

MARTEN

FOR PRESIDENT

Dear liberal friends,

LYMEC is the place where my European political journey began. It is the place where I made bonds and friendships. LYMEC has been a school, an innovator, and a force to be reckoned with. Within LYMEC, you all gave me the trust and opportunity to shape the future of the organisation as your Treasurer. Now I want to continue this journey — and it would be the honour of a lifetime to walk it together with you as the next LYMEC President.

The political situation is growing more tense by the day. Europe has allowed the war in Ukraine to enter into its fifth year. Our biggest ally seldom behaves like one. If elections were held now, the combined far right would be the biggest force in the European Parliament. We must assume that liberalism will face great challenges in the coming years and that liberal democracy is at stake. To face these challenges, LYMEC must do better on all axes.

In my vision, LYMEC has three distinct functions. LYMEC as a voice, where LYMEC is able to properly represent the dozens of thousands of people behind our member organisations on the European level. To make sure their voices are heard at every level of government. LYMEC as a school, where people grow into politicians that can go beyond their local and national borders and can navigate the European sphere. And lastly, LYMEC as a network, where we build a community that helps each other out. Where we learn from each other about what works and what doesn't. Where we become more than the sum of our parts.

#1 LYMEC as a voice

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LYMEC has a duty to speak up for young liberals on the European stage. We cannot afford to sit in Congress halls and expect the world to implement our solutions and solve our problems. We have to take them to the halls of power and to the streets. To make sure the ideas of our MO's are heard, LYMEC should be an amplifying force. By cleverly combining the contacts we and our MO's have, we can more effectively advocate for our policies. On top of that, we should not be afraid to take firm positions when we believe Europe needs them. Our goal is not to defend the status quo, but to aim for real change.



#2

LYMEC

as a school

#2 LYMEC as a school

For LYMEC to properly prepare the next generation of liberals for the challenges that are coming our way, we must continue strengthening our focus on acquiring skills. Through long-standing programmes like the Young Changemakers' Academy we have learned how we can prepare young liberals to achieve concrete results in their work. With a broader range of partners, including private partners and institutional partners like the Council of Europe, we can do even more to sharpen critical skills for the next generation of liberals.



#2

LYMEC

as a network

#3 LYMEC as a network

Another way we learn at LYMEC is by learning from each other. We, as a community, need to help each other grow stronger. We have many brilliant young minds with innovative ideas for campaigns, communication, and fundraising. I believe we're not making the most use of this talent in our network and spreading their knowledge and experience. By strengthening networks of professionals in LYMEC and using our events for exchanging best practices, we can accelerate knowledge sharing.



LYMEC has made it 50 years, and we can be proud of what we have achieved. But to stay relevant for the next 50 years, we have to continually strive to be better, to be bolder. As your President, I will do everything in my power to fight for the policies and ideals that we all share. I hope I can count on your support.

Kind regards,