

MINUTES

LYMEC Spring Congress

17th - 19th April 2026

Vienna, Austria 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:** Name Surname (LYMEC).
4. All the text must be justified.

Day 1 - Friday, 17th April 2026

Congress starts at 16: 30 CEST.

Participants are attending in-person in Vienna but also online.

1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) opens the Congress with her speech from the Congress room in Vienna, Austria.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President): "I feel deeply honored. Not because I know many of you and cherish your company, but because this is not just a Congress. It is an anniversary Congress where we discuss our past, our present and our future. And what we lay down and what we want to see in the future of Europe. 50 years of LYMEC. Who else can say that they are young when they are 50? I don't think many can. 50 years of fighting for youth rights, or proving that young people don't just talk about youth issues, but are able and willing to shape the future of Europe. 50 years of not accepting to be just listened to, but demanding a seat at the decision-making table. 50 years of showing that democracy can prevail, even in the face of populists, autocrats and dictators. And with young people especially at the forefront of fighting all of this. There are moments with heated debates and we will see that as well during Congress, when some of you might ask yourself if this really makes a difference. But then, you look at Hungary, Poland, where out of all places young people led the change and stood for freedom. And then we know that it does in fact matter, now more than ever. It matters even if we don't actually see it right away. How to react when you are not in the same position as someone else? It is important to get confident in the way you speak in public speaking, and to get the skill of compromise, even though some situations can be really tough. Because what we build here, in this room and this organisation, is way bigger than any single policy or campaign that we might discuss. It is the conviction that we are part of something greater. That we are not just fighting for today, but also for tomorrow. A future where liberalism is not just a collection of ideas, it is reality. Please also allow me to be a bit personal on this note, as this Congress also marks my very last Congress as a President. I would like to take a few minutes to also express my gratitude. When I started to be politically active, politics was always really interesting to me. But it was also something that was only for those who were more confident, and who were better speakers, and probably they were also better politicians then. That's what I thought. However, eventually I found my way to my own youth organisation JUNOS, and I really have not regretted it one day. Because through youth politics, I

found my voice, and I learned that I don't have to be loud to be heard, it is what I say that matters. It also gave me an amazing opportunity to become politically active on an international level, a level that I think is often overlooked, but is so so important. The skills, the network and above all the friendships I have made, I will definitely cherish them for the rest of my life. And I really hope that all of you will have the chance to meet people, to discuss and to debate, and to also have this for the rest of your life with you. This leaves me just with a final thing to say: thank you. Thank you to the incredible people I have had the privilege to serve on the Bureau, many of whom have become my friends, and I am really happy that some of them are here. Thank you to the amazing and talented Secretariat who have had a really great impact on our organisation, even though some might not even see it. I would even say that they are the brain and the motor of our organisation. Please make sure to also let them know and to appreciate what they are doing. And above all, I would like to say thank you to all of you, to the heart and soul of this organisation. You are the ones that bring life to LYMEC, that show every single day that liberalism is more than just a phase, which brings me back to my previous point. Involvement in youth politics matters. Be proud of what you do. And if you start doubting, just remember that you definitely inspired me throughout these past 6 years within LYMEC, with your passion and optimism. Otherwise, let me tell you I wouldn't stand here as President, I would have probably left way sooner."

2. Guest speeches

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) gave the floor to the following speakers:

Valerie Hayer (MEP and RENEW Europe President) *Video Message:* "Dear friends, dear young liberals, dear members of LYMEC, it is truly an honor to address you on this very special occasion, the 50th anniversary of your movement. 50 years of ideas, of courage, of debate, of shaping Europe through youth engagement. 50 years of refusing to accept the status quo and choosing to build something better. I only wish I could be with you in Vienna in person today. I regret deeply that I cannot join you physically for this milestone moment, but even from afar, please know that I am with you in spirit, and I am inspired by the energy, commitment and vision that you represent. Anniversaries are not only about celebrating the past. They are about taking responsibility for the future. And today, Europe needs you more than ever. We are living in a time of profound change. War has returned to our continent. Democracies are under pressure. Economic uncertainty challenges our cohesion. And across the world we see powers that don't share our values becoming more assertive. In this context, one thing is clear. Europe must stand stronger, more united and more independent. For too long we have relied on

others for our security, our energy and our technological infrastructure. That time is over. If we want to defend our values, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, we must also have the means to protect them. A more independent Europe is not about isolation. It is about responsibility and taking this responsibility in our own hands. It is about ensuring that Europeans can shape their own destiny in an increasingly unpredictable world. You bring something essential to our political family: clarity and courage. You are not afraid to challenge old assumptions. You are not afraid to push for deeper integration when it is needed. And you are not afraid to stand up for liberal values, even when it is difficult. Your generation understands that European integration is not a luxury, it is a necessity. You understand that defending freedom means investing in our common security, that protecting democracy means fighting disinformation and strengthening our institutions. That building prosperity means embracing innovation, completing our single market and leading the green and digital transition. And above all, you understand that Europe is not just a project of governments. It is a project of people. As you gather in Vienna for this electoral spring Congress, you are not only shaping your organization's future, you are contributing to Europe's future. So be bold. Be demanding. Be ambitious. Push us, your political leaders, to go further, to act faster, to think bigger. We need your perspective as it is, which is not just our, but mainly your world that we are shaping. Because Europe cannot afford hesitation, and it cannot afford complacency. 50 years ago, LYMEC was founded on the belief that young people must have a voice in shaping Europe. Today, that belief is more relevant than ever. Thank you for your commitment, your passion and your belief in a freer, stronger and more independent Europe. And once again, congratulations on 50 remarkable years. Happy Anniversary and have a wonderful Congress. Thank you."

Svenja Hahn (MEP, ALDE Party President): "Fifty years ago, young liberals from across Europe came together with a shared conviction: that freedom, democracy, and cooperation must never be taken for granted. From that spirit, the Liberal Youth Movement of the European Communities, as we still know it today under its acronym LYMEC, was born. And to this day the European Liberal Youth is more than just an organisation, it's the home for all those young liberals that want to shape Europe's future. Today, as we celebrate 50 years of LYMEC, we honour a legacy of courage and commitment. But more importantly, we look ahead. Because Europe once again stands at a crossroads. Having had the privilege to serve as President of LYMEC from 2018 to 2020, and now as President of the ALDE Party, I have seen firsthand how generations of young liberals have stepped up in defining moments. And this is such a moment. Across the world, authoritarian powers are rising, global rules are being challenged, and the foundations of our liberal democracies are under pressure. For too long, Europe has been complacent, outsourcing its security, depending on others for energy, and assuming that peace and

prosperity were permanent. But they are not, and the lesson is clear: a divided Europe is a weak Europe. And a weak Europe cannot protect its freedom. But I firmly believe in another path, a confident, united, liberal Europe that shapes its own destiny. And LYMEC must be at the heart of building that future. If Europe is to become a true global superpower, it must be strong economically, secure in defence, and decisive in diplomacy. This is not about domination; it is about responsibility and defending our democracy and freedom. Economically, we must unleash Europe's full potential. Young liberals have campaigned for more trade agreements when others protested TTIP in the streets. So many members of LYMEC benefit from the freedom of movement every year. Not only to attend the next congress but to live, study and work in different EU countries. And that some of our friends still cannot or no longer can benefit from these achievements is a constant reminder that there is still work to do, to unite Europe further. Liberals must lead the charge to complete the Single Market, cut unnecessary bureaucracy, and make "Made in Europe" a symbol of innovation and excellence once again. Europe must become the place where ideas turn into startups, where talent thrives, and where the green and digital transitions create real opportunity for all, no matter where you come from. In security and defence, we must recognise a new reality: peace requires strength. Europe must take greater responsibility for its own security, invest in defence and cyber capabilities, and stand united in supporting those who fight for freedom, especially Ukraine. I will never forget our Ukrainian colleagues reporting at every Congress after 2014, to not forget that there is war in Ukraine. LYMEC has always been at the forefront raising the relevance of a Europe that can defend itself. Because that is also a Europe that can safeguard peace. And diplomatically, the EU must find its voice. In a world of power politics, hesitation and weakness drives irrelevance. We must overcome internal divisions, finally reform our institutions, enlarge the Union and act with unity and purpose. The EU and its European partners must lead on climate, on trade, and on digital rights. This is the Europe we must build. And this is where LYMEC's role is more important than ever.

LYMEC has always been more than a youth organisation. It is a space where ideas are tested, where leadership is forged, and where the next generation learns from each other. LYMEC is where Europe grows closer. Where friendships for life are made. The young liberals of today and tomorrow will need courage. Courage to defend democracy against populism and disinformation. Courage to push for reforms that others fear. And courage to lead, even when it is difficult. Because without power, our values will not endure. As we celebrate fifty years of LYMEC, we must remember that the liberal promise of freedom, prosperity, and peace is not guaranteed. It must be renewed by every generation. And I have no doubt that this generation of liberals is ready. To all young European liberals, never forget that this is your moment to shape the future. Your ideas can have a bigger impact than you

might ever imagine. The future is yours. Let us make Europe a global superpower. A liberal superpower”.

Jan-Christoph Oetjen (President, European Liberal Forum, MEP RENEW Europe): “Hello everyone. I wanted to share a bit of a personal story. I started with young liberals in 1995, and my first contact with this reality was through barbecue. I must say that at the first moment I wasn't even interested in the young liberals, I was interested in politics, and I had contact with other political youth organisations. But while discussing politics with young liberals, I felt at home and was greatly interested. I then became a member, being the only young liberal in my hometown. The moment I finished school, we managed to become 22 young liberals. I went away for university, and then the rest is history. I tell you this because everything started in the youth organisation, where I learned the skills to become a good politician, how to defend a point of view, to argue, to work with tactics, to write motions and develop a political point of view. This is why ELF is so happy that you are our partner. Everything you learn here at LYMEC, and with think tanks such as ELF, you will for sure use it in your political career. At ELF, we value the perspective of young people and young voters. For us, it is far more important to engage with young generations than to ask them to simply adopt our ideas. ELF is about shaping the future, and we are grateful for the strong cooperation we have with LYMEC. We also believe that if political parties do not evolve and renew their ideas, young people should step forward, claim their place, and take positions within those parties. This is not only about being heard in decision-making processes, but also about taking space, asserting your voice, and actively shaping politics. Thank you very much, and I wish you all the best.”

Dominik Oberhofer, MP NEOS: “It is a big honour to welcome you here in Vienna. It is not only the most beautiful city, but also it is a special place as many decisions are made here in Vienna. And a lot of decisions will be made here, at the LYMEC Congress! Since he was 4 years old, my son has been a member of JUNOS. He gave a speech when he was 9 years old. Originally, my family is coming from Tyrol, and I am a member of Tyrol in the Austrian parliament. In the future, my son will always see young liberals on stage... he is doing such a great campaigning job at his school! I joined this party in 1995, that was the year when Austria joined the EU, so you can not imagine what atmosphere there was. After I joined the liberal party 3 years later, it took us 15 years to go into the Austrian parliament again. But now, we are so connected to the European community, we are stronger than any time before. I see that here in this room there are the leaders of the coming liberal parties in Europe. I wish you all the best in changing and renewing Europe. I hope that Vienna will be a start for you as it was for me at the time.”

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)**. A disclosure form is also displaced in the room of the congress. He mentioned that this year they also put in place a trustee system, with the trustees being: Anna Maaten (JD), Yevheniia Fedotova (LDLU), and Marigus Gobet (YGL). **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.

Roll call

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Lily Marie Hornstein (LYMEC Project Manager)** and **Margot Padilla (LYMEC Communication Assistant)**. **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:

$$1/3 = 75$$

There were 206 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations/IMS were not present:

- **Fédération des étudiants libéraux - FEL (Belgium)**
- **Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms - YMRF (Bulgaria)**
- **Isobel Roche (IMS Delegate)**

4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

Election of Chairs

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) proposes **Bálint Gyévai**, **Sophie Wotschke** and **Peter Douglas Banks** as Congress Chairs.

The Congress accepted the Chairs.

Election of Secretaries

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) proposes **Lily Marie Hornstein (LYMEC Project Manager)**, **Margot Padilla (LYMEC Communication Assistant)** and **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** 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

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) expressed her happiness to see all participants present. She noted that **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** had already highlighted several important points. She reminded delegates that those wishing to be on the speakers' list should use OpenSlides, and that points of order should also be submitted through the platform, accompanied by a brief justification. She requested that when taking the floor, delegates state their full name and Member Organisation for the purposes of the minutes. She emphasised that the Congress aims to be a safe space for everyone. Participants encountering any issues were informed that a QR code linking to an anonymous inclusion form was available, and that the two ombudspersons were also at their disposal.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) then moved to the adoption of the Congress agenda. She noted that the agenda had been circulated in advance within the required deadline. She stated that, if there were no objections, the Congress agenda would be considered adopted.

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

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2025 in Bratislava

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2025 in Bratislava, Slovakia. No one expressed any points or disapproval.

The minutes from the Autumn Congress 2025 in Bratislava are therefore adopted by the Congress without changes.

7. Urgency of resolutions

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) informed the Congress that no Urgency Resolutions were submitted and asked the Congress to move on with the next point on the agenda.

8. Snap vote on the order of resolutions

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) announced that the Congress would proceed with a snap vote on the order in which resolutions would be discussed. Each delegation had five votes and could therefore select five

resolutions. The vote would remain open for 45 minutes. She informed delegates that the results would be displayed before the Secretary General's Report and could also be viewed through their individual OpenSlides accounts. As explained, Heads of Delegations would determine the order of discussion for the resolutions scheduled for the following day. She recalled that Working Groups had already taken place one week earlier, giving delegates the opportunity to discuss the submitted resolutions and the amendments in detail, and therefore most should already be familiar with the content.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) declared the vote open for all delegates and would remain open for forty-five minutes. The results would be presented later, once voting had closed.

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

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invites **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President)** and **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President)** to take the floor. She informed delegates that the remaining Bureau Members and the IFLRY Representative would speak afterwards, followed by time for questions.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President): "I would like to immediately give the floor to the bureau, and thank each and every one. It wasn't always easy, but it was definitely also fun and I am happy to have found these international friends. Please Alex take the floor."

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): "Ines had the difficult task of introducing me to the art of efficiency and the importance of following rules. At times, she struggled to convince me that rules are necessary to make things work effectively, but in the end, we found common ground. I want to sincerely thank her for all the work she has done and for the many years of commitment she has dedicated to this organisation. During COVID-19, she was also involved in ELF's "Liberals Cards Against Humanity" project, which showed her creativity and dedication even in difficult times. Leading an organisation is never easy, especially when you are also the person carrying the greatest responsibilities within the team. Yet she managed to do it with remarkable grace, making something very demanding appear effortless from where we stand. A large part of the last six months was dedicated to working on the 50 Years publication, which you will be able to receive after this event. For us, it is extremely important to reflect on the journey and achievements of LYMEC. In its earliest years, the project was both fragile and ambitious, and at times it almost fell apart. But thanks to all of you, this

project became real and continues to thrive. You are the essence of what allows us, as a Bureau, to function and move forward. Thank you to this incredible team.”

Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Advocacy & Outreach Officer): “Thank you all. You have, of course, already read the Bureau report, so I will just highlight a few key points. First, our work on content-based advocacy through our policy briefings, and secondly the Liberal Hack, which I have had the pleasure of organising. My second point concerns my representation in the European Youth Forum. There, I tried to bring a stronger liberal perspective to the organisation. We submitted around 50 amendments, and I am happy to see that they are now focusing more on issues such as affordable housing. They are also calling for a midterm review in order to push further discussions on security and defence, and I hope this work will continue to develop. I also want to mention the progress we have made regarding women’s participation. When I first started, there were very few women involved. Today, women make up around 35% of the delegates here, which is an important improvement. However, participation remains a challenge, and unfortunately the next Bureau will not include as many women. I truly hope that the next Bureau will continue working to strengthen women’s participation and representation within our organisation.”

Sean Bennett (LYMEC Events and Engagement Officer): “I am truly proud of this fantastic team. For a long time, LYMEC has been a very organised and strong community, and it has been a privilege to be part of it. For my part, I tried to expand the support available for people who are new to LYMEC, and we have been working on making the organisation more accessible and easier to navigate for newcomers. I have also had the opportunity to oversee the Libertas team and several projects in cooperation with ELF. Among them, the project I feel most grateful for is the YCA. I am incredibly sad to leave this project behind. There are many YCA alumni in this room today, and I am very proud of what this initiative has achieved. I would strongly encourage everyone to apply to this amazing programme and experience it for themselves. The last thing I want to say is that it has been an incredible privilege to work with such inspiring people. Together, we managed to achieve so much during this period, and I am truly happy and grateful for everything we accomplished. Thank you very much.”

Marten Porte (Treasurer): “Hi everyone. I will keep it short, you know more or less what I have been doing, with the budget or invoices... I wanted to use this opportunity to thank my colleagues for these two years of cooperation.”

Dimitra Papadopoulou (LYMEC Communications Officer): “I am a bit emotional, but I want to say that every single person here is unique, and above all, incredibly brave. It takes a great deal of courage to do this work while so many people are watching and relying on you. Ines has shown up every single day with that bravery and dedication. The trust she placed in me, from the Women’s Initiative to communications work and so many other projects, has truly been one of a kind, and I am deeply grateful for it. I sincerely hope that the next person stepping into this Bureau will carry the same courage, commitment, and willingness to lead boldly. Thank you all so much.”

Martina Barrés Sabartés (IFLRY Representative) “Thank you very much for all the work you have done, and a special greeting to the IFLRY President and Vice President. A great deal has happened over this period, and much of our focus has been on preparing for the General Assembly this spring. I would also like to highlight the important developments in the area of education, as well as the work of the working groups on the Code of Conduct. Their efforts have been progressing very well, and we hope the final proposal will be approved at the upcoming Congress in Taipei.”

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (LYMEC Policy Officer): “Working on that book has truly been a privilege, and I am incredibly proud of the work we have accomplished together as an organisation. If you want to make a difference in politics, this is truly a remarkable space to do so. One of our greatest achievements has been ensuring that our organisation has a strong and meaningful voice at the ALDE Congress. It is essential that young people are represented and heard on the issues that directly affect us. I am excited to see the LYMEC delegation at the upcoming ALDE Congress in Vienna this July, and I wish them the very best of luck. I wish all of you every success for the future, and as we say in Ireland: “Praise the youth and they will thrive.”

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the floor for questions from the delegates.

YF (LDLU) asked about the Council of Europe Cooperation with LYMEC, how the cooperation is going and if there will be initiatives on Ukraine.

Point of Order from **StS (JUNOS)** requesting to speak at the end of that agenda point.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) stated that this was not a Point of Order but accepted the request.

JK (JMR) asked what advice the bureau would give the next Bureau.

CN (JULIS) thanked the Bureau for their work and asked what the Bureau would have done better and what they are proud of.

Marten Porte (Treasurer) responded that he would go into greater detail regarding the financial aspects of the cooperation with the Council of Europe. When asked for advice to the next Bureau, he emphasised the importance of not forgetting to enjoy the experience and to have fun along the way. The achievement he is most proud of concerns the work on the Rules of Procedure. At the same time, he reflected on areas where he believes more could have been done, particularly regarding the Alumni Network and fundraising efforts.

Willemijn Krans (Advocacy & Outreach Officer) stated that she was particularly proud of the organisation's continuous work and support for Ukraine. She also reflected that she could have done more regarding the rewriting of the Liberal Manifesto, a task she is now leaving to the next Bureau if they are able to find the time and capacity to continue it. Finally, she underlined that Bureau members often come into their roles after several years of experience, which can sometimes mean becoming "old and tired" in the process. However, she stressed the importance of continuing to have fun, stay engaged, and make an effort to speak with and support new delegates joining the organisation.

Sean Bennett (Engagement & Events Officer) said that he is most proud of the YCA, and especially of the group he accompanied throughout the entire year. Seeing both the participants and their projects grow and develop over time was, in his words, truly extraordinary. At the same time, he reflected on what could have been improved, expressing some regret that the Libertas Team was not able to achieve everything it had originally hoped for. As advice to the new Bureau members, he encouraged them to treat the Bureau like a relationship: never go to bed angry. Disagreements will always exist, but what truly matters is the ability to work through them, solve issues together, and find common ground. According to him, this is how you build a strong foundation for the rest of your time working together.

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Policy Officer) strongly recommended that the next Bureau dedicate specific working hours exclusively to LYMEC work. She also encouraged future Bureau members to take their space, value their time, and clearly define their personal boundaries. She mentioned that she was not entirely satisfied with the development of the IMS, identifying funding as the main challenge. Nevertheless, she encouraged the next Bureau to continue reflecting on and investing in the project, as it represents a valuable way to attract members who do not belong to a member organisation. Finally,

she expressed how proud she is of LYMEC's housing publication, a project she had the privilege to work on together with Dimi.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (Communications Officer) is proud of the fact that, in just two years, LYMEC has managed to become a recognisable brand, with a level of visibility and recognition that has grown significantly. She is also proud of the work LYMEC is doing with its interns, particularly their contributions and professional development throughout their time in the organisation. One aspect she would have liked to see developed further is press work within the European bubble. However, she acknowledged that gaining access to this space is particularly challenging for those who are not based in Brussels. Her main advice to the next Bureau is to engage with everyone with kindness. She emphasised that leading with kindness is a value that liberals should continuously strive for.

Martina Barrés Sabartés (IFLRY Representative) said she is proud of the joint statement with IFLRY on Iran, as it clearly reflects the strength of the relationship and the way both organisations cooperate. She also expressed a wish to have a clearer understanding of the full scope of her position. As advice to the next Bureau, she encouraged members to remain open and supportive within their working groups, and to continue engaging constructively with both LYMEC and IFLRY.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President) stated that if you want something, you should go and get it, especially as a young person involved in politics. He expressed pride in the LYMEC secretariat and Bureau, not only for its work, but also for the fortune of having found people who genuinely believe in what they are doing. He acknowledged that working together is not always easy, but that this shared commitment makes a real difference. Looking back, he said one thing he would have liked to achieve more is a stronger political impact. He reflected that the purpose is to create change, and that this requires thinking less about constraints and more about opportunities. In working on the LYMEC 50 Years publication, he realised that the organisation has often been most successful when it was bold and unafraid, rather than overly focused on consequences.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) stated that many things could have gone better, particularly in how she communicated at times, especially within a diverse team and across different congresses. She recognised that cultural differences can emerge in such settings, and that she could have handled some of these situations better. However, she emphasised that she learned a great deal through these experiences and mistakes. She also stressed that LYMEC is only the beginning, not the end of the journey. She expressed pride in several initiatives, including the Women's Campaign, the engagement

with young MEPs following the elections, and the “Stop Chat Control” initiative at the last ALDE Congress. However, what she is most proud of is seeing each and every individual develop and grow over time. As advice, she shared a quote from one of her predecessors: “The role is what we make of it. The person who held it before you may have done things differently, but that does not mean it is worse if you do it differently.” She concluded that the role is ultimately what you choose to make of it.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the floor for another round of questions from the delegates, reminding delegates to put themselves on the speakers list.

DG (LHG) hopes that it was pleasant, but asked about the difficult situations, their favorite memory and the toughest moment of the past two years.

MS (JOVD) asked Marten what he was worried about in the Bureau report. She then asked Martina to clarify the term ‘tough leader’, as it was used to describe IFLRY.

Marten Porte (Treasurer) responded that the liberal sphere is going to face big challenges financially, and he is glad that LYMEC was able to still increase its resources. He said that the happiest moment is after events, when people reflect on what happened. He said the most difficult moment was when there was conflict.

Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (Policy Officer) said her happiest moment was making the working groups more efficient. The toughest part was having to cancel a JNC’s event she really wanted to attend, but unfortunately could not.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (Communications Officer) said that her favourite moments are the debriefs, especially when LYMEC comes together and spends time reflecting and staying connected as a group.

Sean Bennett (Engagement & Events Officer) stated that collaboration within the group always made him happy, while also acknowledging that when things happen suddenly, it can be challenging.

Willemijn Krans (Advocacy & Outreach Officer) said she particularly enjoys visiting member congresses in Vilnius and Tallinn, and contributing in ways that make a tangible difference.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the floor for another round of questions from the delegates, reminding delegates to put themselves on the speakers list.

PC (OFF) thanked Sorcha and said they were proud of her. He also thanked Martina for hosting his organisation in Barcelona.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President) responded that one of his happiest moments was the informal drinks and networking, as well as meeting young MEPs and holding meetings with politicians. For him, these experiences showed that LYMEC truly has the potential to make a meaningful impact on politics.

Martina Barrés Sabartés (IFLRY Representative) noted that in her previous speech, IFLRY was referred to as “tough leaders,” which she said reflects the organisation’s strength. Her happiest moment was being an IO at LYMEC and when she was proposed as chair for the last IFLRY GA in Peru as an IFLRY Representative, while also describing as a challenging moment having to step into her role in the middle of the LYMEC Bureau term.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) reflected that one of the most difficult periods was overseeing the transition of the entire Secretariat, and she emphasised how positive it has been to now work with a renewed team. She also highlighted that for Digital Assemblies, LYMEC consistently seeks new locations, which allows the organisation to engage with different realities and remain highly inspiring. She added that ALDE has already reached out to LYMEC for feedback on how they organise their congresses, as they are impressed by the organisation’s work. Especially regarding Policy Debates and Working Groups. She concluded by saying she is very happy and proud to be part of this community.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the floor for the last round of questions from the delegates, reminding delegates to put themselves on the speakers list.

StS (JUNOS) thanked the work of the Bureau and thanked the outgoing president Ines. He remembered her path to LYMEC, her enthusiasm in her new position. He said he will always remember her passion and thanked her for her great work, saying he is very proud to call her a friend.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) thanked the Bureau for their work and invited the Congress to move on with the next point on the agenda.

10. Presentation of the Code of Conduct

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) moves on with the agenda and invites **Sean Bennett (Engagement & Events Officer)** to take the floor and present the Code of Conduct. She explains to delegates that after the presentation the Congress will vote on the Code of Conduct.

Sean Bennett (Engagement & Events Officer) stated that he hoped the document would be supported by the Congress, reminding that it would be reviewed and amended every two years. Feedback on it is very important from the Congress. The Code of Conduct cannot be amended on the Congress floor publicly. He will take questions on the process.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the floor for questions.

AT (AY) reminded that the LYMEC Bureau has adopted the code of conduct in 2019 and updated it in 2023. He asked if LYMEC had put more resources in updating the Code since then. He also asked about the timing on adoption of the code of conduct in general, if there was a possibility to postpone updates and how the feedback process worked.

Sean Bennett (Engagement & Events Officer) explained that no new expenses were incurred, as LYMEC already had an existing framework in place. However, it was felt that the time had come to establish a separate Code of Conduct. Regarding the feedback process, he acknowledged that not enough opportunities for feedback had been taken by MOs. Nevertheless, he noted that if the Code is adopted today, the proposed amendments would make feedback and review a regular and institutionalised part of the organisation. Concerning the possibility of postponing the vote, he clarified that the decision ultimately rests with Congress.

HH (JL) thanked Sean and said he could not think of a better person to do the role. He asked if Sean agreed.

Sean Bennett (Engagement & Events Officer) thanked the questioner and stated that a lot of people have worked on it and stated that it has been a privilege to work in LYMEC.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) thanked Sean and gave the floor to Ines.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President) thanked Sean for all his work and recognised that his work on the Code of Conduct was not easy. She thanked him in the name of the whole bureau for his work.

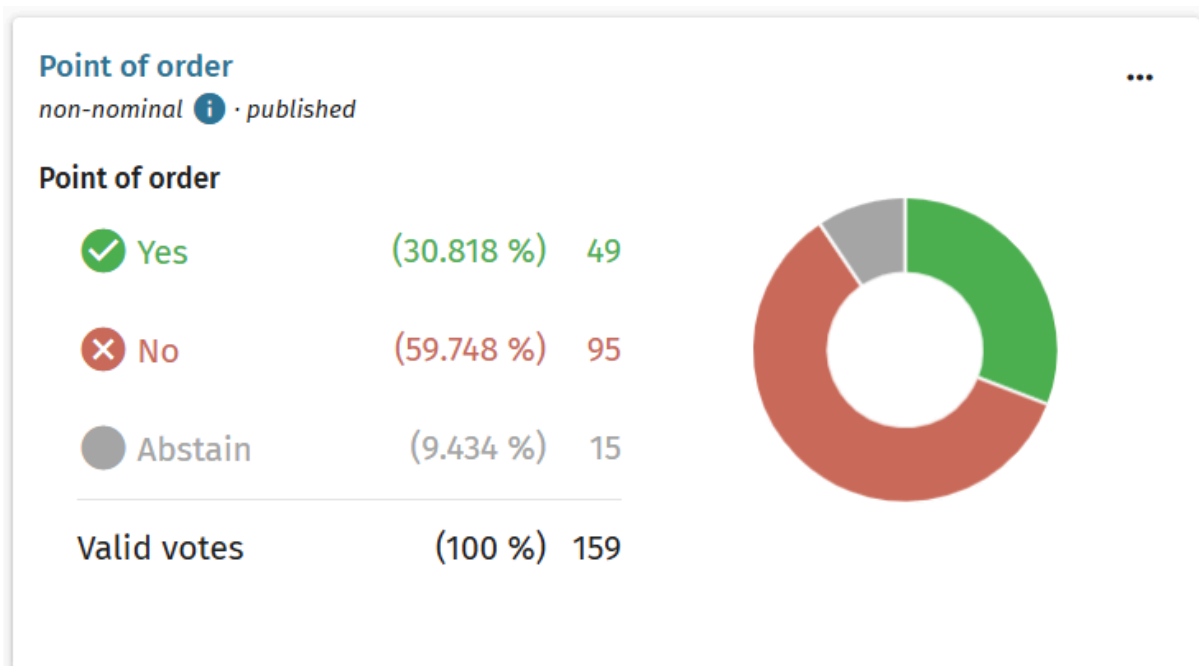
Sophie Wotschke (Chair) thanked the Congress and asked to move on to the vote on the Code of Conduct reminding that there were only 6 minutes left.

Point of Order from **PR (JULIS)** stated that the speaker floor was not closed and he would like to continue with his question.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) said it was closed on OpenSlides.

Point of Order from **AT (AY)** arguing that it is a matter of time management, and supports the speech of the enquirer.

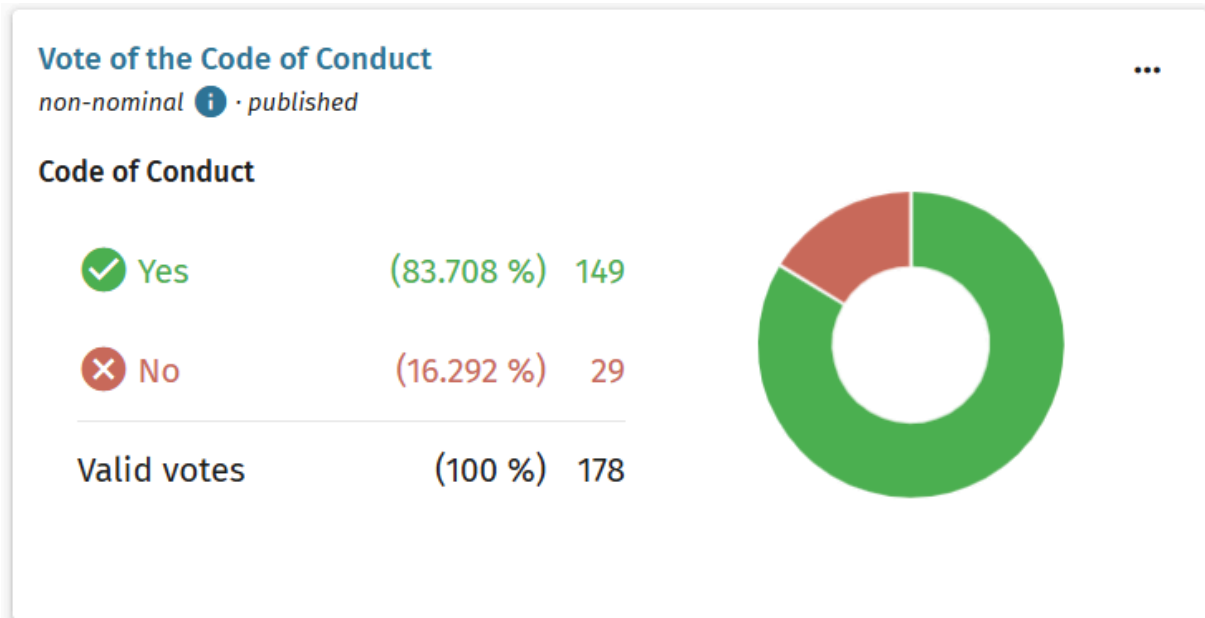
Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened a vote on the Point of Order for reopening the question floor. Before closing the vote she gives instructions on how to get to the restaurant for the dinner.



The Point of Order has been rejected by the Congress.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) moves on presenting the results on the Code of Conduct

Results vote on the Code of Conduct:



The Code of Conduct is carried by the Congress.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) moves on presenting the results on the snap vote.

The results of the snap vote on the order of the resolutions are announced and shown to Congress.

Snap Vote of the Order of Resolution

...

nominal · published

1.	Defending Greenland's Sovereignty: A Liberal European Response to Modern Imperialism	(53.5 %)	107
2.	Guaranteeing peace and freedom on our continent: Towards a Credible European Nuclear Deterrent	(36 %)	72
3.	Equal marriage. Equal Europe.	(32.5 %)	65
4.	Resolution on EU-INC (28th Regime) and European Competitiveness	(30 %)	60
5.	Building Resilience: Countering Disinformation Through Education	(29.5 %)	59
6.	Lost in Time and Lost in Space? Europe's Wake-Up Call for Space Security and Sovereignty!	(29 %)	58
7.	ACCOUNTABILITY BEFORE REINTEGRATION FOR RUSSIA	(27 %)	54
8.	Strengthening European Strategic Autonomy in Rare Earths	(25.5 %)	51
9.	Protecting Consent and Fundamental Rights in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence	(25.5 %)	51
10.	Europe Stands United in Defending the Eastern Borders: A Liberal Approach to Belarusian Threats	(24 %)	48
11.	Let Bulls Smell Flowers, Not Blood: A Call to Ban Bullfighting	(22 %)	44
12.	Strengthening and Securing Security Assistance to Ukraine for the Long Run	(21.5 %)	43
13.	Strategic EU Enlargement: Driven by Values and Ambition for a Stronger Europe	(20.5 %)	41
14.	Addressing Youth Burnout as a Structural Socio Economic Risk in Europe	(18.5 %)	37
15.	Securing the North amidst Global Heat	(18 %)	36
16.	Freedom of Movement, For All: Travel Document for Foreigners	(16.5 %)	33
17.	Strengthening European Police and Judicial Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime	(16 %)	32

18. The Missing Pillar of Integration: Advancing a Common European Public Sphere	(13 %) 26
19. Ukraine deserves a new Civil Code respecting basic human rights !	(11.5 %) 23
20. Supporting the Iranian people and defending human rights against state repression	(11.5 %) 23
21. Stricter Regulation of Low-Quality Products	(8.5 %) 17
22. Rebuilding the Future: Strengthening Ukraine's Post-War Recovery through the Reconstruction of Youth Centres and Youth Hubs	(6.5 %) 13
23. A neverending Mercosun.	(3.5 %) 7
24. Stop Overreach: Defending Subsidiarity in the European Union	(0 %) 0
25. Breaking the paralysis through the proactive integration of artificial intelligence in higher education	(0 %) 0
Valid votes	(100 %) 200

The first day of Congress ended at 19: 00 CEST.

END OF DAY ONE.

Day 2: Saturday, 18th April 2026

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

Roll call

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Lily Marie Hornstein (LYMEC Project Manager)** and **Margot Padilla (LYMEC Communication Assistant)**. **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:

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Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 2 - Saturday morning
Austria	Junge liberale NEOS - JUNOS	5	5
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL	3	3
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux - FEL	3	3
Belgium	Jeunes du Mouvement Réformateur (JMR)	9	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka (YFNS)	3	3
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms - YMRF	5	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC	6	6
Croatia	IDS Youth Club	3	3
Croatia	Young Croatian Liberals - HSLS	3	3
Croatia	Croatian social liberal party - HNS	3	3
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom - RU	4	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom (VU)	5	5
Estonian	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY	7	7
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat - KOL	3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry	5	5
Finland	Svensk Ungdom rf. (SU)	5	5
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5	5
Germany	Junge Liberale - JuLis	10	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ógra)	8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth - AY	3	3
Latvia	For Youth!-FY!	3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY	6	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL	3	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	3	3
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - AYNi	3	3
Norway	Unge Venstre - UV	5	5
Poland	Młodzi Nowocześni - MN	3	3
Romania	USR Tineret, USRT	5	5
Russia	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna - YDM Vesna	3	3
Serbia	Youth Movement of Free Citizens - PSG Youth	3	3
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - YPS	3	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - GSM	3	3
Spain	Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (JCs)	4	4
Sweden	Centerstudenter CS	4	4
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	6	6
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	6	0
Switzerland	Young Greenliberal Party - YGL	6	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	7	7
The Netherlands	Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid & Democratie	6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD	6	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka - ZeM	7	0
United Kingdom	Young Liberals - YL	6	6
Z - IMS Delegate	Gerard O'Connor	1	0
Z - IMS Delegate	Isobel Roche	1	1
Z - IMS Delegate	Sonja Brandmayr	1	1

TOTAL **215** **196**

Simple majority of those present/absolute majority

107.5

98

Two thirds of present

143.333333

130.666667

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 75

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There were 196 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations/IMS were not present:

- **Liberal Youth of Sweden - LUF (Sweden)**
- **ZeMolodizhka - ZM (Ukraine)**
- **Gerard O'Connor - IMS Delegate**
- **Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms - YMRF (Bulgaria)**

11. Secretary General report and debate about the report

Sophie Wotschke (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): “Thank you for joining us in Vienna. Let me briefly present the activities and progress LYMEC has achieved in the last 5 months. First I would like to thank the staff of the Secretariat for their work during the last semester. Lily is now fully onboard within the organisation, having worked on the Erasmus + application for 2026, the reporting of the 2025 activities and now implementing and delivering all the key projects of 2026. Margot, our Communications Assistant who joined us in November and is supporting the organisation in its campaigns and keeping you updated of our activities. Since November, we have all worked to make sure 2026 will be a successful year for LYMEC, with training, congresses and advocacy campaigns that deliver with impact. As we are now electing the new leadership of this organisation, our main focus within the Secretariat has been to prepare well in advance all the deliverables that the new Bureau will have to implement in 2026 with our partners. And to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible between the bureaus. This included preparing training from our long-lasting partner ELF, such as the Liberal Hack taking place in Madrid next week, and the second event of the Young Changemakers Academy in June. But also new activities that are new to our portfolio. With the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Europe, we are organising for the first time the Liberal Communicators Network with them in May. With ELF, we now have a new Women's Leadership Accelerator. Presented at the Digital Assembly, we want to empower young leaders to take a more active and central stage in their organisations. The call opened this week, and we hope to receive many applications from you. Finally, thanks to the successful application to the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, we are organising the Libertas Bootcamp in June to train new writers on the topic of Human right protection and disinformation. In

addition to all this preparatory work, we still delivered some activities. The secretariat had its Internal and External Audit for 2025, we organised our first Digital Assembly, held the first YCA event of this year and prepared this electoral Spring Congress. In addition to all these activities that you see, I would like to update you on our fundraising and advocacy activities. On Fundraising, we secured the Erasmus + grant for 2026, the European Youth Foundation grant for the Libertas Bootcamp, and FNF Europe is now supporting us for one activity in addition to the Congresses. On Advocacy, we were invited together with the youth Forum to present our position ahead of the negotiations for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2028-2034 related to Erasmus +. LYMEC is a reliable partner within the liberal family, and I am proud to represent this organisation everyday, standing for our values and policy which you are developing and shaping. After a year and a half as Secretary General, I want to stress that the organisation has stable finances, we have secured more funding through different sources, are delivering more activities than ever before and are working more closely with our partners across Europe. There are many more updates that I would like to give, regarding our cooperation with RENEW, RENEW CoR, YFJ, our corporate partners and other youth organisations, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. I hope you are appreciating the work done by the Secretariat and the Bureau on this, and I am sure that the new Bureau will keep delivering for you. I look forward to working with you for the next year and supporting you to the best of our capacity, strengthening our networks and commitment to a more liberal Europe. Have a good congress."

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) stated that the floor was now open for questions about the Secretary-General Report.

BU (Jongliberalen) asked him about emails that had reportedly not been arriving to their organisation. He added that the situation now appeared to be functioning properly, but asked what exactly the issue had been at the time in order to better understand the problem.

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) answered that the database for IOs had not been updated on the Odoo platform.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) noted that there were no further questions. She thanked **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

12. Finances

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) stated that the Congress would now move on to the discussion of financial matters and invited **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the state of LYMEC's finances.

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

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) informed the Congress that one organisation had requested a debt reduction and reduced membership fee: **Jeunes Radicaux (France)**, he then gave the floor to the representative of the organisation.

CJG (JR) stated that they were happy to be back and hoped to remain involved for the long term. In order to ensure the best possible conditions for continued cooperation, they requested debt forgiveness and a reduction in the membership fee. They explained that the organisation had been heavily reliant on its mother organisation, which had experienced significant difficulties. However, they recently secured new funding and now have a team fully dedicated to international relations in order to strengthen cooperation with LYMEC. They also noted that they had paid the membership fee according to the agreed arrangement and requested a reduction to allow the partnership to continue sustainably.

TJ (YL) asked what specific debts they were requesting to be forgiven.

CJG (JR) responded that the debt in question related to last year's membership fee, which they had been unable to pay due to the difficulties faced by their mother organisation. In addition, a member of their organisation had failed to pay a cancellation fee. However, he reassured Congress that all current payments had now been settled.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President) said that the discussion concerned debt forgiveness and a membership fee reduction. The organisation requested the full cancellation of its outstanding debt, as well as a reduced membership fee in order to continue its cooperation with LYMEC under more sustainable conditions. Congress is therefore called upon to decide whether or not to approve the requested reduction of the membership fee.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) stated that the Congress will vote now on the debt reduction.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the vote and reminded the Congress that only the head of delegation can vote and the rest of delegates can leave the wifi as this will make the internet work better for others. She asked to move on with the second debt reduction.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) asked if there was any delegate from Norway. Since no one was there he proceeded with presenting the debt reduction request of Liberal Students, Norway. He stated

that changes in the leadership of the organisation, led to changes in their bank transactions which made it not possible for them to pay the membership fee of this year, which will be addressed at the next LYMEC Congress, and to pay back their debt. Consequently they are asking for debt reduction.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the floor for questions.

DS (Julis) stated that If they only have administrative problems, like accessing their bank, why can they not pay their debts later?

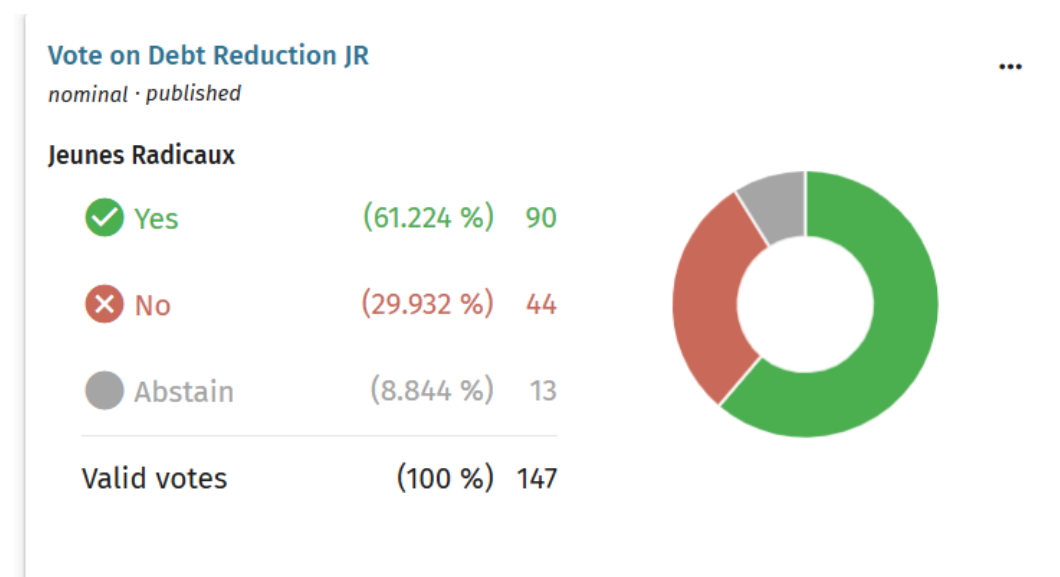
Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) responded that the organisation is also in not a good financial situation, that is why LYMEC is considering their request for both debt reduction and reduced membership fees. He specified that the vote will be only on debt reduction now and that the membership fee reduction will be discussed at a later point when they will hopefully have solved their administrative issues.

EL (Junos) asked if the Bureau has been informed of why there are no delegates of the organisation (Liberal Students of Norway) here today.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) stated that there has been no special information on it.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) closed the list of speakers and presented the results of the vote on the previously discussed debt reduction for Jeunes Radicaux.

Results vote for debt reduction for Jeunes Radicaux:



The request for debt reduction for Jeunes Radicaux is carried by the Congress.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited the Congress to now vote on the debt reduction request of Liberal Students, Norway.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) asked if it is possible to vote on both the debt reduction of Liberal Students and the membership fee reduction of Jeunes Radicaux as it has already been discussed.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) agreed and opened the vote on both, debt reduction request of Liberal Students, Norway and membership fee reduction for Jeunes Radicaux. While the vote was open she invited the delegate of Nowoczesna Youth to take the floor and present the next request for membership fee reduction.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) asked if there was someone from the organisation willing to present the request and give them the floor.

JJ (Nowoczesna Youth) stated that the organisation has been a very reliable member of LYMEC and a strong liberal youth voice. Stated that the reason why the organisation was asking for a reduced membership fee was that they no longer receive funding from the mother party, Nowoczesna. The mother organisation merged with other parties. The merged party joined the EPP and is no longer affiliated with Nowoczesna Youth, making funding, making funding for Nowoczesna Youth very difficult. Given this current political situation in Poland, Nowoczesna Youth would really appreciate it if the Congress could vote in favor of their membership fee reduction request.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) opened the floor for questions.

CT (Junge Liberale) stated that he doesn't have a question but just wanted to speak up for them, specifying that Nowoczesna Youth has always been an active MO within LYMEC and he encouraged the Congress to vote in favor of this request.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) closed the list of speakers and presented the results of the vote on debt reduction for Liberal Students, Norway.

Results vote for debt reduction for Liberal Students, Norway:

Vote on Debt Reduction

nominal · published

Liberal Student of Norway

✓ Yes	(42.328 %)	80
✗ No	(45.503 %)	86
● Abstain	(12.169 %)	23
Valid votes		(100 %) 189



The request for debt reduction for Liberal Students is not carried by the Congress.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) proceeded in opening the vote on reduced membership fee from Nowoczesna Youth. And closed the vote.

Results vote for reduced membership fee for Nowoczesna Youth:

Vote reduce membership fee Nowoczesna

nominal · published

Nowoczesna mladi

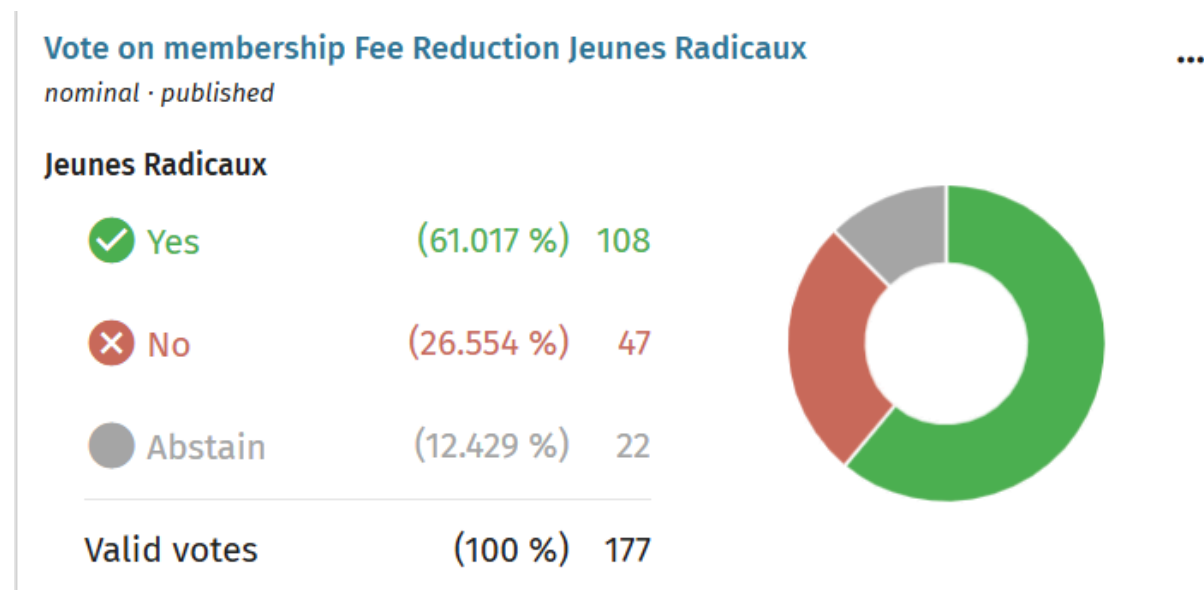
✓ Yes	(96.296 %)	182
✗ No	(0 %)	0
● Abstain	(3.704 %)	7
Valid votes		(100 %) 189



The request for reduced membership fee for Nowoczesna Youth is carried by the Congress.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) proceeded in opening and closing the vote for the reduced membership fee request from Jeunes Radicaux.

Results vote for reduced membership fee for Jeunes Radicaux:



The request for reduced membership fee for Jeunes Radicaux is carried by the Congress.

b. Interim Financial Report 2025 (for decision)

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the Interim Financial report for 2025.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): “2025 has been a very good year for LYMEC financially. Our partners were able to support us. We had no major setbacks and everything went in the right direction. Overall, it has been a good year. Even has already mentioned the Council of Europe funding in his Secretary General report, we thank the staff for their great work on this matter in what is already a very busy schedule in fundraising and applying for grants. This is a very important step for LYMEC, and it would be good for our organisation if we manage to maintain this new source for structural funding. This is very hopeful. Concerning last year’s surplus it was 35.000 euros. This year it is going to be less positive, as this Congress in Vienna has been quite expensive.”

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited the delegates to take the floor for questions.

CN (Julis) thanked Marten and asked him to elaborate on where the money from fundraising comes and goes, especially in terms of corporate fundraising, who they reached out to and why no one was willing to support them.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) explained that unfortunately, not everything has been ideal in the last two years, and this is definitely an area where LYMEC can improve on, as mentioned the day before. In terms of individual fundraising, LYMEC relies especially on the alumni network. He explained that unfortunately LYMEC also has not so much experience on how much the organisation can invest and risk when it comes to organising large scale events such as galas. LYMEC also has goodies that the organisation tries to sell during Congress, even though the revenue from these are very limited. Corporate fundraising, LYMEC has been in touch with different companies such as Apple and Microsoft. He explained that these companies are happy to collaborate but they are not willing to give LYMEC actual budget, sometimes this is because of their complicated rules and regulations. An example of this is Microsoft, being willing to collaborate more with LYMEC but unable to provide actual funding as they have specific regulations concerning individuals and organisations working for the government, as many individuals involved in LYMEC are also active in government, the organisation is not eligible for most Microsoft funding. On the other hand, LYMEC also has connections with companies within the ELF and ALDE network. However, these companies have a maximum amount of donations they can make to the party; since they are afraid LYMEC will be considered part of the party, they are limited in the amount of money they can provide."

CN (Julis) suggested a sustainable relationship with companies that are technically open to support LYMEC more, and asked if LYMEC has done so during last year.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) answered that the companies LYMEC is able to reach are companies that are already somehow involved in the European liberal sphere. The complicated part is that most bureau members are not always in Brussels so it is complicated to reach companies. Good relationships have been built with Apple over the years, however, even if they are willing to support LYMEC it is complicated for them to give actual money. Also the relationship with Microsoft has been cultivated in the last period, with support coming not in form of money but through other means.

LF (JFS) also believes in corporate donations and asked the Bureau to increase connections and improve Congress's location by this way. He asked if there are possibilities to get funding also from mother parties.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) responded that this has the risk of interfering with relations that MO's have with their mother organisations.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) closed the floor for questions and invited to move on with the next point on the agenda, namely the Internal Audit Report 2025.

c. Internal audit report 2025 (for information)

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited **Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor)** and **Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor)** to take the floor.

Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor): "Dear liberals, thank you. Once again, we are here to deliver our report. We will briefly go through the main points of it. As Marten has already mentioned, last year was a great year regarding the financial part, which of course is the foundation for hosting great events and congresses. As always we met in Brussels, we did a sample test and interviews with the staff to make sure everything is going well in the office. We also took a look at the accounting and the proposed budget. As you might remember from the last Congress, we had three recommendations. We are happy to say that two of them have been implemented. One of them concerned the departure of staff, and we are happy to see that the outgoing bureau has done a lot in making sure that everything is prepared for when staff is leaving and how to best handle it. The biggest advice was regarding internal deadlines, we had a big discussion on this during the last Congress. This time we had a very good dialogue with the Bureau on this matter and we are happy to see that positive changes have been implemented on how best to deal with internal deadlines. We really hope that the next Bureau will implement our advice as well and keep working on this issue, as it is very important to avoid that the staff is getting extra assignments the bureau members should be doing. We are very happy with this. We have one piece of advice left, namely a reward scheme for employees within our organisation. We are not able to provide a scheme now but would greatly encourage the next bureau to work on this."

Petrine Johannesen (Internal Auditor): "We also want to sincerely thank the Bureau for considering our advice and taking it seriously, we want to thank the Secretary General for his work within the organisation, as well as the Treasurer Marten for his work with the financial aspects of LYMEC. Since this will be our last congress, we want to say thank you for our time here and we wish the next internal auditors a pleasant mandate and good luck."

Alex Nilsson (Internal Auditor): "We really appreciate the great dialogue we had with all the delegates in the past and the good collaboration on the recommendations put forward. Thank you!"

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President) thanked the internal auditors in the name of the bureau of LYMEC for their very important work.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) closed the list of speakers.

d. External audit report 2025 (for information)

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the external audit report 2025.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): "Thank you Alex and Petrine for your important work and great cooperation during the years. We had the external auditors visiting us in Brussels, they did not find anything inconsistent in 2025 and we hope it stays like this."

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) closed the list of speakers and invited the Congress to vote on the Interim Financial Report 2025.

e. Revised budget 2026 (for information)

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the revised budget 2026.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): "The revised budget has only some minor adjustments. Concerning our rent, we are renting our office room in the ALDE office, with ALDE charging us money for this. This rent has been 500 euros in the past, they now have decided to increase it, which I think is reasonable. Our auditors have commented that we usually had a 50/50 divide between staff salaries and taxes, they have checked what the actual divide is now."

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited the delegates to take the floor for questions.

CN (Julis) asked for clarification on the profit that comes out from the 2026 revised budget.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) stated that while it is always nice to have a surplus, LYMEC is not a for profit organization so we do not need a profit but enough resources to do our intended work. The budget also represents a bit of a worse case scenario so of course the numbers will change. He repeated that the surplus is not the main goal of LYMEC.

RS (JFS) asked for clarification on the raise of rent.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) stated that as already mentioned the rent has increased. The reason why the office is located in Brussels and in the ALDE party, is that the connections created in this way with the mother party are very valuable for LYMEC.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) closed the list of speakers and presented the results of the vote on the financial report 2025.

Results vote for Financial Report 2025:

Vote Financial Report 2025

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Financial report 2026

 Yes	(98.089 %)	154
 No	(1.911 %)	3
 Abstain	(0 %)	0
Valid votes		(100 %) 157



The Financial Report 2025 is carried by the Congress.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) asked for any objections for the revised budget 2026 just presented, instead of going into a vote, in order to speed things up. If there are no objections the Congress will not go into a vote and the revised budget 2026 will be accepted. No objections.

The Revised Budget 2026 is carried by the Congress.

Sophie Wotschke (Chair) invited the Congress to move on with the next point on the agenda, namely membership issues.

Before moving to the next point on the agenda, the Chair of the Congress changed from **Sophie Wotschke (Chair)** to **Peter Douglas Banks (Chair)**.

13. Membership Issues

d. Applications Associate Member

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) explained that there were two applications for associate members. He outlined the process by which these applications would be debated and voted on, and then gave the floor to the delegate to present the first organisation: **NOVA - Italy**.

EB (NOVA): "Thank you! Hello everyone. I am super excited to be here. Not just because it is the first youth organisation from Italy, hopefully joining LYMEC. I am very happy because it has been almost 10 years that I have been working on this, so I want to congratulate myself too. Every political party in Italy states that a youth branch is useless, they believe young people should directly be involved in the mother party. As you know, Italy has 7 so-called liberal parties. The only thing they can agree on is that they do not want any youth branch. After 10 years being involved with the "grown ups" in the mother party, I thought that I do not want to be a social media manager for free if this is what it means to be involved in the mother party. Let's do something else, let's do something that involves young people. Involvement of young people in liberal politics in Italy is a real issue. For me, being here is really an amazing moment. We founded NOVA the first of January, deciding to take this matter seriously and deal with it on our own. I have been an International Officer of two different liberal parties in Italy for 6 years now, however, no one took me seriously. This is also a reason why we decided to found NOVA, to show that young people can really create a change. In the last 5 months we already made very important proposals that have also been discussed in Parliament. Today we are also holding our first in person Assembly in Milan, I am looking forward to calling them later with good news hopefully! I also want to really thank Sorcha, who helped us a lot during the application process, and Ines and Marten as well of course."

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited delegates to take the floor for questions.

DAD (JCS) showed his enthusiasm, thanked her for her courage and underlined their support.

EB (NOVA) thanked him for his support and underlined that Italy has several liberal parties but NOVA would be the first liberal youth organisation.

EL (JUNOS) asked about the stages of the organisational aspect of NOVA, since it is a quite young organisation.

EB (NOVA) explained that they are currently working on the bureaucratic aspect of the organisation. This is very complicated in Italy, but they are working on it. Membership to LYMEC would help the organisation a lot. And they believe that NOVA can also help LYMEC, to create a stronger liberal voice in Europe.

EL (JUNOS) asked about concrete policies that they are proud to present.

EB (NOVA) answered that they are proud of their pro European stands. She stated that a concrete proposal from NOVA concerns best practices in evaluating current policies in Italy. This proposal is being discussed now in Parliament, with it they hope to enhance transparency on certain policies at the national level in Italy.

VM (LHG) asked if they can clarify the date of founding and if they have a maximum age of members. Also, what their foreign policy stands for.

EB (NOVA) answered that the founding date is the 18 of January of this year, however this project was in their minds since the 8 of March last year. Concerning the age limit, she stated that they do not have a maximum age because of funding and because youth is not well perceived in Italy. Concerning their foreign policy, they do not have an official position right now, however they believe that the EU has to be a stronger voice and a peace voice at the international level. More details of their foreign policy will be discussed at their Assembly today.

AT (AY) asked for the reason for application to LYMEC and whether LYMEC can expect them to become a true liberal organisation.

EB (NOVA) answered that the application was her idea as she knows some of the LYMEC members. She emphasised that NOVA's membership is essential for LYMEC to have representatives from Italy and that LYMEC is an essential platform for young Italians to participate in the debate and connections that this network can provide.

AZ (LDLU) said that they are supporting NOVA's application. She asked if they have concrete ideas or projects they would like to implement in Italy with LYMEC's help.

EB (NOVA) answered that they would like the next Congress to be in Italy. Underlining again the importance of having a strong young liberal voice in Italy.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) stated that there were no more questions, and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote on the proposed membership. He reminded delegates that the joining of a new associate member can only be decided by the Congress, and that a two-thirds majority is required for this vote.

The Chair invited the Congress to proceed with a Closed Session only for Full Member Organisation delegates to discuss the application. The rest of the delegates and the guests were invited to leave the Congress room.

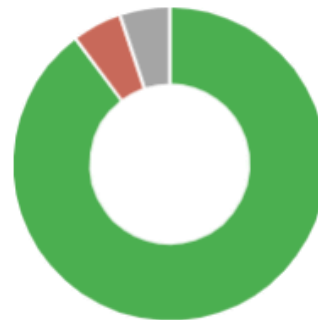
Results Vote on the application as associate member of NOVA - Italy:

Application Associate Membership NOVA

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NOVA

✓ Yes	(89.744 %)	175
✗ No	(5.128 %)	10
● Abstain	(5.128 %)	10
Valid votes	(100 %)	195



The application of NOVA - Italy (Associate Member) is carried by the Congress.

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

Roll call

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Lily Marie Hornstein (LYMEC Project Manager)** and **Margot Padilla (LYMEC Communication Assistant)**. **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:

	Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 3 - After 1st coffee break
Austria	Junge liberale NEOS - JUNOS		5	5
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL		3	3
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux - FEL		3	3
Belgium	Jeunes du Mouvement Réformateur (JMR)		9	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka (YFNS)		3	3
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms - YMRF		5	5
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC		6	6
Croatia	IDS Youth Club		3	3
Croatia	Young Croatian Liberals - HSLS		3	3
Croatia	Croatian social liberal party - HNS		3	3
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom - RU		4	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom (VU)		5	5
Estonian	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY		7	7
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat - KOL		3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry		5	5
Finland	Svensk Ungdom rf. (SU)		5	5
France	Jeunes Radicaux		3	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Germany	Junge Liberale - JuLiS		10	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX		4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ógra)		8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth - AY		3	3
Latvia	For Youth!-FY!		3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY		6	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL		3	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro		3	3
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - AYNI		3	3
Norway	Unge Venstre - UV		5	5
Poland	Młodzi Nowocześni - MN		3	3
Romania	USR Tineret, USRT		5	5
Russia	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna - YDM Vesna		3	3
Serbia	Youth Movement of Free Citizens - PSG Youth		3	3
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - YPS		3	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - GSM		3	3
Spain	Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (JCs)		4	4
Sweden	Centerstudenter CS		4	4
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)		6	6
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		6	6
Switzerland	Young Greenliberal Party - YGL		6	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz		7	7
The Netherlands	Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid & Democratie		6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD		6	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)		3	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine		3	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka - ZeM		7	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals - YL		6	6
Z - IMS Delegate	Gerard O'Connor		1	1
Z - IMS Delegate	Isobel Roche		1	0
Z - IMS Delegate	Sonja Brandmayr		1	1
		TOTAL	215	214
Simple majority of those present/absolute majority			107.5	107
Two thirds of present		143.333333		142.666667
Simple majority of those present without abstentions				

1/3 = 75

There were 214 votes present at the Congress.

The following IMS was not present:

- **Isobel Roche (IMS Delegate)**

d. Applications Associate Member

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited **the delegate from DYK - Kosovo** to take the floor and present their reason

TS (DYK): "Thank you very much! Dear delegates, we are a generation that grew up during war but chose democracy over division. DYK is a political youth organisation in Kosovo that counts over 6,000 members. I am the chairman of the Democratic Youth of Kosovo, representing it today. Our organisation was born on 29 of January 2000 at a time when Kosovo was building its democratic institutions, we have since then played an active role in promoting democratic values throughout the country. Our members are active in the parliament of Kosovo and at local and national level in different political positions. Our organisation reflects our commitment to accountability, transparency and democracy. We believe in liberal values, liberal democracy, the rule of law, individual freedom, and European integration. We strongly believe in gender equality, but not only as a principle but as a standard that we apply, in fact, our organisation is led by women and we maintain equal representation with leadership structures. Our activities reflect our commitment, we organise political debates, policy discussions, leadership and civic engagement activities that actively involve young people. Of course our work does not come without challenges, political polarisation, economic uncertainty for young people, and the developing democratic institutions shape the environment in which we operate. Despite these challenges our generation remains committed to democratic values and the European future of Kosovo. This is why we are here. We want to join LYMEC to strengthen cooperation with liberal youth in Europe. We want to collaborate with you and create activities that aim to promote democratic and liberal values in our region. But we are not here to ask for help, we are a strong and experienced political youth organisation that believes in Europe, not just as an idea but as a future that we build every day. We are not here just to join LYMEC but because we want to strengthen it.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited delegates to take the floor for questions.

TJ (YL) asked if the organisation has its own rule book and statutes or if they are following their mother organisation.

TS (DYK) answered that they only have their own rules of procedure but not their own statutes.

TJ (YL) asked if they can make independent decisions.

TS (DYK) answered that they are independent and have their own governing body.

KR (JUNOS) asked for clarification on a line stating that DYK is based on traditional and liberation war values.

TS (DYK) stated that Kosovo's liberal party was founded in a different time and, over the years, the liberal cause has become even bigger, with their mother party joining other liberal parties.

VS (EYU) asks how their liberal stances have improved since the last congress, where their application was rejected.

TS (DYK) stated that they are now presenting the new policies and position of the organisation. They are here today to represent the youth voices of the youngest democracy in Europe. They have an active membership, committed to democratic participation, European cooperation, and the sharing of European values.

EM (NY) specified that the rejection of their organisation's application during the last Congress was due to the party leader of PDK being accused of being involved in war crimes. Asked the speaker to elaborate on this accusation and to expand on their position towards LGBTQ+ rights.

TS (DYK) stated that DYK respects the independence of the judicial process and is waiting for the results of the legal proceedings with respect to the war crime accusation. Concerning their position on LGBTQ+ rights, they believe that all individuals should be protected from discrimination and strongly believe in human rights. Individual freedoms are at the core of liberal democracy. The first elected president of their mother party openly supported LGBTQ+ rights, showing respect and support for gender equality and human rights.

CN (JULIS) asked since their party was created by former members of the Kosovo Liberation army, what is the reflection of DYK on the history of this civil war and whether they believe that a good relationship would be possible with the different ethnic groups in the country.

TS (DYK) answered that DYK supports all minorities in Kosovo. As a political youth movement they cooperate with the minorities in the country and collaborate with the liberal youth minority in Serbia. Kosovo is a very complex country and the youth can make a change, moving on from the war and creating a new future for the country.

AZ (LDLU) asked about their new strategy compared to the last Congress and why they waited so long to join LYMEC.

TS (DYK) specified that their main priorities in their new strategy are strengthening democracy, fighting corruption, furthering European integration, creating new opportunities for young people, democratic resilience, and regional cooperation. Through LYMEC they want to exchange ideas and contribute actively to policy discussions with other liberal youth organisations across Europe. The reason why they waited is that 3 years ago the mother party joined ALDE giving them the opportunity to join LYMEC.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) stated that there were no more questions and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote on the proposed membership.

The Chair invited the Congress to proceed with a Closed Session only for Full Member Organisation delegates to discuss the case. The rest of the delegates and the guests were invited to leave the Congress room.

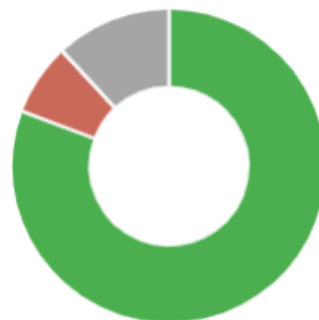
Results Vote on the application as associate member of DYK - Kosovo:

Application Associate Membership DYK

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DYK

✓ Yes	(80.693 %)	163
✗ No	(7.426 %)	15
● Abstain	(11.881 %)	24
Valid votes	(100 %)	202



The application of DYK - Kosovo (Associate Member) is carried by the Congress.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited the Congress to move on with the next point of the agenda, Suspensions of Full Member.

d. Suspensions of Full Member

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) explained that the Bureau proposed the suspension of one full member, **CUB Junior - Moldova**. He outlined the process by which this suspension would be debated and voted on, and then gave the floor to **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President)** to present the reasons for the proposed suspension.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): "As you might know, there have been some movements within the organisation since the European elections. We have tried to get in contact with them, the conversation has been sporadic at first and then non-existent for several months now. That is why in our opinion it is completely normal now to move on with suspension of the organisation. If and when we will disaffiliate them will be a matter for the next Congress, the first step is suspension. More specifically, since the last EU election, the contact person we had from CUB Junior has clearly shifted its political opinions, collaborating with pro-Russia members in its country and at a local level. Disaffiliation might come very quickly after suspension."

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited delegates to take the floor for questions.

YF (LDLU) stated that as security in Moldova is of interest for the security in Ukraine, asked to expand on this point.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President) specified that this is also a reason why they decided to move forward with suspension, as they find it very important to have a reliable point of contact in the organisation. He underlined that contact with Moldova is essential but that it depends on having a relationship with the organisation.

DK (JD) commented that cooperation with this organisation was very bad during the last period, as the organisation is clearly supporting pro Russian policies and activities.

DS (USRT) commented that they believe that the organisation is very inactive and that their statements are very suspicious.

AZ (LDLU) stated to keep contact with this organisation as a relationship with them is essential, keeping them active within LYMEC is important.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President) answered that furthering liberalism is one of the biggest objectives, as well as staying in touch with the organisations within LYMEC. The major difficulty in the last period was that the point of contact within the organisation has clearly changed its political view, this change impacted a lot the work within LYMEC.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) stated that there were no more questions, and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote on the proposed suspension. He reminded delegates that a two-thirds majority is required for this vote. The vote will be presented later on.

Results Vote on the suspension of full member CUB Junior - Moldova:

Suspension CUB Junior

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CUB

✓ Yes	(100 %)	169
✗ No	(0 %)	0
● Abstain	(0 %)	0
Valid votes		(100 %) 169



The suspension of CUB Junior - Moldova (Full Member) is carried by the Congress.

14. LYMEC 50 Years Anniversary

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the next point on the agenda, LYMEC 50 Years Anniversary, and then gave the floor to **Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President)** and **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President)**.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): "Here is the 50 years booklet I have been working on. The idea was to leave you with something, of the project you guys have been a part of. It is also a way to

show people that this is something we are all working on. All of you have contributed to what LYMEC is right now. That is the objective of this publication, you will see some messages from Bureau members, archives footage... We also thought of it as a year book album, with blank pages where you can write. It is the celebration of half a century of LYMEC."

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC President): "Now Alex, how can we get one of the publications?"

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Vice-President): "If you are one of the very generous people who participated in the fundraising, you will get your publication for free and will find your name at the end of the publication. But we are going to sell the publication for 10 euros, you can buy it today or any time. You can also order it."

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the next point on the agenda.

15. Discharge of the Bureau and Internal Auditors

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) explained that the discharge will be done by acclamation.

Discharge of the Bureau and Internal Auditors is carried by congress.

16. Election of President

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the election of the President, he invited the candidate to take the floor. He also reminded the Congress that after the presentation of the candidate, delegates have the chance to ask questions. Consequently, the Congress will proceed with the vote.

Marten Porte (Candidate for President): "Dear liberal friends, what a pleasure to be standing here today, and on such a special occasion. LYMEC 50 years. It makes it even more special to present my candidacy for the Presidency of LYMEC. The organisation that has been so vital in becoming who I am today. I started in LYMEC like most of us, as a delegate, and then international officer for my youth organisation, the Jonge Democraten. I loved the work I did in the Netherlands, but it was at LYMEC where I felt even more potential to grow. After some motivating words from one Svenja Hahn, I presented my candidacy for the position of LYMEC Treasurer. I'll be honest, that was a while ago already. But apparently LYMEC saw something in me — as I saw something in LYMEC. A group of

people, joining together in depressing -and occasionally less depressing- congress halls. But when they meet, something special happens. National borders melt away, friendships are made, new ideas take shape. And these new ideas are more necessary than ever. Because even though Hungary has dealt a well-deserved blow to authoritarianism, liberalism and democracy will not prevail if we just keep doing what we're doing. We are in a tough corner, and with the far right on the rise across Europe, we have to be prepared for our situation to get worse before it will get better. But this doesn't mean we're gonna sit idly by and wait for the storm to pass by. Oh no. We will fight. Like liberals. We gear up, and stare whatever is heading for us right in the face. Because generations before us have given their lives for our rights. And there are heroes still risking their lives for these rights at this very moment, fighting for our freedom. Among others we find them in the trenches in Ukraine. To them I say: Ми будемо з вами, до перемоги. But to face the storm and come out stronger at the other end we have to improve our work in every aspect of LYMEC. I see LYMEC as having three core functions. First of all, LYMEC is a voice. Although, now suddenly looking at our logo, the loudspeaker would maybe have been a more fitting metaphor. But for now we'll stick with the voice. And by voice I don't mean a voice just for the people in this room. LYMEC has a duty to make use of the European platforms that are given to us to represent the tens of thousands of people who are behind all of you. In this area LYMEC should not shy away from being bold and being loud. We are a youth organisation, not the United Nations. Wherever we can, we should make use of the policies that are in our policy book. But when there is little guidance, the Bureau should use its liberal compass to respond to current events, and not be afraid to provoke. Secondly, LYMEC is a school, just like all of your organisations are schools for young people to gain the skills they need to thrive in politics, advocacy or in broader society. I entered the Jonge Democraten not knowing a thing about running an organisation, and here I stand. Ready to take responsibility for an organisation with membership all over Europe and 3 amazing staff members. LYMEC should aim to fill the gaps where our MO's lack the time or money. Working with new partners, we can make sure our members gather the skills they need for the challenging times ahead. Taking lessons from our successful Young Changemaker's Academy, I hope we can multiply its impact by offering more learning opportunities for more people. Thirdly, and lastly, LYMEC is a network. And in this network lies perhaps the biggest untapped potential of LYMEC. Because I am certain there is not a single problem that any of you faces, that somebody else in this room could not be of help with. Whether it is the running of a successful alumni network, the attraction of corporate partners or running a strong campaign. The knowledge is there, we just have to pick it up and spread it around. Because liberalism to me is not "I am doing well", liberalism to me is "we are doing well". Because we created space, and freedom, for the best ideas to rise to the top, but we also help each other, however

we can. Or perhaps better said by a recently deceased D66 icon: "liberalism is not 'I am free', liberalism is 'we are free'."

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) thanked **Marten Porte (Candidate for President)** and then opened the floor for questions.

StS (JUNOS) asked to specify what he means about LYMEC as a school and LYMEC as a network. He asks how the cooperation between MOs can be fostered.

PC (OFF) congratulated and underlined the importance of the network within LYMEC. He asks how to foster this network.

Marten Porte (Candidate for President) answered that concerning LYMEC as a school he means that the cooperation with the Council of Europe is allowing LYMEC to make more events and training for delegates, they are planning to promote skills training that are important for MO. Concerning network cooperation he agrees that this is an essential point, stating that learning from each other is important. He reminds that in the past LYMEC had cooperation projects and hopes that in the future we can promote them in a less work intensive way, allowing for more platforms for cooperation.

CN (JULIS) asked what it takes for LYMEC to be an agenda setter in Europe and in the EU. He asked what is his bold idea and vision to be that political voice, and how to make LYMEC more visible within the organisation and what is his approach in connecting more LYMEC and IFLRY.

Marten Porte (Candidate for President) answered that for LYMEC to be an agenda setter it takes time, it needs to be built up. LYMECs room for improvement is by taking small steps and not being afraid to say our opinion, an example being LYMECs statement on Greenland. Even if our ideas are not immediately on the agenda, we can stand up for our ideas. To make LYMEC more visible it is important that delegates on the local board are aware of LYMEC's work, we need to create a network, to do so we don't need to meet up always physically but also online, showing LYMEC's values and the importance of learning from each other, creating knowledge of LYMEC and visibility. Lastly, concerning IFLRY, this cooperation has not always been easy, reason being that not all the Bureau members always met, he hopes to find a better collaboration doing things together and creating maybe common events when IFLRY is in Europe.

LF (JFS) asked how he would take steps to make LYMEC more involved in member states that are not EU members as sometimes LYMEC is seen as a European integration force.

DS (USRT) asked what the biggest things are that he would change compared to the last presidency

Marten Porte (Candidate for President) answered that LYMEC is seen sometimes as an organisation for only EU cooperation, but he prefers if we are seen as a pan-European organisation, so in a broader way. If delegates feel that the bureau is not doing enough in this regard, they can reach out to him. He also underlines that when writing resolutions they can mention the pan-European aspect. Concerning the last question, he was part of the leadership, so he reflects now on things that he could have done better such as the financing of the organisation and the creation of a community within the bureau for better cooperation.

LK (JOVD) asked about LYMEC as a school, how are you going to make sure that training will fly back to organisations?

VM (LHG) asked if there were specific things Marten could do better, and his planning for the next few years.

Marten Porte (Candidate for President) answered that LYMEC reaches a small number of people within the organisation. MOs need to spread the word when there is training and education from LYMEC. It is hard for the Bureau, and he asked the IOs to make sure that everyone has a chance to apply to events. Regarding the next question, the most concrete challenge that LYMEC is going to face will probably be the possibility that the German elections go badly, meaning bad consequences for the foundation and therefore the entire liberal sphere and LYMEC. He would get new institutional partnership and structural funding to face this challenge.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) stated that there were no more questions, and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote.

Vote on LYMEC President:

Election - LYMEC President

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Marten Porte

(Bureau · No. VIENNA)

✓ Yes	(57.5 %)	115
✗ No	(5.5 %)	11
● Abstain	(37 %)	74
Valid votes		(100 %) 200



The new LYMEC President is therefore approved by the Congress.

----- LUNCH BREAK -----

Roll call

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Lily Marie Hornstein (LYMEC Project Manager)** and **Margot Padilla (LYMEC Communication Assistant)**. 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:

	Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 4 - After lunch
Austria	Junge liberale NEOS - JUNOS		5	5
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL		3	3
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux - FEL		3	3
Belgium	Jeunes du Mouvement Réformateur (JMR)		9	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka (YFNS)		3	3
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms - YMRF		5	5
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC		6	6
Croatia	IDS Youth Club		3	3
Croatia	Young Croatian Liberals - HSLS		3	0
Croatia	Croatian social liberal party - HNS		3	3
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom - RU		4	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom (VU)		5	5
Estonian	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY		7	7
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat - KOL		3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry		5	5
Finland	Svensk Ungdom rf. (SU)		5	5
France	Jeunes Radicaux		3	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Germany	Junge Liberale - JuLis		10	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX		4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ógra)		8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth - AY		3	3
Latvia	For Youth!-FY!		3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY		6	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL		3	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro		3	3
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - AYNI		3	3
Norway	Unge Venstre - UV		5	5
Poland	Młodzi Nowocześni - MN		3	3
Romania	USR Tineret, USRT		5	5
Russia	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna - YDM Vesna		3	3
Serbia	Youth Movement of Free Citizens - PSG Youth		3	3
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - YPS		3	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - GSM		3	3
Spain	Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (JCs)		4	4
Sweden	Centerstudenter CS		4	4
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)		6	6
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		6	6
Switzerland	Young Greenliberal Party - YGL		6	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz		7	7
The Netherlands	Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid & Democratie		6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD		6	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)		3	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine		3	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka - ZeM		7	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals - YL		6	6
Z - IMS Delegate	Gerard O'Connor		1	1
Z - IMS Delegate	Isobel Roche		1	1
Z - IMS Delegate	Sonja Brandmayr		1	1
		TOTAL	215	212
Simple majority of those present/absolute majority			107.5	106
Two thirds of present		143.3333333		141.3333333
Simple majority of those present without abstentions				

1/3 = 75

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.



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There were 212 votes present at the Congress

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Young Croatian Liberals - HSLS (Croatia)**

Guest Speech

Jules Maaten (Regional Director for Europe of FNF): “Thank you very much and thank you for being here at this very special occasion, 50 years of LYMEC. I am a little bit nostalgic about this. I remember sitting in the room at the LYMEC Congress in the 1980s. In the 1980s we were just 20, 25 people, there was cheap coffee, and enormous arguments about liberal ideas. We had no idea then, whether we were building a movement or making lifelong friends. The answer, it turned out to be both. I was there at the time for JOVD, the Jonge Demokraten did not exist yet, even the Julis didn't exist yet, if you can imagine such a thing. In those days the EU had fewer members than some current LYMEC delegations have. There was no EURO, no Schengen and half of Europe was behind a wall. Yet, even then, young liberals were debating a united and free continent, as it was simply a matter of time. And that audacity, looking back, was either naive or visionary. And I have decided it was visionary. Together with IFLRY at the time, we worked to grow LYMEC's place in the European and global liberal family. I am proud of what we did together, and you should be even prouder of what you have built in all these years. I am proud to be in this room today, 50 years long, not just as a veteran but also as a partner, still in the fight with you. The enemies of liberal democracy today are not behind some wall, they are inside our parliaments, inside our media, they are inside our algorithms. Democratic backsliding and disinformation, the weaponisation of fear, these are not abstract threats, they are happening now and they require a political response, not just a cultural one. Freedom of the individual, rule of law, open society and European integration, these are not default settings that maintain themselves, they were won, they need to be defended and they can be lost. LYMEC exists precisely to ensure that each new generation understands what is at stake and is willing to argue for it, loudly and without embarrassment. And look how far you have come. You, together with the outgoing bureau and the secretariat. Look how far you have come in this whole European liberal debate. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, does not come to LYMEC as a donor or as a foundation, we come as allies to LYMEC. Our Europe2050 project needs your voice, your energy and your influence. Youth organisations are able to think beyond the next election cycle, something so difficult to do for current political parties. A long term vision of Europe that does not include young liberals is simply not credible. The Europe of 2050 will be shaped by decisions taken in the next 10 years, on climate, on

defence, on AI, and EU enlargement, and these are not technocratic questions, these are questions on what kind of civilisation we want to be. Would people in this room want to live in this type of Europe? This is not a metaphor, it is a fact, and it is both privilege and responsibility. Every generation of LYMEC members have faced a moment when the liberal project seemed fragile, when history seemed to be moving in the wrong direction. And every generation shows to push back, and this is the tradition you inherited. It is not a comfortable tradition, it is a demanding one. But it is the only tradition worth having. Dear friends, 50 years ago the organisation began with a handful of people who refused to accept to be divided. The room is fuller now, the work continues and we are doing it together. Thank you!"

17. Election of the Vice-President

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the election of the Vice-President, he invited the candidate to take the floor. He also reminded the Congress that after the presentation of the candidate, delegates have the chance to ask questions. Consequently, the Congress will proceed with the vote.

Sean Bennett (Candidate for Vice-President): "Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of speaking to many of you about these elections. In each of those meetings, I opened my presentation with one main point – For me, the role of Vice President is one of support. Supporting our new President as the face of LYMEC, supporting the Bureau members as they execute their own portfolios, and supporting all of you, in your own organisation's and here in LYMEC. In short, it is incumbent on the Vice President to take on a perhaps less visible role than some other Bureau members – to keep the wheels of LYMEC turning, ensuring that the day to day business runs smoothly so that everyone else, including you as MOs, can work easily and constructively within our organisation. Managing the workloads of our staff and volunteers; ensuring that legal and statutory obligations are met; supporting officials during good times and bad; and faithfully uphold our safeguarding procedures and our new Code of Conduct – these are the tasks which, while they may not be the most visible, allow LYMEC to function smoothly in all the other work that it does. I have already spoken to many of you about how I want to fulfil that role. I want to work with the LYMEC team to audit our methods of workload distribution, introduce new internal systems to support colleagues with their work-life balance, and integrate a task manager to provide a clearer record of tasks, deadlines, and responsible persons. On safeguarding and HR, I want to take the lead in implementing our new Code of Conduct

and reworking our internal protective and safeguarding procedures to make them more accessible and better understood. No matter how good a safeguarding system may be, it is only of value if the people who may need it know about it, and how to use it. As we embark on the vital task of increasing women's and minority groups involvement in LYMEC, providing a strong, clear, and trustworthy system of institutional support is foundational to make sure that everyone can feel safe and secure when they engage with our wonderful liberal family. That is what I want to do. As for why I am running – that is a much less technical answer. Firstly, I know that there are concerns among some of you about the prospect of having two progressives at the top of LYMEC. I understand that – but rest assured that my position has always been, and will continue to be, that LYMEC's views, the things we campaign for, and the mark we make on Europe, is dictated by you. The fact that we have different views is among our greatest strengths, and our collective commitment to compromise and cooperation is fundamental as to why liberalism is the right choice for Europe, and the world. My focus is in service to LYMEC, and to this Congress – to listen to and support you, as you shape our organisation into the future. As cliché as it may be, it is true to say that LYMEC has changed my life, as I am sure it has many of yours. Since my first time attending a LYMEC Congress in Prague, where I had the novel experience of celebrating my birthday on a boat, LYMEC and all those who I have met here, have supported me in countless endeavours. And I would be remiss if I did not also mention that in those early days my chief supporter and champion was none other than my dear friend and then-IO, our chair, Peter Banks. It is, in no small part, his fault that I stand before you today in this election. This feeling of support and opportunity is what every person who comes to and works for LYMEC should enjoy. For staff, Bureau, volunteers, and delegates – for all of us – I want to spend the next two years dedicated to ensuring that that is precisely what we provide. I have been accused of overusing the English language at this lectern on occasion, sounding much like I just stepped out from the set of Downton Abbey, nonetheless, I stand by what I said yesterday. It has been an unmitigated pleasure to have served on the Bureau for the last two years. Now, building on the work of my wonderful colleagues from the last mandate, our incredible staff, and you, our MOs, I believe that we can make LYMEC bolder, safer, more welcoming, and more professional than ever. By focusing on the foundational, institutional mechanisms on which we stand, we can build LYMEC up not just for the next two years, but for decades to come. Perhaps, we can even lay the groundwork for 50 more years of putting young, dedicated liberalism at the very heart of Europe. That is my ambition for us. To repay the support I have been given for so many years, to ensure that LYMEC runs smoothly each and every day, to build a space where everyone feels welcome, and to see this organisation that I love thrive long into the future. That is my pledge to you, should you bestow on me the honour of being your vice president. Thank you.'

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) thanked Sean Bennett and then opened the floor for questions.

AH (YFNS) asked if he will still be involved in the YCA.

Sean Bennett (Candidate for Vice-President) answered that he would love to be involved in the YCA, someone else will take care of this project from the bureau, saying however that every bureau member will give his/her own touch to the programme making it so special.

DG (LHG) asked about the work/life balance of the bureau and staff, has there been any improvement in the last year and what does he want to do.

Sean Bennett (Candidate for Vice-President) answered that this is indeed a very important part of his campaign. He wants to distribute better work across the bureau members and bring in more management tools, to track deadlines and tasks. He suggested not handing over tasks directly to the office but first to coordinate with him and other bureau members. He wants to make the process through which tasks go more understandable and clear.

JK (JMR) asked what his priority will be in the near future.

Sean Bennett (Candidate for Vice-President) answered that the priority objective is to ensure that LYMEC is applying the new culture and guidelines in the bureau and the office that have been developed, especially concerning workload. He wants to take the time to have meetings with the new bureau members, including in these discussions also the staff.

PG (OFF) wishes the best of luck and asks what his role and view is on the network within the organisation and its MOs.

Sean Bennett (Candidate for Vice-President) answered that this is one of the key points in his regard. He stated that in the last period there has been some progress. LYMEC has created a IOs hub where information can be shared for the MOs. However, he recognised that there are some issues concerning LYMEC's network. He stated that it will take a long way but LYMEC is working on it.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) stated that there were no more questions, and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote.

Vote on LYMEC Vice-President:

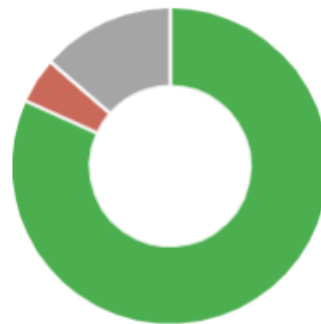
Election - Vice President

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Sean Bennett

(Bureau · No. VIENNA)

✓ Yes	(81.771 %)	157
✗ No	(4.688 %)	9
● Abstain	(13.542 %)	26
Valid votes		(100 %) 192



The new LYMEC Vice-President is therefore approved by the Congress.

18. Election of the Treasurer

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the election of the Treasurer, he invited the candidate to take the floor. He also reminded the Congress that after the presentation of the candidate, delegates have the chance to ask questions. Consequently, the Congress will proceed with the vote.

Tim Robinson (Candidate for Treasurer): "It is hard for me to believe that this is my 11th LYMEC congress. My journey began in 2016, I am from the UK. I was raised in the UK but my mother is from Bosnia and the war in the 1990s has forced my family to be displaced all around Europe. Europe has always been an issue near to my heart. I have learned and achieved a lot in the last few years. I was almost part of the bureau, and I never gave up my involvement in it. Something happened during the last congress which really shocked me: I met a delegate who was born in 2007. And it made me think about the LYMEC that we want to leave for our next generation. Previous bureaus have left us with stable finances, but we can't ignore the challenges that are ahead. We have a very limited number of funding resources, many are established partners, like FNF and ELF, but our fundraising is generally low. I am a qualified accountant with a professional background in risk consultancy, so you are not

going to get slogans from me but concrete actions. This is what I want to do. I will tackle the basics through financial planning, professionalising the internal audit, controlling our expenses and making finances more accessible. I will diversify our incomes through a volunteer fundraising team, growing the IMS and through research of what other organisations have done. And finally I will look at the long term challenges we have by exploring alternative options. I am honored to have this opportunity and I hope you can place your trust in me.”

Ilija Jerković (Candidate for Treasurer): “I stand here today with a sense of enthusiasm. I am really excited to get to work, and I really love this community, it revolves around values such as freedom, democracy and pluralism. As a professional fundraiser in civil society, as someone who has been a legal representative in a youth organisation, as someone who managed grants both financially and their narratives, I want to nurture and make LYMEC grow in the coming years. I want to do this very clearly by strategic planning, sustainable stability, and growth through fundraising and a strong community. Finally, as mentioned yesterday, the impending doom of the philanthropic sector surrounding us is real and it is something we need to talk about. But LYMEC does not exist for the sake of LYMEC, it exists for the sake of the purpose that we have and things that we want to do together. We are here to reject populism, polarisation, and radicalisation, and stand for freedom and democracy. I would like to have your trust and support LYMEC through this process. Thank you!”

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) thanked Tim and Ilija and then opened the floor for questions.

PC (OFF) asked Tim as a treasurer, how he plans to tackle obstacles in fundraising.

Tim Robinson (Candidate for Treasurer) answered that it is hard for LYMEC to reach out from the Bubble, there is a lot of competition. He suggested a real focus on not having more events but more smarter events, focusing on regional events, events that are cohosted with MOs, making LYMEC more involved outside of the Bubble, making it recognisable for fundraisers and supporters.

JK (JMR) asked both what would be a successful mandate for them.

Tim Robinson (Candidate for Treasurer) answered that it is easy to measure success by numbers. LYMEC will be faced with the choice of growth and reduced funding. The objective is to reach more people. Specific outcomes are a diversified income, this does not mean more income overall but more stable income.

CN (Julis) thanked the candidates and asked about fundraising, individual and corporate, what is his

plan on this.

Tim Robinson (Candidate for Treasurer) answered that fundraising is challenging because the treasurer is a volunteer with a full time job, this is not sustainable in the long term. He plans to create a volunteer treasurer team, as LYMEC has many experts in the field. He hopes that JULIS would be willing to do that.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) thanked Tim and opened the floor for questions to the second candidate.

CJG (JR) asked to elaborate on his fundraising and collaboration plans.

Ilja Jerković (Candidate for Treasurer) stated that there is a lot of relationship building with companies, he wants to focus on quantitative approaches. Once they are engaged, he wants to build a database that LYMEC can recycle. Is it interesting to engage with companies that align with LYMEC's values and its mission, that want to be involved in fundable things, something people want to invest money in as security and defense, AI, and three it is important that increased engagement with companies does not become an additional burden to the staff.

LG (LHG) asked about diversifying income and his experience, how concretely he would do, what kind of companies, ideas.

Ilja Jerković (Candidate for Treasurer) answered that he wants to keep the good relationship LYMEC already has with its partners. The first thing he will do is schedule meetings with them. When it comes to diversifying, what he means by this is focusing on corporate fundraising. One of his goals is to have at least one corporate fundraiser at the next congress. On this experience LYMEC can reflect on what went well and what went wrong. On the question of how to diversify, he believes that it comes to story telling capacity on which LYMEC has to work on and extend its good image.

JK (JMR) asked about what he would define as a successful mandate.

Ilja Jerković (Candidate for Treasurer) answered by preserving already existing partnerships, trying to increase reserves in view of the future elections (EU and German), and finally leverage capacity as a liberal private looking party to actually engage with the private sector.

PC (OFF) asked about how he plans to strengthen the connection among the organisations.

Ilija Jerković (Candidate for Treasurer) answered that it is a core issue when it comes to consequences, when you see representation etc, it all comes down to opportunities, MOs need to travel and get in touch. A mobility scheme funded by alumni could be a great idea to explore.

Peter Douglas Banks (Chair) stated that there were no more questions, and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote.

Vote on LYMEC Treasurer:

Election - Treasurer

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	Yes	No	Abstain
1. Ilija Jerković PSG · No. VIENNA	(70.854 %) 141	(0 %) 0	(0 %) 0
2. Tim Robinson IMS SC · No. VIENNA	(29.146 %) 58	(0 %) 0	(0 %) 0
Valid votes	(100 %) 199		

The new LYMEC Treasurer Ilija Jerković is therefore approved by the Congress.

Ilija Jerković (Treasurer) thanked Tim for his time campaigning. He looks forward to working together and for the coming tasks.

19. Election of the Bureau Members (4)

Peter Douglas Banks gave the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai** as Chair.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the election of the Bureau Members, he invited the candidates to take the floor. He also reminded the Congress that after the presentation of the candidates, delegates have the chance to ask questions. Consequently, the Congress will proceed with the vote. He reminded us that speeches are 2 minutes long and questions are 1 minute long. The chair will take one by one each candidate and candidates can add themselves to the speaker list for each candidate.

Anes Hodžić (Candidate for Bureau Member): "Hello liberal friends, today every organisation here knows Nasa stranka. It has not been like this two years ago. In just two years we went from being invisible to being a reliable partner in LYMEC, and this is the reason why I stand here. I want to work to make this story possible also for other organisations and members. The LYMEC I see in the next two years is more inclusive, more connective and impactful. The first thing I want to do is to create clear goals for every activity. My priority is to ensure increased participation, regional and gender diversity, reaching more people within the network. LYMEC showed me that many people share our liberal ideas, we are a true community. I would be very grateful if you would vote in my support."

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the candidate and then opened the floor for questions.

CAP (USRT) asked how to make LYMEC more attractive to young people not involved in politics at all.

Anes Hodžić (Candidate for Bureau Member) answered that based on experience, what is attractive is what really matters to young people every day. A strategy is to listen and to act.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) closed the speakers list and gave the floor to the next candidate.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (Candidate for Bureau Member): "Dear all, looking back at the past years, it has been a rewarding and joyful time in this group. I have grown a lot professionally and personally. We did a great job together and I am really proud, but I am not nearly finished. This is why I am running again. I have plenty more ideas, I would love to focus again on communication, and make sure that LYMEC shines. That being said, we need to move our communication to focus on a new strategy, making sure that it promotes not only LYMEC but the single member organisations as well. It is really important to move from communication on information to really focus on advocacy and campaign. A more concrete step is to open the Liberal Communicators' Network for more opportunities to the member organisations. It is time that we need to do something instead of only speaking about it. I am ready to put everything to the test, I am excited to run again. I hope I can count on your support once again. Thank you very much."

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the candidate and then opened the floor for questions.

OP (YL) asked her how she concretely plans to improve LCN.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (Candidate for Bureau Member) answered that she had two concrete proposals. A lot of the work is of course behind the scenes, making sure that we have a good

relationship with our partners. She wants to open up the group also to the member organisations because it is full of opportunities for them to be in there. Her second idea is to propose online entrepreneur sessions, in order for members to connect with important stakeholders and have more opportunities throughout the year.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) closed the speakers list and gave the floor to the next candidate.

Estelle Jaggi (Candidate for Bureau Member): "I have been in LYMEC for 3 years now and i thought why not to run this year. I am here to bring women's voices to LYMEC. I have concrete ideas for LYMEC to improve connections with tech and energy companies and other companies. I want to improve the communications between women among all our organisations to empower them, also through debate and debate training. I believe LYMEC is the best organisation to fight autocracy and fight for freedom. I hope you will support me in this campaign and I am looking forward to your questions."

JK (JMR) congratulated her for her candidacy and asked in what position she would like to be in the LYMEC bureau.

Estelle Jaggi (Candidate for Bureau Member) answered that she has many ideas and mentioned a policy officer position, but stays open to all.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) closed the speakers list and gave the floor to the next candidate.

Huub Hoven (Candidate for Bureau Member): "I cannot wrap 20 pages of my programme in 2 minutes. I started at LYMEC two years ago. I have grown a massive amount because of LYMEC. I think I will never be able to repay, except maybe by running for the bureau. It is really hard to sell LYMEC to other members, we need to give more people the opportunity to join LYMEC. That leads to my second point. Learning through action, by taking action, making mistakes, trying, learning and growing. Having more people being involved and taking the lead in LYMEC is important, by trying you make mistakes and learn. LYMEC is the perfect place to do so. And lastly, LYMEC is driven by you. With more people taking the lead and having a say in LYMEC. Thank you"

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) said that no speakers are on the speaker list and invited the next candidate to take the floor.

Martina Barrés Sabartés (Candidate for Bureau Member): "Good afternoon, I am honored. I started LYMEC 5 years ago when I joined the YCA, and since then I have been actively involved through

congresses and in the ALDE delegation as representative to IFLRY. This led me to be a candidate today. The way that I see the Bureau is first by nurturing our policy book, second ensuring greater engagement across MOs with having the space to discuss, and lastly I want to continue the great work on female participation within LYMEC, by creating more formal and informal spaces for women to engage. I am looking forward to it and hope to have your support.”

HG (OOF) asked her how she proposes to bring her experience outside the bureau to connect the members on the ground.

Martina Barrés Sabartés (Candidate for Bureau Member) answered that she will promote informal spaces to unite and see how we can do better back home. Putting forward networks so they can see the benefits to be part of LYMEC. An example could be to connect communications officers, treasurers, policy officers of the different organisations and see how we can learn from each other.

Bálint Gyévai (Chair) said that no speakers are on the speaker list and invited the next candidate to take the floor.

Mikael Freitag (Candidate for Bureau Member): “Hello everyone. I have been a member of VU for many years. I started as a delegated head of delegation in LYMEC. Now I am part of the Libertas Team. I have three priorities. First of all I want to focus on the geographical balance in LYMEC, I want to focus on MO to MO collaboration. Second I want to make capacity building sharing a possibility within our organisation. And thirdly, about advocacy, currently most of our proposals are put in a policy book and never seen again, I believe this is a huge mistake because we really have great resolutions. Home is where my heart is, and my heart beats for LYMEC every day. I hope to have your support.”

Balint (Chair) thanked the candidates and then opened the floor for questions.

RR (ERP) asked him what the substance is behind his campaign.

Mikael Freitag (Candidate for Bureau Member) replied that he is an optimistic guy, he has some priorities for the first 100 days. He believes his points are realistic. He said he works day and night for what he believes in and he really is passionate about LYMEC.

SG (LHG) asked him to give more examples or ideas on how he will achieve his goals.

Mikael Freitag (Candidate for Bureau Member) replied that it is crucial to use the right resolutions during campaign strategy. Concerning cooperation, he states that LYMEC needs to promote more

events and sessions that connect delegates to each other. He stated that LYMEC can be more active in this regard.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) said that no speakers are on the speaker list and invited the next candidate to take the floor.

Tommy Monahan (Candidate for Bureau Member): "Thank you everyone. Growing up in a post conflict society makes you appreciate making people at the heart of politics. I believe in liberalism and its values, that brought me to my party and to LYMEC. I was part of YCA and the ALDE delegation. I am very proud of what we have achieved as LYMEC so far, but I believe we can make LYMEC more inclusive, more influential and more connected. I believe our advocacy strategy is definitely something where we can improve. I want to have a strategy that targets policy makers at the European level. We need to have a strong presence in Brussels, since I am based there I can deliver this. I believe our MOs have an important role in being active as LYMEC at the local level. My second point is to create a stronger connection between MOs to create a stronger international liberal community. Thank you for your attention."

Balint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the candidates and then opened the floor for questions.

HG (JD) asked about the policy maker strategy, if he can give some proposals.

Tommy Monahan (Candidate for Bureau Member) answered that LYMEC has to do a stakeholder mapping in the European institutions, to understand to whom we are reaching out and avoid wasting time. LYMEC needs to know what is coming up in the institutions, what is happening, what topics are being tackled and are relevant, based on what is important to us. MOs are aware of this at the national level, they will be trained on European topics on this matter.

PC (OFF) asked what his pillars were.

Tommy Monahan (Candidate for Bureau Member) answered that many of the IOs and MOs are being more cooperative and included in the activities. Empowering MOs in working groups to have a more inclusive LYMEC is another important pillar. Other important points are the involvement of women in politics and increased regional participation within the organisation.

CS (JULIS) asked what his two pillars are.

Tommy Monahan (Candidate for Bureau Member) answered that he has spoken enough.

Balint Gyévai (Chair) closed the floor for questions, and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote. He reminded delegates that they have to vote for 4 candidates. If they are interested in buying the 50 years LYMEC publication they have to reach out to Ilija and that there is still one position open to candidate oneself as Internal Auditor.

Vote on LYMEC Bureau Members:

Election Bureau

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1.	Martina Barrés Sabartés IFLRY Representative · No. VIENNA	(90.291 %) 186
2.	Dimitra Papadopoulou Bureau · No. VIENNA	(81.068 %) 167
3.	Anes Hodžić YFNS · No. VIENNA	(72.816 %) 150
4.	Tommy Monahan ALLIANCE · No. VIENNA	(64.078 %) 132
5.	Mikael Pedersen VU · No. VIENNA	(52.913 %) 109
6.	Estelle Jaggi YGL · No. VIENNA	(19.417 %) 40
7.	Huub Hoven JL · No. VIENNA	(19.417 %) 40
Valid votes		(100 %) 206

The new LYMEC Bureau is therefore approved by the Congress.

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

Roll call

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Lily Marie Hornstein (LYMEC Project Manager)** and **Margot Padilla (LYMEC Communication Assistant)**. **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:

Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 5 - after last break
Austria	Junge liberale NEOS - JUNOS	5	5
Belgium	Jongliberalen - JL	3	3
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux - FEL	3	3
Belgium	Jeunes du Mouvement Réformateur (JMR)	9	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka (YFNS)	3	3
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms - YMRF	5	5
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya - JNC	6	6
Croatia	IDS Youth Club	3	0
Croatia	Young Croatian Liberals - HSL	3	3
Croatia	Croatian social liberal party - HNS	3	3
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom - RU	4	4
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom (VU)	5	5
Estonian	Estonian Reform Party Youth - ERPY	7	7
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat - KOL	3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry	5	5
Finland	Svensk Ungdom rf. (SU)	5	5
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5	5
Germany	Junge Liberale - JuLis	10	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ógra)	8	8
Latvia	Atļistībai Youth - AY	3	3
Latvia	For Youth!-FY!	3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian Liberal Youth - LLY	6	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten - JDL	3	3
Montenegro	Liberal Youth of Montenegro	3	3
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth - AYNI	3	3
Norway	Unge Venstre - UV	5	5
Poland	Młodzi Nowocześni - MN	3	3
Romania	USR Tineret, USRT	5	5
Russia	Youth Democratic Movement Vesna - YDM Vesna	3	3
Serbia	Youth Movement of Free Citizens - PSG Youth	3	3
Slovakia	Young Progressive Slovakia - YPS	3	3
Slovenia	Gibanje Svoboda Mladi - GSM	3	3
Spain	Jóvenes de Ciudadanos (JCs)	4	4
Sweden	Centerstudenter CS	4	4
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	6	6
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	6	6
Switzerland	Young Greenliberal Party - YGL	6	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	7	7
The Netherlands	Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid & Democratie	6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten - JD	6	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3	3
Ukraine	ZeMolodizhka - ZeM	7	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals - YL	6	6
Z - IMS Delegate	Gerard O'Connor	1	1
Z - IMS Delegate	Isobel Roche	1	1
Z - IMS Delegate	Sonja Brandmayr	1	1
TOTAL		215	212
Simple majority of those present/absolute majority		107.5	106
Two thirds of present		143.333333	141.333333
Simple majority of those present without abstentions			

1/3 = 75

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.



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There were 212 votes present at the Congress.

The following IMS was not present:

- **IDS Youth Club - Croatia**

20. Election of the Internal Auditors and Substitutes

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the election of the Internal Auditors, he invited the candidates to take the floor. He also reminded the Congress that after the presentation of the candidates, delegates have the chance to ask questions. Consequently, the Congress will proceed with the vote.

Aleks Spasava Løndal (Candidate for Internal Auditor): “Good afternoon, my name is Aleks, and I study in Brussels. LYMEC to me is such a beautiful organisation which I wish to contribute to. I believe that taking care of the financial report is one of the primary tasks, and yes I do like spread sheets. But of course I also recognise the other relevant tasks associated with the Internal Auditor. Thank you.”

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the candidate and, as no speakers were on the speakers list he invited the next candidate to present himself. Due to his absence the candidate prepared a video message.

Fabian Grepper (Candidate for Internal Auditor): “Dear LYMEC Family, first of all, please allow me to apologise for not being able to join you in person today, I would have very much appreciated it to be there with you. At the same time, I would like to warmly congratulate you all for the 50th anniversary of LYMEC. A remarkable milestone and testament for decades of dedication to liberal values all across Europe. My name is Fabian Grepper, I am 27 years old and from Switzerland, currently History student and working part time as an associate in the family company. Over the years I have had the privilege to be deeply involved within LYMEC, after stepping back from operational roles last year, my commitments still remained very strong. Besides my political engagement I have developed a solid background in governance, financial oversight and accountability. From my work as auditor for the finance committee from my home municipality and its associate entities, I have gained hands-on experience in reviewing budgets, analysing financial statements and ensuring compliance with widely recognised standards. What I bring to this candidacy is both: the practical experience and the

technical expertise. I am a certified and verified auditor and accountant, with several years of experience in the field. I know what I am doing, and more importantly I know where and how to support the bureau and treasurer in strengthening financial oversight. Beyond the qualifications on the technical side, I also bring the time and dedication, and a deep understanding of LYMECs internal structures, I know the donors, I know the partners. I approached the role of internal auditor with independence, attention to detail and a clear commitment to transparency and accountability. It would be a great honour to continue to serve LYMEC in this capacity, and to contribute to the organisation's continuing strength and credibility. Thank you very much and I wish you all a wonderful and inspiring anniversary congress celebration. See you hopefully all soon!"

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the audience for their attention and invited the next candidate to take the floor.

Pim Heymans (Candidate for Internal Auditor) "Dear liberals, the dutchies are present! To kick it off, I am truly grateful that you had the time to meet up with me. I have been an internal auditor at JOVD for the past two years. I strongly believe that auditing is a very important element adding value to our organisation. Secondly, I want to make LYMEC more accessible to everyone and truly represent Congress in that way. Everyone in this room should be able to know what is going on in our institutions, its finances and the trends we are seeing, as otherwise it is impossible to have meaningful events. And finally, I am highly motivated, ready to do the job and do these tasks. Let's make sure we create an organisation of trust, transparency and actually meaningful dialogue. I will make sure that our organisation will be strong and ready to shape the future of liberal Europe."

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) noted that no speakers are on the speaker list and invited the next candidate to take the floor.

Petrine Johansen (Candidate for Internal Auditor) "While I was not actively seeking this position and my time is somewhat limited, I am willing to take on the role if entrusted with it. If elected, I will fulfil the duties of Internal Auditor conscientiously, sustained by the support, and perhaps the refreshments, of LYMEC"

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) closed the floor for questions, and invited the delegates to proceed with the vote.

Vote on LYMEC Internal Auditors and Substitutes:

Vote Internal Audit

non-nominal  · published

1.	Pim Heymans JOVD · No. VIENNA	(91.837 %) 180
2.	Aleks Løndal RU · No. VIENNA	(58.673 %) 115
3.	Fabian Grepper	(29.592 %) 58
4.	Petrine Louise Johannesen Internal Auditors · No. VIENNA	(19.898 %) 39
Valid votes		(100 %) 196

The new LYMEC Internal Auditors and Substitutes are therefore approved by the Congress.

21. Appointment of new members of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the appointment of new members of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage, and asked **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take the floor.

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General): “The committee of Discipline and Arbitrage is composed of 5 individual members who were members of LYMEC and who are still active within the organisation. Their aim is to support the ombudsperson to make sure all of our activities are safe for everyone. They are an additional tool to the ombudsperson and the trustees that are put in place during Congress. For the way the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage is selected, they are a proposition from the former Bureau. Since the former Bureau has been discharged, I am taking over this agenda point. We decided to select Marina Seldo (LHG), Peter Banks (YL), Elinor Juth (Svensk Ungdom, Former Bureau Member), Stefania Reynisdottir (Uppresin Iceland) and Julius Graack (JULIS).

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked **Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General)** and then opened the floor for questions, since there were no questions he said that this can be considered accepted by acclamation by the Congress. He invites to move on with the next point on the agenda.

The new members of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage are therefore approved by the Congress by acclamation.

22. Motions - Statutory Matters

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) stated that there was one change proposed by the former Bureau and invited **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** for a brief presentation of it.

Marten Porte (LYMEC President): "The proposed change concerns making clear in our Rules of Procedure that LYMEC's events are focused on people between the age of 18 and 35 years"

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked Marten and opened the floor for questions.

PR (JULIS) asked for reasons behind the age restriction of 18.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer) thanked them for the question and stated that this has to do with responsibility towards participants, and that 18 is considered in most of Europe the age where people are responsible for their own actions.

DG (LHG) supports the statute and encourages the Congress to vote in favor.

BJ (SU) wonders why 35 years old maximum.

Marten Porte (LYMEC President) answered that there is no specific mathematical reason behind the number of 35. However, looking at political youth activism in other European countries, they deemed this age limit to be reasonable. He mentioned that another reason is that it takes time to become actively involved in European politics within a youth organisation.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) reminded everyone in the room to be respectful when speakers are taking the floor, and stated that only one hour was left until the end of the Congress. He then invited the delegates to proceed with the vote. The majority required for this vote to pass is two-thirds.

Results vote on Statutory Matters:

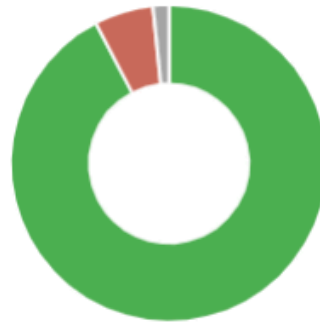
Vote Amendment RoP

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Amendment RoP

✓ Yes	(92.35 %)	169
✗ No	(6.011 %)	11
● Abstain	(1.639 %)	3
Valid votes		(100 %) 183



The Statutory Matters are carried by the Congress.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the Congress to move forward with the next point on the agenda.

23. Resolutions

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) explained that the delegates voted in yesterday's snap vote on the resolutions. He outlines the procedure: there will be three readings. First, the movers will present the resolutions. Second, the Congress will address amendments and any amendments to amendments. Finally, the discussion will move to the resolution as amended, taken as a whole. He announced that the Congress will now proceed to the discussion of the resolutions. He reminded the Congress that movers of the Resolution have 2 minutes to present, while interventions will be limited to 1 minute.

Even Diot (LYMEC Secretary General) informed the delegates of one change regarding minute taking: if a speaker wishes their full speech to be recorded in the minutes, they must state this before taking the floor. Otherwise, only their position, whether in favour or against, will be noted.

➤ **Resolution N1: Defending Greenland's Sovereignty: A Liberal European Response to Modern Imperialism**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the mover to present the resolution.

MP (VU): "Thank you for all our partner organisations that worked with us on this resolution, and a special thank you for JULIS. We encourage you to vote in favour of it."

DS (JULIS): "We also wanted to say something about the resolution itself. We want to make clear that this resolution is against the actions of the US in Greenland. As the US is actually already present in Greenland, we see that it is essential that NATO protects its arctic interests. And we as Europe, have also a big interest in protecting ourselves from China and Russia. On the other hand, what we also want to do with this resolution is to ensure the sovereignty of Greenland. Since 75% of the population in Greenland voted against the US, with the majority of people expressing their interest in more autonomy."

MFP (VU) "We also wanted to take this opportunity to thank our associate member for their contribution on the resolution"

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited them to move on with the amendments, noting that no one had requested the floor. He explained that there would be two speakers in favor and two against, and asked delegates to indicate their position on OpenSlides. A quick overview of the amendments was given before proceeding.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N9**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N1**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N2**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N3**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N4**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N5**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment to Amendment N6**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment to the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N7**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.1 Amendment N8**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) stated that the amendment got a negative recommendation by the working group and was therefore rejected.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) opened the floor to discuss the Resolution as amended.

PC (OFF) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the speaker and the audience and opened the vote on RES N. 1 as amended in its entirety.

Results vote on Resolution N.1: Defending Greenland's Sovereignty: A Liberal European Response to Modern Imperialism:

Vote Resolution 1

nominal · published

	Votes	
✓ Yes	(94.845 %)	184
✗ No	(1.546 %)	3
● Abstain	(3.608 %)	7
Valid votes		194



Resolution N1 is carried by the Congress

➤ Resolution N13: Guaranteeing peace and freedom on our continent: Towards a Credible European Nuclear Deterrent

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the mover to present the resolution.

ELG (JUNOS): “Ever since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022, the illusion of Security in Europe has begun to crumble. Especially with the new US administration under Donald Trump I think this illusion has crumbled entirely. Us, in Europe, we have acknowledged that, we have moved towards an independent military action, we have raised our spending in the military to be more independent. However, we have not talked enough about nuclear deterrence. Other authoritarian regimes are still threatening us with nuclear attacks, as has especially happened during the war in Ukraine. At this point, it is absolutely crucial to establish a European framework for nuclear deterrence. In the long term we should be capable of protecting ourselves independently, and we should do that by democratic means. In fact, this resolution is about doing it in a democratic and legitimate way. And of course, at the end, nuclear disarmament is still the main goal. As liberals we probably all agree on this, that ideally no one should have nuclear weapons, to ensure a peaceful world. However, it would be naive to believe that authoritarian regimes, such as China, North Korea, and Russia, will be at our mercy. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of this resolution. Thank you.”

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the Congress to move on with the amendments.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment N7**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment N8**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment N9**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment N5**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment received a positive recommendation during the working group and was therefore carried.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment N4**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) stated that the amendment had received no recommendation by the working group and therefore opened the floor for discussion. He invited the mover of the amendment to take the floor.

AOL (JNC) 'We withdraw because we have an amendment of an amendment.'

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) amendment to amendment 4 was accepted by the mover, therefore amendment 4 is falling.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment N10**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment to Amendment N1**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that it received an amendment to an amendment, it was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ **RES N.13 Amendment N11**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ RES N.13 Amendment N2

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) stated that the amendment did not receive any recommendation during the working group and therefore opened the floor for discussion.

CN (JULIS) spoke in favor of the amendment.

CJG (JR) spoke against the amendment.

MG (YGL) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the speaker and the audience and opened the vote on RES N.13 Amd2.

Results vote on RES N.13 Amd2

Vote 13Amd2

nominal · published

		Votes
✓ Yes	(73.034 %)	130
✗ No	(16.292 %)	29
● Abstain	(10.674 %)	19
Valid votes		178



Due to technical issues of some participants, 3 votes have been communicated in person to the Chairs. The total number of votes in favor is consequently 133.

RES N.13 Amd N2 is carried by the Congress

❖ RES N.13 Amendment N3

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ RES N.13 Amendment N6

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

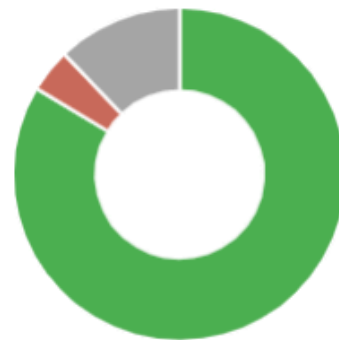
Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) opened the vote on RES N. 13 as amended in its entirety, as no one is on the speaker's list.

Results vote on Resolution N.13: Guaranteeing peace and freedom on our continent: Towards a Credible European Nuclear Deterrent

Vote Resolution 13

nominal · published

		Votes
✓ Yes	(83.598 %)	158
✗ No	(4.233 %)	8
● Abstain	(12.169 %)	23
Valid votes		189



Resolution N13 is carried by the Congress

➤ Resolution N16: Equal marriage. Equal Europe.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the mover to present the resolution.

Mover : We made many successes concerning equal sex marriage. However, this resolution aims to ensure that LYMEC continues its work on this topic. There is still a lot to do. We would be incredibly happy to vote in favor of this resolution, thank all MOs for their support on it and accept all the amendments.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the Congress to move on with the amendments.

❖ RES N.16 Amendment N1

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ RES N.16 Amendment N2

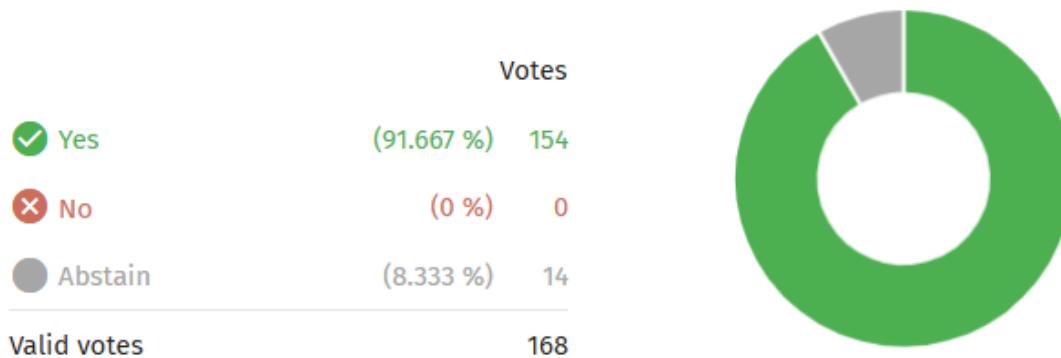
Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) got a positive recommendation from the working group.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the speaker and the audience and opened the vote on RES N. 16 as amended in its entirety, as no one is on the speaker's list.

Results vote on Resolution N.16:

Vote Resolution 16

nominal · published



Resolution N16 is carried by the Congress

➤ Resolution N11: Resolution on EU-INC (28th Regime) and E-Competitiveness

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the mover to present the resolution.

(JL): "Within 50 years we have moved from Europe, where same sex marriage was just a dream to making it a reality. However, civil rights and progressive values still need to be promoted more. Our single market is still not completed, in order for the EU to be competitive we need to do something now. I am extremely happy for the outcome of this resolution and to see how many have supported it. Thank you. As a thank you, we accept all the amendments as friendly."

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the Congress to move on with the amendments.

❖ RES N.11 Amendment N1

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ RES N.11 Amendment N4

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) got a positive recommendation from the working group and is therefore carried.

❖ RES N.11 Amendment N5

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ RES N.11 Amendment N2

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) confirmed that the amendment was accepted by the mover and carried.

❖ RES N.11 Amendment N3

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) explained that the amendment did not receive any recommendation during the working group and therefore opened the floor for discussion.

GR (YGL) spoke in favor.

CJG (JR) spoke against.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the speakers and opened the vote on RES N.11 Amd3.

Results vote on RES N.11 Amd3

Vote 11Amd3

nominal · published

	Votes	
✓ Yes	(31.638 %)	56
✗ No	(48.588 %)	86
● Abstain	(19.774 %)	35
Valid votes		177



RES N.11 Amd3 is not carried by the Congress

❖ RES N.11 Amendment N6

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) explained that the amendment did not receive any recommendation during the working group and therefore opened the floor for discussion.

DS (JULIS) spoke in favor.

LK (JOVD) spoke against.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the speakers and opened the vote on RES N.11 Amd6.

Results vote on RES N.11 Amd6

Vote 11Amd6

nominal · published

	Votes	
✓ Yes	(62.57 %)	112
✗ No	(20.67 %)	37
● Abstain	(16.76 %)	30
Valid votes		179



RES N.11 Amd6 is carried by the Congress

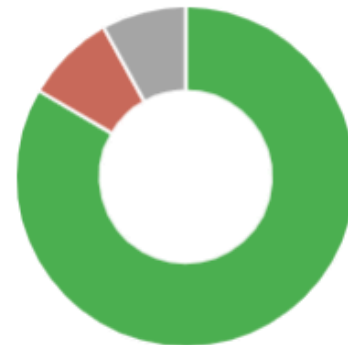
Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the speakers and the audience and opened the vote on RES N.11 as amended in its entirety, as no one is on the speaker's list.

Results vote on Resolution N.11: Resolution on EU-INC (28th Regime) and E-Competitiveness

Vote Resolution 11

nominal · published

		Votes
✓ Yes	(83.429 %)	146
✗ No	(8.571 %)	15
● Abstain	(8 %)	14
Valid votes		175



Resolution N11 is carried by the Congress.

➤ Resolution N22: Building Resilience: Countering Disinformation Through Education

Bálint Gyévai (Chair) invited the mover to present the resolution.

DG (LHG) “This resolution was written by the educational policy working group, I am very proud of their work. The impact of the working groups is limited, but this resolution is the result of 6 months of hard work. It tackles the topic of countering disinformation through education.”

EJ (Green liberals) “This is a very important resolution to us. Education is a fundamental topic. This resolution wants to foster the integration of media literacy into primary and secondary education everywhere in the country. Because it is through education that we can tackle disinformation, this is why we believe this resolution is so important”

DG (LHG) “We also want to announce that we carry both amendments for efficiency purposes”

Bálint Gyévai (Chair) clarified that since all amendments have been accepted by the mover and therefore carried, the floor was open for debate on the resolution. As no one was on the speaker's list he opened the vote on RES N.22 as amended in its entirety.

Results vote on Resolution N.22 :Building Resilience: Countering Disinformation Through Education

Vote Resolution 22

nominal · published

		Votes
✓ Yes	(96.739 %)	178
✗ No	(1.63 %)	3
● Abstain	(1.63 %)	3
Valid votes		184



Resolution N22 is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution N5: Lost in Time and Lost in Space? Europe's Wake-Up Call for Space Security and Sovereignty!**

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) invited the mover to present the resolution.

CN (JULIS): "Thank you very much dear liberal friends. Lost in Time and Lost in Space, some of you might recognise that reference. Lost in time and lost in space is a very important topic and risk for Europe. If we drift without direction, if we hesitate, while others accelerate we will find ourselves exactly there, lost in time and lost in space. The reality is simple, space is no longer a distant domain, as we saw in the last couple of weeks. It is the backbone of our economies, security and probably also of our sovereignty. We as Europeans are as always too slow, too fragmented and too reactive when it comes to dealing with space security. We keep circling the issue instead of moving forward, while others, like China and India, will define the rules, set the standards and shape the future. This resolution is our European wake up call, it's a call to ALDE and Renew Europe to wake up on the issue and to tell the people in charge in Brussels to wake up on the issue. It is about stepping up, about taking European responsibility and ensuring that we remain a serious actor in space. Let's not delay, let's act. Please support this resolution."

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) clarifies that all amendments have been accepted by the mover and therefore carried. He opens the list for speakers.

MG (YGL) spoke in favor.

AZ (LDLU) spoke against.

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) thanked the speakers and opened the vote on RES N.5 as amended in its entirety, as no one is on the speaker's list.

Results vote on Resolution N.5 :Lost in Time and Lost in Space? Europe's Wake-Up Call for Space Security and Sovereignty!

Vote Resolution 6

nominal · published

	Votes	
✓ Yes	(94.839 %)	147
✗ No	(0 %)	0
● Abstain	(5.161 %)	8
Valid votes		155



Resolution N5 is carried by the Congress. (This vote was wrongly named. The vote concerns the Resolutions N5)

The Congress carried 6 Resolutions in total.

24. Closing Speech from LYMEC President

Bàlint Gyévai (Chair) gave the floor to the LYMEC President for concluding remarks.

Marten Porte (LYMEC President): “Thank you all. So here we stand. The first word that comes to my mind is ‘privilege’, and I see some of you thinking: “oh here he goes with his left-wing talk of privilege”, but no, even though it has become a LinkedIn-cliché type of word, being a part of this organisation is in every way a privilege. But looking at you from my new position I also feel the weight of the responsibility. The responsibility of giving it my all, even in difficult times. Also the responsibility of perhaps convincing those who I might not have convinced so far. I want you all to know that my door is always open for your criticism, your doubts or your questions. Because this Bureau will make mistakes, that’s a promise I’m willing to make right here, on behalf of the whole Bureau actually. And when you see one, don’t breed on it, speak up, and make sure we do better next time. But regardless, we can be proud of what we did this weekend. We elected a fantastic new Bureau that can’t wait to get to work. We’ve implemented a new Code of Conduct that helps us keep our events safe. We’ve had few but productive debates on topics ranging from Greenland to defence, producing new policy that the Bureau can work with. We’ve strengthened our relationship with ELF, with ALDE, with Renew. And we had cake. When nobody else will, you need to treat yourself (kidding, FNF Europe paid for the cake actually). Then I have a few, or many actually, thank you’s. Some purely personal, others also personal but also on behalf of the organisation.

Let’s start with the personal ones: First of all it has been so nice to enjoy this weekend with some of the people with whom I’ve spent so much of my LYMEC journey: Balint, Peter, Brent, and of course Alex and Ines. Thank you all for being here and I hope I can keep counting on your experience and expertise. Then to Ines especially, for being there during this process and for passionately leading this organisation for the last two years. We’ve travelled our whole LYMEC journey together and I greatly appreciate our friendship. I think you can be immensely proud of what you did for LYMEC and can’t wait to see what you will be doing for Austria and Europe. And then Anna, Friso, Joanne and the whole JD team, thank you for helping me out with my campaign. I know I’m not a natural, but you made it work. And lastly to everyone who took the time to hear me out and feed me with ideas during the campaign.

Then on behalf of the organisation, including myself of course: First and foremost I need to thank our secretariat. I cannot stress enough that they are the backbone of this organisation and without them nothing would work as it should. Thank you for organising this Congress and running the Secretariat. A special thanks to Lily and Margot for the arduous job of minute-taking. We have a gift. Thanks to our amazing partners, the European Liberal Forum who were so kind to host our reception and support in the costs, and Renew Europe and FNF Europe for a big contribution to the expenses, including the cake. Of course our lovely former Bureau, you will get some more attention tonight. Thanks to all our

partners for joining our event. An applause to our local organizers from Junos for helping us out, Julian, Akim, Stef, Kathrin, Marlene, Stephan. And lastly, a big thank you to our chairs for gracefully leading us through all the discussions. It was a pleasure to lean on such an experienced team. (1x chocolate Sophie, MK 2x

With those thanks I want to close the congress. Tonight we party, and tomorrow, we go back to our countries, and rock liberalism across Europe”.

The Congresses ended at 18:00 CEST.

END