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MINUTES
Bureau Meeting
20 May 2026

The meeting started at 18:00 CEST on 20/05/2026 and ended at 20:00 CEST on 20/05/2026. It was held online via ZOOM.

Present: Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP), Martina Barres Sabartes (MBS), Anes Hodzic (AH), Tommy Monnahan (TM), Ilija Jerković (IJ) and Even Diot (ED)

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

1. **ALDE Congress**

- Updates on Resolution

MBS presents the 2 Resolutions LYMEC submitted to the ALDE Congress 2026.

Preserving Democracy and Protecting European Values through the new EU Budget and *Pensions with a Purpose: Europe Beyond Generational Debt.*

The amendments will be discussed in 2 weeks and submitted accordingly by the delegation.

- General updates on the programme (LYMEC Presence, AOH Reception, Stands)

ED updates the Bureau about the latest developments regarding LYMEC's presence at the ALDE Congress.

The LYMEC Bureau and Secretariat will attend the House of Freedom Reception organised by the Alliance of Her and Rainbow Platform on Thursday, July 2nd.

LYMEC will be represented throughout the ALDE Congress in the exhibition area of the Congress.

The original idea of LYMEC organising the afterparty on Friday, July 3rd in the evening will not take place due to capacity and financial constraints.

A dinner is scheduled between the LYMEC Bureau, the delegation and the secretariat on Saturday, July 4th.

A Bureau meeting will take place on Saturday afternoon at the end of the ALDE Congress.

IJ mentions that, like in Brussels, the LYMEC Alumni Network will organise an informal

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lunch on Friday, July 3rd before the opening of the Congress in a restaurant close by. Presence is not mandatory for everyone.

SB informs the Bureau that the LibDem and the Norwegian delegation are organising a meeting for non-EU delegations. LYMEC will be convened, and **SB** will inform **MBS** as head of delegation.

2. ELF Updates

- Update Strategic Partnership 27-29

MP presents the outcomes of the last meeting with ELF ahead of the Renewal of the Strategic Partnerships for 2027-2029.

The collaboration is seen as a success by this partner and proposed to proceed with a partnership of 225 000 EUR for the next period of 3 years.

Due to the change of the regulations overseeing ELF, two changes are impacting our projects:

1. The projects which are considered Capacity building (YCA and Women Leadership Accelerator for 2026) are limited to participants from EU Member States.
2. The Capacity building events can now be transformed into Political Skills Training events.

It is a mixed development as we deplore the impossibility to have capacity building events for participants from non-EU member states. However, it is a positive development as we can now formally train potential political candidates from our network.

SB asks what projects are considered as 'Capacity Building' and are impacted by this change.

ED informs that, for 2026 and the future it will concern the Young Changemakers Academy and the Women Leadership Accelerator.

The Liberal Hack and the Young Leaders Meeting are not impacted by these changes and are still open to non-EU participants.

- Liberal Awards 2026:

ED presents to the Bureau the Liberal Awards 2026 and asks for potential candidates for the different categories: Rising Star, Liberal of the year and Lifetime Achievement.

DP presents a candidate: Christos Floros, a member of DP International in Luxembourg, an entrepreneur advocating for more European digital sovereignty and former candidate to the 2024 EU elections; he also joined LYMEC as a speaker at YLM in 2025.

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ED asks the other bureau members to provide other ideas before the submission deadline of May 29th.

- Advocacy Campaign coordination possible via ELF and YFJ

ED provides more details regarding the change of regulations and its implications for other political foundations and political party youth organisations and the need to be vocal on this issue in our advocacy campaign.

TM will include this item in his engagement with YFJ, which could be of support on this campaign.

SB highlights that given the fact that LYMEC has a lot of members from non-EU countries, including as well within its Bureau, it is important to be vocal.

TM will lead this advocacy campaign with ELF and YFJ and update the Bureau on its developments.

- YLM - Save the Date - Location (For decision)

MP shares one piece of feedback from ELF regarding the YLM event. The event is seen as a success, but there are ways to improve its outcomes, and we should use the opportunity of having many presidents of Political Parties Youth organisations to do more communication with the media in the country where we are meeting. It would bring more political relevance.

For 2026, to incorporate ELF feedback and increase our political output, we need to select a country which can provide such a framework.

IJ presents the possibility of Sweden and Germany, especially Berlin, as we could also rely on support from potential support from local partners.

SB proposes the idea of Italy following NOVA joining as an associate member of LYMEC at our last spring Congress.

DP seconds the idea of Italy and Germany.

SB also raises concerns that it is not because liberals are facing challenges that LYMEC should not travel there. But agrees that in the context of YLM it makes sense to be present in a country where Liberals are strong.

ED took the floor to explain the regulations guiding ELF and why requesting support from local partners which are not ELF members would be a compliance issue. **ED** presents another idea: The Hague, Netherlands, as two Liberal parties are in power, with strong partners on the ground that would be able to support us.

MP After having discussed different options, **MP** puts to a vote to organise the YLM 2026 in The Hague.

Decision: Approved

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- LH Winners Meeting

ED informs **TM** and **MBS** of the date for the Liberal Hack Winners meeting (September 28-29) as a Save The Date and reminds them to review the booklet for publication.

3. **Digital Assembly**

MP informs the bureau that a meeting with Apple is scheduled next week to discuss the possibility of supporting us in organising our Digital Assembly with either the event taking place in Germany or Italy at one of Apple's facilities on August 28-30 2026.

If Apple is not able to support us, Cyprus is also a potential host country at an earlier date, August 14-16.

The decision will be taken by written approval following the discussion with APPLE.

4. **LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026**

ED updates the Bureau members on the organisational updates related to the organisation of the LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026.

It will take place on October 23-25 in Vilnius, Lithuania, with the support of RENEW Europe and FNF Europe. Additionally, FNF Baltics and the 2 Liberal parties in Lithuania will be contacted to seek further financial support.

The Congress itself will take place within the SEIMAS of the Lithuanian Republic, which is the parliament of the country.

The registration for the Congress will open on July 1st and run through the summer.

ED reminds the Bureau members of the statutory deadlines in relation to Congress, especially regarding potential members' applications for full and associate membership, to inform the member organisations of their regional responsibilities.

During this Congress, the IFLRY representative will need to be confirmed; the call for the selection of this representative will be opened in June, with the selection being made during the summer by the Bureau.

MBS asks that it would be important to have a more defined role of the portfolio for the next representative to be detailed upon opening the call for the next representative.

The call for the ILFRY representative will be opened in June with a more detailed portfolio.

5. **YFJ**

- Report from the YFJ GA

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ED briefs the Bureau about the YFJ General Assembly. LYMEC engaged with the other political party youth organisations and coordinated our work during this General Assembly.

YFJ elected a new board for the organisation with one member from the PPYO. Following developments during the campaign, the candidate of IFLRY for the position of VP withdrew his candidacy. A letter detailing aspects of internal IFLRY disciplinary procedures involving the candidate was distributed to delegates ahead of the relevant election. Regardless of the validity of the aforementioned letter, which is a matter to be determined by IFLRY and its members, the candidate decided to withdraw his candidacy. Therefore, the position of VP will remain vacant until the next General Assembly during Autumn 2026

Our motion on *Reclaiming our Future: Youth at the Heart of Pension Systems* was adopted, and we co-signed a Motion on *Safeguarding Independent Public Service Media in Europe*, which was also adopted.

We started working on the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. LYMEC will continue working with the Youth Forum to advocate for stronger attention to security and digitalisation as Europe faces growing geopolitical and technological challenges.

The next General Assembly will be in Belgium on 12-15 November. **TM** and **ED** will be the delegates representing LYMEC

6. Handover with previous Bureau

- 1-1 with your predecessor

MP asks the bureau if they had planned a meeting with the previous Bureau Member to ensure proper handover and reminds everyone to schedule these meetings.

TM left the meeting.

- 1-2-1 meetings with Sean

SB is also scheduling 1-1 with every Bureau member to ensure the division of tasks is fair and appropriate.

- 'Meet the Bureau Campaign'

DP presents the Meet the Bureau Campaign that LYMEC will do on Social Media to present the new Bureau members.

7. Secretariat Updates

- Update on recruitment of a new Communication Assistant

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ED informs the secretariat of the recruitment process for the new Communication Assistant, which will start on June 8th and run until December 4th 2026. Onboarding sessions will be planned in the first few weeks of June so that every Bureau Member can introduce themselves to the new assistant.

- ALDE Youth Forum Leader / Network of Young MEPs

ED reminds the Bureau that one of our deliverables for this year's Erasmus + Grant agreement is to organise an event for the Network of Young MEPs. This year, in coordination with ALDE, we will organise this meeting at the ALDE Council in Dublin, with ALDE supporting us financially with the Bureau travelling to this event.

- YELL Summit - RENEW COR

ED informs the Bureau of the upcoming Summit of Young Elected Local and Regional Leaders (YELL) in cooperation with the RENEW Europe Committee of the Regions and YDE. The Summit will take place on September 22-23 in Brussels on Climate Change.

The Call for participants will open in early June, and the selection process will be done in July. The bureau is invited to share the event with their Member Organisations and every local and regional elected representative.

- RENEW Europe Young Leaders Summit 2026

ED informs the Bureau on the organisational update for the RENEW Europe Young Leaders Summit 2026. It will take place in Brussels, November 18-20. LYMEC is involved in drafting the programme in coordination with RENEW. The selection process for the participants will open in July.

LYMEC will push to keep the enlargement topic and the war in Ukraine on the agenda and ensure participants from our member organisations are represented throughout the event.

8. IMS

- Call to renew the IMS Steering Committee

ED informs the Bureau that we will launch the all for the new steering committee as per our statutes. The deadline to apply will be June 10th and the elections will take place 19-22 of June 2026.

9. Tour du table (going over outstanding tasks)

MP presents to the Bureau this agenda item, which is a recommendation from the Internal Auditors, where every bureau member shares their updates on their ongoing tasks so that at every Bureau meeting we can check the developments.

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AH informs the Bureau about the change in the Libertas team where he will appoint a new managing director following his election as Bureau member.

AH will also organise the Voices from Ukraine II for 2026 as part of the Erasmus + 2026 in June 2026.

DP shares the results of the survey on the participation initiative with the Bureau. For the design competition for the LYMEC 50 merch, the deadline was extended. The goodies will be designed with input from the Social media team.

The former Communication Assistant (**MP**) and **DP** are also working on the ELF study on Housing.

IJ updates the Bureau about the work done to certify LYMEC within the European Solidarity Corps. A scheme allowing LYMEC to have additional funds for a new position within the Secretariat.

MBS informs the Bureau about the upcoming Policy Debates, part of the Erasmus + 2026 to take place in early June, instead of May as originally planned.

MBS is also drafting the policy brief and will update the policy book with the new Resolutions adopted at the LYMEC Spring Congress 2026.

10. **Invitations**

MP will be joining the ELF/VVD partnership days in The Hague in June together with **IJ**.

IJ is in contact with Venstres Ungdom for an invitation to their Congress.

11. AOB

- Proposition to have Sean Bennett as a Second Permanent Ombudsperson (For Decision)

MP reminds the Bureau that, as per our statutes, the Secretary General acts as permanent ombudsperson. **MP** proposes that **SB** support him in his task, as vice-president, to also be appointed as a second permanent ombudsperson.

Decision: Approved

- Updates from the first CDA Meeting

SB the first meeting of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage took place, with Marina Seldo being elected chair.

AH will travel to Budapest to lead the second session of the YCA class of 2026.

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IJ will attend the LYMEC Alumni Network General Assembly on May 28.

DP reminds the office that she will be out of the office from May 25th until June 1st.

ED left the meeting

12. HR Part (without secretariat)

- For Decision: SG renewal

MP asks the Bureau to propose for renewal the current Secretary General (ED) for another term of 2 years at the LYMEC Autumn Congress 2026.

Decision: Approved

The meeting ended at 20:00 CEST

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