

MINUTES Bureau Meeting 28-29 August 2026

The meeting was held in person in Tallinn, Estonia and on ZOOM from 13h30 to 18h30 (EEST) on 28/08/2026 and from 13h30 to 17h00 (EEST) on 29/08/2026.

Present In Person: Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Martina Barres Sabartes (MBS), Anes Hodzic (AH) and Even Diot (ED)

Present online: Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP), Ilija Jerković (IJ), David Grasveld (DG)

Excused: Tommy Monnahan (TM)

Day 1 - 28/08 13h30

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

1. Updates on the LYMEC Autumn Congress 1/2

- Disaffiliation

MP proposes the disaffiliation of CUB Junior, which was suspended from the European Liberal Youth LYMEC at the Spring Congress 2026. CUB Junior has been unresponsive to LYMEC's communication attempts, and the mother party as well as the political foundation are no longer members of the ALDE Party and ELF.

Vote: All In Favour

Decision: CUB Junior will be proposed for disaffiliation at the upcoming Autumn Congress 2026 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

- Applications for Full membership

ED states that the secretariat received 2 applications to become full members of the European Liberal Youth.

Youth Bloc (Belarus) and Unge Moderater (Denmark)

Both organisations fulfilled the eligibility criteria to become a Full Member Organisation. The Bureau is providing a positive recommendation for the 2 organisations.

The Autumn Congress 2026 will decide upon application by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

- Open Slides Training Session

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ED states that ahead of Autumn Congress, LYMEC will organise a Training Session for the use of OpenSlides, the software used at congresses.

ED and MBS will lead the session on September 15th at 18h00 via Zoom.

- Programme of Action 2026-2028

SB presents the outlines of the Programme of Action for the upcoming mandate that was drafted thanks to the input of every Bureau member.

The Bureau edited the document to define the vision and the priorities it will focus on for its mandate.

The Programme of Action will be presented at the Digital Assembly 2026 and approved by the Congress at the Autumn Congress 2026.

End of Day 1 - 18h30

Day 2 - 13h30

Present In Person: Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Martina Barres Sabartes (MBS), Anes Hodzic (AH) and Even Diot (ED)

Present online: Ilija Jerković (IJ)

2. Financial Updates

- Draft Budget 2027

IJ presented the Draft Budget 2027 to the Bureau.

Vote: All in Favour.

Decision: The Draft Budget 2027 is approved by the Bureau and will be presented to the Autumn Congress 2026 for approval.

- Membership fee 2027

IJ states that the new structure for the membership fee was adopted at the Autumn Congress 2025 and implemented in 2026, and that there is no need to increase or decrease the membership fee for 2027.

- Delegates from German Member Organisations to the LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026

MP states that, following a discussion with FNF Europe in which compliance issues have come to light, the delegates from JuLis and LHG will have to be exempted from paying a participation fee for the upcoming Autumn Congress. The Bureau is looking into ways to

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prevent these compliance issues in the future without having to make exemptions for specific member organisations.

ED states that a meeting will be organised with the LYMEC Treasurer and the International Officers of these 2 Member Organisations to clarify the situation.

Vote: All in Favour

Decision: Approved.

- Bureau Travel Allowance

IJ proposes the following policy for a Bureau Travel allowance for travel over 6 Hours.

*Meal and (non-alcoholic) drink allowance during the trip can be claimed under the reimbursement in case the purchase takes place within **6 hours or more** between your point of departure from home (or alternative location) and the first provided/covered meal at the event involving official LYMEC representation, **or** the last provided/covered meal by LYMEC for your trip and your point of arrival at your final destination;*

The allowance would be up to 30 EUR for every 6 hours (with the possibility to deviate from this for excessively long travels), but everyone is encouraged to be as economical as possible.

Bureau Members must pay this cost themselves and then claim it for reimbursement from LYMEC afterwards.

Vote: All in Favour

Decision: Approved, with immediate effect. The treasurer will draft the policy in a document to be stored on the Drive to be easily accessible for future reference.

- Reduce Participation Fee and Freedom Fund LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026

Freedom Fund

Organisation	Country	Number of delegates	Amount Requested	Amount proposed by the Treasurer
PSG Mladi	Serbia	3	600	350
Forum Mladih Naša stranka	Bosnia i Hercegovina	3	600	350
3H Movement	Turkiye	2	600	300
Attīstībai Youth	Latvia	2	75	50

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For Youth!	Latvia	3	250	100
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In total: 1150 EUR allocated

Reduced Participation Fee

The selection was made trying to be consistent with the number of the previously allocated Reduced Participation Fee for past Congresses, the argumentation provided in the form, and whether they also requested the Freedom Fund.

The LYMEC Bureau proposes to allocate **20** reduced participation fees out of 34 requested (17 were allocated for Vienna for 44 requested).

Organisation	Country	Number of Delegates in person	Number of reduced fees proposed by the Treasurers	Number of Reduced fees approved by the Bureau
Jóvenes de Ciudadanos	Spain	3	1	1
Nowoczesna Youth	Poland	3	2	2
PSG Mladi	Serbia	3	2	2
Momentum TizenX	Hungary	3	2	2
Young Progressive Slovakia	Slovakia	3	2	2
Youth Forum of Naša Stranka	Bosnia i Hercegovina	3	2	2
Sonja Brandmayr	IMS	1	1	1
For Youth!	Latvia	3	1	1
Attīstībai Youth	Latvia	2	1	1
European Youth of Ukraine	Ukraine	3	2	2
ZeMolodizhka	Ukraine	1	1	1

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3H Movements	Turkiye	2	2	2
Young Liberals	UK	3	1	1
TOTAL		34	20	20

Vote: All In Favour

Decision: The Bureau approves the proposal made by the Treasurer for the allocation of the Freedom Fund and the request for a Reduced Participation Fee. The organisations will be informed in the following days.

IJ left the meeting

1. Updates on the LYMEC Autumn Congress 2/2

- Update on registrations ahead of the Deadline.

ED reminds the Bureau Members of the upcoming deadline ahead of the Congress and the documents that are required to be published on the platform.

- Approval of the Delegates to the LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026

ED presents the current list of registered participants to the Autumn Congress 2026 and proposed it for approval; no issues were raised.

ED mentions that Youth Democratic Movement Vesna (Russia) reached out to LYMEC after the deadline and would like to register 2 delegates in person, with only one delegate needing accommodation.

ED mentions that one IMS Delegate also reached out after the deadline and would like to join in person and would require accommodation.

Vote: All in Favour.

Decision: The Bureau approves the list of registered delegates as well as the 2 late registrations to the Autumn Congress 2026. Any additional request for registration will be decided through a written Bureau Decision.

3. Internal calendar

ED presents the current Internal Calendar of the organisation and informs each bureau member of their responsibilities for each activity.

DP joined the meeting

4. RENEW Youth Summit 2026

ED presents the RENEW Youth Summit 2026 taking place on November 18-19-20 in Brussels, Belgium. Together with YDE and Les JEM, LYMEC is supporting Renew Europe in organising the event. This year, half of the event will be focused on capacity-building training, and the second half will be a 'simulation' exercise where participants will act as delegates amending and voting on a resolution declaration on AI and digitalisation. LYMEC took a leading role in this event and will support Renew in running this exercise through Open Slides.

ED informs the Bureau Members that a draft resolution has been written with MBS and has now been sent for comments to YDE and les JEM before being discussed with the policy unit of Renew.

ED also presents the Guide for the participants and the Open Slides guide for the chairs that will be used for this exercise.

ED presents the role of each bureau member during this event, where they will act as Chair or Co-Chair during the exercise. MP, DP, AH, SB and MBS confirmed their availability. Travel and accommodation will be covered by Renew. IJ will be in attendance at another event in Brussels simultaneously, the Better Politics Week.

ED presents the pre-selection of the participants who applied to join this summit. LYMEC received 84 applications for 25 participants. Gender parity and geographical diversity were respected, and at least one participant from every member organisations who applied and fulfilled the criteria of eligibility was selected to participate in this event.

Vote: All in Favour.

Decision: The Bureau approves the selection of the participants to this event. ED will communicate the list of participants to Renew Europe for confirmation.

DP left the meeting

5. ALDE Council

ED updates the Bureau about LYMEC's involvement in the ALDE Council 2026. During this event, LYMEC is co-hosting a reception on Thursday for the celebration of the 50 Young Liberals to Watch project. MP is part of the selection process for this list, together with bureau members from ALDE and the Alliance of Her. Additionally, on Friday, LYMEC will organise a Panel Discussion for the Young MEPs of ALDE. This panel discussion is part of an Erasmus+ deliverable. To support this at the ALDE Council, they will cover travel and accommodation for 3 Bureau members to Dublin, Ireland. SB will be travelling as a Council delegate; MP, DP and IJ will be the three delegates covered by ALDE and represent LYMEC at this event. ED and TM will be simultaneously attending the European Youth Forum Statutory meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

6. Secretariat Updates

ED informs the Bureau of the ongoing hiring process for the replacement of the Project Officer. The Final selection will be made during the week of August 31st, with an expected date of September 14th. Introduction meetings will take place with every Bureau member during the last two weeks of September with the new Project Officer.

ED asks the Bureau if a 40H contract could be established for the Secretary General and the Project Officer. The Social Secretariat already explained the process, and formal approval from the Bureau is needed.

MP states that he will liaise with SB and IJ to ensure the Budget reflects this potential increase and will send the request for a written decision of the Bureau.

ED informs the Bureau that the first Open Desk on fundraising and finances will take place with IJ in September and will be open to all IOs and Treasurers of LYMEC's network. Thematic open desks might be organised in the future to answer MO's questions.

DG joined the meeting

7. IFLRY Updates

MP gives the floor to DG, who was presented earlier this morning as Interim LYMEC representative to IFLRY.

DG introduces himself.

MP presents the role and the expected responsibilities of the position in relation to IFLRY. A joint Bureau meeting between the president, vice-president and Secretary General would be organised before the end of 2026. DG will attend the IFLRY Autumn GA 2026 in Budapest, Hungary.

MP proposes to the Bureau to pilot a closer involvement of the IFLRY representative in the Bureau.

DP agrees with the idea.

ED informs DG that the invitation to the LYMEC Autumn Congress will be sent to IFLRY in the coming days.

DG left the meeting

SB mentions potential support from Liberal International, who could help organise a joint bureau meeting in person between LYMEC and IFLRY.

IJ asks to be involved in future communication for the financial implications.

8. European Youth Forum (YFJ) updates

ED presents the upcoming deadlines regarding LYMEC's involvement with the European Youth Forum, including the review of the Strategic Plan of YFJ, the deadline for Motions to the upcoming General Assembly and the deadline for a VP candidate.

MBS states that he will organise a meeting with TM and ED in September to discuss potential topics for resolutions based on LYMEC's Policy Book.

MP states that he will ask DG to get an update on the potential candidacy of an IFLRY candidate for the position of Vice-President of YFG at the upcoming General Assembly. If IFLRY is not putting a candidate forward, TM will coordinate with the other Political Party Youth Organisations.

ED informs the bureau that during the Spring General Assembly of YFJ, they will elect members of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. LYMEC put forward a candidate last time, though unsuccessfully. In order to increase LYMEC's chances, ED proposes to open a call to the membership to select a second delegate to the upcoming YFJ statutory meetings on behalf of LYMEC. This will allow them to get better knowledge of the organisation, its role and run as a candidate in future elections.

MP agrees with the idea. The call will be created shortly.

9. European Liberal Forum

ED briefly presents the new financial rules of the European Liberal Forum that will be implemented from 2027 onwards.

TM and MP will be attending the Innovation Policy Lab Future of Cities 2026 in Brussels in November.

MP updates the Bureau on the support of LYMEC to Antoaneta Asenova for the position of Second Vice President. ELF Member Organisation will be contacted on her behalf, and social media posts are planned throughout September.

10. Upcoming Events

ED reminds the Bureau of the upcoming events that still require input.

- Voices from Ukraine scheduled for mid-September
- Policy Debate 3 scheduled for Mid-October.
- Young Voices in the European Parliament at the ALDE Council.
- In-person Bureau meeting in December organised with the support of FNF Europe.

11. Erasmus +

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ED informs the Bureau on the state of completion of the Erasmus + deliverables for 2026. LYMEC is on track to deliver every activity. Regarding the application for Erasmus+ for 2027, the application is expected to arrive in late October.

12. Tour de table

MBS

- Policy briefing of August by next week
- Planning of meeting on LYMEC Motion to YJF with TM and ED
- Bureau Report by September 22
- Youth Bloc Technical Report for their application for Full Membership
- Open Slides Training Session on September 15
- Select flights for the Renew Youth Can Do It Summit on November 19-20

AH

- E-learning module for YCA to be finished
- Confirm final speakers for YCA III
- Finalise the Libertas Toolkit
- Libertas Follow-up webinar on September 8
- Approval of two Libertas articles in coordination with the Editorial team.
- Bureau report by September 22.
- Update the bureau on a potential application for associate members from Albania
- Select flights for the Renew Youth Can Do It Summit on November 19-20

SB

- Finalise the Libertas Toolkit
- Libertas Follow-up webinar on September 8
- Deliver the YLM in The Hague
- Finalise the HR process for the Project Officer
- Offboarding of LMH in coordination with ED
- HR monthly meeting in September
- Start working on the potential review of the Rules of Procedure and Statutes for 2027
- Start working on the yearly review of the Code of Conduct for 2027
- Bureau report by September 22
- Select flights for the ALDE Council November 12-14

MP

- Select Trains for the Renew Youth Can Do It Summit on November 19-20
- Select flights for the ALDE Council November 12-14
- 40-hour work contract for the LYMEC Secretariat
- Bureau Report by September 22

13. Invitations

- YDE - EDP Summer School: ED and DG will attend on behalf of LYMEC
- JEF Peace Forum: TM as a speaker

14. AOB

ED informs the Bureau that a potential youth organisation from Georgia would apply for the Spring Congress 2027. A meeting will be organised at the ALDE Council 2026 with the mother party.

ED informs the Bureau that the call to host the LYMEC Spring Congress 2027 will be launched next week.

The Bureau meeting ended at 17h00