

Co-funded by the European Union



MINUTES LYMEC Spring Congress 4th - 6th April 2025 Zagreb, Croatia and Online



## Legend to minutes correction:

- 1. *Color system*: Bureau members and candidates, Chairs of the Congress, LYMEC Secretariat and Internal Auditors, delegates and important matters.
- 2. *Intervention transcription*: discourses and candidates introductions are written in first person whereas the rest of interventions, including the debates, will use the third person.
- 3. Name writing format: Clara Puig (LYMEC).
- 4. All the text must be justified.



the European Union



## Day 1 - Friday, 4th April 2025

Congress starts at 16 h 30 pm CEST (Zagreb time). Participants are attending in-person in Zagreb but also online.

## 1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President)** opens the Congress with her speech from the Congress room in Zagreb, Croatia.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President): Dear friends, welcome to the LYMEC Spring Congress! It is an honour to stand before you here today, as we face a moment in history when the very core of our values - democracy, freedom and human rights - are being tested like never before. We are here at a crossroad, and the path we choose will define the Europe we leave for future generations like never before. At a time when democracy is under siege both here in Europe and across the globe, we, as young liberals, have a duty to stand firm and defend what is ours: our freedom, our values, our rights. Democracy is not just a vote - it's a daily fight. It is about the rule of law. It's about standing up for the powerless. It's about an unwavering belief that no one should live in fear of oppression, conflict, or war. And yet, as we speak, democracy is being undermined. We've seen a rise of nationalism, authoritarianism and isolationism. And perhaps, most painfully, we have seen the reckless force of division unleashed - the trade war started by President Trump is a prime example. A trade war that spreads partition, raises uncertainty, and undermines the very foundations of global cooperation. This is a strong reminder that when we abandon the principles of collaboration and open trade, it is not only economies that suffer, it is the people. But we cannot, and will not, turn our backs to what makes us strong. Our democracy is only as strong as the defenses we build around it. A strong democracy requires a strong defense - one that is coordinated, strategic, and resolute. In an era of hybrid threats, cyberattacks, and actors inside and outside the EU seeking to destabilize our institutions, Europe cannot afford to sit idly by. Security is the foundation of freedom. Without security, there can be no freedom. Without freedom, there can be no democracy.

As LYMEC, we believe Europe must take responsibility for its own defence. We need stronger cooperation in security. We need intelligence sharing that is swift, efficient and effective. We need a Europe that stands together, not only as a union of economies, but as a united force in the face of those who would seek to undermine our values. But there is more at stake than just security. It is the future of Europe itself. For too long, the narrative of Europe has been one of bureaucracy, stagnation, and fear. It's time for that to change. It is time to renew the European dream. As European Liberals, we





must lead the charge to make this dream thrive. To build a Europe that is strong, confident and optimistic. We must reclaim this narrative. Europe must be the beacon of hope. A place where innovation, opportunity, and human dignity thrive. We cannot afford to wait and see. We cannot afford to bury ourselves with more and more bureaucracy. We cannot afford to rely on what the rest of the world will do. We must act. Our future is too important.

A Europe that leads, must be a Europe that dares to look forward. It must be a Europe that embraces its diversity, harnesses its creativity, and stands at the forefront of global progress. We must be a Europe of solutions, not excuses. We must build a Europe that is not afraid to take the lead in addressing the most pressing challenges of our time - from the climate crisis, to the digital revolution, to defending democracy on a world stage. Europe's best days are ahead of us, but we will only get there if we take bold action today. Democracy and security go hand in hand, and we must build a Europe where both are safeguarded - not just for ourselves, but for the world to look up to. So let us be loud and let us be clear: we will defend our freedoms, we will defend our Europe. And we will build the future of Europe, united, strong, and determined. This is our time. This is our moment to act. We are the generation that will not back down. We are the generation that will defend democracy with strength and with unity.

I am happy to see you all here in Zagreb and I am sure that with you we will be able to build this narrative of an optimistic Europe, even in challenging times. Be this optimistic change and give hope to many other young people who might have lost it.

## 2. Guest speeches

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President):** I give the floor to **Valérie Hayer (President and MEP, Renew Europe Group - VIDEO MESSAGE).** 

Valérie Hayer (President and MEP, Renew Europe Group - VIDEO MESSAGE): I couldn't be there in Zagreb, but I want to share this short message with you. Ukraine is still fighting for its freedom. Europe must act by itself. We must ensure our own security and step up our efforts. We should assume our geopolitical role. We need to bring our effort to another level, of which the ReArm Europe plan is an encouraging first step. I wish you all a very nice Congress!

Yevheniia Krachcuk (Vice President, ALDE Party, MP Servant of the People): It is a pleasure to be with you and see so many people from all over Europe. I am honoured to be here. I want to extend greetings



EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

to all the liberal youth of Europe. I believe it is a generation with a unique mission: you will have to defend freedom and democracy from illiberal regimes and from distortion carried on by some politicians. This fight is now harder than ever. Liberal Youth must speak up. Go into politics, take responsibility, talk to people!

**Dario Hrebak (MP, President of the Hrvatska socijalno-liberalna stranka HSLS):** This is not just a political commitment for me. It is a pleasure for me to welcome you here in Zagreb. I also moved my first steps in politics thanks to LYMEC. Inclusion of young people in decision making is fundamental. It is not enough to say we believe in freedom - we must live it and protect it everyday!

**Krunoslav Lukačić (President of the Croatian's People Party – Liberal Democrats HNS):** Croatia is proud to host this Congress, bringing together liberal minds from all over Europe. Youth is truly inspirational, and the energy you bring is what our continent needs to meet today's challenges.

Sander Janssen (Lead Trainer, VVD International): It is a true honour to be here. Being here feels like getting back to my previous home as I started my journey in JOVD. There comes a time to move on and leave JOVD and LYMEC. It will also happen to you one day, but I can promise you that you will never forget your first political love. LYMEC and JOVD made me become who I am today. They have been a driving force in developing young liberals and protecting the democratic values we hold dear. To defend democracy, the road ahead is not easy, but we are not alone as liberals. We stand united and are ready to take on the challenges of our times.

## 3. Roll call and voting rights

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President** invites **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** to perform the first roll call for this Congress.

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** states that if delegates have any technical problems they should contact **Sean Bennett (LYMEC Bureau Member)**. Should they encounter any non-technical issue, they can also reach out to our ombudspersons for this Congress: **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President)** or **Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor)**. **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** reminds all the participants to check the communications received about the Congress technicalities, registrations and hotel check-in/check-out. He reminds participants that only the head of delegation has voting rights for each Full Member Organisation. Associate Member Organisations have no votes according to the LYMEC Statutes. He reminds delegates that everything is happening through OpenSlides.



the European Union



## Roll call

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager)**. **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence be known in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place. No organisation will get a second chance if they miss the calling of their name, they will have to wait until the next roll call. The goal is to be more efficient to allow more time for discussions.

The roll call was executed as follows:



Co-funded by the European Union



	Full Members	Vote: Roll Call 1 -	Friday Opening
Austria	Junge Liberale NEOS - JUNOS	5	ŧ
Belgium	Federation des Etudiants Liberaux - FEL	3	
Belgium	JeunesMR - JMR	8	8
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL	5	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3	3
Bulgaria	YMRF Youth movement for rights and freedoms	10	10
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC	6	6
Croatia	Mladi hrvatski liberali - HSLS	5	ţ
Croatia	Istrian Democraric Youth (IDS)	3	3
Croatia	Mladi Hrvatska narodna stranka- liberalni demokrati - HNS Youth	3	3
Cyprus	NEO.DEPA	3	1
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5	Ę
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY	6	6
Estonia	Center Party Youth - ECPY	5	t
Finland	KOL Keskustaopiskelijat	3	
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret FCY	5	Ę
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6	6
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	5	
	(LHG)*	10	5
Sermany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)		10
Sibraltar	Liberal Party of Gibraltar - LPG	3	ŝ
lungary	Momentum (TizenX)	3	3
celand reland	Uppreisn - UP	4	
eland atvia	Ógra Fianna Fail - OFF	8	8
	Attīstībai Youth - AY		3
.atvia	For Youth! - PAR	3	3
ithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY	6	6
uxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL	3	3
Aontenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro - LYM	3	(
Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie - JOVD	6	6
Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD	6	e
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth	3	3
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - ALLIANCE	3	3
Norway	Norges Unge Venstre - NUV	5	5
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth - NY	3	3
Romania	USR TINERET - USR	5	Ę
Russia	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna	3	3
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - PS	3	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - SVB	3	3
Serbia	Mladi Pokret slobodnih građana - PSG Youth	3	
Spain	Jovenes Ciudadanos - JCs	3	8
Sweden	Liberala ungdomsförbundet - LUF	6	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5	Ę
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4	2
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz - JFS	7	5
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals - YGL	6	6
Jkraine	European Youth of Ukraine - EYU	3	8
Jkraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine - LDLU	3	3
Jkraine	ZeMolodizhka	8	1
Inited Kingdom	Young Liberals	6	6
MS	Silvia Fernandez	1	(1
MS	Adam Volf	1	1
MS	Arthur Wu	1	1

Simple majority of those present/absolute majority Two thirds of present Simple majority of those present without abstentions

209	236	TOTAL
104.5	118	
139.3333333	157.3:	



the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

There were 209 votes present at the Congress.

#### The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux FEL
- NEO.DEPA
- KOL Keskustaopiskelijat
- Uppreisn UP
- Liberal Youth of Montenegro LYM
- ZeMolodizhka

## 4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

#### **Election of Chairs**

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) proposes Stefania Reynisdottir, Brent Usewils, Dan-Aria Sucuri as Congress Chairs.

The Congress accepted the Chairs.

#### **Election of Secretaries**

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) proposes Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager) and Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General), together with Bureau Members taking minutes with Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager), as Congress Secretaries.

The Congress accepted the Secretaries.

#### **Election of Scrutineers**

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) proposes Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor) and Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor) as Congress Scrutineers.

The Congress accepted the Scrutineers.

## 5. Adoption of the agenda

Brent Usewils (Chair): I am very happy to see you all. Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) already pointed out some important things. If you want to be on the speakers' list, please use OpenSlides. You





can address a point of order through OpenSlides, too. Make sure you give a brief explanation to justify it. When you take to the floor, please state your full name and Member Organisation for the minutes. We want to make this Congress a safe space. Should you encounter any issue, you can find a QR code to an anonymous inclusion form. As already announced, the two ombudspersons are available to you. **Brent Usewils (Chair):** We are now going to move to the adoption of the Congress agenda. It has been sent to you already ahead of the Congress by the relevant deadline. If no one is against, we can adopt the Congress agenda.

No one is against. The Congress accepts the agenda as proposed.

## 6. Adoption of the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2024 in Warsaw

**Brent Usewils (Chair)** asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2024 in Warsaw, Poland. No one expressed any points or disapproval.

The minutes from the <u>Autumn Congress 2024 in Warsaw</u> are therefore adopted by the Congress without changes.

## 7. Urgency of resolutions (in case of urgency resolutions handed in)

**Brent Usewils (Chair):** There are **3 Urgency Resolutions** submitted at this Congress. We move on to Urgency Resolution 1.

 Urgency Resolution 1 - Defending Democracy in Türkiye: Condemning the Arrest of Ekrem Imamoğlu and Political Repression against the Opposition and Civil Society

**David Grasveld (LHG)** : This is something very urgent that happened after the deadline regarding the political situation in Türkiye.

**Brent Usewils (Chair):** The required majority is 2/3 to deem the resolution urgent. The vote is open. If there are any technical issues, please raise your hand.

Vote on the Urgency of Urgency Resolution 1 🔽

Yes - 176



the European Union



No - 0 Abstain - 8

Urgency Resolution 1 is carried by the Congress.

Brent Usewils (Chair): I invite the movers of the next Urgency Resolution.

Urgency Resolution 2 - End the Systemic Corruption: Justice for Victims of Kočani Tragedy
Tamara Garcheska (Lidem): This is also an urgent case that happened in North Macedonia after the deadline for resolutions.

**Brent Usewils (Chair):** The required majority is 2/3 to deem the resolution urgent. The vote is open. If there are any technical issues, please raise your hand.

Vote on the Urgency of Urgency Resolution 2 🔽

**Yes - 176** No - 5 Abstain - 12

Urgency Resolution 2 is carried by the Congress.

 Urgency Resolution 3 - Protecting the Budapest Pride march and the freedom of assembly in Hungary

**Ruben Frievald (TizenX)**: This urgency resolution is about the Pride ban by Orbán. This happened after the deadline and it is really urgent now.

**Brent Usewils (Chair):** The required majority is 2/3 to deem the resolution urgent. The vote is open. If there are any technical issues, please raise your hand.

Vote on the Urgency of Urgency Resolution 3 🔽

**Yes - 187** No - 8



the European Union

LY MERAL YOUTH

Abstain - 0

Urgency Resolution 3 is carried by the Congress.

## 8. Snap vote on the order of resolutions

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General):** We are moving onto a snap vote on the order of resolutions. You have 5 votes for each delegation, and therefore 5 resolutions to select. The vote is open now until the end of the next agenda point. We will show the results of the snap vote before the Secretary General report point. You will be able to check the results directly on your OpenSlides account.

**Brent Usewils (Chair):** As explained, the Head of Delegations will vote on the order in which the resolutions will be discussed in this Congress tomorrow. We already had the Working Groups one week ago, where you could discuss the submitted resolutions and their content together with the amendments, so you probably had the chance to check them already.

The vote is now open for the delegates. The vote will stay open for 45 minutes. The results will be shown at a later stage when voting will be closed.

Results of the snap vote on the order of resolutions: 🔽

1.	11. Fostering a Thriving Tech Ecosystem and Supporting Young Entrepreneurs in the EU	(41.919 %) 83
2.	Urgency Resolution 1 Türkiye	(38.384 %) 76
3.	Urgency Resolution 3 Hungary	(36.869 %) 73
4.	2. Secure the Eastern Flank: Secure the Union	(35.354 %) 70
5.	5. Strengthening Europe's Strategic Autonomy in Response to Shifts in U.S. Policy and External Influences	(31.818 %) 63
6.	7. The EU in cybersecurity: moving from Windows 95 to the AI of the future	(31.313 %) 62



Co-funded by the European Union



7.	1. For a free Tibet	(30.808 %) 61
8.	17. Defending Europe in times of need	(29.798 %) 59
9.	13. Establishing Standards for Ethical and Sustainable Fast Fashion in the EU	(23.737 %) 47
10.	21. A coalition of the trading; leading by example	(23.737 %) 47
11.	16. Standing up for Justice: Supporting the Serbian Student Protests	(21.717 %) 43
12.	8. In solidarity with the people of Georgia	(18.687 %) 37
13.	9. Resolution on Strengthening EU Foreign Aid to Countries in Crisis	(14.646 %) 29
14.	12. Strengthening Peacebuilding across Europe: Recognising and Reinforcing our Commitment to Conflict Resolution	(14.646 %) 29
15.	Urgency Resolution 2 North Macedonia	(14.141 %) 28
16.	10. Bringing European innovation forward: Harmonizing the Aviation industry.	(13.636 %) 27
17.	20. Stop the EU's agricultural subsidies	(13.636 %) 27
18.	14. No Trains, No Planes, No Ships—EU Cuts Kaliningrad's Trips!	(13.131 %) 26
19.	18. Beneath the Surface: How Deep Sea Mining Puts Our Oceans at Risk	(12.626 %) 25



Co-funded by the European Union



## 9. Bureau (and IFLRY Representative) Reports and debate about the reports

**Brent Usewils (Chair): Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President)** and **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President)**, please take the floor. After that, we will have the other Bureau Members and the IFLRY Representative take the floor, and then you can ask your questions.

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President):** The past half year was quite exciting, there was much to be done among finances, and getting our funding. I am very excited to say that we have a new addition to our Secretariat, **Aoife Devereux (LYMEC Communications Assistant**). Unfortunately, she is ill today but I am sure you have seen her work online. Make sure to give her a round of applause. We had quite a lot of online events, including our Bureau meeting in Belfast. One final thing I would like to flag is the Young MEPs Meeting, where we invited young MEPs to bring forward LYMEC policies to them. We have had a second meeting with them, I am sure **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President)** will dive more into that.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): Thank you. It is always a great opportunity to get a bigger team. LYMEC has a tight budget but we try to be efficient on our resources and how we use them. Aoife Devereux (LYMEC Communications Assistant) has been a great addition to the team in the past months. To conclude, as you may know, LYMEC will celebrate its 50th anniversary soon.





**Brent Usewils (Chair):** Sorry to interrupt, there was a short technical issue on the snap vote on resolutions. Please start again with the voting, a new ballot was created on OpenSlides: "**NEW Vote on the Order of Resolutions**".

Marten Porte (Treasurer): The last few months have been quite packed. I have been to the Council of Europe with Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) to focus on youth work and Ukraine.

Sean Bennett (LYMEC Events and Engagement Officer): Here is a quick summary of what I have been doing. We started this year's YCA in London, we will have the second event in Stockholm soon. We have selected a new Editorial Team with Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals UK) as a new editor in chief, they have been doing an amazing job. Another piece of news is the guide for IOs, and, on top of that, we are creating a database of contact details to make it easier for you guys to connect with each other.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (LYMEC Communications Officer): I always say that the biggest part of my job is something you can see on social media. We have been planning the LCN with Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager), and working with Aoife Devereux (LYMEC Communications Assistant) has been incredible, I hope you all can meet her. You will see the rest online!

Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Advocacy & Outreach Officer): I will focus on two main things: one of them is the Liberal Hack. The call is online so I hope you reach out to your members to have them apply to the event. The second thing is the YFJ GA, there will be elections for the Advisory Council on Youth for the Council of Europe. We have nominated Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals UK) for that. There was an informal request in the group as we did two years ago with Yevheniia Fedotova (LDLU). In two years, there will be another opportunity for that.

**Ioana Abaseaca (IFLRY Representative):** The IFLRY GA happened in Tallinn, then I attended the Bureau meetings in preparation for our GA in May. I wrote an article for the IFLRY Newsletter, and what is not included in the report is that me and other Bureau members of IFLRY did an onboarding session for new delegates as well as for new IOs. We had an attendance of only 3 delegates, but I think it is good that we have started this process.

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President):** As you see **Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (LYMEC Policy Officer)** did not manage to come here because of work reasons. Let's see if she can give her report online.



the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (LYMEC Policy Officer): My apologies that I am not there, I had to work today. The last couple of months have been really busy for me. The main highlight was the Digital Assembly in Belfast. We have been doing a lot of work in the Working Groups, you can still join them if you want to. I wish the best of luck to everyone participating. Moreover, I have been helping Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Advocacy & Outreach Officer) with the policy briefings to the members. I have done the pre-Congress work and I was happy to see such an efficient Working Group on resolutions last Saturday.

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President):** Before questions, I would like to highlight the importance of the work of each and every Bureau Member. I am glad to have this team and I am very grateful for the work you do. Of course, I am so happy with the work of the Secretariat as well. You deserve more than a round of applause for the work you do. This is all from our side, we are happy to answer your questions.

Brent Usewils (Chair) opens the floor for questions from the delegates.

**Mats-Ole Maretzke (Julis): Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President)**, congrats on becoming an MP in Austria. Our question is: what is your strategy to combine obligations as LYMEC president and MP? The second question is to **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Advocacy & Outreach Officer)**. Thank you for your effort at the YFJ, it was really great work. But we also have seen it is not so successful because of the partners we engage with there. What is your strategy to influence these partners more with LYMEC policy?

**Friiso van Gruijthuisen (JOVD):** Thank you for your work, we really appreciate it. I have a few questions for **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President)**: in the last IA report, I read about the importance of keeping a work-life balance, as well as balance in the Bureau. How do you address that?

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President):** Thank you everyone, it has been a wild ride, but I am more motivated and encouraged than ever. We keep saying we want youth at the decision making table. It is so important for youth to run, and be there where decisions are made. One of my committees in the Parliament is the EU committee. I have a seat at the table when EU affairs are discussed. I am happy to use this synergy to fuel my work at LYMEC. I am more than happy to bring this energy to LYMEC! I was asked on national television in Austria for interviews and some of them actually mentioned LYMEC. I see no barrier among my different hats, I rather find synergies.



LYNERAL YOUTH

**Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Advocacy & Outreach Officer):** Thank you for the question about YFJ. After the last GA, I think everyone knows who LYMEC is. What we tried to do with those amendments was to put harsher ones out there and some more social liberal amendments, that are the ones that mainly got in. It is about a combination of different elements.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): I see the issue of work-life balance for the Secretariat and Bureau as an evolving process. I am putting new practices in place to have monthly meetings with the staff to make sure the workload is well distributed, and I am happy to conduct one-on-one meetings with Bureau Members to understand how much resources there are. We deal with our tasks as a team. Sometimes I try to help the Bureau myself, sometimes we redistribute tasks temporarily. With Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General), we are keeping tabs of the supplementary hours that he is working to see how this is affecting his work-life balance and recuperation days. We make sure those are always taken. We are a very involved Bureau and want to make sure our staff can also enjoy their free time after work.

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General): Before the next speaker, there were some technical issues.

**Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals UK)**: Are there any future plans on creating more guidelines for policy resolutions?

**Jannis Sudergat (Centerstudenter)**: It is fantastic to be here. What about extending future Congresses from Friday to Sunday instead of Friday to Saturday to make discussions even more productive?

**Alicja Jakimko (Nowoczesna Youth)**: I have a question about the Working Groups. Have you considered adding more topics as well? We would like to discuss economic issues too.

**Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (LYMEC Policy Officer):** Regarding **Rowan Fitton (Young Liberals UK)**'s question: yes, there will be a template and we will circulate that, including some tips and tricks, to help members with the resolutions work between now and the end of summer. I'll be arranging a call to go through it. Regarding **Alicja Jakimko (Nowoczesna Youth)**'s question: yes, we can create short term Working Groups on key issues if needed. This would be best organised multilaterally rather than as a permanent structure on top of the existing ones.

**Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President):** There are a few issues with extending Congresses to Sunday, the first one is financial resources: sometimes it can be very expensive and there can be some difficulties with financing partners due to their political situation. On this note, I want to stress the importance of the Working Groups, which are fundamental for policy discussions.





**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** We did extend a Congress to Sunday once, but most of the people usually fly out on Sunday morning, therefore it is not a good idea from a logistical point of view.

The results of the snap vote on the order of the resolutions are announced and shown to Congress (available above at point 8).

## 10. Secretary General report and debate about the report

**Brent Usewils (Chair)** moves on with the agenda and asks **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take the floor and tell more about his report.

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General):** Dear colleagues, dear members, it is an honour to stand before you today and present my first Secretary General Report. I would like to extend my gratitude for the trust you have placed in me and for giving me the opportunity to serve as Secretary General of this organisation. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager)**, our Project Manager, and **Aoife Devereux (LYMEC Communications Assistant)**, our Communications Assistant, for their contributions, work and support. I am sure you all have read carefully the reports our Bureau and I have written ahead of coming to the Congress. If not, well, please allow me to share a small overview of our activities and progress we have reached as an organisation.

November was focused on building partnerships and relations with our partners, and dealing with the aftermath of the Warsaw Congress. We presented the outcome of the Liberal Hack to the Innovation Policy Lab on CAP (also in your tote bags). As a first capacity-building event, we organised our first workshop on Strategic Planning for Liberal Youth in The Hague, laying the groundwork for our 50th-anniversary celebrations next year.

In December 2024, we submitted the Erasmus grant application for 2025 – a significant milestone, thanks to Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager)'s work. And we are glad to report that it was approved this week. Administratively, we undertook the recruitment process for a new Communications Assistant, and we launched our new website. Fundraising efforts saw fruitful engagements with Apple on youth inclusion programmes and discussions with the Atlas Network regarding potential future cooperation.

In Brussels, in January 2025, we welcomed our Internal Auditors for the bi-annual audit and kicked off the year's first Policy Debate. In Strasbourg, a Consultative Meeting with Marten Porte (LYMEC



EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

**Treasurer**) was hosted by the European Youth Forum, which enabled us to engage with the Council of Europe and explore funding opportunities with the European Youth Foundation. Our fundraising efforts focused on securing financial support from the European Liberal Forum and VVD International for the training and the receptions of this Congress.

In February 2025, we were in Belfast for the Digital Assembly and Bureau Meeting. We also welcomed **Aoife Devereux (LYMEC Communications Assistant)** as our new Communications Assistant. We convened the first Working Group on Internal Rules of Procedure reform, and held the first webinar of Voices of Ukraine of 2025. We strengthened ties with the South Caucasus region, meeting with a delegation of young activists from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, as we look to expand our membership to the region. Fundraising efforts continued with new discussions with Microsoft for the event on 100 Days of the Commission. Participation in a European Youth Foundation training, positioned us for future funding applications in Ukraine for a capacity-building training in July.

In March 2025, we focused on the Zagreb Congress, but we also hosted our first ELF event of the year in London and collaborated with ALDE on Young Voices in the European Parliament 2025, where we presented some LYMEC resolutions on Security and Digitalisation to MEPs.

In April 2025, as you can imagine, we collaborated with FNF Europe and Eastern Europe, ensuring ongoing support for our initiatives in the region. I would also like to add, before closing, that we asked for your opinions and feedback through this year's Membership Survey, and I am proud to report that we are implementing a lot out of what you mentioned already. We are improving the Congress experience for online delegates, with new cameras, AV equipment, etc. In addition to the WhatsApp group for IOs, we established a form for all IOs to share their contact details. The idea behind it is for you to be able to reach out to each other without going through LYMEC officials or secretariat members. **Sean Bennett (LYMEC Events and Engagement Officer)** also worked on a new guide so you know what your role is and who to reach for support. We also started a new newsletter and added a "News from MOs" section for you to be able to update your fellow organisations on the developments in your country.

Looking back on these months, I am proud of the work we have done and the progress we have made. The challenges we face are significant across our continent, but together, we will continue to strengthen the voice of young liberals. As we move forward, let us remain committed to working towards a more liberal and stronger Europe in the face of new threats. Youth and youth organisations are not going away, and I am proud to represent the Liberal Youth every day in Brussels and across





Europe to defend our positions and strengthen our voices. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to continuing to work together and to answering your questions.

**Brent Usewils (Chair)** states that the floor is now open for questions about the Secretary-General report.

**Amparito Sanders (JOVD):** Thank you for this Congress. The future for LYMEC is quite insecure, if you look at how elections are going across Europe. Have you thought of how this will affect Congresses in the future?

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General):** The fundraising situation of youth NGOs is quite critical as a lot of our funding depends on political results. I can tell you we are not going to hostels, our situation is quite secure as of now. We will try not to change the accommodation type in the future. We have done a lot of fundraising activities since I started. With Microsoft, we are engaging more and more, while we always have FNF and ELF as stable partners. We have different prospects on how to secure our funding. I would like to mention the European Youth Foundation too. We will apply with them for a capacity building training in Ukraine. This is a start to secure more stable funding in the future.

Brent Usewils (Chair) There are no more questions. He thanks Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) and moves on to the next point on the agenda.

## 11. Finances

**Brent Usewils (Chair)** states that the Congress will now move on to discuss financial matters. He invites **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the state of LYMEC Finances.

**POINT OF ORDER**: **Tobias Marney (Unge Moderater):** we have requested a membership fee reduction, but I would like to move the discussion to tomorrow if possible, as there are some things we still have to figure out.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): This is complicated, because we would have to move the full agenda point. We suggest moving to a vote and consider the request as void.

a. Requests for reduced membership fee, debt reductions and payment plans (for decision)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) states that there are three requests for reduced membership fee by Unge Moderater, YDM Vesna, YMRF.

18



the European Union



**Tobias Marney (Unge Moderater):** Unge Moderater is formally requesting a reduced membership fee of  $102.50 \notin (50\% \text{ of the } 205 \notin \text{fee requested by LYMEC})$ . As a gesture of goodwill, the reduced amount has already been transferred to LYMEC. Currently, UM does not receive funding from any public institution or external organisation, as we have not yet met the required membership threshold of 300 members for funding eligibility from the Danish Youth Council. Our finances rely on support from our parent organization, the Moderates. To continue our work and expand our international presence, we respectfully request that our application for a reduced membership fee be granted. However, this is an older application, so we are in a better position now. I was going to call back home and see if we really needed it or not. But this is our application.

**Julie Ruby (Radikal Ungdom):** As a Danish organisation we get 75% of our Membership fee refunded. Do you know that?

**Tobias Marney (Unge Moderater):** Yes we know, but we have not applied for that yet, we are working on that now as we are a very new organisation.

Brent Usewils (Chair): The vote is open for reduced membership fee for Unge Moderater.

Result of the vote for reduced membership fee for Unge Moderater: 🔽

For- 67 Against- 82 Abstain- 17

The request for reduced membership fee for Unge Moderater is not carried by the Congress. Their membership fee will not change.

Milana Shesterikova (YDM Vesna): Due to our designation labelled as an 'extremist organisation' in Russia, and the absence of a mother party, maintaining financial stability has always been a challenge. Currently, all funds are spent on covering minimal staff wages, and we also have outstanding debts to some employees. Our only current source of funding is individual donations via Patreon, which amount to approximately €1,100 per month. In the past, we received grants from different donors (mostly European), but these funding streams ended a few months ago. With the reduction of U.S. funding, competition for grants has intensified, and we have yet to secure new financial support to cover our core needs. We employ seven people in our media department and one treasurer. However, due to





financial difficulties, they are currently working at 25% capacity and receiving only a quarter of their normal salaries. In addition, our members don't pay any membership fees and we do not have a physical office.

**Brent Usewils (Chair)** invites the delegates to take the floor for questions but no one takes the floor. The vote is open for reduced membership fee.

Result of the vote for reduced membership fee for YDM Vesna: 🔽

For-129 Against- 17 Abstain- 18

The request for reduced membership fee for YDM Vesna is carried by the Congress. Their membership fee will amount to 75 EUR.

**Tanzer Yuseinov (YMRF):** We are proposing a reduced fee of 100 EUR and ask the Congress to approve this reduction. The reason for this reduction is as follows: for the past 8 months, YMRF has been going through very difficult times. On 3rd of July 2024, during the voting of the government in Bulgaria, there was split in the voting of the Parliamentary Group of MRF, which led to the split of the party. Two co-presidents were elected in February 2024: the long-standing Vice-President of LI, Dzhevdet Chakarov, and Delyan Peevski, who has been sanctioned under the Global Magnitsky Act by both the UK and the US for corruption, bribery, and embezzlement. We want to continue working for the liberal values, for democracy and for a more liberal Bulgaria. For all of these reasons, we are asking for a reduced membership fee. We really want to continue working with LYMEC. Thank you.

Brent Usewils (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Huub Hoven (JL): Can you clarify exactly how you came up with such a reduction?

**Tanzer Yuseinov (YMRF):** We have no bank account that we can control. When we can, we see our bank account has no money. We only rely on donations.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): If their fee is so big, it is because YMRF is a very big organisation.

Result of the vote for reduced membership fee for YMRF: 🔽



Co-funded by the European Union



For- 110 Against- 28 Abstain- 32

The request for reduced membership fee for YMRF is carried by the Congress. Their membership fee will amount to 100,00 EUR.

**Brent Usewils (Chair):** Please note that there has been a mistake in the programme regarding the location of Congress dinner tonight. Please check the new address in the Whatsapp chat. The first day of the Congress is now closed at 18 h 45 CEST (Zagreb time). If you did not sign the signature list, please make sure to sign it right now. We restart the Congress tomorrow morning at 9 h 00 CEST sharp to continue with the agenda. We will first have a roll call, so please be on time. Thank you everyone, we continue tomorrow!



the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

# Day 2: Saturday, 5th April 2025

Day 2 starts at 09 h 00 am CEST (Zagreb time).

## 2. Guest Speeches

Jouni Ovaska (Vice President, ALDE Party and Keskusta Member of Parliament): Dear friends, I'm sorry I cannot be with you in Zagreb right now, instead I'm joining you virtually during our campaign elections. As connecting people is one of my main goals, it is great that LYMEC brings together so many delegates, working together on resolutions that reflect the most pressing issues for us liberals. I'm also happy to see that our Croatian member parties are working together to host the young liberals in their beautiful capital city. As an Ambassador of the Rainbow Platform, I applaud the way you stood by our colleagues in Hungary during these difficult times, when basic human freedoms are being crumbled by an authoritarian regime. Our colleagues in Hungary are bravely fighting the good fight, and you as LYMEC are on the right side of history. When democracy is under threat, as it is right now, it is our duty and responsibility to stand up, work together and fight to keep the freedoms that were so bravely won by others before us. Don't forget that every step you take is a step that can shape the future of European liberals. I wish you all a great Congress!

#### **Roll call**

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager)**. He then takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place. No organisation will get a second chance if they miss the calling of their name, they will have to wait until the next roll call. The goal is to be more efficient to allow more time for discussions.

The roll call was executed as follows:



Co-funded by the European Union



	Full Members	Roll Call 2 - Saturday i	norning
Austria	Junge Liberale NEOS - JUNOS		5
Belgium	Federation des Etudiants Liberaux - FEL		3
Belgium	JeunesMR - JMR	L.	8
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL		5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka		3
Bulgaria	YMRF Youth movement for rights and freedoms		10
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC		6
Croatia	Mladi hrvatski liberali - HSLS		5
Croatia	Istrian Democraric Youth (IDS)		3
Croatia	Mladi Hrvatska narodna stranka- liberalni demokrati - HNS Youth		3
Cyprus	NEO.DEPA		3
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	1	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY		6
Estonia	Center Party Youth - ECPY		5
Finland	KOL Keskustaopiskelijat		3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret FCY	1	
Finland	Svensk Ungdom		5
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)*		6
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)		10
Gibraltar	Liberal Party of Gibraltar - LPG		3
Hungary	Momentum (TizenX)		3
Iceland	Uppreisn - UP		0
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fail - OFF	0	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth - AY		3
Latvia	For Youth! - PAR		3
Lithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY		6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL		
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro - LYM		3
Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie - JOVD		
Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD		6
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth		6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - ALLIANCE		3
Norway	Norges Unge Venstre - NUV		3
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth - NY		5
Romania	USR TINERET - USR		3
Russia			5
	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna		3
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - PS		3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - SVB		3
Serbia	Mladi Pokret slobodnih građana - PSG Youth		
Spain	Jovenes Ciudadanos - JCs		- P
Sweden	Liberala ungdomsförbundet - LUF		6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund		5
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz - JFS		7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals - YGL		6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine - EYU		3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine - LDLU		
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka		8
United Kingdom	Young Liberals		6
IMS	Silvia Fernandez		1
IMS	Adam Volf		1
IMS	Arthur Wu		1

Simple majority of those present/absolute majority Two thirds of present Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 75



the European Union



There were 220 votes present at the Congress

#### The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Jóvenes Ciudadanos JCs
- Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine LDLU
- Liberal Youth of Montenegro LYM
- Uppreisn

#### 11. Finances

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** takes over the proceedings and states that the Congress will now move on to discuss financial matters. He invites **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to continue presenting the state of LYMEC Finances.

b. Approval of the External Auditors

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** When you go through all LYMEC regulations, you find some arcane rules you haven't used in a while, such as approving the external auditors once every 3 years. We suggest continuing with our current external auditors.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** Asks if anyone is against it. No one is against it. We move on to the next point on the agenda.

The Congress approves the External Auditors renewal.

c. Financial Report 2024 (for decision)

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) to present the Financial report for 2024.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** Please find the final financial report of 2024. At the end of the financial year on reporting date 31 December 2024, LYMEC had a surplus of 24,179.19 euros, compared to the budgeted surplus of 3,180.00 euros. After two difficult years with a considerable deficit in 2022 and a moderate deficit in 2023, 2024 has been able to compensate for most of those deficits. This surplus can be wholly attributed to the continued support of partners throughout the year



LYM

Co-funded by the European Union

that was not certain to be received. This meant that foreseen expenses for congresses and bureau meetings were mostly covered by our partners. This despite the fact that LYMEC has seen the political landscape becoming considerably less favorable in 2024. On top of that, the foreseen change of Secretary General brought uncertainty into the amounts that would need to be paid for the end of contract. These amounts turned out to be substantial, but more or less in line with what was foreseen. On the expense side, there have been a number of reasons why they have turned out lower than expected. Firstly, we projected significant expenses for our congresses. This was because it was uncertain whether our usual partner for congresses, the Renew Europe Group, could significantly fund our Congresses given the elections. For the Spring Congress, the European chapter of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation helped greatly in this regard. They supported not only both our congresses but also our Digital Assemblies, which we are very grateful for. Apart from the events, we also reserved money for moving to a new CRM and website. We only needed to use half of the money reserved. On top of that, we did not have to spend money on fulfilling our Erasmus+ deliverables and we scrapped the cooperation project, mostly because of the challenges that would put on our secretariat for managing them. For the Autumn Congress, after thinking we would not get any significant support from Renew Europe, the Group let us know that there was a significant amount available, which meant we didn't have to spend much of our own budgeted money. Both FNF and Renew Europe usually pay for invoices directly. Therefore this money usually doesn't pass our accounts and doesn't show in our books. An added benefit of using Renew Europe to make bookings is that they are not obliged to pay VAT. In 2024, Renew Europe covered a total of €46.000 of invoices related to Congresses. In the case of FNF Europe, the total amount of support received was around €42.000 in 2024. We have also continued our cooperation with the European Liberal Forum, organising projects together. Direct costs related to these events and programmes do not go through LYMEC's bank accounts and are paid by ELF directly. LYMEC pays a fixed contribution to ELF and in return is allocated a budget of 75.000 to organise events. A detailed overview of the profit and loss statement and the balance sheet as of 31 December of the reporting period can be found in the corresponding sections of this document. The Bureau notes that staff costs related to organising Congresses are not listed under the account line of the corresponding Congress due to additional administrative work this option would bring.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri** (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. There are no questions, we therefore move to a vote. We need an absolute majority for that.

Vote on the Financial Report 2024 🔽

Yes- 180



the European Union



No- 3

The Financial Report 2024 is approved by the Congress.

d. Interim Financial Report 2025 (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): There was a mistake on the agenda, this point is to be discussed at the Autumn Congress 2025.

e. Interim internal audit report 2024 (for information)

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor) and Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor) to take the floor.

Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor): We are back to discuss our Internal Audit report. The finances are well kept, we didn't find any major errors, so we would like to thank Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) and Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) for their great job making our own job easier.

Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor) and Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor): Here are the observations we made, based on which we have some recommendations. We have heard from the staff that they are sometimes overwhelmed by the tasks for the Bureau, especially when there is a tight deadline and they are in a rush, which is something that makes LYMEC look less professional. Staff should not work overtime because the Bureau doesn't do the things they should do. We recommended creating an external deadline with a buffer time to make sure tasks are implemented. The second is about making rounds to check if Bureau members have reached their goals. As you know, we have a new Secretary General and with that also comes unexpected expenses. According to Belgian tax laws, we had to pay for taxes and vacation days, which was not taken into consideration by the Bureau when Balint left. We don't know what is going to happen in the future, in any case, we need to be ready for this. You can read more about that in our report. We also have a past recommendation which we always keep working on. You, as members, should not text our staff late at night or on personal platforms, please try to send them emails instead. We think the Bureau has made some progress on this but please, as a reminder, don't text the staff, email them. We don't have more to say, please email us or ask us questions now.

#### **OBSERVATIONS MADE**



the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

- Advice 2023-16 (updated on 18th January 2025) Workload PENDING
- Advice 2025-1 Procedure for employee departures PENDING

#### **IMPLEMENTED ADVICE**

• Advice 2023-12 - Communication Etiquette - IMPLEMENTED

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): Hello everyone, thank you for this report. I just want to make a small update: we have already started implementing the advice from Internal Auditors. Now, at each Bureau Meeting, we do roundtables to see what the Bureau's tasks are for the coming months, as well as past tasks to keep an eye on the workload. Regarding the internal deadline, this is also something we have implemented already. There is always room for improvement, but these recommendations already became our practices and I will make sure the bureau can follow that even more to improve our work-life balance.

Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor) and Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor): We are looking forward to seeing its impact at the next congress.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) thanks Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor) and Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor) and moves on to the next agenda point.

f. Interim External audit report 2024 (for information)

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer):** Based on the External Audit review, nothing has come to our External Auditors' attention that causes to believe that the LYMEC accounts do not present fairly, in all material respects, the own funds and the financial position of the association EPF as at December 31, 2024, and of the financial results of the operations for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

g. Revised Budget 2025 (for decision)





Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Regarding the revised budget for this year: there were a few updates we took into account. We were able to secure funding for this Congress, we were not sure we could do this before. We made an agreement to go to the LibertyCon with ELF and have a speaker there, for a cost of around 2000 EUR we committed to. These are the most important updates on the revised budget.

**Erwin Sikkes (JOVD):** For 2025, there is a proposed increase for the representation budget from 1000 to 3000 EUR. Why is that?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): This is about the Liberty Con 2000 EUR difference I have just mentioned. We will have a speaker and a stand at this big event, that is why you see this cost under the representation budget line.

## Vote on Revised Budget 2025: 🔽

**Yes - 203** No - 0

The 2025 Revised Budget is therefore approved by the Congress.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) closes the finances agenda point.

## 12. Membership Issues

## a. Applications for Associate Membership

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** explains that there is one application for associate membership from **Youth Bloc Belarus,** and invites **Alexander Moisseenko (YB)** to present his application. After that, we will open the floor for questions. The applicant will leave the room and full members will have time to ask questions to the Bureau. We will then proceed to a vote. The process is the same for all applicants.

**Alexander Moisseenko (YB):** I want to present my organisation. We are already associate members of IFLRY. Youth Bloc was founded in the Autumn of 2019 in order to run for the Parliamentary elections. The initial goal was to influence policy-making and public opinion in spheres defined as relevant for Belarusian youth. Over the course of 3.5 years we've changed our positioning from being an electoral movement and NGO coalition to a group of activists, bloggers and policy-makers. At the moment we





are a membership organisation with a strong focus on media work and non-formal education. Alyaksandr Lukashenko, self-proclaimed president of Belarus, mentioned our organisation in a speech accusing us of being part of a plan "to destroy Belarus": "For example, the "Youth Bloc" was specially created for the elections under the pretext of nominating candidates for the parliament actively shaped the mood of discontent in various social groups. For this purpose, seemingly non-political topics were exploited" (Lukashenka, 16.09.2020). Our mission is to unite and enlighten Belarusian youth in order to promote changes based on the values of freedom, humanism and human rights. Our vision is modern, legal and free Belarus. Previous and current non-formal education activities: Summer School on drug-policy activism (in coop with Legalize Belarus), covering legal, medical, moral and political aspects of drug policy as well as applied skills in such sensitive topic for activism; Basic political knowledge course (in coop with RADA) covering theories of the origin of states, ideologies, policy development, and other topics; educational digests in TikTok and Instagram which aims to give Belarusian youth basic knowledge of politics and liberal values in the Belarusian context; Youth Economic Camp (in coop with BSA), covering basic economic topics, reforms for Belarus, as well as guidelines for working with the policy framework. Policy development and sociological research: Development of basic proposals for reforming drug policy, the conscription system and the students' work placement system (September 2019 - ongoing); Development of a Policy Paper on the possibility of decriminalising a number of psychoactive substances in Belarus (in cooperation with Legalize Belarus) (January 2023 – ongoing, planned for publication in late July). Sociological research on the problems, values and views of Belarusian youth. Thank you for your attention!

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) thanks Alexander Moisseenko (YB) and invites the delegates to take the floor for questions.

**Julius Graack (JuLis):** Thank you for your professional presentation, we really admire the work you are doing. First, what is your financial situation? Do you think financial stability will be kept? What would you like to do as part of LYMEC and gain from the full LYMEC membership?

**Alexander Moisseenko (YB):** We don't have a membership fee because most of our members do not have stable financial situations. Our revenues come from financial support from other organisations. You have heard about the recent decision for NGOs funding from Trump. Our members can decide on their own how much they can donate. On your second question, we have organised a webinar with IFLRY on the political developments in our country. This is the kind of cooperation we want to have with LYMEC too but I am happy to hear more ideas from you.





**Olena Dudko (EYU):** I have two questions. First, is it correct that you are legally registered in Poland? Do you have any registrations remaining in Belarus? Do you have any relation with Tsikhanouskaya? How do you relate to her?

**Alexander Moisseenko (YB):** We are registered only as an extremist organisation in Belarus. On your second question, some of our members are in good contact with her office, but we have no formal cooperation with her.

**Jordan Thomas (YL):** You have mentioned you have been a member of IFLRY since 2019. From past minutes from IFLRY, I don't see you have had financial stability for the past 7 GAs. Why have you been registering online for all those GAs? Was it because of your financial situation?

**Alexander Moisseenko (YB):** We expect to increase our revenue in our next months thanks to European donors to improve our financial situation.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Alexander Moisseenko**. He invites all associate members, observers and guests to leave the room. He gives the floor to **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** explains that observers, Associate Members and guests will have to leave the room in Zagreb. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of Youth Bloc.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for Associate Membership. Absolute is needed.

Vote on Youth Bloc associate membership: 🔽

**For- 185** Against - 0 Abstain - 6

Youth Bloc is therefore accepted as an Associate Member Organisation of LYMEC. Congratulations!



the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

## b. Applications for Full Membership

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) explains that there is one application for full membership from PSG Youth Serbia, and invites Illija Jerkovic (PSG Youth) to present his application.

Illija Jerkovic (PSG Youth): I want to present my application. For the past 3 years we have been growing as a youth organisation and today I am here to apply for full membership. We have been associates since the Riga congress and participated in training, capacity building, and connected with many peers. Serbia is a post-communist country and, as such, there is struggle with the transition to democracy. One thing we have not tried is liberal democracy, that is why we stand for politics the way it should be: through the values of rule of law, freedom and democracy. We are driven by such values and we see Serbia as an open society, something it has been struggling for the past years and months. As I speak to you now, all of our members are protesting and some of them have been detained for the past 20 days because they were involved in these protests. I hope you can read our programme and declaration on OpenSlides. The main topics are enlargement policies, as the EU enlargement process has been scrutinised in Serbia by the EU. Rule of law is breached every year and we commit to fighting corruption and supporting citizens of Serbia in the pursuit of fundamental freedoms. There is no Serbian organisation in LYMEC, as of now. Nova Stranka Youth has merged with PSG for a single, strong, liberal youth organisation. We are driven by all these hopes, but as a young developing organisation we are still growing. There is room for improvement to grow financially and fundraise, as we are now dependent on our mother party. I will end on the note that LYMEC has been a great place for us to grow and the next step of full membership comes as a part of a process to strengthen our determination for liberal values in Serbia.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** thanks **Illija Jerkovic (PSG Youth)** and invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. No one is on the list. He proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Illija Jerkovic (PSG Youth)**. He invites all associate members, observers and guests to leave the room. He gives the floor to **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** explains that observers, Associate Members and guests will have to leave the room in Zagreb. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the full membership of PSG Youth.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for full membership. 2/3 majority is needed.

Vote on PSG Youth associate membership: 🔽



the European Union



For- 201 Against- 11 Abstain- 0

PSG Youth is therefore accepted as a Full Member Organisation of LYMEC. Congratulations!

#### c. Suspensions

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) explains that there are no proposed suspensions.

# ----- COFFEE BREAK ------

#### Roll call

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager)**. He then takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place. No organisation will get a second chance if they miss the calling of their name, they will have to wait until the next roll call. The goal is to be more efficient to allow more time for discussions.

#### The roll call was executed as follows:



Co-funded by the European Union



Te	Full Members	Roll Call 3 - After 1st coffee
Austria	Junge Liberale NEOS - JUNOS	5
Belgium	Federation des Etudiants Liberaux - FEL	3
Belgium	JeunesMR - JMR	8
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Bulgaria	YMRF Youth movement for rights and freedoms	10
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC	6
Croatia	Mladi hrvatski liberali - HSLS	5
Croatia	Istrian Democraric Youth (IDS)	3
Croatia	Mladi Hrvatska narodna stranka- liberalni demokrati - HNS Youth	3
Cyprus	NEO.DEPA	3
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY	6
Estonia	Center Party Youth - ECPY	5
Finland	KOL Keskustaopiskelijat	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret FCY	5
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	
	(LHG)*	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Gibraltar	Liberal Party of Gibraltar - LPG	3
Hungary	Momentum (TizenX)	3
Iceland	Uppreisn - UP	0
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fail - OFF	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth - AY	3
Latvia	For Youth! - PAR	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro - LYM	10
Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie - JOVD	6
Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD	6
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth	3
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - ALLIANCE	3
Norway	Norges Unge Venstre - NUV	5
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth - NY	3
Romania	USR TINERET - USR	5
Russia	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna	3
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - PS	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - SVB	3
Serbia	Mladi Pokret slobodnih građana - PSG Youth	3
Spain	Jovenes Ciudadanos - JCs	3
Sweden	Liberala ungdomsförbundet - LUF	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz - JFS	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals - YGL	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine - EYU	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine - LDLU	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka	8
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	6
IMS	Silvia Fernandez	1
IMS	Adam Volf	1
IMS	Arthur Wu	1

Simple majority of those present/absolute majority Two thirds of present Simple majority of those present without abstentions



the European Union



#### There were 229 votes present at the Congress

#### The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Liberal Youth of Montenegro
- Uppreisn

#### d. Disaffiliations

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** explains that there is one proposed disaffiliation, describes the process by which the disaffiliation will be debated and voted on, and gives the floor to the mover of the proposed membership disaffiliation.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) now gives the floor to the mover of the disaffiliation point from Estonian Reform Party Youth, Emil Laanemets (ERPY).

**Emil Laanemets (ERPY):** Hello everyone, I am from Estonia and I am here with a very serious topic - disaffiliation of the **Estonian Centre Party Youth**. I have some reasons and facts so that you can understand where we are coming from. The **Centre Party** themselves have said that they are not liberals, they have had very strong connections with ECR, it is also the case that their chairman also participated in the ECR congress, and there were about 4 or 5 representatives of the youth there too.

To give a little context, why are they doing this? Recently, there have been a lot of changes in the party, a lot of liberals have left and they have been replaced by conservatives. That is why we believe they no longer support liberal causes. One of their MEPs became a member of ID and this individual was the guest of honour at the **Estonian Center Party Youth** Congress. It was the Center Party that brought the far-right into power, for the first time in Estonian history. This really showcases how far they have come from liberal values. When the war in Ukraine broke out, the Center Party abstained from supporting Ukraine, as well as voting against same-sex marriage. If you look at the homepage of the mother party, they present a list of reasons why they left ALDE. If you look at the Center Party and the Center Party Youth, there is no separation between the two. The youth wing is an extension of the mother party, and I want to ask why us as liberals should accept this kind of treatment and actions from this party. If you put all of these pieces together you will get a pretty conservative picture.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) Asks if anyone wants to put their name on the speakers list. No one does. Therefore he invites **Erik Rosljajev (ECPY)** to respond.

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** I always love drama, and I love drama in LYMEC when it comes to national politics. So, this is not unprecedented, but all of those claims that were just made have never been



Co-funded by the European Union LV II

brought directly to us. We have always had cooperation with the previous speaker, but not this time. The first point made was that our mother party left ALDE. There are a number of MOs here who are not in ALDE. I would remind you that our MEP does still sit with Renew, and has not left the Renew Group. Our views are a lot more progressive and fundamentally liberal, which is why we believe LYMEC is our home. It is true that we attended an event funded by the ECR, but this was due to funding, and it is not because we are joining the ERC. In fact, we managed to sign an agreement with favourable terms that I cannot mention because we are being recorded. We are not joining ECR or any other party, and if we did I would resign immediately. I believe that our values are still represented by LYMEC. Why would the other party be speculating about this? Because they are polling poorly, with elections coming up shortly. On the topic of Ukraine, they have mentioned our support for Russia, but they reference an agreement from 20 years ago which was taken away in 2022. I have been a member of this party for over a decade and so I think I would know if there was Russian interference. We have made a statement dictating the war. They say that we did not, but that is from the day before the war began. As soon as it did, we condemned it. It is basically an attack on a minority. They bring this accusation because we speak Russian, but I am ethnically Estonian and in liberal society we should aim for a melting pot.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) asks if anyone wants to put their name on the speakers list.

**Alin Simionescu (USR Tineret)**: Being an eastern European myself, are accusations of siding with the Russians usually used to gain political capital, as you have elections coming up?

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** It happens every single time. You can check. It happens every time to us, because Russian speakers, though not a majority, vote for us, but they also vote for other parties.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) states that we will take multiple questions at a time.

**Huub Hoven (JL)**: You mentioned in a letter you sent attending an ECR conference, I understand that you have to stay in contact with them because one of your MEP sits with them, but the thing that concerns me at least is that it was a conference on family from the ECR, to me when the ECR says family, that raises alarm bells. When the ECR mentions family, it doesn't tend to mean liberal values. What were your reasons for attending? What statements made there did you agree and disagree with? And lastly, what statement have you made about attending the conference?

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** I was at the beach drinking wine for most of it, because I didn't want to listen to them discussing family. Some of our members were listening to it.

35





**Tommy Monahan (Alliance Youth)**: First, you said you had an issue being recorded, can you tell us why? Second, how do you expect the youth wing of your party will maintain liberal values when your mother party has joined ECR, and third, did you make any statements about LGBTQ rights at the ECR conference?

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** I have already spoken of the congress. The issue with being recorded is due to agreements made regarding us getting more seats, which is not public yet. As for your last question, more right-wing candidates have come into our party and have stood for positions, but the more liberal candidates have won and the core is still liberal.

**Olena Dudko (EYU)**: I have 2 questions. In your party statement on leaving ALDE it's been mentioned that your party and ALDE are not based on the same fundamental principles. So what are the fundamental principles of your mother party? Second question, ERR is a public broadcaster - yes or no? It's not in any way influenced by the Estonian Reform Party, right? This quote can be easily found across the Internet, published by this broadcaster and many European media: *"On August 22, Center leader Mihhail Kõlvart promptly announced that the party's leadership had proposed a reconsideration of parliamentary group affiliation at the European Parliament, in order to select a group that best reflects the party's centrist ideology and Estonia's national interests.". He said he was interested in choosing a group that best reflects the Central Party. How can you comment on that?* 

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** It's April and we are still in Renew. As for our values - it's centrist, and it's about social policy and inclusivity. Not all liberal values are shared by all here, but we are centrist and we are about compromise.

Andrei Tatur (Attistibai Youth): You said that you are still in Renew, but you have Jaak Madison who is now a prominent politician in the ECR, and you have said that being part of ALDE is not necessary, but you have left, which shows you do not agree with liberal values. Plus, the comments by Jaak Madison have been less than supportive in regards to liberal values.

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** Would I spend 600 EUR to fly here if I didn't care? Would I be given a mandate by my organisation if we didn't care or want to stay in LYMEC? Those things should be telling you in actual fact what we are doing. Jaak Madison is just one member, and not on the board. Do you agree with everything that is said by people in your party? Actually we are planning to hold a conference on mental health soon, so we will be working with Renew. We will not change our views even if we are disaffiliated by LYMEC.

**Ben Jokinen (Svensk Ungdom):** What actions or statements have you taken or made against the illiberal behaviour of your mother party?


the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

Erik Rosljajev (ECPY): We had a fraction in the party in the first place.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** Do you recognise that LYMEC is the youth wing of ALDE, and therefore we have a fundamental relationship with ALDE? You have a fundamental connection with your mother party. What steps have you taken to move away from your mother party due to the illiberal actions they have taken? The lack of action from you has been disappointing. What is it about your party that makes Jaak Madison feel welcome, and why do you think that is a place that makes you feel welcome as well?

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** I am welcome because I am young, and we are drafting policies and papers pushing forward progressive views which you will see during the election. This is a direct thing but it is so far internal, but it will reflect the views of young people that are more progressive. In terms of the layout of the party and why Jaak Madison is joining, first of all he changed his position to a radical one to the right wing and then centre right. Remember our party is the largest party in the country, and has a diverse range of political opinions, from right, to social, to liberal. We excel at finding compromise, that is why we are still relevant. That is why we will always do well in local elections.

**Friso Le Poole (JD):** You talked about there being a split between the liberal and conservative sides of your mother party. I would understand if you just supported the liberal side. You have an ECR member in the party, and yet you invited them as an honoured speaker to your Congress: why, when they do not represent our values?

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** All party members are invited to our events. They were one of six party members that attended. Nowadays, politicians of a higher calibre are attending events with us. Plenty of people want to come to our events to compromise because we are progressive. Jaak Madison was one of the many politicians who attended.

**Emma Kruusmae (ERPY):** Weren't you the one who voted against the resolution to declare Russia an oppressive power in the LYMEC Congress in 2022 claiming the Estonian narrative?

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY):** Yes, but also have you read the description? I have already explained this to you and the wording used was offensive. I will take that personally. I did not disagree with the title of it.

37





**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** closes the speakers' list for questions and explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Zagreb. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the disaffiliation membership of the Estonian Center Youth.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** reminds delegates that disaffiliation of a member organisation or individual member can only be decided by the Congress in accordance with the quorum and majority conditions required for amending the statutes. Therefore a 2/3 majority is needed for this vote.

#### Vote on the disaffiliation of the Estonian Centre Party Youth: 🔽

**For - 186** Against - 11 Abstentions - 27

The disaffiliation of Estonian Centre Party Youth is carried by the Congress with a 2/3 majority.

# 13. Revamp of the Internal Rules of Procedures of the organisation (for decision)

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) to take the floor.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): This has been a big project. We had 80 pages of rules and regulations that we have revamped, which started with a working group looking at where we wanted to go. After that, there was a process of getting everything written down. I think many of you heard my presentation at the Digital Assembly. The reason for the revamp is because we had a lot of documents, and while using them we noticed they lacked coherence as they contradicted each other. The goal was to bring them in line with how LYMEC is run today, and make sure the way the rules are written down reflects how they are used. It has mostly been a cosmetic effort, but where there are changes to content, I will flag it. There is a new procedure for the ALDE delegation, to bring us in-line with the rules laid down by ALDE, which in turn came from the EU. We have to ensure that non-EU states don't have a deciding quantity of votes. We reworked the Secretary-General role, and abolished the policy archive. It now specifies how interim Bureau members can be appointed, and sets out a new



Co-funded by the European Union

procedure for appointing ombudspersons and the IFLRY representative. There is a new process for approving expenses, as the previous limits were too low. The IMS rules have also been streamlined. There is one amendment on the two possible ways to do the Bureau elections, because at the moment one thing is written in the rules but we apply another method in practice, so we will leave it to the Congress to decide. At the moment we write down that bureau member elections are separate ones, meaning that if you are not elected for one you can still be elected for another position. Electing everyone in one go saves time and is clearer. But the other process also has pros, because it gives the opportunity to candidates to be in an eligible position for another Bureau position. I think it is important to have some discussion on how we see this. Do we want commitment for one position right away or give a second chance to candidates?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) opens the floor for questions from the delegates.

Florentyna Martynska (NY): I have a question about the LYMEC representative to IFLRY.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): What I was talking about does not refer to the LYMEC representative to IFLRY. We will come back to this later.

**Mats Maretzke (JuLis):** On your point, we are in favour of creating the opportunity where you don't have to specify from the outset which position you are running for. The Congress should have the option to appoint a person for another role. It is also a question of motivation and expertise. This creates more competition. Otherwise, the chances to stay on the Bureau are gone. We want to be competitive and therefore we want to keep the option open.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): If you vote in favour, it means separate elections and being able to run for other positions. If you vote against, the process stays as it is, there is one single election for the whole bureau, and you don't have the opportunity to run for another position.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) opens the vote.

Vote on separate Bureau Elections:

**Yes- 130** No- 35 Abstain - 22





The process is changed and candidates will be able to run for other positions.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Let me know if you have questions for other points of the revamp.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) reopens the speakers list.

**Florentyna Martynska (NY):** Regarding the IFLRY Representative, do you see opportunities to expand this role in a more practical way? They attend GAs and participate in BMs of IFLRY, but do you see any way to expand their role?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Thank you for your question, I am intending to avoid answering this as I would be speaking on behalf of the Bureau, and we haven't discussed this topic. I have personal opinions, but they are not relevant. I would suggest you ask this at a Bureau report point or in some other way to the Bureau.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** closes the speakers list and opens the vote on the Revamp of the Internal Rules of Procedures of the organisation.

**Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)**: This document replaces the code of conduct, IMS rules, Congress rules, financial protocol and the equality and diversity plan.

Vote on the Revamp of the Internal Rules of Procedures of the organisation

**Yes-167** No-36

Revamp of the Internal Rules of Procedures of the organisation is carried by the Congress

# 14. Statutory Matters

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) states that there is one statutory matter for this congress.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): We didn't do a complete revamp of the statutes, but while changing the rules of procedure there were a few things that had to be brought in line in the statutes. References





to old documents needed to be changed and the changes to how the IFLRY representative is appointed needed to be added. Changes to how the Secretary General is appointed and Bureau elections also had to be added, along with other small technical changes.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** opens the floor for questions from the delegates. No one is on the speakers list. He therefore moves to a vote.

#### Vote on the changes to the Statutes

**Yes- 176** No- 21 Abstain- 9

# Changes to the Statutes of the organisation are carried by the Congress

# 15. Motions

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) states that there is no motion for this congress.

# 16. Resolutions

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)**: You have all voted on the snap vote on resolutions yesterday. We will have 3 readings. First, movers present the resolutions. Then, we deal with amendments and amendments to amendments. After that, we move to the discussion on the resolution as amended as a whole. We will now move on to the discussion of the resolutions.

# Resolution 11: Fostering a Thriving Tech Ecosystem and Supporting Young Entrepreneurs in the EU

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Sivia Fernandez (IMS):** We believe it is important to have this resolution in our policy book. Technology and innovation fuel independence and competitiveness. Europe has much potential but private companies pose challenges.

**Martina Barres (JNC):** Young entrepreneurs often face challenges to funding. Despite these challenges, Europe remains a promising hub of innovation, and should provide unified efforts in favour of entrepreneurship.





**David Grasveld (LHG)**: We want to focus on collaboration between academia, industry and policymakers to address skill gaps and nurture areas of talent. This will help prepare young generations for future jobs and provide entrepreneur education for those who drive innovation and business creation. We are doing a resolution for the ALDE delegation and this resolution would help us drafting that.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) moves to the amendments as no one is asking for the floor.

# 11 Amendment 2 X

This amendment received a negative recommendation from the working group. No one reopens it. It is not carried by the Congress.

# 11 Amendment 1 V

This amendment received a positive recommendation and was accepted by the mover. It is carried.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites people to speak on the motion as a whole.

**Noah Petermann (JUNOS):** I just wanted to briefly get your view on the EU-Inc Initiative, do you have a stance on it?

**Sivia Fernandez (IMS):** We are not proposing this very specific measure because we want to further develop the approach.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) opens the vote on the resolution as amended as a whole.

Vote on Resolution 11 🔽

**Yes- 183** No - 6 Abstain - 6

**Resolution 1 is carried by the Congress** 

# URGENCY RESOLUTION 1: Defending Democracy in Türkiye: Condemning the Arrest of Ekrem Imamoğlu and Political Repression against the Opposition and Civil Society'

**David Grasveld (LHG):** I am sure you have been following what happened in Türkiye in recent weeks and I am happy about the large support this resolution has already received. The timing of Imamoglu's





arrest on charges of corruption and terrorism suggests that this was politically motivated by the ruling party. Right now, it is not about himself only, it is about democracy in Türkiye being at a crossroads. They have in the past had issues with freedom of press, and they no longer have fair elections. What is happening now is killing democracy in Türkiye, which is an important partner for the EU in terms of migration flows and with peacebuilding efforts. I hope you support this resolution.

# 28 Amendment 1

28 Amendment 1 was carried by the mover as it only adds cosigners.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) opens the vote as no one puts their name on the speakers list.

Vote on Urgency Resolution 1 🔽

**Yes - 176** No - 0 Abstain - 15

**Urgency Resolution 1 is carried by the Congress** 

# URGENCY RESOLUTION 3: Protecting the Budapest Pride march and the freedom of assembly in Hungary

**Ruben Friewald (TizenX):** The Hungarian Parliament passed a new legislation which is intended to ban the Budapest Pride March. This will ensure that not just organisers but also participants can be fined up to 500 EUR. If the fine is not collected on the spot, it will be collected through tax deduction. The European Parliament, two years ago, forbade the use of AI-based technologies on recognising EU targets, which is the system used by Hungary through this law to impose this sanction. The EU has started an infringement procedure for this reason. The European Parliament and the European Commission should continue raising awareness about the Orbán government. We need your help to save our common values.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) opens the floor for questions.

**Tommy Monahan (Alliance):** I have had the pleasure of working with **Ruben Friewald (TizenX)** and I have been shocked by the situation in Hungary. I also come from a country where LGBTQ+ rights are not treated as they should be. Our rights are not openly being only denied, but they are also being eroded. I urge you to pass this resolution.

Ruben Friewald (TizenX): We would like to invite everyone to the Budapest Pride in June.



Co-funded by the European Union



Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) moves to a vote on the resolution

Vote on Urgency Resolution 3 🔽

**Yes - 201** No - 0 Abstain - 3

**Urgency Resolution 3 is carried by the Congress** 

#### > Resolution 2: Secure the Eastern Flank: Secure the Union

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Dan Sandu (USR Tineret):** This resolution is about our survival, not metaphorically, but real and physical. Yesterday, while we were gathered here talking, a Russian missile hit yet another residential area in Ukraine. The rest of Europe thinks this will never happen to us. Please wake Europe up. We want to reaffirm defence, increase defence spending, increase vast cooperation with our allies, and focus on where the danger comes from. Please do not feel safe if you are from Western Europe. If Ukraine falls, and then Eastern Europe follows, you will fall next.

Alicja Jakimko (Nowoczesna Youth): We are here talking about liberalism, and while this is beautiful, there is no democracy without security. Security should be a priority so that we can defend our values.

**Florentyna Martynska (Nowoczesna Youth):** We came up with quite a comprehensive resolution, suggesting a lot of areas for improvement, so we hope you will agree on that and support it.

**Jan Jeziorny (Nowoczesna Youth):** We are really glad most of you are talking about security at this Congress because we are being terrorised every day by Russia. We hope you will vote for this and help us end this terror.

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair)** reminds delegates to put their names on the speakers' list to take the floor. We have 4 amendments.

#### 2 Amendment 2

2 Amendment 2 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

#### 2 Amendment to Amendment 3 1/2





2 Amendment to amendment 3 was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

# Amendment 3

2 Amendment 3 falls as 2 amendment to amendment 3 was accepted by the mover.

# 2 Amendment 1

2 Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is reopened.

**Dan Sandu (USR Tineret):** The resolution calls out specific countries we want to collaborate with, and the amendment is changing this. For example, we really want to keep Türkiye as there is no security in the Black Sea if we don't keep Türkiye as an ally. It's just the same with the other countries, we need to know who our allies are.

**Mats-Ole Maretzke (JuLis):** I think we had a clear result in the Working Groups on this amendment. Most of the organisations were in favour of not differentiating by naming certain countries or not but generally cooperating with partners we share mutual values with. It is not necessary to specify and name specific countries but rather implement a focus on sharing mutual values.

**Marius Gobet (YGL):** This amendment wants to simplify things. I welcome the amendment not naming countries but rather shared values of interest.

**Rowan Fitton (YL)**: The original text gives LYMEC more room to scrutinise the actions of the EU on certain countries. If we, for example, want to keep an account of how the EU would monitor its cooperation with certain allies, such as Canada, the UK, South Korea, having these names in the Policy Book has things for us to look for. Having it more vague and based on subjective criteria means we are less equipped to directly scrutinise the Commission on these crucial areas.

**Fabian Grepper (JFS):** I believe it is dangerous to list countries. Circumstances can change. Turkey is still a close partner but will this be true in a few years? The same can apply to other countries on the list, for instance we would never have thought that the U.S. would be a strategic competitor. Sharing mutual values still allows us to clearly point out what we mean. We even have some countries on that list that are not even friends with the EU anymore.

**Olena Dudko (EYU):** I want to give three arguments why you should vote against. What does sharing international values mean? By accepting this resolution, we are no better than the vague policies accepted by the UN. The second argument is that there is no exclusive list in this motion. The wording





says 'consider' advanced cooperation, but does not exclude anyone. Third, this massively changes the resolution. This is a real time document and can be updated in the future, and this amendment would hamper that. These nations are important for the defence of Europe's eastern flank. Please vote against.

**Calvin Nixon (JuLis):** I am surprised we are having such a debate knowing that the Working Group results were quite clear. There could be so many more countries we could name, such as Japan, Singapore, African countries, Brasil, Argentina, and so on. If we go on with the list, we would have such a long text with no real added value. What is our goal here? Without the list I would give the Bureau a clear path to advocate for our policies towards Renew Europe and ALDE. There was a very clear vote in the Working Group. Please vote for the amendment.

Vote on 2 Amendment 1: 🔽

**Yes - 125** No - 81 Abstain - 10

2 Amendment 1 is carried by the Congress.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair) invites the delegates to comment on the resolution as amended as a whole.

**Anes Hodzic (YFNS):** I want to congratulate our colleagues on a well-written resolution. I want to reiterate what was said, no one is safe in today's Europe. Bosnia is very close to Russia. Please support this resolution.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** I wanted to speak as someone who was from one of the countries that was declared as being relatively safe. But we also have a responsibility to step up from that place of safety and provide the funds and support for others, so I really welcome this resolution. A pan-European attitude is required for a pan-European problem. The front line in Ukraine is also Europe's front line, and it is as much Britain's issue as it is anyone else's. At a time when the U.S. is stepping back, the time has come for the EU to step up. In the past, we have been able to rely on NATO, that is not the case as much as it was in the past. Partners of the EU, like the UK and Norway, must step up too, and we look forward to doing so.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair): We move on to the vote on the resolution as amended as a whole.

Vote on Resolution 2 as amended as a whole: 🔽

Yes - 203



the European Union

LYMERAL YOUTH

No - 0 Abstain - 0

Resolution 2 as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

# Resolution 5: Strengthening Europe's Strategic Autonomy in Response to Shifts in U.S. Policy and External Influences

**Krystyna Rondar (JUNOS):** This resolution is about protecting our strategic autonomy in response to shifting global dynamics such as the re-election of Donald Trump and the growing influence of powerful external actors like Elon Musk. Our security, economic stability and democratic values are at stake. We aim to establish an EU defence agency, invest in technologies and not rely on non-European platforms. Europe must create its own way, and strengthen alliances with global alliances. With climate change accelerating, we must drive innovation and green investments.

# 5 Amendment 1

5 Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

# 5 Amendment 2 V

5 Amendment 2 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

# 🛠 5 Amendment 3 🔽

5 Amendment 3 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is reopened.

**Krystyna Rondar (JUNOS):** We cannot accept this, its focus is on defence policy, this is not in line with our focus.

**Nathan Hunt (YL):** It is time for the EU to step up, and the energy sector is part of this process. This is a huge dependency and for this reason we need massive investments in the energy sector. This builds resilience and self-sustainability. This goes hand in hand with defence and security, we cannot have one or the other.





**Huub Hoven (JL):** I understand that it should be focused on defence, but this is also about logistics which has to do with energy and infrastructure, therefore I think this is relevant.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair): We move on to the vote on 5 Amendment 3

Vote on 5 Amendment 3: 🔽

**Yes - 146** No - 28 Abstain - 26

5 Amendment 3 is carried by the Congress.

----- LUNCH ------

#### **Roll call**

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager)**. He then takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place. No organisation will get a second chance if they miss the calling of their name, they will have to wait until the next roll call. The goal is to be more efficient to allow more time for discussions.

#### The roll call was executed as follows:



Co-funded by the European Union



	Full Members	# Roll Call 4 - After lunch
Austria	Junge Liberale NEOS - JUNOS	
Belgium	Federation des Etudiants Liberaux - FEL	
Belgium	JeunesMR - JMR	
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	
Bulgaria	YMRF Youth movement for rights and freedoms	1
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC	
Croatia	Mladi hrvatski liberali - HSLS	
Croatia	Istrian Democraric Youth (IDS)	
Croatia	Mladi Hrvatska narodna stranka- liberalni demokrati - HNS Youth	
Cyprus	NEO. DEPA	
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	
Istonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY	1
Estonia	Center Party Youth - ECPY	
Finland	KOL Keskustaopiskelijat	3
inland	Suomen Keskustanuoret FCY	
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)*	
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	1
Gibraltar	Liberal Party of Gibraltar - LPG	3
Hungary	Momentum (TizenX)	
celand	Uppreisn - UP	
reland	Ógra Fianna Fail - OFF	- -
atvia	Attīstībai Youth - AY	
atvia	For Youth! - PAR	
ithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY	
uxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL	
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro - LYM	
Vetherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie - JOVD	
Vetherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD	
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth	
Northern Ireland		
	Alliance Youth - ALLIANCE	
lorway	Norges Unge Venstre - NUV	
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth - NY	8
Romania	USR TINERET - USR	
Russia	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna	
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - PS	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - SVB	
Serbia	Mladi Pokret slobodnih građana - PSG Youth	
Spain	Jovenes Ciudadanos - JCs	
Sweden	Liberala ungdomsförbundet - LUF	
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	
Sweden	Centerstudenter	
witzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz - JFS	
switzerland	Young Green Liberals - YGL	
Ikraine	European Youth of Ukraine - EYU	
Ikraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine - LDLU	
Jkraine	ZeMolodizhka	
		8
Inited Kingdom	Young Liberals	
MS	Silvia Fernandez	
MS	Adam Volf	
IMS	Arthur Wu	

Simple majority of those present/absolute majority Two thirds of present Simple majority of those present without abstentions



the European Union



#### There were 212 votes present at the Congress

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- NEODEPA
- LHG
- Liberal Youth of Montenegro
- ZeMolodizhka

# 16. Resolutions

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) takes the lead on the resolutions point.

5 Amendment 7

#### 5 Amendment 7 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is reopened.

**Stephen Slager (Junos):** Democracy is essential and it is essential that citizens know how to critically inform themselves. This is not about the state telling the citizen what is real and what is fake news. I would like to share this with you here: my students don't know which platforms to use to identify fake news. It is extremely dangerous for them to use TikTok to source their information.

Jordan Thomas (YL): I want to speak for the amendment. This is not to control how to speak. We live in an age of disinformation and so I am in favour of this amendment.

**Fabian Grepper (JFS)**: We already discussed that widely in the working group, the outcome was quite clear.

**Arnau Ollé López (JNC)**: Following what was said by Fabian, we need to be careful with some countries who could promote news that is not true.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) closes the list and opens the vote.

Vote on 5 Amendment 7 as amended as a whole: 🔽



the European Union



**Yes - 129** No - 53 Abstain - 23

5 Amendment 7 is carried by the Congress.

# 5 Amendment 6

5 Amendment 6 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

# 5 Amendment 5 V

5 Amendment 5 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

# S Amendment 4 X

5 Amendment 4 falls as it is on the same line as 5 Amendment 5, which was carried by the mover.

#### 🔹 5 Amendment 8 🔽

5 Amendment 8 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

#### 5 Amendment 9 V

5 Amendment 9 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

#### ✤ 5 Amendment 10 ×

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)** states that 5 Amendment 10 received no recommendation from the Working Group. She opens the speakers list.

**Noah Petermann (JUNOS):** We are against this amendment because there are already multiple investment funds, such as the European Investment Fund or Horizon Europe. Therefore, this would just lead to more cost and administrative barriers.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) closes the list and opens the vote.



the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

Vote on 5 Amendment 10 as amended as a whole: X

Yes - 84 **No - 84** Abstain - 38

5 Amendment 10 is not carried by the Congress.

# ♦ 5 Amendment 11

5 Amendment 11 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** We move on to the vote on the resolution as amended as a whole as no one puts their name on the speakers list.

Vote on Resolution 5 as amended as a whole: 🔽

**Yes - 189** No - 8 Abstain - 0

Resolution 5 as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

# Resolution 7: The EU in cybersecurity: moving from Windows 95 to the AI of the future

Lucie Mas (Jeunes MR): The main objective is changing the cybersecurity and intelligence capacities of EU Member States through AI. We have recently witnessed Russian cyber attacks, one hour before the invasion of Ukraine, disrupting communication in Europe. In 2024, they targeted EU institutions, including the ministries of defence. Based on those attacks, we can see the development of AI has opened doors to a new kind of war: a cyber war. We propose a training programme on AI and cybersecurity.

**Joy Kamel (Jeunes MR)**: War is not anymore about bombs only, it is also about cyber. Cyber security must be a main interest for European security. We have targets on both military and civilian satellites. Al can be used to protect our data and our civilians. Please vote for our resolution.



the European Union



# 7 Amendment 1 V

7 Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

# 7 Amendment 2

Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

#### 7 Amendment 3

Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

# 7 Amendment 4

Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

#### 7 Amendment 5

Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

#### 7 Amendment 6

Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

#### 7 Amendment 7

Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): We now open the discussion on the resolution as amended.

**Tamara Garcheska (Lidem):** Al is here to stay. It is a key factor to defend not only the European Union but also countries in the pre-accession phase.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* Co-funded by

the European Union



**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)** We move on to the vote on the resolution as amended as a whole as no one else puts their name on the speakers list.

Vote on Resolution 7: 🔽

**Yes - 169** No - 19 Abstain- 13

**Resolution 7 is carried by the Congress.** 

#### > Resolution 1: For a free Tibet

**Calvin Nixon (Julis):** I take the floor today with a simple message: freedom matters. When freedom is under threat, we are called to speak up, to act, and to lead. This resolution is more than a simple declaration. It is a statement of values – our values. No culture should be silenced. No voice should be ignored. For over seven decades, the people of Tibet have endured hardship under a Communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China. Faith driven underground, a culture at risk of vanishing, cultural genocide. This isn't just an internal issue, it is a global one. When basic rights are denied the world must not look away. The Tibetan people have a democratic government in exile, they stand for peace and dialogue. They deserve our partnership and support. This resolution calls on the EU to provide a safe haven for Tibetan dissedants. My fellow delegates, let's be honest about history. Tibet was a free state. We must not be afraid to say they got occupied, not liberated. This resolution is a chance to tell the world we will not abandon Tibet and its people. We won't back down on what is right. Let this resolution be a step forward, not only for Tibetans, but for our credibility as liberals. May freedom and justice find their way.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): We move on to the amendments.

#### Amendment 1

Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

1 Amendment 2 V





Amendment received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it. It is carried by the Congress.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): We open the speaker list. No one is on the list. We move on to the vote on the resolution as amended as a whole.

Vote on Resolution 1: 🔽

**Yes - 187** No - 9 Abstain- 3

**Resolution 1 is carried by the Congress.** 

> Resolution 17: Defending Europe in times of need

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

Joy Kamel (Jeunes MR): As you have seen, we are talking about defence, the new sexy subject. But it must always be an important subject. What is happening now on our continent is quite alarming. We are not even reaching the 2% of GDP required by NATO. It is quite sad. Tomorrow, let's imagine we're at war. The first rights to go away are women's rights, or LGBTQ+ rights. We want to defend our societies, and our member states, now and in the future.

**Sebas Overbeek (JOVD):** We are living in a time right now where the US is almost completely abandoning us. Right now we are focusing on our own different projects as member states. It is very inefficient. In order to concretely act, we need to harmonise more to increase investment and mobility. Right now it takes 45 days of paperwork for a tank to reach Poland's east flank. Look at what we already can do, we should have more concrete measures. Please vote in favour.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) states that there are no amendments for this resolution and moves to a vote on the resolution as a whole.



Co-funded by the European Union



Vote on Resolution 17:

**Yes - 179** No - 0 Abstain- 4

**Resolution 17 is carried by the Congress.** 

Resolution 13: Establishing Standards for Ethical and Sustainable Fast Fashion in the EU

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Ella Oatridge (LUF):** Ultra-fast fashion brands such as Temu and Shein flood the market with thousands of new products every single day, often containing chemicals far exceeding limits issued in the reach agreement. How these products bypass regulations is by exploiting loopholes, such as the 150 EUR parcel exemption to avoid custom checks and accountability. As such, this resolution calls for binding EU laws holding platforms liable for the products they sell, a revision of the E- commerce directive, and the closure of the small parcel loophole. This resolution also calls for consumer awareness campaigns highlighting the risks of ultra-fast fashion and support for sustainable alternatives. Let's stand for safe and sustainable products to ensure that EU retailers and producers are not disadvantaged by these platforms. The same rules have to apply to all, no matter where a product comes from or how they are shipped.

# 13 Amendment 5

13 Amendment 5 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

#### 🔹 13 Amendment 1 🔽

13 Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

🔄 13 Amendment 6 🔽

13 Amendment 6 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

#### 13 Amendment 3





13 Amendment 3 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is on the same lines as amendment 7. It is carried by the Congress as no one reopens it.

# 1 POINT OF ORDER

Mats-Ole Maretzke (Julis) has a point of order to vote both 13 Amendment 3 and 13 Amendment 7 together.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** We assume he wants both carried, wouldn't be in contradiction as it is about two additions to the same lines as opposed to carrying amendment 3 and having amendment 7 fall as a consequence. We can show and reopen amendment 7, which also received positive recommendation from the Working Group. We see one person taking the floor, which means it is reopened.

# 13 Amendment 7 X

**Edvin Martenson (LUF):** I am in favour of 13 Amendment 3. However, 13 Amendment 7 talks about the revision of the DSA, and not only about the e-commerce directive. The DSA is a regulation about content regulation, not about custom rules. So, I think we should vote against 13 Amendment 7.

**Felix Barenthien (LHG):** The reason I took e-commerce directive out is the following. This directive has been overworked and is basically not in place anymore for what it was initially made for. That is why I submitted this.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** The situation is that we are taking a very discrete and actionable bit of policy and we are diluting it by making it vague and too generic. The original wording of the resolution provides LYMEC with a specific, achievable, and measurable goal. The amendment takes it away and provides it with a very vague approach that we want digital regulations to be better, which takes away from our policy book. I would encourage everybody to vote against this resolution and make sure we have a very discrete policy with reformed wording.

#### Vote on 13 Amendment 7: 🗙

Yes - 52 **No - 91** Abstain- 35

The amendment is not carried by the Congress.



the European Union



# 13 Amendment 4 V

13 Amendment 4 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

# 13 Amendment 2 X

13 Amendment 2 received no recommendation from the Working Group.

**Mats-Ole Maretzke (Julis):** I strongly believe we should keep this in and to decline the amendment, especially with the rise of protectionism worldwide. We need more free trade agreements, and I think it is the appropriate place in this resolution to address this topic, therefore please decline the amendment.

**Edvin Martenson (LUF):** I agree with **JuLis** on this one, sometimes it happens. The amendment argues it is not a related or relevant issue for this resolution, but it is. We want a more dynamic market, therefore free trade agreements are relevant. Vote against this amendment, thank you.

**Viesturs Romka (PAR):** I wanted to explain a bit more why we submitted this amendment. It is solely because this paragraph should be a separate discussion in itself. Of course FTAs are related, but not the sole purpose. We feel it deserves a separate resolution and I feel it risks diluting the message if we keep this.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** We can agree with JuLis that free trade is a good thing. To respond to the idea it isn't relevant. Fundamentally, this resolution deals with better standards of how consumers are treated in fast fashion markets. Free trade agreements present the EU with an opportunity for open discussion about what consumer rights are, to make trade possible. Entering more free trade agreements with these principles in the resolution, we will secure what we want. I would urge everyone to vote against the amendment.

Vote on 13 Amendment 2: 🗙

Yes - 39 **No - 127** Abstain- 24



EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

#### 13 Amendment 2 is not carried by the Congress.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** We have no more amendments to this resolution, we therefore move to the discussion on the resolution as amended as a whole. No one takes the floor so we move to a vote.

Vote on Resolution 13 as amended: 🔽

**Yes - 141** No - 22 Abstain- 18

**Resolution 13 is carried by the Congress.** 

#### > Resolution 21: A coalition of the trading; leading by example

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Anna Maaten (JD):** As we all know, three days ago, on Trump's so-called "Liberation Day," he implemented tariffs on the EU, making our resolution more relevant than ever. So, we call for the reformation of international trade organisations, such as the WTO, to ensure easier free trade and signing free trade agreements with key partners. We have to make sure the EU remains, and further becomes, a strong global trade partner.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) This resolution does not have any amendments, so we move to a discussion.

**Mats-Ole Maretzke (Julis):** We do not always agree with JD on everything, but we agree on this resolution. It is good that we stay strong and united in favour of free trade, especially in these challenging times.

**Friso van Gruijthuijsen (JOVD):** We couldn't be happier with this resolution, we really welcome it and would like to write many more resolutions together.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) We move on to the vote on the resolution as no one else puts their name on the speakers list.

Vote on Resolution 21: 🔽



the European Union



**Yes - 178** No - 8 Abstain - 15

Resolution 21 is carried by the Congress.

> Resolution 16: Standing up for Justice: Supporting the Serbian Student Protests

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Anes Hodzic (YFNS):** On November 1st 2024 part of the train station of a city in Serbia collapsed and killed 16 people. What followed were protests, which were small at first and then became the biggest in the region's history. The students asked for four main things: more money for education, releasing all the people and documents kept illegally by the police and ensuring that justice was brought to those responsible for the tragedy. There is still hope for a future of a better region. I know that Balkans don't usually have the feeling of unity, but we managed to gather all the Balkan MOs to stand with us on this resolution.

**Ilija Jerkovic (PSG Youth):** Thanks to our Bosnian colleagues for leading the effort on this resolution. From our side we were very thankful for the support. We want to keep pushing the protest and the months and months of resilience from students and young people, as it is really meaningful.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)** This resolution does not have any amendments, so we move to a discussion on the resolution as a whole.

**Tamara Garcheska (Lidem):** This is not just a simple resolution with 'calls for', this is also a resolution for our students who are on the frontline of these protests and movements. This is not only about politics, this is also about the future of our students and generations to come. The government should be governed by the people and for the people.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) We move on to the vote on the resolution as no one else puts their name on the speakers list.

Vote on Resolution 16: 🔽

Yes - 185



the European Union



No - 3 Abstain- 3

Resolution 16 is carried by the Congress.

# > Resolution 8: In solidarity with the people of Georgia

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Lova Bodin (CUF):** Lately, the democratic situation for the people of Georgia has become more and more dire. It is important that we as LYMEC take a stand and show support for the people of Georgia. The elections in October were plagued by irregularities. Despite numerous calls to re-run them, no new elections have been held. In addition to this, the government has delayed the EU membership bill, arrested hundreds of protesters, and enforced a bill that strips LGBTQ+ people of many rights. We should offer protection to Georgian citizens, should they need it. But in addition to us declaring our support, the EU should also show its support, by offering financial aid, independent media and for all individual countries to do what we can to offer protection to Georgian citizens should they need it.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) moves on to the amendments discussion.

# 8 Amendment 2 V

8 Amendment 2 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

#### 8 Amendment 4 X

8 Amendment 4 received a negative recommendation from the Working Group.

**Mats-Ole Maretzke (JuLis):** The situation in Georgia is definitely concerning, and we condemn this to the full extent and support the pro-European protesters there as much as we can. At the same time we have to take into consideration what the other countries are on the safe list, therefore we would like to get rid of this amendment to have a more proportionate form of dealing with Georgia. This amendment does not belong to this resolution.

**Lova Bodin (CUF)**: This is one of the points in this resolution that actually does something – not just saying we wish to support people, but that we can actually help them. We raised this issue because a





lot of LGBTQ+ organisations in Georgia said a big issue for them is that they see a lot of people who come to Europe and are sent back because of that. A court in Berlin said that they don't think their list holds up anymore, this is not in agreement with EU rights. We should protect these people.

**Jordan Thomas (YL):** I am speaking against. This is a very pressing issue. We need a line in this motion and a solution that will stand for the people of Georgia. This amendment will water down the full policy. Actions are needed, I urge you to vote against this amendment.

**Aleks Londal (RU)**: I am speaking in favour of the amendment. I would like to suggest to vote this through as it is not intended to be politicised.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** We can't politicise the list, but we have to keep Georgia on the list to maintain the EU's soft power. This is what RU said, but I think this is already a way to politicise the list. Rather than protecting people who are asking for our help, this is disappointing for me. Vote against this amendment and maintain obligations to help people who are asking for it.

**Laurenz Van Ginneken (JL):** I am also against it because sometimes you just have to face facts. See what is happening today in Georgia where civil liberties are being pushed back. We have to name this, if we want to protect soft power. This sentence should stay in the resolution, to keep the power of the resolution. Soft power is also about putting your fists on the table sometimes.

# Vote on 8 Amendment 4 🗙

Yes: 60 **No: 118** Abstain: 14

8 Amendment 4 is not carried by the Congress.

# 8 Amendment 3 X

8 Amendment 3 received no recommendation from the Working Group.

**Calvin Nixon (Julis)**: We are talking about the same issue again, but in a different context due to the resolution section. The resolution wants to impose this policy on the national level as well, for all of the member states to remove Georgia from their safe state list. We see this as quite disturbing for a number of reasons. Firstly, it infringes on the national sovereignty of the member states to organise their migration policy as they see fit for their country. This is something we should not impose from a European level and we should stay away from doing this. There are a lot of other reasons why we





should cancel this sentence from the resolution. We are really talking about policy in the call for section. Please accept the amendment, we should not go as strict as to infringe on the national sovereignty of member states.

**Lova Bodin (CUF)**: To my knowledge, LYMEC does not control any state, we declare what we think our opinions are. We can always do that. We can declare what we think. We are not infringing on member states' sovereignty. So, we can tell them that we think the EU should remove them from their safe state list.

Laurenz van Ginneken (JL): I want to close the debate on this amendment.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)**: If you want to conclude the debate, you have to put a Point of Order. But we are being very efficient, so I don't think it is necessary.

**Olena Dudko (EYU)**: I am in favour of this amendment, and our argument is surrounded by what a safe state list is from a legal perspective. The safe state list gives the ability to get asylum in the country. But if a country is removed from the safe state list, it makes getting asylum a bit easier. However, if a country is on the safe state list it does not prevent getting asylum. If Georgia stays on the safe list, it means that Georgians and people taking part in the protest can still move to other countries, like Germany and the Netherlands. But they will have a talk and an interview and if they present any Facebook posts where they criticise Georgian Dream or government, it will be granted and they will still get asylum because there is a rule of law in the EU. But they will still be persecuted. So making this statement that Georgia should be removed from the safe list basically means that every person will get asylum without being checked. We can declare what we think, but we cannot legally put this amendment in the call for all countries to remove it from that list. Legally, if we vote against the amendment we vote for something that is impossible to implement.

**Victor Marki (LHG):** There is a risk of undermining the EU Neighbourhood Policy in this area. It is very important that we use our EU power in that area too and taking Georgia from the safe list would interfere with this influence, especially countering Russia.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** It is disappointing to see this reopened again when the vote last time was so clear. Responding to **Olena Dudko (EYU)**, people are desperately looking over their shoulder at the far-right in relation to migration now, so they will take any excuse to turn people away. The safe states list is a perfect excuse to just say no, when we are removing Georgia from the safe list, the people we are



the European Union



criticising are not necessarily just Georgia – but the European states are increasingly pandering to far-right populists about freedom of movement. This undermines the system of asylum for personal benefit. Fundamentally, we should challenge populists and should not be buying into it as an organisation, and we should call on all the EU states to do so. Georgia is not our ally against Russia at the current moment of time. The Georgian Dream have made it very clear which side they side on, and it is not the European side of the fence, they are clearly causing a lot of pro-Russian, anti-democracy and anti-freedom principles, and the idea that they maintain their status on a privileged list in order to maintain our diplomacy with them is not an appropriate or acceptable move. I will remind you that we have a responsibility to help people when they ask for it, and this has been specifically asked by civil society groups in Georgia and LGBTQ+ groups. So I would ask you to oppose this amendment.

**Lova Bodin (CUF)**: This is not about how we feel or how the Georgian government will feel about us, this is about protecting the Georgian people.

**Simon Liegeois (FEL)**: I just want to bring my whole support to this resolution for Georgia and I would like to remind you that Georgia is one of the countries of the EU Neighbourhood policy and one of the goals of this is to bring cooperation and security to the region. Deleting Georgia from the safe list does not mean that this help will decrease.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) We move on to a vote. If this amendment passes, 8 amendment 1 falls as 8 amendment 3 is further reaching.

#### Vote on 8 Amendment 3 🗙

Yes: 68 **No: 111** Abstain: 23

Amendment 3 is not carried by the Congress.

#### 8 Amendment 1

8 Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) We now move to a discussion about the resolution as amended as a whole. We move on to the vote on the resolution as amended as a whole as no one else puts their name on the speakers list.



the European Union

EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

Vote on Resolution 8: 🔽

**Yes - 164** No - 5 Abstain- 23

**Resolution 8 is carried by the Congress.** 

> Resolution 9: Resolution on Strengthening EU Foreign Aid to Countries in Crisis

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Suzanna Wisvaligam (CUF):** We have written a resolution about foreign aid. Historically, Sweden has been a big advocate of giving 1% of our GDP, we are now down to 0.5%. The temporary suspension of U.S. foreign aid has weakened humanitarian efforts and strained civil society groups. We urge the EU to step up and give people their basic human needs, such as access to clean bathrooms, access to food, and education. I am very happy and pleased that so many people got engaged.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) moves on to the amendments discussion.

9 Amendment 9

9 Amendment 9 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

#### 9 Amendment 23

9 Amendment 23 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group and was accepted by the mover. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

#### 9 Amendment 24 V

9 Amendment 24 received no recommendation from the Working Group. This amendment is further reaching, about the same line as 9 amendment 10, so we will discuss 9 amendment 24 first.





**Calvin Nixon (Julis):** What we want to add here is a consideration that the American withdrawal has direct consequences for global development cooperation and the health sector. Particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, South-Asia, on HIV/AIDS issues. It is a soft power tool. As a U.S. citizen I believe that the temporary suspension of foreign aid is the most stupid decision the U.S. has ever made. It gives the EU the chance to implement our own soft power and development cooperation programmes. This amendment is adding a couple of points to add information and context to the whole issue of global development cooperation.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** If no one wants to speak against this we consider it carried. No one takes the floor, this amendment is accepted.

9 Amendment 24 is carried by the Congress.

#### 9 Amendment 10 X

9 Amendment 10 falls as 9 Amendment 24 was carried by the Congress.

#### A POINT OF ORDER

Rowan Fitton (YL): I don't think 9 amendment 10 conflicts with 9 amendment 24. JuLis' amendment adds to the text, ours changes the text.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): We did not receive an amendment to an amendment.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** I don't think it conflicts. There is an issue with OpenSlides, when you add text it deletes the original text and adds the sentence before.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** This is a conversation we had in the Working Groups, this is why we asked for an amendment to an amendment. Because of this, 9 amendment 10 falls, I am sorry. You accepted this in the Working Group.

Rowan Fitton (YL): I get it, it's an issue with openslides, clearly.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): I am sorry, but 9 amendment 10 falls.

9 Amendment 1 V





9 Amendment 1 is accepted by the mover. It received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

♦ 9 Amendment 11

9 Amendment 11 is accepted by the mover. It received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

9 Amendment 2 X

9 Amendment 2 falls, because 9 Amendment 11 was carried by the Congress.

# 9 Amendment 12

9 Amendment 12 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

#### 9 Amendment 3

9 Amendment 3 is accepted by the mover. It received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

9 Amendment 4 V

9 Amendment 4 is accepted by the mover. It received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

9 Amendment 13

9 Amendment 13 is accepted by the mover. It received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

9 Amendment 14





9 Amendment 14 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.



9 Amendment 5 is accepted by the mover. Amendment 5 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

9 Amendment 15

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): 9 Amendment 15 received no recommendation from the working group.

**Rowan Fitton (YL)**: Thank you. We have put in a lot of amendments on this resolution. Thanks to the proposers for submitting this really good resolution. We want to reflect the changing attitude towards International development systems and foreign aid. We want to change the way we look at aid, we have traditionally seen it as charity or as wealthy nations throwing money at countries out of the goodness of their heart. But this has changed. Our position is that we need to look at it as a partnership. While wealthy nations bring capital and resources – developing nations are on the front lines, and bring cultural knowledge, awareness, manpower, and research that can directly tackle issues around migration, climate change or direct issues we want to tackle with foreign aid. A revised attitude instead of a post-colonial attitude, changed to a partnership attitude. Please vote in favour.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** I do not see anyone on the speakers list. If no one adds themselves, we can consider the amendment as accepted.

9 Amendment 15 is carried by the Congress.

----- COFFEE BREAK -----

#### Roll call

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** performs the roll call with **Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager)**. He then takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one,





when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place. No organisation will get a second chance if they miss the calling of their name, they will have to wait until the next roll call. The goal is to be more efficient to allow more time for discussions.

The roll call was executed as follows:





Co-funded by the European Union

	Full Members	Roll Call 5 - after last break
Austria	Junge Liberale NEOS - JUNOS	5
Belgium	Federation des Etudiants Liberaux - FEL	3
Belgium	JeunesMR - JMR	8
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Bulgaria	YMRF Youth movement for rights and freedoms	
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC	10
Croatia	Mladi hrvatski liberali - HSLS	6
Croatia	Istrian Democraric Youth (IDS)	5
Croatia	Mladi Hrvatska narodna stranka- liberalni demokrati - HNS Youth	3
		3
Cyprus	NEO.DEPA	
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY	6
Estonia	Center Party Youth - ECPY	
Finland	KOL Keskustaopiskelijat	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret FCY	5
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)*	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Gibraltar	Liberal Party of Gibraltar - LPG	3
Hungary	Momentum (TizenX)	3
Iceland	Uppreisn - UP	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fail - OFF	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth - AY	3
Latvia	For Youth! - PAR	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro - LYM	
Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie - JOVD	6
Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD	
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - ALLIANCE	3
Norway	Norges Unge Venstre - NUV	3
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth - NY	5
Romania	USR TINERET - USR	3
	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna	5
Russia Slovakia		3
	Young Progressive Slovakia - PS	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - SVB	3
Serbia	Mladi Pokret slobodnih građana - PSG Youth	3
Spain	Jovenes Ciudadanos - JCs	3
Sweden	Liberala ungdomsförbundet - LUF	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund	5
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz - JFS	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals - YGL	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine - EYU	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine - LDLU	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka	
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	6
IMS	Silvia Fernandez	1
IMS	Adam Volf	1
IMS	Arthur Wu	1

Simple majority of those present/absolute majority Two thirds of present Simple majority of those present without abstentions



the European Union



There were 217 votes present at the Congress

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- NEODEPA
- Liberal Youth of Montenegro
- ZeMolodizhka
- 9 Amendment 2 Value
  Reopened

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)**: We continue with the amendments discussion in Resolution 9. There is a correction. During the break, two delegates came to us to say that 9 Amendment 2 was contradicting and on the same lines as 9 Amendment 11 that we accepted. After discussing with them, we agree that they are not actually contradicting each other. So, 9 Amendment 2 which takes out mention of Iraq, does not contradict with the addition of 9 Amendment 11. This has been agreed also by the mover of the resolution. Therefore, **9 Amendment 2 is carried.** 

9 Amendment 16

9 Amendment 16 is accepted by the mover. 9 Amendment 16 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

9 Amendment 25 V

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)**: Amendment 25 is the same as amendment 18, but it is farthest reaching, so we discuss this first.

9 Amendment 25 is accepted by the mover. 9 Amendment 25 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

# 9 Amendment 18 ×

9 Amendment 25 was accepted, so 9 amendment 18 falls.



the European Union



# 9 Amendment 17

9 Amendment 17 is accepted by the mover. Amendment 17 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress. Accepted as a new addition.

# 9 Amendment 19

9 Amendment 19 is accepted by the mover. Amendment 19 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

# 9 Amendment 20

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)**: 9 Amendment 20 is further reaching than 9 Amendment 6, so we will discuss this first.

9 Amendment 20 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

# 9 Amendment 6 X

9 Amendment 6 automatically falls, because 9 Amendment 20 was accepted.

9 Amendment 21

9 Amendment 21 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

# 9 Amendment 7 X

9 Amendment 7 falls, because 9 Amendment 21 was accepted.

9 Amendment 26 V




**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** 9 Amendment 26 is farther reaching than 9 Amendment 22. We will discuss this first.

9 Amendment 26 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

# 9 Amendment 22

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)**: 9 Amendment 22 is adding a line as well, and not contradicting 9 Amendment 26. 9 Amendment 22 is accepted by the mover.

9 Amendment 22 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

## 9 Amendment to Amendment 8

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** 9 Amendment to amendment 8 was submitted by CUF. Would anyone like to take the floor? I don't see anyone adding themselves to the speakers list. Therefore, 9 amendment to amendment 8 is accepted.

## 9 Amendment 8 X

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)**: This amendment received no recommendation from the working group. This Amendment falls because the amendment to amendment 8 was carried by the Congress. We have no more amendments to this resolution, we therefore move to the discussion on the resolution as amended as a whole. No one takes the floor so we move to a vote.

**Friso van Gruijthuijsen (JOVD):** We are going to support this resolution. We have a note mostly for the minutes. We see a flaw in the resolution that we were not able to amend, that is on us. But we do think it must be addressed as it is not very clear in the resolution. In the resolution, it is said that the EU must compensate for reductions in national aid. This can lead to a situation where national governments would drop it to zero and the EU has to compensate to pay the bill. This is not in the spirit of the resolution, so we would be against that occurring. This is just for the minutes, we will vote in favour regardless.





Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) We move on to the vote on the resolution as no one else puts their name on the speakers list.

Vote on Resolution 9 as amended as a whole: 🔽

**Yes - 157** No - 11 Abstain- 34

Resolution 9 as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

# Resolution 12: Strengthening Peacebuilding across Europe: Recognising and Reinforcing our Commitment to Conflict Resolution

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Rowan Fitton (YL):** A promise after this resolution, I will have a nap and leave you all alone. This is my last job for the day, to get this resolution passed. It is a much needed resolution. While we live in times of conflict, there are many young people in Europe that can call themselves the peace generation. After years of regional conflicts in Northern Ireland and the Western Balkans, they have the privilege and opportunity to grow up in a place where this conflict was eased with ceasefires, mediation and engagement. However, there was a time where that mediation was at risk. Unfortunately because of Mr. Trump and the role that he is playing in destabilising what we thought were settled matters. These were places where the U.S. was a guarantor of peace, but we can no longer rely on that to happen. Which is broadly why this resolution calls for the EU to step up and fill gaps as a mediator of peace where the U.S. steps away and abandoned peace. Broadly speaking, the call for section seeks to call for concrete actions that we can advocate for as young people. We have a responsibility to step up, this resolution does that.

**Anes Hodzic (YFNS)**: I am thankful to Rowan for reaching out to us for this resolution. He had a theoretical perspective, I had a practical perspective. I was born two weeks after the war and I understand the role of peacekeepers, the role of the EU and other very important aspects. Especially in these times where we cannot rely on help from other countries. We want other countries to have the luck Bosnia and Herzegovina has had in peacebuilding.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) moves on to the amendments discussion.



the European Union



# 12 Amendment 1 V

12 Amendment 1 is accepted by the mover. 12 Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

# 12 Amendment 2

12 Amendment 2 is accepted by the mover. 12 Amendment 2 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** The amendments are automatically accepted, we therefore move to the discussion on the resolution as amended as a whole.

**Luke Patterson (ALLIANCE Youth):** We have heard the input from the movers of the motion. We are grateful that Northern Ireland is mentioned in it. We are very doubtful of whether the European Commission is continuing to invest in peace efforts in a non member state of the European Union. We are fortunate that the Commission and the Irish government still believe in investing in us, also after Brexit. We are an example of the victims of the suspension of the U.S. Aid. Peace is a process, it is not an event. It happens and we all have a role to play. It is important that we stand together as young people on this continent.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) We move on to the vote on the resolution as no one else puts their name on the speakers list.

Vote on Resolution 12 as amended as a whole: 🔽

**Yes - 191** No - 0 Abstain- 6

Resolution 12 as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

# Urgency Resolution 2: End the Systemic Corruption: Justice for Victims of Kočani Tragedy

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

Company code 863179343 VAT code BE0863.179.343



LYM the European Union

Tamara Garcheska (Lidem): I might tremble a bit or get emotional, because this is a difficult topic for me. 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. In other words, this was a tragedy that could have been easily prevented. This was a tragedy caused by our corrupt system. It is difficult to comprehend the pain that families must feel-losing their loved ones in the blink of an eye. There are no words that can truly describe the devastation, sorrow, or the emptiness in the spaces once filled with hopes and dreams. Yet, in the face of such sorrow, we find strength. We find strength in the outpouring of love and support especially from the European community, who have extended their hearts and hands to help us out. For that, we thank you. We as young people, cannot, and will not, remain silent in the face of this disaster. The demands are simple and clear: accountability, transparent investigation free from any political pressure, for institutions to do their job and a creation of a "Park of Corruption" on the site of the nightclub as an enduring reminder of the price we pay when corruption and negligence go unchecked. I know I may not be the best lobbyist or know how to be the best European diplomat or act diplomatically, but I'm trying my best for my country. I am trying my best for my generation: the generation who is fighting for a change, who is fighting for a better life, who wants to stay in this country. And at this moment I want to thank all of the cosigners who kindly and swiftly accepted to co sign this resolution. This isn't just a simple LYMEC resolution, this is a resolution to raise awareness for this dire situation. This isn't just my resolution nor a LIDEM resolution, this is a resolution for all the victims, not just from this tragedy, but others before that. Let us not forget. Let us honor their memory by taking action. Thank you.

Alexia Petrovai (USRT): I just wanted to talk about this because a similar thing happened in Romania in 2015, when young people died in a nightclub due to an incident caused by corruption. It is a real issue, and a real problem. We need to act. People have forgotten about the incident, people have forgotten about these deaths. There is now a candidate ignoring this: a populist candidate that is running for president, whose support is looking very good in the polls right now. And by forgetting, the corruption issues go on. We need to remember that, and politicians who don't condemn these acts need to be punished. Therefore I want to ask everyone to vote in favour of this resolution.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) moves on to the amendments discussion.

## 22 Amendment 1 V





22 Amendment 1 is carried by the Congress as it only adds cosigners to the resolution and is accepted by the mover.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** We have no more amendments to this resolution, we therefore move to the discussion on the resolution as amended as a whole. No one takes the floor so we move to a vote.

Vote on Urgency Resolution 2: 🔽

**Yes - 213** No - 0 Abstain - 4

Urgency Resolution 2 is carried by the Congress.

# Resolution 10: Bringing European innovation forward: Harmonizing the Aviation Industry

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Estelle Jaggi and Alex Häner (YGL)**: The main idea of the text is the necessity for the European Union to implement a harmonised tax on kerosene, a fossil fuel, used in aviation to align with its ambitious climate goals. This tax aims to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainable practices, and address market distortions. Why? The EU aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, but the aviation sector, responsible for 4% of global warming, remains largely untaxed. This absence of taxes on kerosene distorts the market and undermines climate goals. What We Ask for a Change: Harmonised EU-Wide Tax: Implement a gradual, harmonised tax on fossil fuel kerosene across the EU, reflecting its true environmental cost; Phased Approach: Introduce taxation on internal EU flights in phases, respecting international agreements and prioritising global cooperation; Reinvestment in Green Technologies: Use revenue from kerosene taxes to invest in green technologies and climate resilience projects; Eliminate Double Taxation: Remove regulations that lead to double taxation on aviation. Forward-thinking perspectives are crucial in driving this initiative. Together, we can push for a sustainable future by advocating for fair taxation and investment in green technologies. Thank you for voting for our resolution.

Julian Dalberg (Julis): We are debating a resolution that proposes a tax on kerosene under the premise of reflecting the true cost of carbon emissions. But in fact that is already precisely the





purpose of the EU Emissions Trading System – a market-based, already established and effective mechanism that puts a price on carbon and incentivises reduction where it is most efficient and most importantly with a real and absolute limit of carbon emissions. Introducing an additional kerosene tax would therefore not only be redundant – it would undermine the ETS by layering parallel policies on top of one another. This is not sound climate policy; it's double regulation. Even more contradictory is the fact that this very resolution calls for the elimination of double taxation on aviation – yet a kerosene tax would do exactly that: tax emissions twice. This is a contradiction we cannot ignore. For the sake of consistency, efficiency, and credibility, I urge you to vote against this resolution.

**Marius Gobet (YGL)**: Speaking in favour. I hear the point of double taxation. This is not what this is about. Fuel taxation exists on other things. Other fuels are in the ETS as well. This is an important measure that can reduce emissions as well as eventual disadvantages.

**David Grasveld (LHG)**: I am speaking against the resolution. The aviation industry is already super competitive, with very small margins, and fuel prices are the biggest part of the operational costs of airlines. A kerosene tax would put European airlines at a competitive disadvantage on the global scale. Prices go up, especially younger people and students are affected

**Laurenz van Ginniken (JL)**: I am speaking against the resolution. I totally agree with what was just said. Many scholars have proven that if we adopt this it would lead many European firms to bankruptcy. Let's not put more pressure on this market. Do we really think Chinese or American companies will lead the green transition? I don't think so.

**Stephen Slager (JUNOS)**: I do share the commitment to a liberal climate policy, but we have to pay attention to the taxation aspect. We cannot make it impossible or very difficult for disadvantaged people to afford transportation.

**Fabian Grepper (JFS)**: This would not just be a huge disadvantage to our European transportation, but it is an optimal solution to tackle climate change. We should have the aviation system taxed through a global approach, instead of a solely European approach.

**Julius Graack (JuLis)**: I am speaking against the resolution. Thank you YGL for your persistence in proposing this same policy every 3 years. With the trading system we can't set limits. Under the current tax directive from the EU, all the member states could already impose a tax on aviation. I wonder why no member state did this. The system we have to go for is to make the trading system





work first, and then we can deal with carbon emissions. I think even if I like to repeat certain debates, we also have to see where we can go beyond this discussion and find a compromise.

**Victor Marki (LHG)**: I am speaking against the resolution. It also affects small businesses and workers. It would create disadvantage for European carriers and push this kind of jobs out of the EU. It is important to keep cheaper prices for transportation. This is also what makes Europe beautiful.

**Olena Dudko (EYU)**: I am speaking against the resolution. Despite the EU-Switzerland Travel Agreement, it is strange to hear about a resolution harmonising the aviation industry, when Switzerland is not even in the EU. I thought we were liberals, not Greens. When we are booking flights we can already tick the options for carbon emissions, I don't think many of you do this. So let's first use the tools we already have at our disposal. I thought liberals stood for less taxes, not more.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)** Remember here we are not only EU countries. Be respectful. Let's move on to the amendments discussion.

# 10 Amendment 1 V

10 Amendment 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is reopened.

**Thomas Jordan (YL)**: Thank you for reminding us that there are also members from outside the EU. The motion on amendment accounts for increased efforts by calling for investments in sustainable long-distance transport across Europe. 200 years ago flights were not even an option. It is not set in stone that flying will stay the most sustainable and fastest means of transport. Who knows what will happen in 50 years. I urge you to vote on the resolution as unamended.

Marius Gobet (YGL): We would be accepting this amendment and the next one.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): I would propose to continue on this debate as we have already started it.

**Dan Sandu (USRT)**: The resolution as unamended does not address this issue. Maybe in central and western Europe it is a good option to take a train or a bus, but from the east, sometimes the only option is to fly. If we want to uphold connectivity, we need to take that into account.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): We move to a vote on 10 Amendment 1.



the European Union

LY MEL

Vote on 10 Amendment 1 🔽

**Yes: 102** No: 64 Abstain: 35

Amendment 1 is carried by the Congress.

10 Amendment 2 11

10 Amendment 2 is accepted by the mover and received a positive recommendation in the Working Group. No one reopens it so it's carried by the Congress.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** We have no more amendments to this resolution, we therefore move to the discussion on the resolution as amended as a whole. No one takes the floor, but we did have a good debate at the beginning. So we move to a vote.

Vote on Resolution 10: 🗙

Yes - 63 **No - 90** Abstain- 44

Resolution 10 is rejected by the Congress.

#### > Resolution 20: Stop the EU's Agricultural Subsidies

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) invites the mover to present the resolution.

**Jannis Sudergat (CS):** I am pleased to be here as one of the few representatives of an agrarian party at this congress. We have talked a lot about free trade in light of the events of this week. It is a good symbol of this Congress. We have talked a lot about strategic investments. The EU is chained by the fact on something we spend so much money on agricultural policies. We talked a lot about how much soft power we hold with this. It is time for us as liberals to put trust in the markets. It is time for us to bring down these borders.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** There are no amendments to this resolution, we therefore move to the discussion on the resolution.



EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

**Friso Le Poole (JD):** I am speaking against this. This kind of hurts me. On the one hand JD is very much against the CAP, there are a lot of reforms needed, but this resolution doesn't take important nuances into account. If we would get rid of the subsidies, our farmers could never compete with the rest of the world. However, we would want to discuss this topic, but with more nuance.

**Tommy Monahan (Alliance Youth):** Fellow delegates, let's be clear — abolishing EU agricultural subsidies without any other proposal or phase-out plan is not reform, it's abandonment. You are not just removing a policy, you are pulling the rug from under millions of farmers who keep our plates full. Imagine entire regions hollowed out, fields left fallow, family farms gone in a generation. This is not a theoretical risk - it is a certainty without support structures in place. Food prices will soar, smallholders will go bankrupt, and rural communities will crumble. Europe's proud agricultural heritage will be replaced by corporate monopolies and imported dependence, rather than allowing developing countries to defeat, and also destroying European competition in the sector. We will trade stability for chaos, and sustainability for short-term ideology. If we vote for this motion, we are voting for collapse. Don't let that happen on our watch, and apart from anything else, this completely contradicts what's already in our policy book. Stand for reform, not ruin. I urge you to reject this nonsense.

**Leonardo Holberg (RU):** As liberals we should by default be against market distorting subsidies. If we can buy grain cheaper in Ukraine and introduce it in Denmark we should do that. It is a subsidy that is supporting the most polluting industry in Europe. So I would encourage you to vote in favour.

**Noah Petermann (JUNOS):** While we understand the liberal instinct to question subsidies, and we agree that the Common Agricultural Policy needs serious reform - the current geopolitical context is critical. With an increasingly destabilised environment, we cannot afford to undermine Europe's food security. Strategic autonomy isn't just about defence, it is also about food security. A purely market driven agricultural sector would make us vulnerable to global shocks and geopolitical instability. Liberals must lead with realism and responsibility. We need to be strong, sustainable and secure. Food security must be our priority.

**Ranel Ruumet (ERPY):** I apologise, but we cannot take away subsidies without giving something back. We need to deregulate and incentivise innovation. We need to make agriculture more accessible for young people. Therefore vote against this resolution.

**Carlos Sanchez de la Flor (JCs):** We support previous colleagues. The EU subsidies are essential not only for agriculture but also for fishing, especially in countries in southern Europe like Spain, Italy,

81





Greece and Portugal. They help manage jobs and provide food supply, without them many areas would suffer. The EU must continue to support the sectors to protect its future.

**Mats Maretzke (Julis):** Three main points. Subsidies mean higher taxes. We just voted on a resolution regarding free trade – subsidies are trade barriers. If you talk to most of the farmers, they don't want the subsidies, they want deregulation which is good for their product. They need subsidies at the moment to live. But this is not the way, the way to go is get rid of market subsidies for a more market-oriented future.

**Colm Maher (OFF):** When Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent natural gas prices soaring up, fertilizer production costs surged as well, threatening crop yields across the EU. Without CAP's emergency support to offset these energy-driven costs, thousands of farms would have faced collapse, jeopardising continental grain supplies and inflating food prices. We have seen how big a topic the cost of eggs was in the U.S. in the last election. Imagine what would happen if we as liberals voted to drive up the cost of food in Europe. The CAP not only helps sustain over 20 million agricultural livelihoods, but ensures that volatility in the food market does not translate into empty supermarket shelves. We have an energy crisis, do not vote for a future food security crisis. Vote No!

**Dan Sandu (USR Tineret):** Stopping subsidies means collapse of EU agriculture, it means reliance on outside forces, in a time of strategic autonomy. It means increased consumer prices when the far-right is on the rise. With this resolution, we would surrender ourselves to the two biggest crises we face. Please vote no.

**Silvia Fernandez (IMS Delegate):** What this resolution proposes is preposterous. We are aware of how important agriculture and its subsidies are. It helps with sustainability, protecting biodiversity. We rely heavily on them. It is part of our identity. Vote against this resolution.

**Friso van Gruijthuijsen (JOVD):** Right now agricultural subsidies are taking a huge cut of the EU budget. This costs you money. You cannot spend it on innovation that helps the EU forward. It might sound sympathetic, but as a farmer you don't want to be filling out paperwork all day. Let farmers farm and cut out subsidies.

**Alin Simionescu (USR Tineret):** The taxes we are paying, we are paying farmers that can provide premium products for us across Europe. It allows farmers from poorer countries to be able to manage





and produce. It is a great policy, although it is not perfect. Of course we can work on it, but stopping it is not a solution. Now with the tariffs and all the triggers it is not a good idea.

**Antti Paunonen (FCY):** Firstly, we are at a time of war. Every single country needs their own food production, we do not know what the future brings us. Secondly, if we take out subsidies now, it will drive up prices when there is already inflation. Our exports would take a huge hit. Thirdly, we have a standard on how to keep animals in Europe. If we start buying products outside of the EU, why do we have those then?

**David Grasveld (LHG):** Even though we believe taking away subsidies is a good thing. A 15 line resolution does not do justice to the complexity of this issue. Yes, subsidies distort the market, but simply abolishing them in a clean sweep without a transition period or alternative measures would distort the market even more. We therefore propose a different resolution that does actually do the reform and not just abolishes the CAP.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair): No one else takes the floor so we move to a vote on the resolution.

## **POINT OF ORDER**

Arthur Wu (YL): What happens if this resolution passes? We have a contradicting policy in our policy book on the same topic.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair):** This point should have been raised before the vote. If this passes, the contradicting resolution stays in the policy book until it's archived.

Vote on Resolution 20: X

Yes - 48 **No - 141** Abstain- 22

Resolution 20 is rejected by the Congress.

**Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair)** I want to congratulate all of you today. Working Groups are proving to be a success to process resolution in a more efficient way. We decided not to limit anyone who wanted to take the floor. A round of applause for all of you today!

# 17. Reports from Member Organisations, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage and LYMEC Working Groups





Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) gives the floor to Member Organisations:

**Friso van Gruijthuijsen (JOVD)**: I would like to thank LYMEC for another very smooth Congress. We made LYMEC stronger today. We really need to start working as well on making each other stronger and better. I know you also have solutions and good ideas, so if you want to work with us on a bilateral organisational level, we are open for it.

Fabian Grepper (JFS) Takes the floor.

**Andrei Tatur (AY)**: I would like to thank all the delegations for the resolutions we have passed. Today we have been very efficient and I see this is the future of Europe, we need to be so efficient and fast to respond to these challenging times. I am also glad we have passed two resolutions on European security. Whatever happens in the next half a year, we will always be present and we hope to get support from you whatever happens.

**Alexia Petrovai (USRT)**: I don't know how much you know about Romania, but recently, Donald Trump and Elon Musk found out about it and started tweeting about it. If something like this is happening in Romania with democracy and free elections, we have to realise we are in a bubble. We can't fight extremists without talking to people, what we are doing at this congress is amazing, it is my first one and I really liked it. But after this we need to go and speak to people about real issues, because these people are not following LYMEC. I hope we will have a good outcome for the next elections in May. This is just for you to be careful because what happened in Romania can happen in your countries too.

**Martin Horny (PS)**: Thank you for another wonderful congress. I would like to invite you in June to our Congress. We are quite influential in the parliament and will have you meet some of our MPs. It will be our pleasure to welcome you to Bratislava. If you have any questions please get in touch with me. We unfortunately do not have any funds to accommodate you, but we are from Eastern Europe, so we are cheap. Before I leave the stage, Slava Ukraini!

Adam Volf (IMS Delegate): In the past 6 months we have had 6 events as IMS: our pre-congress meeting, a meet-up in Brussels, two in London, a German election watch party and a pre-congress meeting. IMS cannot be understood as a normal MO. We have no budget, it all depends on the free will of our members. We do not benefit from the same resources as you guys.

**Tim Robinson (IMS Steering Committee)**: We have been up to quite a lot in the past months, we have been trying to organise more social events and meetups, mainly in Brussels and London. It has unfortunately been 3 years since the last in-person IMS meeting. I have had discussions with Bureau members and I would like to find a way forward. Hopefully at next year's Congress we will be able to tell you how wonderful the IMS event was.





**Mats-Ole Maretzke (Julis)**: We hope to make it back to parliament and meet the threshold to have FDP back in the German Parliament. Unfortunately we did not make it as we were below 5%. We now have to review our structures, our policies, and our representatives. You can count on us in Julis to make this change in FDP, doing everything in our power to make it come back stronger. We appreciate your support.

**Milana Shesterikova (YDM)**: Many of you know that because of our "extremist" status many people left the country and are living in another part of Europe or outside of Europe. Many of you asked me to know more about how this works. I think my MO has dealt with the crisis that we had. We had strategic sessions, where we developed a new approach to working on the ground. This is a sensitive topic, but it is crucial to share experiences. I am always available for any questions.

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) Thank you all for sharing news from your organisations!

#### 18. Any Other Business

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) states that there is no item under the AOB point.

**Erik Rosljajev (ECPY)**: This is my love letter to LYMEC. I did not prepare this speech, I want to speak from my heart. We have been part of LYMEC for a very long time and it is very sad that we departed our ways. We hope to still be able to cooperate with you. I hope you enjoy Zagreb. It is a party city, and we will go out with a bang. To **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President)**: Estonia does many things really well, not only tech but also chocolate. Here you get some!

#### **19. Closing Speech from LYMEC President**

Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair) gives the floor for the conclusions to the LYMEC President.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President): Dear liberal friends, I really want to thank you. We have amazing partners who have stood by for years and have made it possible for us all to be here. I would really like to thank Renew Europe, VVD International, ELF, FNF and especially our local support, Goran Neralic. Without you this would not have been possible and therefore you deserve a round of applause. Also she is not visible from across the room but she has been typing all day yesterday and all day today but thank you Chiara Liguori (LYMEC Project Manager) for writing down all of our words. Thank you Even Diot (Secretary General), for dealing with votes, OpenSlides and technical issues. Thank you for making this congress so smooth. Here's to the people who have been in charge of this Congress and made it possible to discuss so many resolutions. This has been the most efficient resolution discussion I have seen. Thank you to Stefania Reynisdottir (Chair), Brent Usewils (Chair) and



Co-funded by the European Union

**Dan-Aria Sucuri (Chair).** Thank you to the Bureau in the background. Without you I wouldn't be enjoying the Congress so much right now. One organisation I want to mention is ALDE. We have had a very long standing cooperation as their youth and only recently we have experienced something organisation would not experience. I think some of you already saw the cards that were distributed about us both being identified as undesirable organisations in Russia. That is something all of you have achieved. All of you do the daily work that raises awareness that this is a full scale invasion, this is a war, this is not a simple peace-keeping mission. This is something we will keep advocating for. We want to thank all of you as delegates. Without all of you LYMEC would not exist. I am surprised to see synergies among some of you and I was very emotional when seeing all Balkan organisations come up to the floor to present their resolution. This is not a given. As liberals we can be role models to lead Europe. I hope all of you go home and share this liberal vision of how we as liberals want to shape Europe. We need to have this in our daily discussions. One discussion at a time we will make Europe better.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): I don't want to bother you too much. Even has some technical details. Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) you have forgotten the most important person we have to thank on a daily basis, that is you. Of course there is a team and delegates but you are the one in charge of tough decisions. The resolutions that have gone through are also a recognition of the work you carry on everyday and the good cooperation with our partners.

**Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** stresses that the Congress is now closed at 18 h 00 pm CET (Zagreb time) and gives some practical information for the dinner arrangements. If you want pictures with your delegations, the photographer is here. Tonight's dinner reception is just across the hotel. Thank you everyone! See you all at our next congress in Bratislava, Slovakia, this November!



"Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."