



Tim Robinson for LYMEC Treasurer



Dear LYMEC Member Organisations and Individual Members,

I am pleased to be able to ask for your support in running to be the next treasurer of LYMEC.

My Story

My journey with LYMEC is many years long. I have spent three years as an elected Individual Members' delegate and a further two years on the IMS Steering Committee. In that time, LYMEC has become a political home to me, and I have had incredible opportunities to participate in events across Europe that I never could have imagined before, most recently in chairing our 2025 Autumn Congress in Bratislava.

Now it is time for me to use my many years of experience in LYMEC and my professional skills from outside of politics to help us grow and develop the organisation for the next generation of members.

Why am I running for treasurer?

As we approach the 50th anniversary of our founding, LYMEC faces challenges. Recent election results have meant challenges to our established sources of funding, while costs have increased significantly in recent years. These challenges all impact on our ability to run events, campaign on key issues, and train the next generation of European leaders. In seeking to grow our influence as an organisation and provide more opportunities for our members to get involved in our work we must also continue to reform our ways of working.

The treasurer plays a vital role in overseeing LYMEC's financial health and ensuring that robust controls are in place to ensure we are compliant with legislative requirements and achieve our strategic goals.

What do I hope to achieve?

Business-as-Usual: keeping the wheels running

The role of treasurer is different to many other positions on the bureau as it is a primarily technical role. While I intend to pursue a number of reforms, the most important task is **to fulfil LYMEC's financial and statutory obligations** effectively.

The treasurer is responsible for **preparing LYMEC's budgets**, overseeing sound **financial management** and ensuring that our **key financial controls** are operating effectively.

As a **Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA)** with 6.5 years of experience working in the risk and governance field for public sector organisations, I am a trusted and dependable figure to take on these key responsibilities. I also have extensive experience of internal audit, which means that I can help to reform how we conduct these to add more value.

- Undertake **continuous budget monitoring** to ensure that our funds are being spent wisely and potential overspends or opportunities for additional projects are identified early on
- **Professionalise our internal audit** with a clearer methodology more in line with the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) to add more value
- Implement **consultations for our annual budget** setting process so that member organisations can input into our spending priorities
- Draft a **new expenses policy** with the aim of reducing costs associated with bureau and staff travel

Fundraising and income-generation: our biggest challenge

The majority of our general income comes from grants from the EC and Renew Europe, as well as specific project and event-based grants. While these grants provide **large and generally dependable income**, they also come with specific limitations and risks. For instance, our funding arrangements generally mean that we are not able to host Congress outside of the European Union. There is also a risk to our activities when we are **reliant on a small number of sources of funding** and this risk materialised a few years ago, when we did not receive an EC grant we had anticipated.

The next bureau must continue the work of the current bureau in trying to **diversify and expand our income**. LYMEC generally receives a low level of donations, and fundraising in this area is a key point that I wish to focus on.

- Form a **fundraising team** to bring together volunteers and experienced fundraisers from across LYMEC to seek donations and commercial opportunities.
- Make better use of the **LYMEC Alumni Network** to seek donations from prominent alumni & supporters
- Invest time into **researching grant opportunities** and discussing with peer organisations to maximise our grant revenue, given that other youth organisations of LYMEC's scale receive higher grant funding
- Growing our **Individual Members Section (IMS)** as a way to add income – by adding just 100 individual members we can generate nearly €2000 in revenue

Rethinking our ways of working: Congresses and Events

While previous bureaus have put a lot of work into recovering the organisation after the shock of COVID and the cost-of-living crisis, there are still many areas where **we have not significantly changed our approach** in many years.

A valid criticism of LYMEC is that while we represent hundreds of thousands of young people across our member organisations, **only a very small number ever get to directly participate** in LYMEC's work.

There are many opportunities to improve how we operate to ensure that we are not only getting the best value for money but that we are trying to involve as many people as possible in our work

In working with the wider bureau, I will seek to:

- Conduct a **review of membership fees** in close consultation with MOs and Individual Members to see how we can balance supporting smaller organisations whilst shoring up our revenue
- Explore **alternative options for Congress**, including how and where we host Congresses and how we manage participant numbers
- Look into how we can fund **smaller, more accessible, more frequent events** with streamlined funding, within our current financial structures

Your vote

I am ready to bring my experience, professionalism, and passion for LYMEC to the role of Treasurer, and I look forward to shaping how LYMEC operates going forward.

I hope you can put your trust in me to help us make LYMEC bigger, bolder and more effective.

Yours Faithfully,

Tim Robinson

