LYMEC (European Liberal Youth - LYMEC asbl)
Company code 863179343
VAT code BE0863.179.343
Rue d'Idalie 11, 6th floor, PO box 2, 1050 Brussels
E-mail office@lymec.eu
www.lymec.eu

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MINUTES
Bureau Meeting
20 May 2025 Online

The meeting started at 19h CEST and ended at 20h15 CEST. It was held online via ZOOM.

Present: Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Alexandre Servais (AS), Willemijn Krans (WK), Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP), Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (SNC) and Even Diot (ED)

Invited: Chiara Liguori (CL)

Excused: Ines Holzegger (IH)

AS opened the Bureau meeting and started with the first agenda point.

1. **Updates from past activities: 5 minutes**

    a. ELF General Assembly April 14-15
    MP presented the new ELF Strategy. The ongoing discussion on the new membership fee for the organisations will be discussed later in May, with an expected increase in the fee.

    b. YFJ GA - May 9-11 (covered by email)
        i. Unfortunately, Rowan Fitton was not elected to the Advisory Council of Youth of the Council of Europe. It was partly due to hesitancy about collaboration with LYMEC and misconceptions from our November contributions during the previous General Assembly of the YFJ, which led some to wrongly view our organisation as less open to left-wing perspectives. We plan to address this misunderstanding by highlighting the diversity of our policies and member organisations. Rowan performed well with less politically charged National Youth Council delegations.

        The candidates were mostly from Northern Europe, the UK, and male candidates, many of whom had prior experience or visibility, influencing voter choices. Rowan personally received positive feedback for being open and amicable. To improve future chances, LYMEC should consider selecting and promoting candidates earlier, possibly from the bureau.

        Our motion on nuclear Energy failed due to the YFJ board claiming it conflicted with the existing policy platform on nuclear issues, leading to many abstentions. However, there's still interest in future discussions on a just transition, indicated by the high abstention rate.

    c. Liberal Communicators Network May 16-18
        i. DP presented the event, which was overall successful, with a slightly younger audience than our usual participants.

        One participant did not register correctly, with wrong information, leading to compliance issues with the European Liberal Forum (ELF) as the participant was a paid staff member. The issue is being dealt with by ELF to invoice the participant and ensure compliance.

AS thanked DP for the updates on this event. Following the incident report and the deliberate misinformation, the participant will not be allowed in future LYMEC events, and we will coordinate with the International Officer from this Member Organisation to ensure a similar situation does not repeat.

d. Young Changemakers Academy II April 25-27

SB reported on the second event in Stockholm, which was a success despite 2 participants unable to join the event due to conflicting events.

The third Event in October will be at the same time as the IFLRY Congress. SB will remind the participant to prioritise the attendance of the YCA to ensure proper attendance.

2. **Upcoming events: 10 minutes**

a. ELF Digital Assembly June 05

MP will attend the Digital Assembly Online and address the membership fee working group of ELF.

b. RENEW Europe Trainees Event June 12

ED will attend this event organised by the Networking Unit of the RENEW Europe Group in Brussels to present the organisation to the new cohort of Trainees from the European Parliament.

c. Liberal Hack June 13-15

The event will take place in Sarajevo with WK from the Board and ED, CL from the Secretariat.

d. EYE 2025 June 13-14

MP and DP will travel to Strasbourg with the support of RENEW Europe Group to attend the event. They will also attend the session from RENEW Europe: *Empowering Youth - Media Literacy, Fact-checking and Digital Democracy.*

e. Policy Debate 3 June 18

SNC will moderate the upcoming Policy Debate, June 18th: "*Breaking the Ice: Igniting Action Against Climate Apathy"*.

f. Renew Europe CoR External Group Meeting - June 22-23

ED is invited to attend the Renew Europe CoR External Group Meeting in Lille, France.

g. LYMEC Alumni Event June 27

AS is organising an event during the ALDE Council in Helsinki, "*The Liberal Network: Past, Present, Future"* - to engage with the LYMEC alumni community and launch a Survey to gather information for an upcoming project on the 50 years of the European Liberal Youth.

h. Budapest Pride

ED will attend the Budapest Pride in Hungary with a delegation from RENEW Europe, Rainbow Platform and TizenX.

3. **Updates Secretariat: 10 minutes**
   a. Updates LibertyCon

   ED presented the outcomes of our panel during LibertyCon, where we met with several IOs and IMS from the European Liberal Youth, LYMEC. Positive feedback was received on the organisation's visibility and potential candidates' organisations.

   b. Update Erasmus+

   The application for the framework project of Erasmus+ was submitted successfully and is under review. ED thanks every Bureau Member who contributed, and CL for the work done during this application process.

   c. EYF Grant Application - Call for Ukraine

   The Project call for a LYMEC project in Ukraine was submitted to the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and is pending approval. The event is scheduled for July 10-13 in Lviv, Ukraine.

   d. Update Letter from VDL - President Advisory Board on Youth

   Following the participation of ED in the EU Youth Stakeholder Group and the event "*Mainstreaming Intergenerational Fairness"* with Commissioner Glenn Micallef, our question on the composition of the President's Advisory Board on Youth was not answered. LYMEC drafted a letter addressed to President Von der Leyen asking for a reply. The letter was presented to the bureau members and is open for comments for a week.

   e. YELL Summit

   The "*Summit of Young Elected Local and Regional Leaders 2025"*, co-organised by RENEW CoR and Young Democrats for Europe (YDE), will take place on September 24-25 in Brussels. This summit is open to everyone holding an elective mandate. The call for participants will be launched on June 2nd.

4. **Tour de Table Bureau Members**
   a. MP is working on the September Internal Audit in Brussels and will participate in the EYE in Strasbourg. MP met with an applicant organisation from Georgia, *Youth for Democracy***.** The organisation has a goal of creating a network of activists in Georgia, involving European Actors such as MEPs. They support our values, say they are liberals and want to engage with RENEW MEPs. They have 7 members and no overall warning sign.

   WK: As it is a Youth NGO and not a Political Youth organisation, what comparison could you make with another Youth NGO from our network, such as the European Youth of Ukraine?

AS will meet with them online as the Bureau Member responsible for Georgia. As this is a new organisation with few partners in Europe, having them as observers will be a good first step to assess the organisation.

MP: Also in Georgia they organised an event with all the political parties Youth organisation in the past, including Georgian Dream. Though they are not in contact with the organisation anymore.

b. WK: Took part in the "*New Generation Uniting Nations"* project in The Hague as a speaker on the panel on Youth, Liberalism and Democracy. WK is still in contact with them and will organise a meeting to seek further cooperation over the summer months. WK will also organise a meeting with ED to update the advocacy plan of LYMEC.

c. SB is working on the E-learning module of the YCA 2025. For Libertas, the delay in planning observed by the LYMEC Secretariat is linked to the review processes and not the Libertas Editorial team. A special emphasis will be made to ensure proper communications in advance in the future. A coordination meeting with DP on the communications output is scheduled. SB also updated the Bureau on the database of IOs, where 32 persons have already filled out the form.

d. SNC finished updating the LYMEC Policy Book following the Spring Congress 2025. She took part in the YFJ General Assembly in May. The Policy Debate on June 18th, "*Breaking the Ice: Igniting Action Against Climate Apathy",* is ready. SNC also drafted the Policy Guide for IOs on how to write a Policy Resolution, which will be made available over the summer.

SNC reminded the bureau member that proper communication around the Policy debate is important. Low attendance reflects badly on the organisation, and some Member Organisations were not even aware that the event was happening. Organising such events is a significant effort that every Bureau Member should be mindful of.

AS Thanked SNC for her remarks, he outlined the need for the all bureau to work supporting each other. He acknowledged the good work done by the Bureau members. Showing up matters also for the image of the organisation. AS also reminds the Bureau that we are doing all those activities for the network and it is also their responsibility to disseminate them among MOs.

e. DP will send the TikTok Strategy to all Bureau Members following the Bureau meeting. The new call for the Communication team will be launched in the coming weeks with 5 people being recruited. DP will also have a call regarding the Alliance of Her Summit taking place on October 23rd in Brussels.

5. AOBs

a. Date Voices from Ukraine

WK will organise the next *Voices from Ukraine* Webinar on Tuesday, June 24th.

b. Venstres Ungdom Congress September 19-21

Due to conflicting events, SB will send a Video message on behalf of LYMEC.

c. JNC Summer School September 5-7

SNC will attend on behalf of LYMEC.

d. Updates on the International Academy for Leaders in Gummersbach.

With the possibility of the Academy closing, a draft statement will be circulated to the Bureau members as organisational support, because the future of the Academy is in danger. The letter, open for signature, will be shared with the membership as well.

e. Date of Next Bureau meeting

AS: The date for the next Bureau Meeting will be communicated shortly, the format will differ with more of a Brainstorming session for the organisation.

f. Business Continuity

AS reminded the Bureau members to send their planned summer holidays to ensure Business continuity of the organisation over the summer.

g. ALDE Congress 2025

MP asked for the Save The Date of the ALDE Congress to be sent out to all the Bureau Members.

SNC informed the Bureau that the LYMEC Delegation to the next ALDE Party Congress will meet the first week of June to start working on our motions with an internal deadline to deliver a draft by the end of June.

The meeting ends at 20h15 CEST.

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