for transfer pricing, using the 'arms-length' principle (i.e. transfer prices should be set at the reasonable market price that would be charged to a third party)

4. An EU-wide ‘transfer pricing ledger’ so tax authorities can keep track of transfer pricing and ensure that the same transfer prices have been reported to authorities in different member states.
5. The implementation of paperless/online fling systems by EU member states for personal taxation to ensure efficiency and enhance the user experience in filing their tax returns.
6. The use of targeted tax incentives over blanket tax cuts to encourage sustainable business enterprises, ensure there is a link between the level of investment and the tax incentive being offered, and attract international corporations to the European market, including :
    - Green energy & insulation incentives
    - ‘Super-deductions’ for qualifying Research & Development
    - Tax credits for creating jobs in economically deprived areas
7. Measures to regulate, rather than ban, cryptocurrency from a tax perspective, such as the ECB determining spot-rates for the most common cryptocurrencies.
8. An end to the widespread bureaucratic practice of taxpayers being required to fill in tax forms to provide tax authorities with information that they already possess. Pay-As-You-Earn should eliminate the need for many individuals to file tax returns. 9. A uniform, simplified procedure for reclaiming withholding taxes on dividend payments in all EU member states. This can be integrated into the proposed EU common-format digital tax form.

Fairer Taxes:

1. The EU-wide introduction of double taxation agreements which ensure a ‘single taxation principle’.
2. The rejection of the OECD tax deal.
3. The implementation of the EU Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base, which would mean that every EU country uses the same rules and formulae to calculate the Corporate Tax Base, whilst still ensuring that member states have the discretion to set their own tax rates and establish tax credits/incentives in line with domestic needs.
4. Common-sense principles of fair taxation to be practised by all European states, including:
    - Non-discrimination against families and double-income households;
    - Automatic adjustment of tax brackets for inflation to avoid ‘cold progression’;
    - Equalisation of the overall amount tax paid by small businesses and traders regardless of the form of incorporation (e.g. self-employed vs incorporated);
    - Eliminating any tax benefit from the use of ‘personal service companies’, where rather than being employed directly, an individual is instructed to set up a single-person company, which is then contracted for services;
    - Eliminating any tax benefit from contracting work out on a ‘gig’ basis, versus employing an individual directly; ● Non-regressive taxation.
5. A requirement for any company/limited liability entity (other than those below the EU audit exemption thresholds) to declare its beneficial owners and publish

global financial statements as a condition of being able to operate in the EU, regardless of where the company is incorporated.

6. An adherence to the principle of always maximising efficient use of public money, bearing in mind that governments are spending the taxpayers' money. Maximising value for money allows governments to lower the tax burden or provide more public services.

4.21 Cutting the Red Tape: Unleashing Europe's Economic Engine

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale (JuLis)
Co-signers: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Centerstudenter, ERPY, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, JUNOS, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Venstres Ungdom, ZeMolodizhka

---

Cutting the Red Tape: Unleashing Europe's Economic Engine Considering that:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts an economic growth of only 1

% for the Eurozone in 2024, while it predicts 2,7 % for the United States.

- In fact, low economic growth rates in the EU compared to the US can be observed for several years now, particularly since the coronavirus crisis.
- The lack of growth threatens our European Way of Life as our social security systems, our environmental goals and our resilience against dictatorships depend on a strong economy.
- Historically, the EU has been a promoter of economic freedom, market liberalisation and free trade and thus, it contributed large parts to the economic growth witnessed in past decades.
- However, under the leadership of Ursula von der Leyen the European Commission has done the opposite: a record number of bureaucratic laws

have been passed that strangle the economy, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

- Another example is the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) which was passed with good intentions in order to protect patients from unsafe medical devices; however, the new certification mechanism for medical devices of the MDR prolonged certification and leads to costs which are up to 150 times higher than in the US threatening a shortage of medical devices for little children which are only produced in small numbers.
- In addition, the EU has lost its avant garde position with regard to free trade.
- While it is necessary to reconsider and at times cut trade relations with autocratic regimes, to pursue trade with democratic states should be top priority.
- The Commission for 2019-2024 has provisionally applied the EU-New Zealand Trade Agreement, and the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Additionally, other agreements that have already entered into force include the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

Acknowledging that:

- While the economic success of a single Member State and Europe as a whole does not only depend on EU policy but is also in the responsibility of each and every Member States, EU policy plays a decisive role in the economic success of the EU and its Member States.

Believing that:

- The new European Commission must radically cut bureaucracy, finalise the internal market and pursue free trade agreements with democracies around the globe in order to make Europe more competitive and increase economic growth.

LYMEC calls for the reduction of bureaucracy and other regulatory burdens, in concrete for:

- The expansion of the definition of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to enterprises with a market capitalisation larger than 50 Mio. Euros and up to 1.250 employees.
- Support for Small Businesses: Simplified trade regulations that enable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access global markets, fostering innovation and competition.
- The independent review of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Digital Markets Act (DMA), the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the AI Act in terms of practicality, legal certainty and their effects on innovation, SME and national trade barriers.
- Digital Trade and Privacy Protection: A commitment to promote cross-border digital trade with harmonised data protection standards, balancing privacy rights and economic openness.
- The implementation of a “fair use doctrine” for AI training data as in theUnited States.
- The restriction of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive to projects with cross-border impact.
- A reform of the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) that introduces an easy recertification mechanism for medical products that were already on the market prior to the MDRs’ enter into force, a low-cost certification mechanism for medical products designed for a small group of patients, especially children and people with rare diseases, and an overall reform of the MDR to reduce costs and time needed for the certification.

LYMEC calls for the further integration of the internal market, in concrete for:

- The concentration of the registration of products on an EU level or the assurance of mutual recognition between Member States.
- Preferring full harmonisation in contrast to minimum standards and the assurance of a uniform interpretation of the law (for example through enhanced administrative cooperation or the establishment of EU agencies) in order to remove trade barriers.
- The removal of protectionist national regulations on services that in practice exclude enterprises and citizens from other Member States (e.g. the German “Meisterzwang” or the prohibition on third-party ownership for law firms and pharmacies).
- The establishment of a Common European Sales Law which can be voluntarily chosen (opt-in) by contracting parties to ease cross border sales.
- The finalisation of the capital markets union and the banking union, if necessary through the procedure of enhanced cooperation.
- Consumer Safety Standards: Mutual recognition of public health and safety standards to protect consumers without imposing unnecessary trade barriers.

LYMEC calls for the expansion of free trade with democracies, in concrete for:

- The Member States to immediately ratify the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), and the EU-Chile

Advanced Framework Agreement.

- The Member States to modify the treaties in order to enable the EU to ratify comprehensive trade agreements which include provisions on portfolio investments and investment protection with a qualified majority in the Council of the EU.
- The European Commission to swiftly conclude negotiations on trade and investment agreements with Australia, the ASEAN states, India and Taiwan.

4.22 Houses for the Future: Addressing the EU Housing Crisis

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Co-signers: Ógra Fianna Fáil, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, USR Tineret, Young Progressive Slovakia, Young Liberals, Alliance Youth, YMRF

(Passed Autumn 2024)

Submitted by: Silvia Fernández (IMS), Adam Volf (IMS)

Noting that:

- Housing costs and rents have been steadily increasing across Europe over the past decade, with a significant acceleration during the pandemic. This has been exacerbated by a decline in construction and renovation activities, leading to a shortage of affordable housing in many European countries.
- Accelerating urbanisation and demographic shift has further fueled the demand for housing in certain areas, where supply has not kept up.
- The combination of soaring energy prices and the cost of living crisis has made housing less affordable. There is a shortage of social housing to meet the increased demand, which is affecting low and middle-income households.
- Young people, especially in urban areas and larger cities, are particularly impacted by rising housing costs. Many struggle to afford decent housing due to high rents and property prices combined with low incomes and/or high taxes in different Member States.
- In the EU, nearly 28% of young people (aged 15-29 years) live in overcrowded housing, with this percentage having increased in recent years. Romania and Poland have some of the most severe housing congestion.
- The lack of affordable housing leads to housing insecurity, with many young people either moving back in with their parents (referred to as "boomerang youth") or taking longer to leave their parental homes.
- In Spain and Italy, young people typically leave their parents' home at the age of 30 or older. In large cities where housing costs are particularly high rent is often too high to afford on a single income, forcing young people to share accommodation with friends or their partners.
- Unaffordable housing affects the well-being and social inclusion of young people, making it difficult for them to establish independent lives.
- Local housing markets across Europe are fundamentally different and difficult to compare. Variations in fiscal policies and the supply of social housing are just some of the many differences.
- Believing that:
- In much of Europe, young people are forced to spend too high a portion of their income on basic living expenses such as housing, food, and utilities.
- Many young people balance part-time jobs with lower wages, or have less employment stability, which makes it even more challenging to cover living expenses.

- The cost of living crisis adds financial pressure, making it difficult for young people to save money or invest in their future.
- Income control and rental caps such as rent control result in a decrease in supply and an increase in discrimination. In the longer term this form of policy will also lead to decreased development due to increased uncertainty and decreased trust in the government.

LYMEC calls for:

- The recently appointed Housing Commissioner to prioritise addressing housing issues and ensuring that housing remains a top priority on the political agenda.
- A commitment from all EU Member States and the EU Commission to the EU Affordable Housing Plan. This includes: (1) a commitment to revise state aid rules to enable housing support measures and energy efficiency renovations; and (2) a commitment to collect and provide accurate, high-quality and comparable data on housing markets, and to monitor housing affordability across the EU, including at local and regional level.
- The development of operational toolkits to assist local authorities and other stakeholders in effectively utilising EU funds for social housing investments.
- Efforts to make public transport more affordable and increase connections between rural and urban areas, hence decreasing demand in overcrowded housing areas in certain regions by making out-of-centre housing more attractive and reducing both rental and commuting cost of living for young people concerned.
- The reduction of taxes and introduction of tax credits for construction of housing rented under the local average rent and encouragement of

competition in the housing, transportation, and energy sectors to provide immediate assistance to all households.

- lifting regulations for housing construction in order to boost new development of affordable housing.
- Banning rental caps as a short-term solution to avoid long-term negative effects such as reduced housing supply, poorer living conditions, displacement of low-income tenants, and market distortions.
- Abolishing the real estate transfer tax in the long run.
- Providing tax allowances for first-time owner-occupied properties. These incentives can be adjusted based on property price development.
- Restricting objection rights to zoning changes and encouraging mixed-purpose and high-density zoning. Tied with general deregulation of housing and development laws to ease regulatory pressure. Tied with general deregulation of housing and development laws to ease regulatory pressure.

4.23 Catching Up the Productivity Gap: Make the European Economy Great Again

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Norges Unge Venstre (NUV)
Co-signers: Alliance Youth, Young Liberals, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JNC, LUF, CUF, Nowoczesna Youth, Jonge Democraten, LHG

(Passed Autumn 2024)

Noting that:

- The Draghi-report, published on the 9th of September 2024, by the Italian economist, politician and former ECB chief Mario Draghi is a warning sign for the European economy.
- Draghi's report addresses the decreased European competitiveness and urges the EU to foster more investments, cut bureaucracy and finalise the internal market to increase European productivity.
- Parts of the Draghi-report's proposals have already been adopted by European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen for the work programme of her 2024–2029 Commission term.
- Draghi demands a stronger integration of the national capital-markets to ease the access to capital.
- Draghi quantifies the additional annual investment needs at over €800 billion, or about 5 percent of EU GDP.
- Considering that:
- Europe is falling far behind the American and Chinese economies.
- The relatively slower productivity growth in Europe compared to the United States has led to significant concerns about the viability of Europe’s economic approach.
- According to Draghi, the main reason for the increasing productivity gap is the fragmented and nationalised economic structure of the EU.
- Some foreign States like the People's Republic of China are systematically abusing the openness of the European market and the framework provided by the World Trade Organization (WTO) by flooding the European and the world market with highly subsidised products. At the same time, the PRC shields their domestic market from any foreign competition.

Believing that:

- It is a worrying trend that authoritarian states are the ones dominating the global economy.
- If the EU fails to catch up with its rivals, it will face 'slow agony'.
- There is insufficient investment in Europe, both public and private.
- Liberal democracies should enhance their economic cooperation with other liberal democracies.

- European countries must ensure that their trade patterns promote freedom, democracy and human rights worldwide.
- Considering the increasingly unstable world and unpredictable super powers, like the US, the European economy needs to become more independent.
- The EU needs far more coordinated industrial policy, more rapid decisions and massive investment if it wants to keep pace economically with rivals such as the United States and China.
- Decarbonization can boost competitiveness if well-managed but risks undermining it if it is poorly executed.

Lymec calls for:

- Closing the innovation gap with the United States, harmonising decarbonization with competitiveness, and enhancing economic security by reducing dependencies to be defining goals of the EU.
- Greater integration of the European economies.
- Increased investments in boosting the European economy.
- Fostering a more innovation-friendly regulatory ecosystem.
- Renewing the EU competition law, and getting more knowledge about the potential negative consequences of certain European regulations, such as the European Union merger law.
- Adapting a more growth and innovation based posture when it comes to EU merger control, while not resorting to the failed industrial policies of picking winners based on political reasonings.
- Security, democracy and human rights to define which countries to enter trade agreements with. In other words: economic policies that promote freedom.
- More institutionalised economic cooperation between liberal democracies to secure independence from authoritarian regimes.
- European-level industrial policies in clean technologies and electric vehicles.
- Developing European capital markets and completing the Banking Union, along with increasing the financing volume of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

4.24 Fostering a Thriving Tech Ecosystem and Supporting Young Entrepreneurs in the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Co-signers: Jongliberalen (JL), Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Jonge Democraten (JD), Young Liberals (YL), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Youth Forum of Naša stranka (YFNS), Radikal Ungdom (RU), USR Tineret

---

Submitted by: Silvia Fernández (IMS), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), LHG

Considering that:

- Advancements in technology and digital sectors are critical for economic growth, competitiveness, and innovation.
- The EU's geopolitical influence and independence is determined, among other things, by its economic competitiveness and capacity for technological innovation.
- The EU has a significant potential to excel in innovation and entrepreneurship. However, the absence of leading companies and a strong cluster environment presents challenges in retaining top talent.
- Effective policies, initiatives and a unified market are essential to foster a thriving tech ecosystem within the EU to compete globally.
- Enhancing market relevance and competitiveness requires a collaborative effort among member states, industry stakeholders, and educational institutions.
- European education systems primarily prepare individuals for traditional employment instead of promoting entrepreneurial skills and innovation.
- Supporting startups, scale-ups, and established tech companies is vital for sustaining innovation and technological advancement.
- Existing European tech industries are currently fragmented amongst member states due to the lack of centralised regulation.
- Excessive regulations and varying administrative requirements across EU member states create significant hurdles for entrepreneurs, making it harder to start and scale businesses in Europe.
- Young entrepreneurs face significant challenges, including limited access to financing, insufficient industry connections, and a lack of targeted tax incentives or support programs.

Recognising that:

- The USA and China have established themselves as the current dominant players in the technology and digital sectors, attracting top talent and investment.
- Europe has historically been a cradle of world-leading innovation, underscoring its potential to return to the forefront of global research and development.
- The EU has already implemented initiatives such as Horizon Europe, but further efforts are needed to maintain and strengthen Europe's position as a global innovation leader.

- The EU must create an European environment conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration with a consistent regulation across the EU to compete on a global scale.
- Providing access to funding, resources, and infrastructure is crucial for nurturing startups and fostering growth in the tech industry.
- Talent retention requires not only competitive salaries but also opportunities for professional development, work-life balance, and an inclusive work environment.
- Collaboration among industry, academia, and government is crucial for addressing skill gaps related to future jobs and for ensuring a consistent pipeline of qualified professionals and entrepreneurial education for those who will drive innovation and business creation.
- Access to funding remains a major challenge for young entrepreneurs, with limited venture capital and microfinance opportunities available compared to other global markets.

Believing that:

- A comprehensive collective strategy is necessary to retain talent, attract investment, and drive innovation in the EU's technology and digital sectors.
- Providing a supportive ecosystem for startups and tech companies will spur growth, create jobs, and enhance the EU's competitiveness.
- Fostering a culture of continuous learning and development is key to keeping the workforce agile and adaptable to technological advancements.
- Strengthening cooperation between universities, businesses, and policymakers can bridge the gap between research and market application.
- Europe must create a pro-innovation regulatory environment that reduces barriers to business creation, enabling young entrepreneurs, especially in AI, blockchain, and fintech, to thrive and scale their startups.
- A unified digital market with harmonized regulations on digital services, AI, and financial transactions is vital for Europe’s competitiveness.
- The “European Startup Passport” should simplify the registration process across the EU, reducing administrative barriers and making it easier for startups to scale and compete internationally.
- A European financial support plan should provide easier access to venture capital, microloans, and tax incentives to help young entrepreneurs overcome financial challenges, grow their business and advance to technological advancements.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- The development and implementation of initiatives to retain talent, including competitive compensation packages, opportunities for professional development, and work-life balance policies.
- The creation of funding programs, grants, and incentives (e.g., tax reductions) to support start-ups, scale-ups, and tech companies, ensuring their access to capital and resources for growth.
- The establishment of innovation hubs and tech clusters throughout the EU to enhance collaboration and networking among technology professionals and entrepreneurs.
- Promoting partnerships between industry and academia to address skill and research application to market gaps by developing relevant curricula in education systems

- Enhancing the digital infrastructure, including high-speed internet access, data centres, and cybersecurity measures, to support the tech industry.
- Encouraging diversity and inclusion initiatives to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all tech professionals, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or background.
- The EU to take steps to unify the tech industry market to provide domestic initiatives and startup companies a larger market.
- The creation of a 'European Startup Passport': A single digital platform for startup registration, compliance, and reporting across all EU member states, ensuring automatic recognition of business licenses and a fast-track process for highly innovative startups.
- Harmonizing regulations on digital services and AI, a Europe-wide digital identity framework for businesses, a pan-European open data strategy, and tax harmonization to simplify invoicing and cross-border payments.
- A 'NextGen Entrepreneurs Fund' providing grants and microcredits, an expanded European Business Angels Network, a 'Start & Scale' performance-based financial support program, and tax reductions for young-founded startups in their first three years.
- A Europe-wide incubator network, a 'Startup Erasmus' exchange program, the integration of entrepreneurship education in schools and universities, a European mentorship program, and stronger collaboration between universities and businesses to develop innovation hubs.
- A Public-Private European Investment Fund, a European Secondary Market for Startups to enhance liquidity, expanded tax incentives for venture capital investors, and simplified investment regulations to attract private and international funding.
- To reduce bureaucratic hurdles and faster approval processes for AI-driven and high-tech companies, ensuring a regulatory framework that fosters innovation while maintaining ethical and safety standards.

4.25 Resolution on EU-INC (28th Regime) and European Competitiveness

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2026, Vienna, 19 April 2026
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: CUF, JOVD
Co-signers: JUNOS, Junge Liberale, Jongliberalen, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, Jeunes MR

Passed Spring 2026

Venstres Ungdom, Ze!Molodizhka, Radikal Ungdom, Young Liberals, GSM, Centerstudenter, AY, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya

Considering that:

On the Single Market and Fragmentation

- The European Single Market remains fragmented across 27 different national legal systems, particularly concerning corporate law, insolvency, and labour regulations;
- This "patchwork" of regulations imposes a "fragmentation tax" on startups and SMEs, costing European businesses billions in legal and administrative overhead;
- Unlike the United States, where a company can scale across 50 states under relatively uniform commercial principles, European companies must navigate 27 distinct jurisdictions to reach a similar scale;
- This fragmentation is equivalent to an implicit tariff of 45% on goods and 110% on services, making internal rulebook discrepancies a greater obstacle than external tariffs;
- The EU adopted over 13,000 new legislative acts between 2019 and 2024, compared to approximately 3,500 in the United States, creating a burdensome environment that hampers the ability of firms to scale;
- The current complexity forces many of Europe's most promising scale-ups to relocate to the US to access simpler regulatory environments and deeper capital pools;
- Excessive administrative burdens and slow, non-digital public services continue to impose significant costs on businesses, particularly SMEs, limiting their ability to scale across the Single Market.

On the Draghi and Letta Reports

- Mario Draghi's report on "The Future of European Competitiveness" [1] highlights a slow economic decline if the EU fails to radically simplify its regulatory environment and increase investment and to address its worsening competitiveness gap driven by high energy costs and fragmented capital markets;
- Letta's report on the Single Market [2] explicitly advocates for a "28th Regime": a unified EU-wide legal framework for companies to allow businesses to operate cross-border by default;
- The EU's share of global GDP is shrinking, and the productivity gap between the EU and the US is widening primarily due to the lack of an integrated tech and capital ecosystem;

- The EU's public research programme Horizon, with a budget of €100 billion, disperses resources across too many projects and lacks the commercial focus required to generate frontier innovation, while the EU's primary frontier research body, the European Innovation Council, operates with a budget of only €256 million–approximately 23 times less than its American counterpart DARPA

On Capital Markets and Investment

- The Capital Markets Union (CMU) remains unfinished, leaving European companies over-reliant on bank lending rather than equity markets;
- European private savings (approximately €33 trillion) are often funnelled into US markets because the European capital market is too fragmented to offer competitive returns or scale;
- Integration of capital markets is impossible without a standardized corporate form.
- Shifting towards funding a larger part of European pension systems would free up large amounts of money long term, generate innovation and ease up the burden of the working age. This being in contrast to the pay-as-you-go or unfunded system that remains as it does not have positive effects on innovation, nor can such a system be considered fair.
- The European Central Bank has estimated that if Europeans saved proportionally as much in equities and investment funds as Americans do, an additional eight trillion euros would be made available to European capital markets – approximately ten times more than the additional public investment Draghi identifies as necessary

Noting that:

On Existing Frameworks

- The Societas Europaea (SE) exists but is largely utilized by massive corporations due to its high capital requirements and complexity, leaving startups and SMEs underserved;
- The EU has successfully implemented "28th regimes" in other areas, such as the European Unitary Patent, demonstrating that optional, parallel EU-wide legal tracks are viable and effective;
- Previous attempts at a "European Private Company" (SPE) statute failed due to political disagreements over labour representation and tax headquarters;
- The Nordic model, with its focus on flexible labour markets, strong institutions, and ambitious research investment, provides a successful blueprint for economic dynamism;
- Sweden has achieved the highest number of stock exchange listings in Europe over the last decade, with the Swedish “investment and savings account” making retail investment accessible and simple;
- European defence procurement remains deeply fragmented along national lines, preventing the economies of scale and standardization necessary for a credible common defence industrial base;

On the Global Competitive Landscape

- Global competitors utilize industrial policies that leverage vast, unified domestic markets;
- The "Green Deal" requires a regulatory backbone that allows green-tech companies to scale at the speed of the climate crisis;

- AI and digitalization in general require increasingly large datasets and cross-border collaboration that are easily hindered by national data and corporate silos;
- A competitive European economy depends on a significantly reduced regulatory burden and the full digitalisation of administrative processes.

Believing that:

On Strategic Autonomy and Innovation

- European "Strategic Autonomy" is a fantasy without economic strength and a thriving private sector;
- The "EU-Inc" (or 28th Regime) should be a fully digital, "born-global" corporate identity that can be registered in hours, not months;
- Full implementation, rather than a modular or "opt-in" patchwork for Member States, is the only way to ensure the legal certainty required by venture capitalists and founders;
- A 28th Regime does not replace national traditions but provides a competitive alternative for those who wish to operate at a continental scale;

On Capital Markets

- The core competitiveness problem is an institutional failure to mobilize private capital and achieve genuine harmonization, rather than a lack of public investment;
- A more open European defence market, including a European defence innovation agency modelled on DARPA, would accelerate technological development and reduce duplicated costs;

LYMEC calls for:

On the Implementation of the 28th Regime

- The European Commission to propose a comprehensive "EU-Inc" (28th Regime) framework that provides a unified set of rules for company law, including simplified digital registration and reporting;
- This framework to be a Full Implementation across all Member States to prevent a ‘patchwork’ of 27 variations of the 28th regime, whilst respecting the principle of subsidiarity in its implementation without undermining the uniformity of the legal framework
- The EU-Inc to include a standardized Insolvency Code and a simplified Tax Base (BEFIT) specifically tailored for companies opting into this regime;
- Reform EU merger control guidelines to allow the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition to take full account of global competitive dynamics and strategic industrial considerations when assessing mergers, rather than applying a purely European market definition that prevents the emergence of globally competitive European champions in strategic sectors.

On Capital Markets and Competitiveness

- The immediate acceleration of the Capital Markets Union (CMU), ensuring that an "EU-Inc" company can list on a unified European stock exchange without navigating 27 different sets of listing rules;

- Significantly strengthen the mandate of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) to act as a pan-European supervisor with binding authority comparable to the US Securities and Exchange Commission;
- Encourage member states to transition from pure pay-as-you-go pension systems towards funded second-pillar pension models, drawing on the Swedish, Danish and Dutch experience, with the aim of generating long-term institutional investment capital that can flow into European venture capital, infrastructure, and capital markets and promote intergenerational equity
- Establish a uniform European Individual Investment Account modelled on the Swedish ISK to channel more household savings into productive investments;
- Develop a European Venture Capital passport enabling funds to raise capital and invest freely across all Member States under a single authorization;
- The EU to implement the key recommendations of the Draghi Report, specifically the creation of a "Competitiveness Coordination Tool" to streamline regulation and cut "red tape" by 25% for SMEs;
- Create a unified European clearing and settlement infrastructure to replace the current patchwork of 295 national trading venues, clearing houses, and settlement systems, drastically reducing transaction costs, increasing visibility of European stocks, creating an environment where it's easier for companies to be introduced and increasing liquidity across European capital markets;
- Invest EU resources in developing a deep, liquid EU-level market that facilitates long-term green and innovation bonds, channelling private capital into the net-zero transition and digital transformation through market mechanisms rather than relying predominantly on public expenditure.
- The implementation of binding EU-level targets for administrative simplification, including fully digital public services and measurable reductions in compliance burdens for businesses.

On Talent and Labor

- The EU-Inc framework to include a "European Social Security Pass" to allow employees of 28th-regime companies to move between Member States without losing pension or healthcare continuity;
- A unified Stock Option Framework within EU-Inc to allow startups to attract global talent by offering equity that is taxed and treated uniformly across the Union;

Research and Innovation Policy Reform

- Transform the European Innovation Council (EIC) into a genuine European frontier research and defence technology agency – a European DARPA – with a budget of at least €3 billion annually, funded through reallocation within the Horizon programme, with a mandate explicitly focused on dual-use and defence-relevant breakthrough technologies.
- Reform the governance of EU research funding so that programme directors are selected from among leading researchers and industry innovators rather than EU officials, given multi-year mandates with full operational autonomy, and empowered to reallocate or terminate funding from underperforming projects without the bureaucratic constraints that currently undermine the commercial impact of EU research spending.

[1] https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/draghi-report_en

[2]https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/ny3j24sm/much-more-than-a-market-report-by-enrico-letta.pdf

4.26 Together We Spend, United We Ball - More EU Defense Joint Venture Projects!

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Nowoczesna Youth (Poland)
Co-signers: Mladé Progresívne Slovensko (Slovakia), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), Gibanje Svoboda Mladi (Slovenia), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, USR Tineret (Romania), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), PSG Mladi (Serbia), Junge Liberale (Germany), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (Ukraine), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania)

Considering that:

- The escalation of the Russian aggression poses a threat to all of Europe.
- Reducing external dependencies within the EU strengthens its military position and strategic autonomy.
- Pooling demand gives EU countries greater market leverage when negotiating with major defense contractors.
- The fragmentation of European defence procurement and industrial capabilities leads to unnecessary duplication, higher costs, and limited economies of scale across the EU.
- The European Defence Technological and Industrial Base remains unevenly distributed among Member States, making cross-border cooperation and the inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises essential for strengthening Europe's defence resilience and supply chains.
- Major European collaborative programmes such as the A400M and Eurofighter have strengthened Europe's technological and industrial capabilities and created cross-border industrial cooperation, while also experiencing significant delays and cost overruns linked in part to differing national requirements and complex multinational programme management.
- The interoperability of European armed forces is hindered by differences in technical standards, military requirements and procurement procedures, limiting the effectiveness of joint European defence capabilities.

Believing that:

- In times of crisis, cooperation and unity of European states is key to sustaining peace and prosperity within the region.
- Liberal democracies must act decisively to deter authoritarian regimes from violating territorial integrity and international law, as failing to do so would erode the values that bind Europe together.
- Joint rearmament programs such as SAFE bring European countries together in an effort to enhance our defence capabilities in order to deter Russia and any other external threats.
- European countries must be capable of developing European-made defence frameworks instead of depending on foreign aid and foreign military programs.
- European defence has to be made in Europe whenever it is possible.
- Europe should move towards becoming self-sustainable in terms of producing military defence capabilities.
- Joint rearmament projects enforce the necessity of cooperation between different EU member-states, thus reducing the threat of intra-EU frictions in decades to come.

LYMEC Calls For:

- The establishment of a functional, coordinated EU Defense Joint Venture framework, operating along the lines of the ReArm Europe Plan, and aimed at the acceleration of joint development and production of the most critical military components by the EU member states.
- The acceleration (and, wherever it is possible, expansion) of the ongoing EU cross-border defense projects, particularly within the spheres of drone and counter-drone systems, air and missile defense, cyber defense, and long-range precision strike capabilities - expanding on the already-existing frameworks such as the EDPCI and PESCO.
- Bolstering the European Defense Technological and Industrial Base by promoting new cross-border industrial partnerships, supporting smaller and medium-sized enterprises, encouraging joint European research and development, with a particular focus on dual-use technologies that serve both civilian and military purposes, and ensuring a network of strong, resilient European supply chains.
- The drive towards a unified, EU-wide approach to defense and industrial cooperation, manifested by the harmonization of technical and procurement standards, military requirements, and common capability priorities, with the goal of achieving interoperability between the EU armed forces and reducing the unnecessary area of overlap between their national defense programmes.
- The incorporation of a permanent, EU-level mechanism aimed at the monitoring and coordination of the EU defense joint venture projects, as well as ensuring transparency and implementation of deadlines, regularly reporting to the European Parliament.
- The strengthening of defence industrial cooperation between the EU and Ukraine through joint research, development, production and procurement, particularly in drone and counter-drone technologies, building on Ukraine’s battlefield experience and innovation, while further integrating Ukrainian defence companies into European defence industrial projects and supply chains.

4.27 Deregulate to Liberate: Making Life Affordable Again in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Julis
Co-signers: Svensk Ungdom (SU), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Jeunes Radicaux, LDLU, Momentum TizenX, LHG, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz

---

Noting that:

- Rising energy costs and limited renewable energy production are increasing the cost of living and therefore place a financial burden on households.
- Transportation and housing costs are increasing, with limited affordable and sustainable options available to citizens.
- High taxes on food, restrictive policies in agriculture, and market barriers impact food affordability and access to innovative products.
- Homelessness remains a pressing issue in Europe.
- Rural areas suffer from limited infrastructure and connectivity, reducing their attractiveness.
- Current recycling practices and waste management lack efficiency and sustainability.
- Labour mobility and fair competition are hindered by regulatory and tax barriers across the EU.

Believing that:

- Private investments in renewable energy, housing, and sustainable infrastructure are essential to reduce costs and ensure a high standard of living.
- Supporting affordable transportation and standardized housing policies can help alleviate costs and promote fair access across Europe.
- Enhancing recycling, food policy, and flexible labour conditions can create a resilient and sustainable economic environment.
- Reducing bureaucratic hurdles and market barriers will facilitate access to affordable goods, services, and housing while promoting innovation.

LYMEC calls for:

Affordable and Sustainable Housing Solutions

- Adopting the Housing First approach as seen in Finland to address homelessness, alongside year-round emergency programs and digitized official processes.
- Supporting modular construction with standardized permits to accelerate building processes and reduce costs.
- Implementing a rent-to-own model for newly built housing on public land
- Rejecting rent caps and providing incentives, such as a real estate transfer tax allowance for first-time owner-occupied properties set relative to regional property prices.
- Encouraging modular and flexible-use buildings that can adapt over time (e.g., from kindergarten to school or health center) to reduce long-term infrastructure costs.
- Encouraging Member States and local authorities to liberalise restrictive zoning and planning regulations, facilitate higher-density and mixed-use developments, and allow the conversion and subdivision of existing buildings into housing, particularly in areas well connected to public transport.

Secure and Market-Based Energy System

- Establishing a European Energy Union, and ensuring transnational grid stability.
- Introducing regional electricity price zones so consumers benefit directly from locally produced cheap renewable energy
- Enabling citizen participation in local renewable energy projects
- Abolishing electricity taxes and energy-related levies at EU level and reduce VAT on electricity.
- Strengthening and expanding the European Emissions Trading System (ETS) as the central market-based instrument for decarbonisation.
- Returning a fixed, equal per-household climate dividend from European Emissions Trading System (ETS) revenues to directly reduce household energy costs and ensure that decarbonisation remains socially fair.

Affordable and Accessible Transportation

- Supporting member states in introducing flat-rate public transport tickets to encourage public transit over personal vehicles.
- Enhancing cross-border railway infrastructure and establishing an EU-wide high-speed rail network
- Expanding the validity of national and regional flat-rate public transport tickets to regional services within cross-border regions, on a reciprocal basis between neighbouring states, and providing open timetable and fare data so that cross-border journeys can be planned and booked in one place.
- Enabling the deployment of autonomous on-demand public transport services by establishing a harmonised EU regulatory framework for self-driving vehicles and supporting pilot programmes in rural and underserved areas.

Rural Development and Connectivity

- Expanding 5G and broadband infrastructure in rural areas to improve internet access, creating a foundation for economic development and connectivity.
- Strengthening competition in mobile telecommunications by ensuring fair wholesale access for mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) across all member states, enabling new market entrants to offer innovative services at competitive prices.
- Park-and-ride facilities should be built at the edges of metropolitan regions and cities, combining affordable parking with convenient access points to local public transport services such as metro lines, and bus networks.

Improved Waste Management and Recycling Standards

- Harmonizing the European deposit system and investing in materials research to improve recyclability and reusability of products.
- Strengthening global plastic agreements, and improving penalties for illegal waste disposal in oceans.
- Removing legal barriers for using recycled materials in housing construction, such as recycled concrete, linking waste reduction with sustainable building practices.

Enhanced Food and Agriculture Policies

- Simplifying regulatory approval for GMOs and promoting agriculture based on consumer safety, lowering food production costs.
- Streamlining regulatory approval for cultivated in-vitro meat and promoting its market access based on consumer safety, expanding food choice and lowering long-term production costs.

- Reducing regulatory barriers for agricultural trade to promote lower food prices through competition and open markets.
- Cutting VAT on essential food items to lower food costs directly.
- Removing market barriers for plant-based alternatives by rejecting naming restrictions on terms like "burger" or "sausage", ending VAT discrimination against plant-based dairy substitutes, and ensuring technology-neutral food regulations that let consumers choose freely.

Flexible and Open Labour Market

- Promoting flexible working conditions, enabling work and study mobility across Europe.
- Removing regulatory barriers, including the EU Minimum Wage Directive and the EU Working Time Directive, to increase cross-border labour flexibility.
- Reducing tax burdens and bureaucratic obstacles, increasing net income for individuals.
- Enabling remote work across borders through digital infrastructure and harmonised rules, allowing young people to access higher-paying jobs without relocating to expensive cities.
- Promoting gradual and flexible retirement models while strengthening financially sustainable, pre-funded pension systems and reducing reliance on systems where younger generations finance current pensions.
- Promoting flexible childcare models, including registered childminders and employer-supported arrangements, by establishing EU-wide quality standards that focus on outcomes rather than prescriptive staff ratios.

4.28 Making Europe a Global Leader in Pharmaceutical Innovation

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR
Co-signers: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, NEON, VU, ZeMolodizhka, PSG Mladi, Alliance Youth, Jongliberalen, JUNOS, Radikal Ungdom, Young Croatian Liberals, Jonge Democraten, YDM Vesna, Gibanje Svoboda Mladi, Momentum TizenX, Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), JOVD, LHG, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund(CUF), Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz

---

Considering that:

- a competitive European pharmaceutical sector is essential to public health, scientific progress, skilled employment and Europe's ability to respond to health crises;
- In 2022, the European pharmaceutical industry contributed €311 billion to the EU's gross value added and generated approximately 2.3 million direct and indirect jobs ;
- Each employee in the pharmaceutical sector generates on average €225,300 in value added, according to PwC ;
- In 2024, EU pharmaceutical exports to third countries totalled €313.4 billion, underscoring the global competitiveness of the sector ;
- The COVID-19 crisis demonstrated that a strong pharmaceutical sector is essential for the EU's strategic autonomy and sovereignty ;
- European companies, including BioNTech, played a pioneering role in developing and producing mRNA vaccines — with industrial production largely taking place within the EU (Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands) ;
- Over 70 % of vaccines produced in the EU were exported to more than 160 countries, making the Union a global production hub ;
- EU public funds directly supported research, development, and industrial scale-up during the pandemic ;
- Pharmaceutical leadership requires an environment in which research can develop into viable businesses, innovative treatments and reliable manufacturing capacity;
- concentrated supply chains and dependence on a limited number of suppliers can expose patients and healthcare systems to shortages and external disruption;
- international trade and scientific cooperation support pharmaceutical innovation, while diversified partnerships strengthen Europe's resilience;
- gaps in understanding women's health and sex-related differences in treatment responses represent both unmet medical needs and an important frontier for European research and innovation;
- industrial success must translate into measurable improvements in the availability, safety, effectiveness and affordability of medicines;

Noting that:

- the EU's framework for clinical trials and the Clinical Trials Information System provide a basis for multinational research and transparent reporting;
- European initiatives concerning critical medicines address the relationship between manufacturing capacity, diversified supply chains and security of supply;
- differences in the absorption, distribution, metabolism and elimination of medicines can affect treatment responses, making appropriate investigation of sex-related differences relevant to pharmaceutical development and safety;

- women's health extends beyond reproductive health and requires attention across therapeutic fields and throughout life;
- universities, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies and biotechnology SMEs have complementary roles in translating scientific discoveries into treatments;

Believing that:

- Europe should aspire to global pharmaceutical leadership through scientific excellence, entrepreneurship, open competition and predictable regulation;
- strengthening European capabilities should go together with international cooperation and diversified trade;
- addressing unmet needs in women's health should be a strategic research and investment priority, with clear objectives and accountable funding;
- scientific inclusion requires research populations and analyses appropriate to the condition and intended treatment population, with therapeutic decisions grounded in evidence;
- public support should address identified needs, attract additional investment and deliver demonstrable public value;
- innovation, patient safety and access to treatment are mutually reinforcing objectives;

LYMEC calls for:

1. Strengthening European pharmaceutical competitiveness and commercial leadership by:

- calling on EU institutions and Member States, within their respective competences, to provide predictable regulatory and investment conditions for pharmaceutical research, development and manufacturing;
- simplifying duplicative administrative procedures and improving coordination between authorities while preserving scientific, ethical and safety standards;
- facilitating access to competitive research funding, growth capital and regulatory advice for European startups, SMEs and biotechnology companies;
- supporting partnerships between universities, hospitals and businesses to bring discoveries through clinical development and into production;
- maintaining effective intellectual property protection alongside competition and timely entry of generic and biosimilar medicines in accordance with applicable rules;
- pursuing trade agreements and regulatory cooperation that reduce unnecessary barriers, diversify export markets and preserve European health standards;
- The European Commission to seek the elimination or substantial reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers for European pharmaceutical products exported to important markets.

2. Building resilient European manufacturing and medicine supplies by:

- identifying critical medicines, active ingredients and production stages exposed to significant supply vulnerabilities;
- directing transparent, proportionate and regularly reviewed support towards these vulnerabilities, combining European investment with diversified international sourcing;
- strengthening coordinated shortage monitoring, early notification and contingency planning between competent authorities, manufacturers and distributors;
- developing risk-based stock arrangements that consider shelf life, patient needs and cross-border solidarity;
- incorporating quality, supply reliability and continuity into public procurement, including multiple suppliers where appropriate;
- ensuring that resilience measures remain compatible with competition and avoid creating new dependencies on individual companies or suppliers;

3. Making women's health a strategic pillar of pharmaceutical innovation by:

    - establishing a clearly identified women's health research and innovation priority within existing European funding programmes, with dedicated competitive calls, transparent budgets and measurable objectives;
    - supporting research into conditions specific to women, disproportionately affecting them or presenting differently in women, including endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome and sex-related differences in cardiovascular disease and treatment responses;
    - strengthening the translation of this research into validated diagnostics, medicines and treatment strategies through partnerships between researchers, clinicians, patients and businesses;
    - facilitating access to finance and scientific advice for companies developing solutions to unmet needs in women's health, subject to the same standards of clinical evidence and safety as other innovations;
    - requiring publicly funded clinical trials to justify recruitment against the intended treatment population, explain exclusions and prespecify sex-related analyses where scientifically relevant, with adequate statistical planning;
    - supporting research methods that appropriately account for age, hormonal status and other relevant biological factors, while avoiding unjustified blanket exclusions;
    - strengthening the analysis of medicine effectiveness and adverse reactions by sex, and requiring reassessment of dosage, product information or clinical recommendations when sufficiently robust evidence warrants it;
    - publishing progress on research funding, trial participation, evidence gaps and resulting therapeutic advances, while protecting personal data and research participants;

4. Turning pharmaceutical leadership into better access and accountable results by:

    - improving coordination between regulatory assessment, health technology assessment and national access and reimbursement processes, while respecting their distinct responsibilities;
    - promoting transparent decisions based on clinical benefit, unmet medical needs and the sustainability of healthcare systems;
    - Encouraging Member States to jointly negotiate the prices of expensive medicines with pharmaceutical companies, while promoting greater transparency regarding research, development and production costs, to strengthen their bargaining power and ensure affordable access to innovative treatments across Europe;
    - supporting professional training in pharmaceutical research, manufacturing, regulatory science and the assessment of sex-related differences;
    - enabling secure and scientifically validated uses of health data and digital tools, with effective privacy and cybersecurity safeguards;
    - calling on the European Commission, together with Member States, to publish within twelve months of taking up these recommendations a costed implementation roadmap identifying responsible authorities, funding sources and milestones;
    - assessing progress annually across investment, manufacturing resilience, shortages, SME growth, women's health research and patient access, with an independent review after three years;

Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights

5.01 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 20 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force

Merger of former 5.02 Make Labour Markets more flexible, former 5.04 End all restrictions on the free movement of Labour and former 5.05 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market **Noting that:**

- Globalisation and removal of trade barriers have made markets in goods and services more flexible.
- The Treaty founding the European Community introduces four fundamental freedoms, namely the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital.
- That the maximum restriction period for new member states in terms of free movement of labour is 7 years.
- Hiring and firing procedures are rather complex and expensive in many EU Member States, resulting in labour market segmentation.
- Rigid labour markets lead to a higher share of long-term unemployment and youth unemployment.
- Wages are often not adjusted to workers' individual productivity and business cost structures.

Believing that:

- Free movement of labour is a core element of the European Union and free movement of labour has a positive impact on the European economy, both for the countries importing labour and for the countries exporting labour.
- Mobility in Europe should be increased, between different regions and countries, but also between different economic sectors.;
- Wages are often not adjusted to workers' individual productivity and business cost structures.
- The role of government in employer-employee relations should be limited to the protection of contract, property and human rights.
- Active labour market policies conducted by Member States should combine flexibility in the labour market with planning security for job seekers, which is best achieved through systems whereby in exchange for unemployment benefits, beneficiaries are required to seek actively for a job, and attend relevant training.
- Flexicurity combines worker security with a high degree of labour market flexibility.

LYMEC calls for:

- ALDE to work for bringing the concept of transitional agreements for labour from new member states to an end.
- LYMEC member organisations promote organisations to promote free movement of labour on all levels.

Further, LYMEC calls on the European Union to:

- Further develop and promote, taking the above into consideration, the concept of Flexicurity, focussing on the four main areas of labour market policies, contractual agreements, lifelong learning strategies and modern social security systems, and;
- Dedicate a larger share of the EU budget to strengthening the EU's lifelong learning programmes, also aiming to increase the chances of people already active in the labour market to further qualify according to developments and actual needs of the labour market.

Furthermore, LYMEC calls on EU Member States to:

- Simplify procedures regulating hiring and firing, as well as to make them less costly.
- Consider flexicurity as a possible compromise between employment and labour market flexibility.
- Base their unemployment benefit regimes on a system whereby high nominal unemployment benefits are granted for a short transition period, after which a two-pillar system kicks in consisting of voluntary private unemployment insurance and minimal benefits to prevent poverty.
- Ensure strict monitoring and control of the benefit recipients' activities related to active job seeking and their participation in training programs.;
- Set up a more individualised approach to vocational counselling and assistance in job seeking, and incentivise employers who enable employees to combine their careers with obtaining further education.
- Encourage labour unions to shift their focus from protection of jobs to protection of workers.

5.02 Resolution on the Pension Systems

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2011, Utrecht, 7 May 2011
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: JD

(Former 5.03 prior to Bucharest 2022)

Employment, Aging Population, Social Rights

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6th -8th of May 2011

Considering that:

- the European population is ageing,
- current pension systems are fiscally unsustainable, **Believing that:**
- the costs of pensions will be a drain on a state's finances,
- it's the member state's responsibility to take appropriate action,
- each country is different in terms of their ageing population, demography and social policy,

Calls:

- on the European Union to respect the principle of subsidiarity and the exclusive competences of the Member States,
- to recommend the Member States informational campaigns to raise the citizen's knowledge and awareness of their pension rights and choices in the pension system,
- on the European Union institutions to supervise the transparency and safeguard the free movement of people with a guarantee of their pension rights to enjoy the free movement of labour,
- on the European Union to issue a directive enabling European Union citizens to work longer and eliminate maximum retirement ages,
- retirement age needs to be increased just as fast as required, to keep a country's pension system sustainable,
- to recommend the Member States to keep the first pillar as a minimal income, while strengthening the second pillar by involving free market principles and encouraging private saving in the third pillar,
- After the official retirement age, both employers and employees do not pay contributions for the pension on the wage so that firms are encouraged to employ older workers, taking into account part-time opportunities.

5.03 Liberal approach to the sex industry

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 20 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force

Merger of former 5.07 Effective approach prostitution and former 5.10 Liberalise the sex industry

Considering that:

- Every individual has the right to decide over their own body;
- All individuals should be tolerant and respectful of different life choices, even if they do not personally agree with them;
- Self-determination is one of the most important rights of an individual;
- Thousands of men and women, in particular from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia travel to European countries for a better life under false pretences;
- The EU is moving towards the Swedish prostitution model in which the customer commits a crime when interacting with a prostitute.

Noting that:

- Human trafficking is illegal and can never be justified;
- Prostitution should not be legal for anyone below the age of 18.

Whereas:

- In some countries prostitution is illegal;
- In some countries prostitution is legal, but it is illegal to buy sex;
- In some countries prostitution and the buying of sex are decriminalized, so prostitution is not legal, but it is not recognized as a profession either;
- In some countries, prostitution and the buying of sex are legal but procuring and the running of brothels are not;
- In some countries both prostitution, the buying of sex, procuring, and the running of brothels are legal. The many different prostitution laws within the EU complicate the free movement of services.

Believing that:

- Voluntary prostitution should not be disrupted by the approach to fighting forced prostitution;
- The EU is working on an effective method that looks out for forced sex workers, and their exploiters and fights these exploiters;
- It is both unfair and discriminating that in some countries prostitution is decriminalized and thus the sex workers must pay taxes but simultaneously the profession is not recognized, meaning sex workers cannot be members of the unemployment insurance fund, do not obtain fair working rights, etc.;

- Legalizing prostitution without legalizing the buying of sex, forces sex workers to work in uncertain environments hidden away from the public as their clients

are technically criminals and therefore have to worry about being caught by the police;

- Strict regulation of prostitution in groups, e.g. brothels, deprives the sex workers of the possibility of working in the safest possible environment with colleagues and easy access to help, should problems arise;
- It is unfair that sex workers cannot work as prostitutes without having to be self-employed, as being self-employed entails both economic uncertainty and extra work.

LYMEC calls for:

- All EU member states to legalize prostitution and the buying of sex as well as make prostitution a recognized profession, giving prostitutes access to health care, unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance funds, etc. on equal terms with people in other professions;
- All EU member states to remove barriers for sex workers to set up cooperative businesses fulfilling all obligations under EU and national laws, respectively, and ramp up their efforts to combat human trafficking;
- All EU member states recognize prostitution as a service that should be able to move freely across the EU;
- All EU member states to make sure the necessary help is available to sex workers who wish to leave the sex industry, as any sex worker should be able to quit their job if they wish to do so. Otherwise, it is no longer voluntary prostitution;
- All EU member states Instead of criminalizing clients of sex workers, encourage them to help fight crime, by notifying authorities when they become aware of possible sex trafficking and labor rights violations in the industry.

5.04 Creation of a “student-entrepreneur” status in all European countries

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2017, Stockholm, 14 May 2017
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, FEL, Jong VLD

(Former 5.08 prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

With regard to:

- the *EU Youth Strategy*, *Europe 2020 growth and jobs strategy*
- The French initiative from November 2013 establishing a national status of ○ "étudiant-entrepreneur";
- The Belgian legislation from 30 December 2016 implementing a specific social and fiscal status for students engaged in self-employment in Belgium;

Considering that:

- More and more entrepreneurs are needed across Europe.
- In some countries, there is already a legal status for students doing summer jobs, but none for students setting up their own business.
- The European Union needs to promote both the achievement of higher studies and the setting up of new businesses.
- The creative mindset of young people is an asset to be exploited throughout Europe.
- Positive speech around running one's own business is not sufficient and should be supported by practical measures.
- Young people need advice in setting up their own business as well as a clear legal status to be able to achieve their studies and work as an entrepreneur simultaneously
- Non-formal learning is of equal importance in comparison with traditional education and skills leading to a job cannot be acquired by theoretical learning only.
- Promoting and supporting youth entrepreneurship with structural tools is not a short-term and costly initiative.

LYMEC Calls on:

- European Commission, to officially recognise the "student-entrepreneur" status and inscribe this system in its Youth and Job Strategies.
- The European Union, to use all available instruments to support the creation of the "student entrepreneur" in respecting its legal obligations.
- All European states to create better legal frameworks so as to encourage young people to set up their own businesses and startups by setting positive incentives (i.e. less taxes, less bureaucracy, more available information, etc.).

LYMEC Asks:

The European Commission to actively suggest to all European countries which do not yet have such a system in place, to adopt the following system with the following conditions:

- High school and university students should be able to combine a student status with a professional activity as an entrepreneur;
- Each country will have the right to define their own age limit, in accordance with their own education system.
- Every European country should grant this status to students coming from all backgrounds and specialties, with the right mentorship.
- Students who apply for this status should automatically receive an EU VAT number to facilitate their business dealings with customers in other EU Member States.
- The following infrastructure should be set up in at least one high school and/or university of each country, depending on the overall student population and proportion of young entrepreneurs: young entrepreneurship incubator, with business angels and advisors, so that candidates to young entrepreneurship can receive the best advice possible in terms of business plan and contacts.
- That exhibitions of and competitions for companies built by youth-entrepreneurs be held at the local, national and European level, where possible.

LYMEC Suggests:

This system would be supported by the following incentives:

- The student will keep the right to earn a certain amount (dependent on each country) without any taxation (1st threshold) or with a reduced taxation (2nd threshold). Only beyond a certain threshold to be determined by each country will the student entrepreneur be taxed as a regular self-employed person.
- The student should have the opportunity to gain an assigned number of ECTS for setting up and running a student-business, especially in those education programs where it is relevant to the course content.
- In any case, the limit of turnover and benefits should be adapted so that a student entrepreneur does not have fewer rights than a student doing a summer job.
- The student will keep the same social rights as a regular student.
- The student's parents will keep the same rights as they would for a regular student.

5.05 Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Venstres Ungdom (VU), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Liberala ungdomsförbundet (LUF) and Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen

---

(Former 5.11 prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, on 24 October 2021

- Today the freedom of surrogate mothers and families is under pressure in many European countries. It creates insecurities and lowered quality of life for the surrogates and the intended families. As a liberal organisation preserving and ensuring freedom amongst all people, we cannot ignore this lack of freedom and the arbitrary legal status of all implicated parties of surrogacy. It is unacceptable to neglect the inherent human need of giving life through one's own DNA, and in that matter also to ignore the lawlessness of the surrogate mothers. We need to secure the freedom for all family-kinds to found a family, and in addition to ensure the security of the surrogate mother.

Considering that:

- Surrogate motherhood and altruistic surrogate motherhood are highly complex ethical dilemmas with no easy solutions.
- Today, the legal status of surrogate maternity is chaotic.
- By creating a clear legal framework in the EU, we can stop the exploitation of poor women in e.g. Russia and India which exist today.
- Having a biologically related child is not a human right. However, this should not undermine the parental rights of individuals who have to go through surrogacy in order to have a child biologically related to them or their life partner, e.g. couples where one of both partners are infertile or men in same-sex relationships. By legalising surrogacy, we can remove the legal limbo in which these individuals and their child (ren) are situated regarding

their parental rights and reduce malicious practices. The fertility, possibility to carry a child or the sexual orientation of a person should not be a deterrent for someone to become a parent.

- The legalisation of surrogacy will help with the acceptance and destigmatisation of rainbow families (same-sex couples who have children). Same-sex couples are still often questioned about the validity of their legality of their parenthood and are easy preys for malicious people."
- In several member states, mothers who have made use of a surrogate are not recognised as mothers, whether or not they share a biological bond with their child. This issue is even more prevalent with co-fathers, where the parental rights of the non-biological father are often never recognised. This disparity

leaves these individuals with no legal say on their child(ren)'s live(s), often leaving these rights with the surrogate."

Believing that:

- As liberals, we are fighting to uphold liberties for all individuals.
- Women's right to bear a child should not be governed by the government but only by themselves.
- Families and surrogate mothers deserve a clear legal position.

Calls for:

- LYMEC to call on the Commission to provide legal protection at EU level for individuals who are already or will be born to a surrogate mother in the future. 2.
- LYMEC to call on the Commission to verify that existing legislation on surrogate motherhood - in those Member States where this is not allowed - does not contravene the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights article 7.
- LYMEC to support a movement towards non-criminalisation of surrogate motherhood agreements and for such agreements to have legally binding effects to safeguard the rights of the parties involved, guaranteeing the free will of the pregnant person as well as the necessary economic aid to have a safe pregnancy process. This practice should be coupled with the necessary guarantees in terms of health coverage of the pregnant person and the juridical and economic security of both parts.
- LYMEC condemns the discrimination that surrogate mothers and families still suffer across the European Union, sometimes even being criminalised by members of governments and thus rendering them unprotected and vulnerable to harassment, degrading treatment and other types of aggression.
- Finally, LYMEC urges not to criminalize families in good faith for the desire to have a child

5.06 Generationally fair and sustainable European pension policy

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jungfreisinnige
Co-signers: Ógra Fianna Fáil, JOVD, JuLis

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Noting that:

- People in Europe are getting older and older, life expectancy is increasing and the time we live in retirement is also increasing.
- People are living longer and longer which means that the time in retirement is increasing, while the duration of employment remains unchanged.
- This change has a direct impact on the financing of our social services.
- Almost all national state pension funds in Europe operate on the 'Pay-as-you-go'(PAYG) model, whereby current pension benefits are paid from the contributions received by current taxpayers. This model was implemented at a time when the dependency ratio was far lower, and does not effectively future-proof against demographic changes. The ageing of Europe means many of these funds now risk becoming insolvent in the near-future.
- Many state pension funds in Europe exclusively hold cash and cash-equivalents, which represents a missed opportunity to benefit from the compounding of investment returns. Even a low-risk portfolio of investments suitable for a pension scheme can still deliver returns significantly above inflation in the long-run.
- In 1998, Canada restructured its state pension scheme (the Canada Pension Plan), moving away from the PAYG model towards the "steady-state" model, whereby the value of the fund is frequently assessed by actuaries in order to ensure that there is no risk to solvency in the long-term. Although the Canadian model resulted in an increase in contributions rates in 1998, the contribution rate has been stable since then and will not require any significant increase in the foreseeable future to fund benefits already accrued. The Canada Pension Plan is the only major contributory state pension scheme in the developed world to be long-term solvent.

Believing that:

- States have a duty to enact sustainable and generationally equitable regulations and to organise and finance their social systems in such a way that structural problems do not lead to a mountain of debt being built up and passed on for those generations who follow.
- Politicians have a responsibility to find intergenerational solutions that are not one-sidedly at the expense of the young.
- The significant increase in life expectancy and quality of life makes it possible to work longer than 50 years ago. Also, the significantly improved working conditions and individual industry solutions for early retirement in physically demanding work ensure that we increase the retirement age.

- Financing our social security systems through through the pay-as-you-go model, without any attempt to calculate the true cost of pension benefits through actuarial methods, leads to passing on debt to future generations, and establishes negative incentives, and is therefore an unsuitable way to finance our old-age provision in a sustainable manner.
- Permitting state pension funds to invest their assets in a portfolio of non-liquid assets, subject to appropriate liquidity levels and risk appetite, would be beneficial to all parties concerned, as it would not only increase investment, but also reduce the contributions that employees, employers and the government must pay into the scheme.

LYMEC calls for:

- The sustainable restructuring of the pension funds and remediation of structural problems due to demographic developments.

The preservation of intergenerational justice in the adjustment of pension structures in order to ensure sustainable old-age provision for today's young and working people, without creating negative incentives.

- The restructuring of the pension schemes with generation-appropriate solutions such as the adjustment or flexibilisation of the retirement age as well as the linking to life expectancy.

5.07 European Menstruation Equity

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: FEL

Co-Signers: Momentum TizenX, IMS Delegate (Tim Robinson), LLY, UP, LHG, JMR, ZeMolodizhka, Jung Libérale, JCS, Mladé ANO,JD, NUV, Junge Liberale

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Knowing that menstrual equity is affordability, accessibility, and security of menstrual products and that menstrual security is finding menstrual products and a safe place as needed, whether or not you are in a precarious menstrual situation.
- Noting that associations such as “BruZelle” set up activities in schools and at festivals, such as educational, situational, playful, and creative modules to raise awareness of health and menstrual poverty.
- Considering that the Walloon Minister of Health had launched an operation to fight period poverty part of Women's Day. Distributors were set up and over 40 partner associations distributed almost 200,000 sanitary pads. However, according to the BruZelle association the number of distributors is insufficient but new initiatives are on the way. By the way, on 08/03/23 (one year after the 200,000 pads were distributed), Wallonia granted authorization to distribute almost 1.5 million menstrual pads free of charge.
- Acknowledging that a factory belonging to the Procter & Gamble Company as already partnered with BruZelle and donated several batches of menstrual products to the association.

Knowing that France allocates a budget of 5 million euros to support the fight against period poverty.

- The Scottish Government allowed, on 24/11/2020, anyone who needs tampons or menstrual products anywhere in Scotland to obtain them free of charge. Schools, colleges, universities and libraries, will have to provide a range of menstrual pads in their toilets for free.

Believing that:

- The importance of menstrual equity and hygiene are fundamental rights of gender equity and menstruating people well-being.
- By addressing menstrual poverty we contribute to the empowerment and dignity of menstruating people.
- Access to menstrual products in public and private spaces is essential for promoting gender equality and offering peace of mind for menstruating people.
- Partnerships between organizations fighting against period poverty and sector industries are possible to implant in each member state.
- Period poverty is a multifaceted issue that requires a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach.

- Menstrual health is an integral part of gender equity and reproductive health and period poverty is proportionately affects marginalized communities.
- Many individuals across Europe face significant challenges related to menstrual health, including but not limited to access to menstrual products, education, and support.
- Having equal access to menstrual products and education is a basic human right and a prerequisite for achieving gender equality.
- Comprehensive menstrual education is vital to eradicating the stigma surrounding menstruation.

Concludes that:

- Raising awareness about period poverty in Europe and its social and economic impact.

The increased cooperation between member organizations, governmental bodies, and civil society to develop and implement programs to fight against period poverty is a step toward creating menstrual security that can lead to menstrual equity.

- Recommends the collection of data on period poverty and its impact on marginalized communities via the organizations that are already implemented in European countries to inform evidence-based policies and interventions.
- Ensuring comprehensive menstrual education, by integrating it into school curricula to be able to foster awareness and reduce stigma.
- The urges European governments to allocate resources and implement policies that ensure accessible menstrual products, education, and support services, by providing specifications towards organizations that are already implemented in the different European countries and take into consideration their expertise for any changes in the law.

LYMEC calls upon:

- European governments to provide structural funding and support for initiatives aimed at addressing period poverty, including research, awareness campaigns, and sustainable solutions.
- Set up a faster, simpler procedure for accessing European subsidies.
- Associations fighting against this period poverty should be one of the Members State's priorities.
- The creation of strict European specifications defining the competencies of the organizations and the deadlines involved. Each member state will be able to adapt these specifications to suit its situation.
- The institutionalization of a board to ensure the sustainability of each Member State's organization and compliance with the specifications. This council should be made up of organization presidents as well as people from outside the organization, which will enable us to understand this precarious situation that knows no borders.
- Partial tax exemption for companies producing menstrual health products when partnering with organizations fighting menstrual poverty.
- Guarantee free access to menstrual products for menstruating people in precarious situations, accessibility and safety of menstrual products. Ensure education on menstrual health and breaking stigma, as well as inclusive and welcoming sanitary facilities.

- Installation of free sanitary product dispensers in public places accessible to menstruating people ("restrooms") to guarantee menstrual insecurity.

5.08 Protecting the Budapest Pride march and the freedom of assembly in Hungary

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights
Status: In force
Submitted by: Momentum TizenX (Hungary)
Co-signers: JuLis, ALLIANCE, USR Tineret, For Youth! (FY), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), YGL, SVB, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Norges Unge Venstre (NUV), Attīstībai Youth (AY), Young Progressive Slovakia (MPS), ERPY, Youth Forum of Naša Stranka (YFNS), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Radikale Ungdom (RU), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Centerstudenter (CS), Young Liberals (YL), Jonge Democraten NL (JD), Jongliberalen (JL), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), JUNOS - Junge Liberale Neos, JNC

Considering that:

- The Hungarian Parliament passed a new legislation on the 18th of March, 2025, that prohibits those assemblies which "violate the children's right to healthy development".
- This new legislation is intended to ban the Budapest Pride march.
- According to the new legislation, not just the organizers, but also the participants of such assemblies can be fined by the police up to €500. If the fine is not paid in due time, it will be collected as tax.
- To identify those who participate in illegal assemblies the new legislation enables the police to deploy facial-recognition software, which uses artificial intelligence to automatically assign identity to each face that is captured on CCTV footage.
- The European Union's AI Act, which was passed by the European Parliament in 2023, has forbidden the use of AI-based facial recognition systems against civil targets. According to the AI Act, such softwares can be used only against perpetrators of serious crimes, such as terrorism, and in order to find missing persons. However, these exemptions always require permission from judicial authorities.
- Six Members of the Hungarian Parliament protested with smoke candles and flyers during the voting of the "Lex-PRIDE" law. The Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, László Kövér, imposed a total of 82 million HUF (€205,000) record fine for those six representatives and banned them from the House for several sessions.

Believing that:

- The PRIDE march poses absolutely no threat to children and it doesn't violate any of the children's rights.
- Every person has the right to assemble peacefully.
- The use of facial recognition software to identify and to fine Budapest Pride participants breaches the European Union's AI Act.
- Modern AI-driven facial recognition softwares should not be used against those who gather peacefully.
- The Presiding Officer of any national parliament should not ban democratically elected representatives arbitrarily.

LYMEC calls for:

- The ALDE party, Renew Europe and the European Commission to publish a statement of solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community of Hungary.
- The European Commission to launch an infringement procedure against the Government of Hungary for applying the “Lex-PRIDE” law.
- The ALDE party and Renew Europe to publish a statement of solidarity with those six Members of the Hungarian Parliament who have been fined and banned from the House by the Speaker for the protest against the “Lex-PRIDE” law.
- The ALDE party, Renew Europe and the European Commission to continue raising awareness of the Orbán-government’s attacks against the Hungarian freedom of press and freedom of speech.

Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources

6.01 Reforming the EU Emission Trading System (ETS)

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2013, Tallinn, 27 April 2013
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: RU

Tax, Energy Security, Future of Europe

Whereas:

- In 2013 the EU-ETS (Emission Trading System) entered the third stage, where 40% of all allowances will be up for auction.
- The 16th of April, The European Parliament voted against a proposal from the European Commission on raising the price of the ETS allowances up for auction.

Building on

- The resolution 1.6.2 " Resolution on Basic Principles and Goals for an EC Environmental Policy" adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Paris, France, January 1992.
- The resolution 1.6.3 "Resolution on Sustainable Development" adopted at the LYMEC seminar in Goteborg, Sweden, June 2001.
- The resolution 1.6.5 "Reducing the Use of Fossil Fuel" adopted at the annual Congress of LYMEC in Amsterdam, The Netherlands April 2005.

Considering that:

- The ETS is a market-based method and is an alternative to a European carbon tax.
- Today the market has too many allowances on auction in relation to the principle of supply and demands, as also stressed by the EC.
- In 2011 the IMF found that the allowances on the European Market would raise revenue of 89.3 billion €.
- The ETS system could include more areas such as shipping, methane and nitrous oxide.
- Today the revenue goes to the national member states and not the European Union.

Believing that:

- The ETS is a great way to achieve the goals set in the Paris climate agreement
- The voting on the proposal from the EC by the European Parliament where the result was to send it back to the ENVI Committee shows a willingness Among the EP to work towards a compromise on a change of the ETS.

Urges

- The European Parliament to change the system to a market with fewer allowances.

LYMEC gathered at the Congress in Tallinn, Estonia calls upon

- The LYMEC Bureau and LYMEC MOs to express their mortification upon the result of the last voting on the EC proposal among the ALDE.
- The LYMEC Bureau and LYMEC MOs to raise awareness among the ALDE to work towards a new ambitious compromise with initiatives, such as fewer allowances, making the ETS contain allowances on more areas

6.04 Resolution on the Protection of Arctic Area

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2014, Berlin, 25 October 2014
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force

Natural Resources, Arctic

The interest and activity in the Arctic area are rapidly increasing, both within the EU and on a global level. Minerals, forests, fish and tourism opportunities constitute significant renewable and non-renewable resources of high economic interest. Moreover, it is estimated that about a fifth of the remaining undiscovered hydrocarbon resources are located in the Arctic.

The EU is already a main consumer of Arctic natural resources. The EU includes three Arctic States: Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The large Arctic areas of Finland and Sweden are also inhabited by the Samis, the only indigenous population group of the EU. Iceland's application to join the EU will make the Arctic area even more significant within the EU, along with the existing EEA Agreement between EU and Norway.

At the same time, Norway has already experience in offshore oil exploration at Snøhvitfeltet; Greenland has approved drilling in the Disko Bay and the U.S. has allowed offshore oil exploration in Alaska. Russia is planning to open an oil rig located in the Arctic seas shortly, about 60 km off-coast – however, the security arrangements surrounding this are yet unclear. Canada has been drilling along the coast of the Arctic, and while not yet approved offshore drilling, it has been stressed that any emissions caused by such procedure need to be controlled within reasonable time. Furthermore, several non-Arctic states are showing increasing interest in the area, for example by South Korea, China, Italy, Japan and Singapore applying alongside the EU for status as permanent observers at the Arctic Council.

Considering that:

- The Arctic is an extremely challenging environment because of its climate, ice, distance to urban areas as well as the recurring lack of daylight.
- possible accidents in the area would affect multiple parties, the Arctic question is hardly limited by national borders and calls for a broad-minded approach.
- The Arctic not only is a preserve, but also provides the homes and livelihood for four million people, of which ten percent identify as part of some indigenous people. The inhabitants need to be included in the decision-making process regarding the Arctic, emphasising mutual understanding and dialogue. Preserving the possibility for the indigenous peoples to pursue their traditional livelihoods and way of life must be taken into account in accordance with the internationally recognized rights of indigenous peoples.

Believing that:

- minimum standards for ships and oil rigs should be established in order to avoid accidents. Safer technologies and processes also need to be developed, as well as significant improvements in terms of capacity and infrastructure in the case of an accident.
- However big the economic significance of the area, and the interests of several parties involved, the activity in the Arctic cannot be based solely on economic visions. Environmental issues need to be taken into account and prioritized over the interests of the oil industry or possible economic benefits from the Arctic.

- The role of the Arctic Council should not be overlooked and disregarded in favour of national interests, yet underlining the importance of the EU as an actor in the Arctic question. Co-Operation between the EU and Russia should be more effective in the Arctic issues.

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- a comprehensive risk analysis and Environmental Impact Assessment to be conducted as a prerequisite to any extraction of oil, gas or minerals in the Arctic areas. This should include a strategic and social impact assessment, and a thorough examination of particularly sensitive areas.
- a safe guard for the protection of the rights of the indigenous peoples when exploiting natural resources of the Arctic, *inter alia* by implementing the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the United Nations, along with the guidelines set up by OECD.
- the Arctic cooperation to be intensified, in terms of capacity-building, developing new technology and managing emissions, as well as setting up requirements for using the safest technology available and the development towards legally binding agreements on clearing up oil emissions.
- measures to be most appropriately taken through closer cooperation between the member parties of the Arctic Council, due to the multilateral character of the Arctic question as well as the number of interests at stake.
- efforts to further develop and strengthen the common EU Arctic policy, in order to facilitate the cooperation and decision-making progress in the Arctic Council*.* The EU could play a prominent role in promoting research and initiatives; constructive dialogue and cooperation between the Arctic States; the respect for and development of international law norms and agreements applicable on the Arctic area and in highlighting human rights as well as environmental protection and sustainable development.

5. **EmPOWERing Europe – The Single European Energy Market of the future Tags:** Energy, Climate, Single Market, Environment

LYMEC Congress, Berlin, Germany 23-25 October

2014 **Noting that:**

- The single market has not been fully realised in the energy sector so far. The national markets are mostly sealed. Only some countries have implemented some bilateral regional sub-markets. But it is the Single European Energy Market that will strengthen the EU's global competitiveness

Considering that:

- The Single European Energy Market will raise the level of competition between producers and increase the supply security. The dependence on non EU-imports will drop and consumers and companies will benefit from stable prices over the long term.
- To prevent that only national interest will be pursued, the conditions in the member states need to be harmonised by an European legal framework. Two third of the member states regulate their prices and their industries receive granted subsidies. A regulation for the EU as a whole will establish fair conditions. Therefore the different subsidies for sufficiently mature renewable energy technologies need to be cut down step by step.

That is why LYMEC calls for:

The complementation of the Single European Energy Market by laying focus on these important points: grid expansion, renewable energy and climate protection as well as the supply security.

Renewable energy and climate protection

- The support of renewable energies shall be regulated by a European wide quota system. The quota system will define the share of renewable energies in the European energy mix
- In the long term the European energy supply shall consist of 100% renewable energies. Regional particularities need to be considered.
- A mandatory scheme aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020 needs to be created as a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. In this way, limiting global warming to 2 ° C by 2050 must be achieved. To achieve this goal, it is imperative to get more states involved in the certificate trading system.
- The emissions trading system, by allocating 40% emission rights based on existing CO2 output, favours existing companies and puts - new - smaller renewable energy initiatives at a disadvantage. Therefore the current system needs to be reviewed. The goal being the actual reduction of CO2 emissions while stimulating renewable innovations at the same time - without the quantity of certificates rising accordingly. This could be achieved by lowering the cap and withdrawing rights from the market, pooling them and making them available for new players through auction. Future distribution of emission rights should be by auctioning, ending allocation all together. And finally exemptions for energy intensive industries must be eliminated

Grid expansion

- With a high priority the electricity and gas grids should be developed as smart grids to efficiently meet the physical conditions for the single market.
- The EU's support via the European Investment Bank for cross-border grid expansion needs to be increased
- In the short term the process of implementing conversion technologies needs to be accelerated. In the long term technical issues can be avoided by switching to a common European wide system

Security of supply

- Grid expansion and the development of new storage technologies are essential to provide cost-efficiency and supply security
- The single market will increase the level of supply security and will provide regional bottlenecks
- In the long term the EU need to support the development of new technologies considering the criteria of supply and the protection of the environment

6.06 Precautionary principle on shale gas extraction

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2016, Vienna, 30 April 2016
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, FEL

Shale gas – hydraulic fracturing – energy dependence – lack of a common European position – environmental and sanitary impact of shale gas extraction

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna, Austria on 29-30 April 2016 **Noting that:**

- The EU is the largest energy market in the world.
- The EU suffers from great energy dependence, importing 57% of its gas and 82% of its oil.
- Energy suppliers of Europe such as Russia, several Caucasus countries or other members of the OPEC might be subject to unstable regime, frequently violate human rights and might use the EU energy dependence to establish a position of strength on a geopolitical level.
- The Cambridge Energy Research Associated estimated the shale gas reserves in Europe between 3.000 and 12.000 billions of m³ even if those estimations are imprecise.
- Many experts have been recently warning politics against the speculation bubble that shale gas extraction has created in the United States, showing that shale gas acreages are less reliable and profitable than planned.
- The only efficient method developed so far to extract shale gas is hydraulic fracturing.
- Hydraulic fracturing method consists in injecting around 15 000 m3 of water with sand and various chemical additives in the ground, what may represent important ecological and sanitary consequences including waste of water, pollution of groundwater tables, impacts on local population.
- European countries are divided on the question of the exploitation of shale gas and more specifically on the position to adopt as regards the potential ecological and sanitary danger of the extraction method of this gas.
- Several European countries are considering exploiting shale gas, have begun doing so or are setting up the adequate infrastructure to exploit shale gas (United Kingdom, Poland, Denmark).
- Several European countries have either banned the exploitation of shale gas (France, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria) or adopted a precautionary principle not to resort to hydraulic fracturing and, accordingly, to the exploitation of shale gas (Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria).
- In January 2014, the European Commission allowed the exploitation of shale gas and restrained itself to encouraging the exploiting countries to be careful and to respect some 'minimal common principles' despite the opposition of liberal Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potocnik and a majority of MEP.

Considering that:

- Each European country is legitimate to choose its own energy mix as a principle of subsidiarity.

- The EU is a territory two and half times smaller than the United States where environmental decisions taken in one Member State can have an impact on another one.
- Energetic security and independence should be obtained in the future through the development of renewable energy, to a lesser extent, through 'traditional' energy (carbon-based fuels), and, when necessary, through an appropriate cooperation between European countries, for example in the field of technological researches, but it should not be a priority to the detriment of ecological aspects.
- The real solution to energetic independence lies in a European policy that respects the natural environment and the health of European citizens.

Calls upon:

- Ban on shale gas extraction in each Member State until a clean alternative to hydraulic fracturing is developed, even if we need affordable energy with lower carbon emission. This ban does not concern the purchasing of gas issued from shale gas from other countries than EU countries (i.e. from the USA)

as long as it does not go against international treaties targets that fight against climate change.

- Appropriate researches to be conducted in true transparency on the ecological and sanitary consequences of extraction of shale gas through hydraulic fracturing, and the potential alternatives to this mode of extraction, before any actual extraction can happen.
- Further negotiations at the European level to establish as soon as possible a true Energy Union that might ensure more energy independence to the EU while providing secure, affordable and sustainable energy to all Europeans.
- Better promoting and financing energy efficiency considering that it represents a real alternative in terms of saving energy and money.
- Continuing European efforts to reduce greenhouse gases emissions and to include a bigger part for renewables in our energy mixes.

6.07 Resolution on LULUCF sector regulation

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, Tallinn, 12 November 2016
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: FCY

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016 **Noting that:**

- The target of the Paris Agreement is ambitious: to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees.
- The EU has agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to the 1990s' level.
- The role of forests in part of climate strategy is well recognized in the Paris Agreement. LULUCF and forests are the only sector having its own article in the Paris Agreement.

Considering that:

- To achieve the long-term goal, emissions and removals need to be in balance in the second half of this century.
- Transport represents almost a quarter of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions and road transport is by far the biggest emitter in the transport sector. Advanced clean fuels are one important part of long-term renewable energy solution for transportation.
- In countries like Finland, wood-based fuels come from side-products of the forest industry. In general, forests in Finland are not grown and cut for bioenergy, but instead logging waste and harvest residues are utilized. In the Nordic countries, sustainability in forestry is ensured with legislation, voluntary

measures, incentives, monitoring and forest certification that is market based-instrument.

Believing that:

- While reducing emissions, we need to continue the work to maintain and enhance forest carbon sinks and stocks of forest and wood products. While reducing emissions, we need to continue the work to maintain and enhance forest carbon sinks and stocks of forest and wood products. At the same time, to reduce emissions from fossil energy, we need to increase the use of renewable energy.
- If a country generates significant climate benefit through their land use sector and in particular in forest, it should not be penalized. The Commission proposal on LULUCF does not have sufficient incentives and it will not lead to stimulate maximum long term action in the forest sector.

LYMEC calls for:

- The Commission to base the assessment of sinks of greenhouse gases within the LULUCF sector on current data and not on the levels of 2009.
- The main emphasis in LULUCF to be on reducing emissions with some limited flexibility for the agricultural sector in order for it to be able to meet emissions targets.

- The assessments of the land use sector to better reflect the real impact on the climate.

6.08 Resolution for a common container deposit scheme in the European Union

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter

(Former 6.09 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Notes that:

- A deposit scheme will increase the number of beverage containers being recycled each year.
- large amounts of aluminium cans and plastic bottles are disappearing from national deposit schemes as they are purchased in a different country than the intended country for consumption;
- beverage cans and bottles imported have a much lower recycling rate and generally becomes residual waste instead;
- the energy needed for manufacturing a new aluminium can is 20 times higher than using aluminium from a recycled can;
- the environment, industry and trade would benefit from a common beverage container deposit scheme in the European Union;
- all the European Union increasing the level of recycling of beverage cans, and with more cross border trade the need for a common deposit scheme will only grow.

Considers that:

- Movement between the European Union is at record high and therefore the need for a common container deposit scheme is increasing.
- In order to work for a less polluted world, new and innovative solutions that cross borders are very much needed.
- A common deposit scheme will make the production and labelling of beverage containers used throughout the European Union easier.
- The amount of aluminium and plastics being recycled will increase when the containers are included in a deposit scheme.

Calls on:

- LYMEC member parties to actively work to unite the different deposit schemes in the European countries into one common scheme and to spread this scheme to countries that currently lack one.
- Prohibiting exports to countries with more unregulated waste disposal systems.

6.09 Stop Nord Stream 2

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius, 13 October 2018
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: RU

(Former 6.10 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Considering that:

- The relationship between Europe and Russia is marked by historically remarkable tensions which have reached a historic peak in 2022;
- The Danish government has asked for a common standing statement from the EU;
- Russia historically and currently has used its natural gas to increase political pressure on other countries;
- The tariffs gained by Ukraine by the current pipeline make up 3 pct. of

  Ukraine's GDP;
- There is enough capacity in the current European gas network for the current demand;
- Natural gas as a fossil fuel needs to be phased out during the next decades;
- Germany has suspended certification of Nord Stream 2 as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The EU has mentioned energy supplies from middle east countries in the REPowerEU plan for 2022.

Concerned that:

- Russia has shown blatant disregard for the energy needs of Ukraine and other Russian energy dependent nations.
- The war in Ukraine highlights the volatile nature of energy dependence through the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.
- If certification continues, Russia will use the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to put economic and political pressure on Ukraine and the rest of Europe;
- This will give Russia more power in Europe by increasing the reliance of Russian gas; and
- Russia can cut off Ukraine's gas supply deliberately.

LYMEC calls for:

- The demounting of all the pipelines of Nord Stream 2.
- Member states to find alternative access to various sources of energy, e.g. the building of LNG-terminals in Northern Europe.

6.10 Resolution on the future of our environment: climate change, pollution and looking forward to sustainability.

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels, 6 April 2019
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: LYMEC Bureau

(Former 6.11 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

LYMEC – Bureau

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019 Archiving Resolutions 6.02, 6.03, 6.05, 6.09

Noting with grave concern the alarming trends of climate change and environmental deterioration in the last couple of decades;

Regretting that despite the international discussions and commitments taken, the Rio Summit, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, efforts in achieving sustainability and halting the impact of climate change continue to constitute mainly paper promises; The protection of our basis of living can only be achieved by joint efforts of the world and fullest efforts by every single: nation, region, municipality, company, and individual.

Acknowledging:

- that according to the European Environment Agency, EU greenhouse gas emissions increased by 0.6% in 2017, following a 0.4.% decrease in 2016[1], and by estimates of the Agency a 32 % reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions could be achieved by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. These projected reductions fall short of the 40 % target for 2030.
- that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels and Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.
- that maritime transport alone emits around 1000 million tonnes of CO2 annually and is responsible for about 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, shipping emissions are predicted to increase between 50% and 250% by 2050, depending on future economic and energy developments and direct emissions from aviation account for about 3% of the EU's total greenhouse gas emissions and more than 2% of global emissions. By 2020, the global international aviation emissions are projected to be around 70% higher than in 2005 and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) forecasts that by 2050 they could grow by a further 300-700%.
- that according to analyses by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (UN FAO) , the total contribution of GHG from all agricultural activities on the planet is between 14% to 18%.
- that Global warming is a phenomenon witnessed in most land and ocean regions, causing hot extremes in most inhabited regions, heavy precipitation in several regions and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions. That this poses the rising concern of access to water and food security and climate migration.

- that a publication of the World economic forum reaches the conclusion that policy delays in climate action leads to higher ultimate CO2 concentrations and produces persistent economic damages. A “delay that results in warming of 3° Celsius above pre industrial levels, instead of 2°, could increase

economic damages by approximately 0.9% of global output. To put this percentage in perspective, 0.9% of estimated 2014 US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is approximately $150 billion”. These costs would not be incurred as
one-time losses but are rather year after year because of the permanent damage caused by increased climate change resulting from the delay in climate action. That the matter of the economic impact of climate change lack of action was already the subject matter of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change published in 2006, which estimated that the costs and risks of climate change inaction will be equivalent to losing from 5% to 20% or more of the global GDP each year, at the same time the estimate for the annual cost of achieving stabilization of the levels of CO2 emissions is amounting to around 2% of global GDP per year.

- that as a consequence of Global warming, the oceans have absorbed much of the increased heat, with the top 700 metres of ocean showing warming of more than 17.5 Celsius since 1969. The increasing ocean temperatures affect marine species and ecosystems, causing coral bleaching and the loss of breeding grounds for fish and marine mammals. This also causes more extreme weather events and the loss of coastal protection.
- that the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass. Data from NASA’s Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment show Greenland lost an average of 286 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016, while Antarctica lost about 127 billion tons of ice per year during the same time period. The rate of Antarctica ice mass loss has tripled in the last decade.
- that recent research indicates that global sea level rose about 8 inches (20.32 cm) in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double of that of the last century and is accelerating every year
- that since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This increase is the result of emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and hence more being absorbed into the oceans. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the upper layer of the oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year.
- that recent research findings indicate that Annual global production of plastics has increased more than 200-fold since 1950. By 2015 cumulative plastic production was more than 7.8 billion tonnes. This is equivalent to more than one tonne of plastic for every person alive today. Of the global plastic produced over the period from 1950 to 2015: 55% straight to landfill, 30% was still in use, 8% was incinerated, 6-7% was recycled. Of 5.8 billion tonnes of plastic no longer in use approximately only 9% was recycled, whereas the global plastic waste in 2010 was 275 million tonnes. Whereas this leads to severe impact on ecosystems and wildlife.
- that around 90 % of Europeans living in cities are exposed to pollutants at concentrations higher than the air quality levels deemed harmful, having been estimated to reduce life expectancy in the EU by more than eight months.
- Only market-based solutions will be able to deliver the rapid change required without going against the liberal-democratic base structure of the European society.

Whereas:

- The EU committed itself to play a global leadership role in tackling climate change, but needs now more than ever to step up its commitment and lead by example in order to address its impact, as well as marine pollution and sustainable development.
- free individual choices on a functioning market and international cooperation are fundamental for reaching sustainable development.
- the EU has developed the world's largest company-level scheme for trading in emissions of CO2, creating business opportunities for EU companies for low-carbon goods and services.
- Youth engagement plays an essential role in climate policy, as it is the youth that will have to face the results of the decisions of today.
- insisting on guaranteeing a stronger environmental protection is a long-standing priority for LYMEC.
- Often technological progress is hindered by hasty over-regulation and pseudo-solutions which cause more harm than they do good
- Currently tax systems contain many incentives which harm the environment
- The public is often misinformed on the consequences of climate change and pollution

LYMEC calls its Member organisations, and the ALDE Party, ALDE Group members of the European Parliament and Liberal Prime ministers to insist on:

- an **urgent global response, to address climate change with more tangible actions**, research and investment to match the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. Europe's leaders should ensure increased international cooperation, diplomatic pressure and staying united on the efforts to tackle climate change, by achieving the targets of the Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially as regards to the world's major industrialised countries.
- **ensuring a smooth transition to the EU's carbon neutral economy by 2050**, as envisaged by the European Commission in its strategic plan "A Clean planet

for all". We insist on a firm commitment and immediate practical steps to reducing the EU's greenhouse emissions by 55% by 2030, compared to the 1990 levels, and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

- making sure that **all transport models contribute to the de-carbonization strategy**. We need a smart organisation of the mobility network, increase in Europe's rail capacity, support for the transition to low and zero-emissions vehicles and the appropriate infrastructure for that. Municipalities, cities, and regions need to promote alternative forms of mobility over individual motorised transport; this means investing in public transportation and extensive bicycle networks.
- working towards **ending the 65 billion USD (57.5 billion Euro) fuel tax exemption** for **international aviation** and a revision of the Chicago Convention as an essential step towards decarbonization.
- promoting **sustainable agriculture** and targeted investment in alternative farming such as rotations, soil building practices, crop-livestock diversification. Farmers should be encouraged to prevent and control pests with minimal use of chemicals.

- introducing realistic, yet **high environmental standards as an engine for new technology and innovations**. Member states need to **increase the public and private investment for research and development** in support of sustainable development and environment-friendly technologies, renewable energy (wind power, solar energy, hydropower), the use of alternative fuels, hydrogen, nuclear power, waste management and fusion energy. In order to adapt to the new realities and required action, it is an imperative for the European Union to support research centres, Universities and business initiatives developing innovations not only in the field of introducing more green energy sources, but also resource-effective circular economy and new, creative solutions to tackle air, sea and land pollution. It is important in that regard, that funding supporting low-carbon research is efficiently allocated under the NER 300 program, and actions under the Strategic Energy Technology Plan and Horizon 2020.
- providing design appropriate **incentives to promote green public procurement** for the private sector and private **individuals to engage in climate-friendly technologies**;
- **strengthening the European Emission Trading System** (ETS) as an investment driver by expanding it to all carbon-emitting sectors, increasing the pace of annual reductions in allowances to 2.2% as of 2021 and reinforcing the Market Stability Reserve. We need to provide support for the industry and the energy sector to meet the innovation and investment challenges of the low-carbon transition through low-carbon funding mechanisms. In addition we want to strengthen the Clean Development Mechanism and prospectively, reach a global emission trading system and a halt in high-carbon investment.
- **strive for more ambition in the field of energy efficiency**. While we welcome the recent revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive, as part of the Clean Energy package, we insist on a 40 % binding EU energy efficiency target for 2030, annual savings requirement at least 2% to reach the 40% target, and less exemptions provided, in order to achieve EU's climate goals.
- the **prioritisation of food security and access to water in EU's global agenda** and even considering it as an aspect of the security policy of the Union.
- the food produced in the EU to be sustainable and safe for the environment and the individual. We should also invest in **information campaigns on the environmental impact of food production**, including energy, water waste and long-distance transportation earlier than 2050, as envisaged by the European Commission in its strategic plan "A clean planet for all", as currently is a real and probably attained goal in some EU member states and in line with a clear need to accelerate Economic decarbonisation.
- the EU member states should also prioritise the sustainable use of natural resources, by reducing **food and water wastage**. Innovative solutions, for example applications and campaigns such as "Too Good to Go", "Zu gut für die tonne" etc., which tackle food waste need to be incentivised and supported both on national and EU level.
- a tangible **plan on reducing the use of plastic** wrappings and single-use plastics as and transition to a minimized-plastics economy, while taking into account that market prices have a powerful influence on the behaviour of individuals and businesses. In order to achieve this transition, a joint effort across industry, NGOs, local, national governments, EU institutions, and our Global counterparts will be necessary. The plastics and plastic-wrapping manufacturing businesses, enjoying access to the free single market of the EU, the municipalities, controlling the after-use and disposal of plastics, the waste collection and processing facilities and consumer organisations should all be involved in the development

of standards and incentives schemes for plastics use reduction. The EU should further insist in its international communications and trade negotiations for global standards on decreasing the use of plastics, in favour of the development of new sustainable markets for plastics alternatives.

- that as a matter of urgency, the EU member states focus more on **preserving Europe's unique nature and wildlife**, and Commission respond in cases of severe pressures to environmental conservation such as excessive deforestation and industrial-scale logging, large-scale infrastructure in the vicinity of protected areas, and the encroachment of reserves and national parks by vast tourist facilities. In addition, **more attention** needs to be paid **to the Arctic areas**, as their economic importance will grow in the upcoming years.
- **increased awareness** of sustainable development and climate issues, not just to young people but **across generations**, as the matter is already high in the agenda for the youth;
- finally, we insist that the EU's leaders come up with a consensus and **contingency plan on how to act on the consequences of climate change**, including natural disasters, climate migration and the projections of its impact, as it is not really in the future, it's already happening.

6.11 The Adoption of C02 Taxes and Tariffs by the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom, Venstre Ungdom, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Jong VLD, Unge Venstre, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Centerstudenter, Young Liberals, JUNOS, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Mladé ANO, Jonge Demokraten

---

(Former 6.12 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Considering that:

- Climate change is already inflicting costs upon our society as a whole and in the future may risk becoming a threat to the very existence of human life on this planet.
- All EU-member states have committed themselves through the Paris Climate Agreement to *"Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels"*.
- The EU has taken and must take an important role in developing solutions to the problems humanity faces
- Canada has recently introduced an annual "Climate Action Incentive Payment" funded by carbon tax revenues. The payment is revenue-neutral, and has served to dramatically increase the popularity of the carbon tax, and the government estimates that for most households, the payment will exceed the burden of the carbon tax, since higher-income households are responsible for a disproportionate share of emissions.

Believing that:

- The EU must become a global leader when it comes to the research, development, and adaptation of sustainable technologies.
- The release of greenhouse gases constitutes an externality which at the moment is not reflected in the price system that is the foundation of a wellfunctioning market economy.
- The transition from our current economic system based on emissions to one that is based upon sustainable production and a way of life that does not risk undermining our future must be facilitated through the correction of the market mechanism;
- This correction will facilitate the continued development of the EU's capabilities when it comes to sustainable growth.
- The transition to sustainable growth must be inclusive, progressive and improve the wellbeing of the most vulnerable, whilst preventing the great harms of climate change.
- Depending on carbon taxes to fund day-to-day government expenditure is inherently unsustainable, as the entire intention of the carbon tax is to eliminate its own tax base.
- Lower-to-middle income households - who already have lower carbon footprints than higher income, higher-consumption households - should not be punished with an increase in living costs brought about by carbon taxation. Carbon taxation should modify economic incentives, but without increasing costs across the board. **LYMEC calls for:**

- An EU-wide standardisation of a minimum tax administered by the member states on all products based upon the amount of CO2-emissions created during their production. The size of this tax shall be increased in accordance with a medium- long term schedule in order to enable long term investment decision-making, taking into account the accumulated costs society bears as a result of the expanding amount of gas in the atmosphere, and eventually expand to include all Greenhouse gas emissions by taxing CO2 equivalents to suppress all forms of carbon.
- The introduction of a tariff to be applied to all products that enter the EU based upon the amount of CO2(e)-emissions. This tariff shall be calculated the same way as the abovementioned tax in order not to harm European products compared to products produced outside of the EU and international agreements on carbon pricing shall be sought to avoid the imposition of trade barriers.
- Sectors that are already under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) shall not be subject to the CO2 tax to avoid a double tax. The ETS shall provide the same amount of incentives for the transition to a green and more sustainable Europe as the CO2 tax, to ensure that all sectors have equal incentives to take part in the transition.
- An EU-wide policy to encourage and invest in the development of new buildings and the retrofitting of old buildings with the lowest carbon footprint possible.
- The CO2 tax to be used as a green tax shift, in order not to further increase the tax burden on European citizens. To avoid a tax lift, member states should compensate with lower taxes.
- Member states to use CO2 tax revenues solely to fund greening activities, and a Canada-style Climate Action Incentive Payment, so that the tax modifies economic incentives, but without negatively impacting household incomes for lower-to-middle income Europeans.

6.12 Making 'Fit For 55' fit for purpose

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force

(Former 6.13 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, on 24th October 2021

Movers: Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot, Tim Robinson and Christine Khomyk (IMS Delegates), Young Liberals Greece, LDLU, Ogra Fianna Fail, Venstre Ungdom, CUF (Centerstudenter), JNC, Joves Liberals d'Andorra.

Submitters: Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot, Tim Robinson and Christine Khomyk (IMS Delegates).

Co-written by Pascal Stefan Bührig (IMS).

Considering that:

- LYMEC welcomes the holistic approach to tackling climate changes that is presented by the Commission in the Fit for 55 proposal
- the Fit For 55 package has the potential to increase the share of European CO2 emissions regulated under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) from approx. 40%to an estimated 70%
- Around 20% of European CO2 emissions can be attributed indirectly to imports from outside the EU, which are not adequately covered by EU climate policy.
- Recent reforms of the ETS have proven successful, with a decrease in emissions of 9% in 2019 for the energy sector while reduction efforts in previously uncovered sectors (e.g. transport or sectors benefiting from high allocation of free emission allowances, like aviation and steel production) have continuously failed, or have been cancelled out by rebound effects.
- There is overwhelming scientific consensus, including from the IPCC reports since 2018, that achievement of the net-zero goal by 2050 would require

negative emissions, e.g. through carbon dioxide removal (CRD) from the atmosphere

Believing that:

- collective management of carbon budgets to stay within the 1.5-degree goal, based on rigorous scientific analysis and regulated through comprehensive emission pricing, must become the primary objective of European climate policy
- compliance with the current regulatory approach envisaged by the Fit For 55 package - replete with endless industry-specific rule changes - will be costly, bureaucratic and ultimately ineffective, and prone to erosion through lobbying by a sectoral and regional interests
- the inclusion of the transport and building sector in the Fit For 55 package, risks disproportionately raising the cost of living for middle-and-low-income Europeans if not compensated for with an ecological tax shift

- all Europeans bear the same responsibility for guaranteeing energy transition, and so the illiberal practices of emission-pricing exemptions, free emission allowances for particular sectors and corporations, and compensating those for emission-pricing expenditures with public funds are unfair
- emission pricing will enable Europe to build a technology-neutral Carbon Cycle Economy, in which citizens and businesses can generate revenues from certified negative emissions by selling them to emitters

LYMEC calls for:

- the introduction of a WTO-compliant carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) on fuels, electricity and emission-intensive industrial goods by 2023
- To expand the ETS to all sectors of the economy without exemptions as the main instrument of climate protection.
- the European Commission to gradually phase out free ETS allowances and any other compensation for emission pricing for particular businesses alongside the introduction of the CBAM; any future form of emission-pricing subsidy by member states must be made conditional on decarbonisation efforts, e.g. through carbon contracts for difference (CCFDs).
- the European Commission to remodel the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) to the point that member states may levy taxes on energy carriers based solely on their green-house gas (GHG) content
- the European Commission and member states to use proceeds from emission pricing solely for ecological tax shifts through “climate dividends”, e.g.

following the example of the Canadian or Swiss rebate models, and pre-defined climate mitigation efforts, with the latter being capped at 50%

- the European Commission implement equally stringent conditions for disbursements from the Just Transition Fund as for the use of emission-pricing proceeds or granting of decarbonisation subsidies
- the European Commission to develop a technology-neutral certification system for verified negative emissions that allows for exchange in the EU ETS, voluntary marketplaces and rebates on European CO2 taxes where applicable

6.13 Cutting the European dependence on energy resources from the Russian Federation

Adopted: LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress 2022, Prague, 21 May 2022
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, EYU, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD, JuLis, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Young Liberals, USR Tineret, Uppreisn, Jong VLD, JNC, IMS Delegates, NUV

(Former 6.14 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic on 21 May 2022.

Considering that:

- On February 24, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin started an all-out military attack on the Republic of Ukraine and its peaceful people. These acts undermine the principles of international law, liberal democracy, and human rights. There have been numerous reports of Russian soldiers committing war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- The Russian-Ukrainian war has reportedly caused 4.2 million refugees to flee Ukraine, and according to Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, the damage amounts to 35% to 50% of Ukraine's GDP, the budget is losing about

$2 billion a day, and infrastructure $4.25 billion a day;

* It is not possible for the currency to be in dollars. Therefore it should be hryvnias.

- The War has severely affected many young people in Ukraine, both physically and mentally. The ongoing War has displaced more than half of Ukraine’s children.
- The barbarism of the Russian Federation has had tragic and dire consequences, jeopardising the well-being of future generations;
- The Kremlin has repeatedly launched similar attacks in the past: two wars in Chechnya from 1994 to 1996 and 1999 to 2009, occupying territories of Georgia in 2008, and annexing the Crimean Peninsula in Ukraine in 2014, etc;
- There have been warnings that Russia has created a “kill list” of people to be attacked or detained, which includes opponents of Putin’s regime, LGBTQ+ rights advocates, and human rights activists;
- Russia relies heavily on revenues from oil and natural gas, which in 2021 made up 45 per cent of Russia’s federal budget. It allocates a great part of its budget on army expenditures.

Whereas:

- The European Union aims to cut its gas dependency on Russia entirely by 2030;
- There are threats from Moscow to impose an embargo on gas deliveries through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline in response to Germany’s decision to hold on the Nord Stream 2 project;
- In 2021 Russia was one of the largest EU trading partners - the total trade in goods between the EU and Russia accounted for EUR 257.5 billion and EU exports to Russia were worth EUR 99 billion;

- The European Union pays Russia $ 850 million a day for oil and gas;
- The European Union gets about 40 per cent of its natural gas from Russia, which is used to heat homes, generate electricity, and supply industry with both energy and key raw material for products such as fertilizer;
- The European Union purchases about 25 percent of oil from Russia, most of which goes toward gasoline and diesel for vehicles. Russia supplies about 14 percent of diesel, S&P Global analysts said, and a cutoff could send already high prices for truck and tractor fuel through the roof;
- There are still countries in Europe that are highly dependent on Russian fossil fuels and that don't intend to change their main supplier, even paying them in roubles, such as Hungary, Germany, Italy and other countries.

Noting that:

- Putin's war in Ukraine illustrates the urgency of accelerating the need for the European Union to use its own energy resources and switching to alternative supplies, and expanding clean energy;
- Russian energy supplies remain essential for daily life in Europe. Russia is the main supplier of gas to the European Union, regulating energy prices has pushed inflation in the 19 Eurozone countries to a record 7.5%;
- A ban on Russian coal imports would only cost Russia EUR 4 billion a year, which means that banning coal is not enough for stopping Putin's regime. Oil

and gas imports, which represent far bigger imports from Moscow, are still untouched.

Believing that:

- The Russian Federation is a supplier that "explicitly threatens" the European Union and cannot be relied on;
- Energy resources and trade are closely intertwined with policy and values; when millions of people experience the atrocities of war, face death, and lose their homes, such trade which supports criminal regimes is a policy to be reversed at once;
- European leaders must be united, cooperative and should accelerate the clean- energy transition — an action that will be required if they are to achieve the goal set out in the Paris Climate Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial temperatures;
- The Russian Federation has waged this war not only against Ukraine as a country, but also in an existential struggle against ideals at the core of our understanding of a democratic society: the sanctity of life, the rule of law, human rights, liberal democratic principles.
- Being cognizant of the fact that the Russian military has repeatedly violated International humanitarian law, resorted to torture, rape, deportations, and such other acts that violate international law, we should stop supporting the Russian Federation through international trade;

Calls for:

- Temporary and intensive international cooperation to boost imports of natural gas and oil from other countries in order to reduce losses;

- The replacement of fossil fuels that power national and regional electricity systems with renewable alternatives in countries dependent on energy resources from the Russian Federation. Also deploying vehicles that run on electricity or renewably sourced hydrogen and retrofitting homes and businesses to use less and produce more clean energy;
- The launch of a burst of clean-energy projects and the introduction of a host of energy conservation and efficiency measures, including energy rationing in countries dependent on energy resources from the Russian Federation;
- The governments of the European Union to shift investments to renewable and clean energy sectors as the world begins to move away from fossil fuels. It means that more opportunities will arise in areas ranging from eMobility to power generation and storage at a more expedient pace;
- Immediate European Union ban on oil and gas imports from Russia, a boycott of Russian goods, with an implementation of a prompt EU gas

exchange mechanism, a boycott of Russian goods, and the severance of contacts with organisations and entities that support or do not disapprove of the Russian war in Ukraine;

- The Governments of the European Union to reverse the policies that have helped the Russian Federation strengthen its power;
- LYMEC and its member organisations create awareness that cutting the dependence of energy resources on the Russian Federation is the answer to issues relating to both the environment and security in the region and the world.

*We have to keep in mind that the green transformation should happen gradually. We cannot just leave off gas and start using only renewable resources for electricity production, etc. Existence of households and production firms will be put to a test. We as liberals should answer aggression with conversation. We in Europe should be initiators of summits for the cessation of the war and negotiating peace. Russia is a European neighbouring country and we cannot change that. We have to adjust and fight for peace. We have to fight for the environment as well but not at the expense of people and their existence.

6.14 Resolution on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Restoration

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund
Co-signers: Radikal Ungdom, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Centerstudenter, European Youth of Ukraine, Uppreisn, LDLU, Svensk Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals, Venstres Ungdom, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Jeunes MR, Jonk Demokraten, Attistibai Youth, Liberal Youth of Sweden, Jeunes Radicaux

---

(Former 6.15 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022. **Noting that:**

- There is a high likelihood that humanity has overstepped, or is in the process of overstepping, the planetary boundaries for biosphere integrity and land system change.
- During the last fifty years, the major animal populations of the world have decreased by an average of 68% across all regions, mostly due to habitat destruction, as well as unsustainable logging and agriculture.
- The European population of pollinators has seen a steady decline in recent years, owing to reasons ranging from environmental pollution and climate change to habitat loss, intensive use of pesticides, and invasive species.
- In 2018 the European Commission created the EU Pollinators initiative to deal with the issue of pollinator decline. However the European Court of Auditors noted in their 2020 report that the initiative has not yet contributed significantly to stopping the decline of pollinator populations.
- The strength of aquatic ecosystems in the EU have for a long time been challenged, both by the construction of dams and hydropower stations in several countries, as well as eutrophication created by excess nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture and untreated wastewater. Freshwater migratory fish populations have for example decreased by 93% in Europe since 1970.

Considering that:

- There are very few financial incentives for companies or landowners to include biodiversity as a factor in their land exploitation projects, forestry or farming enterprises, except for what is mandated by law.
- The EU is already a pioneer when it comes to measures on preventing a biodiversity collapse and restoring what already was destroyed. But our trade partners around the globe often do not have the same regulations. That is not only bad for the planet, it gives those countries an unfair competitive advantage.
- Strong and healthy populations of pollinators are essential for our ecosystems and for maintaining food security in Europe. A further population decrease would mean losses in agricultural output, and an increased risk of ecosystem collapse.
- Retaining the energy output from both small- and large-scale hydropower generation is necessary for the EU to reach its own climate goals as well as those laid out in the Paris Agreement.

Believing that:

- Truly liberal solutions to sustainability and biodiversity issues include the protection of property rights, taking the knowledge of landowners and individuals into account, and focuses on the creation of incentives rather than prohibition.
- The environmental policies of the EU need to be considerate of regional differences. For example, a forest in rural areas is vastly different from a forest in more populated areas of the EU, and needs to be treated with different views and methods.
- Landowners, for example farmers and forest owners, often know better than governments what kinds of natural values their land contains, and play a key role in conserving biodiversity.
- Keeping production costs low by using methods that destroy the environment or have a significantly negative impact on biodiversity should never be rewarded with a competitiveness advantage.

Calls for:

- The extension of Natura 2000-areas, nature reserves, national parks and other protected areas in the EU to at least 30% of the total land and sea area, whilst taking into account contextual factors such as population density, urbanisation, etc.
- The strengthening of the EU Pollinator Initiative, by continuing to adopt stronger legislation on pesticide use, stronger protections for the most threatened pollinator species, encouraging and incentivising agricultural businesses and similar sectors to take action, and including protection of pollinators in the biodiversity and agricultural policies of the European Union.
- All EU Member states to work towards implementing systems for valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity, and to create incentives for landowners based on the ecological value they provide by increasing biodiversity on their land. Member states should also work towards creating legislation requiring the usage of ecological compensation during land exploitation projects and similar actions that significantly damage the environment.
- The EU to push for high standards on biodiversity and ecological protection in all major trade agreements;
- The EU and its member states to support aquatic biodiversity in their rivers by removing unnecessary dams that are not being used for hydropower, and increasing investments in technical solutions like fish ladders and alternative waterways, to make sure hydropower generation can be maintained while restoration of vital river ecosystems can still happen.
- The strengthening of the EU directives on wastewater treatment, through implementing stricter standards for urban and industrial waste water treatment, the removal and recycling of excess phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as stricter standards on circularity and emerging pollutants.

6.15 Create a European market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: LUF (Liberala ungdomsförbundet)
Co-signers: CUF, Centerstudenter, Radikal Ungdom, European Youth of Ukraine, Young Liberals, Lithuanian Liberal Youth

---

(Former 6.16 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

Noting that:

- The EU aims to become climate neutral by 2050, that is, to have a net zero emission of greenhouse gases.
- Today the EU does not have a market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in the same way the EU has for emissions.

Considering that:

- The IPCC report acknowledges Carbon Capture and Storage as a critical technology for mitigating climate change, especially when it comes to the most expensive emission reductions.
- As we approach the year of zero emissions, it is likely that there are residual emissions that are very costly to reduce (e.g. in aviation and some industrial emissions). CCS can then be a way to compensate for the remaining emissions in the emissions trading system (ETS).

Believing that:

- The ETS is a positive step towards achieving climate goals.
- A market for CCS is an important step and a complement to the ETS in achieving the EU:s climate goals.
- By including CCS-credits in the EU ETS financing is ensured for companies that want to start with CCS.
- Broadening the funding base could mean a large demand for CCS and can, in the longer term, contribute to reducing costs for participants in the EU ETS.
- A larger demand for CCS is desirable to create a market where companies will be able to buy the service to make up for their emissions.

Calls for:

- Creating an EU market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).
- Include credits for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)

6.16 Climate justice

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom
Co-signers: Radikal Ungdom (RU), Unge Venstre (NUV), Jonge Democraten (JD), Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Svensk Ungdom (SU)

(Former 6.17 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Considering that:

- European countries have a historical responsibility for the climate crisis, as the large amounts of greenhouse gases we have emitted affect developing countries disproportionately much and European citizens disproportionately little.
- Many EU member countries, like Greece and the Netherlands, did not deliver their fair share of financing goals in the Copenhagen Accord by 2020.

Noting that:

- EU-28 has emitted 22 percent of cumulative global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Definitions used for mobilising funding have been used loosely, with significant examples of double counting of development assistance (ODA) and the use of loans.
- Among the 37 most climate vulnerable nations, nearly half did not receive UN climate funding.

Believing that:

- All individuals have the right to live a safe and secure life, and be recognized as citizens with rights and duties.
- The EU has a role in promoting and preventing loss of economic and social development of developing countries.
- Climate financing should be solely for the benefit of the people affected by climate change.

LYMEC calls for:

- Increased international climate funding through the EIB to match the bloc's fair share in the Copenhagen Accord.
- Focus on strengthening loss and damage, and adaptation funding EU should lead a green TRIPS agreement through WTO, improving LDC's access to the most essential technologies for mitigation.
- The EU to impose strict streamlined definitions for climate financing for member states to comply with the definition in the Copenhagen Accord of 'new and additional funding'.
- Climate funding to be directed to the nations most vulnerable and affected by climate change.

6.18 An EU Energy Security Policy

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: IMS Delegates
Co-signers: Ógra Fianna Fáil

& Outcome of the IMS Mini-Working Group on Energy Security

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- According to Eurostat, in 2020, just 41.7% of the total EU energy supply was produced domestically, while 24.4% was imported from Russia (mainly in the form of oil & gas).
- In 2021, the EU imported 83% of natural gas from Russia. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine which began in February 2022, imports from Russia have been reduced significantly, but still lied at 16% of all gas imports between January and July 2023.
- While the cost of new renewables is lower than it has ever been, there are still serious technological limitations to a total transition to renewable electricity in much of Europe:
  - Solar power provides no output overnight;
    - Wind power provides a varied outputdepending on weather conditions;
    - Geothermal and hydroelectric power can provide a consistent supply, but these forms of electricity generation are unsuitable to the local geography in much of Europe;
    - Storage technologies are not yet advanced enough or widespread enough to solve the problem of varying output from renewable sources of electricity.
- The Trans-European Networks for Energy allow European countries, including both EU and non-EU states, to trade electrical production, meaning it is no longer necessary for each individual state to fully meet its own production needs all throughout the day. This has the potential to provide a pan-European solution to the problem of fluctuations in renewable electricity production.
- Recent innovations in nuclear recycling mean that nuclear energy produces significantly less waste than in the past: modern recycling techniques can reduce nuclear waste by up to 99.5%. Nuclear energy, while not strictly renewable, still produces negligible carbon emissions and manageable levels of waste.
- The decision made by Germany to phase-out nuclear energy from 2000 onwards resulted in an increase in the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity.
- In many parts of Europe, planning laws make difficult the task of building renewable energy projects. In England, planning laws mean that even a single objection from a local resident can prevent the construction of an onshore wind power installation, despite the local geography being ideally suited to wind power.
- The Merit Order used in most European countries bases the wholesale price for electricity off the "lowest common denominator" of production, which is usually gas or coal, as these are the sources of electricity of last resort.

- The European Energy crisis of 2022-23 resulted in significant increases in the wholesale cost of gas, resulting in a higher price being paid to producers of renewables.

Believing that:

- Total Self-Sufficiency in the field of energy is not practicably achievable in the short-term, but safeguards can be put in place around energy imports to ensure that threats to energy supply are minimised in the event of conflict of natural disaster. The threats to supplies from other liberal democracies can be reduced to an acceptable minimum through careful vetting of supply chains and stress testing.
- For the energy supply to be secure, it must be diverse. There should not be an over-reliance on methods of renewable energy production, or on sources from particular areas. Different regions of Europe should seize their geographic advantages by specialising in the most appropriate forms of renewable energy, as the Common EU grid can be used to balance out fluctuations in production between member states based on weather conditions or time of day.
- Green energy is electricity that can be produced sustainably: without depleting natural resources and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By this definition, Nuclear power, bio-fuels and e-fuels generated with sustainable electricity should be considered forms of green energy. Conversely, no form of fossil fuels should ever be considered a form of Green energy.
- Planning and approvals processes should encourage the growth of renewable electricity, recognising the need to create attractive financial incentives for the private sector to invest in renewable energy. The greater environmental purpose served by renewable energy must be reflected in

consideration of the local environmental impacts of any renewable energy project.

Producers of renewable energy should never be paid a lower wholesale price than fossil fuel based producers, in order to ensure that investors in green energy are not penalised.

LYMEC Calls For an EU Energy Security Policy that embraces the following tenets:

Pragmatic Self Sufficiency

- The EU should implement a “Red-Amber-Green” (RAG) system for classifying countries based on their friendliness and security of supplies from those countries:
  - Green for EEA/NATO countries and other liberal democracies, who are reliable partners and share close security relationships with the EU. Energy imports from Green list countries should be deemed generally secure, but there should still not be a critical reliance on any single partner.
  - Amber for countries that are generally friendly to the EU and where risks to supply can be managed. While energy imports can be accepted from Amber list countries, they should be minimised wherever possible, and contingency should be made for a sudden loss of supply.
  - Red for countries that are not considered to be reliable partners of the EU. There should be no energy imports from Red list countries.
- The EU should pursue multilateral energy security partnerships with other liberal democracies, and produce a common import strategy for raw materials, fossil fuels, direct import of electricity, and renewable hydrogen.

- The EU should establish a stringent stress test for the EU energy grid in order to ensure that the energy supply is secure against shocks in the event that any single source of energy is lost due to conflict or natural disaster.
- All EU member states should legislate for common minimum fuel reserves to be stored for contingency, with strict regulation around the ownership and management of the reserves to ensure against foreign interference.

Programmed Diversification of the Energy Supply

- The EU should entrench the principle of comparative advantage in energy production, with member states specialising in the forms of renewable energy

best suited to their geographic advantages (e.g. Wind in Ireland, Solar in Greece, Hydroelectric in Sweden).

Member States should invest heavily in energy storage, such as pumped storage hydropower, in order to protect the reliability of the energy supply amid fluctuations in renewable electricity supplies. This should include significant investment in research & development of newer, more efficient methods of energy storage.

- EU Members states should embrace the use of nuclear power as a tool that can accelerate decarbonisation by reducing reliance on gas, oil & coal power.

A Practical Definition of Green Energy

- LYMEC welcomes the decision of the EU commission in 2022 to include nuclear energy within the definition of green energy, while strongly rejecting the inclusion of natural gas under this definition.
- The EU should embrace e-fuels and biofuels as a method of further reducing carbon emissions and solving the problem of inconsistent supply of renewable electricity.
- LYMEC, ALDE Party & Renew Europe should promote the view of Nuclear energy as a greener and safer alternative to oil, gas and coal power, for which there are often no feasible renewable alternatives in the short-term.

A Planning and Approvals Process that Encourages Green Energy

- EU Member States should reduce the bureaucratic burdens for renewable energy projects in order to increase their attractiveness as an investment.
- EU Member States should ensure that planning structures recognise the beneficial impact of renewable energy projects over local objections rooted in aesthetics. Assessments of environmental impact should take into account the beneficial impact of renewable energy projects on the wider environment and ecosystems instead of focusing narrowly on the local environmental.

A Merit Order that Ensures Energy Security

- The European Union should resist attempts to introduce wholesale price discrimination between different forms of electricity production, or attempts to place a cap on revenues for renewable electricity producers. Producers of renewable electricity should never be paid a lower price than fossil fuel based electricity, to avoid creating perverse incentives.

LYMEC, the ALDE Party and Renew Europe should publicly oppose attempts by member states to introduce price discrimination for electricity between different economic sectors.

6.19 Establishing Standards for Ethical and Sustainable Fast Fashion in the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)
Co-signers: ZeMolodizhka, Jonge Democraten (JD), Młodzi Nowocześni, Young Liberals, Svensk ungdom (SU), Keskustanuoret, Keskustaopiskelijat, Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), CUF, Grünliberale, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Centerstudenter

---

Context and Background

- Noting the enormous growth of ultra-fast fashion platforms such as Shein and Temu, that rely heavily on dropshipping and direct-to-consumer imports from outside the EU, thus bypassing the traditional regulatory controls applied to physical stores and EU-based retailers.
- Recognising that such platforms flood the market with thousands of new items every day, contributing to overconsumption and severe environmental damage, while avoiding most of the accountability for the products they sell.
- Concerned by hazardous chemicals found in clothing and in other items, sometimes in levels far exceeding limits set by the EU's REACH regulation.
- Acknowledging that the VAT exemption for parcels under €150 has facilitated direct-to-consumer imports that often bypass proper regulatory enforcement, leading to inadequate oversight of product safety, chemical compliance, and environmental standards.
- Highlighting the environmental damage caused by ultra-fast fashion, including unsustainable production methods, massive amounts of textile waste, and the use of harmful chemicals such as PFAS (so-called "forever chemicals").
- Recognising the recent EU consumer protection action against Temu (November 2024), where the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Network of national authorities, coordinated by the European Commission, notified Temu of multiple breaches of EU consumer law which included fake discounts, misleading information, fake reviews, and refund policies, requiring Temu to bring its practices into compliance.
- Noting concerns which have been raised around the possible leaking of credit card information and payment details via Temu and the potential risks this has for the data privacy and information security of EU consumers.
- Recognising the European Commission's proposal of 5 February 2025 to close loopholes associated with low-value imports, including the removal of the VAT exemption for parcels under €150, which currently distorts competition and enables regulatory evasion.

Believing that:

1. International trade benefits consumers through ensuring better quality, lower prices and promoting efficiency in global supply chains.
2. International trade should be based on fair competition, meaning that all access to the Internal Market should be subject to the same rules and regulations.

3. Dropshipping platforms, such as Shein and Temu, should be responsible for fulfilling regulatory requirements regarding product safety, chemical compliance, and environmental impact, not shifting this responsibility to individual consumers.
4. All products imported directly to consumers, regardless of parcel size, value, or shipping method, should comply with EU chemical safety laws under REACH and related environmental standards.
5. The EU should close the "small parcel loophole", ensuring that all imports are subject to the same safety, transparency, and environmental requirements, whether they arrive via traditional retail supply chains or direct e-commerce platforms.
6. Platforms that facilitate mass imports of ultra-fast fashion must provide full transparency about product origins, materials, and chemical content, enabling consumers to make informed purchasing decisions.
7. The EU must promote a shift away from the overconsumption model encouraged by ultra-fast fashion platforms, towards a sustainable consumption, including circular economy principles and extended producer responsibility (EPR).
8. European trade and customs policies must ensure fair competition between EU producers and external platforms, preventing environmental and consumer protection from being undermined by imports that do not meet the same standards.
9. The EU should promote innovation in sustainable textiles, encouraging circular design, high-quality durable products, and platforms that prioritise repair, reuse, and recycling.

LYMEC calls for:

- Binding EU legislation holding e-commerce platforms liable for ensuring that all products sold to EU consumers comply with chemical safety, environmental, and consumer protection laws.
- A revision of the E-commerce Directive, ensuring platforms like Shein and Temu are treated as importers, making them fully responsible for product compliance.
- The digitisation of all remaining customs on imports into the EU in the framework of the ongoing Customs Reform to ensure quick but controlled market entry
- EU-wide consumer awareness campaigns highlighting the risks of ultra-fast fashion, including health hazards from toxic chemicals, environmental concerns, and exploitation in the supply chain.
- Cutting red tape and incentivising private investment as support for sustainable alternatives, including second-hand markets, repair and reuse initiatives, and EU-based sustainable fashion startups.
- Fair competition rules ensuring that EU retailers and producers are not disadvantaged by platforms exploiting lower environmental and safety standards outside the EU.
- The EU to enter into more Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with countries all around the world, thus ensuring fair access to the Internal Market.

6.20 Strengthening European Energy Interconnection to Safeguard Security of Supply and Prevent Blackouts

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (Spain)

Passed Autumn 2025

Cosignatories: NEO.DEPA (Cyprus), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Mladi Pokreta slobodnih građana (Serbia), Momentum TizenX (Hungary), Young Liberals (UK), Attīstībai Youth (Latvia), Arthur Wu (IMS), Silvia Fernández (IMs), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), For Youth! (Latvia), USR Tineret, Junge liberale NEOS (Austria), Project NEON (Greece)

This resolution is an addition to the Policy Book Noting:

- That in April 2025 Spain and Portugal suffered a nationwide blackout, leaving millions without power, disrupting healthcare, transport, telecommunications and economic activity.
- That the blackout revealed the vulnerability of national energy systems with insufficient interconnections with neighbouring countries, as well as the lack of proper planning in energy production to support the grid, ensuring that the deployment of renewable sources does not jeopardise the stability of the system.
- That energy security and resilience are essential not only for national economies but for the stability and credibility of the entire European Union.

Considering that:

- The Iberian Peninsula remains an “energy island”, with an interconnection capacity

of around 3%, far below the EU target of 15 % by 2030.

- The REPowerEU plan (2022) identifies boosting interconnection of European electricity networks as a key pillar for achieving climate neutrality, energy independence, and crisis resilience.
- The TEN-E Regulation (Trans-European Networks for Energy) and the Connecting Europe

Facility (CEF)provide the EU legal and financial framework to support Projects of Common Interest (PCIs), such as the Bay of Biscay subsea interconnection between Spain and France.

- The political family of Renew Europe and ALDE has consistently defended European

  energy autonomy, cross-border interconnections, and the acceleration of renewable

deployment, stressing that solidarity in energy is a cornerstone of European integration.

LYMEC urges:

1. The European Commission and Member States to accelerate the implementation of

   electricity interconnection projects, particularly those affecting the Iberian Peninsula (Spain-France, Spain-Portugal, Spain-Italy), and other energy islands

   like Ireland, in order to reach at least 15 % interconnection capacity by 2030.

2. The allocation of greater financial resources through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and REPowerEU chapters of the Recovery and Resilience Plans to priority interconnection projects.
3. The establishment of enhanced cooperation mechanisms between Transmission System Operators (TSOs) to streamline permitting, harmonise regulation, and avoid delays.
4. The development of energy solidarity mechanisms ensuring that, in case of future blackouts or crises, neighbouring countries can supply electricity, provide storage capacities, and assist in the black-start (restarting) of the grid in extreme situations.
5. The promotion of green hydrogen corridors and large-scale storage systems under the TEN-E framework, as complementary infrastructure to strengthen Europe's energy independence and sustainability.
6. LYMEC further stresses that central and corridor countries such as Germany and France, due to their geographical position and role as key transit hubs, bear a particular responsibility to maintain above-average interconnection capacity and to facilitate the flow of electricity between peripheral regions of Europe, thereby ensuring a more resilient and integrated continental grid.

6.21 Powering Europe Freely - A Technology-Neutral, Competitive and Resilient European Electricity System

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge liberale NEOS - JUNOS
Co-signers: Jóvenes de Ciudadanos, Jongliberalen, Joventut Nacionalista Catalunya, Jeunes MR, Jonge Democraten, Venstres Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie, Liberale Hochschulgruppen, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Attīstībai Youth

---

Noting that:

- Europe must rapidly decarbonise its economy while maintaining affordable and reliable electricity supplies and safeguarding its industrial competitiveness;
- the electrification of transport, heating and industrial processes will increase the importance of a reliable, affordable and low-carbon electricity system, while tax, levy and tariff structures in some EU Member States continue to disadvantage electricity relative to the direct use of fossil fuels;
- EU Member States differ considerably in geography, natural resources, existing infrastructure and public preferences and therefore rely on different electricity mixes, while Article 194 TFEU preserves their right to determine their choice between different energy sources;
- renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and hydropower are essential to European decarbonisation, while growing shares of variable generation increase the importance of grids, storage, demand response, interconnection and other sources of flexibility;
- nuclear energy provides a substantial share of Europe's low-carbon electricity and is used by several EU Member States for decarbonisation and security of supply, while requiring the highest standards of safety, security, radiation protection, decommissioning and radioactive-waste management;
- Europe remains dependent on external suppliers for parts of several critical electricity-sector supply chains, including parts of the nuclear fuel cycle;
- a more interconnected European electricity system allows countries to make better use of different generation profiles, reduce the effects of local shortages and surpluses and increase overall security of supply;
- the deployment of new generation, storage and flexible demand is increasingly constrained by lengthy permitting procedures, limited grid-connection capacity and inefficiently managed connection queues;
- electricity generation and network infrastructure require substantial long-term investment, while fragmented national licensing requirements and regulatory practices can increase costs, duplicate assessments and impede economies of scale within the European Single Market.

Acknowledging that:

- no electricity technology is without costs, risks, environmental impacts or infrastructure requirements, and technology neutrality therefore requires comparable risks, services and externalities to be assessed through transparent, evidence-based and proportionate criteria rather than all technologies being regulated identically;
- the costs and benefits of electricity technologies cannot be meaningfully assessed solely through generation costs but must also account for relevant system effects, including

balancing, grids, storage, firm capacity, security of supply, decommissioning, waste management and environmental externalities;
- public intervention can be justified where markets cannot adequately provide infrastructure, innovation, security of supply or other public goods, but poorly designed subsidies, price controls and other interventions can distort competition and investment; long-term investment therefore requires regulatory frameworks that are predictable and non-retroactive while remaining open to transparent and proportionate future reform;
- energy-only markets and functioning price signals should remain the starting point for coordinating investment, production and consumption, while additional capacity mechanisms may be justified where demonstrable adequacy concerns remain after barriers to interconnection, storage, demand response and market participation have been addressed;
- scarce grid capacity should be allocated transparently and efficiently rather than being indefinitely occupied by inactive or speculative projects, while flexible or conditional connection agreements can in some cases enable earlier access without immediate full network reinforcement;
- the transition away from fossil-fuel electricity generation must be sufficiently rapid to meet Europe's climate objectives while avoiding new long-term dependencies on infrastructure that risks becoming economically or environmentally unsustainable;
- greater European regulatory cooperation and technical standardisation can reduce unnecessary duplication and enable economies of scale without weakening the independence or ultimate responsibility of competent national safety regulators.

Believing that:

- European electricity policy should pursue climate neutrality, security of supply and affordability by judging technologies according to measurable outcomes—including lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, safety, environmental impacts, system value and economic efficiency—rather than prescribing a politically preferred technological pathway;
- Europe should neither politically mandate nuclear energy nor exclude it from a future climate-neutral electricity system;
- competition, carbon pricing and functioning markets are generally better suited to discovering cost-effective solutions than permanent technology-specific subsidies or political micromanagement;
- electricity prices provide essential signals of scarcity, abundance, congestion and investment needs; affordability concerns and energy poverty should therefore primarily be addressed through targeted support rather than broad price caps or permanent administrative price-setting that suppress these signals;
- taxation, network charges and regulation should, as far as possible, reflect measurable costs and externalities rather than favouring or penalising electricity technologies merely according to their technological category;
- where public financial support or procurement is necessary, authorities should define the outcome or service required and allow competing technologies to determine how it can be delivered most efficiently, using transparent, proportionate, time-limited and competitive mechanisms wherever possible;
- competitive neutrality requires publicly and privately owned electricity companies to compete under equivalent market, regulatory and State aid conditions, while consumers should be able to participate actively through dynamic prices, flexibility, aggregators and competing contractual models;
- deeper European integration should reduce unnecessary national fragmentation while preserving proportionate regulation and allowing scientific evidence, technological progress and changing economic conditions to alter Europe's electricity choices over time.

LYMEC calls for:

I. Technology-neutral climate neutrality

- European climate and electricity policy to pursue rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions without prescribing that climate neutrality must be achieved through a 100% renewable, nuclear-free or otherwise predetermined technological pathway;
- EU Member States to remain free to determine their own low-carbon electricity mix, including whether to use nuclear energy, while complying with common European climate, environmental, competition and safety standards;
- the rapid deployment of low-carbon generation and supporting infrastructure, including renewable generation, grids, storage and flexibility, while allowing nuclear energy to remain part of the long-term electricity mix in countries that choose to use it;
- EU Member States choosing to use nuclear energy to be free, subject to independent safety assessment and national policy choices, to construct new capacity, extend the operation of existing reactors and assess the technically and economically viable recommissioning of recently closed capacity; provided that such decisions are based on transparent lifecycle cost assessments, credible and fully financed plans for decommissioning and radioactive-waste management, adequate operator liability for nuclear accidents, and the internalisation of relevant environmental and safety risks.
- regulatory, investment, sustainable-finance and State aid frameworks for low-carbon electricity to apply transparent and scientifically grounded criteria to technologies providing comparable climate and system benefits, while public procurement should specify measurable outcomes such as emissions intensity, reliability and system services rather than prescribe the technology used to deliver them;
- Member States to facilitate the repowering and expansion of existing low-carbon generation sites where existing grid connections, infrastructure and land use make this more efficient than comparable greenfield development, subject to the same substantive environmental and safety requirements;
- strong European research and innovation across renewable generation, storage, advanced grids, advanced nuclear technologies, Small Modular Reactors and nuclear fusion, with public research funding focused particularly on fundamental research, demonstration, first-of-a-kind technologies and identified market failures while commercially mature technologies increasingly rely on private capital;
- the progressive replacement of unabated fossil-fuel electricity generation by low-carbon alternatives while avoiding unnecessary long-lived fossil generation assets and carbon lock-in.
- the phase-out of fossil fuels across the economy (including in transport, heating, and industry) to be driven primarily by comprehensive carbon pricing and technology-neutral market mechanisms, with any justified public support being competitive, time-limited and focused on outcomes rather than the large-scale roll-out of a specific technology;

II. Competitive markets and honest price signals

- carbon pricing to remain a central market-based instrument for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in line with existing LYMEC policy, while energy taxation and electricity levies should increasingly reflect measurable externalities and cease systematically disadvantaging low-carbon electricity relative to the direct use of fossil fuels;
- the minimum excise rates on electricity under the Energy Taxation Directive to be reduced to zero;
- the progressive phase-out of environmentally harmful fossil-fuel subsidies and permanent operating subsidies for commercially mature generation technologies, with any

justified public support for generation, capacity, storage or flexibility being transparent, proportionate, time-limited and competitively allocated wherever different resources can provide the required service;
- support schemes to preserve electricity-market signals, including incentives to reduce output when prices are negative or additional generation would aggravate congestion rather than rewarding production irrespective of its system value;
- broad wholesale or retail price caps and permanent administrative price-setting to be avoided, with affordability concerns addressed through targeted and transparent support; any exceptional emergency intervention should be temporary, targeted and designed to minimise distortions to price signals, competition, investment and cross-border trade;
- capacity mechanisms to be used only where transparent assessment demonstrates a remaining resource-adequacy problem, to be regularly reassessed, and to procure the required service rather than a predetermined technology, allowing non-discriminatory participation by demand response, storage, eligible cross-border capacity and firm low-carbon generation;
- deeper and more liquid European forward markets and fewer unnecessary barriers to bilateral and cross-border Power Purchase Agreements, alongside a broad choice of fixed-price, dynamic-price and long-term contracts so consumers and businesses can voluntarily choose how to allocate electricity-price risk;
- consumers, storage operators and other distributed resources to have non-discriminatory access to wholesale, balancing, congestion-management and ancillary-service markets, directly or through independent aggregators, with consumers free to monetise their flexibility without unnecessary dependence on their electricity supplier and without double counting;
- Member States to complete smart-meter deployment and ensure secure, standardised and user-controlled access to relevant consumption data for consumers and authorised service providers, enabling competition in dynamic tariffs, aggregation and other innovative electricity services;
- network tariffs to be transparent, non-discriminatory, technology-neutral and cost-reflective, allocating costs according to system use and cost causation while providing appropriate temporal and, where justified, locational signals for flexibility and congestion avoidance;
- electricity-market rules to permit competitive local flexibility and congestion-management markets where demand response, storage or generation can resolve constraints more efficiently than immediate network reinforcement;
- effective competitive neutrality between publicly and privately owned electricity companies, including equal access to markets and networks and consistent application of competition, procurement and State aid rules;
- stable and predictable frameworks for long-term electricity investment, avoiding retroactive changes to taxes, market rules or support schemes except where compelling public-interest considerations require them while preserving prospective democratic reform;
- assessments of competing technologies and public investment decisions to consider relevant full-system costs and benefits rather than relying solely on headline generation costs.

III. A genuinely European and resilient electricity system

- the further completion of the European internal electricity market through sufficient cross-border interconnection, effective market coupling and the removal of unnecessary national regulatory barriers to electricity trade;
- European grid planning to reflect system-wide needs across the Union, including expected generation, demand, storage, electrification and cross-border flows, and to develop strategic high-capacity corridors, including HVDC infrastructure where justified by

transparent system-needs and cost-benefit assessments;
- the costs of cross-border grid infrastructure to be allocated transparently according to measurable benefits and cost causation, preventing projects with substantial European benefits from being blocked because costs are concentrated in individual host or transit countries;
- transmission and distribution system operators to be able to undertake independently scrutinised anticipatory investments where credible scenarios demonstrate future capacity needs, while publishing sufficiently granular and regularly updated information on existing and planned connection capacity and network constraints;
- scarce grid-connection capacity to be allocated through transparent, non-discriminatory rules based on credible project readiness, objective milestones and the removal of inactive projects, while allowing voluntary flexible connection agreements that trade earlier access for clearly defined limitations on network use;
- permitting for generation, storage and grid infrastructure to become faster, fully digital and predictable through single points of contact, once-only data submission, transparent case tracking and clear deadlines, while authorities systematically remove duplicate or unnecessary procedures without weakening substantive environmental protection, public participation, property rights or safety standards;
- closer cooperation among European nuclear-safety authorities on standardised reactor technologies, including joint early reviews, reuse of technical assessments and common industrial and technical standards for Small and Advanced Modular Reactors where appropriate, while preserving the independence and final responsibility of competent national safety regulators;
- Europe to diversify strategic nuclear supply chains—including uranium sourcing, conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication, critical components and specialised services—and maintain the scientific, engineering, industrial and regulatory expertise required to safely operate, assess, decommission and develop nuclear technologies;
- greater European cooperation on radioactive-waste management, including a framework for voluntary multinational geological repositories where these provide safer or more efficient solutions, subject to independent regulation, the polluter-pays principle, informed consent of the host state and affected communities, and continued financial responsibility of the state or operator generating the waste.
- Strengthened European cooperation to protect critical electricity infrastructure, including offshore installations, interconnectors, substations and digitally connected energy systems, against physical sabotage, cyberattacks and hybrid threats, through coordinated risk assessments, joint resilience exercises, secure supply chains and cross-border emergency response mechanisms;

Archiving clause

This resolution archives Resolution 6.02 “Reducing the Use of Fossil Fuels”, adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 8–10 April 2005; Resolution 6.03 “The future is Nuclear”, adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Utrecht, the Netherlands, 6–8 May 2011; and Resolution 6.05 “EmPOWERing Europe – The Single European Energy Market of the future”, adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Berlin, Germany, 23–25 October 2014.

6.22 Let the Market Split the Atom: A Technology-Neutral Framework for Nuclear Energy and a Competitive European Electricity Market

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius, 25 October 2026
Chapter: Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources
Status: In force
Submitted by: Julis
Co-signers: Jongliberalen, Venstres Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Attistibai Youth, JOVD, LDLU, LHG, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, ERPY, Jeunes MR
Replaces: 6.03 The future is Nuclear

This motion replaces: 6.03 The future is Nuclear

Considering that:

- Electricity demand in Europe will rise significantly as transport, heating and industry are electrified, and a competitive economy depends on affordable electricity that is available at every hour of the year;
- Nuclear energy generates almost a quarter of the electricity produced in the European Union with very low lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions;
- Several Member States that decided to phase out nuclear energy are now reversing or reconsidering these decisions, while early reactor closures have in some cases prolonged the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation;
- Nineteen reactors of Soviet design in five Member States were built to run on Russian fuel, alternative supply for these reactors is still being established, and the European Union continues to import nuclear fuel and enrichment services from the Russian Federation;
- Only a few Member States have made concrete progress towards deep geological repositories for spent nuclear fuel, and the rules on operator liability for nuclear damage and on the financing of decommissioning differ widely between Member States;
- Under the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, the European Parliament is in most cases only consulted, which leaves central decisions on nuclear safety, research and supply without democratic co-decision;
- The United Kingdom and the United States have decided to regulate fusion energy outside their licensing regimes for nuclear fission, recognising its fundamentally different risk profile.

Noting that:

- The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union guarantees each Member State the right to determine the structure of its energy supply;
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214 recognises nuclear energy as sustainable under conditions and Regulation (EU) 2024/1747 opens two-sided contracts for difference to it, while the InvestEU Programme still excludes nuclear power plants from support;
- Large bidding zones and uniform network charges do not reflect physical grid bottlenecks, which leads to costly redispatch, curtailment of renewable generation and higher total system costs for consumers;
- The European Commission has launched the European Industrial Alliance on Small Modular Reactors and presented a strategy to deploy small modular reactors in Europe by the early 2030s.

Believing that:

- Climate protection is achieved most efficiently through a strong European Union Emissions Trading System that sets one price on carbon, while governments neither ban nor subsidise specific technologies, leaving the choice, including the role of nuclear energy, to consumers, investors and innovators on the basis of real costs and prices;
- Nuclear safety is not negotiable and must be guaranteed by independent regulators on the basis of science, not by political deadlines;
- Energy supply that depends on autocratic regimes is a security risk and finances aggression against Europe;
- Fusion energy can provide clean and abundant energy, and Europe should lead its development instead of regulating it away to other continents.

LYMEC calls for:

1. A competitive and technology-neutral electricity market

- The retention of the merit order principle as the basis of European wholesale electricity markets;
- Electricity prices that reflect the real costs of generation, transmission and load at each place and time, through a reconfiguration of bidding zones along physical grid constraints and, in the long term, locational pricing;
- A reform of network charges towards time-variable and location-based tariffs, so that regions with high generation benefit from lower prices and total system costs fall for all users;
- The consistent phase-out of state subsidies for all mature generation technologies, including fixed feed-in tariffs, and no new long-term revenue guarantees such as two-sided contracts for difference for any generation technology;
- The removal of remaining regulatory barriers for energy storage, in particular the double charging of network fees and levies on stored electricity, and faster grid connection for projects that combine generation and storage;
- Faster grid expansion through simplified and shorter permitting procedures and the most cost-efficient construction of new power lines;
- A significantly faster rollout of smart metering systems and dynamic electricity tariffs, enabling digital grid management and the coupling of the electricity, heating and mobility sectors;
- The European Investment Bank and all European Union funding instruments, including the InvestEU Programme, to treat all low-carbon technologies equally, neither privileging nor excluding nuclear energy.

2. The full-cost principle for nuclear energy

- Operators of nuclear power plants to bear the cost of their activity, including decommissioning, waste disposal and liability for nuclear damage;
- Mandatory decommissioning and waste disposal funds for all operators, separated from company assets, supervised by independent authorities and sized to cover the expected costs;
- Harmonised European rules obliging operators to cover their liability for nuclear damage through insurance, financial security or pooled operator schemes, with minimum coverage based on realistic accident costs;
- Member States to permit the construction of new nuclear power plants wherever operators bear these costs.

3. Ending political bans and modernising nuclear law

- Member States to repeal legal bans on building, operating, extending and researching nuclear technologies, to modernise their nuclear legislation, and to grant independent regulators the sole authority to determine whether a nuclear installation is safe to operate, without limiting the right of operators to close a plant for economic reasons or the right of Member States to determine their energy mix through democratic decisions;
- Reactors that fail to meet the requirements of Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations, as verified by independent European peer review, to be shut down;
- Member States to allow the conversion of shut-down reactors into research facilities.

4. A European framework for licensing, innovation and safety

- The harmonisation of national rules for the operation, lifetime and construction of nuclear installations within the single European energy market;
- The mutual recognition of reactor design approvals between national nuclear regulators, so that a design approved in one Member State does not require a complete new assessment in another;
- Cross-border regulatory sandboxes for small modular reactors and fourth-generation designs such as molten salt reactors, fast breeder reactors and travelling wave reactors;
- The freedom of companies to invest in the research, development and deployment of these technologies in every Member State;
- The regular revision of risk assessments for all nuclear installations against natural disasters, terrorist attacks, cyber attacks and drone incursions, and the protection of nuclear installations as critical infrastructure.

5. Fuel sovereignty

- A ban on new contracts with entities from the Russian Federation for uranium, conversion, enrichment and nuclear fuel, and a legally binding phase-out of existing supplies by 2030 at the latest;
- The inclusion of Rosatom and its subsidiaries in European Union sanctions;
- The accelerated licensing of alternative fuel for reactors of Soviet design and the expansion of conversion and enrichment capacity by European and allied suppliers.

6. Solving the waste question through research and European cooperation

- Increased research funding for technologies that reduce the volume, radiotoxicity and lifetime of radioactive waste, in particular reprocessing and transmutation, including through the Euratom Research and Training Programme;
- Member States to lift national bans on the reprocessing of spent fuel, under strict Euratom and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards that prevent any military use of the resulting plutonium;
- Deep geological repositories to be designed so that waste remains retrievable for future recycling technologies;
- The establishment of a European expert body to identify geologically suitable sites for shared multinational repositories in Member States willing to host them;
- A financing model for shared repositories in which host countries are compensated, operators pay for the waste they produce and Member States cover legacy waste in proportion to their share of nuclear generation.

7. Fusion energy

- A European legal framework for fusion energy outside the law on nuclear fission, proportionate to its risk profile and open to innovation;

- The European Union to become the global frontrunner in fusion energy by supporting basic research, demonstration plants and lighthouse projects, including ITER and its successor DEMO, as well as public-private partnerships with fusion start-ups;
- Research budgets for fusion and other breakthrough energy technologies that accept failures as a normal part of research.

8. Democratic control over European nuclear policy

- A reform of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community that grants the European Parliament full co-decision rights on all nuclear legislation.

9. International research and material partnerships

- Deepened cooperation with trusted democratic partners on nuclear research, reactor design, and the safe handling of nuclear materials, building on existing frameworks such as Euratom cooperation agreements;
- Joint investment with these partners in diversifying the supply of uranium, conversion, and enrichment services away from dependence on the Russian Federation, including support for mining and enrichment capacity in allied and partner countries;
- Coordinated export-control and non-proliferation standards among these partners, ensuring that expanded research and material cooperation strengthens the international non-proliferation regime rather than weakening it.

Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare

7.01 A Pulse for progress: Fishing for the future

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: JOVD
Co-signers: JuLis, JNC, Young Liberals, Jungfreisinnige Switzerland, LHG, Jonk Demokraten, Venstres Ungdom, Junos

---

Considering that:

- The fishing industry plays a vital role in the European economy, providing livelihoods for countless communities across the continent;
- Overfishing and unsustainable fishing lead to a negative effect on marine ecosystems, leading to declines in fish populations and biodiversity loss;
- Climate change is exacerbating the challenges facing the fishing industry, with rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification affecting fish distribution and behaviour;
- The European Union committed itself to international agreements, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14, which calls for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources;
- Sustainable fishing practices can contribute to climate resilience, mitigate environmental impact, and protect marine life critical to livelihoods.

Recognising that:

- In opposition to research from the International Commission of the Exploitation of the Sea (ICES)[1] and Wageningen University[2] among others, The European Union has forbidden the use of pulse-trawling in 2019, making the only viable alternative heavy beam trawls which are known to inflict damage to the fish and benthic invertebrates in the path of the trawl due to the combined effects of tickler chains, a large amount of hard debris retained and high towing speed[3] [4];
- Pulse trawling reduces the unwanted bycatch of bottom life and undersized fish by more than 50%[5], offering a more targeted and sustainable approach than traditional trawling methods;
- The physical damage to the seabed per fishing hour has been reduced by approximately 20% when applying the pulse trawling method due to the lower fishing speed of pulse fishing[6];
- Pulse trawling provides for a lower penetration of the fishing gear into the Seabed[7];
- The use of pulse fishing has increased the survival of juvenile species like soles and plaice[8].

Believing that:

- A sustainable and resilient fishing industry is essential for the long-term health of European marine ecosystems and the well-being of coastal communities;

- Innovation and technological advancements are crucial for developing sustainable fishing practices and adapting to the challenges posed by climate change;
- Electric pulse fishing offers a more sustainable alternative to traditional fishing methods, such as the heavy beam trawling method, as it can reduce bycatch and minimise damage to marine habitats;
- Cooperation between the EU, International Organizations, and scientific bodies is essential to create and enforce policies that maintain marine biodiversity, regulate fish stocks, and ensure sustainable fishing practices.

LYMEC calls for:

- The legalisation of sustainable fishing techniques that reduce the negative impact of fishing on the environment, such as but not limited to electric pulse fishing;
- Increased investment in research and development to support the development of innovative fishing technologies that can reduce environmental impact, preserve and restore biodiversity and improve the sustainability of the industry;
- The elimination of unnecessary subsidies and market regulation to the fishing industry in general, but especially to the subsidies that have kept the outdated heavy beam trawl industry alive and prevented sustainable innovation in the past.

1. ICES (2020). Working Group on Electrical Trawling (WGELECTRA). ICES Scientific Reports. Report. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.6006
2. Van Marlen et al, 2014, WUR, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2013.11.007.
3. Lindeboom and de Groot, 1998.
4. Depestele et al., 2016.
5. Rijnsdorp et al., 2016, ICES Journal of Marine Science. https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsw018
6. Rijnsdorp et al., 2016, ICES Journal of Marine Science. https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsw018
7. Rijnsdorp et al., 2016, ICES Journal of Marine Science. https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsw018
8. Van der Reijden et al., 2017. https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsx019

(links accessible and valid as of November 15 2024)

7.02 Securing our rural economies

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2015, Helsinki, 31 October 2015
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: Ógra Fianna Fáil

(Former 7.03 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Helsinki, October 2015

Keywords: Food Security, Rural Development, Environmental Practices, Young Farmers,

Agri-Tourism

Whereas:

The CAP was first established in the early 1960s to provide guaranteeing fair prices to European farmers and encourage them to produce more and stabilise markets.

- The CAP was improved over the following decades and introduced production limits to help reduce surpluses, incentives to encourage environmentally sound farming and a included a rural development policy to help manage natural resources and promote economic growth in rural communities. **Acknowledges that:**
- Article 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union outlines the objectives of the CAP. Among them being to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of persons engaged in agriculture; to stabilise markets; to ensure the availability of supplies and to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.
- The European Union is the world's largest agricultural importer and exporter
- 77% of the EU's territory is classified as rural and that there are over 12 million full time farmers which provide supplies that support 46 million jobs.
- The CAP provides incentives to produce high quality food for consumers and encourages them to seek new development opportunities, such as renewable 'green' energy sources and diversify into new forms of employment such as
  Agri-Tourism.
- With little room left for expanding agricultural land in Europe, productivity growth in the future has to come through innovation and research.
- An ever growing World population needs a larger food base to feed it.
- Rural communities across Europe have experienced great social and economic change as a result of the recent economic crash.
- The CAP to date has caused millions of farmers to farm more sustainably than previously and supported the upgrade of farm technologies and infrastructure.
- Recent reforms of the CAP have already seen a reduction in the overall EU spend on agriculture.
- While food prices may increase producers' incomes may not increase or be the cause of it.
- The rush to the bottom by some supermarkets on certain products is making farming more unsustainable and putting food safety and quality in jeopardy.

Calls on this LYMEC Congress:

To support the principle of creating balanced regional and rural development that allows communities to help shape their own destiny in providing resources and contributing to their own member states and the EU which is outlined in the CAP Pillar 2.

- To support technological researches, cooperation and innovation in the field of farming all over the European Union. Achieve it mainly by giving farmers new tools, namely better access to available information and capabilities in which they can invest.
- To assist farmers to diversify their trades and skills so as to make the reliance on direct provisions as minimal as possible.
- To support the expansion of farming into new environmentally friendly practices that enhance local habitats and generation of unique produce
- To support the EU's initiative to help encourage younger people to get involved in farming.
- To appeal to the European Commission to develop and implement a safeguard system to make sure that the effects of the CAP do not mitigate any positive effects of the EU's development policy.

7.03 Resolution on the matter of antimicrobial resistance in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, Tallinn, 12 November 2016
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter

(Former 7.04 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016 **Noting that:**

The discovery of antimicrobial drugs has been a major socio-economic driving force in the twentieth century. Since the eve of the twenty-first century, however, humankind has suffered setbacks in the battle against bacteria, viruses and other parasites due to antimicrobial resistance. Almost 25 000 Europeans lose this battle each year, mainly because of the misuse of antibiotics in human medicine.
Therefore, the apt response of the European Union after the Microbial Threat Conference in 1998 via the creation of the European Antimicrobial Resistance

Surveillance System (EARSS) and later the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net) should be deepened.

With this background we call on:

An expansion of EARS-Net with new laboratoria, especially in southern Europe.

- A harmonisation of the criteria for antimicrobial resistance within EARS-Net.
  - LYMEC to support the European Parliament in its stance that only certified veterinaries are to be allowed to prescribe antibiotics to animals, and that such prescriptions are only to be granted when medically warranted, not as a preventative measure.
  - The insertion of antimicrobial resistance goals and regulations in future trade agreements like TTIP.

7.04 More bzzz in the food!

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, Tallinn, 12 November 2016
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: SU

(Former 7.05 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Key words: food security, insects, environmental practices

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Summary

It is a fact that meat production causes all kinds of pollution. There is an interesting and protein rich alternative, that LYMEC should call upon the EU to accept as provisions. There is an interesting and protein rich alternative, that LYMEC should call upon the EU to accept as provisions.

Noting that:

- People think about their eating habits because of the big impact on the ecological footprint it causes. For a long time it has been known that meat production results in serious pollution which leads to a bigger ecological footprint. One less polluting alternative source of protein is insects.One less polluting alternative source of protein is insects. Considering that Insects contain a large amount of protein at the same time as the production of these requires less resources. One kilogram of grasshoppers requires only two kilograms of fodder, which is 12 times less than what cattle require. Outside the EU there are long traditions of eating insects, in about 80% of the countries in the world the insects belong to the national cuisine. The same can not be said about the countries in the EU. Most of the countries in the EU follow a recommendation by the European Commission. The European Commission

categorises insects as new provisions and therefore they have to go through a security assessment and get permission of the Commission before they can be introduced and enter the market. The European Commission supports a research project that investigates risks in allowing insects as provisions. This research lean on the risk analysis that was made by the European Food Safety Authority in October 2015.

Concludes:

- Tackling climate change requires not only decreased use of fossil fuels and new ways of producing energy. We need to think about more environmentally friendly solutions for everything in our day to day life. All the economic sectors that lead to the production of greenhouse gas emissions are affected by food production and consumption. Meat production is one of the most polluting food industries, but if we in Europe start consuming alternative sources of protein such as insects, we can reduce the consumption of meat. Thereby the greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. Therefore, the EU needs to consider insects as provisions.

LYMEC calls upon:

- The EU to accept the production of insects as provisions when scientific quality controls are made.
- The selling, branding and distribution of insects as provisions to be allowed in the single market.

7.05 On the need for a blue economy

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: JNC

(Former 7.06 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin,Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Considering that:

- Oceans, seas, lakes and rivers cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface, generate an increasing share of economic growth and development and are at the heart of globalisation, as 90% of global trade is conducted via seas and oceans and 95% of global communications use submarine cable networks;
- OECD is expecting sustained growth in maritime tourism, which, by 2030, is expected to account for 26% of the blue economy;
- one fifth of the annual fishing worldwide is illegal overfishing, which compromises the regeneration of fish stocks and leads to significant economic losses;
- marine pollution comes in large part from terrestrial sources, such as the accumulation of nutrients from agriculture, industrial and plastic waste, and marine pollution from hydrocarbons endangers economic activities, biodiversity and human health;
- Climate change and the acidification of the oceans are causing a rise in sea levels and disrupting ocean ecosystems.

Believing that:

- the blue economy makes a significant contribution to economic growth in many areas of the world, such as Africa or Asia;
- fishing is of strategic importance in terms of economic development, participation in international trade and food and supply;
- the desire for an energy transition offers new prospects for the development of marine energy and offshore wind power;
- Blue economy must be sustainable and take into account ecological environmental concerns, the fragile nature of the marine environment and the exhaustible or limited nature of available resources.

LYMEC calls for:

- Protection and assistance to be provided by the United Nations to less developed countries (LDC), insular as well as coastal, in Africa, Asia, America and the Pacific, stamping out unsustainable overfishing practices by either domestic or foreign vessels;
- the International Development Association (IDA) and the Green Climate Fund to fully deploy their programmes with the help of the UN;

- the United Nations to review the status of fish stocks in international waters and promote measures that ensure their sustainability for the years to come;
- the responsible development of aquaculture to provide an alternative to overfishing and respond to the growing demand for food;
- the conditions to be put into place for people living in places with severely depleted fish stocks to be able to transition towards other sources of income, such as maritime tourism;
- The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to embrace the blue economy as part of its programmes for economic and societal development.
- Call on EU institutions and Member States to set new priorities regarding fisheries and maritime policies including the blue economy.

7.06 Legalisation of snus and tobacco products with flavours or certain additives

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels, 6 April 2019
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale, Centerstudenter, JUNOS – Junge Liberale NEOS

(Former 7.07 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Considering that:

- Article 7 paragraphs 1 and 7 European Tobacco Product Directive (EUTPD) obliges Member States to prohibit the placing on the market of tobacco products with a characterising flavour.
- Article 7 paragraph 6 EUTPD obliges Member States to prohibit the placing on the market of tobacco products with
- (a) vitamins or other additives that create the impression that a tobacco product has a health benefit or presents reduced health risks,
- (b) caffeine or taurine or other additives and stimulant compounds that are associated with energy and vitality and
- (c) additives having colouring properties for emissions.
- Article 17 EUTPD obliges Member States to prohibit the placing on the market of tobacco for oral use (e.g. Snus).

Recognizing that:

- Tobacco products and nicotine present a severe health issue.
- An EU-Directive for tobacco products is essential to ensure the functioning of the internal market in regard to those products.
- Snus is not more harmful than the consumption of cigarettes or cigars.
- Flavour or the before-mentioned additives do not make cigarettes more harmful either.

Believing that:

- Every person of age is free to choose the products they consume.
- No state has the right to patronise their citizens.
- Consumer protection requires easily accessible information and reasonable warnings for products that contain nicotine, but no prohibition.
- The legalisation of Snus would remove one obstacle for Norway to join the EU.
- The existence of truthful information about additive-containing products towards consumers in order to ensure an informed decision in their consuming behaviour of snus and tobacco products.

The European Liberal Youth calls for:

- A reform of the EUTPD in order to legalise tobacco for oral use and tobacco products that contain flavours or additives currently prohibited by Article 7 paragraph 6 letters a), b) and c) EUTPD.

7.07 A Ban on Wild Animals in Circuses Within the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter, Jonge Democraten, Radikal Ungdom, Uppreisn, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, JuLis, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Jong VLD, Keskusta Opiskelijat, Svensk Ungdom, Venstres Ungdom

(Former 7.08 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Noting that:

- Eurogroup for Animals commissioned an opinion poll to Savanta ComRes which confirms that 68% of Europeans living in countries where a ban is not yet a reality, are asking for a ban on wild animals in circuses. Wild animals that are often used in circuses include bears, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, monkeys, parrots, reptiles, tigers and zebras.
- To this day, there are 23 member states that have some legislation in place to limit or outright ban the practice of using wild animals in circuses. This reflects the position of the European public with respect to animal rights and welfare. Yet, there are still four member states without any national restrictions, and three countries of the 23 previously mentioned member states have only adopted restrictions on the use of *some* species of wild animals.
  - National bans may prohibit the exploitation of wild animals within a single European country, but they do not prevent the transportation of wild animals within the circus business through the regulated countries. Particularly long transits pose a serious risk to the health of these animals as they are shipped from one unregulated country to the other. A single Europe-wide ban is therefore much more effective in protecting the rights of wild animals, than national bans.
  - Circuses are travelling entertainment services where wild animals, ripped from their natural habitats, suffer substantial strain and often physical abuse. The animals are coerced into performing circus routines that deviate from their natural behaviour, and which place the animals in stressful situations before trainers and audiences. The processes of training, performing and travelling inflict harm upon creatures whose capability to cope with constant pressure is far diminished compared with our own, and humans would have found the same conditions intolerable.
- In order for the EU to be the world leader of animal welfare, the Commission should listen to its citizens and use its powers to end wild animal husbandry in circuses.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Union to acknowledge that wild animals should not be kept captive solely for our entertainment.
- The European Union to ban circuses from using wild animals (including bears, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, monkeys, parrots, reptiles, tigers and zebras), and to only feature domestic animals when the health of the animal is granted.
- “Animal welfare” to be added to the name of Chapter 7 in the LYMEC Policy Book.

7.08 A CAP fit for the 21st century

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: IMS Delegates, Young Liberals Greece, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Venstres Ungdom, CUF, Centerstudenter, JNC, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Young Liberals, Svensk Ungdom

(Former 7.09 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, on 24th October 2021

Outcome of IMS-led working group on CAP

Considering that:

1. remote-sensing satellites and other space-based technologies have the potential to significantly boost agricultural yields and profits and make farming more efficient and less resource-intensive, for example, by monitoring soil conditions, weather and climate patterns, crop development and agricultural pests, as well as providing an early estimate of crop yields and enabling precision agriculture;
2. space-based technologies are therefore an invaluable aid for tackling the twin challenge of making European farming more productive and at the same time more sustainable;
3. artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies that leverage the power of computing show even more promise in the quest for greater yields and a lower environmental impact, for example, through the use of AI to plan and monitor production and the Internet of Things to boost the capabilities of the tools and equipment that farmers use;
4. however, the successful implementation of a truly liberal agricultural policy also depends on preventing the emergence of anti-competitive practices and oligopolistic scenarios that have been seen in other applications of AI and NTIC and end up distorting the free market;
5. in the future, food shortages may be even more common than today due to demographic growth and the resulting increased demand for food as well as the impact of climate change on agriculture; and
6. the EU has a very strict policy regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and gene editing (GE) for both partially and totally genetically GMOs, which makes it very expensive and ineffective to get approval for GMO or GE products/strains.

Recalling that:

1. while the European Union and its Member States have made great strides in the implementation of space-based technologies for agriculture, there remain a great deal of fields to be explored and a lot of untapped potential, especially when it comes to making public data available to farmers and implementing the latest and most promising applications;
2. the European Commission has set itself high goals for the future of AI research and utilisation including in the agricultural sector in its 2021 Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence; achieving these goals is important in order to avoid fragmentation of the European digital and agricultural space;

3. certain companies are abusing laws that were originally designed to fight software piracy to stop farmers from repairing their own tractors and other pieces of equipment or choosing a technical provider to do so, instead enforcing anti-competitive practices far removed from what a free market should be;
4. European agriculture should be well equipped to rise to the many challenges it faces or will soon face;
5. GMO and GE techniques, which merely accelerate the processes seen over many centuries with selective breeding and growing, can be a boon in this regard.

LYMEC Calls For:

1. all non-confidential agricultural data gathered by European satellites operated by the EU and/ or the governments of its Member States to be released into the public domain for the benefit of farmers across the continent, on the principle that Europeans should not have to pay again for something they have already funded with their taxes;
2. the creation of a real European agricultural data space, enabling the sharing of agricultural data to facilitate better targeted production with less environmental impact;
3. the EU and its Member States to step up their investments in the areas of agriculture and space and agriculture and AI/NTIC through public and public/private initiatives, as well as to create a favourable environment for purely private initiatives, with a focus on sharing good practices and raising awareness on new or emerging technologies such as AI and the Internet of Things;
4. the EU Member States to facilitate training and education in working with new technologies in the agricultural sector, ensuring accessibility for communities and groups most concerned and the needed funding for the training institutions.;
5. the right for farmers to repair their own equipment and tools or choose whichever technical provider they prefer for this task to be fully protected from any attempt to distort the free market by abusing laws originally developed to fight

software piracy; 6. the European regulatory framework to be made nimbler and more capable of dealing with the rapid pace of change in science and technology, including eliminating its built-in prejudice against GMOs and GE, setting up a streamlined and affordable approval process, and simplifying the existing bureaucracy, which at the time can only be successfully navigated by the biggest and wealthiest companies and therefore leads to a de facto oligopoly; while updating food standards to reflect the current state of scientific knowledge on the matter

7.09 Better, stronger, faster – Food for the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: JOVD
Co-signers: EYU, VU, JuLis

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania 18 November 2022

LYMEC Congress, assembled in Bucharest,

- Over the last 20 years, modern biotechnology has made enormous advances. In recent years, researchers have developed new techniques that enable a faster, more specific and more efficient breeding process than via conventional breeding or genetic modification. Often referred to as “New Genomic Techniques” (“NGTs”), these new techniques have been defined as “techniques that are capable of altering

the genetic material of an organism and that have emerged or have been mainly developed since2001” (Joint Research Centre). Examples of these techniques include

Site Directed Nuclease Technology (SDN),Oligonucleotide-directed Mutagenesis(ODM), RNA-dependent DNA methylation (RdDm), cisgenesis, intragenesis, grafting on GM rootstock and reverse breeding.

- Until recently, the EU had not addressed the regulatory questions linked to NGTs. This was largely due to an ongoing political and legal discussion on the regulatory status of the organisms obtained through NGTs. Key questions are whether these organisms are “GMOs” as originally defined in1990, and whether they are to be regulated by the existing EU GMO framework which predates the emergence of NGTs.

Whereas:

- Widespread use of GM crops in Europe could, due to their inherent potential, contribute to improving public health, increasing food safety, lowering food prices, protecting the environment, and reducing waste . This is especially the case in the South of Europe, where agriculture is especially threatened by the unfavourable changing climate.
- NGTs are a heterogeneous group of techniques and many differ in their own way from conventional genetic modification. Some techniques involve the use of a technique of genetic modification, but do not result in a transfer of genetic material; instead, they result in a targeted mutation of the genetic material of the host organism. (e.g. SDN, ODM). Other techniques involve the use of a technique of genetic modification, but do not necessarily result in a new genetic sequence that can be distinguished from a naturally occurring sequence. (e.g. RdDm) Other techniques merely transfer genetic material from a sexually compatible organism to the host organism, resulting in a sequence that cannot be distinguished from a conventionally bred genetic combination either (e.g. cisgenesis, intragenesis).
- NGT developed fungus eliminates the production of compounds that are toxic to livestock. NGTs helped develop microorganisms to produce enzymes for hydrogen peroxide production from plant sugar, currently in precommercial stage. NGTs today also find application in the development of therapeutic molecules used to treat cancer and chronic diseases.

- Denying European farmers access to GM crops is harming their ability to compete with their global counterparts, e.g. China, India, South America and the US, where GM crops are widely adopted.
- Relaxing patent protection (but granting plant variety protection) on GM plants will make the technology more accessible to humanitarian efforts as well as stimulate competition, leading to greater consumer choice.
- NGTs could play an important role in achieving the objectives of the Green Deal, Renew Europe believes it is important to lead an open and science-based discussion on NGTs, and that legal clarity is urgent and necessary, to ensure that also SMEs can be competitive in this highly technological feld.
- NGTs are indeed capable of altering the genetic material in a target organism. However, these alterations in some cases merely result in genetic combinations that also occur in nature or through conventional breeding, while other alterations are more unlikely to occur naturally.

Believe that:

- GM technology is a natural extension of modern breeding techniques, with the benefit of conferring a much greater control over unforeseen gene flow.
- NGTs hold the potential to make a positive contribution to the objectives of the Green

Deal, the “Farm to Fork " Strategy and the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but acknowledges that possible negative effects should be thoroughly assessed.

- GM crops represent an opportunity to ensure food safety in the developing world by increasing yields and reducing losses to plant diseases and pests.
- GM crops represent an opportunity to produce medicines in a way that is practical and affordable, in the EU as well as in developing countries.

Concludes that:

- The current GMO framework is no longer fit for purpose. The EU therefore must adopt a balanced and effective regulatory approach that adequately protects human health and environment, provides fair information for farmers, consumers and retailers, but also allows to gather benefits from these NGTs.
- Strict anti-GM import rules act as a de facto trade barrier to the developing world, should they choose to employ the technology
- Crops (conventional or GM) should be permitted or banned on the merits of their health and environmental effects, not based on the methods used in their development (cautionary principle vs. equivalence)
- There is a need to change the authorization process in EFSA (European Food Safety Authority). We do not want to compromise on safety but as it is today there is a lot of bureaucracy involved in the process of authorization.
- EU labelling rules should be the same for EU imports than for products produced in the EU, in order not to put the EU products to a disadvantage.
- LYMEC calls therefore on the Commission to propose legislation to properly regulate

NGTs outside of the existing GMO framework, with due respect to the precautionary principle and the objectives stemming from the Green Deal. This initiative should enable proportionate regulatory oversight for organisms obtained through NGTs. This could be achieved through a regulatory framework through which organisms obtained from NGTs a recategorized based on their properties and the degree of risk involved in their intended use. This would allow, without ever abandoning the case-by-case risk assessment linked to the properties of each product, to define distinct requirements in terms of authorisation and marketing conditions for each category. The categorization should always be done in a transparent manner and on the basis of the best available science, while preventing any delays in authorization. This should allow gathering the benefits from innovation while maintaining a high level of protection of human and animal health and the environment and address
traceability, liability and consumer concerns.

Asks the LYMEC Bureau to:

- Send this resolution to the EU Commissioner for agriculture and to the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament.

7.10 A silent Tsunami - Battling multiresistant bacteria

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter

MO's supporting: Unge Venstre (Norway), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (Switzerland), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), LiDeM (Macedonia), Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto (Finland), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), YMRF (Bulgaria), Silvia Fernández (IMS), Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (Germany), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (Sweden), TizenX (Hungary), Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (Sweden), Junos (Austria), Venstres Ungdom (Denmark), Jonge Democraten (Netherlands), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), JuLis (Germany), Young Liberals(United Kingdom), Jonk Demokraten (Luxembourg), Keskustanuoret (Finland)

Noting that:

- Antibiotics are used extensively and excessively in agriculture for disease prevention and growth promotion in livestock and poultry. Today, animals are often given treatment even if they are healthy, which is a waste and threatens the ability to combat diseases.
- It contributes to the global threat of antibiotics resistance, which is an urgent and growing issue.
- Already, 35 000 people die annually in Europe due to this resistance according to the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control.
- The World Health Organization states that the antibiotic clinical pipeline is "insufficient to tackle the challenge of increasing emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance".
- There is low financial incentive for pharmaceutical companies to participate in the development of new antibiotics due to the resistance concerns (if resistance increases rapidly the new drugs may become ineffective), high development costs and low profit margins compared to other drugs, as well as problematic regulations such as requiring proof that the new treatment is superior to the existing ones, which is difficult to achieve in the context of antibiotic-resistant infections.
- The excessive prescription of antibiotics in human and veterinary medicine and the subsequent usage contributes to the increase of resistant bacteria.

Believing that:

- There are other, evidence-based ways for disease prevention, such as improved hygiene and vaccination which would reduce the reliance of antibiotics.
- The rapidly growing threat of antibiotics resistance causes a need for regulation.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- Strengthened regulatory frameworks and oversight mechanisms of the European

  Medicines Agency to monitor and control the use of antibiotics in agriculture,including prohibitions on the use of medically important antibiotics for growth promotion and prophylactic purposes.

- Encouraging investments in research and innovation to develop alternative strategies for disease prevention, such as novel vaccines, probiotics and prebiotics.
- Boosting the research for antibiotics in Europe, for example through Transferable Exclusivity Vouchers for the development of so-called “priority antimicrobials”. The voucher shall give the company an additional year of regulatory data protection and it can choose to keep this voucher or transfer it to another product by selling it. This would especially give smaller companies a chance to compete in the highly competitive pharmaceutical market and expand the pool of developers.
- Rational prescriptions of antibiotics in medicine, internal warning systems for overprescriptions and specialised training about infectious diseases for internal physicians and general practitioners.
- Require agricultural import companies to comply with European regulations regarding the antibiotics, ensuring fair competition and preventing unfair practices.

Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development, Transport and Travel

8.01 Connecting European Regions

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2017, Stockholm, 14 May 2017
Chapter: Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development, Transport and Travel
Status: In force

(Former 8.01 & 8.02 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

This resolution merges former 8.01 Resolution on Europe of the Regions and former 8.02 Connecting regions

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

We believe that a European Union can only have a viable future if based on the concept of subsidiarity, meaning the exercise of power as close to the people as possible. In particular we call on the European Commission and the governments of the EC member states to cooperate with and recognise the regions/historic nations of Europe (such as Catalonia and Scotland).

Considering that:

- Lymec values the importance of tackling Regional Disparities.
- Regional transport infrastructure varies greatly throughout Europe.
- The task of synchronising the European railway system has been delegated to the European Railway Agency (ERA).
- Cooperation in the railway industry will extend across borders: not just national frontiers, but regarding commercial, industrial and organisational borders as well.
- Transport connectivity is a key factor for investors when considering investing in an area.
- Motorway and Public transport links are often radial from a country's capital city and do not interconnect to other regional cities.
- Transport connections such as inter-rail have promoted European integration.

Concludes that:

- Regional disparities can be improved by improving transport connections to other regions.
- Regions can develop and access new markets through developing new transport connections.
- Commuting times for workers can be cut through investment in public transport.
- Trains are one of the most popular methods of public transport.

LYMEC calls upon:

- Rail links to be improved between regions and cities across Europe that are not solely to capital cities.

- The European Commission to exercise increased oversight to ensure that EU funds earmarked for specific railway infrastructure projects are not diverted to other projects
- The European Commission to renew ERA's goals, so that ERA can be more useful in aiding railway operators in their quest to serve passengers better in the future.
- European Countries to lift the ban (if existing) on private railway companies operating on an international and national level.

8.02 Resolution on the phase out of combustion engines by 2035 and the use of sustainable fuels

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development, Transport and Travel
Status: In force
Co-signers: Ógra Fianna Fáil, Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, JNC, Jungfreisinnige, Jóvenes Ciuadanos, European Youth of Ukraine, Centerstudenter, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals

---

Submitted by: Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. 18 November 2022.

Notes:

- Climate change and global warming are real threats to the livelihood of millions of people and all sectors have to contribute to the decarbonization process.
- The transport sector remains difficult to decarbonize because of rebound effects and contributed little to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- We should make use of every technology reducing GHG and therefore remain agnostic about possible solutions for decarbonizing the transport sector.
- Market mechanisms are an effective tool to reduce GHG emissions and only work properly if competition drives alternatives to coexist.

Highlights:

- Many OEMs have already decided to focus on the production of electric vehicles in the near future and will phase out combustion engines in their feet.
- After 2035 there will still be hundreds of millions of cars in Europe that are powered by combustion engines because feet renewal is slow.
- Low income households will have difficulties affording electric vehicles in the future, unless production prices go down drastically.
- E-fuels or synthetic fuels are manufactured using captured carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide, together with hydrogen and therefore do not add CO2 to the atmosphere during their combustion within the engine.
- Modern biofuels are manufactured from second generation feedstock, such as the organic fraction of municipal waste, to obtain CO2 and biomethan.
- E-fuels or synthetic fuels can help to decarbonize the feet by 2035, this is especially important given that electric vehicles might not achieve a wide market penetration.
- E-fuels can help to decarbonize the transport sector and at the same time increase the market ramp-up of hydrogen, which is also important for the green production of steel, as well as green shipping and aviation.

Therefore questions:

- The decision of the European Parliament to ban the registration of cars with combustion engines as of 2035 and only allow the registration of vehicles emitting zero CO2 during their use.
- Limiting the scope of sustainable alternatives through a ban of cars with combustion engines, even in cases when these are demonstrably using sustainable and therefore CO2.

Calls on:

- EU member states to acknowledge a possibly significant contribution of synthetic and e-fuels to the reduction of GHG in the transport sector.
- EU member states to exempt from the phase out combustion engines, vehicles that run with sustainable fuels, where this can be verified and controlled to ensure against a back-door for new fossil fuel-run vehicles.
- EU member states as well as all European states to advocate for general technology neutrality in the field of climate policies and environmental politics.

8.03 Connecting Europe: Completing the High-Speed Rail Union

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development, Transport and Travel
Status: In force
Submitted by: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya
Co-signers: Jongliberalen, ALLIANCE, Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie, Young Green Liberals, Jonge Democraten, TizenX, Radikal Ungdom, NASA Stranka Youth Forum, Unge Venstre, JUNOS, ZeMolodizhka, Bundesverband Liberale Hochschulgruppen, Nowoczesna Youth, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, USR Tinet, Young Liberals UK, Jeunes MR

Passed Autumn 2025

LYMEC notes that:

- High speed rail connectivity among EU major cities is still limited, with several key-cross border links still missing or incomplete.
- Cross border coordination among member states remains a major challenge for the development of the European High-speed Network: different national regulations, technical standarts and continuing interoperability of security, communication and signaling systems. This fragmentation also includes variations in track gauge, electrification systems, platform heights, servicing practices, and train control technologies, which increase costs and delay cross-border operations.
- Short-haul flights continue to be the dominant transportation between major European cities due to their lower comparative prices and better connectivity, despite their significant environmental impact.
- The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) are important frameworks but face delays in implementation and funding.
- While the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) is essential for coordination among Member States, further commitment on integration remains necessary.

LYMEC believes that:

- Unifying the European high-speed rail network would serve multiple policy objectives. It would contribute to the Single Market by facilitating the free movement of citizens and goods, enhance the EU's energy and transport resilience, and create high-value employment opportunities.
- Reducing the dependence on short-haul flights among European major cities is essential in order to achieve the EU's climate neutrality objective set for the year 2050. The expansion of the European High-speed Rail should be a priority for sustainable mobility.
- Rail infrastructure investment strengthens economic cohesion, supports the green transition, and enhances Europe's strategic autonomy
- Standardising core rail hardware and operations is essential to unlock true interoperability, accessibility, and network capacity across the Union.

- A truly European rail system, with unified standards and open competition, embodies the freedom of movement and cooperation that define the European

  project.

- A coherent high-speed rail network can help balance economic development by

enhancing access to markets, labour, and services across all regions of the Union.

- High-speed rail must benefit all Europeans, not just those living in major cities. Regional and local rail connections must be integrated with high-speed networks, ensuring that people in smaller towns and rural areas can also access

fast, sustainable transport without being left behind.

LYMEC calls for:

- Full implementation of ERTMS and completion of the TEN-T core and comprehensive

networks by 2040, achieving true interoperability across the European rail system—covering high-speed, regional, and freight lines—to ensure safe, efficient, and sustainable cross-border travel.

- Harmonization of national railway regulations and technical standards.

  Enabling

the Single European Area where high-speed trains can operate seamlessly across

Member States borders.

- Adaption of English as the common operational language for cross-border rail, with EU-wide training, standard phraseology and proficiency assessment to maintain safety.
- Reinforcement of the ERA by expanding its mandate to oversee technical standardization, safety certification, and cross-border project coordination, ensuring consistent implementation of EU railway legislation across Member States.
- Union-wide harmonisation of the platform-train interface and station servicing standards, plus a coordinated migration to Digital Automatic Coupling in freight.
- The creation of interoperable digital ticketing standards for European rail, ensuring affordable and transparent access for all passengers, particularly young people, while maintaining an open and competitive market.
- The establishment of a common European digital rail platform integrating timetables, real-time data, and cross-operator ticketing systems, promoting

open

data standards and full interoperability between national operators.

- ETCS by default on new/modernised infrastructure and onboard for all newly authorised rolling stock, prioritising cross-border corridors.
- Increased accountability and time-bound progress requirements for all projects involving the construction or modernization of infrastructure that forms part of

  the European rail network, ensuring that Member States and operators meet agreed objectives within defined timeframes to prevent delays and cost overruns.

- Governmental and EU-level support for multimodal transport initiatives, such as Rail+Sail connections and integrated transport hubs, to improve sustainable interconnectivity across Europe's transport networks and to allow interconnectivity with islands.
- Strategic development of connections between high-speed rail lines and regional train networks, enabling passengers from smaller cities and rural areas to reach the European rail system without depending on cars to get to and from stations.

Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs

9.01 Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996

Adopted: LYMEC 20th Anniversary Congress, Il Ciocco, 31 March 1996
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

NATO, Security, Transatlantic Relations

Adopted at the 20th Anniversary Congress of LYMEC, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the 29-31st. of March 1996. Result of the IGC-seminar in Maastricht, Brussels on 23- 27 June 1995. Preliminary adopted at the Executive Committee meeting in Mainz, Germany in September 1995.

Introduction

In the same weekend as the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996 was held in Turin, the 29-31 March 1996, the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union adopted during its 20th anniversary Congress in Il Ciocco, not far from Turin, its

resolution on this conference. With this resolution LYMEC takes an active position in the discussion on the future of Europe and the European integration subject.

The resolution is the result of a well prepared discussion. In June 1995 a seminar took place in Maastricht and Brussels, almost "symbolic cities" in the history of the European integration, about this subject. A first discussion paper was discussed and amended. In September 1995, the LYMEC Executive Committee meeting in Mainz adopted the resolution preliminary and in March 1996 the LYMEC Congress officially adopted the LYMEC position on the IGC-issues.

The enclosed resolution will give an overview of the results of the discussion about this important issue that took place amongst the various member organisation of LYMEC. It gives a clear point of view of how young liberals and radicals in Europe think about the future of Europe.

1. **Core tasks**

The European Union has but a few tasks that need co-operation to be achieved. We will call these tasks core-tasks. Core-tasks are those problems and issues, which can only be dealt with better on a higher level than national level.

The core-tasks of the European Union should be:

- Guarantee freedom, democracy, peace and human and minority rights
- Guarantee economic and social stability
- Fulfil the aims of the internal market by realising its four freedoms
- Implement the Aquis Communautaire
- Define a foreign and security policy to co-ordinate national foreign and security policies
- Provide and take care of a healthy environment

- Guarantee the member states no interference by the European Union in other matters than described in the core-tasks
- Develop a common justice and home affairs policy
- Create more transparency and efficiency in the whole process of policy-making
- Create a framework in which all European countries that subscribe to the core tasks of the European Union are welcome.

2. **Structure**

The structure of the European Union should be as follows:

The Commission

- One of the ways to achieve a better controlling system is to have a Commission whose members are independent of their national background. The members of the. The Commission should have a European way of thinking, in other words: the European Commissioners should be independent people.
- The Commission should have a minimum of 15 members and one chair, and exist of no more than 18 members (maximum because of workable situation) and one chair.

Every commission member candidate must be approved by the European Parliament. If the European Parliament does not approve, a new candidate should be proposed.

- The European Parliament should have the power to dismiss every individual Commission member during their term in office, for every member is individually responsible for his or her own policy
- The Commission should report to the European Parliament and to the Council.

The European Parliament

- European parties are to be created in a more efficient and democratic way. The members should feel that they are European representatives and party-bound as well as representatives for their regions. A common election-system should be adopted on the basis of the ’De Gucht-report’ to include an element of proportionality.
- The European Parliament must have the right to choose its own single seat. The economic and ecological inefficiency of having meetings in different cities should be terminated as soon as possible.
- Elections for the European Parliament should be held every five years. As a symbol for Europe, the elections for the European Parliament are held on "the Robert Schuman day’ (May 9th).

The Council

- At least every three years, the Council should trigger the Ordinary Revision. Procedure to control the effectiveness of all Treaties so far.
- Every member state should have one seat in the Council of Ministers. The Chairmanship rotates every half a year.
- For a European Union of 25-30 members innovative formulae could be envisaged. The existing comitology procedures should be simplified and reduced in number.

The Court of Justice

- The powers of the Court of Justice shall be extended to all areas covered by the Treaty, including the provisions on Justice and Internal affairs. The procedures of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance shall be accelerated, together with the introduction of an urgent procedure for particularly important cases.
- Each Member State should have at least one Judge in the Court of Justice, and at least two Judges in the General Court.

3. **Policy-making and legislation**

- The diversity and linguistic pluralism which has characterised the operation of the European Union institutions to date should be respected and retained..b To ensure a balance between the Institutions, the Council should clearly distinguish between its legislative and executive functions through a well defined hierarchy between legislative and regulatory norms.
- Before new policy at European level is made, policy-makers should respect the principle of subsidiarity; things that can be better arranged at a local or national level, should not be arranged in Brussels, in order to enhance the effectiveness.
- The European Parliament should approve all legislative decisions of the Council.
- Unanimity must be replaced by a qualified majority voting. Double qualified majority voting should be used for amendments to the Treaty, own resources and enlargement.
- Democratic legitimacy demands a new balancing of the Council's votes. We should avoid a situation in which a qualified majority could be undermined by a coalition of States representing a minority of the population.
- Before new Member States enter the European Union a thorough evaluation and adaptation of the Maastricht Treaty should take place.
- The Directives and Regulations should be implemented faster in national legislation and the Commission should take more effective action against Member States that do not implement correctly.
- The direct working of European Union law must be introduced as far as possible; direct working (regulation) is the rule, indirect (directives) the exception.
- Per policy-area, a fixed legislation-framework is to be created. The principle of subsidiarity does not apply to this legislation-framework. The frameworks exist of sub-laws that take care of the achievements of the goals set. After the phased fixed goals the sub-law should be replaced by a new sub-law or not. The principle of subsidiarity should apply the sub-laws.
- There should be a better way of controlling the way the budget of the European Union is spent within the European Union. The reports of the Court of Auditors should be used more as a guideline in fighting against fraud. The rules for fighting against fraud should be changed, in order to make it more attractive for the Member States to report fraud. National Governments should be more helpful with fighting fraud in relation to European Union budgets.

If a member State wants to appeal on the principle of subsidiarity the Member State should pass this on to the Council before final decisions are made. After the final decision appeal it is not possible.

- Policy-making must be more open. Every citizen has to have the right to know how decisions have been made and how his/her country's representative has acted.

- Equality between men and women must be taken into consideration while nominating new instances and new EU officials.

4. **Core Group**

Thus if a multi-speed Europe is to be established, the following demands must be met:

- A differentiated integration must be compatible with the objectives of the European Union, although modified integration should not to be encouraged,
- Each member should be free to join the core group if it is capable to do so and if it has the will to satisfy the requirements put down for a faster integration,
- A differentiated integration must not compromise the Community's legal order, nor undermine the cohesion of the internal market,
- Member States who choose to renounce to this participation will not be allowed to oppose the institution of a chief group.

5. **Regions**

The existing Committee of the Regions should be abolished. All tasks given to the contemporary Committee of the Regions should be handed over to the European Parliament and the European Commission.

6. **Enlargement of the European Union**

The most important challenge facing Europe today is how to continue the process towards integration in the European Union while securing peace, democracy, human rights, environment, social stability and sustainable economic development in the rest of Europe and to avoid a return towards aggressive nationalism. In this context, the question of enlargement of the European Union and EU's relations to non-members is central. The European Union must develop a comprehensive strategy for co-operation with, and accession of, the European countries which are not member of the

European Union yet. In this way the vision of the founders of the European Union about a peaceful and prosperous Europe will be fulfilled.

The task is to integrate the democratic countries in Europe that wish to become Member of the European Union without slowing down the process of integration or diluting progress already made.

- Co-operation-Treaties should be strengthened with the countries, which are important to the European Union member states as a whole.
- The important criteria for entering the European Union should be a stable democracy, the respect of human and minority rights and a sustainable market economy.
- For the new Member States, it will be very difficult to adapt to the present level of implementing legislation of the European Union. However, every country that wants to be a Member State has to acknowledge the *"Aquis Communautair*e".
- In order to obtain a full membership of the Union the country has to submit a plan of action. In this plan the country sets out how, in what way and within what period of time they intend to meet the membership requirements.
- The European Commission has to monitor and support the correct and full implementation of the 'Aquis Communautaire' into the national legislation of a potential Member State, especially regarding environmental, economic and judicial standards.

Propositions

- All members of the European Union should become members, either full or associated, of the European defence-structure, and thereby members of NATO. A country that accedes to the European Union should automatically accede to NATO.
- The EU should develop to a full Pan-European defence structure on its way to a European military.
- NATO must be transformed into a bilateral organisation with a North American and European pillar.
- The European pillar of NATO should be made more self-supporting than it is today.
- The two pillars of NATO must be able to operate separately.
- The creation and strengthening of the Pan-European defence-structure should not lead to a situation, in which any country feels isolated or threatened.
- The European Defence Pillar should be controlled in an European democratic way, that means by the European Parliament. We propose that the EU set up a Common European Task Force, which could be used by the United Nations or the OSCE for peace-keeping and peace- making or humanitarian actions, environmental catastrophes and terrorism.

The European Defence Pillar should be controlled in a European democratic way.

- All members of the European Union which qualify to be members of the Schengen Area and express their willingness to join should benefit from the border-less freedom of movement.

9.02 Future of relations between EU and the European Neighborhood

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, Tallinn, 12 November 2016
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: IMS

Keywords: eastern partnership, rule of law, democracy

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016 **Summary:**

The European Neighborhood Policy aims to support democracy, free market economy and rule of law in the countries surrounding the European Union. Over the past years it has become clear that hesitation among EU member states to honor the ENP and consequently the disappointment among EaP countries failing to benefit from EaP reforms, directly counteract the continued implementation of the ENP. This resolution calls upon the member states prioritize a coherent ENP that focuses on adding value for citizens of partnership countries thereby encouraging sustainable implementation of further reforms.

Taking into account Lymec Resolutions:

- 1.12 on the Future of Europe
- 1.16 on the Young liberals' vision for the future of the Council of Europe (2008)
- 1.21 Towards a more transparent and accountable Europe,
- 1.22 Urgent resolution on the Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to the European Union (2012)
- 1.26 A True European Customs Union (2012)
- 2.45 Urgent Resolution on the Presidential Elections in Belarus (2006)
- 9.22 Revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East (2011)
- 9.36 Towards a Stronger Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (2008)

Noting that:

- Since 2004 the European Union has formulated its relations to countries surrounding it as the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). The ENP has been focussed on promoting democracy, the rule of law and the free market. The

exchange of goods and ideas increases cohesion between the EU and partnership countries and are at the core of the ENP

- The review of the ENP carried out in 2015 is a step in the right direction with regards to the formulation of a more ideologically sound neighbourhood policy, and that many of the reforms introduced have the potential to deliver positive results.

Considering that:

- Neighbouring countries are facing similar challenges (eg. corruption, stagnating economic development or human rights violations) in different ways. Therefore their relations with the European Union are different and the EU's approach to them should be different too. Before specific benefits of the ENP, association treaties or bilateral agreements with partnership countries such as visa liberalization or provisions for a customs union can come into effect, partnership countries have to meet strict criteria that bring them up to level with the EU's internal market and Schengen regulations.
- With the notable exception of some, most partnership countries have tried, but are failing to implement liberal democracy, free market economy and institutions to support the rule of law.
- Until today the ENP has failed to sufficiently encourage democratic development in most of the partnership countries or to deliver a relevant degree of economic development.
- Over the past two decades there have been attempts by the EU to adjust the ENP and make it more effective. This has led to contradiction, excessive bureaucracy and budgetary constraints on the European side, and disappointment in the promise of democracy, the rule of law and the free market in the partnership countries.
- There is reluctance in the European Council to enact agreements that are related, or perceived to be related, to the ENP and institute visa liberalization

and encourage free trade with partnership countries. This leads to mutual disappointment and disillusionment. Such disappointment makes nations vulnerable to anti-democratic sentiments.

Concludes that:

- The reluctance to enact promises made in the ENP leads to increasing disappointment and distrust among partnership countries in the values of the European Union
- new policies regarding the relations between the EU and the European Neighborhood should focus on rebooting and supporting democratic reforms, while at the same time making sure that the benefits of democracy and free market are obvious for citizens of the partnership countries
- Based on geographical similarities between partnership countries a distinction between a Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and an Eastern Partnership (EaP) remains desirable.

LYMEC welcomes:

- a New Neighbourhood policy with specific programs aimed at promoting democracy, the rule of law and free market. We consider it vital that appropriate amounts of funds are distributed for these programs to include:
  - student exchange
- cultural exchange (folk singing and accordeon, dance; sports, arts)
- A comprehensive program of twinning of government agencies of neighbouring countries
- investments in infrastructure to join neighbouring countries with EU infrastructure
- removal of trade barriers and facilitation of economic exchanges
- The increased funding envisaged in the ENP for local authorities in partnership countries rather than for central governments

- More dialogue between the academia of partnership countries and that of the EU

LYMEC Calls upon:

- the European Commission and the European Council to be consistent in the enactment of policies and agreements. Negotiations with partnership countries that rollback on reforms (implemented under the ENP or to gain

access to the Enlargement Agenda) should be frozen until that country shows real commitment to adhere to the norms and principles that grant access to the schemes, projects and the accession process as a whole. be removed from the Enlargement Agenda if such reforms are undone. Similarly, if the agreed standards are met by partnership countries, benefits should become available without delay or hesitation. The relevant bodies to make the dialogue process between the EU and the governments of Neighbourhood countries more visible The access to mechanisms encompassed in the ENP to be simplified and made more accessible. The civil society of Neighbourhood countries and that of EU member states to increase exchange and dialogue between them. The EU and Neighbourhood civil society to increase dialogue between them, focusing particularly on the implementation of specific projects within the framework of the ENP, with a particular aim to avoid duplication.

- This position will be communicated to and discussed with ALDE.

9.03 Political Map of Europe Must Match Geographical Map of Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2004, Zagreb, 28 April 2004
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

EU Enlargement, Fortress Europe & Borders Policy, European Integration

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27th -28th of April 2004

LYMEC firmly believes that:

- the process of enlargement of the European Union should be pursued by all possible means;
- the vision of the EU should be to achieve democracy, market economy, protection of minorities and political stability throughout the European continent; - ALDE and liberals across Europe need to remain at the forefront of advocacy for future enlargements of the EU.
- all European countries which are now outside of the EU must be invited to join the Union without delay as soon as they fulfil the Copenhagen criteria.

9.04 Mutual Energy Assistance Pact

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2008, Barcelona, 4 May 2008
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

Bilateral Agreements, Energy Security, Future of Europe

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

Taking into account that:

- Europe heavily relies on external energy supplies,
- energy is vital for our economy
- even with the continued development of renewables, energy independence for Europe will not be achievable in the next decades,
- Europe's energy crisis has further been exaggerated by Russia's war against Ukraine

Noting that:

- in the distant (OPEC) and not so distant (Russia) past the cut-off of energy supplies has been used for political blackmail,
- the Treaty of Lisbon mentions „energy solidarity" but remains ambigiuos on the topic,
- at the same time 4 out of 5 EU citizens want true energy assistance [1] **LYMEC calls** on all EU member states to sign a Mutual Energy Assistance Pact. In the case of natural disasters, terrorist attacks, sabotage or the suspension of deliveries by third parties this pact shall facilitate mutual access to energy providers, networks and strategic reserves. Not only is Mutual Energy Assistance expected by EU citizens, it is also of fundamental importance to safeguard the heavily interwoven European economy

LYMEC calls on all EU members to obtain a normal amount of reserves.

[1] „In case there is a sudden shortage of gas or oil in an EU Member State, what would you personally favor?

The affected Member State should be able to rely on the reserves of other EU Member States as well – 79 %

The affected Member State has to rely on its own reserves only – 17 % DK / NA – 5 %"

Flash Eurobarometer 206a, April 2007, The Gallup Organization

9.05 Resolution on EU-U.S. Economic Relations: Free Trade and Economic Integration

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2008, Barcelona, 4 May 2008
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

Transatlantic Relations, Economy, United States

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

Considering that:

- Free trade ensures the lowest possible prices for consumers.
- Free trade ensures that the resources are utilized as efficiently as possible.
- Political commitment thus far has fallen far behind economic realities when it comes to transatlantic economic integration.
- Negotiations for a new United States-European Union Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership have previously failed.

Believing that:

- The U.S. is the most important ally of the EU when it comes to fighting for a society that is, and in the future continues to be, characterized by liberty, democracy and a free market economy.
- Economic integration between the U.S. and the EU will enhance world economic growth.
- Global free trade is our ultimate goal.

LYMEC calls for:

- An EU-U.S. free trade agreement that could and must take effective measures to facilitate market access for third countries.
- An EU-U.S. free trade agreement characterized by no tariffs on goods is established within the framework of the Transatlantic Economic Council.
- A transatlantic regulatory regime on the basis of mutual recognition of domestic standards should be established.
- An EU-U.S. single market for financial services should be established.
- The EU and the U.S. make a serious commitment in order to achieve a new WTO agreement within the framework of the Doha round.
- Further convergence of accounting standards, intellectual property rights and patent law is required in order to achieve further EU-U.S. economic integration.

9.06 Resolution on Europe in Change

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 1992, Paris, 19 January 1992
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.07 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

EU's Foreign Affairs, Security, Military

Adopted by the Congress of LYMEC held in Paris, France, 17th -19th of January 1992.

Main thoughts for a European security policy

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has shown the unpreparedness and insufficiency of the EU's common security structures and their coordination with the military structures of Member States and allies. Furthermore, economic differences pose an additional threat to European security.

LYMEC therefore demands:

- The establishment of the European Union must be organised in a federal structure with complete democratic and constitutional institutions.
- Consequences for the alliance due to the changes in the foreign and security policy in Europe.
- An intensive recovering programme to reduce the enormous economic differences.
- In particular, even after the Maastricht meeting the development of the economic, social and environmental integration must be continued. Consequently national sovereignty has to be given over to European institutions, following the principle of subsidiarity.

"European operative Force"

The European Union with its own foreign and security policy needs a European operative force. LYMEC thinks that this army should consist of volunteers. Furthermore LYMEC is of the opinion that this army has to be controlled by a democratically legitimated European institution for defence.

Its tasks will consist of:

- Participation in military missions by order of the United Nations (UN) security council in accordance with chapter VII of the Geneva charter.
- Participation in the UN peacekeeping force.
- Every activity for the UN must be approved by the European Parliament.

Obviously there will be difficulties in translating these demands into practice straight away. Therefore LYMEC asks for:

- The establishment of a special purpose unit which can also be used together with the UN peacekeeping force (blue berets);
- The creation of multi-national units in all EU member states.

LYMEC supports the strengthening of the UN and its sub organisations. With membership in the UN the states oblige themselves to observe and enforce human rights. In order to achieve this the UN needs to have the international monopoly of force.

In case of violation the world society should react differentiated with suitable sanctions, which include in an extreme situation like aggressive war or genocide also the use of military power against the aggressor. The decision making process in the UN has to be reformed too.

"Export of military goods"

In order to introduce and practice a common European foreign and security policy it is necessary to agree on common standards of export control of weapons. Only a common policy on these issues may stop the competition of the armament industries between the European states, which has been possible in the past due to different national laws. In general the export of military goods produced in the EC should only be allowed to NATO members, member states of the Council of Europe and the pacific OECD members. It has to be assured that there will be no exports from these countries to third parties.

The most important step is effective transparency. Any exclusions must be authorised by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. An annual report should be published including the "dual use" products, too.

The Common Position 2008/944/CFSP establishing common criteria for export controls has resolved many of these issues and must be adhered to by all member states.

"Institutions"

In retrospect concerning the East - West conflict, the attitudes and positions of NATO have been proven true. After the end of this conflict NATO has to find a new character and should offer access to East European states.

A new European - American relationship should be established based on the NATO treaties of 1949. LYMEC does not want a "fortress Europe", the will for a constructive dialogue with the rest of the world has to be put into practice any time. Each of us has to be open minded for Eastern European opinions and interests based on democratic principles.

LYMEC calls for the foundation of a UN agency, which supervises the export of military equipment all over the world. Special rights to enable effective control have to be given to such an agency. In case of illegal exports the UN must be legitimated to impose sanctions against the country in question.

9.07 Motion for a Resolution Demanding the Immediate Release of Political Opponents in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Burma)

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2010, Ljubljana, 28 November 2010
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.09 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Human Rights, Democracy, Myanmar

Autumn Congress of European Liberal Youth (Lymec) Ljubljana (Slovenia), November 26-28, 2010.

The Military coup on February 1, 2021, effectively ended the democratic transition in Myanmar. The military junta seized power by claiming widespread election and voter irregularities, although international and domestic observers found the election result credible and in reflection of the will of a majority of voters. Millions participated in peaceful protests and the opposition formed the National Unity Government (NUG). The security forces answered with brutal violence against the civilian population. The offences committed by the security forces amount to crimes against humanity, according to Human Right Watch. Journalists, lawyers, medical personnel, anti-junta protesters, civil society activists, and women continue to be at high risk of arbitrary arrest. Myanmar has long defied international calls for accountability and the human rights situation is further deteriorating.

Defending:

- democracy and Human Rights as liberal values;
- that legal and fair elections are needed to develop democracy;

Considering:

- that Human Rights are universal and, thus, should be protected wherever in the world, including the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- that the right to liberty is ensured by the Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- that Article 9 of the same Declaration says “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”;
- that Article 19 of the same Declaration defends freedom of opinion and expression;
- the European Parliament resolution on Burma adopted on May 2010, 18;
- the draft resolution whereby the General Assembly of the United Nations would strongly condemn “the ongoing systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar” as approved by the third committee;

The European Liberal Youth:

- condemns the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar;
- urges Burmese government to release all arbitrarily imprisoned political prisoners;

- asks Burmese authorities to abolish restrictions on freedom of assembly, association, movement and expression in Burma, including those imposed on the free and independent media;
- appeals the current Burmese government to organise fair and legal elections as soon as possible;
- invites the European institutions – as well the Council of Europe that the bodies of the European Union – to maintain international pressure on Myanmar;
- encourages liberal and democrats in Myanmar not to stop their efforts in favour of supporting democracy and human rights in their country;
- calls upon LYMEC instances to work closely with the European Liberal Democrats and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe to achieve the goal of this resolution.

9.08 Resolution on Middle East Relations

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2001, Plovdiv, 8 April 2001
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.11 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International Conflicts, Past Events, Israel

Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Congress assembled in Plovdiv, 7 - 8 of April, 2001

Considering:

- That the continued expansion of Israeli Settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territories constitutes one of the most serious obstacles to reaching peace
- That Israeli border closures have seriously hampered international development assistance and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people

LYMEC CALLS on the European Commission:

- to recognise that violation of human rights and exportation of products from settlements in occupied territories under preferential tariffs are not in line with the association agreement between Israel and the EU
- to place regular import duties on exports from territories beyond the green line

- including the Golan and East Jerusalem as well as the West Bank and Gaza

- to keep the Palestinian production duty-free under the Interim Association Agreement between the Palestinians authority and the European Union

Deploring:

- the practice of extra-judicial killings of Palestinians carried out by the IDF
- the Palestinian acts of terrorism against Israelis

LYMEC CALLS on the European Commission:

- to pressure Israel to return to the rule of law
- to pressure the Palestinian leadership to publicly denounce all acts of terrorism

RECOGNIZING:

- the basic right of the state of Israel to guard and defend itself against external threats
- the establishment of a viable Palestinian state as a precondition for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East

LYMEC CALLS:

- on both parties to renew their efforts for a peaceful solution for the conflicts in the Middle East

9.09 Fight against Terrorism

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Merger Former 9.14 and 9.16 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Terrorism, International Law, International Transparency

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Concerned by the rising tide of terrorism in the 21st Century ***Noting*** that terrorist attacks affect all people around the world ***Saddened*** by the recent July terrorist attacks in London,

Troubled by European governments' responses that have sought to curtail hard-won civil rights and ancient liberties

Recognises that this assault on individual rights has been done in the name of protecting citizens

Deeply concerned by new efforts to invade privacy, to erode the principle of habeas corpus, to increase the powers of detention and to limit the powers of judicial and parliamentary oversight

Recalling our belief that to curtail liberty is to let the terrorists be victorious

Believing that our freedom and liberty are the greatest protection from terrorist acts

Saluting the resolve of our fellow citizens in the face of terror and stand firm and resolute in our defence of freedom

Considering:

- Terrorism being an important issue on the international agenda since September 11th
- Many countries are introducing the "fight against terror" in their domestic policy
- The fight against terror is sometimes being abused in order to strengthen positions of power, to oppress minority groups and to restrain civil and political rights.

Believing:

- that anti-terrorism measures should not exceed what is strictly necessary to protect the state against terrorism
- that anti-terrorism measures should never be used to strengthen positions of power, oppress minorities or to restrain civil or political rights.

Emphasizing that:

- The fight against terror cannot restrict the freedom of speech or the freedom of religion. It cannot cut down the right of moral, physical, mental or sexual integrity.
- The fight against terror cannot cut down the prohibition of torture, inhuman punishments or degrading treatment.
- The fight against terror cannot impose restrictions on the injunction of slavery or forced labor.

- The fight against terror cannot violate the freedom of the press or introduce censorship. It cannot impose limits on the right of demonstration.
- The fight against terror cannot demarcate the right of peaceful and unarmed meeting or association.
- The fight against terror cannot detract the respect of private life or family life, unless explicitly predetermined by a legal act.

LYMEC:

- **Condemns** all terrorist outrages throughout the world – whether they be in London, Baghdad, Madrid, Bali or elsewhere
- **Declares** our fundamental belief that strength and safety are found in liberty and freedom
- **Affirms** our opposition to the curtailment of hard-won civil rights and ancient liberties in the name of anti-terrorism and only take those measures to enhance our safety which are truly effective and thus not use symbol politics
- **Calls upon** all governments to respect civil liberties in their quest to prevent terrorism
- **Expresses** our solidarity with all victims of terrorism and our resolve to seek a move to peaceful, political reconciliation of differences rather than indiscriminate violence

9.11 Urgent Resolution on Darfur Crisis

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2007, Berlin, 22 April 2007
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.18 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International Conflicts, International Transparency, International Democracy, Sudan Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

Since winter 2003, more than 300,000 civilians have died in the North-Western region of Darfur in Sudan, as a result of a political and economical conflict. Janjawid militias, allied with the Sudanese government of Khartoum and supported by the Muslim tribes from Arabic influence, keep on perpetrating massacres against contesting Africanised Muslim tribes from the western part of the country. Today 3 million people have been displaced from this region of 6 million inhabitants causing a massive exodus of refugees inside the country and abroad in neighbouring Chad. We cannot ignore anymore this humanitarian disaster. The United Nations have qualified this crisis as an ethnic cleansing.
In 2023, the conflict in Darfur remains. Colder than the years before, but has the potential to reignite depending on the circumstances due its complexity and the lack of real solutions provided to fix the core problems which started the crisis.

Considering that:

- Since 2003, Darfur region has been wrecked by a civilian war opposing rebels to the Sudanese government;
- On the 6 million people of Darfur, more than 3 million have been displaced in refugee camps, 360.000 civilians have found refuge in 13 refugee camps in Chad;
- Massacres have been perpetrated causing the deaths of several tenths of thousands of people.
- Women and children, are continually victims of rape while, in addition, the Janjawid commit kidnappings and murders on the civilian population;
- There is humanitarian and health crisis in refugee camps;
- NGOs face increasing difficulties in shipping the aid ;
- UN Security Council has ordered through its 30thJuly 2004 resolution the Sudanese government to disarmed the Janjawid militias who terrorise the civil population in Darfur within 30 days;
- By the expiration of the above mentioned ultimatum no significant improvement to the humanitarian situation could be observed;
- The US former Secretary of State Collin Powell on the basis of a thorough investigation in the refugee camps asserted that a genocide was perpetrated and could extend;
- The Sudanese government refused the implementation of resolution 1706 of the UN Security Council;
- The African Union has deployed armed forces in the Darfur region at the end of 2006 but despite these efforts the situation remains deeply worrying;

- The Sudanese Government has eventually accepted to send 3,000 UN Blue Helmets and 6 helicopters on his territory as a support to the African Union forces;
- The option described in L is welcome but not sufficient;
- The US President George W. Bush has not excluded a military intervention in case the UN Security Council did not accept any sanction in order to end the Sudanese genocide;
- The European Union is competent to intervene in this type of matter according to the Petersberg missions;
- In 2018, the UNAMID forces started to exit Darfur due to the reduction of the violence in the region and the increase of stability.
- In 2022, the Russian "Wagner Group" has intervened and is pulling profits from the local resources while spreading terror among the civilians and inflaming the crisis.

Regretting that:

- In the early days, Russia and China comforted the position of the Sudanese government by refusing any armed intervention from the UN;
- Russia and China did not agree to formally consider the situation in Darfur as a genocide and consequently are not calling for further sanction;

LYMEC Congress asks:

- In order to bring an immediate end to the genocide, the European Council and its Member States to:
  - Remain vigilant against the possible deterioration of the situation that could occur in the region.
  - If necessary, exercise its duty to intervene in order to help the victims and put an end to human rights violations in line with articles from 52 to 54 of the UN Charter and in the spirit of the TEU;

The European Institutions to:

Promote a common position between the member countries regarding the conflict and increase collaboration in different areas to improve the situation in the area and prevent the conflict from escalating;

The LYMEC Bureau to:

- Present these ideas to the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament, and in particular to the ALDE Prime Ministers and Leaders;
- Send this resolution to all EU27 national governments and parliamentary assemblies;

LYMEC Member Organisations to:

- Reflect these ideas in their national media;
  - Ask their mother parties to submit motions at national parliamentary assemblies on Darfur along the lines of this resolution.

9.12 Urgency Resolution on Action against Piracy

Adopted: LYMEC Extraordinary Congress 2008, Brussels, 22 November 2008
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.20 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Terrorism, International Transparency, International Law

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress

Assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

According to data from the International Maritime Bureau (International Chamber of Commerce) in 2022, the global number of piracy incidents is the lowest since 1994.

Despite the global decrease of piracy incidents in recent years, thanks in part for different national and supranational efforts such as EU NAVFOR Somalia, there are areas like the Callao Anchorage or Singapore Straits in which piracy has increased.

LYMEC remains concerned by the threat piracy always represents for commerce and hence for all liberal societies across the world.

LYMEC is aware that, without adequate and coordinated international vigilance, piracy actions may increase and encourage pirates and/or other groups around the world to thrive through criminal actions.

LYMEC wants to draw the attention to the fact that Cicero already described pirates as “enemies of the human race” and that, throughout history, piracy has always been considered as a deeply condemnable act against which anybody was entitled to take action, forming the only clear and undisputed example of universal jurisdiction in international law.

LYMEC hence calls governments around the world to take immediate and controlled action against identified pirates and pirate strongholds. This should include the use of military action on the sea and social action on the ground to prevent and deter crime. LYMEC recognizes that, to be effective, such an account might necessitate the use of force in an intelligent and reasonable manner.

LYMEC further calls upon governments around the world to find an enduring solution for the problem in Somalia.

9.13 Improving the Coordination of Security Policy in Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2011, Utrecht, 7 May 2011
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.21 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

European Integration, International Transparency, International Law

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6th -8th of May 2011

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.

9.14 E.U. Must Maintain the Weapons Embargo Against China

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2005, Amsterdam, 10 April 2005
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.23 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International Law, International Transparency, China

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

LYMEC supports a continued intensive dialogue between the European Union and The People's Republic of China (China) to the benefit of all the parties involved. This cooperation has already resulted in economic benefits for the EU and China as well as improvements in the lives of the Chinese population.

However, LYMEC does not feel that this is the appropriate time to lift the weapons embargo.

The embargo was introduced in 1989 as a reaction to China's grave violations of human rights, symbolized by the Tian An Men massacre. Since then there have been some improvements in the area of human rights but they are far from sufficient. A suspension of the embargo at this time would be a wrong signal to send to the Chinese leadership.

Furthermore, relations between China and Taiwan are currently very tense. Regardless of whether China intends to purchase weapons from the EU to use against Taiwan, lifting the embargo could be interpreted as approval of military intervention by China in democratic Taiwan, which would be extremely unfortunate.

The possibility of lifting the embargo at a later date is still present. However, such an action should be conditioned upon further improvements in political and personal freedoms and a stabilization of relations between China and Taiwan.

9.15 Resolution on Gibraltar

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Merger Former 9.30, 9.31 and 9.32 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International conflicts, Security, Bilateral Agreements, Gibraltar, Spain

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Recalling its previous resolution on Gibraltar adopted by the LYMEC seminar on European Borders held in Dublin in 1992, Noting the resolutions on Gibraltar adopted by IFLRY in 1991 and 1993, 1994, 2001 and 2002.

Noting the consensus achieved in this matter by the LYMEC member organisations of both the United Kingdom and Spain,

Noting that Gibraltar was a full part of the European Union from 1973 to 2020

Noting that the Spanish territorial claim over Gibraltar and the permanent harassment to Gibraltar, strongly rejected by the People of Gibraltar, still persists,

Noting that Spain continues to impose restrictions and conscious obstacles in its border with Gibraltar,

Noting that Gibraltar has been British territory since 1704, was ceded to the Crown of Great Britain in perpetuity in 1713, and that a referendum held in Gibraltar on 10 September 1967 resulted in an overwhelming desire on the part of its inhabitants to remain linked to the United Kingdom, as well as the 2002 referendum to the same effect.

Further notes, that on 4 October 2001 all the elected members of the Parliament of Gibraltar (the House of Assembly) signed a declaration which says that: "The people of Gibraltar will not compromise our right to self-determination, still less our sovereignty, in exchange for respect for rights which are ours anyway, and which others should be made to respect unconditionally";

Recalls, the resolution unanimously adopted by Liberal International in March 1999 at its Congress in Brussels which "expresses its commitment to the cause of self-determination for all remaining colonial countries.

Notes that the EU Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio (from Spain) presented her draft proposals on the EU Single European Sky measures relating to Eurocontrol and the creation of a single European airspace on Wednesday 10 October 2001, **Further notes** that these measures do not apply to Gibraltar.

Also notes the Spanish Government's sustained campaign to veto important measures affecting all Europeans if these include Gibraltar.

9.16 Resolution on Cyprus

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2017, Stockholm, 14 May 2017
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: LUF, SU

(Former 9.34 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

Noting:

- The situation in Cyprus, where the northern part has been occupied by Turkish military forces since 1974;
- That Cyprus is a member of the European Union since 2004;
- That negotiations for a Turkish membership in the EU have been on-going since 1987 but has been stalled due to infringements on human rights and democratic rights in Turkey as well as its failure to fulfil its obligations for the Republic of Cyprus and to contribute constructively towards the solution on the Cyprus problem.
- That the UN Secretary General started negotiations on behalf of the UN to solve the problem over twenty years ago;
- That the first two rounds of negotiations did not result in any progress towards finding a solution;
- That negotiations started again in May 2015, hosted by United Nations special envoy for Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, involving Mustafa Akinci and Nikos Anastasiades, to create a Bi-zonal, Bi-communal Federation without any involvement from a third state;
- That for the first time in the history of the negotiations, the leaders of both Communities swapped maps indicating the territory of each constituent state if a solution is found. However, the map from the T/c side has been withdrawn during the negotiations.
- That not only the two communities, but also the guarantors (Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom) sat down at one table to initiate the discussion on the chapter of security which is one of the biggest issues on the table;
- That the Conference on Cyprus at Crans Montana (Switzerland), ended in July 2017 without any results, due to the Turkish side's persistence, inter alia, on maintaining guarantor rights over the Republic of Cyprus and on the continuation of its unilateral intervention rights, not to mention Turkish insistence to perpetuate its military presence in Cyprus.
- The election of Ersin Tatar, the favoured candidate by Turkey and Erdogan, is now strongly projecting the narrative that they are not in favour of finding a solution on the basis of a Bi-zonal, Bi-communal Federation but rather one of two states solution.
- The fenced-off city of Varoshia, in violation of all the relevant UN Security Council's resolution, are an extremely negative development that is putting in danger the prospects for a comprehensive solution.

Considering:

- That because of the imposed separation and division, a whole generation of Cypriots has not been giving a chance of living together;
- That the humanitarian issue of ascertaining the fate of missing persons is of paramount importance, more pressure should be exerted on Turkey to allow access of the Committee on Missing Persons to Turkish archives and provide

more information on possible burial sites, particularly for opening so-called military areas, both in the occupied areas of Cyprus and in Turkey itself;

- That ever since the invasion and occupation of the northern part of Cyprus by the Turkish troops, thousands of Turkish settlers have been illegally transferred to Cyprus;
- That the heated relations between the EU and Turkey due to reforms leading to lesser democratic institutions in Turkey as well as the refugee crisis, has also reflected onto the dialogue on the reconciliation of Cyprus.

Stating:

- That Turkey must withdraw its military forces from the island so that reunification of Cyprus, the only remaining divided European country, could become possible;
- That all the refugees must be allowed to return to their homes;
- That the Human Rights of all Cypriot Citizens must be respected and upheld;
- That everything must be done for the Cyprus problem to be solved peacefully and based on all UN resolutions for a just and viable solution;
- That politicians on the island must maintain a language of reciprocal respect.

LYMEC Supports:

- The renewed efforts of the United Nations special envoy for Cyprus in promoting a solution through direct negotiations between the two sides.
- The settlement of the Cyprus problem should be viable and lasting, that will ensure respect of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the whole people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike.
- The settlement should be based on the relevant UN Resolutions, the European Acquis and European values and principles. A settlement without foreign troops and the anachronistic system of guarantees.

LYMEC Urges:

- The two sides to adopt bold confidence building measures that would help build trust between the two communities and thus serve as a catalyst for the efforts to restart the negotiations.
- The UN Secretary General to appoint an Envoy for Cyprus in order to push things forward and restart the negotiations from the point they were

suspended in Crans Montana in 2018, **based on the agreed six points** of the UN General Secretary.

LYMEC Welcomes:

- The contacts between LYMEC and the youth organization of the Democratic Alignment (NEO.DEPA) to empower youth in the negotiation process and in party politics on Cyprus;
- A peaceful, viable and lasting solution to the Cyprus issue will post a vigorous sign to the world that diverse societies, with people from different religions, cultures and backgrounds can live and work together in unity and peace, especially since the region around Cyprus is faced with many tensions and problems.

LYMEC Hopes:

- To establish further co-operation with this organization and other liberal political youth organizations;
- To establish cooperation with young liberals all over Cyprus, who agree on this resolution and who preferably have contacts with one or more of the above-mentioned youth organization in Cyprus;
- To support youth representatives as participants in the reunification negotiation process and as positive change agents on both sides of the now divided island;
- For Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot authorities to remain level-headed and refrain from pushing through provocative measures that may jeopardize reunification negotiations;
- To see the negotiations resumed and give full support for the achievement of a peace plan and fair reunification as soon as possible;
- To advocate for EU member states to make the struggle to reunify Cyprus a top priority on the agenda in the European Union, since for many Cypriots, full membership of the European Union is the greatest opportunity for both communities.

9.17 Towards a Stronger Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

Adopted: LYMEC Congress 2007, Berlin, 22 April 2007
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.36 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Mediterranean Union, EU's Foreign Affairs, Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia,

Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Syria

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Berlin, 2007 and revised by LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

The Barcelona Process emerged during the Spanish Presidency in 1995 from the decision of the European Union and twelve neighbouring countries from the South and East of the Mediterranean region to establish a perspective of partnership and association. After more than twenty-five years of implementation, the outcome of this space for a deeper dialogue between both shores of the Mediterranean Sea has shown contradictions, excessive bureaucracy and budgetary constraints.

The latest EU enlargements constituted an important growth of former Mediterranean Partners, with Cyprus and Malta joining the EU in 2004 followed by Croatia in 2013. As of now, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership includes 43 states.

In fact, the difficulties for the implementation of the policy adopted in Barcelona in 1995 do not question its architecture defined to prevent conflicts in the area, on one hand, and offer a regional response to the challenge of globalisation, on the other hand. On the contrary, they reveal the need to address the political and economic challenges and to work to get rid of certain prejudices existing on both sides of the Mediterranean.

A number of external factors have also delayed the implementation of the partnership launched in Barcelona, notably the instability in some countries of the region and the enduring violence in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, there is a need for a clear reformulation of the strategy for cooperation regarding the EU Mediterranean policy. Indeed, the first stage of the Barcelona Process did not allow the involved countries to reach a relevant degree of economic development and did not sufficiently encourage political democratisation in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean. In fact, the balance of reforms carried out is disappointing. Indeed, the War on Terror that followed 9/11 as well as the Arab Spring both led to unforeseen dynamics across the region which have arguably delayed this process.

In order to consolidate channels of dialogue and association between the European Union and these Southern neighbour countries, the Barcelona process is more necessary than ever and therefore it demands a political concern in the EU agenda.

Taking all these elements into consideration and looking at the current state of art of the process, European Liberal Youth calls upon the partners of the Barcelona process:

1. To move towards the creation of a EuroMediterranean free trade area as soon as possible, and as a matter of priority for agricultural products, as a basic objective of the Barcelona process as a tool to encourage economic development and human rights. This process has to be accompanied by a clear strategy on energy supply.
2. to strongly advocate for the rule of law, based on good governance, and the respect for human rights, as well as the promotion of individual freedom, free market and the respect for the environment. These deep reforms must not only be the result of the cooperation with the EU, but also the result of the internal reforms performed by these countries. The creation of a *Human Rights Observatory* in one of the Southern neighbour countries would contribute to the achievement of these goals.
3. To condition EU aid to the respect of human rights by EU partner countries. In those countries which are still ruled by authoritarian regimes, the aid should instead be channelled through NGOs and civil society.
4. to establish a privileged status membership, as a fixed intermediate step between the association and the full membership in the EU.
5. to appoint a high-representative in order to make the partnership more visible and accountable.

9.18 Urgency Resolution on the Situation in BiH

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Merger Former 9.38, 9.39, 9.40 and 9.41 Prior to Budapest May 2023) *International Conflicts, Peace Process, International Justice, Bosnia-Herzegovina* Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Noting that:

- As liberals and radicals we turn against the term "internal ethnic conflict". We will not accept discrimination on ethnic minorities in conflicts with political, economic or even military means.
- All European countries have a common responsibility to protect the refugees and open their countries for the victims of the war.
- What has happened in this part of Europe, war, killing, destruction, ethnic cleaning and chaos, was a human tragedy.
- The Dayton agreement has started the peace process.
- We recognise this from before. The echo from Munich 1938 - "Peace in our time "sounds over Europe. Giving in to an aggressive dictatorship - a

criminal did not lead to peace but to a devastating war. It did not lead to peace then, and it will not today.

- The historical number of victims in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina:

-About 200.000 persons killed, at least 10 percent of them were children.

-About 30000 women have been raped.

-One third of the Bosnian population has lost their homes. The refugees are now approximately 2.3 millions.

-Sarajevo has been beleaguered since April 1992, like Gorazde, Bihac and Tuzla and these cities are like prisons for thousands of persons. -Since the war started millions of grenades have been dropped over Sarajevo.

-The Many people who have suffered from starvation.

- Some information sources say that there have been more than one hundred concentration-camps (running by the Serbian side) in the area. All war criminals must be prosecuted.

Considering:

- the horrible atrocities committed in the wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo.
- that many of the perpetrators and instigators of these crimes have not been brought to justice.
- that the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia was established by the United Nations for the purpose of trying these war criminals.

- that all countries of the Former Yugoslavia are obliged to cooperate with this tribunal by international law and their national laws.
- that the judiciaries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, and Montenegro have not by their own initiative tried individuals on their side responsible for committing war crimes, or in rare cases when they have, the course of justice has often been seriously flawed.
- that the basic principle of any state is the respect of law and human rights of all its citizens, and that this is also a vital prerequisite for joining the European Union, which is a goal all the countries of the Former Yugoslavia declared as theirs to achieve.

We Resolve:

- We strongly condemn all ethnic cleaning, all crimes against civilians made by any part. To divide the country in ethnical areas is the same as accepting military aggression and the ethnic cleansing. Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially the capital, has been a multicultural society for hundreds of years.
- That the responsibility for democratic European countries is to support the democratic opposition in Serbia, Montenegro and in Kosovo, which fight for peace and democracy in the area.
- That peace should last and the situation must improve, so that different ethnic groups can live together again in the future.
- We, the member organisations of LYMEC, will never accept that Bosnia-Herzegovina, a country recognised by the UN and most countries in the world, is extinguished and its people killed or driven away.
- We condemn the historical use of concentration camps

We Support:

- The democratic forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which work for democracy and tolerance.

The Congress Demands:

- All war criminals to be prosecuted and judged by the UN Court on war crimes.
- To help people with injuries sustained in war (mentally and physically).
- To create special programmes to help female victims.
- A common responsibility on a policy for the various refugees in the Member State of the European Union and guarantee nobody is sent back against her or his wish.
- Full freedom of movement of all citizens.
- Full freedom of media.
- Full voting rights for refugees.
- Refuse ethnic dividing of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- That Help be provided to people with injuries sustained in war (mentally and physically).
- The creation of special programmes to help and counsel women victims.
- That refugees are protected and to take a common responsibility.

To call upon the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, and Montenegro to cooperate fully and unconditionally with the ICTY and its successive bodies.

- To further call upon the political parties, media, religious groups, NGO's and all individuals in SEE interested in the welfare and prosperity of their home countries and the region as a whole, to promote the cooperation with this tribunal and the need for all war criminals and their investigators indicted by the ICTY and its successive bodies to be tried before it.

9.19 Resolution on Transnistria

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Merger Former 9.44, 9.45 and 9.46 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

EU's Foreign Affairs, International Conflicts, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Romania

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

On 29 March 2011, Russia's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov agreed with his Moldovan colleague on the goal of a special status of Transnistria within the territorial integrity of Moldova and also announced that its country was ready to empty, dismantle and destroy three munitions depots in the breakaway region. This event marks a significant step as it points towards an end of a two-decade-long stalemate over the conflict and could lead to bringing Moldova closer to the EU. Therefore…

Having regard to:

- The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Moldova which entered into force on 1 July 1998, as amended;
- The EU-Moldova European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan, adopted on 22 February 2005;

Whereas:

- Since 2007 the European Union has shared a border with Moldova;
- The 1992 war in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova led to the establishment of the de facto independent Republic of Transnistria within the internationally recognised borders of the Republic of Moldova;
- Human rights violations by the authoritarian regime, as well as human trafficking and drug dealing, continue to occur in the Transnistrian region;
- Moldova's efforts to overcome its frozen conflict with the breakaway region have not been successful;
- the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has adopted in 1998 and 2001 resolutions that bound RUSSIA to retreat its troops from the Transnistrian region that has already been broken by Russia;

Russia financially supports the Transnistrian region and has taken punitive economic measures against Moldova;

- Russia still refuses to withdraw troops based in the Transnistrian region, which it is legally obliged to do and is a threat to the independence of Republic of Moldova;
- the Russian troops staying on Moldovan territory legitimate through their presence the Transnistrian regime;
- Many young Moldovans, due to a lack of domestic opportunities, leave their country to find work abroad;

- The EU has intensified its engagement in Moldova, for example by establishing the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine and by appointing a EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova;
- Ukraine has proved to be willing to find a solution for the Transnistrian region by blocking Transnistrian trucks without official Moldovan customs papers from crossing into Ukraine.

Resolves that:

- Moldova should become a solid, stable and prosperous part of the EU's neighbourhood, attractive to its citizens and with a long-term perspective to join the European Union;
- This cannot be achieved without liberal reforms in Moldova and a final settlement to the frozen conflict in the Transnistrian region;
- Such settlement to the conflict necessitates an even greater involvement of the EU, as well as compromise and cooperation on all sides;
- Peace can be achieved only through compromise and respect for one another.

Calls on Moldova to:

- Strongly commit to implementing the EU-Moldova Action Plan and carry out radical domestic reforms in areas such as sustainability of the social security system, rule of law and anti-corruption, thereby creating a better environment for business;
- Start earnest negotiations with the Transnistrian authorities without up-front conditions;

Calls on the Transnistrian authorities to:

- Work constructively with Moldova and the international mediators on reaching a settlement to the conflict;

Calls on the European Union to:

Move the relations with Moldova to the DG Enlargement and the country to be recognised by the EU as a potential candidate country and committing to a speedy and ambitious negotiation;

- Resume the 5+2 party talks, with the goal of clarifying the status of Transnistria as soon as possible, once the Russian invasion of Ukraine is over;
- Increase investment in campaigns in Moldova to make civil society aware of the benefits of European integration;
- Closely cooperate with the Moldovan government to improve the situation on minority rights and civil liberties in the country;
- ALDE to commit to work towards a realisation of the above goals and closer cooperation with Moldovan liberal parties;
- Give more technical aid for reforms in Moldova;
- Provide greater financial assistance to the customs and border services of Ukraine and Moldova;
- Devise incentives for the Transnistrian business community to work constructively with Chisinau;
- Impose diplomatic and financial sanctions against the Transnistrian leadership;
- Increase its profile, appeal and visibility in Moldova by, inter alia, negotiating a visa facilitation agreement with Moldova and increasing funding for exchange programmes;

- Strengthen cooperation between Moldova and the Transnistrian region at non-official levels by, inter alia, organising educational exchange and business clinics with participation from both sides;
- Provide greater funding and support to Transnistrian civil society and independent media;
- Prepare to provide troops for a new international peacekeeping force in Moldova.

Calls on Russia to:

- Retreat its troops from Transnistria and support the peace process from this region;
- Agree with Moldova, the EU, the OSCE and other parties on the deployment of an international peacekeeping and policing operation, and withdraw all remaining troops; and
- Exert influence on the Transnistrian leadership to start negotiations with Moldova and accept a reasonable political settlement of the conflict.

9.20 Resolution on the Situation in Kosova

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 12 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.20, 9.25 and 9.26 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Considering that:

- The Kosovo conflict occurred in 1998-99 when ethnic Albanians fought ethnic Serbs and the government of Yugoslavia in Kosovo. The conflict gained widespread international attention and was resolved with the intervention of NATO.
- Following the peace accord that ended the Kosovo conflict in 1999, Kosovo came under the UN administration, and UN peacekeeping forces were deployed there. The tension between Albanians and Serbs continued.
- Kosovo declared independence in February 2008. According to the International Court of Justice in Den Haag, this decision is legal. The following 5 European countries do not recognize Kosovo as independent: Greek, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and the Republic of Cyprus.
- Agreements regulating Kosovo's behaviour in international negotiations and border controls were signed in 2012 between Serbia and Kosovo.
- Rule of law mission Eulex has existed since 2012.
- Application for EU membership was announced in December 2022.
- Starting in 2024, citizens of Kosovo will no longer need a visa to travel to the European Union.
- For the sake of peace and stability in the region, peace and tranquillity in Europe and in order to prevent other catastrophic conflicts in the Balkans;
- We call on the EU to take into consideration the following steps to address the Kosova issue and subsequently encourage a solution to the crisis:
- To treat Kosovo as an international problem and call an international conference to this regard;
- To sign a comprehensive, legally binding normalisation agreement between Kosovo and Serbia (so that both countries can advance on their respective EU paths).
- To foster the relationship between local liberal organisations and LYMEC
- To maintain pressure on Belgrade to respect the civil liberties and political rights of the people of Kosova
- To promote exchanges between the European Union and Kosovan democratic forces
- The Republic of Kosovo and Serbia to align fully with international standards regarding Human Rights in generally and especially towards its minorities; (9.26)
- Kosovo and Serbia to continue developing their economic relations and transport connections commenced in 2020.

- Kosovo's and Serbia's representatives to meet and discuss a roadmap for implementation of "Agreement on the path to normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia"

9.21 In defence of freedom and fundamental rights in Cuba

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jovenes Ciudadanos
Co-signers: Jeunes MR, Mlodzi Nowoczesna, Jong VLD, Svenska Ungdom, Mlade ANO, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, JUNOS, JDL, USR Tineret, Attistibai Youth, Lithuanian Liberal Youth

(Merger Former 9.97, 9.27 and 9.29 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Background:

- The Cuban dictatorship has subdued its own citizenship for more than 60 years to a continuous violation of human rights and constitutional guarantees, leading Cuban people to poverty and misery for several generations. Due to international alliances between the Castro brothers, tyranny and powers such as Russia, China or even Venezuela, any opening attempt towards a market economy and a liberal democracy based on the Rule of Law has been heavily repressed through violence and torture.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the poverty and misery Cuban citizens suffer. In July 2021, a rise in infections and deaths motivated the Cuban people to go on the streets, claiming liberty and the end of the communist regime, as well as asking for access to vaccination and economic support measures.
- For the first time in decades, thousands of Cubans joined the protests that have reached an unprecedented scale in the previous years, especially since such protests were not authorized by the Díaz Canel regime, the generational renewal of the Castro tyranny. In contrast, Díaz Canel openly asked, through the official regime media, to employ violence against protesters, stating that *"The combat order is given, revolutionaries, to the streets"*, which entails both a call for military and police repression and civil confrontation.
- Cuba has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Neverthless, dissidents for many years are threatened with expulsion, imprisonment and torture due to their activism and involvement in demonstrations against the Cuban government.
- Berta Mexidor and Ramón Humberto Colás initiated in 1998 the Independent Libraries project with the purpose of contributing to ideological diversity and to non-dogmatic civic education. In order to achieve this objective within the Cuban democratic movement, many dissidents transformed their homes into free spaces of debates. They also organized

workshops, lectures, youth activities, different performances, book presentations, debates, among other activities.

- Since 1998 many librarians have been victims of threat and violence.
- The United States has already declared itself on this situation, demanding the Díaz Canel regime to respect fundamental rights and liberties of Cuban citizens, who have peacefully protested throughout the whole country, gaining the support of Cuban leading figures such as Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, as well as the Cuban exile, mainly located in Miami.

Considerations:

- In 2016, the The European Union, its Member States and Cuba signed the "Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba", which came into force in 2017 to enhance bilateral cooperation and mutual engagement in order to strengthen human rights and democracy.
- On the 16th September 2021, the European Parliament passed, with 426 votes in favour, a resolution condemning the violence and repression at the Cuban dictatorship after the protests that begun on July 11th. In this resolution, the Parliament has urged the application of measures provided by the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba, in order to suspend political dialogue with the Díaz Canel government until every political detainee is released, on the basis of serious violations of human rights.
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has only worsened the situation. After both Vladimir Putin and Díaz-Canel had expressed their will to deepen strategic cooperation and to strengthen bilateral relations on January 24th, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba stated its complete alignment with Moscow and its "right to self defence" with regards to the current crisis. After such statement, Chairman of the State Duma Viacheslav Voloding, announced that Russia would restructure the Cuban debt with Russia, worth 2,3 billion dollars.
- The Cuban dictatorship must take back its call to civil conflict and guarantee the fundamental right of Cuban citizens to show their dissatisfaction in a peaceful way, as well as implementing the necessary measures to alleviate the effect of both the sanitary and economic crisis that are hitting Cuba.

Conclusions:

- The European Union has the capacity to influence other States' national policies around the globe, supporting liberty, democracy, and human rights and cooperation, having the citizens' interests at heart.
- The situation is critical and demands a solution. It is necessary to rebuild the relations of understanding, dialogue and respect of the EU with Cuba. This

situation demands a solution to improve the links between Europe and Latin America as well as providing an optimal alternative to the regime of Díaz Canel.

- LYMEC has previously defended the need to put an end to tyranny and authoritarian governments and has always been in favour of citizens who demand protection for their fundamental rights and liberties. Thus, LYMEC must urge the European Union to lead the support to Cuban citizens who peacefully protest in defence of freedom and against the communist regime.

As a consequence, LYMEC stands for:

- Supporting the initiation of a pacific transition to a solid democracy in Cuba that gives back the citizens their voice by having a free and legitimate election, complying with the constitutional order and the Rule of Law.
- Expressing its support to the young Cuban citizens who live and work in the EU and to their associations that reclaim such pacific transition.
- Taking position in international conflicts and crises in Latin America.

Calls: On the EU Commission, EU institutions and all Member States:

- To guarantee compliance with human rights in Cuba and all Latin American countries, using the commercial and political influence over these regions.

- To take Cuba into consideration within the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, establishing stronger links and relations, and foreseeing the relevant actions
- Taking a position to support the Independent Libraries in order to promote civic and political freedom in Cuba.
- Respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Cuba
- Release of political dissidents condemned for the exercise of free expression, association, and assembly or on the basis of membership of political organisations.
- Condemning the systematic crackdown by the Cuban regime on individual freedom, in particular against dissidents, journalists, cyber activists, independent trade unionists and human rights defenders.

9.22 Promoting sovereignty over natural resources for the people of Western Sahara

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2013, Bucharest, 17 November 2013
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: NUV, RU, Liberal Youth, LUF

(Former 9.36 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Noting that:

- Morocco has occupied areas of Western Sahara since 1975, a territory in process of decolonisation,
- Western Sahara is endowed with a wealth of natural resources, including phosphates and fisheries,
- More than 165,000 Sahrawis currently live as refugees in Algeria following the occupation of Western Sahara,
- European Parliament members of the Intergroup for Western Sahara have been denied entry to Morocco,
- The European Commission approved signed a new Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Morocco, which, if adopted, will also apply to the waters of Western Sahara,
- The European Parliament's legal service has stated that fisheries in Western Sahara would be illegal unless it is conducted in accordance with the wishes of the people of the territory.

Believing that:

- Western Sahara has the right o self-determination and independence as a sovereign state, in accordance with the principles of international law and the UN Charter.
- Trade agreements between the EU and Morocco can have a positive impact on Morocco's growth and economy. Yet, such agreements should only apply to the territory internationally recognized as Moroccan, but not to the Western Sahara; as it is a non-self-governing region that is still in the process of decolonization.
- The EU entering into a fisheries agreement with Morocco which also covers the waters of Western Sahara can prove detrimental to the UN peace process.
- The UN-led peace process should be respected and backed by the international community in order to settle the Western Sahara dispute in a way that is fair, long-lasting, and acceptable to all parties.

Resolving that:

- The LYMEC Bureau and Member Organizations should raise awareness of the situation in Western Sahara with the ALDE Group in the European Parliament and in their respective member states,
- The EU Member States and the European Parliament should vote against any trade or fisheries agreement with Morocco that includes waters belonging to Western Sahara.

- Reaffirming its adherence to the concepts of self-determination and decolonization, the international community should support the Sahrawi

people's right to choose their own destiny through a free and impartial referendum.

23. **– Resolution on the Ukraine-Russian war** (Former 9.37 Prior to Riga, November 2023) Keywords: EU's foreign affairs, Democracy, Ukraine

Noting that in Ukraine:

- Demonstrations started as a consequence of President Yanukovych's decision not to sign the Association Agreement with the EU.
- The Euro Maidan protests against the government led to aggression of police forces against protestors.
- Military forces did not intervene in the political protests at Euro Maidan.
- On 16 January 2014, a series of anti-protest laws was adopted by the government majority, severely limiting the freedoms of expression and assembly, which provoked international outrage and sparked violent clashes in Kyiv resulting in the loss of human lives.
- The popular uprising in Ukraine has reached a majority of the regions, with the administrations of those regions being under the control of the people, who democratically elected Petro Poroshenko as their leader.
- The situation in southern and eastern parts of Ukraine has deteriorated at an increasing pace.
- A civil war is occurring between pro-Russian nationalists with Russian military support and government forces.

Considering that:

- Ukraine is a European country.

Ukraine must have a fair chance to build their democracy and shape its own future independently, including, if it chooses, greater integration with Europe.

- A sovereign, independent and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is key to European security.
- Ukraine needs to strengthen democratic control over the defence and security sector, with effective parliamentary oversight and the robust involvement of civil society.
- Ukraine military forces should be complimented for not attacking Russian forces in Crimea that could have led to bloodshed and a new world war.

Also considering that Russia:

- Occupied and annexed the region of Crimea by military force, imitating Crimean Nationalists.
- Occupied some territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in the east of Ukraine, financing DPR and LPR terrorist organisations. Is an important trade partner for Europe, especially for bordering countries

Fearing that Russia:

- Will continue interfering with the democratic political process in Ukraine

Is supporting pro-Russian forces financially and militarily in the east of Eastern Ukraine

- Is causing increasing instability in Europe and intimidating countries bordering Russia and with Russian minorities.

Calls on LYMEC:

- To keep the Russian-Ukrainian war the Ukraine crisis at the top of the European political agenda.
- To call on NATO to improve cooperation with the Ukrainian military and determine the most effective strategies to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and civil society.
- To support advancing practical policies in the most critical areas to ensure that Ukraine survives in the short term and thrives in the medium to long-term.
  - To seek cooperation within the European Community and the Member Organizations to advocate urgent support for and a long-term commitment to a European Ukraine.
- To urge the European Community to uphold and extend sanctions on Russia
- As a matter of urgency, to help Ukraine's emerging liberal youth organisations prepare to educate the future liberal politicians.
- To inform individual members and member organisations on facts and fiction about the situation in Ukraine.

9.24 Resolution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2015, Rotterdam, 2 May 2015
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: LYMEC Bureau

(Former 9.38 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Noting that:

- The economies of the EU and USA account for more than 50% of world GDP in value, 41% of GDP in purchasing power and one third of world trade flows; The economies of the EU and USA are already well integrated and have a proper protection of private property, combined with due legal process in settling conflict;
- Investments between the EU and USA total over 1,3 trillion euros in both directions as we are each other's main investment partner;
- The USA was the largest partner for EU exports of goods (19.8 %) and the second largest partner for EU imports of goods (11.9 %); Trade between the EU and USA total over 290 billion euros for goods and over 157 billion in services;
- Differences in regulatory systems and standards prevent Small and Medium Enterprises from entering new markets;
- Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) receives much criticism for being potentially threatening to the policy-making freedom of democratically elected sovereign governments, even though ISDS provisions have been common practice in trade agreements and investment treaties for over 50 years. EU member states have included ISDS provisions in 1400 Bilateral Trade agreements.

Considering that:

- The goal is to ensure jobs and economic growth;
- TTIP is currently being heavily debated in the European Parliament;
- Public dialogue on TTIP has uncovered many concerns on aspects of TTIP;
- Of the four major studies that have been done so far, three agree on a substantial growth caused by TTIP
- With projects such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade policy dynamics are shifting away from Europe, threatening to diminish the EU's significance as an actor in the global economy
- Asian economic integration is expanding both in scope and depth, possibly resulting in lower regulatory standards for the global economy including low standards for environment and consumer protection TTIP will create a new set of standards for product safety and environmental protection that benefit both economies now and future growth;
- The Trans-Atlantic economic integration has the potential to set regulatory standards for the whole global economy, including high standards for environment and consumer protection.
- All benefits can be achieved without direct government investment or debts;

- TTIP seeks to remove trade barriers, custom procedures and protectionist tariffs that will generate benefits to both exporting companies and importing customers, who have a wider choice of products and services at more reasonable prices;
- ISDS is essential for a TTIP treaty, as it will protect investor and individual property rights across both the EU and USA and creating a platform for settlement in case protectionist measures are taken by any form of government;
- Because TTIP will set the standard for further free trade agreements all over the world, TTIP offers the perfect opportunity to institute a modern and transparent form of ISDS.

TTIP ought to be closely scrutinized before acceptance by the EU institutions.

Believing that:

- Free trade policy embodies the spirit of liberalism as it aims at waiving mandatory boundaries between people from different nations and ultimately increases their wealth.
- Free trade policy by attempting to harmonize “spaghetti bowl” of market regulations across different geographic regions justly seeks to improve the exporting competitiveness of small and medium enterprises which are now participating in global supply chains.

Having in mind that TTIP will mean:

- That doing business will be easier;

Products and services will be cheaper and more accessible across the EU and USA;

Higher regulatory standards are being harmonised and promoted, serving as a blueprint for regulations outside the transatlantic block as well;

- Creativity and innovation are stimulated and protected;
- Public contract opportunities are more accessible;
- More investment is promoted;
- More choice of services will be available.

Calls upon:

- LYMEC and the ALDE Group in the European Parliament to stress the need for transparency and democracy in the negotiation process;
- Negotiating parties in TTIP to avoid as much as possible exemptions from liberalisation;
- ALDE Group in the European Parliament to promote the liberal spirit of TTIP agreement and ensure proper democratic checks and balances within the new open market;
- LYMEC Bureau to promote free trade as one of the solutions to (youth) unemployment by creating privately funded jobs and economic growth;
- LYMEC to ask ALDE Party and its member parties to support a modern ISDS mechanism, to safeguard proper democratic checks and balances with adequate oversight by independent judges.

9.25 A coherent and ambitious EU development policy

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2015, Rotterdam, 2 May 2015
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom

(Former 9.39 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Passed in the Congress of Rotterdam, May 2015

Keywords: Development policy, trade policy, European cooperation

Considering that:

- 55% of the total development aid in the world comes from EU member states Common European development aid is distributed through EuropeAid
- Roughly one third of all EU development aid is distributed through EuropeAid

Believing that:

- Development policy is an important area of European foreign policy, requiring a comprehensive and ambitious approach to solve global challenges effectively.

EuropeAid can play a relevant role in streamlining and strengthening EU development policy, by ensuring coherence and coordinated action.

- The EU and its policies should actively promote prosperity, equality of opportunity, and global freedom, enabling individuals all over the world to flourish.
- The aim of EU development policy should be to ensure: social and economic development, peace and reconciliation, and sustainable and good governance.

Also considering that:

Tax loopholes, EU trade barriers and agricultural policies potentially negate the fruits of development aids

The United Nations' post-2015 development goals set the primary focus on the reduction of extreme poverty.
Helicopter money alone will not end poverty; a comprehensive strategy for development aid is key.

Stressing that:

- Contributing to peace, freedom and prosperity is in line with European values and promotes a more prosperous developing and secure global environment.
- The common component of EU development aid can be effective at reducing the effect of externalities rooted in a lack of coherent policy.
- A coherent EU development policy takes into account multiple policy fields, such as trade, taxation and climate, in order to maximise its positive impact.
- To effectively address poverty, comprehensive EU development aid programs can be a useful complement to national efforts.

LYMEC therefore calls for:

- A comprehensive strategy for development aid that builds on a combination of financial assistance, trade and capacity building for local professionals in health, education and governance is needed
- Making the Implementation of Common EU development policies subject to three conditions:

o 1. Demonstrable economies of scale o 2. Plausible elimination of conflicting or competing policies of individual

member states o 3. Significant increase of effectiveness

- Further enabling European citizens to take part in volunteer work abroad with focus on capacity building,
- Granting EuropeAid the resources needed to strengthen the common development policy
- Making the EU the most effective and competent contributor of aid to the developing world.
- Ensuring that agricultural subsidies and other forms of European protectionism do as little harm as possible to developing countries and are phased out in order to reach the full potential of liberal development policy
- Eliminating policies that negate the positive effects of development aid
- Propose mechanisms to ensure a proper monitoring of development aid funds in countries with historical risks of corruption, maladministration and tax evasion, ensuring also further justified consequences in further aid provision if those scenarios are confirmed.
- Also encouraging involvement of investors and private partnerships, as well as focus on developing entrepreneurship and business culture in recipient countries.

9.26 Tackling propaganda and fake news

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2017, Stockholm, 14 May 2017
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: ERPY, LY, LLY, AY, JNC, VU, IMS

(Former 9.42 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

Summary

To ensure maximum transparency and objectivity, awareness about propaganda among citizens of the European Union, it is important to maximise the quantities of

resources of information about propaganda measures and tools, its spread and distribution, its influence and impact accessible for European Union society in general. Combating propaganda is necessary to uphold fundamental EU values and to ensure human rights, democratic values and functions of civil society. Despite the levels of concern in European institutions, citizens of EU member nations experience a lack of transparency with regard to the usability of and access to information channels, tools, measures and documentation concerning propaganda within the European Union. Citizens of the European Union are not currently involved in the process of identifying and combating propaganda.

Taking into account LYMEC Resolutions

9.64 – Resolution on the Ukraine-Russian War of Aggression in Ukraine 9.70 Resolution on common foreign policy towards Russia The Electoral Manifesto of 2014, especially article 7.

International Documents:

- European agenda for culture in a globalising world (COM (2007)0242);
- The Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship (8496/15);
- European Parliament resolution on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural
- diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values (2015/2139(INI));

Noting:

- The explosion of populist and extremist political movements since the start of the financial crisis;
- The intensification of religious extremist activities, culminating in several terrorist attacks;
- The violation of national territories (airspace and territorial sea) of several EU member states and the annexation of parts of neighbouring countries by foreign aggressive powers;

The increase in cyberattacks that political institutions and economic actors in Europe have suffered;

- The dependence of Europe on American military capacity for its defence.
- Deeply troubled by the concerning intensification of propaganda and disinformation towards European states.

- Taking into account that propaganda is a message designed to persuade its intended audience to think and behave in a certain manner or official government communications to the public that are designed to influence opinion
- The alarming content of Russian propaganda with anti-European sentiment, hate speech, homophobia and xenophobia, which encourages aggression against neighbouring countries and impedes integration of national minorities in the Baltic States, through strategies such as falsifying the history of former member nations of the USSR.
- Noting that Russia's main propaganda tools in the Baltic states are television, radio, news portals and social networks.
- Similarly, in the aftermath of the 2022 full-scale war invasion of Ukraine, alarming content of Russian propaganda with anti-European and/or anti-Ukrainian sentiments, frequently incorporating hate speech, xenophobia, historical falsifications, and nuclear threats has been more actively and widely disseminated on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as in European states using a variety of tools listed above. The indicated content is largely aimed at the decrease or complete elimination of the local guerrilla fighters in the occupied areas. In the case of the aforementioned propaganda dissemination in the EU member states, the estimated goal is to cause significant delays, cuts, and cancellations of military and humanitarian aid programs to be provided to Ukraine.
- Further noting that Russian programming is slick and entertaining, and consequently widely watched even by people who do not feel politically drawn to the Kremlin
- These events are fueled and financed at least partially by foreign governments with the specific aim of creating dissent in Europe, break down its institutions, spread extremist political ideas (both of Far Left, Far Right and religion-based);
- The election of a new President of the United States that has threatened to weaken NATO, not defend its European allies in case of aggression and that is himself connected to some of the foreign interests that are threatening our continent.

Considering that:

Russian TV reaches around 4 million Baltic States' Russian speaking and ethnic Russians

- Concerned that Russia has launched Sputnik, a so-called news agency, and the semisecret Baltnews site, which publishes anonymously produced "news" in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian.
- A range of Russian TV, radio, and social media channels are still broadcasted on the territories of EU member states and other countries, including, for instance, International Television and Radio Company "Mir" operating on the territories of some Baltic states such as Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, in addition to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, despite the fact of being under the leadership of Putin’s spokesman Dmitriy Peskov as the chairman of the board of the channel’s directors.
- Similarly concerned that an allegedly liberal Russian TV Rain channel involved in a series of scandals over the openly pro-war rhetoric of some of its reporters and a range of controversial broadcasts, with its licence revoked in Baltic countries due to a threat to national security and public order, is still operating in Georgia, Moldova, and Israel, and getting new broadcasting licences in the EU member states, such as in the case of Netherlands.

- Taking into consideration that Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine itself have blocked Russian TV channels, to prevent them from exerting similar influence on their minorities. Furthermore, Russian propaganda TV channels such as RT (Russia Today) and Sputnik have been blocked in all EU member states and in the UK.
- RFE/RL's budget today, stretched to support television, radio, web, and social media in 28 languages, is roughly $100 million, while East Stratcom, the new EU unit which has identified and publicised 2,500 Russia-planted fake stories over the past year, may soon be upgraded to a paltry budget of €1 million out of a budget of 142 billion Euros.
- Russia's population is roughly 140 million people, while the EU's is 448500 million
- Russia's GDP is around 2.24 trillion1300 billion US dollars, while the EU's is about

16.64 trillion US dollars16500 billion.

Concluding that:

- Pro-Russian broadcasters' influence is reflected in consistently stronger backing for the Kremlin among ethnic Russians than in the general population
- Deeply concerned that citizens of the European Union are not involved in a process of recognition and identification of propaganda

LYMEC calls upon:

To set up a task force, under the auspices of East StratCom, charged with identifying the best methods to counter any disinformation tactics seeking to undermine the unity and diversity of the EU;

- To significantly increase the EU's Strategic Communication budget, case specific to the needs of East StratCom, to a percentage of the European Union's budget that gives the appropriate attention to the defence of our democracies against foreign political powers' propaganda and that the implementation should start at the earliest date possible;
- To continue ongoing efforts in helping and building communications with Russian NGOs and civil union leaders that pursue the same political goals and ambitions as those of the EU;
- To facilitate as part of secondary education curriculums across EU member states, in some beneficiary form, critical evaluation studies of sources and their reliability, respective to the study programs;
- Stands for an urgent pooling of resources aimed at creating a permanent cyber-defense organisation with operational capacity to defend European countries from external cyberattacks and propaganda activities;
- To ensure that appropriate funding is allocated to independent think-tanks as well as to research for countering and understanding the false news phenomenon through existent or to-be-created structures;
- Asks the Bureau to create a campaign aimed at our political partners, both within the Liberal family and from other political families, to promote these proposals.

9.27 Resolution on the Western Balkans Enlargement Process

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2012, Sofia, 14 October 2012
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.43, 9.52 & 9.68 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Recalling:

- The ALDE Resolution on Opening of EU Accession Negotiations adopted by the

2019 ALDE Congress in Athens;

- The expressed urge to support Western Balkans in their attempt to transform their society and political systems according to EU standards, stated in the ALDE Resolution on Improving Europe's Capabilities to Address the Rise of China adopted by 2019 ALDE Congress in Athens;
- The ALDE Resolution on North Macedonia's Membership in NATO and the EU adopted by the ALDE Council in Berlin, in February 2019;
- The LYMEC Resolution on the Western Balkan Enlargement Process adopted on the

  2017 LYMEC Autumn Congress in Sofia;
- The ALDE Resolution on European Integration of the Western Balkans adopted by the 2015 ALDE Congress in Budapest;
- Recalling the statement from Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission regarding EU's strategic interest to offer the West Balkans a European perspective;
- The fact that the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties has backed visa liberation for citizens of Kosovo, amid continued opposition from several EU member states.
- The 2003 EU Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans which confirms the ultimate EU membership of the countries form the region;
- The establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) in 2016 as part of the Berlin Process initiative for European integration of Western Balkan states, focused on promoting the spirit of reconciliation among young people in the region;
- The EU Council conclusions from June 2018 with regards to the opening of EU accession talks.

Welcomes:

- The efforts made by the coalition government in Skopje towards building a free, democratic and pluralistic society where young people of all groups are supported to participate in public life and have access to decent employment through implementation of EU's Youth Guarantee scheme, after years of democratic stagnation and authoritarianism;
- The judiciary reforms undertaken by the government in Tirana;
- The progress made by Albania and by North Macedonia as noted in the Progress Report by the European Commission from May 2019.
- Efforts of Western Balkan states integrating onto the core of European Union.

Considering that:

- The unjustified rejection of the EU of the application for membership for Northern

  Macedonia and Albania bears a risk of rising populist and nationalist political options (anti EU movements) is an obvious possibility; Whereas both countries made consistent progress and showed dedicated commitment on the path towards the EU, which resulted in the decision of the European Council of 26 March 2020 to open accession negotiations; Whereas the work on work on resolving bilateral issues with neighbouring countries needs to continue in the name of the shared European future of the region.

- Any European country which respects the principles of liberty, democracy and rule of law; protects and preserve human rights and fundamental freedoms may apply and become a full member of the European Union
- Western Balkan states share a common goal in joining the European Union ● The European Union and the Western Balkan states share a vision of a common future, and that EU integration needs to remain a key perspective for the Western Balkan states.
- EU enlargement has been the most successful European policy for promoting stability, peace and prosperity;
- EU enlargement has been the most effective EU policy for spreading the Union's values and norms as well as for the consolidation of EU’s global and regional role and influence.
- The EU enlargement process has been an important catalyst for key and bold reforms, and the massive public support which this process enjoys in Western Balkan states
- Peace and stability in the Balkans are in the EU’s own interest because the region is surrounded by EU member states.
- Antidemocratic trends, disinformation campaigns and increasing political influence of third countries in the region lead to lack of political dialogue, return of authoritarianism, worsen relations with neighbouring countries and incomplete reconciliation processes.

Believing that:

- The overwhelming majority of young people supporting EU integration in affected countries.
- Young people in the Western Balkan, especially young liberals, have a strongly developed European identity, which can be confirmed by the fact that, when in search for a better future, they mostly migrate towards EU member states. ● The EU is where young people turn to, when value crises in the region occur, as they perceive it as a beacon of hope that these values can be preserved. ● While the influence of non-EU global players is increasing in the Western Balkans, we perceive that it also can have an effect on youth and their identification with European values, proven by recent poll results, which state that support for EU accession in the Western Balkans has significantly dropped.
- The future belongs to the youth and most of Western Balkan youth identify as Europeans, hoping to have a future based upon EU values – they rightfully feel that they are Europe, too.
- The EU motto “United in Diversity” perfectly describes the values upon which the idea of European Union is established - therefore the diversity should be supported; ● The EU should increase its cooperation with Western Balkans states in order to reassure on one hand region’s path to democracy and on the other to

consolidate pro-European course, membership perspective of the Western Balkan states and shift to the western standard

- The EU should be more active in the region and fix a timeline (concrete time period) for accession of all candidate countries from the region.
- EU enlargement in the Western Balkans will promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region which on the other hand will have a long-term positive effect on security and stability throughout the whole European continent
- EU membership will bring many opportunities and benefits to citizens of Western Balkan states.

Therefore LYMEC calls for:

- The EU and its member states to increase their assistance and to pay more focused attention to the concerned states and their EU membership aspirations. ● EU institutions and member states to increase their support for economic development of the Western Balkans region. In particular, to support the successful implementation of the recent Sarajevo Declaration on the creation of a common market, which in a long term will decrease ethnic and cross-border tensions as well as decrease unemployment and poverty in the region.
- Liberal political parties and liberal politicians to consider the impact their political decisions and public statements make on the political work of liberal partner organisations in the Western Balkans;
- Liberal political parties and liberal politicians to consider the impact their political decisions and public statements make on the political work of liberal partner organisations in the Western Balkans.
- Not applying double standards for the Western Balkan states that want to join EU;
- Additional support and empowerment to civic society of Western Balkan; ● The need for liberal politicians to continue further emphasising the values the EU was founded upon and not give in to populist rhetoric, so the European Union stays that beacon young people in the Western Balkans can turn to, when looking for a model of a society they can identify with.
- The EU and Western Balkan states to preserve the multi-ethnic character of the region within a peaceful, fruitful and cooperative framework, recognising that good neighbour relations and regional cooperation will facilitate the enlargement process. ● The Western Balkan states to move forward with reforms and implementation of the Copenhagen criteria. The fight against corruption on all levels should be brought to a successful conclusion.
- Further and comprehensive assistance to regional liberal parties and organisations, especially youth organisations (like ISEEL) in order to encourage much stronger and intensified liberal cooperation in the region as well as to consolidate the European perspective of the Western Balkan states.

9.28 Resolution on the racist and xenophobic riots in the USA

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2017, Sofia, 14 October 2017
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: JNC

(Former 9.44 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Summary

- The presidential election of 8 November 2016 in the United States of America was won by a candidate who ran a campaign steeped in bigotry and offensive speeches against minorities.
- As the 45th president of the USA, Donald J. Trump has repeatedly courted controversy with xenophobic and hate speeches since he was sworn in on 20 January.
- Mr. Trump has also tried to play the Member States of the European Union against each other with the aim to divide the European people as well and to revive the spectres of hatred and sorrow.
- The events of 11 and 12 August 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white supremacists rioted in the streets and an anti-supremacist activist lost her life, together with Mr. Trump's failure to condemn them, were a disturbing moment that worries us all.
- Mr. Trump has an ongoing 2024 presidential election campaign and is leading in polling to be the republican candidate.
- The indictment by the four-court indictment of Mr. Trump concluding that he had attempted to overturn the results of the 2020 election and block the transfer of power.

Believing that:

- The United States of America is a key political, economic and cultural ally of the European Union;
- Speeches based on hatred, bigotry and violence to achieve their goals are incompatible with free and democratic societies; and
- All human beings are free and equal in our pursuit of happiness regardless of our origins, creeds, sexual orientation, and colour of skin.

LYMEC:

- Condemns all statements and speeches made by the Trump administration and his subsequent presidential campaign with the aim of dividing the American society and/or based on hate, bigotry and aggressiveness;
- Reaffirms its support for equal rights for all people regardless of their ethnic background;
- Rejects all types of demonstrations that use violence to achieve their goals, whether in the US, the EU, or anywhere else.
- Calls on the EU to lead a global response to these types of statements and speeches, abroad as well as domestically.

9.29 Transparency and human rights led approach to EU deals with other countries on irregular migration

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: FCY

(Former 9.46 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Whereas LYMEC has previously called for:

- A common European policy concerning refugees and other irregular migrants;
- Strengthening the partnership and co-operation with countries of origin, transit and final destination;
- Developing and implementing co-operation programmes focusing on local and regional development in order to deal with the root causes of irregular migration;
- An open and transparent immigration policy, which is accompanied by the strengthening of efforts to combat smuggling and trafficking.

Considering that:

- The European Union requires a democratic, federal, open and transparent decision-making process which is accountable to its citizens in order to strengthen and maintain the relationship between the European Union and the people it serves;
- The European Union is financially supporting a number of countries with the objective of curbing irregular migration into Europe;
- The aim of the financial support is to improve the means by which countries of origin and transit can better control irregular migration and to address its root causes;
- Financial support has been provided to states that are fundamentally corrupt and are noted serial human rights abusers, including Sudan where the Head of State is indicted by the International Criminal Court;
- At present there is little to no transparency concerning the use of funds and the specific projects that have been approved, in addition to the relevant risks relating to such projects such as the possibility of dual use technology and/or training that can be used for internal repression and to assist the country in question perpetrating further human rights abuses;
- There is an overemphasis on the financial root causes of irregular migration and not on the political or security motivations that prompt civilians to leave their homes.

Calls for:

- transparency in the use of European Union funds in relation to support for countries of origin and transit in stemming irregular migration and combating human trafficking and people smuggling, including projects approved;
- the European Union to only fund projects that are compatible with the core values of the European Union, including the respect of human rights;
- human rights centred approach to dealing with irregular migration;

- the European Union to ensure that no dual purpose technology or training is provided to countries that are at risk of utilising such technology or training to perpetrate human rights abuses.

9.30 Support student activism internationally

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin, 8 April 2018
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: RU

(Former 9.47 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Considering

- In over 65 countries, students are exposed to threats, violence and other assaults when they engage themselves politically to promote democracy, human rights, and academic freedom.
- Since being established in 2014, the Norwegian student at risk program has had remarkable success in helping international student activists get a degree at a Norwegian university.
- Notable democratic backsliding and autocratisation in European Union countries such as Hungary and Poland and corresponding declines in academic freedom.

Believing that

- Young activists are the key to democratic reforms and social change. ● Education is a tremendous tool in improving political activist's agency
- Europe as a wealthy continent has a moral obligation to promote human rights and academic freedom internationally

LYMEC calls on

- The European Union and appropriate European countries and institutions to adopt the students at risk program from Norway by giving a certain number of international student activists the opportunity to finish their studies in Europe. The purpose of the program is to give young activists an opportunity to finish their studies, strengthen their academic and organisational skills and build an international network of other activists. Afterwards, the students are intended to return to their

country of origin and continue their fight for social change with greater knowledge and experience.

LYMEC proposes

- The selection of students, who will be offered a spot in the program should ideally follow the Norwegian approach. The candidates are appointed by different organisations and institutions who are given the right to nominate. Then candidates will then be judged by different criteria – how threatened they are in their homeland, the character of their political work as well as academic and language abilities. This is done to find the candidates with the largest potential and greatest need.
- The offer should only be targeted at activists who make use of nonviolent means and do not discriminate for reasons of race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability or gender in their political affairs.

- The students at risk program should be implemented throughout the EU, insofar as the relevant country and institution offers an academic safe haven, whereby a substantial number of student activists can come to various parts of Europe to better themselves. However, until this can be realised we urge European countries that are able to, to adopt the program nationally to support the fight for academic freedom and human rights.

9.31 EU support for sustainability and democracy in Tunisia

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius, 14 October 2018
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: JNC, FEL, RU, VU, SU, JD

(Former 9.48 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Considering that:

- The Republic of Tunisia was the only country to make a successful democratic transition following the Arab Spring, but a democratic backslide is currently occuring;
- The European Union (EU) should support Tunisia's road to democracy and its steps towards stronger protection of human rights;
- The EU stands to benefit from having a successful and stable Tunisian state, in contrast with the State of Libya, which serves as a cautionary tale of what happens when there are failed states at the EU's borders;
- The EU should take the lead in the fight against climate change, particularly following the abdication of responsibility by the United States of America under the Trump administration;
- Tunisia has a great deal of potential in solar power and wind power, but it remains susceptible to blackouts and power shortages;
- Both Tunisia and Europe would benefit from tapping this potential, through improved energy security, better grid connectivity, job growth, business opportunities for European companies; and
- Tunisia, Europe and the world have a strong interest in transitioning to a low-carbon energy mix and mitigating climate change.

Recognizing that:

- Enabling and supporting an authoritarian regime will haunt both the EU and its Member States, and the Tunisian people;
- Paying an authoritarian regime will not discourage others to dismantle democratic institutions as long as there is a cash for migrant scheme with the EU; ● It's troubling to rely on authoritarian states for the delivery of energy; ● The EU has the aim to contribute to peace and security and the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, and the strict observance of international law;
- Human dignity is an important value that must be respected, protected and constitute the basis of fundamental rights;
- Lessons must be learnt from previous European investments in the fields of energy and the resulting threats arising from our dependency on authoritarian states.

LYMEC:

- Urges the EU and its Member States to reorient its foreign policy on Tunisia to ensure the re-emergence of the development of a democratic Tunisia;
- Calls upon the EU and its Member States to cease any aid, photo-ops and other measures that (seem to) reward democratic backsliding and legitimise an autocratic regime;

- Urges the EU and its Member States of firmly condemn the human rights violations in Tunisia, the democratic backsliding that's occurring and the racist rhetoric against migrants by the incumbent regime;
- Calls upon the EU and its Member States to launch and support public/private initiatives to develop gigawatt-scale renewable energy projects in Tunisia;
- Urges the EU and its Member States to get rid of protectionist rules and/or unnecessary bureaucracy so that European companies are in the best

  position to take advantage of business opportunities in the Tunisian renewable energy sector;
- Stresses the importance of improving electricity transmission links between Tunisia and the Republic of Malta, Tunisia and the Italian Republic, and Tunisia and

French Republic to improve grid connection and facilitate the import/export of energy among these countries;

- Reminds the EU of the need to invest in a stable geopolitical neighbourhood.
- Acknowledges that lessons must be learnt from previous European investments in the fields of energy and therefore urges the EU to be self-aware of its investments. No political, financial or economic involvement shall be accepted should it endanger the sovereignty of Tunisians or the stability of its nascent democracy; and ● Supports the nascent Tunisian democracy and urges its government to continue building on the protection of human rights.

9.32 The relationship with Turkey under assessment

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels, 7 April 2019
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale - JuLis

(Former 9.49 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Considering that:

- Turkey was officially recognized as a candidate for full EU-membership in December 1999, about twenty years ago and negotiations have been spanning over the course of fourteen years now - yet, not even half of the necessary chapters which have to be opened and completed for the accession process to be successful have been touched until this day. The talks have reached a stalemate. ● From the coup attempt in July 2016 until November 2016, about 120,000 Turks were dismissed or suspended from their public sector jobs, 40,000 Turks arrested, scores of journalists rounded up and figures of the political opposition detained. ● Over 300 Kurds are currently on hunger strike in Turkish prisons, Kurdistan,

  Europe and North America, including Leyla Güven - a democratically elected Kurdish MP to the Turkish Parliament -, calling for an end to the isolation of jailed Kurdish leader Abdulla Öcalan and put pressure on the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) to fulfil its duties.
- The freedom of speech and the freedom of press are under attack in Turkey to the point where journalists from EU-member states have been taken into custody without a fair trial.
- Turkey's president Erdogan has recently stated that he is in favour of the death penalty.
- Turkey is financially supported by the European Union with "pre-accession aid" amounting to several billion euros.
- According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world, with more than 3 million registered refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Turkey is the EU's fifth largest trading partner, while the EU is Turkey's largest. In addition, Turkey is an important growth market for the EU, while at the same time two thirds of Foreign Direct Investment in Turkey comes from EU Member States.
- EU and Turkey face common challenges and need to cooperate in essential areas of joint interest such as security, defence, migration, counterterrorism, energy, transport, economy and trade. Continued engagement and an open and frank dialogue with Turkey is of utmost importance.
- Turkey is a longstanding member of the NATO alliance and sits at a key geostrategic location for maintaining regional and European security. Partnership and enhanced cooperation between the EU and Turkey is for the benefit of all: the EU, NATO and each of our Member States.

Recognizing that:

- In 2016, the European Parliament passed a resolution requesting the European Commission to suspend the accession talks. In 2019, a European parliament committee voted to suspend the accession talks.

- The EU General Affairs Council pointed out that Turkey has been moving further away from the European Union and the negotiations are not leading anywhere, stating that “no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing”.
- Since the introduction of the state of emergency the number of asylum applications by Turkish citizens has risen dramatically, the result being that Turkey now occupies fifth place in terms of numbers of asylum applications submitted in EU Member States, according to the European Asylum Support Office. In September 2018 more than 16 000 applications were still waiting for a first instance decision. ● Visa liberalisation is of great importance for the Turkish citizens, particularly for students, academics, business representatives and people with family ties in EU Member States. Stresses, furthermore, that the Turkish Government should fully comply with the 72 criteria identified in the visa liberalisation roadmap with the EU, in order to eliminate the visa requirements for Turkish nationals wishing to enter the European Union.

Believing that:

- The people of the member states of the European Union and the people of Turkey

  deserve more than political stalemate. Since an accession seems to be out of question at the current stage, with regards to the political development and the human rights development in Turkey, other dialogue channels should be also opened in order to foster the discourse between the EU and Turkey. ● Turkey is

playing an important role in responding to the migration crisis resulting from the war in Syria, as the country and its population have shown great hospitality by offering shelter to more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees. Underlines that there are about one million Syrian children of school age in Turkey.

- The modernisation and the upgrade of the Customs Union, such as the inclusion of relevant sectors as agriculture, services and public procurement, would further strengthen the already strong ties between Turkey and the EU and would keep Turkey economically connected to the EU.
- To keep the accession talks open without any chance of success in sight is not fair - especially not to those within the Turkish civil society who are affected by the recent political development and must fear oppression.

The European Liberal Youth calls for:

- The end of the current accession process without closing the door to the future European perspective for Turkey and strengthen relationship with the civil society. ● An assessment of common grounds as the basis for a new, strategic and effective partnership which does the people of Turkey and the people of EU-member states justice. This strategic partnership should also contain provisions on human rights, democracy and rule of law in order to seek improvement to the current situation.
- remaining in political and democratic dialogue with Turkey. This dialogue should take place not only at diplomatic level, but especially at civil society level as well as on the industry and business level, so as to empower the individuals living there and counter the threat of Islamic radicalisation of the Turkish population.
- to use the funds currently allocated under the Instrument for

Pre-Accession Assistance for protection and promotion of democratic values and principles, human rights and the rule of law.

- Upgrade of the Customs Union as an important instrument for closer economic relations between the EU and Turkey.
- Maintaining close dialogue and cooperation on foreign policy and security issues, particularly further alignment on foreign policy, defence and security issues, including counter-terrorism cooperation.
- to maintain the ERASMUS+ cooperation with Turkey.

9.35 Urgency Resolution on Peace and Stability after the Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Deal

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Svensk Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Centerstudenter

(Former 9.53 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out after the fall of the Soviet Union and has been going on for decades; In late September 2020, heavy fighting broke out along the border.
- Wars have been caused by a dispute over the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh region;
- Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia have signed a peace deal, which inserts peacekeepers by Russia;
- Armenia controlled Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding region in the 1990s, which forced Azerbaijanis to flee persecution.
- Azerbaijan regained partial control of the Karabakh region through the latest peace deal, which was signed by Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan.
- The Armenian genocide happened during 1914-1917. The Nagorno-Karabakh war happened during 1988-1994. The USSR collapsed in 1991. Azerbaijan was declared an independent state in 1991.

Noting that:

- Nagorno-Karabakh is a region with an Armenian majority located within the Azerbaijani borders;
- Azerbaijan regained partial control of the Karabakh region through the latest peace deal, which was signed by Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan; ●

Russia has increased its influence through mediating a peace deal and deployment of almost 2,000 peacekeepers.

- Because of the deployment of Russian peacekeepers due to the signing of a peace deal by the Russian Federation, Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic

  of Armenia, Russia has increased its regional influence through force;
- Turkish influence in the region has increased through the deployment of Turkish peacekeepers in the conflict region;
- The EU was absent in the mediation of a peace deal and is now excluded from the region, reducing its influence, leaving space for Turkey and Russia to

  fill with their influence/control;
- Modern weaponry was sent by third countries to escalate the situation.

LYMEC calls for:

- The EU to work for deploying peacekeepers from a third-party; being countries or multilateral organisations that do not have major political interests in the region;
- EU to be a third-party for the sake of human rights, minorities, and condemner of ethnic cleansing;
- Both sides to be held accountable for the deaths and damages; ● The EU to assist in the event of a refugee crisis as a result of the conflict.

9.36 Let Taiwan be Taiwan: Recognise Taiwan as an Independent Sovereign State

Adopted: LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020, 14 November 2020
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom (RU), Jong VLD (JVLD), Keskustanuoret (KENU), Venstre Ungdom (VU), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Jeunes Radicaux (JR), Jonge Democraten (JD), Lietuvos Liberalus Jaunimas (LLJ), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Uppreisn, Centerstudenterne (CS), Young Liberals (YL), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)

(Former 9.54 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Online Congress, on 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- The “One-China-Policy” forces Taiwan to call themselves the Republic of China to legitimise the People's Republic of China (PRC) claim over Taiwan.
- Taiwan meets all the parameters to be an independent and legitimate sovereign

state.

- The UN member states have to respect the self-determination of people, as enshrined in article 1(2) of the UN Charter.
- The Taiwanese rejected any move for reunification with the PRC as seen in the Sunflower Movement 2014 and the strong public support of political parties in favour of independence.
- Freedom of Navigation is a fundamental principle of the law of the sea, as codified by Article 87 1(a) of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- In April 2023, Josep Borrell referred to the Taiwan Strait as "the most strategic strait in the world, in particular for our [EU] trade."

Believing that:

- 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 themselves of tyrants and autocratic regimes.
- That negative short term economic and political consequences can be a necessary evil in the fight for human rights and decency, which is more important than ever due to the rise of authoritarianism.
- The recent military exercises conducted around Taiwan, by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of the PRC, in 2022 and 2023 represent a major escalation of hostilities.
- These military exercises crossed international shipping lines and the PLA’s use of “patrols” within the Taiwan Strait undermines Freedom of Navigation within these waters.

LYMEC calls:

- For the EU to end its “One-China-Policy”.
- For the EU to work multilaterally with allies to ensure that a recognition materialises peacefully and in dialogue with the PRC

- For the EU to recognise Taiwan as a sovereign state, independent from the PRC, as long as Taiwan rid themselves of the title “Republic of China”.
- For the EU to assist Taiwan in becoming a member of the UN and its organisations such as the WHO, if this is the wish from the people of Taiwan.
- The EU and its member states to strengthen bi- and multilateral relations with Taiwan through free trade agreements, student exchanges and enhanced cooperation in the fields of science, culture, defence and environment;

9.37 Resetting the EU-UK Relationship

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Young Liberals

(Former 9.37 A New Chapter for EU-UK Relations, prior to Warsaw, Autumn 2024)

Resetting the EU-UK Relationship.

Cosignatory MOs: Alliance Youth, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Unge Venstre, CUF, Adam Volk (IMS), Silvia Fernandez (IMS), JuLis, JNC, LHG, Jonge Democraten, Radikal Ungdom, Young Progressive Slovakia, Centerstudenter, JUNOS, ERP Youth, Venstre Ungdom, JOVD

This motion archives 9.37 A New Chapter for EU-UK Relations

Noting that:

- The best relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union is one in which the United Kingdom is a full member of the European Union;
- In the process of leaving the European Union, the United Kingdom also ceased to be a full member of many key European schemes and institutions;
- From next year, the ETIAS travel authorisation system will come into effect for travellers from the United Kingdom. Erecting further barriers between the United Kingdom and the European Union;
- The United Kingdom and the European Union have since entered into a Withdrawal Agreement, a Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and the Northern Ireland Protocol, designed to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland and to protect the EU's internal market;
- The Windsor Framework was agreed by the United Kingdom and the European Union and was formally adopted in March 2023;
- The Trade and Cooperation Agreement is due to be reviewed in 2026;
- The previous government of the United Kingdom made attempts to pass legislation to override the provision of international law, to avoid its obligations under agreements with the European Union, and made further overtures towards leaving other key European institutions such as the European Convention on Human Rights;
- The new UK Government, led by Keir Starmer's Labour Party, has stated it intends to 'reset' the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union. However, the exact details of this are still to be clarified in the public sphere;
- Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, and Portugal have reached reciprocal agreements with the UK to allow their citizens the right to vote in local elections in each other's countries.

Understanding that:

- The path to renegotiating the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union is a long one that requires a sustained effort at building trust between the people and governments of the United Kingdom and the European Union;

- Recent polling shows that a clear majority of the United Kingdom's population believe Brexit has gone badly, with a recent YouGov poll showing 25% of people believe Brexit has gone 'fairly badly', whilst an additional 34% believe Brexit has gone 'very badly';
- Yougov polling from January also shows that a majority of the United Kingdom's population supports rejoining the EU, with 33% 'strongly supporting' the idea;
- There is a risk that the introduction of ETIAS for UK travellers may undermine the Common Travel Area, and has the potential to create further difficulties for asylum seekers living in Northern Ireland;
- Many non-EU states continue to participate in EU-affiliated peripheral schemes;
- The European Union has extended offers to negotiate with the United Kingdom on key EU-affiliated schemes, most notably Erasmus+;
- The vast majority of people in Northern Ireland are entitled to hold Irish citizenship by birthright.

Believing that:

- The United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union is far from a settled matter, with many issues important to young people still left to be resolved;
- Closer cooperation between the European Union and the United Kingdom has several tangible benefits on key areas such as security, energy policy, climate change, and international trade;
- The Erasmus+ Programme offers unparalleled opportunities for young people, championing education and skills, social mobility, and global cooperation, and that the United Kingdom has benefited both economically and academically from this reciprocal agreement;
- The European Medicines Agency offers invaluable cooperation on medicines as well as research and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector;
- Membership of Europol is in the United Kingdom's best interests in order to promote safety, security, and fight against organised and cross-border crime;
- Euratom remains a vital structure for energy security in Europe;
- The European Aviation Safety Agency plays a vital role in keeping aviation regulations standardised across Europe, ensuring safety and piece of mind for passengers;
- In all of these schemes, full membership of the European Union is not required;
- Protecting citizens' rights and liberties must remain a strong priority in the developing relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union;
- EU residents living in the UK and UK residents living in the EU should have a democratic voice in local governance.

LYMEC Calls For:

- Negotiations for the United Kingdom to re-enter Erasmus+ to begin immediately, with the aim of the United Kingdom returning to Erasmus+ as an associated country by 2027;
- Any agreement on Erasmus+ must treat European students in an equitable manner, both in regards to fees and residency rights for the period of their study;

- The European Union and the United Kingdom to negotiate passport- and visa-free school and/ or educational trips between the United Kingdom and EU member states, on a reciprocal basis including simplified customs and travel procedures for school groups, and a focus on fostering cross-cultural understanding and educational enrichment;
- Discussions to take place between the European Union and the United Kingdom with the goal of reaching a reciprocal exemption from electronic travel authorisation schemes. Aiming to eliminate costs and reduce border delays for holiday-makers, while maintaining high standards for border security and data protection;
- Further negotiations to take place on other key schemes of importance to both the European Union and the United Kingdom, especially the European Medicines Agency, Euratom, and the European Aviation Safety Agency;
- The European Union and the United Kingdom to negotiate renewed and enhanced cooperation with Europol, enabling the UK to participate in joint investigations, intelligence sharing, and cross-border crime prevention. This cooperation should ensure that both EU and UK authorities can work together more effectively to address organized crime, cyber threats, and terrorism;
- Revision of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement to extend and simplify cooperation in areas such as trade, energy and security between the United Kingdom and the European Union for the benefit of our continent;
- The United Kingdom and the European Union to consider the mutual value of a staged approach to the United Kingdom rejoining the single market, and eventually the Union, to build and sustain permanent trust between the United Kingdom and the European Union
- The continued protection and promotion of citizens' rights and liberties, including political rights and workers' rights, in both the United Kingdom and the European Union;
- Members of LYMEC and ALDE to support work and develop initiatives at local and national levels to improve relationships between the United Kingdom and the European Union.
- A reciprocal agreement to negotiate voting rights in local elections at the EU level.

9.38 Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Geoeconomic and Geopolitical Factors in the Arctic

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Uppreisn
Co-signers: Svensk Ungdom, Unge Venstre, Young Liberals, Venstres Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Centerstudenter, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jeunes MR, Jong VLD

(Former 9.56 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Considering that:

- There are considerable investment and growth opportunities in the Arctic. ● The emergence of Arctic shipping routes in the coming decades will shape the geopolitical landscape and flow of international trade.
- Russia is restoring ports along the Northeast Passage, investing in

state-of-the-art icebreakers and developing nearby oilfields to ensure that the

passage will be open year-round within this decade. This is in part aiming to supplement the income Russia lost after sanctions were imposed due to their invasion of Ukraine.

- China is planning a trans-polar shipping route, the Polar Silk Road and actively working to increase its soft power around the world through trade

  dominance and their strategic Belt & Road infrastructure investment initiative.

- Chinese investment and involvement in Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe

Islands has grown exponentially in recent years, especially in infrastructure projects such as shipping ports, airports and telecommunication systems. ● The

USA has taken economic and diplomatic actions in the Arctic to secure its national interest, specifically in Greenland.

- The EU has a direct stake in Arctic affairs, as although the EU is an external

actor with regards to the Arctic Ocean, three of its member states qualify as

being Arctic states (Finland, Sweden and Denmark). In addition, two other Arctic states (Norway and Iceland) are members of the European Economic Area.

Believing that:

- The EU needs to increase its influence and soft power, especially in areas of strategic and geopolitical importance on the continent's periphery such as the Arctic.
- Autocratic and authoritarian governments such as China and Russia should not be allowed to unilaterally control the flow of international trade.
- While the Polar Silk Road is an exciting prospect for increased international

trade, making it quicker, easier and more efficient, there is an undeniable danger that it will increase Chinese soft power and influence in Europe by a considerable margin.

- Chinese hegemony over arctic shipping routes could have serious ramifications for the European continent as a whole. Not least because shipping through the Suez canal and the Mediterranean may decrease, as

Arctic routes are shorter and therefore quicker for most of Europe's major trade partners in Asia.

- In order to maintain geopolitical balance the growth of Chinese influence in Europe should be challenged.
- All activities in the Arctic must respect the sustainable development principles and the rights of indigenous populations in the region.
- The EU should provide its full support to the Ilulissat Declaration in all matters.

LYMEC calls for:

- An updated EU Arctic Policy that addresses growing geopolitical and geoeconomic interests, and the changed security environment in the Arctic.
- For the EU to acknowledge the Arctic Council as an arena for decision making

  in order to secure multilateral and rules based solutions to the rising tensions in the Arctic.
- An increase in EU infrastructure investment, aimed at the emerging economic

growth opportunities in the Arctic, allowing for clear and viable alternatives to Chinese investment, as well as American.

- A stronger cooperation between the EU and the Arctic Council members,

which are also members of the EU or NATO, on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) screening to protect critical infrastructure and technologies.

9.39 A Vaccinated World by the EU

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom, Venstre Ungdom, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Uppreisn, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Jong VLD, Centerstudenter, YMRF, Unge Venstre, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Svensk Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jonge Demokraten

---

(Former 9.57 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April

2021

Considering that:

- In a globalised world, viruses do not adhere to borders and a local outbreak can speedily become a global pandemic
- The more rapidly that a virus spreads, the faster that the mutations can become a hindrance to development of a vaccination programme, which was seen in the case of COVID-19
- Developing countries are assumed to first have fully vaccinated their populations four years after the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic based on 2022 WHO data
- The unchecked spread of COVID-19 has hindered the global economic recovery and has undermined the health security of governments and people worldwide
- China and Russia have disregarded the scientific efficacy of their own vaccination programmes over using potential soft power through offering these vaccines globally
- As long as the virus is able to exist and spread globally, vaccinating any one region alone will be fruitless as new mutations requiring altered vaccines will inevitably reach the European Union, and the costly time consuming process of vaccination will have to restart - making it economically ideal to attempt global vaccination as soon as possible.
- Statistically, it has been shown that a vastly smaller percentage of lower

income nations' citizens have been vaccinated

- Low-income countries have been shown to struggle with vaccine shortages and therefore vulnerable citizens are rendered unable to vaccinate or become dependent on vaccine supplies from China and Russia;
- The director general of the World Health Organization has been critical of the fact that children and young adults have been vaccinated earlier in

  high-income countries, than healthcare workers and the elderly have been in low-income countries;
- Vaccine costs and the continued COVID-related measures are pushing low-income countries further into debt;
- Investments in the global distribution of vaccines can also result in high-income countries getting as much as 12 times the investment cost back through recovery of the world economy.

Believing that:

- All people have equal worth, with similar aspirations for health and productivity and therefore ought to have the same opportunities in life.
- It is an ethical and humanitarian imperative that all human beings should be offered a vaccine against preventable diseases including, COVID-19
- High income countries ought to show solidarity and work tirelessly for equal distribution of and access to vaccines globally
- It is the EU's strategic interest to have the strongest soft power in the world to encourage liberal democracy as a governmental system.

Calls on LYMEC to:

- To ensure global effective prevention methods against rapid spread of viruses through international political cooperation
- To commit fully to the COVAX scheme and end the practice of making bilateral deals with pharmaceutical companies and secure excess vaccines, while considering the lessons learned for future health crises
- To prioritise the vaccination of the elderly, health care workers and other people of significant risk globally
- Encourage EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Council, to release excess vaccine doses, once a designated critical mass coverage (as defined by WHO) has been met, to developing countries.
- Support extensive donation programmes of vaccinations over the acquisition and utilisation of booster shots for domestic EU usage, recognizing not only

the moral imperative to do so, but also the longer term economic and social benefits to do so.

- Encourage the EU to keep up its efforts to boost vaccine production, to speed up the global vaccination effort, which would also be useful where booster shots do become necessary for more people in the future.
- Encourage EU member states which are also WHO members to strengthen support of WHO vaccination programs mainly in regards to logistics, staffing, and financial support.

9.40 For the Democratic Transition and Future of Belarus

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, LHG, USR Tineret, Radikal Ungdom, Momentum Tizen X, Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, Young Liberals, Centerstudenter, Attistibai Youth, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, JUNOS, Jong VLD, Venstres Ungdom, Uppreisn, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals Greece, JOVD, ERPY, Jonge Democraten

---

(Former 9.58 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Considering that:

- The dictator of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenka, has been continuously tightening his grip on power and other state institutions of the Belarusian state exponentially since the year 1994, when the only free and fair elections were held, which lead a fledgling post-soviet democracy to quickly backslide to authoritarianism;
- The regime has time and time again shown its impunity in persecuting and oppressing their regular citizens and members of the opposition with various means: censorship, extrajudicial punishments, violence and other means of deterrence were employed to silence critics and dissidents: since May 2020 the number of political prisoners in Belarus has risen ten times. As of February 19, 2021 there were more than 250 people. As of March 25, 2021 their number increased to 299. By the end of 2022, there were 1,446 political prisoners in Belarus;
- The current government of the Republic of Belarus has been repressing student activists for years as they are either not allowed to study in the institutions of higher education or they are “kindly” asked to drop out if they are already enrolled. As of latest data from June 2021 Belarusian Students' Association and Student Initiative Group have collected evidence of 492 detained, 160 expelled students on political grounds and, 51 people became suspects in criminal cases investigation and have been accused of committing serious offences. This way, these students are

unable to gain knowledge or profession in their own country due to their personal and political beliefs. After the 2020 elections, approximately 700 students from Belarus have been studying under the K. Kalinowski Polish scholarship program, which implies higher education at universities in Poland. The deprivation of the opportunity to receive education in their country clearly illustrates the fact of restricting the rights of young people to education in Belarus;

- Belarus is one of the only European states that is not in the system of the Council of

  Europe, which means that there is no possible mean to monitor the adherence to the European Human Rights Convention and that there is still the application of capital punishment among other inhumane punishment and treatment of citizenry: according to the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, since 1990 to 2011, 326 people have been sentenced to death. Since 2011, at least 23 people have been sentenced to death;

- The previously mentioned fact leaves the possibility for the authoritarian regime

to conduct restrictive policies that directly curtail and harm the human rights and freedoms of the Belarusian people with no tangible consequences;

- The current regime is unwilling to cooperate with the democratic opposition of Belarus to redraw the Constitution and organise a peaceful transition of power, as seen by the unwillingness demonstrated by Lukashenka in many instances, for instance by organising an illegitimate and false General Assembly, named

All-Peoples Summit;

- The fact that the All-Peoples Summit was no genuine Assembly of the Belarusian citizens, but a carefully selected crowd of Lukashenka loyalists; in other terms, the Summit was organised in order to strengthen, re-legitimize and bolster the image of the dictatorship in the eyes of the Belarusian people;
- The actions of Lukashenka and the state apparatus are worrying, chiefly among these, the circumstance that Lukashenka has been obviously turning towards the Russian Federation as a guarantor of his power and illegitimate rule, for example by allowing Belarusian territory to be used by Russia's army to launch attacks into Ukraine as part of Russian war in Ukraine.

Noting that:

- The Belarusian people have been protesting the processes and results of the elections, which have been considered by many international organisations and officials to have been falsified to an absurd extent, and are still protesting the injustice that it has brought upon them;
- The current situation in Belarus is still very volatile – after the beginning of the Russian war in Ukraine peaceful demonstrations took place across the country

protesting Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine. Police detained hundreds of protesters and subjected them to beatings and other ill-treatment. Authorities opened dozens of criminal cases for “aiding extremist activity” against people who shared photos and videos of Russian troops’ movement;

- The protests in Belarus are not and should not be considered as a drift or shift of policy or national spirit of Belarus regarding the closer cooperation with the West or the East: first and foremost, it is a common call for the reinstitution of democratic norms for the citizens to establish and build legitimate institutions and reconstruct the rule of law; only later should discussions and deliberations on the future be raised by external parties;
- The democratic opposition, contrary to the current illegitimate administration, is committed to an honest dialogue and measures that would still guarantee the safety of the actors of the current regime and a fair and just treatment of those who have committed crimes and atrocities against the Belarusian people; ● Belarus has to have the possibility to join the European Union in the future if the prerequisite conditions are met and that would be the will of the citizens; ● There are many projects, both political and infrastructural, that are financed by the government of the Russian Federation, for example, the establishment of pro-Russian political parties such as “Soyuz“ (The Union), which are to be considered as potential threats to the political sovereignty of Belarus; the unsafe Astravyets Nuclear Power Plant, which is not only used as a means to threaten the energetic autonomy and increase the dependence and need for Russian energy, but also the fact that it has been documented to be an unsafe and illequipped measure to combat climate change, among many other documented irregularities.

Believing that:

- The Belarusian people have a fundamental right of self-determination and self-governance through democratic means which respect liberal democratic values;

- The European Union and its member states should provide aid and assistance to those in dire need in the neighbourhood and elsewhere;
- The future of Belarus is in part dependent on the position that the European Union and other entities which support liberal democracy across the globe will be willing to take.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Union, its Member States and the MOs of LYMEC to increase the cooperation and communication with the civil society in Belarus, especially with the democratic opposition in and outside the country, providing the needed expertise and advice that is required to realise the Victory strategy outlined by

  Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and the Democratic opposition;

- The European Union and its Member States to increase diplomatic and economic pressure and to impose further sanctions, which would target the functionaries of the current regime of Lukashenka even further. Additionally, these sanctions must be focused upon the inner circle of power and the businesses that indirectly support and endorse the brutal regime;
- The European Union to offer its assistance in mediating the disputes between the democratic opposition and the current power structures in Belarus, if both sides, i.e., the current regime and the democratic opposition, were to agree to such a format, ensure a peaceful and democratic transition to begin; ● The European Union and its Member States to closely monitor the developing situation in Belarus and act accordingly – with swift resolution in order to guarantee a peaceful and democratic transition of the Belarusian state, which would then be able to re-establish the rule of law and join the Council of Europe, ending capital punishment and other authoritarian and illiberal practices which undermine human rights;
- The European Union and its Member States to facilitate the application procedure and create more opportunities, for example, scholarships and easing the application procedures for students coming from Belarus who are seeking higher education. This action will not only urge the current regime to step down but will also enable these students to gain knowledge and to develop their ideas for the better being of their country and Europe as a whole;
- The European Union and its member states to facilitate the relocation of private and independent companies suffering from the arrest of employees and internet blockades to the European Union;
- The European Union and its member states to facilitate visa issuance to victims of the regime and to provide medical and psychological help for those who may need it.

9.41 EUnited Against the Communist Party of China

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, Radikal Ungdom, Vesna, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, JOVD, LDLU

(Former 9.59 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Considering that:

- In the past decades the People's Republic of China (PRC) has experienced extraordinary economic growth and thus an increase in not only economic but political and military influence as well;
- Unfortunately, and in contrast to the hopes of many liberal democrats, the PRC has not allowed for any political freedom, but has tightened its grip on civil society instead;
- Accordingly, the PRC is exerting its increased influence on the world stage not to defend and advance the multilateral world order, but to vigorously pursue its own interests regardless of human rights or international law;
- Thereof follows a long list of severe violations of international law that pose a threat to many sovereign states, world peace and freedom itself; most notably, the PRC:
  - continues its wrongful occupation of Tibet, which started in 1950, to this day and denies the Tibetan people self-determination and basic human rights;
  - has occupied and fortified the Paracel Islands, many of the Spratly Islands and the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea based on its unjustified sovereignty claim over all waters within the Nine-dash-line;
  - has threatened to invade Taiwan and adopted a law that dictates an invasion of Taiwan in case the country officially declares its independence, changes its official name or enacts a new constitution;
  - has unlawfully detained over one million members of ethnic minorities primarily of Islamic belief, especially Uyghurs, Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, in detention camps within East Turkestan;
  - has conducted hundreds of thousands of forced abortions and forced sterilisations on Muslim women in East Turkestan in order to decrease their birth rate;
- has breached the Sino-British Joint Declaration by violating the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong including the continued refusal to uphold free and fair elections as guaranteed in the Basic Law;
- has conducted illegal military operations on Indian soil; withheld and suppressed information about the outbreak and dangerousness of SARS-CoV-2, thereby violating WHO rules, and contributing to the spread of the virus;
- has blocked Taiwan from engaging with its expertise on viruses in the WHO, and attempted to stall vaccine purchases made by Taiwan;
- the PRC's legal-scale transfer of Chinese settlers into Tibet is a serious violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which prohibits the transfer of civilian population into occupied territory;

- the PRC's authorities in the region of Xinjiang continue to flagrantly violate the rights of Uyghur women, notably by carrying out forceful abortion and sterilization acts as well as encouraging raping in the detention facilities;
  - the PRC's authorities in the region of Xinjiang continue to flagrantly violate the rights of the Uyghur children to education by establishing the educational system aimed at wiping out the remembrance of the Uyghur native culture, traditions and customs and imposing the extrinsic principles of the Communist totalitarian system aimed at the infringement of human dignity as opposed to the principle mentioned by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (paragraph 2, article 26);
  - the PRC's authorities practice nationwide the most abhorrent forms of physical and psychological tortures making, in fact, the law enforcement system the one of repressions;
  - has shown complete contempt for international institutions, such as Interpol by arresting its president, Meng Hongwei, which is a dangerous precedent to set for officials in vital international institutions. has blocked Taiwan from engaging with its expertise on viruses in the WHO, and attempted to stall vaccine purchases made by Taiwan.

Recognising that:

- The invasion of Tibet violated Article 2 No. 4 Charter of the United Nations which prohibits the use and threat of force in international relations and consequently the annexation of Tibet is null and void;
- The same applies to the PRC's threats against Taiwan and would all the more apply to an invasion of Taiwan or any other means that intend to seize control of Taiwan against its free and democratically declared will;
- The Permanent Court of Arbitration has ascertained in PCA Case No. 2013-19 that the PRC has no right to claim sovereignty over the waters within the Nine-dash-line and therefore violates the Law of the Sea with its continued occupation;
- According to Article 6 London Charter of the International Military Tribunal mass detention of people based on their ethnicity or religious beliefs is a crime against humanity;
- According to Article 2 lit. d) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide the imposition of measures intended to prevent births within a national, ethnical, racial order religious group with intent to destroy the group, in whole or in part, constitutes a genocide.

Believing that:

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights; ● No state, no dictator, no religious leader and not even a democratic majority decision

can strip a human being of their dignity and rights; self-determination is protected in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as a right of "all peoples".

- Human dignity and rights are universal and not limited by cultural peculiarities; ● The PRC, as it presents itself nowadays, denies these self-evident truths and therefore its desire to become a global superpower is a threat to the European Union (EU) and the entire world;
- Only a united coalition of liberal democracies stands a chance to counter the PRC's ambitions;
- It is the responsibility of the EU, which has to evolve into a federation, not only, but also to take the lead in this together with the United States of America (USA);

- We must not be deceived by short-sighted economic profits through appeasing the PRC as these profits are the result of a rule-based international order of peace and multilateral cooperation and therefore we must resist any attempts by the PRC to undermine this order to preserve and advance our economic wealth as well as civil liberties in the long-run.

LYMEC calls for:

- EU member states to change the EU treaties in order to allow for decisions within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) to be taken by a qualified majority and henceforth act with one common voice;
- The EU and its member states to develop, in consultation with its NATO partners and NATO's pacific allies, a common strategy regarding the challenges posed by the PRC that follows the principles laid down in this resolution and to act accordingly;
- The EU and its member states to extend mutual cooperation to become a geopolitical superpower that can withstand external pressure from states like the PRC;
- The EU to publicly condemn any violation of human rights or breach of international law by the PRC and to respectively impose reasonable sanctions if continued;
- The EU to enact a "European Magnitsky Act" in order to impose personalised sanctions like travel bans and the freezing of assets against the persons in charge of human rights violations in the PRC and anywhere else on the globe;
- The EU to enact a Supply Chain Act in order to oblige companies doing business within the PRC and elsewhere to ensure that they are not directly or indirectly supporting, enabling or profiting from violations of human rights for example by supplying surveillance technologies for the Social Credit System and to sanction any failure to comply with this obligation; ● The EU and its member states to recognise Taiwan and Tibet as independent states, start official

diplomatic relations with both countries and to disregard any claim of the PRC to their rightful territory, as well as to encourage other countries to follow its lead;

- The EU and its member states to deny in accordance with the principal of diplomatic reciprocity those officials of the PRC entry, who deny EU diplomats, journalists and Non-governmental organisations access to Tibet and East Turkestan;
- The EU and its member states to support Taiwan's efforts to become a member of the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other international organisations;
- The EU to push for an independent investigation within the WHO about the Chinese influence on the WHO and its decisions;
- The EU and its member states to allow arms sales to Taiwan and to prohibit any such sales to the PRC;
- The EU and its member states to strengthen bi- and multilateral relations with Taiwan through free trade agreements, student exchanges and enhanced cooperation in the fields of science, culture, defence and environment;
- The EU to demand the succession or reincarnation of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders including a future 15th Dalai Lama to be a solely religious matter of the Tibetan Buddhist community and to sanction PRC officials who try to intervene in it;
- The EU to demand an immediate withdrawal of the Hong Kong National Security Law and the restoration of the principle "One Country, Two Systems";
- The EU member states to cancel all extradition treaties with the PRC, Hong Kong and Macau;

- EU states to consider, in asylum proceedings, that it is inherently unsafe for members of the pro-Democracy movement of Hong Kong to return there. ● The EU to demand a binding referendum being held in Hong Kong to determine the status of the Special Administrative Region after the expiration of “One Country, Two Systems” in the year 2047 that offers a choice between a continuation of the autonomy, the integration into the PRC or full independence;
- The EU to demand an immediate stop to the genocide and the

systematic persecution against individuals of Islamic belief and the release of all detainees in the detention camps and to end all bilateral and multilateral negotiations with the PRC not regarding health, security, climate and human rights until the aforementioned steps have been taken;

- EU member states to create an automatic presumption, in asylum cases, that it is unsafe for a person of Uyghur ethnicity to return to China.
- The EU and its Member States to recognise the right to self-determination of the people of East Turkestan which includes - in the face of the ongoing genocide - the right to secession and the right to establish a free and independent East Turkestan;
- The European Parliament to not ratify the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement until the genocide in East Turkestan is stopped and the PRC implements sufficient measures to ensure its compliance with ILO rules; ● The EU member states to bring charges of genocide and crimes against humanity against the PRC in front of the International Court of Justice (ICJ); ● The EU member states to boycott the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Beijing, if the genocide in East Turkestan is not stopped;
- The EU and its member states to end all development aid for the PRC; ● The EU to demand the PRC to fully respect a “One Europe Policy”, meaning that no intervention in inner-European affairs or bilateral agreements without the consultation of the European partners (such as within the 17+1 framework or by acquiring strategically important infrastructure like the port of Piraeus) are further accepted;
- The EU to develop a European Connectivity Strategy that binds our continent stronger together and links it to the rest of the world especially Africa and Asia while offering fair and sustainable opportunities for developing countries to counter the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI);
- The EU to improve controls of investments in critical technologies and infrastructure through the harmonisation of FDI screenings and the transfer of examination and restriction competences to the European Commission; ● The EU and its member states to not use components of PRC manufacturers

  in critical infrastructure like 5G or the electricity grid;
- The EU to ensure the enforcement of WTO rules in its trade relations with the PRC in particular to end forced technological transfers and mandatory joint ventures and to push towards effective investment protection, legal certainty, freedom of contract and the protection of intellectual property; ● The EU and its member states to push for EU and NATO membership for all states of the Western Balkan without compromising on the Copenhagen Criteria regarding the former and to grant visa-free travel into the EU to all citizens of the

  Western Balkans immediately;

- The EU to offer itself as a mediator for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in order to find a common stance on the contradictory territorial claims in the South China Sea and the Nine-dash-line as well as to secure the freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific;
- The EU and its member states to perform regularly freedom of navigation maneuvers in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait in coordination with the USA and neighbouring countries;
- European intelligence services to gain more knowledge about and to prevent infiltration and espionage strategies of foreign powers, for example in institutions of higher education which have been targeted by the Chinese Confucius Institutes;
- Universities in the EU to evaluate the admission and continued existence of Confucius Institutes within their facilities. If the aim is not cooperation but unilateral influence and the propagation of ideology, scientific freedom is threatened. Higher education institutions must be obliged to record direct or indirect funding from the PRC and to publish this information in a transparent manner;
- The EU to build special relationships with Australia, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, the UK and the USA that include comprehensive cooperation in matters of foreign affairs, defence and signals intelligence (without compromising on the right to privacy), also by extending the relations with NATO, which the EU must join once it has become a federation; The EU and its member states to strengthen bi- and multilateral relations with Taiwan through free trade agreements, student exchanges and enhanced cooperation in the fields of science, culture, defence and environment;
- The EU to cooperate with the PRC despite of all differences in order to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius in comparison to the pre-industrial era preferably by creating an International Emission Trading System; ● The EU to initiate the creation of an Alliance of Liberal Democracies as a forum for democratic states to cooperate and support each other, develop international law and promote human rights, rule of law and democracy; ● Municipalities in the EU with official relations to municipalities in the PRC to reevaluate the conditions of their partnership treaties. If political preconditions such as the recognition of the ‘One China’ policy are part of the partnership treaty, these should be reevaluated or stopped.
- The EU and its member states should seek to open its market not just for low income countries but also for lower middle income countries without any requirements and especially for regions such as, but not limited to; Africa, South East Asia, and Latin America, to prevent the PRC from influencing policy decisions, contribute to furthering economic growth and prosperity, and expand the number of supply chains;
- The EU and its member states to provide attractive loans for developing countries inspired by the loans of the World Bank and specifically focused on an improvement of the infrastructure and electricity grid to give African countries a real alternative to China’s support.

9.42 Recognition of the Treatment of the Uyghurs by the People's Republic of China as a Genocide

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, Jong VLD, Uppreisn and JD

(Former 9.60 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Noting That:

- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of

the 9th December 1948 (here under referred as "The Convention") established the notion of « Genocide" as : "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy,
in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a)

Killing

members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to

bring

about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

- All of the EU countries and the People's Republic of China have signed and ratified

the Convention.

- The article 1 of the Convention binds « the contracting parties » to prevent and punish Genocide in times of war or peace.
- The European Union, by the means of the Treaty of Maastricht (1192), inserts in all of its trade agreements with non-European countries a democratic clause supposed universal and non-negotiable.
- As of June 2022, the European Parliament has adopted a text condemning the

  systemic oppression of the Uyghur community by the People's Republic of China, acknowleging birth prevention measures which it describes as representing "a serious risk of genocide".

Considering that:

- The Uyghur people can be considered as a « group » as defined by the Convention considering that they have their own religion, language and culture and are different from de Han's, representing the majority of the Chinese population.
- The Xinjiang Papers have brought to light exactions towards the Uyghur people such as acts of sterilisation or forced abortion that can qualified, per the

definition of the Convention, as genocide. In fact, article 2, section d) and e) of the Convention are met.

- No proof has been brought forward pertaining to the existence of mass murder towards the Uyghur people but a drop of 84% of births of Uyghurs can be observed in the south of Xinjiang between 2015 and 2018), children have been forcefully separated from their families and placed in institutions controlled by the Central Regime.
- The EU has already recognized the Armenian (1987) and the Yazidi (2016) genocides through the European Parliament.
- The American government has recognized the treatment of the Uyghur people as « genocide »
- The motion concerning the recognizance of the genocide of the Uyghur people has been voted in the Tweede Kamer (Netherland). A similar motion has been adopted by the Canadian house of Commons
- Guy Verhofstadt has expressed his will towards the recognition of the treatment of the Uyghur people as a genocide.

LYMEC calls for:

- A declaration from the European Parliament explicitly recognizing the treatment of the Uyghur people as a genocide. This declaration should, at least, have a moral and political scope.
- Introducing conditions pertaining to human rights in European diplomatic and trade relations with China and doing so until the situation of the Uyghur people is not resolved.
- The EU Member States to bring charges of genocide and crimes against humanity against the PRC in front of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). ● The EU Member States to boycott the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Bejing, if the genocide is not stopped.
- The EU to impose sanctions like travel bans and the freezing of assets against Chinese officials who are responsible for the genocide in East Turkestan. ● The European Parliament to not ratify the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement until the genocide in East Turkestan is stopped and China implements sufficient measures to ensure its compliance with ILO rules.
- The EU to enact a Supply Chain Act in order to oblige companies doing business within the PRC and elsewhere to ensure that they are not directly or indirectly supporting, enabling or profiting from violations of human rights and to sanction any failure to comply with this obligation.

9.43 For Freedom and Democracy in Russia

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale, LHG, Vesna, Radical Ungdom, Nowoczesna Youth, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, Jcs, Centerstudenter, Young Liberals Greece, LDLU

(Former 9.61 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Defining:

- Fake news as any piece of information that is pushed forward into public discourse by entities who have an interest in inoculation of misleading opinions; ● Propaganda as the concept designed to include several persuasion techniques used in many different ways in order to enforce an ideology; ● Malign foreign intervention as any action perpetrated by non-EU States or actors linked with respective power structures that pose a threat to the state of internal climate inside a Member State.

Considering that:

- Russia continues its illegal occupation of Transnistria which is part of Moldova;
- Russia has committed horrendous war crimes in the two wars in Chechnya and is currently prosecuting LGBTQIA* persons in the region;
- Russia attacked Georgia in 2008, and since that time it illegally occupies the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;
- Russia attacked Ukraine in 2014, and since that time it illegally occupies Crimean peninsula which it has annexed contrary to international law;
- Russia is oppressing Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians in Crimea;
- Russia continues its war against Ukraine in the Donbass and illegally occupies the territories in cities of Donetsk and Luhansk region;
- Russia commenced a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 and illegally occupied Ukraine's south-east territories, violating numerous fundamental international law provisions, and since then has been committing grave war crimes and crimes against humanity including but not limited to targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure, deliberate killings of civilians, torture and deliberate murder of POWs, ecocide, destruction of cultural heritage;
- Russia is responsible for atrocities in Bucha, Irpin, numerous towns and settlements in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, and other regions;
- Russia is responsible for abduction, deportation and forced resettlement of Ukrainian children, establishment of filtration camps for detention and illegal imprisonment of civilians;
- Russia shut down flight MH17 murdering its passengers and continues to deny its responsibility for this war crime;

- Russia is supporting the autocratic regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria and has committed countless war crimes and crimes against humanity in doing so; ● Russia is responsible for cyber-attacks targeting institutions and organisations in Ukraine, Georgia, and the EU;
- Russia has interfered in multiple elections of EU and NATO countries, including the Brexit referendum in 2016, the US presidential elections in 2016, and the

  French presidential elections in 2017;
- Russia has committed and attempted assassinations on Europeans soil, including the murder of Litvinenko in London, the murder in Berlin Tiergarten, the attempted assassinations of Skripal in Salisbury and Zdeněk Hřib, the Mayor of Prague;
- Russia is threatening NATO's eastern flank with a massive buildup of troops as well as the deployment of nuclear capable Iskander rockets in the Oblast Kaliningrad. Furthermore, during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine Russia has actively referred to its nuclear capabilities in progressively anti-western rhetoric, drastically increased the threat to the EU and NATO member states by moving Russian state-funded PMC Wagner paramilitary group to Belarus, presenting a direct threat to Poland and Baltic countries, and along with Belarus has several times violated airspace of a range of countries, including Poland, an EU member state, with missiles and military aircrafts;
- In February 2023, Russia's President Vladimir Putin has threatened to suspend Russia's participation in the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty with the United States, imperilling the last remaining pact that regulates the world's two largest nuclear arsenals;
- Russian president Wladimir Putin has justified the Hitler-Stalin-Pact and the Soviet annexation of the Baltics during World War II;
- Russia is oppressing any opposition within its own borders with brute force as shown in the assassinations of Anna Politkovskaya and Boris Nemtszovw, as well as the recent attempt to poison Alexei Navalny with Novichok and his consequent politically motivated imprisonment conducted upon arrival to Russia in 2021;
- Russia prosecutes LGBTQIA* persons also outside of Chechnya by having implemented a pride ban;
- Russia does not respect basic human rights like freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of the press and freedom of expression, freedom of belief and religion and freedom from state interference in the aforementioned rights; ● Russian government shows little or no respect to the rights of national minorities by disproportionately reducing the teaching hours of the minorities' languages (including those recognized as regional ones) in favour of the Russian

language; persecuting the leaders of spiritual or ethno-political minorities' organisations, prompting some of those leaders to seek political asylum in other states; violating the rights of the representatives of such organisations to peaceful assemblies and professions of their faiths or religions;

- Russia lacks free and fair elections as elections are frauded and oppositional candidates systematically excluded from even participating; ● Pro-Kremlin media has been consistently disseminating misinformation regarding the spread and effects of continues to misinform about COVID-19 in Europe, deliberately spreading and Russian media spreads unfounded accusations concerning social distancing measures, lack of European solidarity, vaccines;

- Russian has been consistently providing financial and logistical support to the national and international media outlets that were suspected of spreading conspiracy theories concerning COVID-19 around Europe funded media continues to support financially as well as logistically media that spreads conspiracy theories concerning COVID-19 around Europe;
- The European External Action Service has covered thousands of misinforming Russian articles since the beginning of the pandemic, aiming at European citizens;
- Russian journalists are not granted freedom of speech and are oftentimes persecuted when pursuing non-governmental lines.

Recognising that:

- Human rights are equal and universal for the representatives of all genders, nations, ethnicities and beliefs, , they are not granted as an act of mercy but owned by every human being;
- Russia infringes the sovereignty of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine; ● Russia is threatening the European Union (EU), its Member States, and the world peace and security by launching and conducting an unprovoked and unjustified full-scale war against Ukraine in the heart of Europe, using banned weapons including cluster munitions and vacuum bombs, violating EU Member States' airspace with missiles; particularly those in the east; ● Freedom of the press is a fundamental human right.

Believing that:

- Peace in Europe is best preserved by mutual cooperation and friendship, but both is not an option in the face of an undemocratic and revanchist Russia, with its imperialistic ambitions best demonstrated by its ongoing unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine. EU-Russia partnership currently could not be regarded as a feasible option. Therefore the only possible way to preserve peace and freedom in Europe is to secure Ukraine's victory against Russian imperialism through active provision of military and humanitarian aids to Ukraine followed by

intensification of sanctions imposed on Russia; therefore the only way to preserve peace and freedom is deterrence;

- The open internet is vital to promoting innovative ideas and digital economic productivity, which develops pioneering solutions;
- The share of daily internet users in the European Union increased by

24.5 percentage points from 2013 to 2022;The internet daily usage among the member states has risen by 30% between 2009 and 2019

- Accessibility and availability of internet among the citizens of the EU is on an ascendant trend;
- A free and open internet is crucial for a whole generation of young people that has grown with it and that having it or no will define future generation and their relation with the Internet;
- Freedom of the press is a fundamental human right.

LYMEC calls for:

- The EU to develop a common strategy on Russia by allowing decisions within the Common Foreign and Security Policy to be made by a qualified majority without the possibility to opt out;

- The EU to uphold its current economic sanctions on Russia and further increase them in response to the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, meanwhile simultaneously strengthening to increase them in case of further Russian aggression and strengthen responsibility for EU-based companies and EU citizens for the violation of the sanctions imposed on against Russia;
- The EU to create an European Magnitsky Act that dictates personalised sanctions against Russian officials who are involved in human rights violations; ● The EU and its member states to reduce their energy dependency on Russia in particular by preventing the licensing and launching completion of Nord Stream 2 and an investigation of possible legal steps against Germany to stop the completion of Nord Stream 2;
- The EU, its member states and the Council of Europe to recognise the Holodomor, the famine caused by Soviet authorities that killed millions of Ukrainians from 1932 to 1933, as a genocide;
- The EU and its member states to enhance the cooperation with Russia's liberal

civil society through Erasmus+ and other educational and youth exchanges as well as visa liberalisations for ordinary citizens;

- The EU to prolong visa suspensions for Russian citizens in response to the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and the overwhelming support of the war among Russian citizens;
- The EU member states who are also member of NATO to continue to support the NATO Mission Enhanced Forward Presence in order to protect the Baltic states and Poland;
- The EU to offer membership of the European Customs Union to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and further increase other economic ties;
- The EU and its member states to support the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine within internationally recognized borders;
- The EU and its member states to support the democratic opposition in Belarus, to demand free and fair elections and to sanction the illegitimate regime of Lukashenka while maintaining sanctions on Belarus in response to Belarus's cooperation with Russia in launching and conducting full-scale war against Ukraine;
- The EU and its member states to support the democratic opposition in Russia and to offer Russia a place in the family of democratic nations if it eventually becomes a liberal democracy. However, for the time being of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, the EU should also take caution when granting asylum to the members of allegedly democratic opposition considering the history of the individual opposition members in supporting the war in Ukraine;
- The EU should be granting political asylum to any opposition member to the government considering the reasons specified above;
- The EU and its member states to develop and install common protection systems against the Russian information war;
- The EU and its member states to deepen the cooperation with Eastern European

countries in strategic military projects;

- The EU to create a designated fund to protect investigation journalists, who are

oftentimes targeted for signalling fraud, crime, misinformation;

- The EU to work on a common strategy of support for national minorities oppressed by the Russian government;
- A common EU strategy for protection of whistleblowers, including Russian whistleblowers whose lives are threatened;
- A joint effort of all European member states to fight any kind of fake news with effective measures inside and outside the internet;
- European Union and the member states to work together on this issue because

the Internet is borderless and therefore fake news and malign foreign interventions on the Internet have to be fought by the international community;

- The EU to condemn the poisoning attack on Alexei Navalny and to introduce personal sanctions against all involved persons;
- The EU bureaucracy to allocate more resources towards initiatives such as euvsdisinfo.eu and other such debunk and fact-checking sites;
- The European Parliament to define its framework of positions and sanctions applied towards and strengthen sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation in response to the ongoing aggression against Ukraine in order to discourage any further aggressions;
- The Renew Europe parliamentary group to foster the above mentioned points.

9.44 Urgency Resolution on Czech Out the Russian Influence

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Mladé ANO
Co-signers: Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Momentum TizenX (TizenX), USR Tineret (USRT), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Junge Liberale

---

(Former 9.62 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Considering that:

- As has been revealed in April 2021 Russian GRU intelligence services were involved in the explosion of an arms depots in Vrbětice, Czech Republic in 2014, in which two

Czechs were killed

- The same agents that conducted the explosion are being linked to the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal which happened in the United Kingdom in 2018
- Russia expelled 20 members of the Czech embassy in Moscow in retaliatory move and is threatening the Czech Republic with harder and further measures ● Russian aggression towards the West is escalating in recent weeks

Believing that:

- This unprecedented event demonstrates the disturbing will of Russia to undermine Europe and shows the level of danger and malign behaviour of Russia ● European Union and its member states should never respect any foreign illegal subversive activity or attack on its sovereign territory
- An attack with the involvement of GRU agents on European citizens on European soil in any of the member state must be viewed as an assault on the entire European Union
- European Union should react by resolute and firm action

LYMEC calls for:

- Pan-European condemnation of this unacceptable act of hostility
- Full solidarity with Czech Republic from the Member States and European Council
- Adopting a common, strong and specific measures towards the Russian Federation as a response to the attack
- Member states to summon their respective Russian ambassador to express the concerns over the situation and to expel Russian diplomats from the embassies in the Member States to show the unity and zero tolerance to the subversive actions on European territory
- Providing the consular services by the embassies of the Member States to the Czech citizens living in Russia and providing the haven for Czechs in case of escalation of the conflict
- Creation of an EU initiative that will actively search for the sources of Russian influence and agents in the Member States and intensification of the fight against disinformation.

9.45 Demand to Stop Political Repressions Against Young Civil Rights Activists and to Restore the Rule of Law in Ukraine

Adopted: LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021, 24 April 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: LDLU

(Former 9.63 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Sponsored by: Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Uppreisn, Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Venstres

Ungdom (VU), Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Joves Liberals d'Andorra (JLA), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya

(JNC), Young Liberals Greece (YLG), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Centerstudenter (CS), Nowoczesna Youth (NY), Vesna Youth Democratic Movement (Vesna), Young Liberals (YL),

Jong VLD (JVLD), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Norges Unge Venstre (NUV), Youth Movement for

Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), Istrian Democratic Youth (IDY), Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF),

Momentum TizenX (TizenX), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS), Liberale Hochschulgruppen (LHG),

USR Tineret (USRT), Mladé ANO, Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux

(FEL), Christine Marry Khomyk (IMS Delegate)

Noting that:

- Deep-rooted high-profile corruption is one of the most harmful threats on the way to the integration of Ukraine with the European Union and NATO. ● The reform of the Ukrainian judiciary and law enforcement system was among the key demands of the people of Ukraine, fighting for freedom, democracy, and human rights during the Revolution of Dignity.
- The police officers have been involved in a number of controversial illegal actions carried against anti-corruption activists and civil rights campaigners, especially in Ukraine's regions outside the capital.
- In early 2014, Ukrainian oligarch Arsen Avakov was appointed to the position of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine; as of April 2021, Arsen Avakov has held the respective office for 7 years and served in 4 governments, formed by parties with completely different backgrounds.
- The civil society of Ukraine accuses Arsen Avakov of the illicit police actions against Ukrainian civil society activists and the perpetuation of the top-level corruption in Ukraine.
- On 31 July 2018, a prominent anti-corruption campaigner and civil rights activist, Kateryna Handziuk (born 1985), was attacked with sulphuric acid following the campaign condemning criminal activity of the police and the responsible minister Arsen Avakov.

- On 4 November 2018, Kateryna Handziuk died as a result of the injuries received. In 2018, the Initiative "Who is Behind The Attack on Katia Handziuk?" published the so-called "Handziuk List", including 55 names of the activists attacked and assassinated owing to their anti-corruption activity (and whose cases have been never duly investigated by the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies), to draw the attention of the Ukrainian government and international community to the issue.
- On 26 June 2023 the court of first instance found the former head of

Kherson region office Vladyslav Manher and his deputy Oleksii Levin guilty in ordering and executing the murder of Handziuk. Appellation and cassation trials may be held and the cases are expected to be considered for a long time.

- One of the activists placed in the "Handziuk List" is a well-known Ukrainian civil rights campaigner and pro-liberal YouTuber Serhii Sternenko (born 1995) from the city of Odesa.
- During his anti-corruption activity, Serhii Sternenko became an assassination target at least 3 times, during one of which he killed his attacker. Subsequently, several criminal cases with lack of transparency have been opened against Serhii. As a result of one of them, the activist was falsely found guilty of stealing and rebellion and sentenced to 7 years in prison which violated the Ukrainian national law and international legal standards, including decisions of the European Court of

Human Rights. Sternenko believes that the physical attacks were ordered by the Odesa mayor as a result of the disclosure of the alleged corrupt activities.

- Trials subject to Sternenko being accused of murder are still ongoing. One of the attackers has been found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Considering that:

- After the victory of the "Servant of the People" party in the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine, the political impact on the judicial system of Ukraine has significantly increased.
- The former Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova and top-advisor to Volodymyr Zelensky's presidential campaign and member of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine from the "Servant of the People" party, now the Ambassador of Ukraine in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, was personally involved in the prosecution process against Ukrainian activists, threatening Serhii Sternenko and other civil rights campaigners with "guaranteed" notifications of suspicion. ● A group of members of the Ukrainian Parliament with strong pro-Kremlin views from the "Servant of the People" party have repeatedly demanded criminal punishment for Serhii Sternenko, ignoring principles of non-interference in the justice system and the presumption of innocence (among them were Alexander Dubinsky, Maxim Buzhansky, Daniil Hetmantsev, etc.).
- On 30 March 2021, the Parliament of Ukraine passed the resolution

"On Condemnation of the Events that Took Place on 20 March 2021 Outside the Office of the President of Ukraine", initiated by over 130 members of the "Servant of the People" and with 237 votes in favour (214 - "Servant of the People" Party) and 11 votes against (10 - "The Voice" Party, 1 - self-nominated), calling upon the law enforcement bodies to examine the participation of political parties and associated individuals in organising the protests and to ensure that accused activists are brought to justice, even though their guilt has not been proven. ● In November 2022, the Verkhovna Rada passed a law exempting volunteers from paying taxes. The law applies to goods for the army specified in Resolution No. 112 of February 24, 2016 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The Cabinet of Ministers should have updated this document after the adoption taxes

on volunteers but has not yet done so. That caused a problem for volunteers, who have to pay taxes on products, which are not included in the list (in Resolution No. 112 of February 24, 2016 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine). That action has slowed down volunteer activities which are of vital importance for Ukraine now.

Believing that:

- Every person is entitled to fully enjoy inalienable human rights and civil liberties, equal treatment before the law, and the right to a fair trial. ● Political

corruption has no justification within the European, open, transparent, and democratic society.

- A fair and transparent judicial system is an undeniable part of the liberal democratic order and a core European value.
- The controversial past background of an individual fighting for freedom shall not be subjected to prejudice.
- The fundamental principle of impartiality is one of the key pillars of European liberalism.

Taking into account all the above, LYMEC:

- Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to stop politically motivated prosecution of civil society activists in the country.
- Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure a full, impartial, fair, and independent trial of civil society activists in Ukraine in compliance with the principles of international law.
- Calls on the “Servant of the People” party to stop political interference in the justice system of Ukraine.
- Calls on the “Servant of the People” party to cease obstruction of justice reform in Ukraine.
- Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to duly investigate crimes and illegal actions committed against civil society activists in Ukraine.
- Calls on the LYMEC Bureau to support the people of Ukraine on their way to restoring the rule of law in the country;
- Calls on the LYMEC member organisations to share the raised concerns with their mother parties and other liberal stakeholders at the national level.

9.46 The Future of EU – Afghan Relations

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centre Party Youth (CUF), LYMEC Bureau, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Civil Forum (Belarus), Centerstudenter (CS), JuLiS, Young Liberals, LHG, Svensk Ungdom (SU), JOVD, Jong VLD and Venstre Youth (UV), LUF, JUNOS

(Former 9.64 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- The Taliban has taken power in Afghanistan by force, with complete disregard for the Doha Agreement and the domestic democratic process.
- The Taliban, as an organisation, does not value or believe in democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech and the press, women's rights or the will of the people in free and fair elections.
- Actors like Pakistan, mainly from the country's intelligence service ISI, played an important role in helping the Taliban take over the power in Afghanistan by financing military equipment and weaponry or by providing them military

training.

- Many Afghans who worked for western military forces on site in the last 20 years are now in high danger of being persecuted by the Taliban.
- More than 1.6 million people have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover,

according to the UNHCR

- Most of these refugees will flee to neighbouring countries, themselves often undemocratic and with no respect for the fundamental values of the EU,

where conditions are often far from optimal for long term settlement, while a select few will seek asylum within the EU and other countries around the globe.

- The caretaker government appointed by the Taliban includes individuals currently under UN sanctions.
- The Afghan economy is predicted to collapse succeeding the withdrawal of foreign aid following the Taliban's takeover. Consequently, Afghanistan stands before a considerable humanitarian crisis as its people become unable to obtain basic needs.

Recalling that:

- The Taliban historically has actively and intentionally persecuted religious and

  ethnic minorities, curtailed the rights of women and girls, committed massacres against civilians and blocked humanitarian aid from reaching certain groups and parts of the country.

- The EU has, between 2002 and 2021, provided Afghanistan with over 4 billion euros in development aid, making Afghanistan the largest beneficiary of EU development assistance out of any country in the world.

Calls for:

- The EU to stand by the promise that no recognition or general development aid shall be offered to the Taliban government.
- All Member States of the EU to refrain from recognizing the Taliban government unilaterally.
- The EU Member State countries to only engage in dialogue with the Taliban to help humanitarian organisations in creating a safe havens in Afghanistan.
- The EU Member States countries operational engagement with the Taliban

government to be limited to the areas of humanitarian aid and safe passage of those wishing to leave the country, with eventual EU diplomatic missions in

the country being similarly limited in scope as to not legitimise the Taliban government.

- The EU to establish and deepen cooperation with Afghanistan's neighbouring

  countries, to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid, counteract the likely increase in drug smuggling activities, as well as to facilitate the safe passage of those wishing to leave Afghanistan.

- The EEAS and its counterparts in Member States to strengthen the dialogue with the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan as an effort to accelerate and maintain their engagement in seeking political solutions within Afghanistan.

- The EU to make sure that the implementation of the above-mentioned point does not, wherever possible, compromise the fundamental values of the EU by giving funding to corrupt and undemocratic governments in the region.

- All EU Member States to stop any form of financial development aid going to any source directly connected to the Taliban, and to keep watch that any

other developmental aid does not turn into de facto aid to the Taliban, while ensuring the humanitarian aid needed in the region can continue.

- The EU Member States to aid the relevant NGO':s and the UN efforts regarding immediate famine relief and humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. The EU Member States to increase logistical and financial support for relevant NGO's and the UN programmes that are active in Afghanistan's neighbouring countries as the refugee situation develops.

- The EU Member States to develop a united response to asylum seekers and refugees from Afghanistan wishing to enter the EU, preferably via a swift implementation of the "New Pact on Asylum and Migration" to make sure all countries take equal responsibility regarding the flow of refugees. All EU

  Member States should accept refugees from Afghanistan as a part of that responsibility.

- EU Member States that have been active on the ground to not only evacuate its citizens but also their Afghan employees and their families and create a special visa program for those especially at risk by a Taliban government like women, children as well as human rights and democracy activists and journalists.

- The EU and its Member States to put pressure on the Taliban within the international framework to make sure ethnic and religious minorities as well as women are not persecuted by the Taliban government.

- The Council of the European Union to use the powers granted to it in the European Magnitsky Act to sanction responsible individuals within the

  Pakistani intelligence service and any other actors who contributed to the

Taliban's seizure of power as well as to sanction the Taliban whenever gross violations of human rights occur in Afghanistan while making sure that the currently active UN sanctions are not breached.

9.47 In response to the asylum seekers' influx provoked by the illegitimate government of the Republic of Belarus

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris, 24 October 2021
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Momentum TizenX, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), USR Tineret, Centerstudenter, JUNOS, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Young Liberals, Jong VLD, Attistibai Youth, Junge Liberale, Young Liberals Greece, JNC

(Former 9.65 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24th October 2021

No resolution to be archived is this proposal is approved by the Congress.

Recalling that:

- A little more than a year has passed after the fraudulent Belarusian presidential elections, which sparked a massive and momentous chain of protests all over the country;
- On the 23rd of May, 2021, the Belarusian government intercepted and coerced the pilots to land fight FR4978 in Minsk, thereby committing an act of state sponsored air piracy and endangering the civilians aboard in order to seize persons which were critical of the regime;
- The European Union, in response, rolled out even harsher and stricter sanctions

aimed at the dictatorial regime of Lukashenko;

- The last sanction package prompted a rash and brazen declaration by Lukashenko to "food Lithuania and Europe with drugs and criminals", which was soon followed by exploiting existing and creating new migratory corridors through Belarus by spinning a narrative that Belarus will work as a gate to Europe, thus enticing people from third countries to undertake the uncertain voyage from their countries of origin only to be sent to the Belarusian border,
- Lithuania, Poland and Latvia, as a result, suffered an enormous amount of pressure and an unprecedented influx of illegal border-crossings, asylum applications and border violation attempts;
- Numerous violations have been reported, namely the restriction of access to the border for NGOs, journalists, activists etc; pushback practices were employed

during the first weeks of the crisis, which began in the Summer of 2021; passing legislation that strips asylum seekers their right to appeal unfavourable asylum requests.

Underlining that:

- While the illegal crossing of a border is considered to be a criminal activity, it does not give free reign for the affected member states to curtail the rights of any specific asylum seekers or otherwise treat them in a way that would degrade and threaten their inherent human dignity;
- The crisis has a clear and deep political undertone, whereas the current regime of Belarus has fabricated and actively worked tirelessly to further spur and increase the number of possible asylum seekers to be sent near the borders of EU member states;

Considering that:

- Some of the core values of the European Union are human dignity, freedom, equality and a deeply ingrained respect for human rights;
- Physical safety, physiological and psychological needs must be fulfilled at any

cost to any who may seek shelter or asylum anywhere;

- Asylum seekers are not treated fairly and equally under the current EU asylum rules and the proportion of fulfilled asylum requests varies greatly in different Member States which results in the asylum seekers seeking asylum in the countries where there is a “higher chance“ to get one;
- Policies that undermine human rights in order to bring about arbitrary safety and “stability“, which are detrimental to asylum seekers and immigrants, even the ones who enter illegally, are to be seen as a threat to liberal democratic principles of due process.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Union to further increase diplomatic and economic pressure on the Belarusian regime and those who are responsible for organising the international migratory corridor through Belarus and seek to dismantle the networks which are used to put people under such duress;
- The European Union and its appropriate institutions to closely monitor the situation near the Eastern external border and support higher security and safety of the borders and guarantee that the human dignity and the human rights of the asylum seekers shall be protected and safeguarded. Additionally, freedom of the press and access to the border, with appropriate safety measures, should not be curtailed from those willing to provide information and news in order to inform their respective societies;
- The Member States of the European Union to act in solidarity when responding to common migration disbalances, as to avoid potential human right violation from countries that have limited resources to face the local migration crisis. The support of all Member States should come in all forms, including accepting refugees from these areas if possible;
- The governments affected by the scheme set up by Lukashenko to not give in to the pressure to mimic the tactics used by the regime; more specifically, forcing asylum seekers away from the border, not providing appropriate shelter and amenities for those who have crossed the border.

9.48 Political Situation in Venezuela

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: JNC

(Former 9.48 Political Situation in Venezuela Prior to Warsaw, Autumn 2024)

Advocating for Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela

This resolution archives and replaces 9.48

Cosignatories: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Ógra Fianna Fáil, Junge Liberale (JuLis), Unge Venstre (NUV), Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms, Silvia Fernández (IMS), Adam Volf (IMS), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Young Liberals, Svensk Ungdom, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Radikal Ungdom (RU), Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD).

On July 28, 2024, Venezuela held presidential elections under the oversight of the National Electoral Council (CNE), which declared Nicolás Maduro the winner with 51.95% of the vote against opposition candidate Edmundo González, who reportedly received 43.18%. However, the opposition and international observers, including the Carter Center, documented widespread electoral fraud, asserting that González actually won with 67.08% of the vote.
For 25 years, Chavismo has eroded democratic institutions, engaged in repression, and led Venezuela into severe economic and social crises, prompting one of Latin America's largest exoduses and widespread calls for change. In response to the alleged fraudulent results, the Venezuelan opposition launched mass mobilizations demanding transparency and democratic transition, with international support.

LYMEC notes that:

- The Chavista regime has repeatedly undermined the rule of law, most notably in 2004 when 12 pro-regime magistrates were added to the Supreme Court. Between 2015 and 2017, the Court stripped the National Assembly of its powers, replacing it with the National Constituent Assembly. This marked a breakdown of both the rule of law and Venezuelan democracy.
- Venezuela has been under Chavista rule since 1999, during which time widespread economic and political repression has led to hyperinflation, significant emigration and corruption, especially in the country's armed forces and in the state-owned oil company, PDVSA.
- Despite the initial international hope for a change of government after 25 years, the Venezuelan opposition and international observers denounced electoral fraud by the Chavista regime, claiming that Gonzalez actually obtained 67.08% of the votes.
- In response to these fraudulent results, the Venezuelan opposition, supported by international organizations, initiated continuous popular mobilizations in favor of transparent electoral results.

LYMEC believes:

- The Chavista regime's history of expropriating private property, repressing political opponents, and eroding judicial independence is a threat to democracy and human rights.

- The Venezuelan people deserve transparent elections and a peaceful democratic transition.
- The international community must play a critical role in supporting Venezuela's democratic opposition and ensuring fair electoral processes.
- Addressing Venezuela's severe economic and security crises, including the influence of drug trafficking, is vital for achieving sustainable democratic change.

LYMEC calls for:

- Support to the Venezuelan opposition's mobilizations for democracy, including the efforts of the 8 million Venezuelans who have had to flee their country.
- Immediate cessation of repression of peaceful protests, arbitrary arrests of opposition leaders and persecution of political activists.
- A continuous monitoring by international bodies, such as the UN Human Rights Council, to ensure accountability for electoral fraud and human rights violations.
- That the EU and the international community recognize Edmundo Gonzalez as the legitimate elected president and advocate for his peaceful inauguration on January 10, 2025.
- Reinstatement of EU sanctions on the Chavista regime until repression is ended, political prisoners are released and accurate election results are published.

9.49 Europe stands with Ukraine: Stop the Russian war

Adopted: LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress 2022, Prague, 21 May 2022
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: LYMEC Bureau, European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Junos, Jong VLD, FEL, Jeunes MR, Svensk Ungdom, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Youth MRF, USR Tineret, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Jonge Demokraten (JD), Young Liberals UK, Centerstudenter, CUF, Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Momentum TizenX, Individual Members' Section

---

(Former 9.69 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic

Noting that:

- Borders of European States have to be stable and untouchable by the use of force;
- The war in Ukraine has been going on long before 24th February 2022. For nine years, Ukraine has had to endure violent attacks carried out by Putin and Russia. Vladimir Putin and Russia have brought back war to Europe; ●

  Every state has a right to determine its own social, economic, cultural and political vectors of development;
- Since the nineties, Russia has been invading the sovereign territories of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine and continues to do so to the present day; ● Urgent measures are needed to stop these acts of aggression and prevent further similar actions in the future;
- The EU respects the right of European countries to self-determination;
- Ukraine is an integral part of European society, culture, security and development.

Believing that:

- Humans must live in a world free from fear and one which is governed by the rule of law;
- Human rights, people's safety, international law and free, democratic choice are core European values;
- No state should intervene in the domestic affairs of other independent states; ● The occupation of the territories belonging to Ukraine, including Crimea and Donbas, as well as Moldova's Transnistria, and Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia are illegal and illegitimate;
- Through the use of force, Russia is trying to promote a worldview based on spheres of influence, reminiscent from the Cold War, that has no place in the free and globalised world of the 21st century;
- The Russian Federation uses their state channels and cultural diplomacy institutions as a means of spreading war propaganda internally and to consciously spread favourable to the Kremlin narratives, disinformation and fake news among foreign audiences;
- The EU should do everything in its power to avoid further violent aggression instigated by Russia;

- A sovereign, independent and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is key to European security;
- Every European state that matches the Copenhagen criteria should have a chance to become a member of the European Union;
- Non-members of the European Union should not have an opportunity to deprive the right of other states to join the EU;
- A positive example of one country within the Associated Trio will cause reforms in other members of this initiative;
- The sanctions placed on Russia by Western countries and their allies could be effective and set out a long-term perspective in the hopes of moving towards an end to the war in Ukraine, subject to continuous re-evaluation so as to maximise their effectiveness. What is more, sanctions cannot be revoked until Russia pays reparations to Ukraine.

Recalling that:

- Ukraine does not have enough military supplies to protect themselves from Russia on their own;
- The EU stands for human rights, equality, self-determination, peace and democracy, as established by the Lisbon Treaty;
- The European Union is a group of states who share common values, principles, ideas and want to cooperate with each other in the most productive way; ● Russia corrupts Western politicians to push its interests and project them into the Western political space;
- The Kremlin administer mercenaries from the Wagner group to provoke new and restart old weaponed conflicts in the problematic areas;
- Russia’s war against Ukraine is causing a global food crisis, a field of instability and inflation in the whole region;
- Protecting Ukraine is to protect a border of the western democracy standing for the same values as the EU; it’s a conflict between freedom and authoritarianism;
- The EU had a few waves of block enlargement; the doors for the future EU enlargement should be open.

Alarming that:

- More than 22,000 civilians have been killed by the Russian army in the city of Mariupol, while more than 100,000 residents of Mariupol suffer from water shortages and are starving. Furthermore, Mariupol became an epicentre of the Russian army's crimes against humanity.
- The Russian army has used prohibited types of weapons on the territory of Ukraine at least 24 times, including phosphorus ammunition.
- The prosecutor's office is investigating 175 cases of sexual violence against Ukrainians by the Russian military. Among the injured are 40 men, 13 children aged from 4 to 17. At least 3000 Ukrainian women reported to the Police that they were raped by Russian soldiers.

- As of January 18, 2023, 160,000 infrastructure objects and residential buildings have been damaged due to constant attacks by Russian troops, including: 702 objects of critical infrastructure; 652 attacks on educational institutions, resulting in the deaths of 12 civilians, complete destruction of 159 schools, and partial damage of 493 and 707 brutal attacks on the healthcare system of Ukraine. The Russian army has destroyed 3500 civilian infrastructure facilities, including 72 educational institutions, 230 objects of transport infrastructure, 165 objects of life support, 21 health care facilities, 10 social institutions, more than 2700 residential buildings, and over 400 other objects. ● Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Russia has damaged or destroyed more than 623 cultural objects in Ukraine including monuments, historical buildings, churches and museums that represent Ukraine's rich cultural heritage, which dates back thousands of years.
- The Russian army refuses to open humanitarian corridors and fire on vehicles with civilians inside trying to leave the war zone.
- Citizens of Ukraine living in the territories liberated from the Russian occupiers reported numerous cases of looting by the Russian army. ● The Russian army shelled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant - the largest nuclear power plant in Europe; earlier they have used the Chernobyl nuclear power plant area to prepare an attack on Kyiv and Kyiv region. Despite diplomatic efforts being taken by Ukraine and its partners, Russia has refused to withdraw its troops from ZNPP and continues to launch missile attacks near the NPP. Russia is planning a terrorist attack at the ZNPP and has mined the nuclear facility. In case of a nuclear incident, 300,000 people from four oblasts of Ukraine have to be evacuated.

  The scale and risk of a nuclear disaster is extremely high.
- On June 6, 2023, Russian troops blew up the Kakhovka HPP, located in the temporarily occupied part of Kherson region, causing an ecological disaster and humanitarian crisis. More than 80 cities and villages and at least 42 000 people remained at risk of flooding. Many unique historical sites went underwater. ● At least 27,000 Ukrainian civilians are being held hostage by Russians, more than a few hundreds of them are confirmed to be women.
- According to the report of the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, more than 1,200,000 Ukrainian citizens have been forcibly relocated to Russia, including 240,000 children.
- The war crimes of Russia in Kyiv region, in particular in Bucha, Irpin, Hostomel, and

  Borodianka, as well as in the cities of Mariupol, Kherson, Nova Kakhovka, Kharkiv, Izium, Kremenchuk, Vinnytsia, Chernihiv, Mykolayiv, Sumy, Okhtyrka, Trostianets, Olenivka, and other Ukrainian cities are the bloodiest and the most barbaric in the European post-WWII history.

LYMEC calls for:

- All European countries not to acknowledge the joining of Pompeo's declaration, and not to recognize the occupation of the territories belonging to Ukraine, including Crimea and Donbas as well as Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as it violates all the standards of international law;
- All European countries to hold Russia responsible for what is happening within these territories and the territory of Ukraine where Russia-caused hostilities take place;
- All European countries to share information about the crimes against humanity committed by Russia;

- The EU to promote independent Russian speaking media within and outside the EU and require media to transparently disclose their financial resources to fight disinformation and share information about the crimes against humanity committed by Russia
- All European countries to reinforce and strengthen existing sanctions and to develop new ones if needed;
- All European countries to expel remaining Russian diplomats who cooperate with Russia's security services;
- The EU and its member states not to let energy projects be launched and used as a geopolitical weapon of the Kremlin;
- The EU to enhance financial aid for suffering territories, provide civil, military and medical humanitarian aid for citizens on the ground as well as medical assistance to soldiers fighting on the frontlines;
- All European countries to pay attention to and call out human rights violations being carried out by Russia, enforcing necessary sanctions and punishments where possible;
- All European countries to immediately phase out imports of Russian oil, gas and oil-based products and implement a prompt EU gas exchange mechanism to avoid being subject to manipulation and contribute to the financing of the Russian regime in its war against Ukraine; All trade routes to and from Russia and countries officially supporting Russia should be blocked.
- The EU to invest in new energy resources and to help the countries who carry the heaviest economic burden due to the sharp spike in energy and raw material costs.
- The EU to deepen its cooperation with Ukraine in all spheres;
- The EU not to make the integration of Ukraine dependent on the integration of Western Balkan countries.
- Its Member Organizations and ALDE Member Parties to pressure their governments into taking real and radical actions against Russia and its supporters.
- For the EU and NATO to recognise Ukraine and NATO to improve cooperation with the Ukrainian military and determine the most effective strategies to

  defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and civil society;
- For the UK and all the EU countries to provide a visa-less regime to all Ukrainians fleeing the war.
- The EU and NATO to provide all possible and necessary ammunition and weapons to protect Ukraine from the Russian army (including air defence, sea defence, land defence, and weapons to counter-attack).
- Russia to take full blame for their human rights violations and war inflicted on innocent Ukrainian citizens. As a result, Vladimir Putin and all persons responsible for the war, should face war crimes trials .
- Russian oligarchs supporting the Putin regime to be prevented from accessing any European benefits (in finance, travel, health, education, etc.) and all their bank accounts and assets in European countries should be frozen.
- The EU Member States to continue to protest and speak out about the atrocities in Ukraine and the damage Putin and Russia are causing.

- The EU to assert that a nuclear attack on Ukraine or an explosion on any nuclear plant on the Ukrainian territory controlled by Russian troops, will be considered equal to a nuclear attack on all Member States of the EU. This proclamation is the only effective way to deter Russia from using its nuclear capabilities.
- EU and NATO member states that have imposed an airspace ban on Russian and Belarusian air carriers and direct flights to Russia and Belarus, to expand this ban to third-country airlines operating flights through Russian/Belarusian airspace, and any airline that operates flights to Russia or Belarus.

LYMEC:

- Will regularly cooperate with its Ukrainian Member Organisations and Ukrainian Youth Organizations that are close to LYMEC and that are respecting the liberal democratic values shared by the European Liberal Youth;
- Will always build bridges between its Ukrainian Member Organizations and the rest of the Member Organisations to facilitate the exchange and cooperation;
- Will develop a recovery plan with its Ukrainian Member Organisations, in order to help them rebuild the country after the war;
- Will push for policy and actions helping the situation in Ukraine at the ALDE Party and Renew Europe Group, so that they provide maximum assistance on these matters.

9.50 Recognition of the Genocide of the Ukrainian People by the Russian Federation

Adopted: LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress 2022, Prague, 21 May 2022
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: European Youth of Ukraine
Co-signers: Centre Party Youth (Sweden), JNC (Catalonia), Joves Liberals d'Andorra (Andorra), Jonge Democraten (the Netherlands), JOVD (the Netherlands), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (Ukraine), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania), LHG (Germany), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ireland), TizenX (Hungary), Unge Venstre (Norway), Uppreisn (Iceland), USR Tineret (Romania), Venstres

---

(Former 9.70 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Ungdom (Denmark)

Keywords: genocide; Ukraine; the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation; atrocities; massacre; UN Genocide Convention (1948); intent to destroy; forcibly transfer children and civilians; war crimes; prosecution.

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic The Congress may decide:

Noting that:

- The provisions of the United Nations Genocide Convention of December 1948, the rules of customary international law, and the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court are recognized by the democratic community.
- Numerous public statements have been made by the high-ranking officials of the Russian Federation regarding the non-recognition of the right of the Ukrainian people to self-identification, self-determination, and, as a consequence, existence.
- According to official data from the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, as of June 30April 21, 20232, 9,1772,345 civilians were killed, including 535177 children, 15,9932,919 wounded, including 1,905285 children (but the actual figures are currently unknown due to active hostilities).
- The Parliament of Ukraine has approved Resolution No 2188-IX of April 14, 2022, on the Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine “On the Genocide of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.”
- The US president Joe Biden called the invasion a genocide, as did former

US President Donald Trump, Colombian President Iván Duque, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, Polish President Andrzej Duda, Latvian Prime Minister Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament, the Foreign Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic, the Polish Sejm, as well as the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC).

- The parliaments of Latvia and Estonia adopted a statement on Russian aggression and war crimes in Ukraine, recognising that Russia is currently committing genocide against the Ukrainian people.

- All the Western allies of Ukraine, the EU Council, NATO, and the UN SecretaryGeneral, have strongly condemned the massacre in Bucha and other Ukrainian cities.

Considering that:

- The crime of genocide, as defined by the United Nations Genocide Convention of December 1948, includes acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group". Genocide is seen as the gravest and most serious of all crimes against humanity.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called the massacre a "fake attack" by the collective West against Russia, claiming it had been staged and trying to hide the cruelty of Russian troops. 2.1. "Modern Ukraine was completely established by Russia," Putin declares.
- The stated purpose of the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is the "denazification" of Ukraine, which covers up the destruction of the Ukrainian people and their identity, as well as deprivation of their right to independent development.
- Russian troops committed one of "the most terrible war crimes" since World War II by the grisly civilian massacre in Ukrainian areas, tying the hands of people, burning their flesh, and shooting in the back of the head.
- Russian troops forcibly relocated Ukrainian children to the territory of the Russian Federation to distort their self-identity and deported thousands of civilians to the territory of the Russian Federation.
- According to Article 2(e) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the "forcibly transferring children of the group to another group" to destroy a group as such is genocide.
- The unanimous UN General Assembly Resolution 96 (I) in defining the features of a genocide comparing it to homicide states as follows: "genocide is a denial of the right of a human group to exist, while homicide is a denial of the human right to life." Thus, genocide may take place without physical extermination, the intent to

destroy mental connections of people of the same nationality, to ruin ties constitutes a dolus specialise in recognizing a crime as genocide.

- The updated Russian constitution enshrines the primacy of domestic law over international law, i.e. the Russian Federation allowed itself not to comply with the decisions of the international courts. 8.1. Russia has ceased to respect the decisions of the UN International Court of Justice failing to comply with the Order dated March 16, 2022 (p.81).

Recognising and condemning that:

- Russia's centuries-old policy has been the "de-Ukrainization," the absorption of the Ukrainian nation by distorting and appropriating its history, achievements in science, culture, and art.
- The Russian military committed mass atrocities in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine (in particular, in the cities of Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, urban-type settlements Borodyanka, Gostomel, as well as recently liberated from the Russian occupation areas in Kherson, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and Sumy region), manifested in numerous cases of murder, abduction, freedom of people, their torture, rape, mockery of the bodies of the killed and tortured.
- The Russian military has systematically carried out premeditated killings of civilians and created inhumane living conditions, blocked settlements, prevented the transfer of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians, and seized and deliberately destroyed infrastructure facilities that provide basic human needs. ● Russian troops have committed

numerous cases of physical, sexual, and psychological violence against the population of Ukraine, including women, children, infants, and the elderly, regardless of their gender.
● The actions of the Russian Federation are aimed at undermining economic potential and security, destruction of economic infrastructure (damage to granaries, obstruction of sowing campaign, blockade of sea trade routes, destruction of electricity and gas infrastructure), which prevents the full existence of the Ukrainian people.

- Russia is preparing a legal mechanism for adopting children with a nationality, other than Russian, granting parents a right to change their first and last name, as well as the date of birth of a child (the same mechanism already exists for the occupied Crimea).
- The number of forcibly displaced children from Ukraine to Russia is at least 19, 5002389 persons as of March 19, however, the Ombudsman of Ukraine says the number is approximately 200exceeds 100,000 children, some of whom are not orphans. Committing such war crimes shall not be left unpunished: in March 2023, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Putin and Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population and that of unlawful transfer of population from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

LYMEC calls for:

- Recognising the actions committed by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and its political and military leadership during the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, as genocide of the Ukrainian people.
- Appeal to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, foreign governments, and parliaments to recognize the Russian genocide of the Ukrainian people, crimes against humanity, and war crimes against Ukraine.

- Appeal to all countries recognising the genocide to assist the International Court of Justice in collecting evidence and ensuring that the individuals responsible are prosecuted for the genocide to the full extent provided by international law.

9.51 In solidarity with the Iranian women for freedom

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.71 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by Julius Graack (JuLis), Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom), Lova Bodin (Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund).

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

- Deeply disturbed by and condemning the violent death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of the Iranian Guidance Control, following her detention because of a supposedly 'morally indecent attire';
- Inspired by and supporting the courageous wave of protests for women's rights, freedom, and democracy that has sparked in many regions of Iran following those events. The movement for Women, Life and Freedom is currently fighting for gender equality and against not only the tyranny of oppressive laws but also institutionalised violence against women;
- Alarmed by and condemning the Iranian security authorities using deadly force, illegal surveillance and harsh enforcement of censorship against those peaceful protestors. As well as by the effort to conceal their hideous actions by massively restricting access to information by shutting down the internet, blocking communication, arresting journalists, and the general rise in numbers of executions and torture in Iran in the last years, including death penalties for minors.
- Opposing the responsible patriarchal and Islamist mullahs' regime in Iran that has exercised power over women for decades and has installed a massively

oppressive system for the whole of Iranian society. A regime that is by all metrics lacking any respect for even the most basic of human rights;

- Committed to a feminist foreign policy that opposes every dimension of the oppression of women, that always examines foreign policy decisions with regard to their effects on women, and that fights for a world where women are free and safe.

Considering that:

- The EU commission, the foreign affairs council and the member states of the EU have neglected to properly take action in support of the people of Iran.
- Protestors in Iran continue to be arrested, hurt and killed for exercising their right to freedom of expression.
- With the communication abilities of the Iranian people severely limited, the whole truth of what the people are suffering may never be known to the outside world. ● The current regime in Iran provides support to various undemocratic movements, regimes, and their criminal activities, including the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine by supplying drones and other equipment.
- Over 14.000 protesters are currently incarcerated by the Iranian Authorities, many of them potentially facing death penalty.

Recalling that:

- Human rights violations are not only a crime against their own citizens, but also a violation of international treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- The ICCPR was adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966. The ICCPR aims to ensure the protection of civil and political rights including freedom from discrimination, the right to equality between men and women, the right to life, the right to liberty and security of person, freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, right of peaceful assembly, etc.
- In 1975, the Islamic Republic of Iran ratified ICCPR and undertook to abide by its provisions.
- The current Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which gained power during the 1979 revolution has been systematically carrying out repression and human rights violations against its citizens for more than 40 years.

Believing that:

- The Iranian people show immense bravery in protesting openly against a regime that continues to use deadly force against them.
- The EU and its member states should do everything in their power to support and aid the Iranian people in their fight for freedom.
- The freedom of self-expression and freedom of association are fundamental human rights and essential parts of a functioning democracy. ● We have an obligation to support human rights globally and speak out against those who oppress, torture and kill human right's defenders.
- Every person on earth has a right to dress themselves however they see fit. ● Governments should stay out of the closets of women - no matter if they choose to wear or not wear certain clothing.

LYMEC calls for:

- The EU and its member states use all engagements with the Iranian authorities to demand the mullahs' regime to immediately:
- Stop the violence against and brutal repression of the Iranian people, and particularly Iranian women.
- Release all of the peaceful protestors who have been arrested. ● Independently investigate the death of Mahsa Amini and prosecute the perpetrators.
- Terminate the mandatory covering for women demanded by the regime; ● Dissolve the Guidance Control.
- End internet censorship and instead enable free and universal access to independent information channels for the entire population.
- Refrain from executing the death penalty and torture, as well as other human rights violations.
- Let the Iranian people decide freely about the future of their country in a democratic way, without them and their "Guardian Council" exerting undue influence on their eligibility and right to vote.
- All EU member states officially declare support for the women's rights movement that is evolving in Iran and firmly condemn the human rights violations of the mullahs' regime.

- All EU member states to formally summon the Iranian ambassadors. ● The EU commission to facilitate European companies who wish to supply the Iranian people with internet and communication services, to support their free access of information, e.g. by also providing VPN infrastructure.
- All EU member states to give Iranian women and freedom fighters the opportunity to apply for humanitarian visas, and to take responsibility for accepting political refugees fleeing due to fear of persecution by the Iranian regime. ● All EU member states to prepare their national refugee reception office and infrastructure for the potential arrival of political refugees fleeing the violence of the Iranian regime.
- The European Union to join and support the fight for the freedom and safety for women around the world by establishing the European Mission for Women's Rights with the general purpose of: All those responsible for the state crimes against the Iranian people and protestors, such as officers of the religious police, members of

the Revolutionary Guard, government officials, individuals affiliated with the regime, and their facilitators, to be decisively sanctioned according to the EU's global sanctions regime for crimes against human rights.

- The European Union to develop further sanctions targeting specifically the assets of the Iranian regime while always keeping the door open for the economic and technological sanctions targeting Iran to be eased or even lifted the moment the current government is held liable for their crimes and supplanted by a democratic one.
- The EU and its member states to push for the UN to launch an investigation of the events, led by the UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

9.52 Urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: JD, European Youth of Ukraine
Co-signers: Nowoczesna Youth, Momentum TizenX, Mladé ANO

(Former 9.72 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Considering that:

- the unprecedented missile hit on Polish soil, where two Polish citizens lost their lives on the evening of 15 November 2022, is a cause for grave concern for all NATO and

  EU member states as well as their geopolitical partners;

- the incident happened during a week-long increased missile assault by the Russian Federation on Ukrainian territory as another manifestation of the war of aggression led by the Russian Federation, counting hundreds of missiles launched all over

  Ukraine on that very day;

- Ukraine has been using anti-ballistic missiles to take down Russian cruise missiles and prevent shellings of critical infrastructure and possible casualties among the civilian population;
- there is no indication that the missile strike was intentionally targeting Polish soil;
- any action in the Russian war on Ukraine that intentionally or unintentionally endangers the safety of a NATO member state has the potential to cause highly severe escalation that could even result in an all-out nuclear war, but that does not mean that inaction is a viable option.

Believing that:

- it is important not to cause panic by too hastily running with non-final findings, seeing as spreading rushed conclusions within NATO, the EU, and their geopolitical allies is in the interest of the Kremlin, and that in situations as such it is crucial to emphasise European cooperation and prioritise execution of unbiased investigation;
- the blame for the incident lies solely with the Russian Federation, responsible for the ongoing aggression between Ukraine and Russia and the circumstances leading to the accident;
- the incident clearly shows that the continued Russian war of aggression on Ukraine poses a serious and material threat to the territorial integrity of NATO and EU member states as well as to the safety of their citizens;
- the incident shows that ending this war as soon as possible is in the interest not just of the states directly involved in the war but also in that of the whole world;
- none of this means Ukraine should give up on any part of its sovereign territory to Russia so that peace will be achieved.

LYMEC calls for:

- European Union and NATO member states, as well as other European states, to provide Ukraine with more and better air defence systems, anti-ballistic equipment, long-range precision missiles, and other military equipment that can aid with nullifying the Russian missile threat, and continuing with existing military aid; ● the European Union and its member states and NATO member states, as well as other European states, to further aid Poland and other countries that due to their geographical proximity to the war are disproportionately affected, in ways other than military aid, seeing as that should primarily be focused on Ukraine; ● European Union and its member states and NATO member states, as well as their geopolitical partners, to enhance their mutual communication channels in order to formulate joint positions in a timely manner;
- The media to place the full responsibility for wide-spread consequences of Russian aggression and the resulting military actions of parties engaged in the conflict on Russian Federation

53. **Nuclear Terrorism Prevention in Europe** (Former 9.73 Prior to Riga, November 2023)
Submitted by: European Youth of Ukraine

Co-signed by: LHG (Germany), Momentum TizenX (Hungary), Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ireland),

Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Unge Venstre (Norway), JOVD (the Netherlands), USR Tineret

(Romania), Centerstudenter (Sweden), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), JUNOS (Austria), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Young Liberals (United Kingdom), Liberalus Jaunimas (Lithuania), JD

(the Netherlands), Mlade ANO (the Czech Republic), Joves Liberals d'Andorra (Andorra),

Uppreisn (Iceland), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), CUF (Sweden), Jonk Demokraten (Luxembourg), LUF (Sweden), LDLU (Ukraine), Attistiabi Youth (Latvia)

Keywords: nuclear security; nuclear terrorism; Russian war in Ukraine; Russia's invasion of Ukraine; International Atomic Energy Agency; nuclear facility; control seizure; security zone; violation of international law; energy crisis.

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

Bearing in mind that:

- After years of protests against nuclear power station projects at national and international levels, and fuelled by the accident at Three Mile Island (U.S.) in 1979 and the Chernobyl catastrophe in 1986, there is a pending mass decision in Europe to shut down nuclear power plants (hereinafter — NPPs) and switch to renewables in the following years.
- Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine was met with great moral condemnation and substantial sanctions by civilised countries. It has led to a decrease in gas and oil imports from the Russian Federation (hereinafter — Russia) to Europe making the latter save electricity and find alternative ways to cushion a growing energy crisis caused by Russia.
- System costs for nuclear power are much lower than for intermittent renewables. ● Nuclear has been the Atlas of carbon-free energy production, keeping the world hefted on its shoulders, year after year, with thousands of megawatt-hours of electricity that required burning no fossil fuels. Even today, nuclear plants generate more zero-carbon power worldwide than wind and solar do combined.

- The European "green taxonomy," a lengthy regulation that specifies what forms of energy investment qualify as "green" according to the European Union, is expected to list nuclear as climate-friendly.
- Possible radiation release, caused by Russia's damaging of Zaporizhzhia NPP – the largest in Europe and among the ten biggest facilities in the world, could lead to a long-term disaster in various parts of the world, depending on weather conditions during the leakage.

Believing that:

- The EU is to a large extent dependent on Russian gas, paying 46, 592 million euros daily since Russia started a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Thus, funding the war from the continued burning of fossil fuels imported from Russia.
- It is the moral duty of the EU Member States to find a quicker alternative to Russian fossil fuels, by ending financing the Russian terrorist regime.
- Renewable power and energy savings promote peace by building energy security and resiliency for all European citizens, including Ukraine.
- The period of transition to renewable energy sources and more efficient energy systems shall be an overriding priority for the European continent. Nonetheless, it may take several years to realise this transition.
- During this period, nuclear energy remains an essential provider of energy for Europe, available for now as an alternative to Russian gas. Therefore, the EU Member States shall reconsider their shutting down of NPPs during this challenging energy crisis period.
- Nuclear security is crucial, and the respective policy shall be further developed to tackle the possible risks of nuclear explosions at NPPs.
- Creating nuclear security zones around NPPs is of paramount importance and shall be overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter — IAEA) to ensure minimising risks for terrorist attacks, control seizures, and contingencies. **Recognizing and condemning that:**
- Following Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, Russia has been carrying out acts of nuclear terrorism in Chornobyl and Zaporizhzhia NPPs.
- The Russian troops took control of the Chornobyl nuclear site in Ukraine in late February and used its territory to move military vehicles and stir up radiation dust. Consequently, the radiation levels went up and the monitoring equipment was disabled.
- The Russian army seized the area around the biggest nuclear facility in Europe, with six functioning reactors, Zaporizhzhia NPP, near the illegally occupied city of Enerhodar, on 4 March.
- On 1 September 2022, one of the reactor units experienced an automatic shutdown. It resumed operating on 2 September.
- On 3 September 2022, the operating power of the two operational reactor units was reduced. Subsequently, one of the reactor units was shut down, and the other reactor unit remained in operation.
- The Russian troops have been actively using the NPP site as a shield to fre at the Ukrainian Armed Forces positions. They have constantly been shelling the cities of Enerhodar, Nikopol, and Marhanets (with two latter ones situated across the Dnipro River from the power plant).

- Russian military vehicles have been parked in the turbine halls, causing damage to the plant, including to areas used to store fresh nuclear fuel and

radioactive waste. ● The Russian facilities arrested the Director General of Zaporizhzhia NPP. He was taken out of the car, and with his eyes blindfolded driven in an unknown direction, where he was held as a hostage for several days.

- The Russian troops struck the Pivdennoukrainsk nuclear power plant in Mykolaiv, southern Ukraine on Monday, 19 September 2022.
- Russia has illegally occupied and militarised nuclear power plants in Ukraine in Chornobyl and in Zaporizhzhia.
- Although urged by the IAEA, the Russian occupational forces have failed to establish a security zone around Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and ensure the safety of NPP staff who were harassed by the Russian troopers. The IAEA mission to the station in September 2022 discovered the fact that Russian military equipment and soldiers were stationed there and hence, contrary to international law, abused civil infrastructure for military means. Nevertheless, they did not provide details about these military vehicles. The IAEA recommended stopping the shelling at the site of the Zaporizhzhya NPP and paying attention to the challenging work conditions of the Ukrainian staff and the shortage of personnel. Notwithstanding, after this working visit, the specified actions were not taken and the shelling has not stopped.

LYMEC calls for:

- Recognising the actions committed by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and its political and military leadership during the full-scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine on the sites of the nuclear power plants of Ukraine, as acts of nuclear terrorism and war crimes.
- Emphasising that such actions by Russia are in breach of international law and incompatible with the responsibilities of a nuclear power holding a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. 424
- Establishing security zones around nuclear power plants in Ukraine to minimise the risk of nuclear catastrophes, further terrorist attacks, and contingencies.
- Immediate cease of all illegal actions by Russia at the Zaporizhzhya NPP and any other nuclear facility in Ukraine, in order for the competent Ukrainian authorities to regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, to ensure their safe and secure operation.
- Appeal to IAEA and the UNSC to assist in monitoring the situation around nuclear facilities in Ukraine and Europe to prevent any terrorist acts in the future, with the further designation of respective security policies.
- Supporting the establishment of nuclear security zones as such around the nuclear facilities of the EU Member States.

9.54 Recognizing the Russian Federation as a Terrorist State

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Mladé ANO, European Youth of Ukraine, Ógra Fianna Fáil, LUF, Young Liberals, LYMEC Individual Members, Centerstudenter, JOVD, Attistibai Youth, Nowoczesna Youth, USR Tineret, Joves Liberals d'Andorra

(Former 9.74 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

Considering that:

- The Russian war against Ukraine Ukrainian-Russian war has been going on since April 2014. On the 24th of February, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin started the full-scale invasion in Ukraine as Russian forces launched an assault on Ukraine after months of a military build-up along its border; ● Mass war crimes were and still are being committed by the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine with the aim of entirely or partially destroying the Ukrainian nation, breaking the spirit of its citizens, indiscriminately killing entire families, including children, abducting and deporting, torturing, raping, mutilating the bodies of the murdered and tortured civilians. After the liberation of the territories that the Russian Federation formerly occupied these inhuman and cynical facts are increasingly surfacing and there are grounds to believe that more evidence of war crimes in different areas may be recorded and uncovered in the future;
- The systematic intentional killing of civilians by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, attacks on specially protected objects (hospitals, maternity homes, schools, kindergartens), as well as the deliberate creation of intolerable living conditions, such as the blockade of settlements, the obstruction of the provision of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians, infrastructure facilities necessary to satisfy basic human needs, seizure and intentional destruction; ● Cases of physical and psychological violence against Ukrainian residents, representatives of the Ukrainian government, public organisations, other local activists, journalists, and persons with authority in Ukrainian society are systematically used by the Russian army;
- The Russian military exposed the civilian population to unnecessary and disproportionate harm by using cluster munitions, which are prohibited in most democratic countries, and by firing other explosive weapons with wide-area effects such as bombs, missiles, heavy artillery multiple launch rockets; ● The Russian Federation purposefully seeks to destroy the Ukrainian state by violating its security and destroying the economic potential of the country (e.g., damaging grain warehouses, blocking sea trade and shipping routes, destroying electricity and gas infrastructure, etc.);
- The main goal of the war started by the Russian Federation is the destruction of the Ukrainian nation, its identity, and the denial of its right to independent development and existence;
- These acts undermine the principles of international law, liberal democracy, and human rights. There have been numerous reports of Russian soldiers committing war crimes and crimes against humanity;

Noting that:

- On 30 September 2022, the president of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin announced the annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions based on fake referendums that had no legal or physical basis;
- Even though there is no clear evidence that Russia contributed to the damage caused by denotations in Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines. Regarding Swedish authorities, sabotage is suspected and it is conceivable that Russia organised explosions at the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines as part of an operation to cripple the European economy, to unfreeze and launch the Nord Stream 2, and to create conditions to ensure it cannot be blocked further, as the alternative route is inoperable;
- The partial shutdown and sabotage of Europe's energy system is also a reason to declare Russia a state sponsor of terrorism and a terrorist state, and to expel

  it from the United Nations (UN) Security Council, where Russia has vetoed any attempt to interfere in its terrorism and war;

Whereas:

- Terrorism is defined as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims; ● In the acts, UN terrorism is described as “criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act.”;
- In Ukraine, Russia has chosen a similar, cruel, immoral, and illegal tactic, using imprecise and internationally banned weapons and ammunition, targeting disproportionate brutality against civilians and public places;
- Many European states have laws against ‘Trading with the Enemy’ in times of war, that totally prohibit and criminalise economic dealings with agents in enemy states;

Believing that:

- If in any part of the world any organisation behaved in such a brutal way as the Russian army killing Ukrainians, it would be recognized as terrorism; ● What is

punished at the level of specific criminals and criminal organisations must not go unpunished in the story of a state that has become a terrorist; ● All forms of trade with Russia provide it with the economic means to continue its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine;

Recalling that:

- Despite the war in Ukraine, there is overwhelming evidence that contemporary Russia is a terrorist state: from Russian apartment bombings in 1999, a program ran by the Russian government agencies to facilitate Russian radicals to leave Russia and go to Turkey and then on to Syria to join jihadist groups from 2012 to 2014, the poisoning of Skripals in 2018, to 7 Russians preparing a car bombing against a Ukrainian military intelligence office in 2019 and etc;
- Russia has been declared a terrorist state by Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia a number of countries and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as a result of starting the war in Ukraine;

Underlining that:

- The Russian Federation, whose military forces deliberately and systematically target civilian objects, is a state sponsoring and perpetrating terrorism; **Calls upon:**
- Establishing an international tribunal to investigate and evaluate the crime of Russian aggression against Ukraine's sovereignty and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- European countries use the principles of universal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute crimes against humanity, genocide, or war crimes committed outside their territory;
- UN General Assembly to expel Russian Federation from the UN Security Council, in accordance with the precedent set by UNGA Resolution 2758, by awarding the Soviet Union's seat on the UNSC (per the UN Charter) to Ukraine; ● The European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the parliaments, and governments of Europe countries to recognize the Russian Federation as a terrorist state that carries out terrorist attacks against the Ukrainian people and to seek responsibility for these crimes;
- The European Parliament to enact sanctions against The Russian Federation that would impede The Russian Federation's ability to perpetrate terrorist actions in Ukraine;
- European states to designate Russia as an enemy state for the purposes of 'Trading with the Enemy' laws once the phase-out of Russian oil and gas is complete.

9.55 Escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest, 18 November 2022
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jóvenes Ciudadanos
Co-signers: Uppreisn, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund, Jonge Democraten, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Mladé ANO, Centerstudenter, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Liberale Hochschulgruppen, Svensk Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Momentum TizenX, Nowoczesna Youth, Jeunes MR, Attistibai Youth, Liberal

---

(Former 9.75 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Democratic League of Ukrain

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Mediterranean region has become an increasingly important and strategic space for Europe and the Middle East in the last years. The flow of refugees from Libya or Syria to Europe through that region and the increasing influence of Russia since its involvement in Syria's Civil War, among other events, have had a great impact in the region. In August 2020, a Turkish vessel began carrying out surveys to search for undersea oil and gas in waters where Greece claims jurisdiction. Turkey decided to send Turkish warships and that situation added another perilous element to the safety and stability of the region, as well as a threat for maritime security. This situation has continued through the time. Moreover, since the war started in Ukraine, that part of the region has become more important especially for the transportation of Ukrainian grain coming from the Black sea, crossing the Bosphorus via Turkey and then going to the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean. In September 2022, the EU voiced concerns over an increase of overflights and violations of Greek airspace by Turkey and hostile remarks after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan stated that Turkey was ready to "do what is necessary " when the time arrives.

Considering that

- the Eastern Mediterranean is an area of strategic importance for the EU and a key area for the peace and stability of the whole Mediterranean and Middle East regions;
- the escalating tensions from the past years in the Eastern Mediterranean were started by Turkey, including military action with a lack of previous comprehensive diplomatic dialogue
- the illegal exploration and drilling activities by Turkey in the

Eastern Mediterranean is posing a serious threat to the security and peace of the entire region;

- In recent years, Turkey has been challenging its neighbours, particularly EU members such as Greece and Cyprus, with regards to international law and the delimitation of their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and continental shelf. ● Turkey has not signed yet the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) of 10 December 1982 to which Greece and Cyprus are parties, in order to solve ongoing maritime dispute over the delimitation of an EEZ;
- Turkey is still a candidate country, a NATO Member and an important partner of the EU and is expected, as a candidate country, to defend the highest standards of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, including the compliance with international treaties;

- the Council has repeatedly expressed its concerns and strongly condemned the drilling activities in various sets of conclusions in response to Turkey's illegal drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean, including the European Council conclusions of 22 March 2018 and 20 June 2019;
- the national leaders at the Med7 Summit with Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain (made on 10 September 2020 in Porticcio, Corsica) expressed full support for and solidarity with Greece and expressed regret that Turkey had not responded to the EU's repeated calls to end its unilateral and illegal actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean zone.
- the Article 1 of the NATO Treaty provides that "the parties thereto undertake to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations"; ● the UN Charter provides that "states must undertake to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent

with the purposes of the United Nations";

- the EU is clear and determined in defending the European Union's interests, demonstrating its form and solid support and solidarity with Greece and Cyprus and the protection and respect of international law;
- A sustainable conflict resolution in the region can only be found through dialogue, diplomacy, and negotiations in a spirit of good will and in line with international law.
- the stability in the region is a key element especially since the Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in 2022, in order to be

able to reintroduce vital food and fertiliser exports from Ukraine-passing by the Bosphorus and going to the Mediterranean to other countries, most of them suffering from food crisis and famine such as Kenya, Sudan or Lebanon, among others. ● The UN is aware that keeping shipments sailing smoothly out of Ukrainian ports will require the continued collaboration of Turkey and an escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean will not help to that extent.

Condemns

- Turkey's unilateral actions in the continental shelf and EEZ of Greece and Cyprus, which violate the rights of EU Member States, NATO treaties and international law;
- military escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Expresses

- serious concerns about the current state of EU-Turkey relations, mainly regarding the human rights situation in Turkey and the erosion of democracy and the rule of law and the Turkey's unilateral foreign policy within the region;
- serious concerns about an escalation in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean and the consequences that can pose to the countries within the region and beyond.

LYMEC calls on

- reducing the escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean between EU Member States and an EU candidate country, Turkey;

- urging Turkey to engage in the peaceful settlement of disputes and to refrain from any future unilateral and illegal action or threat;
- the Commission and the Member States to remain firmly committed in this dialogue to the fundamental values and principles of the Union, including respect for the rule of law;
- expressing the need to find a solution by diplomatic means and international law and strongly supports the return to the dialogue between the parties like for example through the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC); ● Turkey, as an EU candidate country, to fully respect the law of the sea and the sovereignty of the EU Member States Greece and Cyprus over their territorial seas, as well as all their sovereign rights in their maritime zones;
- the Turkish Government to sign and ratify the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea);
- the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and other international institutions such as NATO, to contribute to find a solution through dialogue and diplomacy to negotiate the delimitation of EEZs and the continental shelf;
- the Commission and all Member States to pursue a broader, comprehensive and strategic security architecture, energy cooperation for the Mediterranean and a comprehensive environmental risk assessment of any drilling activity, considering the multitude of risks associated for the environment;
- the EU and non-EU Member States to support the development of a Green Deal for the Mediterranean, with plans to invest in renewable energies that could potentially reduce future disputes over limited fossil resources;
- the Member Organizations to acknowledge the importance of the Eastern Mediterranean and to advocate for a reduction of escalations and for a peaceful and stable region which is vital for the security in the Mediterranean and Middle East and to be able to continue helping Ukraine’s economy.

9.56 Stop Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Nowoczesna Youth
Co-signers: Ógra Fianna Fáil, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Momentum TizenX, Attistibai Youth, Julis, USR Tineret, JNC, ERPY, Ze. Molodizkha, JD, IMS Delegates, Mladé ANO, Radikal Ungdom

(Former 9.76 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Noting that:

- The safety and independence of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova is crucial to the stability and security of the European continent;
- The Russian influence and aggression have resulted, among others, in the occupation of Transnistria in Moldova, South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia, Crimea in Ukraine, and the current brutal war in Ukraine;
- Ukraine and Moldova currently hold an official EU-candidate status and Georgia should be granted an official EU-candidate status, as soon as it complies with the requirements imposed by the EU;
- The Russian Federation actively undertakes actions aiming at destabilising domestic order in European countries by bribing high-ranking Moldovan and Georgian officials such as the Moldovan ex-president Igor Dodon, Georgian oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili, The Georgian Dream party and a Moldovan pro-Russian party Șor, developing plans on enforcing a pro-Russian shift in power; ● The recently proposed 'Foreign Agents' Law constitutes a violation of the freedom of media which primarily targets liberal organisations, and threatens the diversification of funding in the public institutions;
- The state of democracy of Georgia has been weakened by the government's persecution of independent journalists and the lack of judicial and political reforms in the country;
- The actions of the government undermine the country's effort to join the European Union against the will of the society, clearly expressed through the protests in February and March 2023 as in favour of European values and reforms; ● Russian influence in certain regions of Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine is holding a firm grip over a portion of the population, due to the russification and marginalisation of the language and culture of minorities in the USSR; ● Moldova is an emerging country with a GDP per capita eight times smaller than the European average;
- Moldova has a history of conflicts with Russian separatists from the Transnistria region being supported by and dependent on the Russian state; ● Russian state-owned energy concern Gazprom is limiting gas flow to Moldova and disrupting energy production in the country leading to a growing energy crisis; ● Moldova has severely suffered from an outflow of investments due to the regional geopolitical situation influenced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine;
- Ukrainian people have shown resilience against pro-Russian and authoritarian policies on multiple occasions such as the Orange Revolution and Revolution of Dignity;

Believing that:

- Nations have sovereignty and the right to self-determination;
- Peace among nations is a value that allows them to freely develop trade and foster the economy while creating social and cultural growth;
- Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova should be states where freedom of speech, media and press are abide by;
- European integration is increasingly important due to Russia's aggression towards the states;
- The states' future lies in the democratic world, and according to social surveys the majority of the citizens wish to increase integration with the European Union;

LYMEC calls for:

- Expressing public and political support for the states' democratic groups' efforts to resist Russian influence and aggression, including through its integration with the European Union;
- Providing expertise and resources to the states' officials and civil society organisations to support the strengthening of democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights;
- Promoting transparency in political and financial relations between the states' oligarchs and national governments to prevent corruption under Russian influence;
- Recognizing the importance of protecting the language and culture of minorities in Ukraine, including those that have been marginalised and russified under Soviet rule, and supporting Ukraine's sovereign right to promote the Ukrainian language and culture within its borders;
- Continuation of integration of Moldova into the European infrastructure such as the European Electric Grid and transport networks;
- Continuation and expansion of macro-financial assistance (MFA) by the EU in order to help overcome current crises and strengthen structures of the Moldavian economy;
- Expressing public and political support for granting Georgia the official EU-candidate status;
- Encouraging trade between the European Union and the concerned states.

9.57 Towards Stricter Screening of Foreign Direct Investments Into Critical EU Infrastructure

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)
Co-signers: Radikal Ungdom, Junge Liberale (JuLis), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), JOVD, Centerstudenter, Centre Party Youth (CUF), Estonian Reform Party Youth (ERPY), Unge Venstre

---

(Former 9.77 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Considering that:

- The EU seeks to welcome foreign direct investments while safeguarding essential interests;
- There is growing concern over the potential security implications of certain foreign acquisitions in Europe;
- The threat to European critical infrastructure has risen since 2014,

with particular emphasis on the last year, as a result of Russian aggression against Ukraine;

- Due to the high degree of integration within the EU, especially economically, direct foreign investment into or procurement of critical EU infrastructure in one Member State could put at risk the security of another Member

  State or the Union as a whole;

- Chinese companies, and thereby the Chinese state, own or have stakes in various forms of critical EU infrastructure, including ports, airports, telecommunication, and energy infrastructure;

- Since these acquisitions were made, China has become more authoritarian.

Believing that:

- Partial or complete Chinese or other authoritarian ownership of critical EU infrastructure could pose a risk to security both in peacetime, through espionage or the favouring of Chinese companies over regional ones, and in

  wartime, by leveraging access to retaliate or exert pressure, thereby constricting the EU's capacity for action.

Noting that:

- The EU's framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union (Regulation 2019/452) allows the Commission to issue opinions on

  specific investments that may threaten the security or public order of other Member States. These opinions must be given due consideration, but compliance is always voluntary and only when the investment is deemed likely to affect projects or programmes of Union interest (Article 8(2)(c)) is an explanation for noncompliance required.

- Only 15 EU Member States currently have investment screening mechanisms in place and the EU Regulation does not require nor officially recommend they be instituted where they are absent, which means that foreign investors that may otherwise be deemed to constitute security risks can access sensitive sectors of the internal market by investing through non-screening Member States; ● The EU Regulation lacks specificity concerning parameters for the application of screening mechanisms, leaving Member States to interpret what constitutes a vulnerability or a security risk and resulting in lacking convergence between Member States.

Calls upon:

- The EU to require all Member States to institute investment screening mechanisms; ● The EU to adopt basal criteria for foreign investors in order to harmonise the application of investment screening mechanisms between Member States; ● The EU to mandate Member States' compliance with the Commission's opinion in cases of foreign direct investment into infrastructure installations that are deemed especially critical for the Union's ability to manage crises.

9.58 Closing Putin's gates means welcoming allies - Extending an invitation to Georgia

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest, 6 May 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force

(Former 9.78 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by Junge Liberale (JuLis), ZeMolodizhka, Radikal Ungdom, Jungfreisinnige, Ógra Fianna Fáil, JOVD, Attīstībai Youth, Felix Schulz (IMS), LUF, Młodzi Nowocześni, CUF, LHG

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

In the midst of Russia's invasion of Ukraine an increasing number of politicians, experts, and analysts are recalling the 2008 Russia-Georgia war and the errors made by the democratic world community before and after the ceasefire agreement was signed. Anyone walking through the streets of Tbilisi will immediately notice that Georgia stands closely alongside Ukraine in the struggle for the values of freedom and democracy. It is committed to the Western community of values. Despite this and the constant threat from Russia, Georgia receives little attention from Germany and Europe. As Young Liberals, we, therefore, want to expand the strategic partnership with our Georgian friends massively. The discussion about Georgia's membership in the EU must become a matter of the heart for all Europeans and our allies. We want to do everything we can to accompany Georgia's liberal parties and their respective youth organisations on their way into the EU.

Noting that:

- Georgia has been pursuing an application towards EU-members for years, resulting in the following:
- On March 3rd, 2022, Georgia applied for EU membership
- On June 17th, 2022, The recommendation about the application to join the EU was made public by the European Commission.
- On June 23rd, 2022, the European Council discussed Georgia's EU membership application. The European Council stated that it was ready to grant the status of candidate country to Georgia once the priorities specified in the Commission’s opinion on Georgia’s membership application have been addressed.
- Georgia has been left on the waiting list of EU accession, after the 27 leaders of the European Union granted Ukraine and Moldova the status as candidate countries;
- Currently 30% of Georgia's legal territory are occupied by Russia; ● Currently ALDE has welcomed the following Georgian liberal parties into the liberal family: Girchi-More-Freedom, Lelo for Georgia, Strategy Aghmashenebeli, Republican Party of Georgia, Free Democrats;
- Georgia and the Georgian people have been allies to Ukraine and the fight against the Russian regime since before 2008.

Recalling that:

- LYMEC co-organizes events, which welcome political representatives from Georgia such as the Alliance of Her Event series as well as the respective youth cohorts.
- LYMEC brought together representatives from European youth organisations in Georgia in the past, creating the former Liberal Youth Network of the South Caucasus.

Considering that:

- Many Georgians consider themselves Europeans and want to see their country become a member of the European Union and NATO;
- Since the adoption of the Istanbul Convention, Georgia has been one of the non-EU countries who has ratified the Convention while also following

  European Law in many internal and foreign policy matters;
- Current affairs and protests within the country have shown the longing and commitment of the Georgian people to the European Union and its values. **LYMEC calls for:**
- Strengthening the allyship with Georgian liberal youth organisations by:
  - pursuing strategic member recruitment from Georgia regarding Individual Members and Member Organizations
    - inviting the Georgian liberal youth organisations to events, trainings and networking affairs
    - extending an invite to potentially joining LYMEC and supporting these efforts by offering mentorship and guidance
- creating a forum for those severely impacted by the Russian Aggressions ● promoting an open debate within LYMEC and its member organisations.

9.60 Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: JuLis and JNC

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

The ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan is facing ethnic cleansing at a breakneck pace. Nearly all of the estimated 120,000 ethnic Armenians

in Nagorno-Karabakh have been forcefully displaced to Armenia in the last weeks. Following skirmishes with the Azeri army that reportedly resulted in over 400 deaths, including some civilians, there has been an exodus.

The Armenian government has accused Azerbaijan of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh. The United Nations defines "ethnic cleansing" as “a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent and terror-inspiring means the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas”.

The use of starvation techniques against ethnic Armenians during the months-long closure of the so-called Lachin Corridor between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, along with Azeri army intimidation, resulted in an Armenian exodus, prompting accusations of ethnic cleansing.

Considering

- On 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a pre-planned, unjustified military attack against Nagorno-Karabakh, leading to significant loss of life.
- A ceasefire was agreed on 20 September 2023, but the security situation of civilians remaining in Nagorno-Karabakh is not guaranteed.
- There are reports that hundreds of Armenian civilians were killed and wounded during Azerbaijan’s military operation against Nagorno-Karabakh.
- On 28 September 2023, the de facto president of Nagorno-Karabakh, Samvel Shahramanyan, was forced to sign a decree dissolving all structures and institutions of the self-proclaimed republic as of 1 January 2024, with the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh ceasing to exist.

Recognising

The historic implications of ethnically motivated persecutions against Armenians in the context of the Armenian genocide.

The fragile relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan due to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

- The history of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, due to which both ethnic Armenians and Azeris have lost their lives.
- The power imbalance between the ethnically Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azeri military.
- The blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh by the Azeri military in the lead-up to the invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh by the Azeri military.

- The attack represents a gross violation of international law and human rights and a clear infringement of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020 and of the commitments that Azerbaijan made in the negotiations mediated by the EU.
- The inaction of the peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation stationed in Armenia.
- The inaction of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation.
- The successful development of Armenia from an autocracy to a democracy since the Armenian revolution in 2018.
- The close cultural and religious bond of Armenia to Europe and the western community of liberal democracies.
- The yearning of the Armenian people and current Armenian government to work more closely with the European Union and western democracies.

Deploring the

- Unprovoked Azerbaijani invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Mass expulsions of ethnic Armenians initiated by the Azerbaijani government.
- Cultural desecration of Armenian cultural heritage, Christian heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh and destruction of Armenian churches.
  The desecration of Armenian grave sites and cemeteries by Azeri militants.

Concerned by

- The humanitarian implications of the Azeri attacks on Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The failure of the international community to prevent ethnic cleansing of Armenians.
- The Use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems by Azerbaijan.
- The Comments by the Azeri government and Azerbaijan's president Ilham Aliyev, declaring the aim to conquer parts of southern Armenia.
- The occupation of various parts of the sovereign territory of Armenia by the Azeri army and the bombing of civilian targets on the territory of Armenia.
- Azerbaijan´s influence on western and European nations by means of its oil and gas diplomacy, as well as its sports diplomacy.
- Regional implications of the conflict, including the role of the
  Russian Federation, Türkiye and Iran.
- The slow response by the EU institutions, with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy only releasing a statement two days after Azerbaijan launched its attack against Nagorno-Karabakh.
- That regular alerts by the European Parliament regarding the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the risks of a catastrophic outcome have been disregarded by the Commission and the Council.

LYMEC Calls for

- A UN peacekeeping mission to be implemented in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The UN and the major regional powers, namely the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Iran, to ensure that no ethnical cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh will take place.

- Azeri authorities to allow the safe return of the Armenian population to Nagorno-Karabakh, to offer solid guarantees regarding the protection of their rights and to refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric that could incite discrimination against Armenians.

Increased EU economic aid to Armenia to support refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan to be punished for the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

- To demonstrate its respect for R2P, Azerbaijan should prohibit the ethnic cleansing of ethnic Armenians, including their
  incitement.
- The Council of Europe to consider establishing a truth and reconciliation commission that brings together government officials and ordinary citizens to address grievances and aspirations.
- Investigations into the abuses committed by Azeri forces that could constitute war crimes.
- Nagorno-Karabakh to receive the status of an autonomous region within Azerbaijan's sovereign borders in which ethnic Armenians can live in peace, embrace their culture and follow their religion without facing persecution and violence.
- The European Union to impose Magnitsky sanctions legislation against members of the government of Azerbaijan, until such an agreement on the autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh has been reached.
- A halt of Azeri oil and gas imports, until such an agreement on the autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh has been reached.
- A travel ban on members of the Azeri government, until such an agreement on the autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh has been reached.
- Increased economic assistance by the European Union to Armenia to support Armenian refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The EU civilian mission in Armenia (EUMA) to closely monitor the evolving security situation on the ground, provide transparent reporting to Parliament and actively contribute to conflict resolution efforts.
- Azerbaijan to allow EUMA's presence on its side of the border and in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The EEAS to reconsider its action in the South Caucasus and replace dedicated staff.
  The European Union and its Member States to urgently reassess the EU's diplomatic and security architecture and the geopolitical configurations in the wider South Caucasus region in the light of the new facts on the ground
  and the interests of countries like Russia, Türkiye and Iran, but also to develop a

strategy in response to the growing trend of autocratic regimes pushing aside diplomatic efforts in favour of violent military force.

- A comprehensive review of the EU's relations with Azerbaijan, taking into account recent developments and the worsening human rights situation in the country.
- Condemning the inflammatory statements made by the Azerbaijani President and other Azerbaijani officials, threatening the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Armenia, including those in connection with the
  'Zangezur corridor'.
- Prohibiting hatred and ethnic cleansing of Armenians by Azerbaijan.

- Prohibiting the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in

Nagorno-Karabakh. An intensified political and diplomatic cooperation of the EU with Armenia in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.

- The European Union to open a path for EU-membership for Armenia.

9.61 A Stable Future for Northern Ireland: Addressing the unique challenges facing the European Peace Project since Brexit

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Ogra Fianna Fail

Proposers: Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ireland), Young Liberals (UK),

Co-Signatories: Alliance Youth (NI), Ze! Molodizhka (Ua), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Mladé Ano (Czechia), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, LHG, Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Junge

Liberale, Young Green liberals Switzerland, TIm Robinson (IMS), Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Liberal Alliance Ungdom

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Congress recalls:

Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain have a profound, shared history both with camaraderie and tensions.

The Troubles were the most recent instance of conflict within the countries, taking place from the late 60s until 1998, and concluded with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).

Ending decades of violence, terrorism and militarisation from both sides, the GFA was a major milestone in achieving peace in the British and Irish isles.

The GFA's had as one of its pillars the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), enforced by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

The particular relationship between Northern Ireland, Ireland and Great Britain has been cultivated over years, with specific economic, cultural and political ties between the countries.

Conference notes:

Whilst the Good Friday Agreement has been greatly successful, institutional instability continues between the countries.

As a result of the political agreement in Northern Ireland, institutional imbalances and asymmetries now exist, including:

- Northern Ireland, as a country under the UK's devolved system, only having law-making power in a selection of policy areas, with remaining powers being held by Westminster.
- Power-sharing difficulties, with the requirement of having a government made up of both Unionist and Nationalist parties with opposing ideological differences on issues of governance, has led to many failures to form government in Northern Ireland.
- As a result of the geographical, historical and cultural characteristics of the British Isles, Northern Ireland has unique socio-economic relationships with its neighbouring countries. These socio-economic relationships have been challenged and put under tension by Brexit, including through:

- The Northern Ireland Protocol, and joint solutions under the Windsor Framework, include arrangements that allow Northern Ireland to operate within the UK market and the EU Single Market. Companies trading between Northern Ireland and the EU must be identified as operating under the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Comprehensive trading systems between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland have been designed to not only promote open trade, but also to fulfil the requirement of avoiding a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as was set out in the GFA.

- With many cultural identities in the British Isles (notably English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish and Irish, as well as significant immigrant populations), work must continue to make sure that cultural tolerance prevails, and that culture wars do not resume, as they have previously between certain elements of the Protestant-Unionist-Loyalist (PUL) communities and Republican-Nationalist-Catholic (RNC) communities.
- Periods of cultural and institutional instability have caused intermittent episodes of unrest. Whilst nowhere near the scale of The Troubles, the use of violence and the threat of force in the modern era are both causes for concern.
- The cultural divide in Northern Ireland can be seen through the incongruity of its education system, where children are demarcated along ethno-religious and social class lines from an early age.

Cultural divides include:

- Differences in academic selection perpetuate class divisions and disadvantage certain social groups.
- The segregation of the schools system by religious denomination leads to social inefficiencies and funding inequalities that can perpetuate existing communal divides and leave certain communities and students behind.
- In fields including healthcare, infrastructure, education and tourism, challenges remain, for instance through duplication of services, but these have been partially overcome by cross-border cooperation.
- Rights of movement between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are at risk, for instance from the UK's Electronic Travel Authorisation, but have been protected in part by the *2019 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland concerning the Common Travel Area and associated reciprocal rights and privileges*.
- The peace process, built on reconciliation and forgiveness, has been challenged by the UK's Legacy Bill, which could undermine the granting of

amnesties and is opposed, as of 2023, by all Northern Irish political parties.

Congress reaffirms:

- LYMEC's commitment to the rule of law, human rights and international cooperation all of which are embedded in the centre of the European Project.
- That the ECHR and the Good Friday Agreement have been successful international agreements, in promoting the above aims, and ensuring stability for all levels of UK government, especially the Northern Irish government, and the Irish government.
- That the ECHR provides the foundation for the Good Friday Agreement and withdrawing from it would have grave ramifications for peace and stability on the island of Ireland.
- LYMEC's commitment to policy paper 9.55 (A New Chapter for EU-UK Relations), which aims to advocate for rapprochement between the EU and the UK.

- That the quickest and simplest way to resolve inter-communal disagreements over borders and trade access is for the UK to rejoin the European Single Market as soon as is reasonable and possible.

Congress calls for:

- The current cross-community voting system in the Northern Irish Assembly, to be

replaced with a weighted majority system as it depends on an outdated system of binary ethno-national designation,

- Changes to the cross community voting system to be extended to the Northern Ireland Executive, to increase transparency and government accountability
- The Northern Irish Executive to be formed by voluntary coalition, decided through negotiation between parties and confirmed by a vote in the Northern Irish Assembly.
- The First Minister and deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland to be renamed as “Joint First Ministers”.
- Arrangements within the Northern Irish Assembly to be strengthened in order to facilitate an effective opposition of parties who do not wish to join a voluntary coalition.

The Common Travel Area to be respected and fully implemented by both the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and supported by the European Union in so far that it does not undermine the integrity of the single market, so as to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland or in the Irish Sea.

- The expansion of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding to extend reciprocal rights and privileges of the Common Travel Area to those who have been granted asylum in either country, as well as the mutual recognition of visit visas.
- Implementation of Northern Ireland Protocol, under Windsor Framework, and full meaningful protection of these arrangements in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement review due in 2025 (for implementation in 2026).
- Support of all-island strategies (e.g. Shared Island Initiative, New Decade New Approach etc.) to promote a shared future with better outcomes for all communities North and South post-GFA.
- Support for Integrated Education in Northern Ireland so that it is encouraged and facilitated where there is sufficient demand, as well as for Integrated Education to be held in the same esteem as other models of education in Northern Ireland with regard to its funding.
- The abolition of academic selection in Northern Ireland to better outcomes for those who are already disadvantaged and to promote social cohesion.
- Protection and promotion of the use of Gaeilge and Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland.
- A guarantee that Northern Ireland and its citizens can continue to benefit from EU initiatives (e.g. the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive, Erasmus+, PeacePlus etc.)
- All parts of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to stay in both ECHR and ECtHR to ensure that all the legislation in Northern Ireland is subjected to the convention.
- LYMEC and member organisations to rebuff and reject calls from populist governments to recklessly leave or unilaterally reform the ECHR.

- For holistic education on the value of the ECHR to take place across the signatory countries of the ECHR, especially in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, fighting disinformation on the Convention.

9.62 Stop the Gas (It's Probably Russian)

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: LUF
Co-signers: Radikal Ungdom, ERPY, Unge Venstre, Venstres Ungdom, Centerstudenter, JOVD, USR Tineret, Svensk Ungdom, Junge Liberale, CUF

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- The European Commission's REPowerEU initiative entails efforts to diversify the Union's energy supplies.
- The EU has imported natural gas from Azerbaijan since late 2020. In an effort to phase out dependence on Russian gas after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission in July 2022 signed a memorandum of understanding to double the gas flows from Azerbaijan by 2027, despite warnings from the European Parliament.
- Azerbaijan is deeply authoritarian.
- Azerbaijan in September 2023 launched an unprovoked military attack on Nagorno-Karabakh. The attack represents a gross violation of international and humanitarian law, having caused Nagorno-Karabakh's dissolution and a mass exodus of the autonomous enclave's Armenian population, which amounts to ethnic cleansing. Genocide Watch issued a genocide warning a year prior.
- Three decades of diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts failed to deter the attack.
- In order to meet European demand, Azerbaijan has increased imports of Russian gas. Concerns have been raised that Azerbaijan may, in fact, be exporting Russian gas to Europe. In addition, Russian oil giant Lukoil is a part-owner in the infrastructure that is used to extract and export the gas. Lukoil pays ~200 billion dollars annually in tax to the Russian state, further padding the country's war chest.

Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union states that: "The Union's actions on the international scene shall be guided by […] democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms

[…]. The Union shall seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries […] which share" these principles.

Whereas:

- International cooperation, free trade and commitment to the opening up of global trade are some of the Union's founding principles and should continue to be cornerstones of the EU's international engagement as they are today.

Believing that:

- The importation of Azerbaijani gas undermines European efforts to substantially reduce Russia's capacity to continue its onslaught against Ukraine by targeting Russian revenues from oil and gas exports. It also financially contributes to Azerbaijan's own human rights abuses, at home and in its immediate neighbourhood.

- The EU's 'strategic partnership' with Azerbaijan, and any other authoritarian regimes committing similar abuses, is in direct violation of Article 21 TEU.
- It is not sustainable for the EU to, once crises arise, transfer (energy) dependencies from one dictator onto the next.
- Authoritarian leaders are unreliable. They do not make trustworthy partners. Energy deals legitimize them, financially contribute to human rights abuses, and make the Union vulnerable to extortion while restricting political manoeuvrability.
- The EU should avoid indulging in new strategic partnerships with authoritarian regimes and should end any such cooperation already in existence.
- The EU's energy policy should be guided by the concept of friend shoring, which entails the focusing of supply chains on countries regarded as political and economic allies, or at least those not seen to be in direct violation of our fundamental principles.

Noting that:

- The European Parliament on October 4, 2023, adopted a resolution (2023/2879(RSP)) calling on the EU to reduce dependency on gas exports from Azerbaijan but to suspend all imports only "in the event of military aggression against Armenian territorial integrity or significant hybrid attacks against Armenia's constitutional order and democratic institutions".

Calls upon:

- The EU to keep assessing sources of imports of oil and gas other than from Azerbaijan and work on arranging them as soon as possible;
- The European Commission not to enter into new strategic partnerships with authoritarian regimes without the explicit approval of the European Parliament.

9.63 Resolution on strengthening liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern Partnership

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: USR Tineret, JOVD, CUB Junior
Co-signers: VU, Mladé ANO, JNC, Attīstībai Youth, ERPY, LHG, LLY, Momentum TizenX, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Junge Liberale, ZeMolodizhka, European Youth of Ukraine (Ukraine), Young Progressives (MPS), LUF, FEL, CUF, Unge Venstre

---

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Considering the crucial importance of upholding and promoting liberal democratic values in Europe;
- Recognizing the challenges faced by the Republic of Moldova in its journey towards political stability, economic prosperity, and European Union integration;
- Acknowledging the potential of the Republic of Moldova to serve as a model for liberal democracy in the Eastern Partnership region;
- Emphasizing the need for active engagement and support from LYMEC and its member organizations to support liberal values and reforms in Moldova and the Eastern partnership;

Recognizing that:

the Republic of Moldova shares the values of the European Union;

- the EU's role was very important from the initial stage as the Republic has been guided and monitored by the EU since the partnership and Cooperation Agreement came into effect in 1998;
- the Association Agreement that was signed between the EU and the Republic of Moldova on the 27th June 2014 established a new judicial framework for the advancement of the relations between Republic of Moldova and EU to a new level of political association and economic integration between the EU and Eastern Europe;
- the Republic of Moldova has taken considerable steps to become a solid, stable and prosperous part of the EU's neighborhood in the past years through various reform processes;
- the Russian Federation continues to exert pressure on the Moldovan authorities and citizens by keeping "peacekeeper" soldiers on its Eastern occupied territory (region of Transnistria);
- the Russian Federation brutally and illegally started a war of aggression in Ukraine, permanently disrupting the balance in Europe,

Believing that:

- it is essential to have a democratic and amicable relationship as well as for having long-standing prosperity and stability at the borders of the EU;

- the citizens of the Republic of Moldova have a right to live a prosperous life in accordance to their desire to join the European Union;
- this is the beginning of a new period, which requires considerable efforts directed to the achievement of the objective of integration into the EU;
- there should be zero tolerance for the Russian Federation's aggression that has continuously tried to sabotage the Republic of Moldova's path towards becoming a consolidated, European democracy;
- it is vitally important to educate young people in the Republic of Moldova and its Eastern occupied territory (region of Transnistria) about their shared past and to improve communication between both sides through broad social projects to benefit future reintegration and educational opportunities such as the Erasmus+ program.

LYMEC calls on the Republic of Moldova to:

continue being invested in achieving statal reforms needed to comply with the Copenhagen criteria and to be focused on helping public institutions, citizens and the business community to benefit from the opportunities;

- continue investment in peaceful and diplomatic ways of reaching a resolution to the Transnistrian conflict;
- improve the knowledge and understanding of Moldovan citizens about the European path of the Republic of Moldova and to articulate that accession to the European community is not only the responsibility of the government, but also of the society itself.

LYMEC calls on the European Union to:

- treat the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine candidate status to join the Union with the utmost importance and offer them the possibility of gradual rapprochement to the European family while bolstering European aspirations of Georgian people but not tolerating the pro-Russian course of the current Georgian authorities, so that impose sanctions on local officials who help to evade actual regime of sanctions, imposed on Russia;
- be committed towards finding the best solutions to support the

Chisinau government to overcome threats posed by the Russian Federation via disinformation, economic pressures or any other type of malevolent action;

- support the Republic of Moldova's set path towards energy independence, and help them build sustainable sources of energy;
- provide a straightforward approach to the EU and the Republic of Moldova when it comes to international trade. In order to bring the Republic Moldova closer to the European Union, the EU should gradually eliminate as many taxes of the trade between them in order to facilitate the integration through market forces;
- to ensure the fact that the process of European integration is not only a process of collaboration with the government, but with all relevant political and civic forces.

LYMEC calls on its MOs to:

- raise awareness in their organizations about the need to expand the EU with other states, such as the ones in the Eastern Partnership and the Balkans; continue lobbying their mother-parties and governments for financial and logistical resources to help the Eastern Partnership countries realize reforms and break loose from the Russian Federation;
- organize study visits and on-the ground events that will help to better understanding the region.

9.64 The European Union Needs a Single Sanctions Coordinator

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Momentum TizenX, Unge Venstre (NUV), Nowoczesna Youth, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Young Liberals, Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL), Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Jóvenes Ciudadanos (JC), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Liberala ungdomsförbundet (LUF), Centerstudenter, IMS Delegates, Jonge Democraten (JD), Jong VLD, Centre Party Youth, Venstres Ungdom (VU), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), USR Tineret, Young Progressives (MPS), Attīstībai Youth (AY), Radikale Ungdom (RU), Mladé ANO, Junge Liberale (JuLis), ZeMolodizhka, Young Greenliberals Switzerland (YGL)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Sanctions play a major role in response to terrorism, nuclear proliferation, military conflicts, and other foreign policy crises;
- The European Union (EU) sanctions regime is managed by different bodies and actors, including the European Council, the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and national governments. The multiplicity of actors can often lead to fragmentation, inconsistency, and confusion in the implementation and enforcement of sanctions across the EU;
- Despite the adoption of sanctions at the EU level, the lack of sanctions coordination in the bloc due to disjointed action by national authorities and differing judicial practices has resulted in inconsistent and unequal enforcement of sanctions by individual Member States;
- The lack of legal framework governing cooperation between the EU and major partners like the United States (US) hinders the effectiveness and transparency of the sanction process: informal cooperation behind closed doors is not sufficient to ensure a coordinated and effective approach on sanctions;
- The ongoing Russian war against Ukraine has highlighted the need for the EU to have a single sanctions coordinator, as the current system has proven to be ineffective: despite numerous rounds of sanctions imposed by the EU on Russia in the form of sanction packages, the process has been slow and the impact of these sanctions has been limited.

Whereas:

- Currently the Member States of the EU still continue trading with Russia by bypassing already imposed sanctions even with the new sanctions on Russia being implemented due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Officials identified the UAE, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan as potential circumvention routes;
- The inconsistent enforcement of EU sanctions by individual Member States can lead to uneven consequences for those targeted by the sanctions: e.g., in 2017, the European Court of Justice ruled that Hungary had not properly enforced EU sanctions against Iran and that Hungary's failure to freeze the assets of an Iranian bank constituted a breach of EU law;

- The lack of cooperation between the EU and its partners creates difficulties for businesses operating across multiple Member States: e.g., in 2018, the French oil company "Total" was forced to withdraw from a major gas project in Iran after the US withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions. However, the withdrawal of "Total" was complicated by the fact that it was also subject to EU sanctions, which meant that it had to navigate differing enforcement regimes in individual Member States to comply with the sanctions;
- The lack of unified sanctions coordination undermines the ability to leverage political pressure against specific entities effectively: e.g., in 2019, it was reported that Italy had been blocking EU sanctions against Russia, citing concerns about the impact on Italian businesses. This illustrates the influence of political considerations in individual Member States on the enforcement of EU sanctions, which can undermine the unity and effectiveness of EU sanctions policy;
- Insufficient cooperation also leads to the fragmentation of the EU sanctions regime. Some EU Member States hesitated to enforce EU sanctions

against Russia over its occupation of Crimea and a full-scale invasion of Ukraine due to concerns about the impact on their own economies. This created a fragmentation of the EU sanctions regime, with different Member States enforcing the sanctions differently and potentially even adopting conflicting policies.

Recalling that:

- The European Parliament's resolution of 13 March 2019 on the implementation of common foreign and security policy (annual report (2018/2157(INI)) contains a crucial section addressing the need for a single EU sanctions coordinator. This document highlights the urgent need for a more streamlined and coherent approach to the sanctions policy of the EU, which would be facilitated by appointing a dedicated coordinator to oversee and manage the implementation of sanctions across all EU Member States.

Believing that:

- With the EU rapidly expanding the breadth and depth of its sanctions, it has

become increasingly necessary to establish a unified system for their implementation, monitoring, and enforcement. This would ensure a more consistent

and effective approach to sanctions, reducing the risk of violations and creating a more level playing field for economic actors;

- Sanction efforts are most effective when coordinated and implemented

multilaterally with allies, and poor design and implementation of sanctions policies often lead to them falling short of the desired effects.

Noting that:

- Sanctions can take a variety of forms, such as trade restrictions, asset freezes, or travel bans, and they can be targeted at individuals, companies, or entire countries. Given the complexity of the external relations of the EU and the diversity of its Member States' foreign policy priorities, having a centralized authority to coordinate and harmonize sanctions policies could help ensure that the actions of the EU are more effective, coherent, consistent and transparent.

Calls upon:

- The establishment of a single EU sanctions coordinator would streamline the process of implementing sanctions against countries or entities that violate international law or human rights. The coordinator would be responsible for

coordinating the efforts of various legal structures, ensuring that the sanctions are consistent with the foreign and security policy goals of the

EU, and taking into account the needs and capabilities of individual EU Member States;

- The EU to establish a structure or mechanism similar to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the US, but specific to the EU, with the purpose of more effectively and efficiently managing sanctions and ensuring consistent enforcement across EU Member States. This structure or mechanism should work in tandem with the single EU sanctions coordinator and other relevant EU bodies as well as partners and should include provisions for regular reviews and updates to ensure that the sanctions policy remains effective and targeted;
- The EU to adopt a flexible and adaptive approach to sanctions policy, which would include regular reviews and updates to ensure that it remains effective and targeted in the context of a constantly evolving political and geopolitical landscape;
- The EU and its Member States to adopt a transparent approach to sanctions policy, by providing regular updates and reports on the implementation and effectiveness of sanctions;
- The EU to establish a communication mechanism with the EEA and EFTA states to coordinate their joining of the sanctions' regime and devise a harmonisation scheme to make sure the sanctions imposed reach their target;
- The EU to collaborate with other regional international and intergovernmental international organizations, such as the United Nations, to strengthen the effectiveness of sanctions and promote respect for human rights and international law.

9.65 Ban Imports from Chinese Regions and Market Sectors Tainted by Forced Labour

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga, 11 November 2023
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: LUF
Co-signers: ERPY, Unge Venstre, Venstres Ungdom, Centerstudenter, JOVD, Svensk Ungdom, Junge Liberale, Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, JUNOS, CUF, Young Greenliberals Switzerland

---

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Per United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, the international community has committed to eradicating forced labour—which remains widespread—by 2030.

The eradication of forced labour is also a stated priority of the European Union.

- In late 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution

(2020/2913(RSP)) acknowledging and condemning China's government-led system of forced labour and exploitation of Uyghur Muslims while recognising that "the promotion of and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should remain at the centre of the long-standing relationship between the EU and China".

- Resolution 2020/2913(RSP) noted credible reports of the occurrence of forced labour in the clothing, technology and automotive sectors, stating also that Chinese cotton, 84 percent of which originates from the Xinjiang province, is at particularly high risk of being tainted by forced labour.
- In 2020, at least 80 international brand-name corporations had been reported to profit, directly or indirectly, from Uyghur forced labour within their supply chains, including many European multinational companies.
- The European Commission in 2022 proposed legislation prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market (COM/2022/453 final). The proposal empowers Member States' authorities to seize and dispose of products made with forced labour. However, its point-of-departure is ILO's definition, which addresses commercially motivated cases of forced labour. It does not effectively target politically motivated forced labour, such as that of the Uyghur population in China.
- COM/2022/453 is complemented by a proposal on corporate sustainability due diligence (COM/2022/71 final). It requires companies to account for and mitigate any adverse impact on human rights within their supply chains. However, the lack of transparency in China, particularly in the Xinjiang province, prevents independent investigations and audits, meaning that there are no reliable means of verifying the absence of forced labour. In addition, regulations would only cover large enterprises over a certain

threshold in terms of number of employees and net turnover, and SMEs over a certain threshold only in "high-impact sectors".

Believing that:

- The European Commission's proposals are insufficient to effectively address the entry of products made with forced labour on the Union market.
- All imports from certain regions and market sectors in China should be presumed to be tainted by forced labour unless proven otherwise.
- Neither EU Member States nor their citizens should, knowingly or unknowingly, contribute to systematic human rights abuses in China or elsewhere.
- Per commitments to action set out in its Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy, the EU and its Member States have a responsibility to promote human rights and to prioritize compliance with human rights regulations in all dealings with strategic partners and third countries.
- A blanket ban would serve to reduce processing times and encourage companies to redirect supply chains to where compliance with human rights regulations can be more effectively ensured.

Noting that:

- In 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA; Public Law No. 117-78), which included a rebuttable ban on imports from the Xinjiang province. The ban has successfully forced companies to reroute their supply chains, and imports from Xinjiang to the U.S. have decreased significantly. However, as a result, imports from the region to the European Union in 2022 jumped by nearly 30 percent, underlining the need for sanction regimes to be consistent in order to be effective.

Calls upon:

- The EU to establish a presumption that products produced wholly or partly in the Xinjiang province of China are tainted by forced labour and thus should be denied entry into the European Union unless evidence is presented to the contrary;

The EU to consider imposing a rebuttable blanket ban on individual market sectors where forced labour is deemed to occur, including but not limited to the clothing, technology and automotive sectors in China as well as those utilizing Chinese cotton,

and to be ready to expand said ban should credible reports of additional regions and sectors tainted by labour force.

9.66 Preparing for a Trump Presidency: liberal, rules based order under threat

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jonge Democraten (Netherlands)
Co-signers: Alliance Youth, Radikal Ungdom, Young Liberals UK, Centerstudenter, Young Greenliberals (CH), Jongliberalen, LUF, CUF, USR Tineret

---

(Passed Autumn 2024)

Considering that:

- Donald Trump has decisively won the US presidential election and the Republican Party has won a majority in both chambers of Congress;
- Donald Trump's election is expected to have massive consequences for US policy on a wide range of topics that affect the EU and its European allies, such as support for Ukraine & NATO, trade, climate and the protection of democracy, rule of law, and human rights;
- Trump stated he would end the war in Ukraine in 24 hours, raising fears he will pressure Ukraine into unfavourable negotiations with Russia, the country that launched a full-scale, illegal and unjustified war of aggression against it;
- In terms of the US' economic relationship with the EU, Trump is likely to follow a highly protectionist path, leading to damaging trade frictions between Europe and the US, the world's largest economic relationship;
- Trump indicated that following these elections people 'wouldn't have to worry about voting again', indicating his commitment to anti-democratic ideas and the risk that he will place himself above the US constitution, like he tried to do on January 6th 2021, undermining the fundamental principles of democracy;
- Trump withdrew from the Paris agreement in his first term, and is likely to not cooperate on finding sustainable solutions related to the climate crisis, jeopardising the EU's efforts to address this global challenge;
- Trump's ideas are unlikely to be tempered by any advisors willing to contradict him, as his cabinet is expected to be selected based on their loyalty towards

Trump, as indicated by a senior official on Trump's campaign, leading to a lack of accountability and expertise in US policy-making;

- there is a real risk of the US drastically scaling back its role in European security.
- Currently, European companies in certain sectors are very dependent on US technologies and development, for example in the aerospace and telecommunications sector, where Elon Musk's SpaceX currently holds a near monopoly for rocket launch technology within the western sphere.
- Elon Musk has played a large part in Donald Trumps presidential election campaign. Donald Trump has even gone as far as offering Elon Musk a potential spot in his administration. Regardless of this, SpaceX has received at least 15.4 billion USD from the US Government in contracts in the last decade. Under a new Trump administration, this

number will probably keep going up, thus giving SpaceX an even stronger position in the spacecraft market of the west.

Believing that:

- the EU and its European allies have become dependent across many areas on US action, and won't be able to rely on US support going forward;
- the EU must take rapid action to ensure its own strategic autonomy and defend its fundamental values and interests;
- the Trump presidency poses a threat to the liberal, rules-based order and the EU needs to take rapid action to protect its values and principles, such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;
- liberal youth in Europe need to take a proactive role in ensuring the EU is ready to deal with the effects of a Trump presidency, by advocating for a strong, united EU response that is in line with EU values;
- the EU and its European allies can no longer rely on US support in addressing global challenges and must take concrete steps to ensure its strategic autonomy, even if this means an increase in spending to ensure the defence of the EU's fundamental values and interests.
- Cybersecurity threats, terrorism threats and information warfare present significant risks to the EU's security and democratic processes, especially if U.S. intelligence cooperation and support for European cybersecurity decrease under the new administration.
- The EU and the USA share common values - liberty, rule of law and democracy - which bind us together in a world threatened by tyranny and which transcend whoever is sitting in the White House or Le Berlaymont.

Calls for:

- a strong, united response from the EU, hand in hand with its European allies, to the challenges posed by a Trump presidency, in defence of the EU's shared fundamental values and the liberal, rules-based order, including a clear commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;
- the European Commission to rapidly present its impact assessment of the Trump presidency across all policy files from the perspective of strategic autonomy, and to ensure the Commission is in the position to respond within the first 100 days of its mandate;
- EU and national leaders to establish a functioning working relationship with the incoming US administration to the extent possible, grounded on liberal values and the rules-based international order;
- the European Commission to prepare a strategy for safeguarding European industry and business in the event of a protectionist trade war launched by the incoming US Administration;
- an urgent increase in European defence spending as well as ramping up of industrial defence production within Europe to ensure its own security as well of that of its allies, most urgently Ukraine, to be able to ensure Europe's defence and Ukraine's victory, even without US support, and to ensure that the European aid to Ukraine is structurally increased before President-Elect Trump's term of office begins;

- an increase in financial support from the EU its Member States and other European states to multilateral institutions, to compensate for the likely decrease in funding to be received from the United States;
- the EU, in close consultation with its European allies, to assume global leadership and collaborate with other countries and international organisations to create a united front on various areas such as climate change while setting ambitious targets to encourage others to follow suit;
- Europe to take over a leading role and do more pioneering work in fighting climate change in order to achieve the global goals set by the Paris agreement also without institutional engagement from the United State;.
- the European Commission, in cooperation with the other European Partners and allies, to develop a comprehensive strategy to counter disinformation, both foreign and domestic, to avoid interference in the EU's own democratic systems while promoting media literacy, critical thinking, and fact-based journalism
- The European Commission and EU diplomatic representatives to establish and maintain open channels of communication with U.S. sub-federal entities, such as states, municipalities, and cities, as well as other public diplomacy entities such as foundations, universities, NGO's and civil society organisations, in order to continue collaborative efforts on key issues and shared goals, such as climate change, trade, and human rights, even if cooperation on a federal level declines under the Trump administration.
- The European Commission and EU diplomatic representatives to pursue new frameworks for cooperation with willing non-federal U.S. entities if they align with EU values.
- European companies to increase its efforts and investments into research and development of infrastructural resilience in areas such as the aerospace and telecommunications sector, thereby reducing its dependence on US scientific knowledge, technology and infrastructure.
- The EU must proactively strengthen its intelligence and cybersecurity infrastructure to safeguard against potential foreign interference and cyber threats, ensuring resilience in the face of diminishing external support from the USA.
- The Member States must not only cooperate with the US on the national level but

  on the regional and local level aswell in order to strenghten the bond between our nations, improve mutual understanding and create leverage for future cooperation on a national level.
- The EU and its Member States must work together with the US - wherever it is possible - regardless of who is sitting in the White House in order to tackle the common challenges we face.

9.67 When women are forced to silence, liberals speak up

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Centerstudenter (Sweden)

(Passed Autumn 2024)

MO's supporting: Unge Venstre (Norway), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Keskustan Opiskelijaliitto (Finland), Keskustanuoret (Finland), LiDeM (North Macedonia), Venstres Ungdom (Denmark), YMRF (Bulgaria), Silvia Fernández (IMS), Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (Sweden), Jonge Democraten (Netherlands), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (Sweden), Jonk Demokraten (Luxembourg), Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Noting that:

- Since the Taliban seized power in August 2021, women's rights in Afghanistan have regressed dramatically, undoing decades of progress toward gender equality.
- The European Court of Justice (ECJ) recently ruled that gender and nationality alone are sufficient reasons to grant asylum to Afghan women. Currently, some European countries, such as Bulgaria, provide first-instance protection to as few as 12% of Afghan asylum seekers despite the severity of their situation.
- In Afghanistan over 70 decrees have been enacted during the last three years, excluding women and girls from nearly all aspects of public life and leading to what is being termed as "gender apartheid."
- Girls are banned from schooling beyond 6th grade, and women are barred from most paid employment as well as public spaces such as parks and gyms. They are forced to wear full-body coverings and cover their faces. Women are not even allowed to speak in public any more.
- More than one million school-aged girls—80%—are out of school, with dire consequences for future generations, including a projected 50% increase in early childbearing and maternal mortality.
- In 2023, 28.7% of Afghan girls under 18 were married and 9.6% under the age of 15.
- The Taliban have openly stated that the ideal situation is for women to avoid leaving their homes entirely, unless absolutely necessary. This forced isolation is driving many women and girls into deep despair with increasing suicide attempts.
- The Taliban's new self-proclaimed 'Ministry of Virtue and Vice' has tortured women protesters with electric shocks, with reports of rape in custody, and their highest leader has announced the reintroduction of public flogging and stoning for adultery.
- Believing that:
- The brutality of the Taliban's rule mandates the European countries to act immediately and protect Afghan women that escaped the regime.
- The rise of anti-refugee rhetoric in Europe - also amongst ALDE member parties

- ridicules the serious reality of Afghan refugees and counteracts integration efforts whilst it strengthens the European far-right and nationalist forces.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- Immediate improvement of first-instance protection for Afghan women in Europe.
- ALDE members to stand firm against fundamentalism and the far right, recognize the harsh reality of women that escaped Afghanistan and return to a rhetoric that promotes the open society and a moral Europe.
- Targeted sanctions against Taliban leaders responsible for human rights abuses, and support for international legal accountability.
- A strong stance by EU countries in international forums, such as the United Nations, condemning the abuse of Afghan women's rights.
- Increased efforts to return Afghan girls to school.
- Avoidance of using Taliban terminology, such as the "Ministry of Virtue."
- Gender Equality Initiatives, in the context of feminist development cooperation, should be an important pillar of international aid to Afghanistan. Donors who engage in development cooperation with Afghanistan need to ensure that their projects don't fund the Taliban regime.

9.68 Accelerated pathway for Ukrainian EU membership

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Unge Venstre (NUV), Radikal Ungdom (RU), ZeMolodizhka
Co-signers: Jonge Democraten, Młodzi Nowoczesní, Centerstudenter, Junge Liberale, Svensk Ungdom, CUF

(Passed Autumn 2024)

Keywords: Ukraine, EU membership, gradual integration, observer status Recognising that: Russia's full-scale unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, as of 24 February, 2022, appeared to become a watershed pivotal point, after which the growing danger for the existence of liberal democracies can no longer be ignored;

Following the brutal invasion by the Russian Federation into Ukraine, the resilient Ukrainian people have not only defended their homeland but also safeguarded the values and democracy of the entirety of Europe;

Ukraine has made significant progress towards EU membership after obtaining candidate status on 17 June 2022, and maintains a high pace of reform towards EU convergence

Believing that:

The EU has an obligation to maintain a strong support for Ukraine as much as it takes for as long as needed;

Sending more military, humanitarian and economic aid is essential in supporting Ukraine;

Political support of Ukraine also is of the highest importance, such as promoting Ukraine’s rightful place within the European Union;

Ukraine can and must win the war, why the EU and its global allies need to provide sufficient and timely support for as long as it might take; to withstand Russian offensives, liberate its citizens and territories, deter the aggressor from new strikes, and punish all those guilty of crimes against humanity and law, to rebuild and revive the country;

LYMEC calls for:

Enhanced economic and trade relations between the EU and Ukraine, leading towards Ukraine’s full integration into EU’s Internal Market;

Allowing Ukraine to participate as full members in further EU cooperation areas, as soon as the corresponding negotiation chapter is closed;

Granting Ukraine observer status within the EU institutions, among other things by expanding the opportunities for officials from Ukraine to observe the work within EU institutions.

Renewing the basic principles of the EU Enlargement policy: Whilst ensuring strict compliance with criteria for EU accession, new frameworks of cooperation with EU candidate and EU neighbouring countries, in particular should be established as a matter of priority to guarantee a stable EU political and economic system and also connect third countries more closely with the EU to prevent other geopolitical forces from gaining too much influence, such as but not limited to Russia and China.

9.69 The case Moldova: Russian meddling in European democracies, time to act

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Jongliberalen (JL, former Jong VLD), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)
Co-signers: Jeunes MR (JMR), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Alliance Youth, Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Psg Youth, Nowoczesna Youth (NY), Unge Venstre (NUV), USR Tineret, ZeMolodizhka, Junge Liberale (JuLis), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Estonian Reform Party Youth, JUNOS

(Passed Autumn 2024)

Title: The case Moldova: Russian meddling in European democracies, time to act Noting that:

- Russia attempted to subvert the recent 2024 Moldovan referendum on European Union membership and the 2024 Moldovan presidential election;
- Russia specifically sought to influence Moldovans to vote against EU membership and the pro-European candidate, Maia Sandu, by offering payments totaling 39 million USD through an internationally sanctioned Russian bank to over 130,000 recipients, according to prosecutors;
- The outcome of the presidential election in Moldova was a clear commitment of the Moldovan people to freedom, democracy, and European integration despite Russian meddling;
- The recent re-election of Donald Trump as US president is posing a tremendous threat to the military security and stability of Europe and the world;
- Russia's influence in Europe is on the rise;
- Several political actors in Moldova disingenuously pretended to be pro-European but campaigned against the recent referendum;
- In the run-off to the second round of elections, bomb threats made it difficult for voters abroad to cast their votes;
- Volunteers got threatened while campaigning;
- Undercover investigation from the Moldovan newspaper ‘Ziarul de Gardă’ clearly unveiled deep ties between Ilan Șor and the Kremlin in their ‘În slujba Moscovei’ report.
- Russia is illegally occupying part of Moldova, and that any attempts to negotiate the withdrawal of its so-called "peace keepers" have failed because of Russia acting aggressively, illegally and in bad-faith

Pointing out that:

- There is an immediate risk of further escalation in the Russian war on Ukraine if

U.S. military aid were to end under a potential new Trump administration.;

- Moldava is one of the main targets of Russian foreign interference;

- At the same time as the first round of the presidential election, in a referendum held at the same time, the country's EU membership was enshrined in the constitution as a national objective by a narrow majority.

Believing that:

- Moldova belongs with the rest of democratic Europe and the free world, standing united in shared values and aspirations;
- Freedom, democracy, and rule of law are necessary conditions to ensure the respect of human rights;
- Election interference of all kinds—internal or external—are hindering democratic decision making processes.

LYMEC to call for:

- European Governments to support the Moldovan government in its efforts to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in the country;
- The EU to help the further integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European contractual framework;
- The EU to acknowledge the will of the Moldovan people to join the Union;
- Reducing tariffs in order to strengthen economic ties between Europe and Moldova (and therefore reducing the dependency on Russia) through trade and lifting visa restrictions for Moldovan citizens.
- European Governments to recognize and support Maia Sandu’s presidential election victory;
- Liberal political and civil society organisations in Moldova to aid the pro-European government in Chisinau and Maia Sandu in combating Russian influence and in enforcing reforms that will align the country with European standards;
- The European Union, in tandem with Moldovan authorities, to expand communication campaigns to raise public awareness of the benefits of EU integration for Moldova and to promote understanding of the challenges, including Russian interference;
- The European Union to strengthen technical and advisory assistance to help Moldova navigate accession negotiations and manage the substantial workload as Moldova works towards EU integration.
- Support for Republic of Moldova’s goal to join the EU by 2030
- The EU and its Member States to assist Moldova in creating and implementing a long-term plan for peace, stability, economic prosperity and international rules-based order in Transnistria
- ALDE Party and LYMEC MOs to help lobby for European Acquis Communautaire and provide the necessary political support for Republic of Moldova's European integration

9.70 Stop teaching hate: End of genocide denial in European classrooms

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw, 10 November 2024
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Co-signers: Youth MRF (Bulgaria), Mladi HNS-a (Croatia), Mladi hrvatski liberali (Croatia), Jonge Democraten (the Netherlands), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Young Progressive Slovakia (Slovakia), Gibanje svoboda mladi (Slovenia), Centerstudenter (Sweden), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), Young Liberals (United Kingdom)

(Passed Autumn 2024)

Considering that:

- Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ensures that everyone has the right to education and that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom
- The International Court of Justice determined in 2007 that the acts committed in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war constituted acts of genocide.
- The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has found former leaders of Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić guilty for their roles in genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and sentenced them to life imprisonment.
- The Pedagogical Institute of Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina has revised the primary school history curriculum which now presents Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić as historical figures who held important military and political positions rather than war criminals.
- The denial of genocide, as an attempt to deny or minimize the scale and severity of an instance of genocide, is an integral part of genocide

Noting that:

- The Resolution 2574 (2024) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Bosnia and Herzegovina encourages the establishment of a common core curriculum in history allowing for all to understand the diversity of points of view while prohibiting the honoring in the school curriculums of individuals convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- The Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina temporarily suspended a part of the primary school curriculum in Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and

Herzegovina presenting individuals convicted of war criminals as historic figures.

- The OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has criticized these changes in curriculum stating that they threaten critical reforms in history teaching, perpetuate divisions, and obscure the complex roots of the violence.

Recognizing that:

- The educational systems should be unbiased and should not deepen the divisions, teach intolerance, and promote genocide denialism or glorification of convicted war criminals.
- The true reconciliation and long-lasting peace in the Western Balkans can be achieved only if the truth about the atrocities and war crimes is taught in an objective and unbiased way
- The European Union has a role in promoting peace, ensuring tolerance, and protecting human rights.
- Therefore, LYMEC calls for:
- Condemnation of the new school curriculums in Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina which honor individuals convicted of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- Developing appropriate educational programs in the European Union that would ensure teaching about the Srebrenica genocide and prevent future instances of genocide glorification or denial.
- Introducing stricter standards towards aspiring European Union member countries that would ensure that their school curriculums, textbooks, and educational materials do not honor, celebrate, or glorify sentenced war criminals.

9.71 For a Free Tibet

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale (JuLis)
Co-signers: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), CUF, ERPY, JNC, Jonge Democraten, JOVD, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, JUNOS, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, LUF, Nowoczesna Youth, Radikale Ungdom, Venstres Ungdom, Young Liberals UK, Molodezhka

---

(Passed Spring 2025)

Considering that:

- The worsening human rights situation in Tibet, particularly the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR). Including reports of arbitrary arrests, unfair trials, inhumane detention conditions, and torture.
- The absence of freedom of expression in Tibet, particularly in the TAR.
- The absence of freedom of religion in Tibet, particularly in the TAR.
- The absence of freedom of movement in Tibet, particularly in the TAR.
- The imperial language policy of the People's Republic of China, which increasingly sidelines the Tibetan language in public life within Tibet, particularly in the TAR.
- Reports of the planned constructions of water dams and reservoirs in populated areas of the Tibetan high plateau and the danger of ecological disasters.
- The potential cutoff of water-flows in rivers originating in the Tibetan high plateau for downstream riparian countries in Southeast Asia and South Asia.
- The restrictions on reports and expressions regarding Tibet on Chinese media and social media, including Chinese owned enterprises which operate abroad, such as TikTok.
- The official discourse of the PRC which has replaced the term Tibet with the sinicized term “Xizang” in its official documents and statements concerning Tibet.

Believing that:

- In the future of a free and democratic Tibet.
- Freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of religion and freedom of movement are fundamental human rights, which no human being shall be restricted from exercising.
- The Tibetan language, as other regional languages in the PRC, should be a language of instruction in schools.
- The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), its democratically elected representatives – including the Sikyong and the members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile – is a torchbearer for Tibetan democracy.
- The CTA should see increasing global support for its cause to resolve the Tibet conflict in a peaceful manner, according to the right of self-determination.
- The CTA is the only authority, as the democratic representation of Tibetans around the world, which shall negotiate the issue of Tibet with the government of the PRC.

- The current “Umaylam” (Middle-Way Approach) is a suitable option to restore peace and dignity to Tibetans living in Tibet, especially those living in the TAR, as long as it is the Tibetans.
- The EU should voice their support for the cause of the CTA, vis-à-vis the government of the PRC.

Emphasizing that:

- Tibet – including the TAR and parts of Qinghai, Sichuan and Yunnan – is an independent country under occupation of the PRC since 1950.
- Historical Tibet – before 1950 – has been an independent country which exercised diplomatic relations with other countries.
- The illegal annexation of Tibet by the forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the PRC was a grave violation of international law, for which the PRC has never had to take responsibility.
- The institution of the Dalai Lama – including the current 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyaltso – is of invaluable importance for the Tibetan people.

LYMEC thus calls for:

- The EU and its member states to clearly condemn the human rights violations in the TAR and Tibetan regions of Qinghai, Sichuan and Yunnan. Political asylum must be granted to dissidents from Tibet.
- The EU and its member states to maintain a regular dialogue with the exiled representatives of the CTA, especially the Sikyong and the members of the Kashag and the Tibet Bureau in Brussels.
- The EU to acknowledge the Middle-Way Approach to seek a peaceful solution to the Tibet conflict.
- The EU to acknowledge the status of Tibet as an independent country before the illegal annexation of the PRC.
- The European Parliament to send a delegation of parliamentarians to the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile.
- The EU to only support the legitimacy of religious reincarnations of Tibetan religious institutions, such as the Dalai Lama or Panchen Lama, which have been approved by the legitimate democratic representation of the Tibetan people, which is the CTA.
- The EU and its member states to advocate internationally for the continued public teaching of Tibetan in Tibetan schools in the PRC.
- The EU and its member states to condemn any threats of public bans of the Tibetan language.
- The EU and its member states to voice their concern, regarding the transnational effects in Southeast Asia and South Asia due to PRC-led construction projects that would affect the flow of water in rivers originating in the Tibetan high plateau.
- The EU and its member states support the U.S. “Reciprocal access to Tibet Act” and to implement legislation following the U.S. “Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act”.
- Free access to the TAR and adjacent Tibetan settlements, including the freedom of movement for Tibetans.

- All internationally recognized NGOs be granted access to Tibet and not be hindered in their work. NGOs, particularly those not recognized under Chinese national law but recognized internationally, should be included.
- Representatives of the press must be granted unlimited access to Tibet. Government censorship, influence, or intimidating surveillance of the press must be stopped.
- Diplomatic personnel from the European Union and its member states must be granted unlimited access to Tibet.
- Any official responsible for denying access should be denied entry to the European Union under the principle of diplomatic reciprocity. This applies only to employees and officials of the Chinese authorities. Employees of the Chinese press, Chinese NGOs, or Chinese private individuals should not be affected by this regulation.
- The High Representative and either the European External Action Service or the European Union Institute for Security Studies should produce an annual report on access possibilities for the above-mentioned groups to Tibet, naming those responsible for denying entry.

9.72 Secure the Eastern Flank: Secure the Union

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: USR Tineret, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Nowoczesna Youth

(Passed Spring 2025)

Secure the Eastern Flank: Secure the Union

Co-signed by: JUNOS, Arthur Wu (IMS), Young Progressive Slovakia, European Youth of Ukraine, Adam Volf (IMS), Young Liberals, Molodezhka, Attistibai Youth, Alliance Youth, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jonge Democraten, Youth Forum of Naša stranka, Jongliberalen, Junge Liberale, JOVD

Considering that:

- The European Union faces a growing security threat from external adversaries, including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Russia's continued aggression, exemplified by its war in Ukraine, challenges regional stability, while China's economic and cyber influence poses strategic risks. Iran's support for proxy groups and its deepening ties with Russia further destabilize the security landscape. Additionally, North Korean troops have reportedly been deployed near the EU's eastern border, escalating concerns over military threats;
- Eastern European countries are the first line of defence against Russian aggression, as well as under the most significant and immediate threat of both hybrid and conventional attacks;
- Russia has openly demanded the re-establishment of NATO’s borders to a pre-2004 configuration, posing a direct threat to the sovereignty and security of Eastern European nations and undermining the stability of the region;
- Conflicts, external interferences and general instability in Eastern Europe directly affects all of Europe;
- The European continent is not only affected by conventional attacks, but also by hybrid warfare tactics. Eastern European countries are particularly targeted by these hybrid threats, which remain largely unaddressed;
- Europe has seen a surge of disinformation campaigns, especially focused on raising ultra nationalist, isolationist and revanchist sentiments, aimed at compromising European security and solidarity from within;
- The omnipresent foreign disinformation, misinformation and propaganda are undermining Europe’s firm support for Ukraine;
- The phenomenon of isolationism is perilously becoming the new core of the Euro-Atlantic policy of the United States of America - Europe’s most crucial ally;
- Outside of the European Union, Europe also is home to three other prominent NATO members - the United Kingdom, Norway and Türkiye
- Whilst the European Union is home to several of the world's most innovative and prestigious defence firms, only two EU based contractors are in the world's top 30 largest defence firms.

Believing that:

- In 2025, we are witnessing powerful international actors engaging in politics meant to change the rules-based international order which existed from WW2 onwards;
- Traditional partners of European countries engaging in bullying behavior is a strong signal that Europeans should further consolidate their own common security;
- There is virtually and literally no chance of European countries tackling security challenges each on their own, and challenges present themselves in a rather near than distant future;
- In a world where powerful international actors are engaging in politics meant to change the rules-based international order, there is a grave and immediate threat to European democracy and to European liberalism;
- External actors are pursuing an aggressive disinformation campaign against the European Union and its Member States, bordering on actions of hybrid warfare, in order to delegitimize their institutions, attack their common values, weaken their sense of solidarity and undermine European security;
- The treaties on Good-Neighbourliness, Friendly Relations, and Cooperation signed between former Warsaw Pact member states following the fall of the Iron Curtain were essential instruments for maintaining regional stability, fostering diplomatic cooperation, and promoting economic and social ties. These treaties serve as a foundation for conflict prevention, minority rights protection, and peaceful coexistence in Eastern Europe;
- Relying too heavily upon non-European security firms and externally sourced intelligence compromises Europe's ability to defend itself;
- The European Union is the world's second largest economy and, thus, must be capable of defending itself, especially in case of military aggression;
- Eastern European security is European security;
- A divided Europe is a weak Europe.

Welcomes:

- The EU's recent "ReArm Europe" plan;
- The efforts made by European countries in supporting Ukraine obtain a just and lasting peace;
- The 12 Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) Members commitment to collaboration in keeping the Eastern Flank of Europe safe through joint exercises and intelligence sharing.

Calls for:

- All EU Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the mutual defence clause of the European Union (Article 42.7 of the Treaty of the European Union);
- The strengthening of joint military-technological cooperation, security and innovation; the European Union must prioritize collaborative defence research, weapons development, and cybersecurity advancements. This effort should integrate lessons learned from the battlefield experience of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, ensuring that emerging military technologies are battle-tested, adaptable, and capable of countering evolving threats;

- European countries to up their budgetary allowances towards defence, be it into the military, cybersecurity, critical infrastructure or technology which could serve for deterrence and defence purposes;
- The EU to urgently allocate funds and create funding mechanisms to be used for defence spending and investment, especially towards bolstering the security of the Union's Eastern Flank;
- European countries to ensure that Ukraine and the rest of the European allies have access to high-level military intelligence and counterintelligence resources, and that their intelligence and counterintelligence efforts are developed in collaboration with trustworthy non-European and international partners who share their values.
- The European Union to consider further advanced cooperation with democratic partners and strategic allies sharing mutual international values.
- All EU member states to compliment the joint procurement strategy of 'ReArm' through encouraging defence and security firms to further collaborate across borders, and consider consolidating into larger companies;
- Eastern European countries to enhance regional cooperation in order to address present and future security threats. This should include not only conventional defence but also prevention of cyber attacks, political and electoral interference, energy shortages and any other areas necessary for maintaining the peace and security of the region;
- European countries in general and (non-aggressor) Eastern European countries in particular to stand together against foreign actors trying to pit them against one another. Any and all attempts to divide or isolate us need to be met with united, unwavering opposition;
- European countries which are not currently JEF members to explore funding and collaboration with JEF in order to help deter any potential Russian aggression along Europe's North-Eastern borders;
- ALDE and its member parties to condemn any and all attempts to sabotage friendly relations and cooperation between (non-aggressor) Eastern European countries and reaffirm support for good-neighbourliness, friendly relations, and cooperation in the region;
- The B9 (Bucharest Nine) countries to integrate Ukraine into the format;
- All European countries to continue to support Ukraine;
- The European Commission to allocate additionals funds for Poland's East Shield initiative and other similar Eastern Flank defence projects;
- All European nations to raise defence spending over the 2% of GDP target, starting 2026.

9.73 In solidarity with the people of Georgia

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: CUF

(Passed Spring 2025)

Co-signers: Alliance Youth, Unge Venstre, Nowoczesna Youth, Molodezhka, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, ERPY, Youth Forum of Naša stranka, JeunesMR, Silvia Fernández (IMS), HSLS, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, LUF, Centerstudenter.

Noting that:

- In October 2024 elections were held in Georgia. Many called for a re-run due to significant irregularities, among them the EU parliament who declared the election as neither free nor fair.
- Georgian Dream declared themselves the winner, and no new election has been held.
- The government has delayed the country's EU membership bid until 2028.
- In September 2024, Georgia's parliament recently approved new legislation decreasing LGBTQIA+ rights.
- The bill seeks to ban rights such as same-sex marriage, adoption by same-sex couples and gender-affirming care.
- Several European countries still list Georgia as a safe country of origin.
- Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to respect for private and family life, free from unnecessary state interference.
- LYMEC has previously addressed the European perspective for Georgia and called for closer cooperation with civil society in its resolution "Closing Putin's gates means welcoming allies - Extending an invitation to Georgia";

Considering that:

- An overwhelming majority (over 80%) of Georgian citizens support EU membership.
- Pro-LGBTQIA+ organizations in Georgia, who already face difficult circumstances, have indicated that the new laws would force them to shut down.
- Lists of safe countries of origin exist to speed up asylum applications, putting Georgian LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers at risk for deportation.
- Only a day after the so-called 'family values' bill was passed, one of the first openly trans public figures in Georgia, Kesaria Abramidze, was murdered in her home.
- Hundreds of people protesting the government have been arrested, and among them more than 300 have suffered torture, beatings and other ill-treatment from law enforcement (according to Amnesty International).
- In February 2025 49 opposition MPs were expelled from Parliament by the government.
- EU funding to Georgia has mainly focused on economic development to raise quality of life for citizens.

- This EU assistance is conditional, leading to funds being frozen or stopped due to democratic backsliding.
- According to CNN, the US' freeze in foreign aid has damaged civil society and independent media in Georgia.

Believing that:

- One of the ways the EU can promote democracy and human rights in Georgia is to support the local organizations working to uphold these values.
- Independent media and civil society are two cornerstones of democracy.
- While EU funds in general should continue to be strictly conditional on democratic progress, we should do more to support independent media and civil society in Georgia directly.
- The so-called Family Values bill will undermine the fundamental rights of the Georgian people, while increasing discrimination, stigmatization and violence against LGBTQIA+ people.
- LGBTQIA+ people are not safe to be living freely without persecution in Georgia.
- Georgia is no longer fit to be on any European country's safe state list.

We therefore call for:

- LYMEC to condemn the so-called Family Values bill.
- EU member states and representatives to maintain pressure on Georgia to withdraw the legislation.
- The EU to offer financial aid to independent media and civil society in Georgia that maintain democratic values.
- All EU member states to immediately remove Georgia from their safe state lists.
- All EU member states and European States to impose Visa sanctions on members of the Georgian Dream government responsible for the attack on human rights in Georgia

9.74 Resolution on Strengthening EU Foreign Aid to Countries in Crisis

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: CUF

(Passed Spring 2025)

Noting that:

- In recent years, global political instability, economic hardships, and humanitarian crises have increased, exacerbating challenges for vulnerable populations.
- The growing risks posed by novel security threats such as climate breakdown, disease outbreaks, and global famine are not going away and cannot be tackled through conventional military means alone.
- The temporary suspension of foreign aid by the United States has further strained humanitarian efforts and weakened support for civil society organizations working to protect human rights and democratic values.
- American withdrawal and the shutting down of USAID will have dire consequences for many countries around the world, particularly in the health sector.
- Development Cooperation presents one of the strongest tools to exercise soft power.
- The dismantling of aid structures occurs rapidly, while rebuilding them is a long and challenging process.
- Some countries are particularly vulnerable due to prolonged conflict, political instability, and ongoing humanitarian crises, making external aid crucial for grassroots organizations, refugee support systems, and post-conflict reconstruction.
- Without sustainable financial support, civil society organizations in crisis-affected nations risk collapse, threatening the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights.
- Hostile state governments, such as Russia and China, have used gaps in international development funding as opportunities to build ties with developing nations and exploit their resources.

Considering that:

- The EU has a long-standing commitment to promoting democracy, human rights, and development aid worldwide.
- There is growing recognition that international development funding has an important security dimension by tackling emerging risks and novel security threats
- The reduction of aid from individual member states has created an urgent need for the EU to step up and fill the gap.
- The EU has the capacity to compensate for national aid reductions and reinforce its role as a global leader in humanitarian and development assistance.
- Local organizations are often best placed to ensure aid is effectively utilized and directly benefits those in need.

- A long-term and predictable approach to aid is necessary to allow organizations to plan and implement sustainable development initiatives.
- Any gap in international development funding which allows Russia or China to gain a foothold in key geopolitical regions is a threat to the security interests of the EU and European states.

Believing that:

- The EU must acknowledge the significant role of development aid in stabilizing regions affected by conflict, poverty, and human rights violations, as well as the role it plays in preventing future security threats.
- The reduction of aid contributions from individual member states should be counterbalanced by a stronger collective effort at the EU level.
- Targeted support for local organizations ensures that financial resources reach those most in need and strengthens resilience in fragile regions.
- EU aid efforts must prioritise those nations where the withdrawal of support from individual countries has left crucial civil society organizations and humanitarian programs in jeopardy.
- Strengthening the EU's global leadership in aid policies is crucial to upholding commitments to human rights, peace, and democracy.
- EU allies in geopolitical regions which benefit from international development funding can have a key role in supporting the delivery of aid and tackling novel security threats, and European states must take opportunities to build relationships with these allies as equal partners
- Whilst increases to defence spending are necessary, these increases should not be funded through cuts to international development aid as this limits Europe's ability to address novel security threats and prevent future security challenges.

We therefore call for:

- The EU and partner European states to increase funding for international aid to compensate for national reductions and prevent the deterioration of human rights conditions in affected regions.
- EU member states to devote at least 0.7 percent of their GDP for development cooperation, in line with the UN target for developed economies.
- The EU and partner European states to prioritize financial support for local organizations working on the ground in authoritarian regimes and conflict zones.
- The EU and partner European states to allocate sustained and increased financial support to countries where the withdrawal of aid has left a dangerous gap in humanitarian assistance and democratic rebuilding efforts.
- The EU and European partner states to adopt a long-term strategy for humanitarian and development assistance, ensuring stable and predictable commitments.
- The EU and partner European states to find alternate ways to fund increases in defence spending instead of cutting overseas development funding
- The EU to reinforce its global leadership in aid policies, ensuring that vital humanitarian efforts are not compromised by reductions in bilateral aid contributions.

- The EU to carefully ensure that its development cooperation and international partnerships are subject to strict policy standards in line with the EU's

Common Security and Defence Policy, hence minimizing the danger of wasteful spending and spending that disregards the EU´s global interests

9.75 Standing up for Justice: Supporting the Serbian Student Protests

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Liberalno Demokratska Mladina (North Macedonia), Mladi hrvatski liberali (Croatia), Mladi HNS-a (Croatia), Mladi liberali Crne Gore (Montenegro), Gibanje Svoboda Mladi (Slovenia), USR Tineret (Romania), YMRF (Bulgaria)
Co-signers: Jeunes MR (Belgium), Jongliberalen (Belgium), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (Catalonia), Venstres Ungdom (Denmark), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (Germany), JOVD (the Netherlands), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), Young Liberals (United Kingdom)

(Passed Spring 2025)

Considering that:

- On 1 November 2024, the canopy of Novi Sad railway station collapsed causing the deaths of 15 people including two children
- The railway station in Novi Sad was reconstructed by the Ministry of Construction, Transportation, and Infrastructure and opened just four months before the collapse
- The Government of Serbia has not taken any responsibility for the tragedy and has repeatedly falsely stated that the collapsed canopy was not part of the reconstruction
- The lack of a response from the Government and the reluctance of the Prosecutor's office to do a full investigation in this case has caused university students to start a blockade of faculties across the country

Noting that:

- Around 75% of the state-owned faculties in Serbia are currently under blockade
- A significant number of high schools, some elementary schools, and preschool institutions have also followed the blockade of their activities
- The political situation in Serbia has become increasingly polarised which escalated with protests in the National Assembly and multiple city assemblies around the country
- The current student protests have been the biggest gathering of citizens of Serbia since the 5 October 2000 protests that led to the overthrowing of the regime of Slobodan Milošević
- Student protests in Serbia have inspired similar student protests in the neighboring countries including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and North Macedonia but also throughout the Serbian diaspora in Europe and the rest of the world
- Numerous instances of violence against peaceful protestors have been recorded including physical attacks with baseball bats, multiple car

rammings targeting protestors, and arbitrary detentions as intimidation tactics by authorities

Recognizing that:

- The citizen protests are the cornerstone of every functioning liberal democracy
- The freedom of assembly and peaceful protest are fundamental rights that are protected under European and international law

- The actions of the Government of Serbia contradict fundamental European values and have been undermining its path of becoming a member of the European Union
- The Prosecutor's office still hasn't fully investigated all of the details of the canopy collapse and indicted all of the people responsible for this tragedy
- A significant number of professional organizations, cultural institutions, athletes, and artists from Serbia and the wider region have supported the student protest

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- Supporting the right of Serbian students to protest peacefully, free from intimidation, violence, and political persecution
- ALDE Party and Renew Europe to give full support to the student protests, condemn the violence against the students, and request the respect of the rule of law in Serbia
- The Government of Serbia to fulfill the demands of the students to the fullest including publishing all of the documentation concerning the collapse of the canopy at Novi Sad Railway Station, indicting those who are responsible for the collapse, identifying and punishing people responsible for the attacks on students and citizens who were demonstrating, dropping charges against people arrested at the protests and a greater budget allocations for education
- The European Commission to put pressure on the Government of Serbia to fulfill all the student demands
- The European Commission and European Council to ensure that all of the countries seeking membership in the European Union have the highest level of respect for individual freedoms and human rights, ensure full protection of the right to protest in line with EU standards, and ensure transparent, accountable governance in line with European democratic principles

9.76 A coalition of the trading; leading by example

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: JD

(Passed Spring 2025)

Co-Signers: JNC, For Youth! (Latvia), JUNOS, Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie, Jongliberalen, Venstres Ungdom, Silvia Fernandez (IMS), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Junge Liberale (JuLis), USR Tineret, Centerstudenter (CS), LHG, Norges Unge Venstre (NUV)

Noting that:

- the European Union is an actor that largely relies on soft power and international law on the global stage;
- a trade war is looming due to the unproved policy decisions of the Trump administration in the US;
- a policy of imposing incredibly high tariffs on all trade has historically clearly been economically detrimental to all parties;
- the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization has since 2019 been unable to properly exercise its role as a protector of trade agreements, since the US has been blocking new appointments to it, resulting in it being unable to enforce WTO rules and punish violators of WTO rules,
- where the EU has exclusive competence, meaning that only the EU can legislate on the issue and not the Member States, the EU alone has the power to negotiate and conclude an international agreement on the matter;
- where an international agreement also covers shared competences, where the Member States has the competence until there is EU legislation on the matter, the agreement becomes a so called ‘mixed agreement’ requiring not only the EU to conclude the agreement, but also each Member State to sign and ratify the treaty;
- this mixed trade agreement structure is currently required for agreements that cover elements such as intellectual property rights, social policy and consumer protection, Foreign Direct Investment beyond liberalization and other elements common in comprehensive trade agreements;
- there is a large amount of mixed agreements, that would significantly expand the opportunities for free trade for the EU, finalised or even signed by the EU that have not yet entered into force in large part because difficulty of getting it ratified by every single Member State;
- the requirement of unanimity in the Council on certain trade agreements further complicates the matter of EU international agreements.

Believing that:

- more and freer trade is beneficial for the welfare of all countries involved, and can, when coupled with the right political and diplomatic cooperation, significantly strengthen the ties between free and democratic nations, as the EU itself has shown;

- in a world that seems to be turning back to trade wars and mercantilism, the EU, as a champion of free trade, should be seeking to turning the tide;
- More access to non-US markets and giving more access to non-US markets can not only fill any potential gaps in loss of opportunity created by reduced free access between the EU and US markets, but can also create more economic opportunities;
- elements such as intellectual property rights, social policy and consumer protection, and Foreign Direct Investment beyond liberalization can be essential and desirable elements of comprehensive trade agreements;
- the EU makes itself a less attractive international partner with its current confusing system of mixed trade agreements, as well as the requirement of unanimity in the Council, since this might mean that even after all parties have spent decades concluding the agreement it can still become wasted effort;

Calls for:

- all EU Member States to rapidly ratify the existing trade agreements already signed by the European Union, particularly CETA.
- a rapid signing of the EU free trade agreements with Mercosur and Mexico, followed by a rapid ratification by all Member States should they be classified as mixed agreements;
- the EU to rapidly pursue more and freer trade agreements, particularly with free and democratic countries or countries on a clear path to becoming freer and more democratic, be those agreements bilateral or multilateral;
- the EU to intensify its cooperation in these matters with free and democratic partners, like Canada and Mexico, that have been unprovokedly and unfairly targeted by immense tariffs by the US;
- the EU, its Member States and European states to work on reforming the WTO so that it can effectively function as a protector of trade, as well as no longer being able to be paralysed by the actions or inactions by one state or a small group of states;
- the Treaties of the European Union to be revised so that international agreements can cover both exclusive as well as shared competences and still fall within the full competence of the EU, and thus not requiring the mixed agreement process;
- the Treaties of the European Union to be revised so that all international agreements concluded by the EU require Qualified Majority Voting when being voted on by the Council, in line with our position all votes taken by the European Council currently taken by unanimity should be taken by, at the very most, Qualified Majority Voting instead.

9.77 End the Systemic Corruption: Justice for Victims of Kočani Tragedy

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Liberalno Demokratska Mladina (North Macedonia)
Co-signers: Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Young Liberals (United Kingdom), USR Tineret (Romania), HNS Youth (Croatia), Youth Movement for Rights and Freedom (Bulgaria), LHG Youth (Germany), JUNOS (Austria), Venstres Ungdom VU (Denmark), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (Catalonia)

(Passed Spring 2025)

Considering that:

- On 16 March 2025, there was a deadly fire in the town of Kočani in the nightclub „Pulse“ causing 59 deaths and over 180 injured victims. This was the deadliest fire incident in the history of North Macedonia.
- The nightclub, which was formerly used as a carpet warehouse, was unlicensed and broke numerous safety standards: it lacked sprinklers, sufficient emergency exits, and it only had a single fire extinguisher, amongst other things
- Widespread corruption was one of the major contributing factors to this disaster since this led to a lack of public oversight and proper safety inspections, which could have prevented this kind of disaster.
- The lack of accountability and possible pressure on the state public prosecutor to lead the investigation in favor of the current Government has caused people across the country to protest and go on marches, the biggest of which was organized by the movement „Koj e sleden?“ (Who is next?)

Noting that:

- According to the Government of North Macedonia, out of 50 establishments of this nature in the whole country, only 22 have the legal licenses to work.
- The political situation in North Macedonia has become increasingly polarized, with citizens demanding to reopen investigations into incidents of the same nature such as the fire incident in the modular COVID-19 hospital in Tetovo that caused 14 deaths and the „Besa Trans“ bus fire incident in Bulgaria that caused 45 deaths.
- Citizen movements in North Macedonia have gathered support in the
- countries in the region ,including Serbia, Greece, and Slovenia but also throughout the Macedonian diaspora in Europe and the rest of the world.
- There have been numerous instances of politically motivated hate speech and spread of misinformation, allegedly caused by different political actors with a goal of discrediting the citizen movement as not being legitimate nor independent from any political influence.

Recognizing that:

- Citizen protests are the cornerstone of every functioning liberal democracy

- The freedom of assembly and peaceful protest are fundamental rights that are protected under European and international law
- The actions of the Government of North Macedonia contradict fundamental European values and have been undermining its path of becoming a member of the European Union
- A significant number of professional organizations, cultural institutions, athletes, and artists from North Macedonia and the wider region have supported the protests and marches.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- Supporting the right of Macedonian people to protest peacefully, free from intimidation and political pressure
- The Government of North Macedonia to fulfill the demands of the protesters, including:
  - Transparently publish all documentation related to the operation of the "Pulse" club from its opening until the accident from different government and local official institutions.
  - Disciplinary, criminal, and/or political liability of all institutions that are found to have failed in their work related to the incident
  - The Independent Catering Association should start working on improving the services and operating conditions of catering facilities, and not just for deregulation and financial assistance from the state.
- Including those, in an official statement put out by the Liberal Democratic Youth (LiDeM) in North Macedonia also calls demands for:
  - A national anti-corruption initiative focusing on local governance, ensuring that municipal authorities are held responsible for the enforcement of safety laws.
  - Creation of a "Park of Corruption" on the site of the nightclub—an enduring reminder of the price we pay when corruption and negligence go unchecked. This will not only serve as a memorial but as a call to action, urging future generations to fight against a culture that prioritizes profit over human lives.
- The European Commission is to put pressure on the Government of North Macedonia to fulfill all the people’s demands
- The European Commission and European Council to ensure that all of the countries seeking membership in the European Union have the highest level of respect for individual freedoms and human rights, ensure full protection of the right to protest in line with EU standards, and ensure transparent, accountable governance in line with European democratic principles.

9.78 Defending Democracy in Türkiye: Condemning the Arrest of Ekrem Imamoğlu and Political Repression against the Opposition and Civil Society

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb, 6 April 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)

(Passed Spring 2025)

Co-signers: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Svensk Ungdom, Jovenes Ciudadanos, Radikal Ungdom, JUNOS, Young Progressive Slovakia, Young Liberals, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Momentum TizenX, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Unge Venstre, Ze!Molodizhka, Jeunes MR, Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL), Nowoczesna Youth, Alliance Youth, Silvia Fernández (IMS), Jonge Democraten, Jongdemocraten, For Youth!, Centerstudenter, JOVD, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, LiDem, Jonk Demokraten, Youth Forum Nasa Stranka

Noting that:

- In the early morning hours of March 19th 2025, Istanbul's ruling mayor and leading opposition politician Ekrem Imamoğlu was arrested on charges of corruption and terrorism, along with more than 80 of his close allies.
- The previous day, on March 18th 2025, Istanbul University had suddenly annulled Imamoğlu's diploma, thereby effectively inhibiting him from contending presidential elections under Turkish law
- Following Imamoğlu's arrest, Turkish authorities implemented several measures to restrict the public expression of dissent, including a prohibition of any public gatherings, the closure of public squares, the disruption of key transportation routes such as major roads and metro lines, the reduction of internet bandwidth, and restrictions of access to social media
- Despite the ban on public gatherings, hundreds of thousands Turkish citizens took to the streets all over the country in the largest anti-government protests in over a decade, demanding Imamoğlu's release and calling for the resignation of the government, including President Erdoğan
- Turkish riot police brutally cracked down on the protests using tear gas and rubber bullets, and detained nearly 2000 protesters, most of whom were university students
- Numerous journalists reporting about the protests have either been arrested or deported by Turkish authorities
- On March 23rd, the same day that he was officially elected and nominated as presidential candidate by his party, a judge ordered Imamoğlu to be transferred to prison pending trial and he was dismissed as mayor of Istanbul

Considering that:

- The conspicuous timing of Imamoğlu's arrest, just 4 days before he was due to be nominated as presidential candidate by the opposition party CHP, strongly suggests a political motive behind the charges against him

- Fifteen million Turkish citizens expressed their solidarity and support for Imamoğlu by voting for him in CHP's primary elections and nominating him as their presidential candidate
- Imamoğlu is Türkiye's leading opposition figure and is widely considered to be the only candidate capable of successfully challenging Erdoğan in presidential elections
- Imamoğlu's arrest follows a common pattern of judicial harassment against opposition politicians, journalists, and civil society actors in Türkiye in recent years
- The protests arose at a time of widespread dissatisfaction in Turkish society, driven by persistent inflation, soaring living costs, the erosion of democratic institutions, restricted press freedom, and the government's failure to effectively address these issues

Believing that:

- The freedom from arbitrary detention, the freedom of the press, the freedom of association, and the right to fair trial are not only cherished liberal values, but also essential human rights
- Upholding the rule of law is a prerequisite for safeguarding human rights and political freedoms
- A strong and independent opposition is the backbone of any functioning democracy, and consequently, the arbitrary detention of opposition leaders constitutes a grave attack on democratic principles
- The Turkish citizens have the right to freely express their political will, protest peacefully, and participate in fair and transparent elections without fear of repression

Notwithstanding that:

Türkiye has proven to be a vital partner for the EU and its member states in areas such as NATO security cooperation, migration and refugee management, conflict resolution and mediation in Ukraine and the Middle East, as well as efforts to rebuild Syria, among other issues.
LYMEC calls for:

- The Turkish government to uphold the rule of law, restore judicial independence, and respect the fundamental rights of opposition figures, journalists, and civil society actors
- The Turkish authorities to release Imamoğlu and his allies with immediate effect and grant them a fair trial under the rule of law
- A continued and escalated pressure on the EU and its member states to strongly condemn the recent developments in Türkiye and make clear that these oppressive measures are incompatible with democratic values and European partnership
- A continued and escalated pressure on the EU and its members states to formally terminate Türkiye's stalled EU accession procedure on the grounds of severe violations of democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law, while explicitly leaving the door open for renewed accession negotiations in a post-Erdoğan era

9.79 Crime and Punishment - Make Russia Pay For Its War

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Nowoczesna Youth (Poland)

Passed Autumn 2025

Co-signed by: Project NEON (Greece), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Jóvenes de Ciudadanos

(Spain), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), Young Progressive Slovakia (Slovakia), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), Venstres Ungdom (Denmark), Jonge Democraten (Netherlands), Mladi Pokreta Slobodnih Građana (Serbia), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), Attīstībai Youth (Latvia), Young Liberals (UK), Arthur Wu (IMS), Liberala ungdomsförbundet (LUF), Youth Forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Junge Liberale (Germany) Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (Catalonia)

Considering that:

- Continuous provision of military support to Ukraine in arguably the most crucial

moment in the war since 2022 remains to be of great importance

- Russia ceaselessly conducts hybrid attacks on European strategic and civilian infrastructure, having intensified its activity over the recent months
- The EU has been a long-standing advocate of upholding international law, democratic values and protection of human rights, which makes it crucial for

Europe to take decisive action against Russia’s illegal and violent actions

- The EU has already demonstrated its strong commitment to solidarity with Ukraine through economic sanctions and political support, making it imperative to follow through these measures by addressing the financial means Russia uses to fund its

  war efforts
- US President Donald Trump acts inconsistently and hesitantly in assisting Ukraine in its defense against the Russian aggression, thus prompting increased

necessity for action on the part of the European Union

- The seizure of Russian funds and handing them over to Ukraine would be a suitable punishment for Russia's hybrid war against Poland, Finland, the Baltic

states and the whole European Union

- The seizure of Russian assets and handing them over to Ukraine would nevertheless pose legal and financial risks to Belgium

Believing that:

- In times of crisis, cooperation and unity of European states is key to sustaining peace and prosperity within the region
- Liberal democracies, founded upon the rule of law, must act decisively to deter

authoritarian regimes from violating territorial integrity and international law, as failing to do so would erode the values that bind Europe together

- The European states should build up Ukraine's military capabilities in order to deter Russia and prevent a war at a larger scale
- Vladimir Putin is a war criminal, who does not honor his commitments, and is therefore an unreliable business partner
- As a member of the European Community, Belgium should not be left alone in the

face of potential legal threats from Russia, and it is imperative that the EU provides a robust and united legal framework to ensure the protection of Belgium's sovereignty and legal position within this matter

- Establishing a transparent and unified EU procedure for asset seizure will strengthen the rule of law and demonstrate Europe's determination to hold

Russia

accountable, preventing future instances of authoritarian overreach Welcoming:

- Polish FM Radosław Sikorski's statement about Polish readiness to provide financial aid in case of legal filings against Belgium made by Russian Federation and his eagerness to push this motion forward within the European

  Union
- German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's forthright tone when discussing the matter.

We perceive his stance as a positive gradual shift from Berlin's previous cautious position

- Danish PM Mette Frederiksen's support of the idea
- Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson's favourability towards the notion discussed
- The arrest warrant on Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin issued by the International Criminal Court and its calls for the accountability of individuals responsible for Russia's war crimes, signaling a unified global push for justice
- The support of the European Commission for the exploration of broader frameworks

  for compensating Ukraine and other victims of Russian aggression, that would

  further solidify Europe's commitment to holding Russia accountable for its acts

of war LYMEC Calls For:

- The seizure of Russian assets valued at €140 billion held under the supervision of Belgian financial institution Euroclear
- Handing the funds over to Ukraine in order to reinforce its defensive effort against Russian unlawful aggression upon its territorial integrity and the human
  rights of its citizens
- Providing Belgium with full legal protection in the process of seizing the funds and over the course of potential legal trials in case of a lawsuit filed by the Russian Federation
- Providing aid and ensuring the financial security to the Kingdom of Belgium in the event of an unfavourable verdict of the court

- An EU-wide declaration of support for Belgium, as well as the European Union's

unified assistance over the course of the seizure of Russian assets and their provision to appropriate bodies in Ukraine

9.80 A Call for a Lasting Ceasefire in Gaza, Accountability Under International Law, and a Durable Two-State Solution for the People of Israel and Palestine

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Young Liberals (UK), Gibanje Svoboda Mladi (Slovenia)

Passed Autumn 2025

Cosignatories: Youth Forum of Nasa Stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Alliance Youth

(Northern Ireland), Radikale Ungdom (Denmark), USR Tineret (Romania), Jonge Democraten (Netherlands), Young Progressive Slovakia, Nowoczesna Youth (Poland),

Arthur Wu (IMS)

Noting that:

- According to United Nations OCHA and WHO reports (as of September 2025), more

  than 67,000 Palestinians (of which more than 20,000 were children) have been

killed since the Israeli Government launched its assault on Gaza, following Hamas' brutal terrorist attack on 7th October 2023;

- Hamas' brutal terrorist attack on 7th October 2023 resulted in the killing of at least 1,219 Israeli civilians, and the taking of 251 hostages, with widespread evidence of the use of torture and sexual violence;
- Since 7th October 2023, more than 169,000 Palestinians have been injured, and over 80% of Gaza's population – approximately 1.8 million people – have been

  forcibly displaced;
- Since 7th October 2023, Hamas has increased its totalitarian rule over Gaza, torturing and executing Gazan opposition forces, displaying its disinterest in being a political force representing the interests of the Gazan and Palestinian

  population;
- Over 90% of Palestinians living in Gaza are living within a crisis level of malnutrition; reports that much of Gaza's water extraction, desalination and sewage management facilities have been destroyed;
- At least 94% of hospitals in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed since October 2023, and many are no longer operational;
- Much of the West Bank still remains under Israeli military control and the

Israeli government has enabled 160 settlements to be built in the West Bank and

East Jerusalem since 1967;

- Israel and its civilian population had to endure constant attacks by terrorist groups such as Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and the Houthis,

as

well as from the Islamic Republic of Iran itself. The mentioned terrorist groups are used as proxies by the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

- There have been strong efforts by the parliamentary opposition parties in Israel
  - led by Yesh Atid - to force the Netanjahu government to end the war in Gaza

and bring all hostages held in Gaza back to Israel;

- There has been massive opposition in Israel against the war in Gaza, as displayed by masses of people participating in protests throughout Israel - led

  by the families of the hostages - calling on the Netanjahu government to end the

war and bring all hostages held in Gaza back to Israel;

- The recent report presented to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 16th September 2025 by the UN Human Rights Council, which concluded
  that "[genocidal intent] is the only inference that could reasonably be drawn
  from the pattern of conduct" displayed by the Israeli security forces towards Palestinians in Gaza;
- Additional reports from Human Rights Watch, the International Association of Genocide Scholars and Amnesty UK concur with the findings of the UN report that
  the actions of Israeli security forces meet the legal definition of genocide in Article II of the United Nations Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of
  the Crime of Genocide (1948);
- Much of the West Bank still remains under Israeli military control and the

Israeli government has enabled 160 settlements to be built in the West Bank and

East Jerusalem since 1967;

- Israel, its civilian population, and Druze minorities in neighbouring states have had to endure constant attacks by various terrorist groups, as well as from
  the Islamic Republic of Iran. Many of these terrorist groups, including Hamas, have been used as proxies by the Iranian regime.
- There have been strong efforts by the parliamentary opposition parties in Israel
  - led by Yesh Atid and Young Yesh Atid - to force the Netanjahu government to

end the war in Gaza and bring all hostages held in Gaza back to Israel;

- There has been massive opposition in Israel against the war in Gaza and the use

  of military force against civilians, as displayed by masses of people participating in protests throughout Israel - led by the families of the hostages - calling on the Netanjahu government to end the war, stop the bombardment of civilian infrastructure, and bring all hostages held in Gaza back

  to Israel;

- On 9th October 2025, the Israeli Government and Hamas signed a peace plan

  facilitated by the US Government which established a ceasefire, and enabled the

  return of the 20 remaining living as well as all dead hostages held and killed by Hamas and the release of over 2,000 Palestinian citizens held by the Israeli

  Government.

Understanding that:

- Extreme and indiscriminate uses of violence – by both state and non-state actors

  – represent flagrant violations of international humanitarian law and the Geneva

  Conventions;

- The principles of international law must be upheld, as enshrined in the UN Charter, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) as

well as the justice convention's ban on genocide;

- The International Criminal Court has the authority to exercise its jurisdiction over alleged genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of

  aggression committed on the territory of Palestine, as well as over such crimes

  committed by nationals of Palestine irrespective of where they occur, and acknowledging that its determinations of individual criminal responsibility are

  binding, LYMEC commits to respecting the Court's independent role and outcomes.

- The International Court of Justice has the authority to adjudicate state responsibility under the Genocide Convention and to interpret and apply the
  Convention in light of the peremptory norm prohibiting genocide, LYMEC commits to respecting its rulings in South Africa v Israel and in any related proceedings.

- The Two-State Solution is widely regarded as the most likely route to securing a durable, sustainable, and secure peace for the people of Israel and Palestine;

- A Two-State Solution is only possible when political groups in Israel and Palestine accept a mutual right for both states to co-exist and when terrorist groups that have called for the extermination of Israel (including Hamas and

Palestinian Islamic Jihad), as well as armed settler groups in the West Bank, are dissolved and disarmed;

- In September 2025, several European states formally recognised the State of Palestine as part of their commitment to supporting a durable peace plan;

- The universality of human rights and the indivisibility of freedom are inherent values supported by young Europeans committed to liberal democracy, human
  rights, and the rule of international law.

- A State of Palestine can only come into existence when it is based on democratic, transparent Palestinian institutions—respecting pluralism, the rule
  of law, and anti-corruption safeguards, which safeguard the life of Palestinians

  and Israelis alike.

Believing that:

- No political objective can justify the deliberate targeting or indiscriminate killing of civilians, the taking of civilian hostages, or the deprivation of essential means of survival such as food or water;
- The right to self-determination is a core tenet of liberalism and should be respected by all state and non-state actors;
- Peace cannot be genuine or lasting without justice, accountability, and the condemnation of crimes against humanity;
- A true durable and sustainable peace can only emerge when cycles of violence,

occupation, insecurity, and impunity end;

- The continuation of the conflict under the leadership of the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza and Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right coalition in Israel has had terrible consequences for both the people of Gaza and Israel;
- Under Benjamin Netanyahu, democracy in Israel has entered a period of authoritarian backsliding which poses great risk to the freedoms, rights, and security of both Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel;
- The continuation of the conflict has enabled Hamas' totalitarian terrorist regime to perpetuate their control over Palestinian society and life in Gaza;
- Hamas and other terrorist groups must be dissolved, disarmed and must have no

place in the political landscape of Palestine;

- The Gaza Peace Plan must provide the basis for further diplomatic intervention

to sustain the ceasefire, enable the end to violence, and facilitate reconciliation between the people and states of Israel and Palestine.

LYMEC Calls For:

- The post-war reconstruction of Gaza to be Palestinian-led and guided by a peaceful and mutually agreed framework that ensures lasting stability and co-operation.
- The EU and European States to call for the dissolution and disarmament of Hamas

and all Palestinian terrorist groups that have destabilized the region and present a threat to future peaceful relations between the Israeli and Palestinian people.

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) to proceed with investigations into war crimes and crimes against humanity that may have been committed in Israel and

Palestine by state officials, military leaders, or members of terrorist groups, without political obstruction or selective justice.

- The European Commission to continue its efforts to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, with guarantees to ensure the effective and orderly

distribution of aid to civilians

- European states to support provisions for the establishment of a fully independent, democratic, and globally recognised Palestinian state, along mutually negotiated borders confirmed through a democratic vote, that ensures

mutual and peaceful co-existence with the state of Israel.

- European states and the EU to call on all states that have not yet recognized the State of Israel to do so and establish full diplomatic relations.
- The establishment of a UN-led peace conference aimed at a permanent political

settlement, involving the European Union and the United Kingdom as key facilitators, which seeks to secure international guarantees for security and self-determination of both Israelis and Palestinians.

- The continued planning and eventual implementation of IMEC as a facilitator for

peace between Israel and the Arab world through connectivity, trade and prosperity.

- The LYMEC Bureau to take note of the findings of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, dated

  16 September 2025, which according to the Article 255 concludes that the far-

  right Netanyahu coalition bears responsibility for the failure to prevent genocide, the commission of genocide and the failure to punish genocide against

the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip;

- The LYMEC and ALDE bureaus to issue statements following the final ruling of the International Court of Justice in the case of South Africa v. Israel, recognising the outcome and its implications for the protection of civilians, human rights, and the integrity of international law.

9.81 Cold front: A new era of security in the Arctic

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Norges Unge Venstre (NUV), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Svensk Ungdom (SU)
Co-signers: Radikal Ungdom (RU), Venstres Ungdom, Young Liberals UK, LLY, LHG, JOVD, Alliance Youth, Nowoczesna Youth

---

Passed Autumn 2025

Noting that:

- The Arctic, which has long been characterised by security policy stability with a historically low risk of escalation, has seen a greater power competition over

  the last years.

- Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022,, and its growing strategic interest in Arctic resources and routes have shifted it in many Western perceptions from partner to challenger.

- Instances of uncertainty in U.S. foreign policy (e.g. threats over Greenland) have strained trust in alliances and emphasised European dependence on U.S.
  security guarantees.

- Several European NATO members, especially those in or near the Arctic, have increased concern over Russian military buildup and ambitions in the High North.

- In late September 2025, unauthorised suspected Russian drone activity was observed near multiple airports in Denmark and Norway, causing major disruptions

and was a reminder of Russian presence in the north.

Emphasising that:

- The security environment in Europe, especially due to Russia's behavior, demands

  stronger collective defence capabilities and clearer responsibilities among NATO

  members.

- In recent years, Russia has demonstrated an increasing interest in exploiting the many opportunities in the Arctic, such as oil, natural gas, and potential future shipping routes made accessible by climate change.

- Russia's ongoing construction of a new military base on Wrangel Island demonstrates its increasing militarisation and strategic interest in the Arctic, with potential implications for NATO operations, environmental protection, and

the stability of the region.

- Existing frameworks such as the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFCO) already

provide a strong foundation for enhancing regional coordination, interoperability, and preparedness in the Arctic region.

- Legal norms and international order (treaties, maritime law, freedom of navigation) are fundamental to stability in the Arctic and must be defended

  accordingly.

- European NATO members have the capacity and interest to take greater ownership of defence in the High North, reducing over-reliance on U.S. presence, but this requires planning, coordination, capability investment, and credible command

  structures.

- The current geopolitical situation in Europe necessitates more proactive European NATO members, ensuring the alliance's interests while preventing Russia's protectionist developments in the region.
- Nearly all members of the Arctic Council, except Russia, are NATO members, and the risk of escalation does not appear to outweigh the dangers of lacking a presence in the region.

Believing that:

- To protect Europe's broad range of interests, the Arctic must remain a peaceful

and stable region based on international cooperation and respect for legal principles.

- While seeking collaboration, European countries in NATO must secure adequate

  defence capabilities and preparedness to ensure sovereignty and security in the

  northern areas.

- Arctic security must also be a top priority within the EU defence cooperation and NORDEFCO. Whereas the EU's role in security policy has sparked debate in

  countries like Denmark, which lifted its defence opt-out in European cooperation, the debate has been largely absent in Norway, despite the fact that

  modern security also encompasses non-military dimensions such as cyber defence,

energy resilience, disinformation, and supply chain security.

LYMEC calls for:

1. Uphold of International Legal Order

    - Maintain strict adherence to UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the

Sea) and other binding international treaties relevant to Arctic sovereignty, navigation, and maritime boundaries.

- Oppose unilateral changes to recognised boundaries or restrictions of navigation

routes without a legal basis.

- Support adjudication / legal mechanisms for overlapping sovereignty claims.
- Prevent Russia from violating international commitments regarding freedom of

navigation through the Northwest Passage and the Northeast Passage.

2. Strengthened Arctic Defence Posture among European NATO Members

- Increase investment in military capabilities suited for Arctic conditions: cold weather gear, ice-capable vessels (incl. icebreakers), long-range surveillance,

naval / air assets able to operate in polar climates.

- Ensure a more balanced burden-sharing within NATO to reduce reliance on the US for defence.
- Establish a clearer, unified, regional command or coordination mechanism within

NATO for the Arctic theatre (while respecting national sovereignty).

3. Balanced Burden-Sharing within NATO
    - European NATO states are expected to increase their defence spending, particularly for an Arctic/Northern posture, not just in aggregate, but also for

targeted capabilities.

- Coordinated procurement and joint development of infrastructure, logistics, and

systems for the High North to avoid duplication and reduce cost.

- Transparent contribution reporting and mutual accountability.

4. Nordic & Arctic Regional Cooperation under NATO & EU Frameworks
    - Reinforce cooperation among European & Arctic states in joint exercises, intelligence sharing, infrastructure, in NATO, NORDEFCO and EU contexts.
    - Engage with local/regional authorities/communities (including indigenous populations) in planning and oversight where territory/sovereignty / local impact are involved.
    - Strengthen the work carried out by NATO countries within the Arctic Council.
    - Enhance NORDEFCOcooperation in parallel with NATO collaboration.

9.82 A Continent of Opportunities: A Liberal Strategy for Development Cooperation with Africa

Adopted: LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava, 15 November 2025
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale
Co-signers: JOVD, LLY, Venstres Ungdom, LHG, JNC, Alliance Youth, JL, Nowoczesna

---

Passed Autumn 2025

Youth, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz Youth, JUNOS
Considering that:

- Development cooperation is an important part of the European CFSP.

  Providing

support to developing countries in key areas has been a high priority to date,

and it is important that this remains the case.

- Development cooperation has recently often been portrayed negatively in the

  media.

- Time and again, we get the impression that the financial resources provided under the umbrella of development cooperation to support states with weak infrastructure and supply situations are not being used wisely.
- Well-organized and realistic development cooperation can provide significant

  support to structurally weak regions and countries that are often ravaged by

multiple crises, such as local conflicts or climate change.

- With the growing strategic considerations of many developing and emerging countries between turning to the West or to authoritarian states such as Russia

and China, this presents a key opportunity for economic partnerships.

- As part of the Belt and Road Initiative, China is gaining influence worldwide by providing funds for infrastructure projects such as bridges, ports, railways, and dams.
- The goal of China is to create political dependence through diverse interdependencies. Approximately 150 countries worldwide have joined the Belt

and Road Initiative, including Austria, Italy, Portugal, and most countries on the African continent.

- Western development cooperation has failed to achieve clear deliverables in several decades. This has resulted in countless missed opportunities to work with partners such as in North Africa to increase prosperity in all participating countries and strengthen democratic institutions.
- Industrialized countries bear a significant share of the responsibility for the tangible effects of climate change in Africa.

- The North African countries are primarily transit countries for refugees from sub-Sahara Africa.
- The spread of jihadist movements across parts of Africa reflects deep governance

challenges, instability, and socioeconomic disparities that fuel radicalization and threaten both regional and European security.

Believing that:

- Development cooperation must focus primarily on the transfer of know-how and

innovation, rather than on one-off financial contributions that do not offer structural and therefore long-term solutions.

- Development cooperation should be brought more into the public eye, but it should also become more transparent in its own right, so that populist narratives and misinformation seeking to delegitimize ODA in general have less
  fertile ground to grow.
- The EU's development cooperation must be aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It is crucial that the feasibility of these goals for developing countries is carefully examined at the multilateral level. In addition to environmental considerations, social and economic aspects must also be given

appropriate

consideration and carefully weighed up.

- Security cooperation is a fundamental pillar for Africa’s sustainable development, as stability and peace are prerequisites for economic growth,

investment, freedom, democracy, and effective governance.

Emphasizing that:

- Projects must generally be planned thoroughly and for the long term, implemented

  with as little bureaucracy as possible, and their impact adequately monitored.

  It must also be clearly stated and factored into the budget that development aid

  is intended to alleviate the causes of migration, thereby reducing the number of

people seeking refuge in Europe.

- In order to improve the image of development cooperation in society in the short and long term, no money should be invested in projects that give the impression of squandering financial resources.
- Of the five North African countries—Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt—none are rated as stable by the Fragile State Index. Should these countries collapse, this would mean great suffering for the local population, a
  loss of prosperity, the loss of a trading partner, and streams of refugees heading for Europe. The most important goal of development cooperation must
  therefore be to stabilize countries and prevent them from failing. Efforts that go beyond stabilization must serve to promote democracy in partner countries.

- The maintenance of inhumane detention camps, through which the EU shifts its responsibility to areas not covered by its Convention on Human Rights, must be stopped.

LYMEC calls for:

- Advocating for the targeted promotion of civil society organizations, local initiatives, and trustworthy partners in autocratically governed states, provided that this can be done transparently and in compliance with human rights standards. Direct government payments should be ruled out in these cases.
- A clear distinction between non-repayable development aid in the form of financial assistance and loans that are to be repaid. A distinction should be made between the following two categories:

Category A: Know-how or expenditure only for essential structural improvements, such

as in the areas of health, food, and drinking water infrastructure, as well as for corresponding disaster relief efforts. The repayment of expenses is determined by contracts on a case-by-case basis. Climate protection projects may also fall under Category A in cases of particular urgency.

Category B: Financial support for non-essential structural improvements. This should include loans that are generally repayable with interest.

- Advocating for the close monitoring of projects in countries where corruption, authoritarian rule, or massive human rights violations exist. Projects with a proven impact on civil society—especially for women, minorities, and LGBTQ

  individuals—should remain possible, even if government conditions are difficult.

Projects involving government actors must be suspended if cooperation in compliance with human rights standards is not possible.

- The deepening of the CFSP in the European Union by pooling national development cooperation measures at EU level in the long term, thereby saving costs by eliminating duplicate structures.
- A serious European connectivity strategy on the African continent.
- Focusing European development cooperation with African countries and the African Union on sustainable job creation and knowledge transfer for the African population, as well as infrastructure development and new digital and climate projects.
- Increased cooperation between Western and African countries to remove barriers to market entry in order to facilitate private investment in African countries. To this end, we want to expand and supplement existing free trade agreements with the aim of establishing multilateral free trade agreements that enable the free movement of goods and labor.
- Western countries to work together with their African partners to reduce bureaucracy, simplify visa procedures, make it easier to raise capital, and set

  up targeted support and advisory programs for companies wishing to invest in

  Africa.
- Using our relationships and resources to promote effective local solutions, since the ability of individual actors to take sufficient environmental and climate action is at times limited.

- Supporting African delegations in climate negotiations on a partnership basis.
- Using targeted support measures to promote the rapid expansion of solar power plants in the Sahara in all North African countries. The goal should be to produce climate-neutral hydrogen locally that can also be used to power European industry.
- Supporting our partners in creating humane refugee accommodation where asylum

applications to the European Union can be submitted directly.

- Concluding migration agreements between the European Union and North African

  countries, to stop human trafficking and illegal migration directly on the coasts of North Africa.
- Strengthening cooperation with African partners in intelligence sharing, training, and development support to more effectively combat jihadism and

address the root causes of violent islamic extremism.

- European development cooperation should place a particular focus on partner countries that maintain effective cooperation on migration management and

readmission of rejected ayslum seekers.

9.83 Lost in Time and Lost in Space? Europe's Wake-Up Call for Space Security and Sovereignty!

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2026, Vienna, 19 April 2026
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge Liberale - JuLis
Co-signers: ZeMolodizhka, Jongliberalen, Venstres Ungdom, Young Green Liberals Switzerland, JOVD, Jeunes MR, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, JUNOS, Nowoczesna Youth, Attistibai Youth, LHG, Joventut Nacionalista Catalunya, Mladih Naša Stranka, LDLU, ERPY, USR Tineret, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz

---

Passed Spring 2026

LYMEC notes that:

- Space systems underpin Europe's economy and security and are increasingly targeted by jamming, cyberattacks, and counterspace capabilities.
- Europe's access-to-space is strategically constrained by a very low orbital launch cadence compared to the US and China weakening resilience, learning curves, and competitiveness.
- Orbital congestion and debris are a systemic security risk; destructive actions in orbit can create long-lived debris that endangers all operators and services.
- International law already sets a clear red line against nuclear weapons / weapons of mass destruction in space.
- Global consensus-building is active but fragile: the UN general assembly has called for ending destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests, and recent UN-level diplomacy shows how contested enforcement and verification remain.
- The "race to the Moon" is accelerating into an infrastructure-and-standards contest with competing blocs seeking partners and influence.
- Europe has credible building blocks for lunar autonomy and a lunar economy, yet political mandate and sustained funding determine speed and scale.
- The EU is pursuing a sovereign connectivity constellation to provide secure communications and broadband services - an important step for strategic autonomy if it is implemented competitively and at scale.

LYMEC believes that:

- A war in space would be catastrophic for everyone - especially highly digitized societies.
- The nuclear taboo in orbit must be strengthened with credible norms, transparency, and verification pathways.
- Space security must combine rules-based governance with resilience
- Europe's strategic autonomy requires: reliable, affordable launch capacity at high cadence, open, easy-to-use connectivity and data infrastructure, and a regulatory environment that enables NewSpace to scale across Europe.
- The Moon should not become a sphere of coercion or exclusion. Resource utilisation should be governed so that it is peaceful, transparent, and compatible with the Outer Space Treaty.
- The lunar economy could benefit from commercial space flight. US companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic currently dominate the sector with reusable rockets, satellite services and space tourism. It offers great opportunities for research and engineering, with an income stream of individual tickets that run into the millions.
- For speed and scale, commercial space flights can create a needed influx of funds.

- The EU should lead a coalition of responsible “space countries” to protect the orbital environment against destabilizing actors and incentives
- A flagship international science project can be a stabilizer and confidence-building instrument, provided it is paired with hard security measures and clear participation conditions.

LYMEC calls for:

1) Preventing war in space

- Champion an EU-led “Keep Space Peaceful & Usable” agenda
- Make the ban on Weapons of Mass Destruction in orbit a politically enforceable red line. The EU needs to push for verification concepts, transparency measures, and coordinated consequences for violations.
- Turn the UN general assembly call to end destructive anti-satellite testing into a wider binding norm.

2) Increasing Europe’s launch cadence and autonomy

- A European “Cadence First” industrial plan: scale launch production, streamline range operations, enable rapid licensing, and procure launch services in a way that rewards reliability and flight rate (not only legacy structures).
- Consider commercial space flight as a source to fund an increased European launch cadence and autonomy.
- Establish EU-level rapid reconstitution capability (launch + satellite buses + terminals) for crisis replacement of critical services.

3) Modernizing and speeding up ESA

- Reform ESA procurement and program governance to increase tempo: more milestone-based contracting, and clearer prioritization toward infrastructure platforms that unlock markets.
- Back a clear political mandate and budget line for Europe’s launch to the Moon via ESA capabilities.
- Make full participation in European space capability-building the default: support pathways for every EU country to engage meaningfully with ESA programs and European space industrial bases. EU funding needs to be aligned to incentivize reduced fragmentation.

4) A credible European Moon - Mars pathway

- Commit to “Europe on the Moon” infrastructure: support the Moonlight programme as a European anchor in lunar comms/nav services and interoperability with allied standards.
- Build a European position on lunar resources to support lawful, transparent resource utilisation under clear governance, aligned with free access and due regard principles.
- Keep Mars as a long-term objective: expand international cooperation for deep-space tech and habitation research, with Europe owning critical enabling layers.

5) Space traffic management and debris as security policy

- Advance EU-wide space traffic management (STM) and resilience rules, aligned with the EU approach to STM and the EU’s security/defence space strategy.

- Establishing a Space Debris Trade System (SDTS), whereby a pollution permit will be required for every kilogramme of waste in space. In order to limit space debris, a maximum permissible level of space littering should be set. This cap must be based on what scientists and engineers consider to be the maximum permissible amount for a still controllable risk of collisions with debris. The SDTS certificate must be available at the time of satellite launch in order to cover the potential debris at all times. When space debris is removed, new certificates for the debris remover are created in the same amount.

6) Growing a European NewSpace ecosystem

- Push for national and European legal clarity for private space activity so startups can scale and invest with confidence.
- Expand European space startup funding and procurement pathways to increase competition, innovation, and security of supply.
- Pursue an ISS-like new multinational space station framework as a confidence-building, scientific, and industrial project among major spacefaring democracies.
- Implement a performant IRIS² with startup-grade accessibility: standardized interfaces, transparent pricing, simple onboarding/procurement, and open service models so that SMEs and startups can build on it easily.
- Establishing a network of Competence Hubs throughout the EU with simplified tax regimes. NewSpace founders should be able to set up their businesses easily and without red tape and be exempted from bureaucratic obligations as far as possible.

9.84 Defending Greenland's Sovereignty: A Liberal European Response to Modern Imperialism

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2026, Vienna, 19 April 2026
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom, Venstres Ungdom, Junge Liberale - JuLis, Young Greenliberals
Co-signers: Finnish Centre Youth, Finnish Centre Students, ZeMolodizhka, Jeunes MR, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund, JUNOS, Nowoczesna Youth, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, PSG Mladi, Attistibai Youth, LHG, EYU, Joventut Nacionalista Catalunya, Young LIberals (UK), Mladih Naša Stranka, ERPY, Mladih Naša Stranka, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz

---

Passed Spring 2026

Remembering That

- Greenland has been an official part of the Kingdom of Denmark since 1814, following the Treaty of Kiel.
- As the former colonial power in Greenland, Denmark's historical role continues to shape the relationship between the two countries and forms part of the backdrop for ongoing Greenlandic aspirations for greater self-determination.
- Greenland achieved expanded self-governance in 2009, granting its government authority over domestic affairs while Denmark retains responsibility for foreign affairs, defence, and monetary policy.
- Denmark and the United States are longstanding allies, and have worked together on defence and security for decades, including the 1951 Defence Agreement governing the American military presence in Greenland.
- Greenland is not a member of the European Union, while Denmark is a full EU member state.
- Greenland, as an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, falls under NATO's collective defence framework.

Noting That

- A majority of Greenlanders, and all political parties in Greenland have expressed a desire for independence as a long term goal, and that the decision of independence is a greenlandic prerogative.
- Economic development is a precondition for a functioning Greenland, independent of the Danish block grant. In this context, Greenland's natural resources are becoming increasingly important for economic resilience, industrial policy, and strategic autonomy.
- U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly expressed his desire and intention to acquire Greenland one way or another, citing national security interests, while Greenlandic and Danish leaders have rejected any notion that the territory is for sale.
- The Arctic is of growing strategic importance due to its role in military positioning, maritime routes, space-related infrastructure, critical raw materials, and broader great-power competition.
- There has been an US military presence in Greenland since 1941, which was of significant strategic importance for Europe throughout the Cold War.
- Authoritarian powers, like Russia and the People´s Republic of China (PRC) have articulated a strategic interest in the Arctic and more specifically Greenland and Svalbard.

Believing That

- The right to self-determination is a fundamental liberal principle, and the Greenlandic people must be allowed to determine their own future without coercion from any foreign power.
- Any change in Greenland's political status must be driven exclusively by the democratic will of the Greenlandic people.
- The aggressive rhetoric used by the United States with respect to Greenland is a breach of the principles of rule-based order.
- Arctic security must be based on cooperation, rules-based order, democratic alliances, and respect for sovereignty, rather than territorial expansion, coercion, and great-power pressure.
- Greenland’s geopolitical importance extends far beyond the question of formal sovereignty: the Arctic is increasingly central to European and transatlantic security.
- In a time of increasing competition over critical raw materials, shipping routes, and strategic infrastructure, Europe must not leave Arctic policy to unilateral action by outside powers, but must develop a coherent and responsible approach that combines security, sustainability, and respect for the rights of Greenlanders.

LYMEC Calls For

- Institutional investors, such as the European Investment Fund and the European Investment Bank, to invest in Greenland, with the aim of supporting its economic sustainability and greater economic independence away from the Danish bloc grant.
- National governments and European institutions to unequivocally condemn any military or economic threats against Greenland's territorial integrity, and be ready to back this up with concrete actions if necessary.
- The United States to respect the democratic and sovereign rights of Greenland.
- For the European Union to actively promote Greenland's potential route toward membership of the European Union, if the people of Greenland so choose.
- The Danish government to acknowledge and take steps to rectify the injustices of Danish colonialism in Greenland.
- The European Union to strengthen its strategic commitment in the Arctic through greater investment in security, infrastructure, research, and diplomatic presence, in order to reduce reliance on unilateral action by outside powers and to contribute to regional stability.
- The European Union and its member states to support fair, sustainable, and locally beneficial development of Greenland’s natural resources, in ways that strengthen Greenland’s economic self-determination and reduce European dependencies on authoritarian or non-European suppliers.
- A European military presence on Greenland, which complements the strategic value of Pittufik Space Base, and which safeguards European strategic interests in the Arctic against infringements from authoritarian adversaries such as Russia and the PRC.

9.85 Guaranteeing peace and freedom on our continent: Towards a Credible European Nuclear Deterrent

Adopted: LYMEC Spring Congress 2026, Vienna, 19 April 2026
Chapter: Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs
Status: In force
Submitted by: Junge liberale NEOS (Austria)
Co-signers: Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (Spain), Jongliberalen (Belgium), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (Switzerland), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Mladi hrvatski liberali (Croatia), Venstres Ungdom (Denmark), Momentum TizenX (Hungary), PSG Mladi (Serbia), Junge Liberale - JuLis (Germany), JOVD (The Netherlands), Youth forum of Naša stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Liberale Hochschulgruppen (Germany), Jonge Democraten (The Netherlands)

Passed Spring 2026

Noting that:

- Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has fundamentally altered the European security environment and demonstrated the continued relevance of nuclear deterrence in global geopolitics.
- The Russian Federation continues to maintain and modernise one of the world's largest nuclear arsenals while repeatedly using nuclear threats as a tool of coercion against European democracies.
- The security architecture of Europe has long relied on the nuclear umbrella of the United States through NATO, which has been essential in maintaining peace and deterrence on the continent.
- Growing geopolitical instability and increasing uncertainty regarding the long-term reliability of U.S. security guarantees highlight the need for Europe to strengthen its strategic autonomy within the transatlantic alliance.
- That France and the United Kingdom, the only two European nuclear powers, have recognized a European dimension to their deterrence strategies in the Northwood declaration.
- France is currently the only nuclear-armed member of the European Union and has indicated in its forward deterrence doctrine its willingness to open cooperation and coordination on nuclear deterrence with European partners.
- European defence cooperation has intensified in recent years, including initiatives aimed at strengthening joint defence capabilities and strategic coordination within the European Union.
- The UK and several member states have already signaled their interest in participating in France's forward deterrence.

Acknowledging that:

- Nuclear weapons represent a grave humanitarian risk and the long-term objective of liberal security policy must remain global nuclear disarmament.
- However, as long as authoritarian powers such as Russia and People's Republic of China maintain nuclear arsenals and use nuclear threats to destabilise democratic societies, credible deterrence remains a necessary component of European security.

Believing that:

- The protection of liberal democracy, human rights, and European sovereignty requires credible and effective deterrence against nuclear coercion and aggression.

- That while short of being a true nuclear umbrella, France's forward deterrence is an important step towards EU strategic autonomy aggression.
- The European Union with its own foreign and security policy needs an European armed force.
- A European framework for nuclear deterrence would reduce strategic dependency, increase collective resilience, and ensure that decisions affecting European security are made with democratic accountability.
- Shared responsibility among European states would provide greater stability and reliability than reliance on a single national nuclear deterrent.
- Democratic oversight, transparency, and civilian control are essential elements of any European security architecture.

LYMEC calls for:

- The governments of European Union Member States and democratic partners on the continent to begin structured discussions on the development of a European nuclear deterrence framework within the broader context of European defence integration, with the goal being joint European Armed Forces.
- The European Union and its Member States to invest in nuclear research and technological development, including civilian nuclear energy and relevant dual-use capabilities, in order to reinforce Europe's strategic resilience, maintain technological expertise, and support a credible and autonomous security architecture.
- The command structure must be clearly defined and democratically legitimate. It must moreover be pan-European in nature and must not be under the control of individual Member States. However, until this can be achieved, individual Member States should also be able to proceed in accordance with Article 46 of the EU Treaty and bring French nuclear weapons under joint controlThis should, of course, only take place with the consent of the countries that provide the nuclear weapons - nuclear weapons from France, for example, should not be able to be placed under joint control against their will by a qualified majority.
- France to initiate consultations with European partners on extending its nuclear deterrence as a temporary European nuclear umbrella while a broader European framework is developed.
- The European Union and willing Member and Partner States to explore mechanisms for shared financial, strategic, and operational responsibility for nuclear deterrence in Europe.
- The development, in the long term, of a European defence structure in which nuclear deterrence responsibilities are embedded within a future European defence union or European army under democratic European command and oversight. This shall also include the development of a strategic submarine fleet to ensure a second-strike capability.
- The European Parliament to be involved in shaping democratic accountability mechanisms for European-level security and deterrence policies.
- The European Union and its Member States to continue pursuing international nuclear arms control and disarmament efforts while ensuring that Europe maintains a credible deterrent as long as nuclear threats persist.

Index by congress

LYMEC Congress 1992, Paris (19 January 1992)

4.06 Resolution on Competition in the European Community 209
4.09 Resolution on Free Market in developing countries 213
9.06 Resolution on Europe in Change 355

LYMEC 20th Anniversary Congress, Il Ciocco (31 March 1996)

9.01 Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996 344

LYMEC Congress 2001, Plovdiv (8 April 2001)

9.08 Resolution on Middle East Relations 359

LYMEC Congress 2004, Zagreb (28 April 2004)

2.09 A Uniform ID Card for a More Effective and Safer Schengen 30
9.03 Political Map of Europe Must Match Geographical Map of Europe 352

LYMEC Congress 2005, Amsterdam (10 April 2005)

9.14 E.U. Must Maintain the Weapons Embargo Against China 366

LYMEC Congress 2006, Winterthur (9 April 2006)

4.07 Globalisation is an Opportunity, Not a Threat! 210

LYMEC Congress 2007, Berlin (22 April 2007)

9.11 Urgent Resolution on Darfur Crisis 362
9.17 Towards a Stronger Euro-Mediterranean Partnership 371

LYMEC Congress 2008, Barcelona (4 May 2008)

9.04 Mutual Energy Assistance Pact 353
9.05 Resolution on EU-U.S. Economic Relations: Free Trade and Economic Integration 354

LYMEC Extraordinary Congress 2008, Brussels (22 November 2008)

3.04 Urgent Resolution on Mobility in Europe 143
9.12 Urgency Resolution on Action against Piracy 364

LYMEC Congress 2009, Rome (10 May 2009)

3.05 Unified Grading System for Schools and Institutions of Higher Education – Easy, ... 145

LYMEC Spring Congress 2010, Sinaia (1 May 2010)

4.02 No to EU Tobin Tax 205

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2010, Ljubljana (28 November 2010)

9.07 Motion for a Resolution Demanding the Immediate Release of Political Opponents in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Burma) 357

LYMEC Spring Congress 2011, Utrecht (7 May 2011)

3.06 Let Justice Between Generations Prevail! 146
5.02 Resolution on the Pension Systems 261
9.13 Improving the Coordination of Security Policy in Europe 365

LYMEC Spring Congress 2012, Copenhagen (13 May 2012)

3.03 Science not Stigma: Ending the Blood Ban 142
4.03 On the Completion of the Single Market for Pharmaceuticals 206

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2012, Sofia (14 October 2012)

3.07 A Truly Global Bologna Process 148
4.04 Enhancing the Single Market for Retail Financial Services 207
9.27 Resolution on the Western Balkans Enlargement Process 394

LYMEC Spring Congress 2013, Tallinn (27 April 2013)

6.01 Reforming the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) 275

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2013, Bucharest (17 November 2013)

3.08 Open your mind with open access 150
4.10 Audit Market reform 215
9.22 Promoting sovereignty over natural resources for the people of Western Sahara 384

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2014, Berlin (25 October 2014)

6.04 Resolution on the Protection of Arctic Area 277

LYMEC Spring Congress 2015, Rotterdam (2 May 2015)

2.10 Recognising the Armenian Genocide 31
2.11 Legal right to euthanasia in the European Union 32
4.12 Seize the possibilities of the sharing economy 217
9.24 Resolution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) 387
9.25 A coherent and ambitious EU development policy 389

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2015, Helsinki (31 October 2015)

7.02 Securing our rural economies 320

LYMEC Spring Congress 2016, Vienna (1 May 2016)

2.12 Resolution on the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD2) 34
3.11 Resolution on Countering Radicalisation of Youth in Europe 155
6.06 Precautionary principle on shale gas extraction 280

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, Tallinn (13 November 2016)

2.13 Resolution on privacy and data protection . . . 35
4.13 Urgent resolution in defence of CETA and free trade . . . 218
6.07 Resolution on LULUCF sector regulation . . . 282
7.03 Resolution on the matter of antimicrobial resistance in Europe . . . 322
7.04 More bzzz in the food! . . . 323
9.02 Future of relations between EU and the European Neighborhood . . . 349

LYMEC Spring Congress 2017, Stockholm (14 May 2017)

3.12 Joint degree Programs integration in Erasmus . . . 157
4.14 A proposal for the withdrawal of small-denomination euro coins . . . 220
5.04 Creation of a “student-entrepreneur” status in all European countries . . . 264
8.01 Connecting European Regions . . . 337
9.16 Resolution on Cyprus . . . 368
9.26 Tackling propaganda and fake news . . . 391

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2017, Sofia (14 October 2017)

2.14 Urgency resolution on the current situation in Catalonia . . . 37
2.15 Women’s right over their own body . . . 39
3.13 License to Heal . . . 159
9.28 Resolution on the racist and xenophobic riots in the USA . . . 397

LYMEC Spring Congress 2018, Berlin (8 April 2018)

2.16 For full voting rights of EU citizens in all member states . . . 41
2.17 Resolution on the Istanbul Convention . . . 43
2.18 Resolution on Minority Rights . . . 45
2.19 Resolution on the Rights of Linguistic Minorities . . . 48
3.14 5G wireless – let’s start the future . . . 161
3.15 Industry 5.0 – A European Initiative . . . 163
4.17 Motion for a resolution against new taxes on innovation (especially taxes on automation) . . . 226
6.08 Resolution for a common container deposit scheme in the European Union . . . 284
7.05 On the need for a blue economy . . . 325
9.29 Transparency and human rights led approach to EU deals with other countries on irregular migration 398
9.30 Support student activism internationally . . . 400

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018, Vilnius (14 October 2018)

2.20 Expanding Freedom of Speech . . . 50
2.21 Eliminate Pink and Tampon Taxes . . . 51
3.16 Taking responsibility on protecting our health with vaccinations . . . 165
3.17 Recognition of upper secondary qualifications across Europe . . . 166
4.18 Menstruation: Breaking the taboo . . . 228
6.09 Stop Nord Stream 2 . . . 285
9.31 EU support for sustainability and democracy in Tunisia . . . 402

LYMEC Spring Congress 2019, Brussels (7 April 2019)

2.22 Legal Protection for Whistleblowers 54
2.23 Resolution on condemning the persecution and torture of journalists and activists 56
3.18 Secure Innovation, how to secure smart devices 167
4.19 Standing behind our SMEs 229
6.10 Resolution on the future of our environment: climate change, pollution and looking forward to sustainability 286
7.06 Legalisation of snus and tobacco products with flavours or certain additives 327
9.32 The relationship with Turkey under assessment 404

LYMEC Online Autumn Congress 2020 (14 November 2020)

1.33 A Better European Response to Health Crisis Management 8
2.29 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression as Grounds for International Protection 58
2.30 Recognise Same-Sex Marriages in the EU 60
2.31 Freedom of Gender Identity as a Fundamental European Right 61
2.32 Urgent Resolution on Harmful Content Online 63
2.33 Stop Discriminatory Measures Towards Roma People 65
2.34 Ending Female Genital Mutilation 67
2.35 Freedom of Belief 69
2.36 Right to Abortion 71
2.37 Freedom from Rape 74
2.38 Situation in Belarus 76
3.19 Tackling Cyber Attacks 168
9.35 Urgency Resolution on Peace and Stability after the Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Deal 407
9.36 Let Taiwan be Taiwan: Recognise Taiwan as an Independent Sovereign State 409

LYMEC Online Spring Congress 2021 (24 April 2021)

2.40 Condemning Racism and Xenophobia in the EU 78
3.20 Combating Antisemitism in Europe 170
3.21 Defending Academic Freedom 173
3.22 Enabling Educational Mobility in Pandemic Times 174
6.11 The Adoption of C02 Taxes and Tariffs by the EU 291
7.07 A Ban on Wild Animals in Circuses Within the EU 329
9.38 Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Geoeconomic and Geopolitical Factors in the Arctic 414
9.39 A Vaccinated World by the EU 416
9.40 For the Democratic Transition and Future of Belarus 418
9.41 EUnited Against the Communist Party of China 421
9.42 Recognition of the Treatment of the Uyghurs by the People's Republic of China as a Genocide 426
9.43 For Freedom and Democracy in Russia 428
9.44 Urgency Resolution on Czech Out the Russian Influence 433
9.45 Demand to Stop Political Repressions Against Young Civil Rights Activists and to Restore the Rule of Law in Ukraine 434

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2021, Paris (24 October 2021)

1.34 Officiality and Promotion of Regional and Minority Languages in Europe 10
2.42 «A liberal drug policy» (JGLP / JFS Schweiz) 81

2.43 Freedom of Press and Media in Central-Eastern Europe: Attacks on the media, press and journalists 82
2.44 Resolutions for the rights of Climate Refugees 85
2.45 Effective legal protection in the European Union 86
2.46 Project Pegasus: protecting our privacy 87
3.01 Freedom of Scientific Research 135
3.02 A Liberal Approach to Education in Europe 137
3.09 A welcoming student culture – establish language courses for refugees 151
3.10 Youth Employment in Europe 153
3.23 Mental Health Matters for Europe's Students! 175
3.24 Freedom of expression and Campus Police 178
3.25 Inclusive education for an equal society 180
3.26 Mandatory Provision of National Electronic Identification within the EU 182
3.27 Reform the concept of NEET 184
5.05 Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families 266
6.12 Making 'Fit For 55' fit for purpose 293
7.08 A CAP fit for the 21st century 330
9.46 The Future of EU – Afghan Relations 437
9.47 In response to the asylum seekers' influx provoked by the illegitimate government of the Republic of Belarus 440

LYMEC Electoral Spring Congress 2022, Prague (22 May 2022)

2.47 A Migration Policy Fit for the Future 89
4.01 Liberal ideas on the Future of the Single Market 202
6.13 Cutting the European dependence on energy resources from the Russian Federation 295
9.49 Europe stands with Ukraine: Stop the Russian war 444
9.50 Recognition of the Genocide of the Ukrainian People by the Russian Federation 449

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022, Bucharest (20 November 2022)

1.35 European funds for European values! 13
2.48 Human Rights in International Sports Events 91
2.49 Towards a more inclusive European Union 93
2.50 The EU Shall Contribute to Free Internet in Authoritarian States 96
2.52 Keep governments out of our underpants, chromosomes and personal identities 98
4.20 A Liberal Tax System for Europe: Simpler, Smarter, Fairer 231
5.01 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market 259
5.03 Liberal approach to the sex industry 262
6.14 Resolution on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Restoration 298
6.15 Create a European market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) 300
7.09 Better, stronger, faster – Food for the EU 332
8.02 Resolution on the phase out of combustion engines by 2035 and the use of sustainable fuels 339
9.51 In solidarity with the Iranian women for freedom 452
9.52 Urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens 455
9.54 Recognizing the Russian Federation as a Terrorist State 459
9.55 Escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean 462

LYMEC Spring Congress 2023, Budapest (7 May 2023)

2.54 Liberal consolidation needs to be implemented to prevent the spread of authoritarian nationalist tendencies in Europe 100

3.28 Time To Act Against Healthcare Associated Infections . . . 186
5.06 Generationally fair and sustainable European pension policy . . . 268
6.16 Climate justice . . . 301
9.09 Fight against Terrorism . . . 360
9.15 Resolution on Gibraltar . . . 367
9.18 Urgency Resolution on the Situation in BiH . . . 373
9.19 Resolution on Transnistria . . . 376
9.21 In defence of freedom and fundamental rights in Cuba . . . 381
9.56 Stop Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe . . . 465
9.57 Towards Stricter Screening of Foreign Direct Investments Into Critical EU Infrastructure . . . 467
9.58 Closing Putin's gates means welcoming allies - Extending an invitation to Georgia . . . 469

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2023, Riga (12 November 2023)

2.56 Better Safe Than Sorry - Establishing a European Crisis Mitigation and Resilience Framework 103
5.07 European Menstruation Equity . . . 270
6.18 An EU Energy Security Policy . . . 302
9.20 Resolution on the Situation in Kosova . . . 379
9.60 Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh . . . 471
9.61 A Stable Future for Northern Ireland: Addressing the unique challenges facing the European Peace Project since Brexit . . . 475
9.62 Stop the Gas (It's Probably Russian) . . . 479
9.63 Resolution on strengthening liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern Partnership . . . 481
9.64 The European Union Needs a Single Sanctions Coordinator . . . 483
9.65 Ban Imports from Chinese Regions and Market Sectors Tainted by Forced Labour . . . 486

LYMEC Spring Congress 2024, Brussels (24 March 2024)

1.36 A fight against the far-right is a fight for liberalism and democracy . . . 15
2.57 Can't Pray the Gay Away: Put an End to Conversion Therapy . . . 105

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2024, Warsaw (10 November 2024)

2.58 Keep your hands off our Schengen Area . . . 108
4.21 Cutting the Red Tape: Unleashing Europe's Economic Engine . . . 236
4.22 Houses for the Future: Addressing the EU Housing Crisis . . . 239
4.23 Catching Up the Productivity Gap: Make the European Economy Great Again . . . 241
7.01 A Pulse for progress: Fishing for the future . . . 318
7.10 A silent Tsunami - Battling multiresistant bacteria . . . 335
9.37 Resetting the EU-UK Relationship . . . 411
9.48 Political Situation in Venezuela . . . 442
9.66 Preparing for a Trump Presidency: liberal, rules based order under threat . . . 488
9.67 When women are forced to silence, liberals speak up . . . 491
9.68 Accelerated pathway for Ukrainian EU membership . . . 493
9.69 The case Moldova: Russian meddling in European democracies, time to act . . . 494
9.70 Stop teaching hate: End of genocide denial in European classrooms . . . 496

LYMEC Spring Congress 2025, Zagreb (6 April 2025)

1.37 Defending Europe in times of need . . . 17

2.59 Strengthening Peacebuilding across Europe: Recognising and Reinforcing our Commitment to Conflict Resolution . . . 110
3.30 The EU in cybersecurity: moving from Windows 95 to the AI of the future . . . 190
4.24 Fostering a Thriving Tech Ecosystem and Supporting Young Entrepreneurs in the EU . . . 243
5.08 Protecting the Budapest Pride march and the freedom of assembly in Hungary . . . 273
6.19 Establishing Standards for Ethical and Sustainable Fast Fashion in the EU . . . 305
9.71 For a Free Tibet . . . 498
9.72 Secure the Eastern Flank: Secure the Union . . . 501
9.73 In solidarity with the people of Georgia . . . 504
9.74 Resolution on Strengthening EU Foreign Aid to Countries in Crisis . . . 506
9.75 Standing up for Justice: Supporting the Serbian Student Protests . . . 509
9.76 A coalition of the trading; leading by example . . . 511
9.77 End the Systemic Corruption: Justice for Victims of Kočani Tragedy . . . 513
9.78 Defending Democracy in Türkiye: Condemning the Arrest of Ekrem Imamoğlu and Political Repression against the Opposition and Civil Society . . . 515

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2025, Bratislava (15 November 2025)

1.38 Europe's Collective Defence . . . 21
1.39 Is It a Bird, is It a Plane? It's a Russian Drone – Protecting European Airspace from Drone Attack 24
2.60 Recognition of the Rights to Sexual Reproductive Health and Abortion . . . 112
2.61 Privacy . . . 117
2.62 No Freedom Without Equality: Tackling Transphobia and Discrimination Across Europe . . . 125
2.63 Towards a fairer and more efficient European asylum system . . . 128
2.64 Preserving Democracy and Protecting European Values through the new EU Budget . . . 131
6.20 Strengthening European Energy Interconnection to Safeguard Security of Supply and Prevent Blackouts . . . 307
8.03 Connecting Europe: Completing the High-Speed Rail Union . . . 341
9.79 Crime and Punishment - Make Russia Pay For Its War . . . 517
9.80 A Call for a Lasting Ceasefire in Gaza, Accountability Under International Law, and a Durable Two-State Solution for the People of Israel and Palestine . . . 520
9.81 Cold front: A new era of security in the Arctic . . . 525
9.82 A Continent of Opportunities: A Liberal Strategy for Development Cooperation with Africa . . . 528

LYMEC Spring Congress 2026, Vienna (19 April 2026)

2.65 Equal marriage. Equal Europe. . . . 133
3.31 Building Resilience: Counterin Disinformation Through Education . . . 192
4.25 Resolution on EU-INC (28th Regime) and European Competitiveness . . . 246
9.83 Lost in Time and Lost in Space? Europe's Wake-Up Call for Space Security and Sovereignty!532
9.84 Defending Greenland's Sovereignty: A Liberal European Response to Modern Imperialism . . 535
9.85 Guaranteeing peace and freedom on our continent: Towards a Credible European Nuclear Deterrent 537

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026, Vilnius (25 October 2026)

1.40 No Union without values: defending the Rule of Law in the EU . . . 27
3.32 Let Bulls Smell Flowers, Not Blood: A Call to Ban Bullfighting . . . 195
3.33 Securing Europe's Digital Future . . . 197
4.26 Together We Spend, United We Ball - More EU Defense Joint Venture Projects! . . . 251
4.27 Deregulate to Liberate: Making Life Affordable Again in Europe . . . 253

4.28 Making Europe a Global Leader in Pharmaceutical Innovation 256
6.21 Powering Europe Freely - A Technology-Neutral, Competitive and Resilient European Electricity System 309
6.22 Let the Market Split the Atom: A Technology-Neutral Framework for Nuclear Energy and a Competitive European Electricity Market 314

Congress not known

4.08 Telecommunication in Europe 212
4.15 A step forward for digital entrepreneurship in Europe 222
4.16 From an economic and monetary union (EMU) to an economic, budgetary, fiscal and monetary union (EBFMU) 224