

# **POLICY**

## **Historic Archive**

**LYMEC Archive of Past policies**

**1992-2023 (created in 2013)**

**(Last updated after the Autumn Riga Congress, November 2023)**

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## Policy Archive Chapter 1 - EU Institutions and Institutional Reform

### **PA 1.01. European Defense**

Whereas

- the developments of international relations over the past decades have caused for a re-focus of military capacities in all EU member states, as the focus seems to continue to shift away from state-against-state aggression and digital threads have come to the stage;
- contributing to a peaceful and stable world cannot only be achieved by the EU's current focus on 'soft power';
- the financial and economic crisis have caused pressure on national budgets throughout the European Union causing cuts on national budgets reserved for defense;
- the efficiency of defense spending within the European Union is seriously limited due to the fragmentation of materials, training capacities and other expenditures between the 28 Member States.

Noting that

- defense policy, on any level, should focus on strengthening the international rule of law, fighting conflicts, maintaining peace and fight international terrorism;
- Many nations in Europe have a certain speciality in military force.

Believing that

- The EU can only fully contribute to a peaceful and stable world order if its foreign policy is strengthened by a credible military force;
- the common European defense policy should focus on
- the coordination in military education and training;
- the establishment of one single military planning capacity and one single operational headquarters in the EU;
- pooling and sharing of critical military assets on the principle of burden and risk sharing between the member states
- the EU Member States should, on short term, agree on collective defense, whereby its member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party; on long term, European cooperation should be prioritized over NATO cooperation;
- Cooperating in the field of defense on the European level in current times seems to be more of a necessity than a choice in terms of efficiency and costs optimization.

LYMEC calls upon

- MOs to promote the cooperation of defense capabilities on the European level within their organizations and mother parties;
- the Bureau to promote this common European defense policy within the ALDE Party.
- lymec and its member organisations to push alde group and its member organisations to support the creation of a European defence force

## **PA 1.02. Stateless Nations' right to decide their own political future**

Considering:

- That legitimacy of democratic systems and of political institutions in the EU is based on political participation.
- Europe to be founded on the values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, including minorities' rights.
- Citizens from all of Europe's nations to have the right to express their political will by peaceful and democratic means that which must be respected.
- That the EU should stand in defense of these democratic and legitimate rights.
- The EU is an entity in constant evolution; Member States should not be seen as immobile entities.

Acknowledging:

- That some nations in Europe have not yet, for several historical reasons, achieved Statehood.
- The liberal goal of a stronger EU does not oppose the defense of different identities and cultures within it.
- The huge demonstrations lived in Catalonia, with more than 1.5 million people peacefully asking for a referendum of independence.
- That several grassroots movements claiming the right of nations such as Scotland or Catalonia to vote on their political future have gained widespread support in these countries and political parties demanding a referendum hold a clear majority in the Catalan and Scottish Parliament.
- That the UK government has agreed with the Scottish government to hold a referendum on the independence of Scotland in 2014.

- Citizens and political parties calling for the right to vote in a referendum are moved by a pro-European conviction.

Calls for:

- Recognition that voting in a referendum should stand as best practices in order to resolve territorial political conflicts.
- The Spanish government to agree with the Catalan government on the terms for a referendum of independence in Catalonia following the UK example.
- The European Commission to make any further comments on the future of new States born in Europe, based on legal terms.
- LYMEC and the EU institutions to condemn any attempt to use the judicial power against the democratic will of European citizens belonging to stateless nations and their democratically elected institutions.

### **PA 1.03 Resolution on the European Electoral System**

*European Parliament, European Democracy, European Political Parties*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 20th. of December 1992.

The Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Community (LYMEC):

**Supports** the European Parliament in its struggle to achieve the recognition of its right to elaborate a democratic constitution for the European Union.

**Recalls** the right clearly recognised to the European Parliament by the article 138 of the EC institutive treaty for the creation of a uniform electoral system.

**Believes** in a system that involves the distribution of the seats with proportional method and obliges the European organisations to act as effective parties rather than weak confederations.

**Affirms** that the birth of authentic European parties will speed up the transformation of the Commission into a government that is responsible before the parliament.

**States** that this aim will be achieved through the introduction of the system of full proportional representation in the European elections.

## **PA 1.04 Resolution on the Reform of the European Institutions**

**(Archived in London 2019 (former 1.02))**

*European Commission, European Parliament, Future of Europe*

Adopted at the Congress on 9th April 2000 in Skandeborg, Denmark.

### **LYMEC:**

**Notes** that public confidence in the European Union and its institutions has fallen drastically, due to scandals concerning mismanagement and accusations of fraud in the Commission, as well as the increased attention paid to the system with generous travel allowances in the European Parliament;

**Believes** that a comprehensive reform of the management and administration of all European institutions is necessary in order to establish public confidence in the European Union and its policies;

**Welcomes** the willingness and efforts made by the Prodi Commission, and Commissioner Kinnock in particular, to bring about a thorough reform of the Commission, aiming at turning the Commission into the best multinational administration in the world by reforming management, financial control and personnel policy;

**Welcomes** the publishing of the White Paper on the Reform of the Commission;

**Calls** on the European institutions to introduce a common code of conduct for all staff, based on the recommendations by the Ombudsman and signified by transparency and a service-minded attitude towards the general public;

**Welcomes** especially the introduction of a European Union Attorney, being able to investigate and prosecute crimes committed inside the European institutions, in cooperation with the anti-fraud unit OLAF.

**Salutes** the commitment by the Commission to increased equality between men and women by aiming to double the representation of women in senior positions in the administration;

**Stresses** the importance of protection of whistleblowers, including their right to remain anonymous and to prevent search for leaks, as a means to stop corruption and fraud;

**Condemns** the practice in the European Parliament to pay travel refunds to MEP's without proof of actual expenses, since this is extremely expensive for the Parliament, undermines the credibility of the Parliament as an institution and leads to unjust and tax-free earnings on the taxpayers' expense;

**Notes** that many MEP's employ staff in the European Parliament and in their constituencies without employment contracts and without paying taxes and social fees, using the special allowance granted by the Parliament;

**Calls** on the ELDR Group to work for a Statute for Members and Assistants in the

European Parliament, including travel refunds based on actual travel expenses and a flat-rate salary for all MEP's as well as contract-based employment conditions for the Assistants;

**Calls** on the ELDR Group to urge all its members to sign the voluntary code of conduct, allowing members to claim travel refunds only according to actual costs, and which has already been signed by several members in the Group;

## **PA 1.05 Resolution on Public Access to Documents**

**(Archived in London 2019 (former 1.03))**

*European Democracy, European Parliament*

Adopted at the Congress on 9th April 2000 in Skandeborg, Denmark

### **LYMEC:**

**Notes** that no regulation exists concerning public access to documents of the European institutions, except for article 255 in the Treaty of the European Union;

**Notes** that many documents in the institutions are kept secret without valid reason and are not given out to the public upon request, including working documents in the European Parliament;

**Believes** that the right of the public and the media to access documents of governmental institutions constitutes an essential part of the democratic system;

**Believes** that a regulation concerning public access to documents of the European institutions is necessary in order to establish public confidence in the European Union and its policies;

**Welcomes** the effort made by the Prodi Commission, and Commissioner Kinnock in particular, to introduce a regulation regarding public access to documents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, and which is a sign of willingness for change;

**Welcomes** the initiative taken by the President of the Commission, Mr. Prodi, to publish a journal of all correspondence on the internet;

**Welcomes** the initiative taken by liberal MEP Lousewies van der Laan to publish all committee documents of the European Parliament on the internet, since they are not available to the public on the Parliament's website although they are distributed openly in the committees;

**Regrets** that the proposal put forward by the Commission is far from sufficient and contains too many exceptions that could be used to prevent the public from having access to documents;

**Believes** that the basic principle should be that all documents of the institutions, including incoming as well as outgoing correspondence, are public, and that all efforts to classify documents must be justified;

**Believes** that access to documents should be restricted only when disclosure could undermine public security, court proceedings, privacy of the individual and other similar cases;

**Believes** that all European institutions should make a journal available on the internet, including all incoming and outgoing correspondence;

**Believes** that access to documents should be granted without a formal decision, since transparency is the basic principle;

**Believes** that the regulation on public access to documents must be combined with the right for journalists to protect their sources and preventing search for whistle-blowers;

**Believes** that a comprehensive regulation on public access to documents should replace article 255 in the Treaty, in order to safeguard the public's right to information;

**Calls** on the ELDR Group in the European Parliament to prioritise the work for a regulation on public access to documents, based on the criteria set out above, and applying to all European institutions;

**Calls** on the ELDR Group to work for immediate access by the public to the European Parliament's committee documents on the internet;

**Instructs** its Bureau to forward this resolution to the President of the ELDR Group, the President of the ELDR Party, the President of the European Parliament and the President of the European Commission;

**Calls** on the ELDR Group to continue to be in the forefront for and prioritise reform of the European institutions, in order to enhance transparency and accountability for increased public confidence B putting the citizen first.

## **PA 1.06 Resolution on the Post-Nice Process**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.04))**

*European Integration, European Democracy*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 7 - 8 April 2001, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Recalling

- the clear failure of intergovernmentalism at the EU summit in Nice in December of 2000,
- the limited results the heads of state and government have made to get the European Union to move forward in a democratic and federal decentralised direction,



- the obvious lack of willingness to show some commitment to the common European cause and the display of one big horse trading in number of votes in the Council and the number of seats in the European Parliament for the various countries,

LYMEC congratulates

- the decision at Nice to proclaim a *Declaration on the Future of the Union*, signed by all member states, as final act of the IGC opening up the possibilities for further and wider debate on the future development of the EU,

LYMEC expresses

- its commitment to continue to work for a united Europe, and a federal and decentralised European Union that guarantees freedom, democracy, human rights as expressed in our manifesto,

LYMEC notes with concern

- the growing numbers of citizens that are becoming sceptical to the development of the EU,
- the decreasing support in the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe to join the EU,

LYMEC congratulates

- the President of the European Commission Romano Prodi with his proposal to start a citizens debate across the EU,

LYMEC expresses

- the need for a debate that includes citizens, civil society, politicians, scientists, business, national and regional parliaments and the European Union institutions,

LYMEC calls on its member organisations and the ELDR

- to pressure heads of state and government leaders to focus during EU summits more on EU interest and less in the national interest,
- to focus less on summits and concentrate more on convention style methods in the debate on the EU,
- to do all in their power to start and open up the debate on the future development of the EU,
- to strongly urge for a federal, liberal democratic European Union in the spirit of subsidiarity,
- to get youngsters involved in the debate.

## **PA 1.07 Resolution for Speeding Up the EU Enlargement Process**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.05))**

*European Integration, Future of Europe*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 7 - 8 April 2001, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

**Noting:**

- The growing Euroscepticism in both EU candidate and member countries
- The changed focus of negotiations in the last years towards the accession of the 1<sup>st</sup> countries
- The continuous challenges for democracy and the stable political development in some parts of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

#### **LYMEC Welcomes:**

- The latest steps taken in the Nice Summit for abolishing the visa restrictions for Bulgaria and Romania and the commitment presented by all EU institutions towards the enlargement process.

#### **LYMEC Urges:**

- The EC to keep up the speed of the process of enlargement also with the states not likely to be in the first wave of accession.
- The candidate states to speed up their reforms to fulfil the criteria for EU membership
- The LYMEC Bureau to forward this resolution to the ELDR-Group and to the ELDR-Council
- The LYMEC member organisations and member contacts in the EU member states and applicant states to pressure their mother parties and other politicians to achieve the aims of this resolution.

### **PA 1.08 Towards the Brussels-Laeken Declaration**

(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.07))

*Future of Europe*

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee autumn 2001 in Switzerland.

**Having regard** to the *Declaration on the Future of the Union*, signed by all member states in December 2000 in Nice.

**Recalling** that the EU Member States came up with some institutional reforms to ensure EU enlargement, though the reforms were small and not courageous.

**Stressing** the need to thoroughly go further than just simple reforms, and opening the wider debate on the future of the European Union.

**Noting** the existing awareness among most member states governments that the European project cannot continue to go ahead in the current way.

**Noting** the courageous positions the Belgian government took at the Summit of Nice.

**Reminding** that back in the fifties the Treaty of Rome speaks of the determination to "lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe."

**Acknowledging** that the EU should go forward in a liberal democratic, federal and decentralised way.

### **LYMEC Proposes:**

- It is essential that the Brussels-Laken declaration will press ahead with the issues that were proposed in Nice: (I) how to “establish and monitor a more precise delimitation of competencies between the European Union and the Member States, reflecting the principle of subsidiarity”; (II) the status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; (III) “a simplification of the Treaties with a view to making them clearer and better understood without changing their meaning”; and (IV) “the role of national parliaments in the European architecture”. These issues will clearly be an important but first step to restore trust in the institutions.
- Calls on the EU member states not to frown away from sensitive issues in the Laken Declaration such as legitimacy of the European Union and to make the “Future of the EU” debate wider and find possibilities how in the future the political life of an enlarged Union will be structured.
- Calls on the EU leaders to come up with a timetable that sincerely can be discussed with citizens, experts and thinktanks, the European and national parliaments, representatives of legislative regions and the member states. Key words are freedom, democracy, a Constitution, rule of law, active but limited EU government and a focus on cross-border issues where EU involvement is required.
- Calls on the EU presidency to remind the EU leaders of the wise words from the very beginning of European integration: European integration is not there for the interests of the member states but in the citizens' interest.
- Stresses the need for continuous feedback from the EU presidency to the citizens on the proceedings with the reforms.
- that there will be no cooling down period between the "Declaration of Brussels-La(e)ken" and the IGC in order to have the reform in a fluid wave. This will ensure that the Member State do not alter anymore the democratic solutions brought forward by the EU institutions, (candidate) member states and the European people

As the Declaration will be discussed throughout the Belgian Presidency in the second semester of 2001 the LYMEC Executive Committee asks its Bureau to inform the EU presidency of our wishes and opinions.

## **PA 1.09 Yes to the European Constitutional Treaty**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.08))**

*Our Vision for Europe, Future of Europe, Constitution*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

The LYMEC Congress having regard to the policy paper annexed to this resolution

Whereas:

- In the upcoming months many EU member states will undergo a process of ratification of the ***Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe*** that was signed in Rome last year on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Noting that this Constitutional Treaty

- *makes* the European Union more democratic, transparent, accountable and effective, and therefore it makes the European project more politically legitimate.
- *reinforces* the role of the European Parliament by extending the co-decision procedure to almost all main political fields, including the control over all EU spending, which means that parliamentary democracy is considerably empowered.
- *strengthens* European citizenship as it incorporates the Charter on Fundamental Rights, which forces the EU institutions and member states to comply with it when implementing EU laws and policies.
- *simplifies* enormously the legislative instruments, and therefore it streamlines and rationalises the decision making processes. It clarifies the purpose and the values of the European Union, as well as the division of competences between the EU and its member states.
- *reinforces* the principle of subsidiarity by increasing the powers of member states' parliaments to scrutinise EU draft law, as well as by respecting the regional autonomy.
- *makes the EU* more influencing on global affairs. It creates the Foreign Affairs Minister as one single post that will lead the diplomatic services, represent and formulate the interests of the Union abroad. Furthermore, the EU is to be provided with legal personality in the world.
- *makes* the Commission become more accountable to the European Parliament and also more efficient based on its composition and election. The election of its President will reflect the outcome of the European Parliament elections.
- *makes* the Council become more transparent, democratic and accountable to member states' parliaments. Transparent because the Council will meet in public; democratic because it widens the scope of decision subject to a qualified majority voting.
- *provides* for reinforced integration in the field of justice and home affairs, especially on issues such as immigration and asylum, judicial cooperation in criminal matters, harmonization of penal codes,...
- *increases* the participatory democracy by allowing one million citizens to initiate EU policies.

The LYMEC Congress concludes that:

- This Constitutional Treaty, although being far from perfect, is another step towards a more liberal and federal Europe

And therefore LYMEC recommends its Members in the countries where popular referenda and parliamentary votes will take place to actively campaign in favour of this Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

### **Annexe**

LYMEC has formed its opinion weighing the changes the Constitution would introduce to the institutional workings of the European Union, if adopted, vis-a-vis the current institutional framework on which the EU is currently based.

LYMEC is wholly supportive of:

- 1) The development of cutting most of the overly elaborate processes and examples that govern the European Union at the moment. Out of the four procedures that concern the decision-making-process of the European Parliament, there has been an obvious choice to make the co-decision procedure as the main and most important one.
- 2) The increase in the powers of the European Parliament, especially concerning the possibilities this will present concerning the outcome of the budget – which includes the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Foreign and Security Policy – as well as the fact that the European Parliament will gain more power to influence European policy-making in several new and other areas.
- 3) The abolishment of the procedure concerning the length of the Presidency of the European Council and introducing a Presidency of 2.5 years.
- 4) The curtailing of the European Commission by letting every Member State rotate a proposed European Commissioner on an equal timely basis, which will lead to a smaller Commission that will be more capable and efficient in executing its set tasks.
- 5) The possibility for national governments to perform the subsidiary test with the proposed initiatives by the European Commission in an early stage. This will allow for an early dismissal of superfluous judicial policy changes.
- 6) The move to focus on the problems concerning the domain of Justice and Home Affairs and providing a joint European solution to the problems at hand. In particular the attention for the problems concerning the impact of asylum seekers and immigrant workers and the focus on solutions for the existence cross-national criminal networks and terrorism.
- 7) The increase in possibilities for the Council to apply the qualified majority principle when voting on certain issues.

8) The creation of the principle of participatory democracy, whereby citizens can influence European legislation by their own initiatives.

9) The proposal, when a unanimous decision regarding an issue concerning European foreign policy arises, to invite the President of the Commission and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to espouse the European view in the UN Security Council and other organizations where this might be considered useful and helpful for the situation.

10) The openness that will become obligatory for meetings of the Council and the Parliament, which will clearly improve the issue of transparency as regards to the workings of the European Union.

LYMEC is supportive of:

1) The inclusion of procedures regarding the choice for a President of the Commission, which will include a preliminary condition that the choice for any President should reflect the outcome, with regards to the political situation, of the election results of the European Parliament. However, LYMEC is concerned about the fact that the nomination procedures regarding the President of the European Commission can only be initiated and completed by the European Council. This does not contribute to a more democratic European Union, which the Constitution seeks to establish.

2) The fact that two European councils, the Ecofin and the Council for External Affairs, will be attributed their own appointed Presidents, which will remain in control over their respective Council until new elections will be held.

In the other four councils a rotating system will remain in place. LYMEC is concerned by the fact that this will give rise to two separate policies regarding the presidency of several differing European councils. LYMEC would have preferred an appointed and set President for all European councils.

3) The creation of a European Minister of Foreign Affairs, who will be able to conduct the external relations with regards to the Common Foreign and Security Policy and can be held accountable for this policy as such.

4) The creation of several new bodies, like the European External Action Service and the European Defence Agency, that will facilitate and support the execution of the Common Foreign and Security Policy by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. LYMEC would however like more attention to be paid to the structural implications of the creation of these bodies within the current framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. More attention should also be paid to the provisions for the recruitment of the staff of these new bodies. The Constitution is found to be too vague and not lucid enough, regarding these issues.

5) The fact that the Stability Pact has not been included in the Constitutional Treaty, since the Stability Pact would be subject to improvements which would be extremely difficult to achieve within the Constitutional Treaty.

LYMEC is not supportive of:

1) The conditions that state that a candidate applying for the post of President of the European Council should have fulfilled the function of Minister, President or Prime-

Minister. This post should in actual fact be open to all people, such as for example a former President of the European Commission.

2) The lacking and missing steps that would need to be implemented to lay the foundation for a federal structure for the European Union, especially with regards to the implementation of the budget of the European Union, a process that is still subject to an overruling veto by one of the Member States in the European Council. Similarly, the lack of changes concerning the Common Foreign and Security Policy is reason for concern according to JD. JD considers it an extremely untimely missed opportunity that the European Convention, in particular the heads of state that were present during the Intergovernmental Conference, did not seize the opportunity to reform and fortify the political structure of the European Union in a more democratic way.

3) The fact that in certain fields such as the financial perspectives, Common Foreign and Security Policy, unanimity is still required in the Council in order to make decisions.

4) The rigidity of the Constitutional Treaty when introducing changes.

## **PA 1.10 Resolution “Tear down the Fortress of Europe!”**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.09))**

*European Integration, Future of Europe*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of April 2004

Almost on a daily basis the news about horrifying journeys through deserts, across the Mediterranean Sea and on European motorways reach us in the shape of margin-notes in the newspapers and television broadcastings. However, this time the subject is not that of painful animal transports for endless distances. This time we are dealing with transports of people, of our fellow human beings. People are left behind to die in the Saharan Desert during rapid crossings in overloaded pickup trucks. People pay outrageous sums in US dollars in order to be smuggled to the European shores in rubber-boats in the middle of the winter. Testimonies of the horrors and the casualties that take place out there – maybe right this minute, as you are reading these lines – have frequently been presented in the media, only to be forgotten ten minutes later. That type of news-items apparently does not conquer the media market.

As long as the inequalities in the distribution of resources, in the respect of basic human rights and in the possibility to live in peace are as huge as they are today, people will migrate. Some of these refugees fulfil the requirements of the Refugee Convention (1951) to be entitled to a residence permit, but the major part of today's non-voluntary migrants do not fall within the narrow definitions of the Convention. Instead, they are often labelled “humanitarian refugees” or “economic refugees” – the choice of terms somewhat reflecting the attitude of the speaker.

The Refugee Convention was drafted in another era, primarily aiming at solving the refugee problems in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. This Convention has one big deficiency: it does not accord refugee status to people that might be in situations that are much worse than those of “classical” refugees. For

instance: war and warlike situations do not count in the assessment process, neither does extreme poverty. However, it is our duty to take care of those people as well. That moral duty is neglected in Europe of today. We have recently by the Dublin Convention introduced the rule of "first asylum country" as binding law, which means that refugees have to apply for asylum in the first Convention State that they enter. Thereby they lose their opportunity, in case their application is rejected, to apply in any other State party to the Convention. This rule is not so bad as it seems, *provided* that common, humane minimum standards of residence permit emerge in the whole territory in question, and *provided* that assistance and co-operation between the relevant states becomes mandatory. Which is not the case today. In fact, we – the Europeans – have combined the most negative components from two systems. Yes – only one chance to seek asylum, but no – no common minimum standards. Result: a race between nations in introducing more and more strict refugee and immigration rules in order not to become the unlucky "looser" that receives all the refugees (which is begging for problems with the national opinion). Cynicism, but nevertheless reality.

On the other hand, neither the situation prior to the Dublin Convention was acceptable. Then, the ping-pong game with people, called "refugees in orbit", caused lots of suffering. European states have never been able to handle refugees in a decent manner! Therefore, the proposal of the European Convention in Brussels to refer asylum issues as a whole to the EU supranational level is a good solution. Then it will be up to the European politicians to lower the borders of Europe and thereby reduce the profitability of the smugglers' market.

In order not to raise obstacles for Member States that may want to have more generous rules concerning the adoption of refugees than those common within the EU, the latter ones should only exist in the form of *minimum requirements*.

Finally, a word about the directive concerning the obligation of carriers. This directive is an unacceptable mix between the roles of state authorities and private enterprises, which in the end may stop many persons fulfilling the requirements for asylum in the target state from ever reaching their destination. Private travelling-companies' employees are obliged to assess within minutes what may take months for state authorities to conclude. The right of every individual to have his/her case tried by a competent authority has been severely compromised. Therefore, this directive must be abolished immediately.

For these reasons, the Centre Party Students' Association urges

- that refugee policy as a whole be a common European issue that should be dealt with on a supranational EU-level,
- that the common standards for assessment of residence permit be more generous and humane than the national standards of most European states of today,
- that Member States have the opportunity to keep or introduce more generous domestic rules than the common EU-standards,



- that assistance and co-operation between EU-states in the field of refugee adoption become obligatory, at least regarding refugees that fulfil the common EU-standards,
- that the directive about the obligation of carriers to stop refugees that lack valid travel documents immediately be abolished.

## **PA 1.11 Resolution “The European Union: a State?”**

(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.10))

*European Integration, Future of Europe*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of April 2004

The LYMEC Congress

Whereas

- A LYMEC Seminar was held in Paris on 6-8 February 2004 on the theme “*The European Union: a State?*” and helped to raise fundamental questions as regards the essence and the future of the European Union
- An intergovernmental agreement could be reached in 2004 establishing a first “Constitution” for the European Union

Considering that

- The LYMEC Manifesto and Policy Book does not answer to the following key questions for the future of the European Union:
  - Isn't federalism entailing the need for an (democratic and decentralised) EU State?
  - Is building a democratic European Federation possible without transferring sovereignty to an EU State?
  - Should not an authentic European “Constitution” be adopted by a European Referendum, at the majority of European citizens?
  - Is a European Constitution realistic without a European People? Shouldn't the EU foster the emergence of such European People? Should a EU federal language be instituted or should multilingualism persist?
  - To what extent would an EU Member State have the right to withdraw from the EU if becoming a Federal Union?
  - Shouldn't the Convention working method be used for further revisions of the European Constitution?
  - Shouldn't there be an elected EU Head of State, in addition to an EU Government?
- LYMEC should have a clear stance on these issues

Concludes

- The LYMEC Manifesto should be urgently reviewed and updated in order to address these fundamental questions and give them a clear answer.

## **PA 1.12 Internal Motion of the Debate on Europe's Future**

### **(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.12))**

#### *Future of Europe*

What is Europe for, where should it go, and where does it end, these questions loom large debates on the future of EU. European Liberals should take the lead and come up with a motivating liberal project for the EU by June 2006, highlighting the added values of the European Union, in order to regain trust from the citizens.

LYMEC has defined on many occasions answers to all these questions. Nonetheless, after the failure of referenda on the European Constitutional Treaty in both France and The Netherlands, it is important to engage as many young liberals as possible and give a new impetus to all these debates on a local, regional and national level.

The European Liberal Democrats and Reformers (ELDR) is in process of consolidating a policy paper that defines the liberal vision on the future of Europe both in the short but also in the long term. LYMEC has been asked to contribute with a strong input to this paper and the bureau has decided to engage LYMEC members in this process from a bottom-top approach.

Therefore, the European Liberal Youth – LYMEC

1. Requests its Members to organise local and national debates on the future of the EU, the conclusions of which will be consolidated into a LYMEC Report to be presented and adopted at the next LYMEC Congress in April
2. Suggests that the following essential political moot points should be addressed in priority:
  - a. What is the goal of European integration?
  - b. What are the geographical boundaries of the European integration process?
  - c. How should we define the European social and economic model (the "European dream") in the context of globalisation?
  - d. What is Europe's role in the world?
  - e. How should the EU be structured?

The absolute deadline for receiving contributions from the Members will be February 1st.

Enclosed you can find section V of the LYMEC manifesto "Strong and United Europe, deepening European democracy"

### **Addendum**

#### **V. Strong and United Europe, deepening European democracy**

LYMEC is committed to the process of creating a closer Union among the peoples of Europe. Strong cooperation among European nations is a guarantor of stability and progress and prosperity in Europe, goals that have been too often compromised in the recent past with wars and conflicts.

In a competitive and globalized world, the Europeans stand a better chance of keeping up with other nations or even leading in economic and social development when they combine their collective productivity and creativity.

The European Union represents the most successful political, social and economic framework for European-wide cooperation.

Nonetheless, the European Union feels distant to citizens. The alarmingly low turnouts at elections for the European Parliament illustrate this. The citizens in general do not understand who is responsible for which policy in this labyrinth of European legislation. Intergovernmental Conferences and EU Summits from Maastricht to Brussels have shown that EU decision-making lacks legitimacy and is not transparent, not democratic and not efficient enough.

LYMEC believes that the European Union needs to be further developed and enhanced so that it becomes a union for the people and by the people. In this respect, the adoption of a Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe is a meaningful, significant and substantial step forward, which must lead to further reforms and improvements, but in any case it cannot be considered as the final step.

### **1. Institutional Settings**

LYMEC believes that the Union needs a democratic, federal, open and transparent decision-making system, accountable to its citizens, in order to reconnect the peoples of Europe with the decisions taken in their name. This should be based on the democratic principle of the separation of powers.

As the only directly democratically elected body, the Parliament, representing the citizens, should co-decide in all policy fields. It should have full budgetary competence and it should have the right of initiative. Brussels should be the only residence of the European Parliament and its secretariat. Furthermore, the European Parliament should have the right to propose and elect the President of the European Commission and should have the power to remove individual Commissioners and to impeach the Commission President.

In the European Parliament, LYMEC believes that national and regional electoral lists are required to retain the traditional link that exists in some Member States between elected representatives and their constituents, whilst also believes that an EU-wide element is required to enhance the reach of the EU political parties as a precursor to establishing a pan-European democracy. We thus believe that members of the European Parliament should be elected in two components: some elected in national or regional lists, and some others elected from a standardized EU "top-up" list.

The Council should meet in public. The Council should be reformed into a genuine second chamber, co-deciding together with the European Parliament on EU legislation. Decisions in especially sensitive areas can be made with a double majority of states and people, preventing the domination of big countries over smaller ones.

The right of veto should be banned in the decision-making system of the Union. The constitutional regions, in agreement with their member states, should participate in the Council of Ministers when debating what belongs to the sphere of competencies of those regions.

The European Commission is the guarantor of the European Constitution. The European Commission has to be transformed into a true European executive. It has to be fully accountable to the Parliament and the Council.

All matters within the competence of the Union should be subject to the Court of Justice. Every citizen should have the right to approach the Court of Justice.

## **2. Competencies of the Union**

The Union of tomorrow must be based on decentralization and diversity, not on petty bureaucracy and over-regulation. This means that the EU will only be in charge of those decisions, which cannot be better achieved as well on national or regional levels. The execution of competencies should be based on the two principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, which have to be closely monitored. The principle of subsidiarity implies that decisions should be made at the lowest level of government.

## **3. Development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy**

Foreign Policy should remain a shared competence of the European Union. The Foreign and Security policy should be integrated and decisions taken democratically by the European Parliament and Council.

The EU should pursue a comprehensive approach to promoting peace and security, based on (1) conflict prevention, (2) crisis management involving the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF), (3) post-conflict institution building. The EU must develop a Defence Identity. The Rapid Reaction Force allows Europe to partake in peace-keeping and crisis management operations. However, it is unable to function without NATO assets and has no role in defending the EU. A European Army will be more efficient economically and will be more effective militarily. No member state, however, should be forced against its will to participate in specific missions. The EU shall respect the right of any member state to participate in international cooperation agreements external to the Union.

## **4. Home affairs, migration and asylum**

We are against "Fortress Europe". Besides being economically beneficial, migration is a historical and natural phenomenon, and it is also a constituting character of European culture. Globalization of the market will bring globalization of fundamental rights and thus freedom of movement. We therefore want to see a harmonized immigration and refugee policy with a liberal right to asylum.

There should be no obstacles inside the EU to free trade and free movement of labour force, private capital and services. To secure the free movement of people, the social rights should be transferable in the member states.

We support the establishment of EU citizenship, which would be complementary to national citizenship.

## **5. Europe in a Globalized world**

Europe's approach to relations with other regions of the world is a challenge of ensuring peace and stability. We believe that the EU must pay particular attention to Europe's new neighboring countries.

EU must recognize our eastern and southern neighbours as a cooperation priority. Increased EU involvement in these countries will support fledgling democracies, prevent the violation of human rights and help develop a free market economy. The EU should be a key player in promoting global governance.

The membership in the European Union must be open to all European countries who comply with the Copenhagen Criteria. The European Union must provide assistance to pre-accession countries to achieve the necessary standards for EU membership.

## **PA 1.13 Resolution on the Future of Europe** **(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.14))**

**WHEREAS:**

- The draft Treaty *establishing a Constitution for Europe* was rejected by referendum in France (29 May 2005) and in the Netherlands (1<sup>st</sup> June 2005) but was approved by a majority of Member States representing a majority of the peoples of Europe
- In the absence of a clear plan B, the European Council decided on 16-17 June to install a *"period of reflection (...) to enable a broad debate to take place in each of our countries, involving citizens, civil society, social partners, national parliaments and political parties"*.
- On 21 September, European Commission President Barroso declared that *"at least for the next two or three years, we will not have a Constitution"*, creating a row of protests.
- Andrew Duff MEP (ALDE) set out to rescue the European Constitution and presented on 13 October a draft report on the period of reflection, to be voted by the EP Plenary next December, whilst Commissioner Margot Wallström launched on the same day the European Commission's "Plan D" (for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate).

**AND CONSIDERING THAT:**

- It is necessary to respect the verdict of those Member States and their peoples which have ratified the Constitution as well as those which have not,
- The 'No' votes appear to have been rather more an expression of dissent at the present state of some Member States, than a specific objection to the constitutional reforms as has been shown by several polls,
- Part I of the draft Treaty strengthens EU parliamentary democracy and the rule of law, anchors fundamental rights, enhances the capacity of the EU to act effectively on the world scene, and forms a suitable constitutional framework for the European Union;
- The European Council failed to give a clear focus to the period of reflection or to define methods, and has been seen to lack both the political will and the capacity to stimulate and manage the European dialogue,
- The European Commission has lacked political leadership to help the Union emerge from its current constitutional difficulties;

**THE EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH – LYMEC:**

- Confirms its wish to see without undue delay a constitutional settlement of the future of Europe: a fully-fledged political union cannot indeed emerge without a prior agreement on a common constitutional framework,
- Supports the Constitution rescue initiative launched and led by Andrew Duff MEP, whilst inviting the ALDE Group to sharpen as much as possible EP recommendations - sometimes too lukewarm - on the possible way out from the period of reflection.
- Calls for a ratification of the constitutional part of the draft Treaty (essentially Part I, which contains a reference to Part II) by popular vote at the occasion of the European Parliament elections of 2009, thereby constituting the first Constitution of Europe's history
- Calls for a separate ratification by national parliaments of the non-constitutional parts of the draft Treaty (essentially Part III, which provides an excellent in-depth summary of the *acquis communautaire*),

- Maintains its long-term vision of a European Federation, with a clear European Government and a bicameral Parliament representing on the one hand the European citizens and on the other hand the European Member States.
- Proposes that a European Constitutional Assembly is elected in 2014 in order to shape a European Constitution that responds to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the coming enlargement of the EU to Turkey.

**AND FURTHERMORE:**

- Welcomes the beginnings of a fresh debate, coordinated by the European Commission, about the controversial issues that surround the future of the EU
- Warns that uncoordinated, narrowly focussed national debates will serve only to harden national stereotypes and accentuate divisions; and an imposed dialogue without political goals will be nebulous, even vacuous, thereby giving rise to public cynicism;
- Asks the ELDR Party to take an active role, together with other European political parties, in this pan-European debate and give a European perspective to this debate

## **PA 1.14 Young liberals' vision for the future of the Council of Europe**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.16))**

*Council of Europe, European Democracy*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

The LYMEC Congress

Whereas:

- The Council of Europe, founded in 1949, is the oldest organisation working for European integration. It is an international organisation with legal personality recognised under public international law and has observer status with the United Nations.
- The main areas of work of the Council of Europe include the protection of democracy, rule of law and human rights, and the promotion of cultural cooperation and diversity, education, youth exchanges and fair sport.
- The Council of Europe gathers 47 European Member States, whereas the European Union now counts 27 Member States and 3 candidate countries. With the exception of Belarus, Kosovo and the Vatican, all European states have now acceded to the Council of Europe.
- Jean-Claude Juncker delivered a report in April 2006 on the relations between the Council of Europe and the European Union at the request of the Heads of State and Government
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the EU and the Council of Europe on 10-11 May 2007, reinforcing cooperation between the two institutions on culture and education as well as on the international enforcement of justice and human rights.
- The European Court of Human Rights is the jewel of the Council of Europe, since every citizen can appeal to it when its basic and fundamental rights have been abused

- The EU is due to accede to the European Convention on Human Rights when the Lisbon Treaty will be ratified by all its Member States.
- There is a substantial overlap between the competences and geographical scope of the Council of Europe and European Union, notably in the context of the growing significance of the EU's Neighbourhood policy and recent EU enlargements.
- The Council of Europe is facing decreasing political relevance for EU Member States in the context of the EU's continuous enlargement
- EU's neighbours, notably in the south of the Mediterranean and Western Asia, would largely benefit from the experience accumulated by the Council of Europe over the past 60 years in the field of human rights (European Convention on Human Rights).

Concludes:

- Since the EU enlargement process is due to last and will not cover the whole European continent in the near future, the Council of Europe should remain the main and most important institution for the protection of democracy, rule of law and human rights, and the promotion of intercultural dialogue and fair sport on the European continent.
- The EU bodies should recognise the Council of Europe as the reference source for human rights and intercultural dialogue in Europe.
- The EU should take all the necessary legal steps in order to adhere to the European Convention on Human Rights as soon as possible, which inter alia passes by the swift ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by all its Member States
- The hierarchy in legal system resulting from EU adhesion to the ECHR should be transparent for all EU citizens
- The Council of Europe should consider the possibility of opening adhesion to the European Convention on Human Rights to non-European EU neighbours such as Southern Mediterranean countries

Asks the LYMEC Bureau and its Member Organisations to:

- Raise political awareness about the significance of the Council of Europe as the reference institution for human rights and intercultural dialogue, and work together with the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe to help achieving this aim
- Issue a statement at the occasion of the Council of Europe's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2009

## **PA 1.15 Resolution on European citizenship – from dream to reality**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.17))**

*European Integration, Future of Europe*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,

Recalling

- That citizenship of the European Union was introduced with the Maastricht Treaty signed in 1992

- That it was further developed with the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1999 and the Treaty of Nice 2001
- That LYMEC in the past has called for true European citizenship time and again Deeply worried
- About the response of the German consul during the Mumbai terror attacks claiming „I can take only the Germans“ when approached for help by fellow EU citizens and even MEPs.
- By the extremely bureaucratic and unhelpful response of the French consulate at the same occasion, not issuing laissez-passer documents to EU citizens
- By the discriminating treatment of EU citizens from Romania in Italy, where national laws have been changed to cater anti-Romanian sentiments

#### Criticizing

- The still ongoing division between “first class” EU citizens from Western European countries and “second” class EU citizens from Eastern European Countries
- Protectionist measures especially in times of crisis

#### Noting that

- the concept of EU citizenship is essential for the emotional connection of Europeans to the EU and therefore for the success of European integration itself
- true EU citizenship needs to become reality in a Union where internal borders become less and less relevant

Calls on EU member states, the European Commission and the European Parliament to strengthen the concept of European Union citizenship by

- refraining from privileging national citizens over EU citizens
- bringing in line the rights of all EU citizens from old and new Member States such as the right to work in all member states as soon as possible
- transforming the de iure right for EU-citizens to protection by the diplomatic or consular authorities of other Member States when in a non-EU Member State into reality
- apprehending EU citizens as equal to national citizens
- including it in the Stockholm Programme which will be adopted under the Swedish Presidency and will set the strategic objectives for the further development of the Union's area of freedom, security and justice from 2010 to 2014.



## **PA 1.16 Resolution on the Presidency of the European Council**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.18))**

*European Council, European Democracy*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

The Young Liberals of Europe, gathered in Sinaia, Romania,

**Considering** the Lisbon Treaty entered into force on the 1st of December 2009 bringing significant changes to the working of the institutions of the European Union.

**Seeing** that one of the most important changes is the new function of President of the European Council.

**That** on the 19<sup>th</sup> of november 2009, Herman Van Rompuy, the former prime minister of Belgium was appointed the first ever President of the European Council.

**Knowing** that this mandate, which lasts for a two and a half year term and is renewable once, is meant to strengthen the EU's position on the international scene as well as to facilitate the cooperation between Member States.

**Taking into account** that the role of the President of the Council is still unclear for many people and that this lack of clarity is enhanced by the fact that there is still a rotating 6 month presidency between Member States.

### **The European Liberal Youth**

- 1) calls on the Member States to clarify and strengthen the role of the President of the European Council
- 2) asks that the rotating presidency between Member States is put to a stop in order to provide the working of the European institutions with much needed transparency and efficiency.

## **PA 1.17 On the European Integration of Iceland**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.19))**

*EU Enlargement, Iceland*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

Considering that:

- On 24 February 2010, the EU Commission recommended opening of accession negotiations with Iceland; 2012 or 2013 as accession year seems possible as Iceland is an EEA member and therefore has already adopted large parts of the *acquis communautaire*;

- Iceland as Europe's second largest fisheries nation (after Norway) in terms of total annual catch volume and one of Europe's most innovative countries (strong research sector; leader in geothermal energy, genetics research, aluminium industry etc.) would be a valuable member of the Community;
- In October 2008, Landsbanki and its subsidiaries defaulted during the Icelandic financial crisis, marking the start of the so-called "Icesave dispute" centred around the roughly 3.2 billion Euro deposited with Dutch and British Landsbanki subsidiaries;
- Under Directive 94/19/EC, incorporated into EEA law, a minimum 20 000 Euro per depositor is guaranteed by national deposit guarantee funds. Such a fund, the Tryggingarsjóður, was established according to the provisions in the Directive by Iceland in 1999. However, it fell far short of covering even 10% of deposits;
- The main legal issue, whether the Icelandic government guarantees these deposits in last resort if the fund fails to honour the guarantees, is unresolved. The same applies to claims that Iceland breached Article 7 TFEU on non-discrimination because it honoured all deposits with Icelandic Landsbanki holdings;
- The EEA Joint parliamentary committee, consisting of four representatives of each EEA country and twelve MEPs of all major EP groups, has acknowledged the lack of clarity in Directive 94/19/EC;
- The Icelandic government, despite the unclear legal situation, always emphasized that it was ready to reimburse the Netherlands and the UK. Nonetheless, negotiations on the terms of the agreement, especially the interest rate of the loan to grant Iceland for repayment, have been difficult;
- The Netherlands and the UK are influenced by the fact that the main depositors were local authorities in both countries which are exempt from their national guarantee schemes because they are seen as being capable of proper risk assessment;
- Furthermore, the UK and the Netherlands have hindered IMF emergency loans to Iceland and are threatening to link the issue to EU accession talks. This pressured Iceland into agreement under unfavourable terms. This was also criticized by the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee;
- The repayment of Icesave deposits to the UK and the Netherlands significantly contribute to Iceland's debt rising from 29% of its GDP in 2007 to over 100%, putting a burden of tens of thousands of Euro on each Icelandic household and hampering future economic growth;
- Hence, Icelandic population has rejected the first agreement negotiated under pressure to obtain IMF loans with 93% after 23% of the population have petitioned with the President to veto it and bring it to a referendum;

- Negotiations are continuing between the Foreign Affairs committees of the three countries;

LYMEC, at its spring 2010 Congress in Sinaia, Romania:

- Welcomes Iceland's ambitions to join the European Union and calls for swift accession negotiations;
- Emphasizes that the icesave dispute is a purely bilateral issue to be resolved by the respective EU/EEA member states;
- Calls upon the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Iceland to negotiate a fair and amicable agreement to resolve the icesave dispute as quickly as possible. Its impact on the Icelandic economy should be a matter of serious concern during the negotiations. If no solution can be found, the matter should be decided upon by the EFTA Court;
- Is firmly against linking the icesave dispute to the accession of Iceland to the European Union;
- Welcomes the European Commission's efforts to review Directive 94/19/EC on deposit guarantee schemes;
- Will introduce a resolution in the spirit of this one at the ELDR congress in Helsinki, Finland in the autumn of 2010.

## **PA 1.18 Resolution on the "Innovation Union" strategy**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.20))**

*European Council, Future of Europe, Education*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress in Ljubljana, November 2010.

European Liberal Students Network

The European Council recently set out the "Europe 2020" agenda – "A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". The strategy was launched in June this year and aims, among other things, to raise the employment rate to 75 %, raising R&D investments to 3 % of GDP and improving education levels.

One important factor in the Europe 2020 agenda is the "Innovation Union" idea, which the Commission set out in early October and presented to ministers from the member states on October 12<sup>th</sup> (see IP/10/1288).

The Innovation Union strategy includes both positive and negative proposals. However, our concern is that the role of universities – and in that, universities with *autonomy* in particular – has largely been left out of the strategy.

Therefore,

Recognizing

- that the aims of the Commission's "Innovation Union" strategy are largely positive,

- that the support for and independent ranking system for universities, the completion of the European Research Area and the increase of R&D investments are particularly positive,
- that there also are proposals in the strategy which are problematic, in particular the Commission setting up a "checklist of the features of successful innovation systems", steering funds towards certain types of innovation ("social innovation", "public procurement of innovative products and services") and using state aid to promote innovation,

#### Believing

- that the recent financial crisis calls for the development of a more innovation-friendly economy in Europe, to strengthen the EU's competitiveness,
- that higher education and research are essential elements in forming fruitful innovation,
- that universities with autonomy to form their own strategies, curricula and fields of specialization are essential arenas for research and innovation to take place,
- that political steering of markets generally hampers the growth of the economy,

We propose that LYMEC calls upon ALDE and the Commission to

- more clearly define the role of universities for research and innovation in the "Innovation Union" strategy,
- not use the said strategy as a tool for further central planning of higher education and research in European countries,
- more clearly recognize in the strategy the need for competition and diversity in the innovation process and as foundations for economic growth.

## **PA 1.19 Urgent resolution on the Noble Prize for Peace awarded to the European Union**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.22))**

*Democracy, Freedom, Civil Liberties, Croatia, Cyprus*

Adopted at The Congress of European Liberal Youth, gathered in Sofia, on 12th-14<sup>th</sup>, October 2012

### **– Considering that**

In the past sixty years, the European Union has been representing the most successful attempt to establish peace, liberty, democracy, rule of law and protection and promotion of human rights on the entire European continent, through establishing peace and reconciliation in the first place among France and Germany;

The European Union has played a very important role as factor of stability in the Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Communist Empire in 1989, opening its doors to the democracies that were born in the next years;

The inclusion of Federal Republic of Germany in the hard core of European Union has clearly helped the reunification of that Country;

Next year Croatia is going to become official member of the European Union, that has demonstrated to be a democratic pole of attraction for the countries of Balkans, giving end to tensions and conflicts in this area;

### **– Remembering that**

the European Union it is not just about the internal market and economics, but it is about promoting the best conditions of life for every of its individual citizen;

every achievement in establishing peace, freedom, democracy, rule of law and protection of human rights could not be considered as perpetual by itself, but requires constant attention and will of politics and civil society to be preserved and enhanced;

in times of economic crisis peace, freedom, democracy, rule of law and protection of human rights could be put not at the top of political agenda, especially by populist and nationalistic parties, like it is happening in Greece with Golden Dawn and could happen everywhere in the Union;

All has been proved recently by the worrying outcomes of the illiberal policies of Hungary;

Nowadays Cyprus is still split in two parts, with no appreciable steps forward on the path of reconciliation and reunification;

The entire liberal family should pay particular attention in avoiding every nationalistic, not democratic and populist involution of EU Member States;

The Mediterranean neighborhood has been tackling the difficult process of affirmation of democracy, freedom, rule of law and protection of human rights, and the European Union has the precise duty to accompany and sustain every effort towards an open society in those States, after decades of bloody dictatorships;

### **Expresses its deep appreciation**

for the decision of the Nobel Prize Committee to laureate the European Union for Peace, proud of being among them who support the European Union as political, economic and social ambitious project to end violence in Europe, as well as example set for the rest of the world, but even conscious of internal and external obstacles that will be faced.

## **PA 1.20 No double standards – the EU needs a frugal budget that invests into the future!**

(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.25))

Adopted at LYMEC Congress, assembled in Ljubljana from 26. -28. November 2010,

- Noting the recent discussion about the EU budget both for the next year as well as for the upcoming multiannual budget timeframe,
- Concerned about the sole focus on raising the income side of the budget rather than reducing the spending side,
- Ashamed by the idea to raise the EU budget in a time when citizens have to endure cuts and austerity budgets in their Member States,
- Dismayed by the fact that the EU still spends over forty percent of the whole budget on agricultural subsidies,
- Knowing of the advantages of lean administration and a state that focuses on its core tasks,
- Convinced of the concept of tax competition in order to provide citizens and companies with the best conditions,
- Certain that the acceptance of the European Union as a whole is closely linked to the public perception it creates about its spending habits, especially in times of austerity,

Reaffirms its commitment to a fiscally responsible European Union.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls

- For a responsible budget that reflects the need to save taxpayers money. The total amount budgeted thus should stay the same for the nearer future.
- Demands the phasing out of subsidies the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Common Fishery Policy (CFP) and investing these funds in education, research, and environmental responsibility, there by establishing a commitment of the Union to intergenerational fairness
- The phase-out of any rebates for any member states.

## **PA 1.21 Resolution on the European Elections 1994**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.27))**

*European Parliament, European Democracy, European Political Parties*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Konstanz, Germany, 20 December 1992

The Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Community:

Asserts that young liberals and radicals are often exploited during the electoral campaigns for the mere purpose of affixing posters or distributing leaflets;

Recalls the need to guarantee a full citizenship and equal opportunities for everybody;

Binds the ELDR party members to reserve at least 5% of their lists to the candidates appointed by liberal and radical youth organizations and ratified by the next LYMEC Congress;

Sets up a committee composed of five members with the aim of picking up pre-nominations and organizing campaigns for young liberals and radicals candidates to the European Parliament.

## **PA 1.22 Give power to the Parliament - the representatives of the people**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.28))**

*European Parliament, European Democracy, European Political Parties*

Adopted at the LYMEC Seminar "Challenge Democracy" in St. Gallen, Switzerland 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2001 and readopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee meeting in St. Gallen, Switzerland the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of October 2001.

LYMEC recognises a democratic deficit at the European level in form of a lack of accountability. In the EU, the most important decisions are primarily negotiated by the Council of Ministers. Instead of being taken by the European Parliament, negotiating and voting takes place behind closed doors. An individual's possibility to influence the political direction of the EU is therefore limited. In addition, the very complex EU institutional structure, which is not easily understood, has a negative impact on the Europeans' interest in the integration project.

To publish the voting results in the Council of Ministers would partially solve the problem. In the long term, however, the solution must be a more powerful European Parliament. The proposal should go from the Commission to the Parliament and then to the Council of Ministers. As today both the Parliament and the Council of Ministers shall vote in favour of a proposal in order to get it carried through. The Parliament should have the right of initiative that gives more power to the people's representatives and enables them to realise the ideas that they were elected for.

A stronger European Parliament would increase the media's coverage of European issues and thereby broaden the public engagement in common affairs.

## **PA 1.23 Internal motion of European Parliament elections of June 2009: European liberal youth's top 3 issues**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.29))**

*European Parliament, European Democracy, European Political Parties*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

Whereas:

- Elections to the European Parliament will be held around the month of June 2009 in the 27-member states of the EU, using varying election days according to local custom.
- Provided that the Treaty of Lisbon is ratified, 496 million Union citizens will elect 751 MEPs, topping the 2004 election which was the biggest trans-national election in history.
- If ratified the Lisbon Treaty will also substantially increase the power of the European Parliament and therefore the relevance of the elections.
- The internal motion approved by the ELDR Congress in October 2007 invites European liberal democrats to put forward a common candidate to the presidency of the European Commission in 2009 and mandates the ELDR Bureau to submit at the next ELDR Congress in 2008 a proposal of political platform on which ELDR member parties could campaign jointly for the European Parliament elections of June 2009.

Considering that:

- European citizens generally lack interest for EP elections, as illustrated by the low levels of turnout, because EP elections have no clear stake: the political party which wins EP elections is not the party that will have the lead over the formation of the European Commission and over its political agenda, and it is not clear who are the European leaders of each political family.
- A political organisation needs to make clear its priorities if it wishes to be clearly identifiable on the political scene: long wordy manifestos of European political parties are not read by the average European citizen and are less effective than a limited list of top priorities on which they would develop a pan-European campaigns
- LYMEC must play a key role in influencing the agenda/manifesto of the ELDR Party for the 2009 EP elections

The LYMEC Congress voted on its top three issues for these elections:

- Reform the EU Budget: scrap the Common Agricultural Policy, set new priorities for the EU budget (specifically: energy security, sustainability, innovation) in preparation for the EU Financial Perspectives 2013-2020
- Promote civil rights across Europe: promote individual rights (minorities, abortion, gay rights, cultural/linguistic rights ...) across borders, strengthen EU data protection policy, make sure that the EU joins the Council of Europe and European Convention on Human Rights
- Build a strong and credible EU foreign and trade policy: a strong and visible EU foreign policy (in the framework of what allows the new Reform treaty), accompanied by a strong EU trade policy

The LYMEC Bureau will focus its political work until June 2009 on these top 3 issues and will develop campaign material related to them. It will also attempt to put these issues as high as possible on the agenda of the ELDR Party for EP elections.



## **PA 1.24 Urgency resolution on the future of the Euro**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.33))**

*Euro, EMU*

**Submitted by:** JOVD

Acknowledging the prosperity, peace and integration that the Euro has brought to the participating member states.

Acknowledging the Euro as an essential tool in European market integration.  
Considering the recent government debt crisis throughout the European Union with average debt approaching 100 percent of GDP.

Considering the recent election results in Greece where anti-European parties on both extreme left and right have gained massive support, as Greece is facing the biggest debt and solvency crisis of all European countries.

Considering the recent election of Francois Hollande as president of France and his unwillingness to comply with earlier agreements.  
Considering the high unemployment in general and especially the increase in youth unemployment creating a generation lacking opportunities to develop and participate in the European market.

Considering we are on a crossroads in the history of the European experiment, where we have run out of money to lend and are running out of time to prevent a collapse of our monetary system.

Considering the bailouts and European Financial Stability Facility have not solved any problem, but have merely created the opportunity for essential reforms to be instated.

Calls on the LYMEC bureau to press ALDE and ELDR to strive for balanced budgets and revitalize the European project through the European stability measures.  
Calls on member organizations to strive for a European future in their respective country

Calls on all Euro member states to work towards a free market monetary system, fiscal solvency and stop further bailouts and financial aid.

## **PA 1.25 Resolution on NATO or the WEU**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.34))**

*European integration, EU's foreign affairs, European Democracy*

Adopted at the Congress of LYMEC held in Paris, France on the 17-19 of January 1992.

The European Community will include in its treaty a common foreign policy. The EC will co-operate in a structure of defence in co-ordination with NATO which must be open for future member states. NATO will strive for a common security system within the CSCE framework.

But before all this, firstly the EC should become fully democratic and federalist:

- at first a constitution should be made,
- the parliament gets defined larger power,
- there will be two parliaments: a parliament chosen by the people and a parliament chosen on a national level,
- the possibility to leave the community should be constituted,
- the possibility to enter the community will be constituted as well as how to apply for it and by what "rules".

According to this last point the Eastern European countries should be able to join the European free market (more than is the case right now); the EC should maintain their policy of helping the Eastern European countries towards European integration, both economically and politically, so that they're free to join the EC.

## **PA 1.26 Resolution "Welcoming Croatia"**

***(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.35))***

*EU Enlargement/Pre-Enlargement, Future of Europe, EU's foreign affairs, Croatia*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> of April 2004

### **Recognising**

- that the Republic of Croatia is a young European state that became independent in 1991;
- that Croatia suffered terrible human losses and material destruction in a war that took place on her territory in the first half of the 1990's;

### **Deploring**

- the abuses of human rights and the undemocratic political climate that existed in the country under the late president Franjo Tudjman, which made impossible for Croatia to engage in negotiating its EU membership sooner;

### **Encouraged**

- by the democratic processes and reforms that have taken place in the country since year 2000 and proud of the important role the liberal parties in Croatia played in the democratic development of the country;

### **Supportive**

- of the path of EU accession and compliance with the EU criteria the Croatian governments have adopted since year 2000;

### **Considering**

- the application for EU membership that Croatia submitted to the European Union on 21 February 2003, and the impetus Croatia's accession to the European Union would give to other countries of South East Europe in achieving the same goals;

The European Liberal Youth – LYMEC – calls

- upon the European Union to grant Croatia the status of an EU candidate country in the course of this year and leave open a realistic chance for Croatia to join the Union as soon as the country complies with the Copenhagen Criteria.

- upon the European Union to respect and obey to the decision that each country applying for EU membership should be judged on the basis of its own merits, regardless of the date of its application and of earlier indications.

## **PA 1.27 On the Signing of the Association Agreement and DCFTA between the EU and Ukraine**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.38))**

Noting that...

- absolute majority of the Ukrainian people share European values and see themselves as a part of the European democratic family;
- Ukraine has undergone significant political transformation since the Orange Revolution and it is important that it continues its way toward a true liberal democracy;
- Ukraine's geopolitical position and its significance to the EU as a strategic partner in the region;

Considering that...

- the Fule conditions put forward by the EU in February 2013 have not been met in full, in particular a new election code and a new law on prosecutor's office that would limit its repressive powers, have been not adopted;
- the Ukrainian Parliament delayed the voting on the bill on the treatment of prisoners abroad that would allow President Yanukovich to let the Ukraine's former Prime Minister Julia Tymoshenko go to Germany for medical treatment;

nevertheless

- a number of political prisoners, including the former Interior Minister Yury Lutsenko and some other members of the Tymoshenko government have been released;
- the Ukrainian government has addressed all the reforms of the Association agenda and the justice system reforms
- Ukraine has put considerable efforts to decrease its energy dependency on Russia Concerned with the growing pressure from Russia on Ukraine, including embargo on the products of the key Ukrainian industries
- a threat to the European integration of Ukraine

LYMEC Calls on...

- its Member Organizations to encourage their respective mother parties to lobby in support of the signing of the Association Agreement and DCFTA between the EU and Ukraine

- the ALDE party and LYMEC Bureau to lobby within the ALDE Group of the European Parliament to support the signing of the EU Association Agreement and DCFTA with Ukraine and to foster the European integration of Ukraine.

## **PA 1.28 Bringing the youth part in agenda the European elections 2014**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.39))**

Considering:

- Less and less young people exercise their voting rights in elections;
- Recent polls show, that the participation rate among young people is half and less the average in European elections;
- More and more people feel alienated from European institutions;
- Youth unemployment is a major issue for all EU member states and EU candidates and potential candidates;

Regretting:

- EU institutions decisions tend not meet the transparency expectancy of EU citizens;
- EC decisions directly affect and increase the alienation of people from the EU decision making process, which reflects on the participation at the EU elections;
- The outcome of all this is the raising mistrust in the European idea as a whole;
- The liberal parties and the liberal ideas are being targeted as a cause for the economic crisis;
- Many populist movements all across Europe exploit these issues for stigmatizing non-locals and fostering xenophobia through hate speech;
- These events are putting an unjustified shadow on the process of EU enlargement;

Acknowledging:

- youth unemployment and correlated youth migration are caused by non-liberal policies and decisions, particularly highly inflexible labour markets;
- Only a liberal approach taking in account all aspects can solve these issues and prevent the stigmatization of old and new Europe and the misuse of hate speech in elections', referenda and various campaigns, which will render the European citizens immune to populist propaganda
- During the European elections 2014 campaign we will face a boom of populist speech, hate speech and anti-European propaganda;
- Many young and qualified people are looking for the best job, that fits their education and qualification outside their homelands;

The European Liberal Youth:

- Welcomes the European Youth Forums' initiative "League of Young Voters" and calls upon its Member Organizations to be more active on national level promoting the national Leagues of Young Voters;
- Calls upon European Parliament, European Commission, Council of EU and other respective stakeholders to bring the European agenda closer to young people and introduce measures for increase of youth participation in the upcoming European elections;
- Call upon ALDE Party and its respective Member organizations to encourage its candidate MEPs regardless their age to be engaged with more youth issues during the European elections campaign and their work in the European Parliament;

## **PA 1.29 FUTURE FIRST! - LYMEC Electoral Manifesto 2014**

***(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.41))***

*LYMEC is a youth organisation that bases its ideas on the philosophy of liberalism. This means that freedom and responsibility are the core principles that guide us in our political thinking. Citizens should be free to make their own decisions and decide about their own future. The national governments and the European Union are there to take care only of what cannot be done by individuals themselves and to enable them to control their own lives.*

*The period of economic crisis in Europe shifted the focus of the political sphere from future development to debate about the causes of the crisis and current reduction of debt. LYMEC urges the Union to change the perspective and create far-sighted policies aiming at the establishment of an environment that creates opportunities for the young citizens of Europe to live, work and grow.*

### ***Let's put future first!***

In the light of the upcoming European elections, LYMEC asks the leaders to change and adapt the European Union to our times! So....

### **Do you know what bothers us the most about the EU?**

#### **1. Bureaucracy and procedures**

**LYMEC calls for institutional reform** that increases the power of citizens and reduces the unaccountable bureaucracy and negotiations behind closed doors. The EU needs a small, efficient and democratically legitimate executive in the Commission and accountable and transparent legislature of a single-seated Parliament, the Council and European Council. Such reforms are independent of any further reduction or enlargement of EU powers.

*The duplication of bureaucratic procedures should be reduced for the EU to act in a more efficient manner, and the democratic accountability of institutions should be reinforced to increase legitimacy.*

## **2. EU budget pie-chart**

**LYMEC calls upon a cut on CAP subsidies, redirecting resources to growth and jobs, enabling the creation of European markets for energy and ICT.** Direct subsidies to agriculture still consume about 30% of the Union's budget. In times of crisis it is unjustifiable that we concentrate so many resources in measures that contribute so little to our economies. Furthermore, such subsidies hinder the effective functioning of a proper market economy. Applying subsidiarity to budget policies, and policy priorities, demands that we focus on sectors in which the EU can bring added value, for instance research and development, education, and infrastructures which enable the emergence of a European market on sectors such as energy and ICT. This will bring more jobs, innovation in fast-growing sectors, energy security and better environment, allowing a greener energy-mix.

*Direct subsidies to agriculture must be phased out and resources must be redirected to market-enabling measures with positive impacts on jobs, growth, sustainability, innovation and consumer rights.*

## **3. Irresponsible spending**

**LYMEC calls upon the reduction of debt, further avoidance of deficit and focus on a balanced budget.** Decades of debt accumulation had a catastrophic effect on our continent's finances. Debt is not only unfair to younger generations, but also unproductive for the economy. Furthermore, it feeds risky financial institutions and threatens the sovereignty of states. Driven by a simple credo - "Saving is investing" - we believe the EU can recover from the crisis and increase its competitiveness on the global market.

*The EU should adopt incentives and rules to encourage States to reinforce responsible budget policies.*

## **4. Hyper-regulation**

**LYMEC calls upon the deregulation of the internal market** and removal of the burdens to production, trade and investment. The enabling of free market, combined with the final completion of the single market will boost the European economy and strengthen the climate for investment. Laws should also be drafted in an increasingly clearer manner, allowing greater legal certainty for citizens, civil society and companies.

*Deregulation and legal simplification will boost the efficiency of SMEs, as a key engine of European economy, and reduce the development of interest groups that use political powers to their benefit.*

## **5. Lack of jobs**

**LYMEC calls upon a deep and comprehensive reform of labour laws** that remove obstacles to young workers and entrepreneurs and will support higher investment in R&D and vocational education, providing the much needed technical skills for our economies. The economic crisis left large parts of Europe with high unemployment rates, especially among the young. To revert this situation we should focus on innovation, labour market reform and education.

*The conservative view of employment and excessive restrictions need to be replaced by flexicurity, wider range of employment types, flexible working time and place, and liberalisation of the labour market.*

#### **6. The occasional attacks on our individual rights and freedoms**

**LYMEC continuously calls upon the legal protection of the moral sovereignty of the individual** and the non-discrimination principle - these principles will remain at the very core of our activity. Liberty is not enough, we need rights. Europeans today are not only diverse in nationality, but also in the way they pursue their own lifestyle. Europe needs to protect this diversity.

*We shall remain vigilant on any violation of gender, sexual orientation, reproductive, religious and political rights in the Union and Europe at large.*

#### **7. Careless approach to cyber-security**

**LYMEC strongly defends the freedom of information and expression, privacy, and individual sovereignty associated with personal data and is aware of the dangers to national security posed by espionage and cyber-warfare.** The internet is a fundamental reality in most of the fields of our lives. The advent of the internet unleashed creative forces and opened amazing roads for freedom and prosperity. It also challenged old concepts dear to us such as privacy, intellectual property and security. This is the area where borders can protect neither states nor individuals. The subsidiarity principle clearly leads us to demand trans-European policies in this area. A particular example is cyber-security, where European states are too small to fight back the currently growing attacks coming from major global players.

*We call for the creation of a European cyber-security strategy leading towards common protection services as an integral (and pioneering) part of a future European defence force.*

### **PA 1.30 – For an independent ECB – monetary stability instead of economic steering**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.42))**

Keywords: ECB, EMU

Observing that

- the European Central Bank has lowered their interest rates from 0,25 to 0,15%
- the ECB has introduced a negative income of -0,1% on ECB deposits

Stressing that

- by using measures of boosting economic stimulus, such as negative interest, and the ECBs past actions of reallocating public debt by buying bonds, the ECB no longer operates as an independent manager of monetary stability
- fighting a crisis of public debt will only worsen the situation by creating an economic bubble based on enforced private debt
- enablement of an upkeep of high public debt, through interest rates considerably below the interest needed for a target of moderate inflation and acquisition of bonds through the ECB, will cause new financial problems in the Eurozone and among European Governments in the long run

LYMEC Youth, at its Congress June 6-7, 2014 in Zagreb, Croatia, appeals to the member parties of ALDE to push for:

- an independent ECB, which focuses on its prime goal of monetary stability and does not abuse its power for economic or fiscal influence on public and private debt.

### **PA 1.31 The revised Dublin III Regulation**

(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.49))

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

#### **Noting that:**

- On 16 November the European Parliament voted in favor of the reform of the Dublin III Regulation
- The Dublin Regulation provides a mechanism for determining which Dublin State is responsible for examining an application for international protection

#### **Considering that:**

- In 2015 and 2016 over one million people came to the EU and it has revealed significant structural weaknesses in the design and implementation of the Dublin III Regulation
- Some Member States have avoided to register refugees according to the first country of entrance criterion leading to secondary movements and thus an unpredictable shift of responsibility
- Some Member states have decided to close their borders due to the disproportionate distribution of applicants
- The current system threatens the rule of law by lacking predictability and a guarantee of safety
- The right to apply for asylum is laid down in the Geneva Convention, which all EU member states have signed
- The revised Dublin Regulation that the European Parliament has proposed aims to correct these shortcomings by establishing a central collection of applications at Union level and a distribution based on the population and GDP of each Member State



**LYMEC calls for:**

- The Council to agree to the revised Dublin Regulation proposed by the European Parliament

**PA 1.32 Resolution on the Future of the European Unity****(Archived in London 2019 (Former 1.01))***Future of Europe, Economic and Monetary Policy, European Integration*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 20th. of December 1992.

**1. Failures a change of the European policy - We have to proceed to new ways**

LYMEC supports the unification of Europe and calls for the ratification of the Maastricht treaty by all the members of the European Community. It would be a major step towards this unity.

The lack of information about the further steps towards the European unity as well as the insufficient participation of the citizens at the elaboration and the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty is responsible for the people's rejection of the Treaty. Also the propensity of many EC-countries to dump their unsolved problems at Brussels and divert from their own incapability by blaming the EC acts in the same way. In addition comes the failure of the responsible politicians who strengthen doubts by anxious arrogant behaviour.

In order to secure the process of the European unification, LYMEC calls for an open minded and unprejudiced dialogue with the citizens and for their broad and early participation on all matters and on all levels. The daily practice shows the danger that the citizens distance themselves from the EC and its political aims because of a lack of communication. Therefore LYMEC strongly supports a free European media initiative in order to develop an European public opinion.

LYMEC salutes the outcomes of the Edinburgh Summit with some reserve on the roll of Denmark as second class member. At the same time it calls on Denmark and the United Kingdom to ratificate the Maastricht Treaty as quickly as possible. LYMEC considers that the Treaty should not be re-negotiated and that countries who do not subscribe to it should leave the EC. LYMEC calls on rapid negotiations with the countries of the EFTA in order to ensure their entry in the EC directly after the political reforms within the EC will be carried out.

LYMEC regrets the decision of the Swiss people not to step in the EES but rejects all special bilateral agreements aimed to overcome this situation.

**2. The lack of democracy how to develop the participation of citizens**

The economic unification is inseparably linked to political unification. LYMEC criticises the insufficient specifications on the shape of the political union in the Maastricht Treaty especially concerning the reform of the European institutions and democratisation of European decision making processes. The image of an incomplete treaty endangers the success of the unification process.

An unequivocal and transparent assignment of competencies is an important contribution to more democracy. It has to appear clearly distinguishable who is responsible for which policies. On each level decision makers have to be controlled by a parliament.

### **3. Where to go the political union as target**

LYMEC calls on the immediate convocation of an EC governmental conference in order to formulate the aim of the political union by developing a proposal of a European constitution.

The European parliament has to receive the full parliamentary rights especially in taking initiatives in elaborating laws and for all matters concerning the budget of the EC. Decision making powers should be given to the regional committee. Beside the regional authorities, it should also include provincial and local corporations.

The regional diversity should be secured and emphasised by a decentralised administration. Majority decisions should always replace consensus decisions in the European Council. The European Commission should be replaced by a European Government elected by and responsible to the European Parliament.

### **4. The economic and monetary union a consequence of the European idea**

The economic and monetary union (EMU) is a logical consequence of the ongoing integration of Europe. Previous to an entry the mentioned convergence criteria of the The Maastricht Treaty must be adhered to strictly. Exceptions due to political reasons should not be allowed in any circumstances. The decision if the criteria are really fulfilled should not only be taken by the national governments.

The EMU gives an impulse to all member states to really fulfil those criteria in foreseeable time. It also enables an enlargement of the EC by states who agree on the economic and political aims of the EC. LYMEC points out that the EMU not only helps to save costs on money exchanges and to remove risks on exchange rates for trades and capital. LYMEC also stresses that the fall away of the risk premium due to uncertain exchange rates helps to reduce interest rates in order to promote investments. Higher transparency on prices improves the position of the consumers.

The independence of European monetary policy has to be guaranteed. This is the only way for member states to break through the vicious circle of inflation due to wage and money policy. Politicians and employers as well as trade unions are urged to act more responsible by orienting the wage and fiscal policy on the given monetary policy.

LYMEC calls on effective mechanisms in order to sanction countries with exceedingly high budget deficits and shadow budgets after having entered the third step of the EMU.

The possibility of the European Council to decide alone on the exchange rates with the currencies of other countries allows a serious attempt on the independence of the money policy. Therefore LYMEC calls on changing the right to consult towards a right to veto for the European Bank concerning monetary decisions of the council.

## **5. The role of Europe in the world in favour of free trade**

The Maastricht Treaty does not correct the tendency to raise trade barriers against non EC countries. LYMEC strongly rejects such tendencies. Only a liberal foreign trade policy can counteract the long term loss of welfare due to protected markets. Therefore LYMEC calls on a more open trade policy towards the East European states. The "European Agreements" must be extended to all Goods.

LYMEC supports the asymmetric reduction of European trade barriers and calls on abolishing the import restriction on Steel and other Goods. The GATT is an important agreement in order to ensure the free trade and the welfare as well as for Europe as for the rest of the world. The compromise of November Reached between the USA and the EC is an important step towards a successful ending of the Uruguay round. Therefore LYMEC calls on all countries not to endanger the discussions with regard to national elections or the protests of some electors.

In this connection LYMEC strongly rejects the criminal acts and threats to commit criminal acts by the farmers and their organisation in protesting against these agreements. LYMEC emphasises that the agricultural policy of the EC is too expensive for the citizens (and prevents other countries from having fair chances to sell their agricultural goods). On the other hand LYMEC rejects the attempts of the USA to pressurise the EC by raising taxes.

## Policy Archive Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens right

### **PA 2.01 – Resolution on Freedom and Democracy in Ukraine**

*Freedom of Expression/Media Freedom, Democracy, Ukraine*

**Considering** that since the last presidential election the Ukrainian government has reaffirmed on several occasions their dedication towards promoting European integration of the country and has shown extensive interest in closer cooperation with the European Union.

**Considering** that the European Institutions thinks of Ukraine as “a country of strategic importance to the EU” and has taken intensive steps to push forward cooperation, especially through the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the Eastern Partnership Initiative and the ongoing negotiations on a new Association Agreement.

**Considering** that the European Union has coupled these measures with the demand of continuous improvement of the situation of human rights as well as the extensive promotion of democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine.

**Whereas** the re-establishment of a presidential system of governance in late 2010 has been followed by several measures undertaken by President Janukowitsch to centralize power within the presidential administration and his own party, the Party of Regions, undermining effective power- sharing and checks and balances within the political system.

**Whereas** it is clear that especially since the presidential elections, politically motivated activity by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and security institutions and the misuse of administrative and judicial resources for political purposes is a serious threat to the development of the rule of law and liberal democracy in Ukraine.

**Whereas** the organization “Reporters without borders” reported that there have been intensive blows against the freedom of press throughout the last year including direct pressure of the Ukrainian state security service SBU on several TV- and radio stations as well as threats against journalists linked with the political opposition.

**Whereas** the frequent monitoring of the Kharkiv Institute for Social Research showed that human rights abuses by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies have significantly increased during the year 2010 and are still at an unacceptable high level today.

**Taking into account** that changes to the electoral law put forward by the presidency of Viktor Janukowitsch have caused a hindrance to the engagement of new established parties in local elections as well as questionable procedures.

**Taking into account** that President Janukowitsch personally initiated legal persecution against several leading members of the former government already accumulated a harsh sentence against former Prime Minister Yulia Timoschenko that is in large part politically motivated. It is particularly worrying that these persecutions are conducted under provision in the criminal code of the country that dates back to Soviet times and are in no way conform to the legal standards promoted by the EU.

**The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC), deeply concerned about the recent curtailing of democracy in Ukraine:**

**Condemns** the sentencing of the opposition politician Yulia Timoshenko as a ridiculous approach by the government of Viktor Janukowitsch to mute political opponents by the usage of judiciary as a tool of political suppression and urges the Ukrainian officials to guaranty fair, independent and transparent in the case of the appeal by Yulia Timoschenko and also in the case of other processes against members of the former Ukrainian Government

**Demands** from the Ukrainian government to proof its dedication towards a further European integration of the country by taking immediate measures to guarantee freedom of media, freedom of political participation, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression as well as by taking decisive steps to prevent and investigate human rights violations by law enforcement agencies and the state security service.

**Urges** the Ukrainian government to follow the recommendations of the Venice Commission and OSCE in the process of drafting a fair and transparent election law and to cooperate with EU institutions on the issue of judicial reform in a more effective way.

**Welcomes** the 7<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> October resolutions of the European Parliament on the issue of the deterioration of democratic political and juridical processes in the country and the support which the ALDE group has given in the European Parliament.

**Calls** on the European Institutions to constantly remind the Ukrainian government of their obligations towards implementing a fair, democratic and transparent political system in all possible diplomatic ways and suggests more direct measures such as the temporary suspension of EU programs and consultations with Ukrainian institutions in case there is no improvement of the situation in the near future.

**Calls** on the LYMEC member organizations to use their political networks to raise support for the causes of democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and political freedom in Ukraine.

**Calls** the LYMEC Bureau to ensure our concerns are heard in the ELDR Party

## **PA 2.02 – Resolution on a Liberal Asylum Policy**

### *Refugees and Asylum Policies*

Adopted by the LYMEC Congress, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April 2001, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- Regretfully, as citizens of the EU have gained in freedom new walls have been built against countries outside.
- When proposing a liberal policy for refugee and immigration policy in the EU, actions should be taken to promote the possibilities to move freely inside the Union and to enter and leave the Union as easily as possible. The vision is to have no borders at all, all refugees should get adequate protection and immigration should be open for all individuals.
- Stressing the importance of asylum seekers having access to the refugee determination process. The current trend with visa requirements and carrier sanctions, the fundamental right to seek asylum, which is a prerequisite of being granted refugee status, is being denied.
- Noting that immigrants and refugees do not have the same background and the same needs. Therefore these two groups must be dealt differently. Today many people who are immigrants do not have a legal possibility to enter an EU country and must either resort to the help of smugglers or pretend to be refugees. This is very negative for the public support for receiving refugees, but this does not mean that the EU and its member states should increase their efforts to stop immigrants.

### **LYMEC:**

**Calls** on the member states to respect the Geneva Convention on Refugees.

Persecution originating from non-state actors should be recognized by all EU member states. The Dublin convention cannot be used as an excuse to transfer refugee seekers in violation of international standards. Sending states should be obliged to use the sovereignty clause available in the Dublin convention and process the refugee claim when the responsible, receiving state uses a higher threshold on the definition of refugee status.

**Calls** on the EU to abolish demands on visa for potential refugee seekers. Visa requirements should either be abolished or be replaced by temporary refugee visas available at embassies in the country of origin.

**Calls** on the EU and its member states to refrain from carrier sanctions, forcing transportation companies to act as refugee authorities. They are not skilled to perform refugee determination and it is not proper that privately employed personnel will act as government officials.

**Calls** on the EU to introduce a common system of asylum policy. The Dublin convention does not promote burden sharing, the effect of the convention is that border states will have increased responsibility.

**Acknowledges** the fact that no country is safe. All states have the potential of violating human rights. The emerging practice of labelling states as safe must be abandoned by the EU and its member states. The Spanish Protocol should be declared as no longer binding.

Given that the results of this debate in a EU level will be discussed during the Belgian Presidency in the second semester of the year 2001, the LYMEC Congress asks to its Bureau to forward this resolution to our liberal leaders.

## **PA 2.03 Resolution on Privacy**

*PNR, Privacy, Civil Rights, Data*

LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,

Since 9/11 and with the so called 'war on terror' we have seen an escalation in the violation of our privacy rights. There are increasing numbers of cameras in streets, ships, in public buildings and even on buses. The mobile phone, internet and financial

transactions of all European citizens are recorded and retained by law. Cameras can

be used for security reasons, but if we put up cameras with no limitations we risk that video being recorded for other purposes than security.

In the EU, the retention of airline Passenger Name Records (PNR) has already violated

our right to privacy. Files are created for each journey that any passenger books.

They

are stored in the airlines reservation and departure control databases that different agents from the air industry can access. In addition, the passenger's reservation data

is available for investigation.

This LYMEC congress:

- Calls on decision-makers at all levels of power to respect privacy as an individual right, to respect the rule of law and to strictly apply the principles of proportionality, necessity and subsidiarity in designing rules affecting the privacy of individuals and organizations.
- Calls on the LYMEC bureau to fight against any EU regulation that would not follow these principles, and asks LYMEC Member Organisations to do the same at national and local level.

## **PA 2.04 Strengthening and harmonizing European data protection**

**Keywords:** Data protection, privacy, digital economy

### **Considering that**

- EU regulations on the use of personal data were last updated in 1995.
- Companies can currently shop around to place their headquarters in EU countries with the weakest regulations on data protection.
- The EU is currently negotiating the legislation on data protection, which was a LYMEC top priority for the EP of 2009-2014.
- The potential of boosting the EU economy with 2.3€ billion annually by harmonizing data protection rules.

### **Believing that**

- Personal data is sensitive knowledge about an individual, and is thus both private property and a part of protecting the privacy of individuals.
- Digitalization has enormous potential for growth and welfare, but that there is also an increased risk of abuse and fraud.
- The use of data can be very useful for research and such data should be available for scientific purposes.
- The ongoing negotiations between the EU and the US on a free-trade agreement are of crucial importance for EU and US consumers.

### **Stressing that**

- 92% of Europeans say they are concerned about mobile apps collecting their data without their consent ([http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-14-186\\_da.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-186_da.htm)).
- Data is a fundamental resource in the digitalized economy.

### **LYMEC therefore calls upon the ALDE Group to work for**

- Ensuring that personal property in the charter of human rights includes personal data.
- The use of data should be extremely limited when it comes to services that you cannot practically live without, given digitalization.
- Ensure that medical data is anonymized and available for research all over the EU.
- The right to be forgotten should be respected as much as practically possible.
- When merging companies, the amount of personal data they own should be considered from a monopoly perspective.
- Establish a common regulation for the protection of personal data in all member states.
- That effective data protection must be a result of the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.
- When a company is hit by a leak of user data, it must inform users of the leak.
- Establish a standing committee in the European Parliament that continuously evaluates and scrutinises the legislation in the area of data protection.

## **PA 2.05 LYMEC Condemns Recent Violence in Azerbaijan**

*Civil Liberties, Electoral Competitions, Democracy, Azerbaijan*



Deeply concerned by the use of violence against an approved rally on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005 by the Azeri police,  
 Recalling our Election Observation Mission to Azerbaijan that included 33 international observers,  
 Noting that the conclusions of our Election Observation Mission were in line with those of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),  
 Troubled by European governments' failure to take a firm stance on the legitimacy of the elections and the rights of opposition groups to political expression,  
 Saluting the courage, determination and responsibility of the leaders and activists of the democratic bloc,

1. Strongly condemns the use of violence against a peaceful demonstration of democratic activists;
2. Calls upon the Central Election Commission to implement the recommendations issued by the Election Observation Mission;
3. Demands the immediate release of democratic opposition activists under detention by the Azeri security forces;
4. Further demands that the Azeri authorities discontinue all illegitimate pressure upon youth organisations and their members, especially in educational institutions;
5. Urges the continuation of the democratic bloc of Azadliq, YeS and the National Unity Movement;
6. Further calls upon the European Union to use all non-violent means to pressure the President and Government of Azerbaijan into complying with international standards of democracy and political rights;
7. Encourages the Bureau and Member Organisations to further develop relations with liberal groups in Azerbaijan;
8. Resolves to deepen engagement in Azerbaijan towards the goal of ensuring democratic Presidential elections in 2007.

## **PA 2.06 Stop the Political Persecution of Young Activists in Armenia**

*Political Prisoners, Civil Liberties, Justice, Armenia*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

### **Stop the political persecution of young activists in Armenia**

- Underlining the importance of political pluralism for the development of a free society in Armenia;
- Stressing the continuous detention of young Armenian National Movement Youth Association Board Member Tigran Arakelyan and the ongoing political persecution of three other Armenian activists;
- Emphasizing the commitment of LYMEC to the preservation of European values.

### **The European Liberal Youth:**

1. Calls on the Armenian authorities to release Tigran Arakelyan immediately and unconditionally and to stop political persecution against three other young activists Artak Karapetyan, Sargis Gevorgyan and Davit Kiramijyan;
2. Calls on ELDR and other parties in Europe to treat this issue as priority in meetings and dialogues with the Armenian authorities;
3. Encourages LYMEC member organizations to call on their mother parties to raise this issue when dealing with representatives of the Armenian authorities.

## **PA 2.07 Urgent Resolution on Turkey's Violation of Human Rights**

*Human Rights, Turkey*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Helsingborg, Sweden on the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of March 1997.

### **Stating that:**

- Turkey has been accepted as a member of the customs union with the European Union with the restriction that Turkey would improve the human rights situation immediately.

### **Considering that:**

- Turkey is still violating human rights.
- The situation has become worse instead of better since Turkey entered the customs union with the European Union on 13 December 1995, exemplified by the situation with the Kurds.

### **Noting:**

- The adopted resolution on Turkey by the European Parliament on 24 October 1996.

### **The Congress:**

- Strongly supports the freezing of financial support of the European Union to Turkey to establish the customs union.
- Support the resolution of the European Parliament.
- Implores the European Parliament to remain critical and strict in financial help to Turkey until the human rights situation has improved and to suspend the customs union if the human rights situation will not improve.
- Can not envision Turkey becoming a full member of the European Union until all human rights violations are stopped.
- Calls on Turkey to improve the human rights situation immediately.

## **PA 2.08 Crime Knows No Borders**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.01))**

*Organized Crime*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 - 6 April 2003.

**ascertains,**

- the approaching enlargement of the European Union (EU)
- the fact that possibility for pursuing of criminals beyond the own borders is dependent on bilateral agreements,
- the lack of these bilateral agreements between many EU countries,
- a EU without borders,
- that criminality more and more transcends national borders,

**considers,**

- that security is an important political subject, especially in the current political climate,
- that internal security does not stop at the national borders
- that without security citizens can't feel free,

**having regarded these considerations, LYMEC declares,**

- that there should be a common EU policy concerning the pursuing of criminals beyond national borders.

## **PA 2.09 Save the European Court of Human Rights**

### **(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.03))**

*Civil Liberties, Democracy*

Lymec would like to express its deep concern at a number of measures currently being proposed to reform the European Court of Human Rights. Some suggested measures are most welcome, including enhancing state responsibility for implementing the Court's judgments and improving the procedures for selection of judicial candidates at national level.

However, other proposals currently contained in the draft declaration to be agreed at the Brighton Conference from 18-20 April pose a serious risk to the ability of the Court to safeguard democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. In particular, restricting the right to access the Court runs contrary to the very purpose of EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, which is to improve accountability and to ensure that victims unable to get redress at the national level can have an effective remedy.

The impact of such measures will be particularly detrimental for victims in those countries without independent and effective judiciaries. While the number of applications awaiting a decision by the Court is unacceptably high, reforms introduced by Protocol no. 14 to the Convention have surpassed expectations in accelerating the resolution of cases. Several reforms which could further increase efficiency have yet to take full effect.

In view of these considerations we urge governments not to proceed with further reform of the Convention at this time. Rather we encourage them to allow existing reforms to take full effect and support the Court by providing the necessary resources to ensure their complete success. We also urge governments to pay

greater heed to their existing legal obligations under the Convention. The number of victims requiring recourse to the Court will be significantly reduced by properly implementing Court judgments, and by creating effective national protection mechanisms.

## **PA 2.10 Act on ACTA** **(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.05))**

*Civil Liberties, Privacy*

**Submitted by:** LLJ, LVSV, LUF, RU, JOVD

### **Considering that:**

- ACTA has brought a widespread concern for the state of internet privacy and property rights all over Europe
- Public involvement in drafting the treaty was not sufficient, as some countries have signed, others some refuses and some countries even regret their signature
- The creation of a new governing body outside existing structures for the protection of the IP would bring an additional financial burden for the EU
- Protection of intellectual property rights are currently being watched by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

### **Recognizing:**

- The importance of private property for europeans and their ability to create wealth
- Authors' right to be rewarded for their work
- The changing internet environment which requires a renewed approach towards intellectual property rights
- The EU should speak with one, strong voice when talking part in multilateral agreements
- The protection of intellectual property rights can never compromise the fundamental values forming democracy and the right to privacy

### **LYMEC, at its congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, calls for:**

- United efforts by liberals within the frameworks of the international liberal organizations to protect civil liberties, such as privacy, internet privacy and property rights
- Its member organisations to bring the topic into discussion in their respective mother parties and countries
- The European Parliament to vote against the treaty in the upcoming EP session
- A broader ideological debate amongst liberals on the future of intellectual property rights
- Ensure all European citizens are granted with the same rights in order to view that content around Europe

## **PA 2.11 Towards a Common Migration Policy**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.08))**

*Migration & VISA Policies*

Adopted by the LYMEC Congress, 7 - 8 April 2001, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

The Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union (LYMEC)

Having regard to the Article 63 (Title IV) of the Treaty establishing the European Community in a consolidated version with the incorporation of changes made by the Treaty of Amsterdam, signed on 2 October 1997.

Having regard to the conclusions of Tampere European Council, which sets out for the development of a common EU policy in the separate but closely related issues of asylum and migration.

- Whereas the demographic situation in the EU has changed significantly, but in contrast to the overall world situation, two trends are particularly striking: a slowdown in population growth and a marked rise in the average age of the population. That general trend is also produced among all the Central and Eastern European countries. In that situation, across the EU as a whole, it is net migration that has become the principal component of population growth
- Stressing the need to focus on a worrying growth in skills shortages and mismatches in supply and demand for labour, and the fact that immigration can be in itself an effective way to deal with labour market imbalances, including skill shortages; although the number of migrants in the labour force with low or no qualifications has been increasing since 1992 because they are meeting a demand in some specific sectors
- Noting the existence of traffic and exploitation of Human beings within the EU
- Reminding that immigration is in most cases beneficial for all parties. With increasing regulations and discrimination on the labour market immigrants have been marginalised and trapped by unemployment and dependency on the welfare state. With a liberal policy for the welfare state and the labour market this would change.
- Acknowledging that the free movement of people regardless of former borders between European States is one of the most remarkable and positive achievements of the European Union.

LYMEC Proposes:

- It is essential to co-ordinate, to achieve and to ensure the transparency, within an EU framework, of migration policies and actions which at the moment are carried out by Member States since they have an effect on other areas of EU policy (abolition of controls at internal borders...). That will provide a background for the formulation of commonly agreed aims for channels of legal immigration. The European Parliament must acquire a central role in the definition of this immigration policy and the Commission in the achieving process.
- Calls on the EU to approximate its 15 national legislations in a liberal direction on the conditions for admission and residence of third country nationals. The law should be based on a shared assessment of the economic (labour

demand) and demographic developments within the Union, as well as the situation in the countries of origin.

- Calls on the EU to ensure fair treatment of third country nationals and irregular people who reside on its territory. A more intensive integration policy should be achieved, so that it could be guaranteed their rights and obligations comparable to those of EU citizens. It should also enhance non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural life. Calls the EU to take steps in order to prevent and combat racism and xenophobia and consolidate an area of freedom, security and justice.
- Calls on the EU to strengthen the partnership and co-operation with countries of origin, developing co-operation programmes for local and regional development
- This more open and transparent immigration policy would be accompanied by strengthening of efforts to combat smuggling and trafficking, especially by ensuring the application of labour legislation with respect to the third country nationals.

Given that the results of this debate at a EU level will be discussed during the Belgian Presidency in the second semester of the year 2001, the LYMEC Congress asks its Bureau to forward this resolution to our liberal leaders.

## **PA 2.12 Resolution on the EU Visa Regime**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.09))**

*Freedom of movement of persons*

Adopted by the LYMEC Congress in Barcelona, 3 December 2000

The Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union

**Believes** that free movement between countries is one of the most basic elements of European integration.

**Believes** that free movement of people between the candidate states and the European Union should form a natural part of the enlargement process and that it must be promoted.

**Notes** that the European Union opened membership negotiations with Bulgaria and Romania in February 2000 and that Turkey was recognised as a candidate state in December 1999.

**Notes** that a visa is still required for citizens of these countries to visit the European Union, whereas the visa regimes for all other candidate states were lifted already a long time ago.

**Considers** that the current visa regimes towards Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey show a clear lack of willingness on the part of the member states to proceed with the enlargement.

**Notes** that it is extremely difficult for many citizens of the candidate countries to obtain a visa for the EU member states, as embassies are reluctant and the application process very time-consuming.

**Calls on the member states of the European Union to immediately lift the visa regime for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.**

**Calls on the member states of the European Union never to impose visa regimes on countries that are candidates for membership in the Union.**

## **PA 2.13 Tear Down Fortress Europe**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.10))**

*Migration & VISA Policies*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

### **Whereas**

- Migration has always been a part and fundamental right of human nature.
- Europeans within the European Union have benefited greatly from the four freedoms of movements, allowing free movement within the Union.
- During the first three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century 19 million Europeans were allowed to migrate to the USA in pursuit of a better life for themselves, but Europe today remains closed to those who are now seeking a better life in Europe.

### **Observing that**

- Europe has a declining population and is facing a labour shortage.
- Migrants seeking happiness in Europe are met with walls and coast guard patrols.
- Thousands of people die each year trying to reach European shores.
- Those who make it to Europe must live as illegals in a society which benefits from their contributions but refuses to give them rights as citizens.

### **Considering that**

- Only a small increase in labour migration could generate 150 billion USD per year worldwide, according to the United Nations Human Development Report 2005.

### **Declaring that**

- The pursuit of happiness is a fundamental liberal right.
- Borders are nothing but barriers for human activity.

### **LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls for the European Union to**

- Introduce a job-seeker visa, allowing people to come to Europe in order to look for a job.
- Develop a plan for reducing visa restrictions and the number of countries that need a visa to enter the EU.
- Open up for free labour migration, granting everyone who is offered a job in Europe work and residence permits.

## **PA 2.14 A Common Approach to Asylum Policy**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.11))**

*Refugees and Asylum Policies*

LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,

Considering that:

- There is currently quite different conditions for asylum in EU member states, both in terms of the fundamental aspects of entitlement to seek asylum, but also differences in which groups are entitled to asylum.
- There are great differences concerning rights - and the extent to which rights applies - to receive education, healthcare, language training and the right to work.
- The Dublin II Regulation – that currently governs the European Asylum Policy – stipulates that it is possible to seek asylum only in the EU-country where the asylum seeker first arrives.
- Even though a European refugee definition exists there is great variance in the way this definition is applied.
- There are still great disparities in the psychological and physical environment for asylum seekers between EU member states.

Believing that:

- Migration is a historical and natural phenomenon, and it is also a constituting character of European culture.
- It is illogical that persecuted people must be forced into a second game on their future.
- A national competition on strict rules in order to discourage asylum seekers from choosing one country over another cannot be tolerated within the European Union.
- Circumstances for asylum seekers must be bettered in the countries where the conditions are worst.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth concludes that:

- The rules in the Member States with regards to conditions for asylum should be harmonized.
- EU Member States must follow the same practice on the criteria for the rights seek asylum.
- The EU should work towards a common asylum policy and a standardization of minimum rights which must contain rules on:
  - The right to education and access to the labor market as long as the claim to asylum is being processed
  - Minimum housing
  - The right to health care and psychological assistance.



## **PA 2.15 A Liberal Commitment to Common Border Management**

### **(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.12))**

*Migration & VISA Policies, FRONTEX*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

#### **Considering that:**

- currently the responsibility of managing the external borders of the EU is very unevenly distributed especially in terms of dealing with migration to the EU from non-member states
- Italy has fought the problem on its own, by making a bilateral agreement with Libya, making it possible to return all immigrants to Libya before they make it to Italy
- The EU have already laid the cornerstones for a common management of the external borders and immigration through FRONTEX and the Dublin II regulation

#### **Believing that:**

- Although the Dublin Regulation is an honest effort to harmonize the EU asylum process, it has failed to work. The law looks upon the EU as a whole, but the practice of the law doesn't. This puts refugees in a legally unsafe position, where equality of law doesn't exist.
- Both EU border control and immigration are responsibilities of the EU as a whole
- Migration is a historical and natural phenomenon
- Managing the EU borders should not be delegated to non-EU countries
- All immigrants are assets to the EU
- There has been an increase in the number of detention centres for foreign nationals in member states and at their borders, and a growing number of reports of frequent human rights violations within these detention centres.
- According to Eurostat, there were, in 2008, nearly 240,000 asylum applicants registered in the EU. This translates to 480 applicants per million inhabitants. The country with the largest number of asylum applications per million inhabitants was Malta (6,350), followed by Cyprus (4,370), Sweden (2,710), Greece (1,775), Austria (1,530) and Belgium (1,495). Out of 193,690 first instance decisions on asylum applicants, there were 141,730 rejections (73% of decisions).
- The pursuit of happiness is a fundamental liberal right
- Migration is beneficial not only for the migrants themselves, but also for both the country they arrive in as well as the country they left behind.

#### **Concerned about**

The fact that, since 2002, readmission clauses have been included in most bilateral agreements concluded by the EU with third countries, including trade agreements, thus resulting in increasing externalisation of the Union's migration policy

#### **Defending**

The principle of non-refoulement, as enshrined in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; that is that no refugee shall be expelled or returned, against his or her will, in any manner whatsoever, to a territory where he or she fears persecution.

**LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls on:**

- The EU to abolish the Dublin Regulation
- The EU to work together to even out the differences in financial responsibility of member states in managing the external border in order to make sure that no country feels that it is necessary to outsource border control to non-EU countries.
- All EU member states to contribute financially to the task of managing immigrants and asylum seekers
- Urges the respective governments and the EU to work towards an end of opt-outs from Justice and Home Affairs, such as the UK and Denmark currently have, and to extend the Schengen zone to all EU member States in order for a Common Border Management to be effective.
- The EU to form an immigration policy that views immigrants as assets, considering the shortage of labour force that will happen in the future.
- The Commission and the member states to introduce effective, long-term legal migration policies, as well as ensure genuine access to EU territory and to a procedure for more flexible and coordinated rules governing asylum seekers, rather than focus all their efforts on preventing illegal immigration.
- All EU member states to monitor the living and integration conditions of individuals repatriated to countries of origin and of transit and to take measures to provide those individuals with appropriate assistance.
- All EU member states to adhere to Council Directive 2003/9/EC on minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers in member states, and for the Commission to rigorously enforce these standards.
- The setting up of an independent verification body at a European level with responsibility for supervision of detention centres as regards the protection of human rights, in accordance with European Parliament resolution 2007/2145(INI) on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union 2004-2008.

## **PA 2.16 A Truly European Asylum System**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.15))**

*Refugees and Asylum Policies*

**Proposed by:** JuLis – Junge Liberale

**Considering** the right for asylum a fundamental human right;

**Being convinced** that its functioning implementation can only be accomplished within a truly European policy framework;

**Noting** that the approaches made towards European asylum policy, especially the Dublin-II regulation, were but a manifestation of national asylum policies;

**Noting with deep concern** that the situation of refugees in Greece is becoming worse and worse and can be called a humanitarian crisis;

**Recognizing** that the latest decision of the European Court to forbid deportations of refugees to Greece, has accounted for this circumstance. Contradicting with the "one state only" principle manifested in the Dublin-II regulation, it has further exposed the weaknesses of the Dublin-II regulation and European asylum policy in general,

**LYMEC therefore,**

**Demands** for the abolishment of the Dublin-II regulation and an end to the nationalization of asylum policy in general;

**Proposes** the constitution of a European Agency for Asylum and Migration responsible for the examining of asylum applications. This agency has the responsibility to coordinate the national asylum agencies, increase the efficiency and grant for the rights of refugees by consistently applying existing European standards. In an area with common borders and freedom of movement, there is no need for 27 different asylum procedures and agencies;

**Concludes** the replacement of the "one state only" principle with a more flexible system for asylum policy. Situations like the one in Greece must be avoided in the future. In no other way can the European Union comply with its own standards.

## **PA 2.17 Resolution on a Liberal Gender Policy**

**(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.18))**

*Gender and Sexual Rights, Civil Liberties, Social Rights*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Executive committee in Stockholm, Sweden on the 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2003

We, as young liberals, **believe** that in a liberal society, equal opportunities are an important part of democracy. We therefore stress the need for a liberal gender policy.

There is a clear need for having *fair representation* of genders in different areas of life - research, business, labour market and not least in decision-making.

Gender equality and respect is a way towards more liberal and open-minded values in our society.

LYMEC believes that equality is best achieved by **putting gender policies in the mainstream of politics** where it is made an objective of policies in all areas.

A truly liberal gender policy should therefore take its starting point at the individual human being and her or his rights, regardless of gender.

A liberal gender policy should cherish the differences, not try to apply a **stereotype** of gender.

A liberal gender policy shall set clear goals for how to ensure a better representation of the least represented gender in **all** spheres of life.

### **Labour market**

We, as young liberals, feel that there should be no stereo-typing between genders. Equal work is equal pay. *Financial independence* is important for individuals.

We encourage the European governments to introduce a burden-shared maternity/paternity leave policy that ensures that all companies support the policy regardless of the gender of their employees. We further encourage that the possibility for paternity leave is increased; this is another important step and signal on the way towards gender equality.

### **Sexual autonomy**

We believe in the right to sexual autonomy and the sovereignty of the individual of his or her body. Rape and other violation of this right should not only be punished, but also fought against by increasing awareness and changing attitudes.

We strongly condemn all discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in any aspect of society.

We believe that it is important to guarantee open access to reproductive health services for everyone. We further believe that everybody should be considered for child adoption regardless of their family structure. No one should be discriminated on *a priori* and the decision should be determined by the best interests of the child, not by prejudice.

### **Gender Policies in a Global perspective**

Drawing on the statistics from the United Nations Development Projects (UNDP) it is obvious that women are underrepresented in the democratic process and are less valued in many countries.

We have to underline that it is crucial that we in these societies start a new and revitalised debate about equality, otherwise the patriarchal nature of society will be reproduced for generations. *Equal education and empowerment of women* is crucial in this respect.

We believe that the UN Millennium Development goals constitute a valuable basis for moving towards a liberal gender policy in the world.

We believe that education is a key for achieving gender equality. Therefore we strongly support the convention of the child that calls for the right to education for all children.

We believe that the empowerment of women will play a crucial role in the process of elimination of poverty. An elimination of poverty, a general economic and social development and democratization is in our view an important first step towards gender equality.

Furthermore, it is necessary that the legal framework of many of these countries are changed in the near future so that they will be based on individuals.

### **Political life**

We stress the importance of an active presence of both genders in politics. There is a need for participation and representation of both genders in decision-making bodies in order to ensure well-balanced decisions that reflect those societies they legislate for.

We therefore encourage and urge a promotion of fair representation at all levels of society, as we believe that the encouragement and the belief in any persons ability to fill a certain function in the political system is much more important and successful in the long term than quotas or positive discrimination.

### **A clear 'No' to quotas**

For a liberal gender policy quotas are a contradiction. We believe that people should be chosen according to their merits not because they do or do not belong to a certain gender, ethnic group, sexual orientation or other related significance.

We as young liberals believe that encouragement and tolerance is the best way to ensure an implementation of a liberal gender policy based on equal opportunities and fair representation.

### **In our own member organisations**

Therefore, LYMEC calls upon member organisations to:

- encourage and promote the least represented gender within their organisations as it makes politics more representative, the political outcome more balanced and the results more sustainable.

## **PA 2.18 Recognition of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as a Policy in LYMEC**

***(Archived in London 2019 (Former 2.19))***

*Gender and Sexual Rights, Civil Liberties, Social Rights*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

### **Considering that:**

- 1) MDG 5 (to improve maternal health by 75% by 2015) is the most off track of all the millennium development goals (MDGs). No significant progress has been made since 1990. By 2006 the ratio of maternal mortality declined by only 6%; (UNFPA-Guttmacher - adding it up 2009)
- 2) About 20 million have unsafe abortions each year, and three million of the estimated 8.5 million who need care for subsequent health complications do

- not receive it. 70000 women die of the consequences of unsafe abortions every year; (UNFPA - *Guttmacher adding it up 2009*);
- 3) There are 33 million people in the world living with HIV, and there is an annual 8 million shortfall in condoms needed to provide adequate protection (IPPF - *contraception at a crossroad 2009*);
  - 4) Even though HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights are interlinked, it seems that budget allocations have favoured HIV/AIDS and neglected sexual and reproductive health and rights;
    - Sex education and access to family planning is integral to reducing maternal mortality rates and the number of unsafe abortions;

**Believing that :**

- Everyone, including young people, has the right to make free and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive lives. this includes the right to information, services, and supplies necessary to implement those choices;
- Youth participation in decision is essential, taking into account the largest youth population in the world's history - one in four people are under 25 years old and 1.06 billion people are aged between 19 and 25;
- It is not possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), especially the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, if we do not tackle reproductive health issues; as a crucial part of economic development. This means intensifying efforts to promote women's rights, gender equality and implement greater investment in education and health, including reproductive health and family planning; and promoting the economic independence and empowerment of women;
- Everyone, independently of his/her sexual orientation, is entitled to attain the highest standards of sexual and reproductive health and express his/her sexual identity free from coercion and criminalisation;

**Concludes that:**

- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights should be promoted as well as an element of equal opportunity and development;
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) should be eradicated entirely where it exists worldwide;
- Meeting the unmet need for Family Planning and providing the recommended package of maternal health care is cost effective: It saves the lives of the mother and the child, and saves society money for medical care.

**Calls upon :**

- The LYMEC bureau to properly propagate the Cairo Programme of Action (where goals and demands on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights are described and explained) at ELDR Congress in Finland,
- The LYMEC bureau to publicly promote Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights policies through campaigns

## **PA 2.19 Resolution on Ending the Discrimination of Young Gays and Lesbians in the Accession Countries**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.11))***

*Gender and Sexual Rights, Civil Liberties, Social Rights*

Adopted by the Congress in Romania in March 2002.

### **LYMEC:**

NOTES, that the situation concerning the discrimination of gay, lesbian and bi-sexuals in many of the current European Union member states has greatly improved and progress has been made to reach equality for the law.

TAKES NOTE, that some of the European Union candidate countries continue to violate through laws and policies the human rights of homosexuals and bisexuals.

FURTHER NOTES, that Joke Swiebel MEP, the Chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights in a recent meeting of the International Gay and Lesbian Youth Organisation in January in Ljubljana has repeated a warning that the European Parliament will not ratify accession agreements of the candidate countries that "through its legislation or policies violates the human rights of lesbians and gay men."

FURTHER NOTES, that LYMEC's manifesto clearly states that through our main value of liberty we favour: "equal rights and equality towards the law; the sovereignty and inviolability of the individual; tolerance" and not to forget "respect for fundamental human rights."

CONSIDERS, that often youth issues, including those of gay, lesbian and bi-sexual, are not taken into account when human rights are discussed in the accession process.

FURTHER CONSIDERS, that liberals are not in favour of special rights but demand human rights for all.

FURTHER CONSIDERS, that discrimination of any social group is the concern of all who believe in and fight for equality.

ACCORDINGLY WE URGE, the governments of the accession countries to repeal ALL existing discriminatory laws and provide new laws to actively protect lesbian and gay youth from discrimination.

WE FURTHER URGE, that the European institutions enforce and enlarge its existing anti-discrimination policy and not accept any candidate country for accession which doesn't respect the basic human rights of lesbian and gay youth.

AND FINALLY THE CONGRESS OF LYMEC MANDATES, the Bureau and the Executive Committee of LYMEC to forward this resolution to the Presidency of the European Council and the ELDR Group in the European Parliament.

## **PA 2.20 Freedom of Expression Is Core to a Liberal Society**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.12))***

*Freedom of Expression, Civil Rights, Democracy*

THE CONGRESS OF LYMEC,

*Deeply concerned* by the violent protests directed against Denmark and other European states over the publication of cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed in the Jyllands-Posten and other newspapers,

*Recalling* our fundamental belief in the principles of freedom of expression and freedom of the press,

*Noting* that the price of freedom of expression is the publication of material that may be offensive to some groups,

*Believing* that offence cannot justify violence but that mutual respect is a prerequisite of a liberal society,

*Troubled* by the muted response of European governments when Member States citizens and diplomatic missions came under attack,

1. Strongly condemns the resort to violence of protests around the world, particularly that directed against European citizens, diplomatic missions and businesses;
2. Strongly supports the refusal of the Danish government to intervene in the free press
3. Condemns the failure of European governments to show greater support and solidarity with Denmark and other members states;
4. Calls upon governments in those countries that have seen violent protests, notably in Syria and Iran, to take greater steps to fulfil their obligations to protect European citizens, diplomatic missions and businesses now and in the future;
5. Reaffirms that the appropriate way to fight an offence is through the judicial system;
6. Urges all those in a position of responsibility in the media to show respect for the beliefs of all citizens;
7. Further calls upon the European Union to show greater leadership in defending the freedom of Expression in the future;
8. Resolves to continue to fight for freedom of expression, one of the foundations of a liberal society, in Europe and the wider world.



## **PA 2.21 No Naked Scanners!**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.12))***

*Security, Civil Rights, Privacy*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress, 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, Sinaia, Romania  
LYMEC Congress, Assembled in Sinaia from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010,  
reacting to the public debate about so-called “full body scanners”, also known as  
naked scanners, that enable operators to see a naked-like picture of the person  
scanned,  
aware of the necessity to protect air passengers,  
taking into account that naked scanners not only show concealed objects, but also  
breast enlargements, prostheses such as artificial limbs, body piercings and a clear  
black-and-white outline of passengers' genitals,  
taking into account the fact that the sometimes mentioned “new generation” of  
those scanners does not show certain parts of the body simply by obfuscating them  
by software rather than by hardware, and that in those parts naturally no hidden  
objects would be found, therefore these “new generation” scanners are no  
improvement in security at all,  
taking into consideration that the long term health effects of both technical types of  
naked scanners developed (millimetre wave scanners and backscatter scanners)  
on persons exposed to them on a regular basis, such as frequent flyers, are not  
known at all,  
aware that the money that would be spent on these extremely expensive scanners  
could be used to employ many additional security officers,  
considers the obligatory use of naked scanners on airports (and other public spaces)  
in the European Union as intrusive, unproportional and not helpful.  
Rather than exposing citizens to such devices, LYMEC calls for a true improvement of  
airport security standards by more and better trained security personnel, rigid  
external testing and assessment of the measures applied as well as for allowing more  
time to actually do meaningful checks.

Therefore, LYMEC calls on the ALDE group in the European Parliament as well as the  
ELDR party and its members in national parliaments to vote against the introduction  
of before-mentioned devices. Our clear message is: No naked scanners!

## **PA 2.22 The situation of Human Rights in Russia**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.18))***

*Human Rights, Civil Rights, Russian Federation*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress on the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

### **Whereas**

- the Russian Federation repetitively violates basic human rights that have been agreed upon in the European Convention, including right of assembly and freedom of speech;

- the Russian Federation is an important trade partner to the European Union;

**Noting that**

- the preparations for the Winter Olympics 2014 worsen the situation for many individuals in the Sochi region;

**Recognizing**

- the important role of the Council of Europe ensuring dialogue and safeguarding of human rights;

**Aware of**

- the fact that Pussy Riot's arrest should not be considered as a single case, but as one of many related to the violations of human rights and decent rule of law;

**Considering that**

- civil society is increasingly playing a bigger role - trying to start a dialogue with the government;
- is however not greeted warmly, but with several new regulations limiting their options;
- the Russian Federation seems to slowly turn its back on the cooperation in the Council of Europe.

**Stresses out**

- that European political engagement should include economic, legal and humanitarian cooperation.

**LYMEC Calls upon**

- the European Union to keep repeating their concerns on human rights violations;
- the European Parliament to continue and expand their support to civil society in the Russian Federation
- the IOC to address the human rights violations to the government of the Russian Federation during the preparations of the Winter Olympics 2014
- LYMEC MOs to raise awareness of the situation within their organizations.

## **PA 2.23 Resolution on Belgrade Pride**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.19))***

*Sexuality, Civil Rights, Serbia*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress on the 12th – 14th October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

*By MLDP, MHNS, MLD, YMRF, TNL, CSL, LIDEM, LPYO*

**Having in mind**

- that Belgrade pride was cancelled in 2011 and 2012 and that during Belgrade pride in 2001 and 2010 pride opponents demolished Belgrade city center and organized attacks on pride supporters;
- that the attacks on members of LGBT community is in constant increase;

- the lack of communication between institutions and members of LGBT organizations.

#### **The European Liberal Youth:**

4. Urges on respective governments of EU member states to use more diplomatic efforts influencing the Serbian government to open dialogue with the representatives of LGBT organizations.
5. Urges on respective government of the Republic of Serbia to find a sustainable model for promoting and protecting LGBT rights through legislation;
6. Urges on respective LGBT organization to show more commitment towards common goals and engage in joint action and cooperate on organizing Pride events.

## **PA 2.24 Resolution on Turkish Interference in Fosterage**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.20))***

*Human Rights, Sexuality, Civil Rights, Turkey*

**Summary:** a recent case of Dutch-Turkish relations calls for a focus on basic human rights, including equal rights and equal chances for all.

**Background information** A Dutch boy, Yunus, was placed under care of foster parents by order of the Dutch Court, due to child abuse by his biological parents. The foster parents are two lesbian mothers. The biological mother is supported by the Turkish government in the legal battle to reclaim Yunus. LYMEC should condemn the behaviour of the Turkish government, especially in the light of potential EU membership.

#### **Noting that:**

- Yunus was placed under care of foster parents due to child abuse by his biological parents,
- Yunus is a full member of the Dutch society, that he has the Dutch nationality and that he is subject to Dutch law;
- there is a shortage of foster parents in the Netherlands and in Europe as a whole;
- the Turkish prime minister Erdogan has demanded the removal of Yunus from his gay foster parents;
- the Turkish government has demanded to be involved in all future cases regarding foster children with Turkish roots;
- Erdogan has called upon the European Court of Human Rights in an effort to have him returned to his biological parents;

#### **Considering that:**

- equal rights are fundamental in a liberal society;
- as long as they apply to the general rules, couples should have the right to be (foster) parents, regardless of sexual orientation;
- children should not be abused by political or diplomatic struggles;
- the Turkish government has disrespected the sovereignty of a foreign entity;

**- Stressing out that the child's rights and protection should be the only concern of State's authorities in case of fosterage**

**LYMEC, gathered in Tallinn on 27 April 2013, condemns** the actions of the Turkish government, expresses its admiration for every foster parent inside and outside Europe, and emphasises the pursuit of equal rights for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation.

## **PA 2.25 Freedom from Rape**

**(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.22): New Resolution Introduced)**

*Campaign, Human Rights*

LYMEC condemns sexual attacks on girls and women. Several cases of sexualised violence against women have recently emerged and created outrage. The rape of women who have not been able to protect themselves has led to death in several cases. This is at a time where human rights and equality is considered universal.

The gang rape of a 23 year old student in the beginning of December 2012 sparked protests in India to call for the police to be more vigilant and sensitive towards assaults. The violence of the attack was so severe that the victim died of her injuries in hospital shortly afterwards. This shocked Indian society and has led to a raised awareness of human rights violations against women, especially the many cases of sexual violence.

Women have experienced sexual harassment while using public transportation in countries such as Egypt and Japan. The problem transcends economic development issues, and is in essence a human crisis.

This problem is not exclusively in India. In Egypt and Japan women have had problems using public transportation whilst being sexually harassed. Many European countries, including Norway rank high on the international rape statistics. This shows that the problem is not in India but worldwide.

Although rape is a worldwide issue, LYMEC reaffirm our claim that the particularly critical situation in India has to change. Indian society will need to intervene in order to stop these horrifying attacks. The acceptance of violation of women's rights needs to be stopped.

We call on European society to raise awareness and to play an active part in showing dismay with the violation of women's rights. We must remove the stigma so that it is easier to speak about the issues related to sexual violence and harassment. More resources should be allocated to the rehabilitation of sexual abuse victims. Women should not have to live in fear of being raped.

LYMEC calls upon

- LYMEC /ALDE Women's Network to work with sister organisations in India to respond to the crisis of rape
- IFLRY to launch a specific campaign on women's rights and rape prevention
- LYMEC Bureau to prepare postcards and send these to Indian Embassies across the EU

## **PA 2.26 A Call for a Change in Vatican Policy**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.24))***

*Religion, Modernization of Society, Vatican*

*LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,*

In March 2009 the Vatican found itself once again surrounded in controversy. On the 4th of March, a nine year old girl in Brazil had an abortion after being raped by her stepfather. The church responded by having the girl, her mother and the doctors who participated in the procedure excommunicated while allowing the stepfather to stay in the Church.

Considering that

- The incident of the treatment of the nine year old girl and the other involved parties is just one of many manifestations of the Catholic Church's unbending stance when it comes to abortion.
- The Catholic Church's stance on abortion becomes more and more out of touch with those of its members and of public opinion in general.
- The Catholic Church still holds considerable influence over public policies and people's lives, especially in Africa and Latin America.

Believing that

- Each person has the right over his or her own body.
- By pursuing the Catholic Church to review its position on abortion and adopt a more accepting stance, women's rights in terms of individual autonomy would be forcefully advanced throughout large parts of the Catholic world.

Therefore LYMEC

- Thoroughly condemns the Catholic Church for its treatment of members who participate in abortions.
- Criticises the Vatican position on abortion.

## **PA 2.27 Stop the Islamophobia and Respect Religious Diversity**

**(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.25))**

*Religion, Modernization of Society, Rejection of Anti-Liberal Policies*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

### **Considering that**

- respect of freedom of thought and religious diversity is a core liberal value, as well as freedom of expression;
- about 1,5 billion Muslims in the world cannot be generalized nor blamed for the horrific terrorist attacks by radical Islamists in recent times. Many Muslims in the Western world have felt hatred towards them originating in the failure to realize the important distinction between a Muslim and a radical Islamist.
- many European countries have experienced a great increase in the migration from Muslim countries in the last decades, and Europe has become a more multireligious society, however, struggling with xenophobia;

### **Whereas**

- 57 percent voted for a minaret ban in Switzerland in a referendum with a 53 percent turnout;
- Minarets inflict no harm, however, the hazardous populists used a ban of minarets as a part of their anti-Islam campaign;
- the anti-Islamic sentiment is increasing in the public debate in Europe;
- France is banning religious symbols, and several European nations are currently discussing similar propositions;
- multi religious countries such as Norway, United Kingdom, Denmark, and Iceland still have a state religion;
- the freedom of expression and freedom of religion allows government employees in many European countries to wear religious symbols at work, such as in schools, in the military, in the police and in the bureaucracy, as long as it does not prevent them from executing their tasks;

### **Believing that**

- the state should be secular, individuals have the freedom of expression and religious freedom as long as it is not harmful against others;

### **Noting that**

- minarets, hijab and Muslim faith as such, do not damage fellow citizens, therefore no one should have the right to restrict individual Muslims' freedom as long as they do not harm others;
- there cannot be a successful coexistence in Europe without mutual understanding between religious believers of any confession, as well as atheists and agnostics;
- Scapegoating by targeting one specific religion is a highly unacceptable practice as all religions in Europe should have the same standing before the law.

**LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon**

- 1) nation states and the EU to go against ban of religious symbols that are not harmful to fellow citizens;
- 2) governments and the EU to adhere from institutional display of religious symbols in public schools and universities, while recognising the right of any individual to display their private religious affiliation;
- 3) nation states to emphasize education on religion as a historical, and cultural phenomenon and general discussions on ethics, free of any preaching, in order to create mutual understanding;
- 4) the LYMEC Bureau to promote towards ELDR and ALDE, the importance for liberals to work against anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe, or any other religion, and promote a Europe where religious diversity is respected.
- 5) the EU and the nation states to respect the freedom of expression and freedom of religion for their government employees, therefore allowing them to wear religious symbols at work, such as in schools, in the military, in the police and in the bureaucracy, as long as it does not prevent them from executing their tasks in a normal way;
- 6) countries to respect the religious diversity and become a secular state, therefore refraining from state religions and separate the state from the church (or any other religious bodies);

## **PA 2.28 True Religious Freedom in the EU**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.26))***

*Religion, Modernization of Society, Rejection of Anti-Liberal Policies*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 12<sup>th</sup> October – 14<sup>st</sup> October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

### **Considering that**

- An increase in discrimination and violation of the principle of religious freedom is occurring in Europe
- A number of countries within the European Union, have passed laws regulating the right to wear religious symbols

### **Believing that**

- Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right
- The right to carry religious symbols is an essential part of this freedom
- The prohibition of any religious practice that is of no harm to other individuals or society in general cannot be justified in a liberal and democratic society
- No European citizen shall be discriminated through prohibitions in the labor market or educational system

### **LYMEC calls for**

- The European Commission to bring those countries before the European Court of Justice on account of breaking with the Charter of Fundamental Rights for the European Union (§1 and 2 of article 10)

- The governments of these countries to abolish these discriminating prohibitions and adhere to the fundamental principles of a modern, secularized and liberal society

## **PA 2.29 Resolution on Democracy in the Italian Republic**

**(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.27))**

*Democracy, Civil Liberties, Electoral Competitions, Italy*

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting, held in Gummersbach, Germany on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1994. (Was sent to the Italian Government, the "Progressive" coalition, the "Pact for Italy" centre coalition, the European Parliament and the ELDR Party)

A spate of politically motivated physical attacks, mostly directed against Communist militants and offices, is the most recent example in a series of worrying signs from Italy, following the accession of the Fascist party - the renamed Alleanza Nazionale - to power.

Following an all too familiar pattern, grassroots extremism and political violence, which the government will not repress promptly, go hand in hand with formal disavowment of violence and token declarations of allegiance to democracy on the part of party officials.

Nevertheless, even statements by senior Fascist officials and leaders are growing less and less cautious. Statements to the effect that homosexuality should be criminalized and gays and lesbians put into concentration camps. The glorification of Mussolini's family policies as "the best thing an Italian politician ever did for women", or of his overall work as that of "the greatest statesman Italy had in this century". Calls for revision of Italy's national borders. These claims range from the illiberal to the outright barbaric, can not be justified and show just what the National Alliance mean when they call themselves "post-Fascist": something wholly indistinguishable from Fascism.

At the same time, the self-styled "Liberal-democratic" wing of the government Forza Italia, is doing nothing to counter accusations that it is improperly handling the media. After using his virtual monopoly of private television networks to win two elections, Mr. Berlusconi is trying to gain direct control over the state television RAI, which he resents being "too critical" towards his government. In these attempts, he pays no heed to either the laws on media promulgated by the Ciampi government, or the EU directives on media.

LYMEC Executive Committee, meeting on the 2nd of July 1994 in Gummersbach, Germany:

### **EXPRESSES**

- its worries for the state of democracy in Italy

### **DECLARES**



- That it is morally and politically unacceptable for Democrats, particularly "Liberals", to work with Fascist or Racist Forces in any circumstances;
- That all men and women are born free and equal, and that Fascism is not simply "outdated", but it is to be rejected wholeheartedly and uncompromisingly;

#### **AFFIRMS**

- The right of all political forces and activists to organise and campaign using democratic and peaceful means without fear of violence;
- Its solidarity to all democratic Italian political forces committed to the cause of liberty, democracy and the freedom of information, regardless of their political orientation;

#### **STRESSES**

- The vital role of pluralistic media;

#### **CALLS ON**

- The European Parliament to monitor closely the state of democracy and the state of the freedom of information in Italy, and to expect a strict application of the EU directives in this field, notably with regards to limits to concentrated media ownership and to concentrated advertising revenue control;
- European Liberals and radicals and their political organisations to:
- Support the European Parliament in this task in any possible way. · Demand respect of the democratic principles and of the freedom of information in Italy and everywhere
- Avoid active co-operation with the Berlusconi government until this condition is satisfied
- Reject any attempt of Fascist forces to be legitimised and seen as potential partners in a democratic government
- Isolate Fascist and avoid co-operation with those who co-operate with them actively
- Actively support the independent media in Italy

### **PA 2.30 On the new Hungarian Constitution Democracy** *(Archived*

*Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.28))*

*Political Rights, Freedom of Expression, Hungary*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

#### **Considering that**

on 17 April 2011 the Hungarian Parliament passed a new constitution according to which a new budgetary council is to be elected for a nine-year period by the parliament;

#### **Alarmed by**

the fact that this budgetary council can declare a budget passed by parliament to be null and void at any time;

**Also alarmed by** the new powers given to the president to dissolve parliament if the country has not passed a budget by 30 March of each year;

**The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC):**

**Is convinced that** that through these rules, the national-conservative party FIDESZ, undermines the democratic institutions of the country by manifesting its power far beyond this legislative period as the new budgetary council would be in power until the end of this decade;

**Is worried** that the new constitution will worsen the rights of minorities in the country;

**Is concerned** that the new constitution also limits the possibilities of the constitutional court for judicial review as from 2012 on, not every Hungarian can call upon the constitutional court and the constitutional court will also be stripped of its powers to deal with matters concerning the budget;

**Is also concerned** that the dubious preamble could be used as pretence against the freedom of expression by defining god, Christianity and the pride in a millennium of Hungarian history as legally binding symbols;

**Strongly believes** in Article 2 of the Treaty of Lisbon stating that the EU is "founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity, and equality between women and men prevail;"

**Calls upon** Member States, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council to initiate procedures according to Article 7 of the Treaty in order to determine "the existence of a serious and persistent breach by a Member State of the values referred to in Article 2" and to take further measures if such a breach is identified; and finally

**Calls upon** the LYMEC Bureau to submit a resolution in the above spirit to the next ELDR congress against independent judiciaries deprived of their function and against democratic principles being significantly undermined in the case no action is taken by the European Institutions during the next months.

## **PA 2.31 Urgent Resolution on Bulgaria**

*(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.29))*

*Democracy, Electoral Competitions, Bulgaria*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Helsingborg, Sweden on the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of March 1997.

### **Noting:**

- The political tensed situation in Bulgaria
- The recent peaceful protests against the regime of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP)
- The support and active participation of the Bulgarian Liberal Parties (the Radical-Democratic Party, the Union "New Choice" and the party "New Democracy")
- That the early national elections will be held in April 1997

### **We are convinced that:**

- The protest against the usurpation of the whole power by the ruling majority of the Bulgarian socialists is a sacred liberal right.
- The formation of the next cabinet by the BSP would have been impossible taking into account the drastic violation of the social contract between the rulers and voters.
- The Bulgarian Socialist Party has not only delimited itself from their predecessors - the communists - but has accumulated a new and large managerial and political guilt vis-à-vis the people after 1989.
- After the national elections in April 1997 local elections are necessary.
- Prior to the elections a programme government has to be formed.
- This cabinet should ensure the start of the economic stabilisation and should create optimal conditions for the running of the elections.
- The programme cabinet could obtain a mandate only after a political agreement to break out of the crisis.

### **We Support:**

- The Bulgarian liberal parties to participate as a liberal coalition in the next elections.

### **We Demand:**

- Technical and financial support of the European Union to help with the upcoming elections and to build up the country afterwards.

## **PA 2.32 Resolution on Present Situation in the Russian Federation**

*(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.30))*

*Electoral Competitions, Democracy, Russia*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Executive committee in Stockholm, Sweden on the 28th – 30th of November 2003

The Executive Committee:

Welcoming the award of the Liberal International Prize for Freedom to Grigory Yavlinsky, the leader of the Russian liberal party Yabloko,

Concerned by the lack of transparency in local and regional elections,

Worried about the prospects for free and fair national elections,

Deeply concerned about the growing influence of security agencies in the political process,

Further concerned by the lack of independent media in Russia and political pressure applied to the remaining independent media organisations,

Noting the continuing conflict in Chechnya and international concerns about continuing human rights violations,

Further notes the arrest and detention of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and concerned that this may be determined by political motivations,

Condemns the confiscation of election materials from the headquarters of Yabloko and harassment of its members and leadership;

Calls for greater transparency in local, regional and national elections and the use of international monitors;

Strongly urges the ELDR group to raise the issue both in the European Parliament and the Council of Europe;

Requests that the ELDR group consider proposing the temporary suspension of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe if concerns about the democratic process are not adequately answered.

**PA 2.33 The Political Situation in the Russian Federation**  
***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.31))***

Resolution adopted at the Executive Committee in Rome, 3-5 December 2004

The LYMEC Executive Committee

*Deeply concerned* by the move away from democracy in the Russian Federation,

*Noting* the shift towards an authoritarian regime under President Vladimir Putin,

*Further concerned* by the concentration of political power in the Kremlin,

*Disturbed* by the disintegration of civil and political opposition,

*Worried* by the deterioration of civil liberties and the strengthening of political control of the media,

1. *Declare* their solidarity with Yabloko Youth in their protests against the present government;
2. *Support* civil opposition action in the face of police repression;
3. *Condemn* the persecution of Yabloko Youth by the Russian authorities;
4. *Call upon* all international youth organizations to exert all possible pressure on the Russian authorities to end their campaign of persecution against Russian opposition members.

## **PA 2.34 Blasphemy is a right, freedom is not a crime!**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.43)) (Updated through adoption of Freedom of Belief)***

*Approved in the Congress of Rotterdam, May 2015*

*Keywords: blasphemy, religious freedom, terrorism*

### **Considering:**

- The attacks directed both at free speech and Jewish population in early 2015 in Paris (against a satirical magazine and a kosher supermarket) and in Copenhagen (against a public debate on freedom of expression and a synagogue);
- The growing waves of Islamophobia in Europe, with clear examples such as the PEGIDA demonstrations, and the persistent Christianophobia in Muslim countries;
- The return to our continent of an aggressive anti-Semitism;
- The re-appropriation of several Christian conservative and radical movements of the Charlie Hebdo tragedy, and the alliance of forces of several religious

confessions against the right to criticize religion under the disguise of cultural respect;

**Remembering:**

- That religious freedom is a cornerstone of Liberalism and was a constitutive element of the Enlightenment movement that gave birth to our modern, democratic, pluralistic and secularized societies;
- That religions are social ideologies, no better or worse than any other political or economical schools of thought, or philosophical lines of thinking, such as Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism, Capitalism, Communism, Ecologism, etc.;
- That criticizing religions, and ridiculing them, cannot be forbidden in a Liberal society;
- That criticism may never incite violence.
- Non-followers of any religion are under-represented and are not heard in social consultations by governments and international organizations.

**Stating that:**

- A Liberal state is a state with absolute and unequivocal organic separation of state and religion, where the state does not determine the content of religion and religion does not affect the governance of the state;
- A Liberal society is one where everyone is absolutely free to believe in whatever one might choose, which does not imply that such choices should be imposed on others;
- Religious freedom does not mean the right to attack with physical violence, or appeal to others to exert physical violence;
- The law must be equal for all, and that religions and religious believers are not entitled to request legal privileges or impose them on others; parallel legal systems of religious nature must not be recognized under national law.
- There is a growing number of non-religious individuals who do not have an adequate representation and recognition of their right not to believe.

**LYMEC, the European Liberal Youth, gathering at its Spring Congress of 2015 in Rotterdam:**

- Calls on States not to fund any religious organization, or, alternatively, if so doing, fund all religious and non-religious groups alike, on the basis of clearly scrutinizable criteria (such as national census) and with clear requirements with regards to the respect of basic human rights and acceptance of peaceful interaction with other social groups, forbidding any funding coming from States that do not respect religious pluralism;
- Calls on States to guarantee freedom of speech in Europe, by removing legal restrictions, on religious grounds or otherwise, including but not limited to blasphemy and lese-majesty laws;
- Affirms that freedom of conscience and freedom of expression are not manifestations of a supposed Western culture, but universal aspirations to freedom of all rational beings and rejects any return of blasphemy laws under the false premises of cultural relativism;
- Appeals to European institutions to cease giving a privileged position to religious groups and integrate representatives from non-religious international organizations in social dialogue.

## **PA 2.35 Capital Punishment in Belarus**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.17))***

*Democracy, Human Rights, Civil Rights, Belarus*

Submitted by: JD, JOVD, JuLis, IMS Kseniya Shedova

Appalled by

- the recent execution of the death penalty against Dzmitry Kanavalau and Uladzislau Kvalyou in Belarus in March 2012 for their supposed involvement with the 11th of April subway-bombing in Minsk, 2011

Concerned with

- the decency of the trial received by these men that was not conformal in any way with the European Convention on Human Rights
- the rush the capital punishment was performed in
- the fact that the convicted did not have the right for appeal, for a more detailed revision of their case

Believing that

- since the complaint of Uladzislau Kavaliou has not yet been considered by the UN Committee on Human Rights, the execution of the death penalty was a violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Belarus.
- the death penalty is an ineffective and absolutely unacceptable form of punishment.
- each suspect has the right to a decent and transparent trial with sufficient time for appeals and an independent justice system that holds up to basic international standards.
- these sentences are one of the many things happening in Belarus at the moment that show that the regime of President Lukashenka is determined to continue its authoritarian and inhuman policies.

Recalling

- LYMEC Resolution on the situation in Belarus from the Congress in Utrecht, May 29 11
- the IFLRY Resolutions on the situation in Belarus from the Executive Committee in Timisoara, July 2011 and the General Assembly in Istanbul, December 2011.

Calls upon LYMEC and its member organizations to:

- speak out against and raise awareness for the injustice of the capital punishment performed in Belarus on a regular base and specifically in March 2012.
- keep a close eye on the evolution of the situation in Belarus.

## **PA 2.36 Urgent Resolution on the Presidential Elections in Belarus** **(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.32))**

*Civil Liberties, Electoral Competitions, Democracy, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia*

The Congress of LYMEC ,

- having regard OSCE Election Observation Mission Statement of preliminary findings and conclusions on the presidential election in Belarus, 19 March 2006, declaring that the elections are unfair and flawed with harassment of opposition activists, biased media coverage and obstruction of independent monitors;

- having regard that LYMEC Election Observation Mission participants were not granted visas or were refused entry into the country;

- whereas the official statement by the observer mission from the Russian-led Commonwealth of Independent States stated that the election was open and transparent;

- whereas the referendum of October 17, 2004, eliminating presidential term limits, and enabling Lukashenko to run for the third term, was announced fraudulent and not fulfilling the international standards by the opposition and international observers;

- whereas on the eve of the election, the climate of fear and insecurity was created by KGB making a statement associating the opposition and civil society groups with terrorism and resulted in physical assaults, fraud of opposition activists, their arrests and imprisonment –

- whereas the election campaign was conducted in restricted conditions with lack of media access for opposition campaigners;

- points out that democratic principles and constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of expression, association and assembly were largely violated by Belarusian authorities, abandoning democratic principles and engaging in human rights abuses;

- condemns the government's pressure applied to state employees and students, with regard to their right to engage in the political process, including cases of threatening such as loss of employment or expulsion from university;

- condemns the obstruction of LYMEC Election observation mission participants and views it as an endeavour to avoid international scrutiny and suppress democratic opposition;

- condemns the arrest of peaceful pro-democracy protestors from October Square on March 24th, 2006 and calls on EU to pressure Belarus to release all political prisoners, and to end all violations of freedom of expression and of the right of peaceful assembly;



- points out the efforts of Russia in striving to retain influence in Eastern Europe, supporting Lukashenko regime as a guarantee to keep Minsk in Moscow's sphere of control and congratulating Lukashenko with the results of the elections and the triumphant victory of the dictator
- calls EU to support the development of a conscious civil society by encouraging and supporting NGOs and pro-democracy activists; more European and international NGO's should establish in Minsk; cultural and educational exchange between youth from Belarus and EU should be promoted, EU should create more targeted programmes of scholarships, visits and placements for NGO's, human rights and minority activists;
- calls on EU to support independent media by investing in the development of radio and TV broadcast to Belarus, independent media organizations and printing of independent newspapers inside and outside Belarus;
- endorses the EU to impose stronger restrictive sanctions by applying visa restrictions for the representatives of the regime, also targeting chairs and members of electoral commissions, heads of military, police, etc. The list of the banned persons should be made public via EU and independent websites.
- encourages the EU to identify and freeze the bank accounts and other assets of senior officials of the Belorussian regime; however the economic sanctions and targeted trade restrictions should be only applied with careful analysis, not to harm the ordinary people of Belarus;
- states that the EU should focus also on further development of its Neighbourhood policy in Ukraine and Moldova in order for the Belarusian's to acknowledge what improvements might be achieved in closer relations with the EU as an alternative to present isolation.

### **PA 2.37 Young Liberals for a Free Belarus** **(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.33))**

*Civil Liberties, Electoral Competitions, Democracy, Belarus*

Whereas:

- The situation in Belarus is highly worrying with the further increasing restrictions of the Lukashenka's regime to the opposition activists.
- The general elections are anticipated to be held in 2008. However the uncertainty about the exact date of the election restrains the opposition to act on the campaign for the elections.
- LYMEC has two member organizations being applicant members in Belarus, as well as many organizations working with partners in Belarus. However the different activities of member organizations in Belarus have not been coordinated enough recently.

Noting that:

- Discussions took place in line with LYMEC Congress in Berlin in May 2007 regarding the possibilities to coordinate young liberals support for the liberal opposition in Belarus. These discussions were followed by a meeting in Vilnius August 2007 that gathered many of the liberal youth organizations that are active in helping the opposition.

- The meeting including the liberal Belarusian opposition represented by Civil Forum has indicated the following problems that the Belarusian opposition face in their work:

- Since most of the activities so far has been focused on raising awareness we all agreed that it is important to focus more on strengthening liberal youth organizations inside Belarus;
- The society in Belarus cannot freely access the unbiased information through independent media, which causes lack of political awareness and knowledge of the society and political youth activists;
- In order to effectively reach the grass roots in the society the Belarusian opposition has expressed a need of trainings on public relations and media technologies;
- A better information float through different channels of information and information offices are necessary;
- There is a need to work on human right protection especially through permanent political monitoring;

Therefore the Executive Committee of LYMEC – European liberal youth:

- Proposes to create a „*Young Liberals for a Free Belarus*” Forum. The forum will be run by a board consisting of representatives of the most active organizations working in Belarus, as well as by one representative from the LYMEC bureau and one representative from the IFLRY bureau. This Forum will be aimed at coordinating the work of LYMEC and IFLRY member organizations with regard to Belarus.

The tasks of the crated forum shall include the following:

- Facilitating the member organizations work in Belarus through a database with activities
- Organizing meetings twice a year focusing on possibilities for joint initiatives in Belarus
- Facilitate continuous discussions on how to help the liberal youth of Belarus
- Spreading information about our partners in Belarus to the member organizations
- Organizing joint fact finding missions to Belarus

- Asks the LYMEC bureau to start taking the first steps towards formalizing such a forum.

## **PA 2.38 Resolution on the Political Situation in Belarus**

**(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.34))**

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

**CONSIDERING THAT** the Belarusian government pledged to consider recommendations made by OSCE and ODIHR for the improvement of the electoral process and the electoral law to make it compliant with international standards prior to the 2010 elections.

**CONSIDERING THAT** representatives of the Lukashenko regime promised free and fair elections as well as equal rights for the opposition candidates to representatives of the European Union and its member states on several occasions.

**CONSIDERING THAT** the European Union took steps to deepen its relations with Belarus reaffirmed by the Prague Declaration of the Eastern Partnership summit and pledged to take further initiative based on Belarus' commitment to a free and fair electoral process.

**WHEREAS** the OSCE/OHDIHR statement made clear that while some minor improvements were reached the elections didn't meet basic compliancy with international standards and were overshadowed by grave irregularities especially during the Election Day.

**WHEREAS** the government reacted on peaceful demonstrations against on the eve of elections with a violent crackdown by special police forces and KGB when more than 700 participants were detained including 6 of the opposition candidates, some of them severely injured from beatings and stabbings by security forces.

**WHEREAS** Repression and violence against candidates, opposition- and civil society activists and human rights defenders continued throughout the next days and was still taking place on several occasions during the last weeks, notably on the Belarusian Freedom Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

**WHEREAS** several opposition- and civil society activists still remain in prison awaiting trials for "participation in actions of mass disorder and armed resistance", including former presidential candidates Mikalai Statkevich and Andrei Sannikov.

**WHEREAS** several participants in the demonstrations, including youth activists Zmitser Dashkevich and Eduard Lobau, were already sentenced to prison sentences of up to 4 years while others are facing sentences of up to 15 years in maximum-security prisons.

**LYMEC in support of a free and democratic Belarus:**

<b>CONDEMNS</b>	the bold irregularities and pure frauds that led to the reelection of Aljaksandr Lukaschenka as Belarusian president.
<b>CONDEMNS</b>	the brutal crackdown on opposition- and civil society activists during the election night and the repressions that took place ever since.
<b>DEMANDS</b>	the immediate release of all political prisoners and the nullification of the verdicts already spoken against opposition- and civil society activists.
<b>URGES</b>	the Belarusian government to take immediate steps to bring the electoral law in compliance with international standards and to guarantee legal status of opposition parties.
<b>WELCOMES</b>	the 20 <sup>th</sup> January resolution by the European Parliaments and the sanctions declared against Belarusian government officials as well as the freezing of financial assets.
<b>WELCOMES</b>	the readiness of the European Institutions to intensively improve political and financial support for Belarusian Civil Society and independent media.
<b>CALLS</b>	on the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the EU High Representative for an extensive review of the EU policy which should also include possible smart economic sanctions to increase the pressure on the Belarusian regime.
<b>CALLS</b>	on the Council of Europe and the European Commission to specially provide intensive support to youth- and student organizations in Belarus and to develop a mechanism of registration for NGO's that are denied registration by the Belarusian government.
<b>CALLS</b>	on its member organizations to increase awareness for the Belarus cause within the liberal family and in society and to support the struggle of the Belarusian youth for a democratic future.

**PA 2.39 Resolution on the Electoral Farce in Belarus**  
***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.35))***

*Civil Liberties, Electoral Competitions, Democracy, Belarus*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

*Proposed by:* IMS Anna Halavina, Johannes Knewitz, Kseniya Shvedova, Tanya Lyubimova; Ermanno Martignetti; Daniel George; JOVD

*(The Netherlands); JD (The Netherlands); GIV (Italy); JuLis (Germany)*

**CONSIDERING THAT** the Belarusian government pledged to consider recommendations made by OSCE/ODIHR for the improvement of the electoral process and the electoral law to make it compliant with international standards and invited OSCE/OHDIHR under the assertion that it would guarantee free and fair elections.

**CONSIDERING THAT** despite amendments that were introduced into the Belarusian electoral code in 2010 and 2011 the electoral process is still not in line with OSCE commitments and international standards.

**WHEREAS** the OSCE/OHDIHR statement made clear that while some minor improvements during the early voting could be observed, the elections didn't meet basic compliancy with international standards and were overshadowed by irregularities especially during the Election Day.

**WHEREAS** the OSCE/OHDIR statement also deplores that by denying possibilities for usage of media and political campaigning to independent candidates while privileges were granted to other candidates affiliated with the regime, the elections were in no way competitive.

**WHEREAS** independent election observers also observed grave irregularities that represented the whole arsenal of electoral fraud.

**CONSIDERING THAT** the electoral commissions were made up of individuals loyal to the regime and that independent observers were not able to observe the vote count.

**CONSIDERING THAT** extensive state propaganda was used to support candidates affiliated with the regime, culminating in incidents where the Central Election Commission was openly favoring and supporting such candidates.

**WHEREAS** the regime used massive repression against political organizations and civil society organizations in general throughout the last two years and implemented changes into Belarusian law that allow for harsh measures against the smallest impulse of independent thought and free speech.

**WHEREAS** Several political- and human-rights activists remain in Belarusian prisons including the leader of the Human Rights Center "Viasna", Ales Byalyatski, and political youth activist Dzmitry Dashkevich, among others.

**LYMEC supporting the fight of the Belarusian people for freedom and liberty:**

<b>CONDEMNS</b>	the bold irregularities and pure frauds that accompanied the parliamentary elections, which ended in a mere farce.
<b>CONDEMNS</b>	the latest actions against opposition and civil society activists and the repressions against Belarusian independent media and foreign journalists throughout the election week as well as the harassment and detention of several independent election observers.
<b>DEPLORES</b>	the groundless expulsion of a delegation of the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) during the election week after Belarusian security personnel ended a peaceful workshop on youth cooperation.
<b>DEMANDS</b>	the immediate release of all political prisoners and the nullification of the verdicts already spoken against opposition- and civil society activists.
<b>URGES</b>	the Belarusian government to take immediate steps to bring the electoral law in compliance with international standards and to guarantee legal status of opposition parties.
<b>URGES</b>	the Belarusian government to ensure the registration of all eligible candidates for the upcoming local and presidential elections, to guarantee open campaigning and equal access to state controlled media, and to allow the representatives of democratic parties and movements to be represented in electoral commissions.
<b>REMINDS</b>	the European Institutions on statements made after the 2010 presidential elections to intensively improve political and financial support for Belarusian Civil Society and independent media, which were only in parts followed by concrete actions.
<b>CALLS</b>	on the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the EU High Representative for a strong stand against the electoral farce and intensified measures, including economic sanctions, that are specifically directed against the Belarusian regime.
<b>CALLS</b>	on the Council of Europe and the European Commission to improve support to youth- and student organizations in Belarus and to finally develop a mechanism of registration for NGO's that are denied registration by the Belarusian government.
<b>CALLS</b>	on the Council of Europe and European Commission to continue and intensify the promotion of international exchanges, scholarships for visits and advanced professional training programmes for leaders and members of the democratic organizations, students and scholars.
<b>CALLS</b>	on the Council of Europe and European Commission to put a special focus on supporting unbiased broadcasting through

independent media in exile in order to overcome the government's monopoly on information with a view to overcoming the informational isolation of Belarus.

**CALLS** on the member states of the European Union to simplify application processes for visas and abolish visa fees for Belarusian citizens.

**CALLS** on the LYMEC Bureau to raise awareness for the situation through all possible political channels in the European Union.

**CALLS** on its member organizations to actively increase awareness for the Belarus cause within the liberal family and in society and to support the struggle of the Belarusian youth for a democratic future.

## **PA 2.40 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression as Causes for International Protection and Asylum in the European Countries**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.09))***

*Gender and Sexual Rights, Civil Liberties, Social Rights*

Submitted by Svensk Ungdom

The attention given to LGBTI rights in the processes connected to international protection and asylum has developed significantly in recent years. It has been acknowledged that sexual orientation could be considered as grounds for asylum. According to article 2(c) in the European Union directive 2004/83/EC, which provides minimum European standard for qualification of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees: 'Refugee means a third country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country'.

In the "Qualification Directive", the EU has recognized that sexual orientation may, depending on the circumstances of the country of origin, provide the basis for a claim for asylum based on persecution based on membership of a particular social group. As of 2009, asylum has been granted to LGBT persons in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

On October 27, 2011, the European Parliament adopted a directive on *standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of*

*international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted.* According to article 10 (d) reasons for persecution may include membership of a particular social group, which might include a group based on a common characteristic of sexual orientation. It also states that "Gender related aspects, including gender identity, shall be given due consideration for the purposes of determining membership of a particular social group or identifying a characteristic of such a group".

However, there are still considerable differences in the way in which European states examine LGBTI asylum applications. On a regular basis, LGBTI asylum seekers are returned to their country of origin with reference to the so-called "discretion requirement", meaning they are returned because they supposedly can prevent persecution by concealing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

*Considering that*

- there are considerable differences in the way in which European states examine LGBTI asylum applications
- on a number of points, European state practice is below the standards required by international and European human rights and refugee law
- homo- bi- and transsexuality is criminalised in many countries in the world
- people are persecuted and sentenced to prison or even to death penalty because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- the discretion requirement is, regrettably, still frequently applied in the large majority of European states

*Noting that*

- The European Parliament has recognised sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as grounds for persecution
- a few member states already before that had included gender identity as a persecution ground in their national legislation or policy documents
- criminalisation of homosexuality in the country of origin is not necessarily considered as grounds for asylum, with reference to the discretion requirement
- there is a necessity to introduce common criteria (that is to be drawn from international obligations under human rights instruments) on the basis of which applicants for international protection are to be recognised as eligible for subsidiary protection

*The LYMEC Congress calls for:*

- The members of the European Union to implement the "standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for



subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted"

- All European states to abstain from enforcing the discretion requirement
- Criminalisation in the country of origin to be considered as persecution

## **PA 2.41 Recognise Same-Sex Marriage in the Entire EU** ***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.10))***

*Gender and Sexual Rights, Civil Liberties, Social Rights*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress on 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

*Submitted by: LUF, LLJ, VU, NUV, RU, SU*

### **Noting that**

Same-sex marriages are legal in seven member states of the European Union. Other regulated forms of partnerships, such as civil unions or registered partnerships, are available to same-sex couples in nine member states, but often not providing the same rights as marriage.

Some member states do not legally recognize same-sex relationships at all, and in four member states, the constitution limits marriage to heterosexual couples.

Only heterosexual couples are recognized as families within the European Union, providing that they are married or otherwise legally bound to one another.

### **Considering that**

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is incompatible with liberal values.

While the status of contractual interpersonal partnership is a fundamental concept in family law, from a liberal point of view there are absolutely no legitimate grounds to restrict the freedom of contract to enter into such an agreement on the basis of sexual orientation.

The free movement of individuals is at the core of the founding values of the EU.

All contractual interpersonal relationships deserve the same respect, recognition, rights and aid in all countries of the European Union.

### **LYMEC calls for**

That all family legislation and all family recognition on a European level shall include same-sex couples.

The equal treatment of all contractual interpersonal partnerships by the European Union.

All member states to recognize same-sex couples who have married or entered into a civil union or similar arrangement in another member state, even if the member state does not itself perform such marriages or arrangements. This is already the case in some third countries, e.g. Israel.

LYMEC to introduce a resolution in this spirit at the upcoming ELDR congress in Dublin and to advocate this position with the ALDE group.

## **PA 2.42 Towards an Integration of Transsexual People**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.13))***

*Sexuality, Discrimination, Civil Rights*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

Transsexualism is considered as the change of the gender identity of a person and it has been studied a lot by psychology and medicine.

Medical consideration, from the aspect of the psychiatry, of transsexualism has been tied to gender dysphoria, described like an intense feeling of discontent with the gender that one has attributed on being born.

In spite of this, transsexualism reflects a social conflict (about the morality, the sexual and gender culture of the society) beyond a medical disorder.

Noting that

- In 1989, European Parliament urged the member states to make possible the access of transsexual people to an integral sanitary assistance.
- The hormones can modify the external look of the body and provoke enough visible changes in the look of the transsexual, achieving a similar aspect to a person of the wished gender.
- The surgery is used on occasions by the transsexuals for modifying the body itself. This can be for aesthetic purposes or for sex change (genital remodelling surgery)
- That many transsexuals never carry out a surgery of genital remodelling in their life, nor wish it.

And considering that

- Many countries hamper the adoption of a name that corresponds with the gender and sex felt as own because the change of legal name is conditioned to the change of physical sex, a surgery that not everybody wants to receive, nor everybody can pay.

- The discrimination of the transsexuals in Europe and in the world is still a big problem nowadays. The crimes against the transsexual population are numerous, and many of the transsexuals subsist in conditions of poverty in a society that despise them occupational and socially
- Even though the medical criteria about the transsexualism have changed a lot lately, nowadays is still usually used the recommendations of the ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases-OMS) or the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, version 4), even though all they seem in the present quite unsuitable and being in an advanced process of deep revision.

European Liberal Youth asks for

- The assignment of the legal sex and a name in order to the free development of the personality and the dignity of the people who do not identify with the gender they were inscribed initially and who have followed a gender-change process.
- The no discrimination from the health system point of view, as the more common transsexual demands (hormones, psychological help, etc.), must be solved from the point of view of the medical attention and not of the medical treatment of a disease.

The decataloging of the recommendations of the ICD-10 and the DSM-IV about gender dysphoria.

## **PA 2.43 Urgent Resolution on the Plan of the EU to Block Web Sites** ***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.15))***

*Civil Rights, Internet, Transparency, Freedom of expression*

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

The Young Liberals of Europe, gathered in Sinaia (Romania),

*Deeply disturbed* about any case of child abuse published on the internet;

*Observing* the recent discussion about the possibilities of blocking web sites containing certain content like child pornography;

*Regretting* that this discussion is handled in a very emotional way instead of thinking about reasonable and efficient ways to avoid any kind of child abuse;

*Recalling* the fact that blocking web sites will not help to avoid any kind of child abuse, but will only make it insignificantly harder to reach these websites and more difficult for the authorities to find these;

*Considering* that necessary transparency of blocked websites would simply accelerate and increase transfers of illegal media to other websites;

*Emphasising* the importance of measures to fight child abuse effectively instead of only making it invisible to the European Union;

*Fear* that this discussion will open the Pandora's Box and might lead to a discussion about censorship in the internet in general so that the fundamental freedoms might not be guaranteed in the future anymore;

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)

- *strongly condemns* any form of child abuse and child pornography;
- *demand*s a joint effort of all European member states to fight any kind of child abuse with effective measures inside and outside the internet;
- *urges* the European Union to discuss the possibility to delete websites with content that in any kind harms children and work with world-wide governments to make it really effective;
- *calls on* the European Union to find a transparent way for these deletions in which a judge is involved in the decision about the deletion, the operator of the concerned websites will be informed and has a possibility to take legal actions;
- *demand*s the European Union and the member states to work together on this issue because the Internet is borderless and therefore crime in the Internet has to be fought by the international community;
- *Reinforces* that internet is a fundamental right in an age of digitalization;
- *Urges* the ALDE to foster the above mentioned points.

## **PA 2.44 Stop Discriminatory Measures Regarding Romani People**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.16))***

*Civil Rights, Human Rights, Minority Rights*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

*Referring to:*

- \* the systematic discrimination of Romani minorities on the territory of the European Union;
- \* the discriminatory wall built in 1999, and later demolished under international pressure, in Ustí nad Labem (Czech Republic) to "[...] separate this problematic community from those people who have private houses [...]";
- \* the ongoing situation of the disproportionate amount of Romani children, in for example Slovakia or Czech Republic, who are victims of separate education and are forced to attend schools meant for children with mental disabilities;
- \* the situation in France where, since the forced evictions during the last months of 2010, the living conditions of Romani people deteriorated severely. Houses and camps were dismantled and destroyed, leaving people without adequate shelter during winter;
- \* the fact that many Romani communities in Slovenia do not have access to sufficient and safe drinking water because they are forced to live in isolated, overcrowded and informal settlements.

*Considering:*

- \* the fact that the countries of the European Union signed several international human right declarations and treaties like the European Convention of Human Rights, the EU Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC) and the European Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities;
- \* that European countries have a shared responsibility towards European citizens;
- \* that ethnic registration and ethnically-based measures are objectionable;
- \* that separate measures could promote discrimination and isolation;

- \* that incentive measures must be incorporated in regular policies, accessible for all people in comparable situations;
- \* that affirmative action towards Romani people in particular, could enlarge the tensions with non-Romani citizens.
- \* problems should be addressed based on individuals living in a common European Union

*Calls upon:*

- \* the European Commission, ALDE and ELDR to evaluate integration policies across the European Union to compare strategies, mechanisms and results of exceptional policy concerning Romani people;
- \* the European Commission to assure that Member States of the European Union respect the rights of minorities as stated in the treaties mentioned above;
- \* that the Mos and the IMS **participating in the next conference on migration proceeding the next Congress** would monitor the situation of the Romani people within their own countries and report to **the event**

## **PA 2.45 Aiming at Ending Female Genital Mutilation**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.21))***

*Discrimination, Human Rights, Health, Civil Rights*

Having regard to:

- the United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and its Optional Protocol (1999), as well as the specific;
- the convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- the report of the UN Secretary General of 5 december 2012 "Ending Female Genital Mutilation";
- the Council of Europe Convention of 12 April 2011 on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- the European Parliament resolution of 14 June 2012 on ending female genital mutilation;
- the Millenium Development Goals;

Highlighting that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an irreparable abuse, intentionally causing injury to female genitals for non-medical reasons, with irreversible consequences;

Stressing out that it affects about 140 million women and girls alive today;

Regretting that, each year, three million girls are at risk of undergoing such a procedure;

Whereas it also happens in European countries; with at least 500 000 victims, and 180 000 girls at risk according to World Health Organisation estimations, not taking into account second-generation or illegal migration;

Knowing that most of these girls and women from countries with a tradition of FGM live in the following European countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom;

Considering that any form of FGM as harmful traditional practice should not be considered as part of a religion as such, but as act of violence and torture against girls and women; so violating their fundamental rights;

Considering any form of FGM as a violation of human rights;

Considering the serious and irreparable injuries caused by FGM, in the short and long term, to the physical and mental health of the girls and women who underwent it;

Considering that they are at risk of further infections, sicknesses and injuries in case of use of rudimentary instruments and the lack of antiseptic precautions;

Considering the effect FGM can have on their future relations – pain during sexual intercourse, childbirth, ... - and the possible complications (haemorrhaging, shock, infections);

Considering that countries with a tradition of FGM – almost outside of the EU – also face a high rate of AIDS transmission, tetanos and other sexually transmitted diseases; A1 – JD – Change with : Considering that countries with a tradition of FGM – almost all outside of the EU – also face a high rate of AIDS transmission, tetanos and other sexually transmitted diseases; Carried by the mover

Considering FGM as an expression of inequality between women and men;

Considering a global approach to fight FGM as a necessary tool in the fight towards gender equality;

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) Congress, meeting in Tallinn in April 2013,

Welcomes the European Commission Initiative on how to prevent forced circumcision of girls and women;

Expresses its deep concerns about the fact that FGM is often practiced on girls younger than 15 years, violating as such the United Nations' 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Recalls that every Member State of the European Union are committed to protecting the Children's Rights;

Calls upon each party member of ALDE party to take any necessary initiatives within their own country to ratify the different conventions mentioned above and existing international instruments, if it is not yet the case;

Encourages therefore every State to enforce legal measures to end female genital mutilation, including banning offenders from their migration policies;

Urges Governments of the Member States of the Council of Europe to take preventive and protective initiatives for girls and women at risk, particularly from immigration groups;

Proposes that every European country should develop a mechanism to allow and encourage victims to report any case of FGM;

Believes that international cooperation is needed to end female genital mutilation, not only in Europe, but on a global scale;

Invites the ALDE group in the European Parliament to support European programs on Justice, Health and Development and Cooperation, to give them sufficient

resources to face the needs and the priorities of girls in a vulnerable situation, including the ones at risk of FGM;

Asks for the inclusion in every European or bi- and multilateral development and cooperation plan of a program aiming at gender equality, women empowerment and the fight against violence and discrimination against women;

Asks each of its Member organisations to relay this resolution to their mother party if they have one:

Demands the LYMEC bureau to relay this resolution within ALDE party and ALDE groups in the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

## **PA 2.46 The Liberal-Democrat Attitude Towards Religion**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.23))***

*Religion, Modernization of Society, Rejection of Anti-Liberal Policies*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Sinaia, Romania in March 2002.

Recalling that

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, whatever their race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- The freedom to choose one's religion and beliefs belongs to fundamental human rights
- All religions have, to different extent, contributed to Europe's Identity

Notes with concern that

- The events in September the 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 have put the religious issue in the foreground of world politics and international relations.
- Some confusion, social tensions and restriction of human rights have resulted from the unacceptable stigmatisation of some religions compared to others
- Some European politicians were tempted to assimilate Europe's identity (including the liberal-democrat heritage) to Christianity, by opposition to other "civilisations".

Reasserts

- The non sense of comparing religions and civilisations one with another, as well as of identifying certain religions to certain geographic areas
- The danger of a too strong political influence of Churches on the State
- The universalism of the liberal-democrat philosophy and its independence from any religious belief

Concludes to the necessity

- To build a clear separation between the Religious Institutions & the State
- To fight against religious intolerance and all religious extremism, whatever their nature and origins.

## **PA 2.47 Citizens' Rights Post Brexit**

***(Archived Online Congress 2020 (Former 2.23))***

### **Whereas:**

- The result of the referendum on 23 June 2016, namely the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, constitutes an unfortunate event in the development of Europe;

### **Noting that:**

- Over 3 million EU citizens currently live in the UK, and that over 1 million UK citizens live in the EU;
- The European Council's (Art.50) guidelines for Brexit negotiations identifies the potential loss of citizen rights is a possibility, and therefore that ensuring the protection of these rights is a priority in the negotiations

### **Recognising that:**

- The UK's withdrawal from the EU, without a proper agreement between both sides, can have a catastrophic effect on the rights of these citizens;
- The continued access of the UK to the free movement of goods, capital, people and services is conditional upon its membership of the single market, and that no exception should be made;

### **Considers that:**

- The uncertainty caused by the UK's current position on citizen rights, as delineated in its position paper "Safeguarding the Position of EU Citizens Living in the UK and UK Nations Living in the EU" of June 2017, is thoroughly lacking in sufficient guarantees regarding the protection of citizen rights post-Brexit;

### **Concerned by:**

- The sharp rise of xenophobia and islamophobia in the UK following the EU referendum, targeting EU Citizens

### **Stressing that:**

- With the UK withdrawal from the jurisdiction of the EU Court of Justice, the UK remains bound to the protection of the rights of EU citizens by virtue of numerous international agreements, such as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);

### **Considers that:**

- Treating EU citizens in the UK, and UK citizens in the EU as third country nationals is an unjust and immoral blow to the rights that these citizens have acquired,



and that the creation of a special status for these citizens is the most desirable option;

**Concludes that:**

- Both sides must step up their efforts to ensure that the rights of EU citizens in the UK, and UK citizens in the EU, continue to be protected post-Brexit;

**LYMEC calls for:**

- A close relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom after Brexit that goes considerably beyond a mere cooperation on WTO terms.
- The reciprocal protection of citizen rights post-Brexit;
- The creation of a special status for EU citizens in the UK, and for UK citizens in the EU, that does not equate to the status of a third country national, and that takes into consideration the reality of these individuals as 'former citizens'. This special status would ensure that family reunification procedures on both sides to be streamlined for families affected by Brexit, and that any obstacles that might lead to the discrimination between citizens are removed;
- The political rights of citizens, namely the ability to stand and vote in local elections, be safeguarded on both sides;
- The conditions for EU students seeking to study in the UK, and UK students seeking to study in the EU, remain unchanged;
- The protection of the rights of EU workers in the UK, and of UK workers in the EU, with a view to avoiding exploitation and discrimination, over which the Court of Justice of the EU is to have full jurisdiction

## **PA 2.48 LYMEC Condemns Recent Arrests of Political Youth in Azerbaijan**

**(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.09))**

*Political Prisoners, Civil Liberties, Justice, Azerbaijan*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

**Whereas**

- Nigar Yagublu, deputy for humanitarian issues of Musavat Youth and daughter of Tofiq Yagublu (Musavat Party Chairman Isa Gambar's deputy), as the first in Azeri history, was sent to a two month pretrial detention according to criminal case opened by Baku State Traffic Police Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) on article 283.2 (recklessly causing the death of a victim, violation of traffic rules and vehicle maintenance) of the Criminal Code on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012;

- the case is that she was involved with a car accident causing the death of Aydin Ajalov, right after the accident unlawfully being interrogated, still in a state of shock\*;

- her trial was the first case in 2012 of traffic-related incidents to be presented to the court in secrecy;

**Also noting the fact that**

- Zaur Gurbanli, board member of NIDA Civic Movement, was detained in front of his apartment on September 29th by representatives of the Senior Department Against Organized Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, without any supporting legal documents;
- his whereabouts had not been presented until October 1st, which made the public believe he was kidnapped;
- he is now accused of resisting police investigation, being related to the illegal circulation of drug substances, and the spreading of "illegal documents and other materials", which refers to NIDA Civic Movement's critical flyers to attract new members.

**Regretting**

- the death of Aydin Ajalov.

**Recognizing that**

- Proper rule of law is the core of a well-functioning society;
- Every individual deserves a fair case;

**Considering that**

- Azerbaijan is a member of the Council of Europe and thereby a signatory of the European Convention on Human rights;
- as well as having taken a non-permanent seat in the UNSC (2012-2013) and that's committed to uphold the values expressed in the UN Human Rights Charter.

**Stresses**

- that the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan in May 2012 should be applauded, however, needs better implementation;
- the concern for the safety and wellbeing of Nigar Yagublu and Zaur Gurbanli;

**LYMEC gathered during the EC in Sofia, Bulgaria calls upon**

- the government of Azerbaijan to fully respect the rights of its citizens and accordingly grant Nigar Yagublu a fair trial;
- the European society to remind the government of Azerbaijan to respect its signed treaties;
- LYMEC Bureau to pay special attention to the case;

- its MOs to raise awareness on the issue.

## **PA 2.49 Resolution on visa-free regime between Ukraine ("Eastern Partnership" countries) and EU**

**(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.10))**

*Migration & VISA Policies, Ukraine, Russia*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

We, the Board and the International Secretariat of the "European Youth of Ukraine" state that relations between Ukraine and the EU take on a completely new format. The strategic goal of Ukraine remains integration into the European Union, but at the same time current Ukrainian authorities chose multidirectional policy, especially cooperation with the Russian Federation and support of relationships with the European Union. Taking into account European integration aspirations of Ukraine, an important goal of our state is to achieve a visa-free regime with the EU.

**With confidence one can state that the visa relations between Ukraine and the EU demonstrate improvement each year. This is manifested by many facts, namely:  
In Ukraine there is agreement on visa registration facilitation with EU**

- ✓ *EU approved Visa Code, according to which there is a unification of visa requirements and procedures;*
- ✓ *At the Ukraine - EU Summit, held on November 22, 2010 in Brussels approved Plan of Action to liberalize visa regime;*
- ✓ *The average percentage of renunciation of Schengen visa issue to the citizens of Ukraine declined and is 3%*
- ✓ *Ukraine takes a lot of steps to improve the functioning of border services and border areas;*
- ✓ *the Agreement on "Readmission of persons" between Ukraine and the EU is successfully implemented;*
- ✓ *there will be European football championship in Ukraine and Poland in 2012;*
- ✓ *Some countries of Europe and world in 2010 completely or temporarily rescinded visas for Ukrainian citizens, namely: Croatia, Montenegro, Israel, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and others.*

At the same there are a lot of problems, as evidenced by regular updates in the media and public monitoring results related to groundless visa denials, border crossing problems, as a result - default of travel, especially trips of young people to the EU, violation of principles of human dignity during visa procedures' execution.

Since elimination of the visa regime in relationships with the EU is a long-term perspective, the disappointment of the Ukrainian public at European integration prospects of Ukrainian becomes more visible. At the same time, we state that the visa-free regime between Ukraine and the EU is mutually beneficial.

Implementation of the objectives and criteria by Ukrainian government in the context of the Plan of Action will strengthen the state's ability to resist effectively such threats to national security as corruption, illegal migration, smuggling, human trafficking and other transboundary crime, strengthen ability of law enforcement bodies for fruitful cooperation and, most important, expand the communication space between Europeans - citizens of Ukraine and the member states of EU, that will facilitate deeper integration of Ukraine into the EU. Visa-free regime will mean the growth of economic relationships, benefit for European businesses, particularly tourism industry. In addition, the visa-free regime will be a significant achievement of Ukraine towards integration into the European community in the context of society's approach to democratic values and legal standards of the EU.

At the same time we also fully support the facilitation or cancellation of visa regime between the EU and all member states of the Eastern Partnership, since it is for the benefit both of EU and member-states of the Eastern Partnership.

**We propose the following:**

- LYMEC membership organizations through their political and diplomatic circles shall promote the adoption of visa-free regime between Ukraine and individual EU countries;
- 
- LYMEC leadership shall promote this issue through the ELDR faction in the European Parliament;
- To set up in Ukraine and other Eastern partnership countries organization of public-information campaigns for the abolition of visas.

We strongly believe that assistance in resolving this issue will have only positive consequences for Ukraine and the European Union and the countries represented in the European Liberal Youth.

We are confident that the European statement: "The farther we move the boundaries of freedom to the East, the safer West will be" should have a practical implementation.

## **PA 2.50 Strengthening the European Refugee Fund**

***(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.11))***

**Considering that:**

- Situations such as the civil war in Syria. Approx. 2 million refugees fled Syria and several other countries with civil and political unrest.
- Asylum is a fundamental right; granting it is an international obligation, first recognised in the 1951 Geneva Convention on the protection of refugees.
- National asylum systems in several member states are not capable of dealing with extraordinary amounts of refugees, as stated in Frontex' 2013 Work Programme.

#### **Recognizing that:**

- These flows of asylum seekers put excessive pressure on the EU asylum systems.
- Asylum flows are not constant, nor are they evenly distributed across the EU.
- External border EU states are considering asking for urgent financial aid to deal with the increased workload.
- Refugees face unacceptable living conditions in several member states, as ruled by The European Court of Justice.

#### **Urges to:**

- Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to the Asylum and Migration Fund, which will include the former asylum and refugee funds, in the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020
- the EU member states to share the responsibility of receiving refugees and asylum seekers more equally in order to avoid disproportionate stress on some countries asylum systems, especially at times of sudden asylum flows

#### **LYMEC therefore calls upon:**

- the ALDE group to push for allocating sufficient resources in the EU budget for the common asylum system to be functional and humane, and capable of dynamic asylum flows, on a long term basis.
- that EU asylum measures and resources are implemented based on a human rights and protection approach within the member states
- that the ALDE group works on ensuring that the EU external aid priorities and fundings are coherent with the ones of the Asylum and Migration fund.
- the European Commission to propose a legislative framework to deal with these acute problems

### **PA 2.51 Tougher measures against racism within the EU**

***(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.12))***

Considering that

Last year the EU won the Nobel peace prize - a powerful reminder about its founding principles, which include human rights protection. Why has the EU's resolve to tackle the serious human rights violations within the European Union remained so disturbingly weak?

All EU member states have accepted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). They are therefore obliged to prevent, prohibit and eradicate all forms of racial discrimination and incitement to racial injustice.

EU legislation requires Member States to introduce laws prohibiting racial discrimination in many aspects of everyday life, such as employment, education, healthcare, and housing (2008/913/JHA).

Recognizing that

Recent reports by the European Fundamental Right Agency, FRA, show that racism and discrimination within the EU is more common than before anticipate.

Stated by the FRA Director Morten KjaerumIt "it is a sad truth that violence, discrimination and hate crimes directed against ethnic minorities and migrants remain a daily reality throughout the European Union"

Among other things, rough treatment of refugees from Africa and Asia, harsh enforcement of counter-terrorism laws against Muslims and naked racism against Roma people are systematic commonplace problems in Europe.

The British-based NGO, Amnesty International, named 24 EU states in its annual report (2013) of states guilty of racism and discrimination.

Urges to

Make sure that the EU member states will fulfil the agreement they have committed themselves to, on combating racism in respective countries.

Equip the EU with the effective political tools that are needed for ensuring that member states conform to the European directives on combating racism. Such tools could include Task Forces, freezing of EU payments and/or penalty fees, etc.

LYMEC therefore calls upon

The ALDE group to take a stance and work within the EU to combat racism.

The European Union not to overlook violations of human rights and undertake to monitor that the member states comply with both international law and EU law, and utilise political tools that are necessary to combat racism within the EU.

## **PA 2.52 No NSA-Practices in the European Union**

***(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.13))***

**Noting that:**

- Recent events have taken place in the United States and around the world regarding the abuse of the right for privacy of our citizens;

- The collection of information by illegal means from citizens and allied government officials through the interception of telephone calls, internet and social media, has been defended for the sake of national security;
- Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights explicitly states that "Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence";
- These rights also have been adopted in article 7 of the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- Member states of the European Union are bound to the rights of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights;

**Taking into account that:**

- The right to respect for private life and private correspondence are fundamental for a free and liberal society;
- The recent events in the United States do not coincide with these rights;
- The recent events in the United States have been facilitated by an imbalance of power between government institutions, which has subsequently led to a self-evidence of including these actions in American foreign policy;

**LYMEC, gathered in Bucharest on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013:**

- Condemns the interception of communication of citizens and allied government officials by the United States and the self-evidence with which this has become part of American foreign policy;
- Calls for the governments of the European Union, including the European institutions, to respect the rights by not intercepting and using personal information from telephone calls, internet and social media;
- Calls for the Court of Justice of the European Union to prosecute European governments and the European Commission if citizens and allied government officials have their communication intercepted in any way that differs from current law and agreements.
- Calls for the reiteration of the balance of power between institutions in the European Union, the member states and elected officials to prevent criminal events from occurring within our institutions and governments. Furthermore we call for the prosecution of those individuals that are responsible for cooperating with the illegal American actions that occurred within the European Union.

**PA 2.53 A common European, humanitarian search and rescue mission to the Mediterranean**

***(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.17))***

Approved in the Rotterdam Congress of May 2015

**Keywords:** Refugee, Mediterranean search and rescue

**Considering that:**

- hundreds of thousands of people are risking their lives to cross Europe's borders.

- The conflict in Syria and Iraq is ongoing, and that the UNHCR as of January 2015 has registered 3.7 million Syrian refugees alone.
- the number of refugees trying to access Europe is likely to rise
- more than 3000 refugees have died, while trying to cross the Mediterranean, during 2014.
- Italy has formally ended their "Mare Nostrum" refugee search and rescue mission, and that the Italian navy from October 2013-14 has picked up over 100 000 refugees.

**Recognizing that:**

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 14 states that "(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."
- most costs and efforts are taken by Italy and other Southern-European countries, whilst this responsibility should be shared by all European member states

**Believing that:**

- Every refugee has to be given the chance to apply for asylum.
- Every life lost at Europe's borders is one to many, and that the EU countries has a common moral obligation to save as many of these lives as possible.
- The worries that more refugees will try to cross over the Mediterranean, if there is a humanitarian search and rescue mission, does not inflict on the moral obligation to save lives when possible.

**Concerned that:**

- death tolls will increase.
- giving this responsibility to Frontex will cause a conflict of interest.

**The European Liberal Youth calls for:**

- the creation of a European search and rescue patrol, which will be financially supported by all EU countries, and that the force should be based on a rotating responsibility between the coastal countries of Europe.
- that the patrol will be a humanitarian effort, and that this effort will not be a part of Frontex. This to ensure that the humanitarian responsibilities will not conflict with border guarding duties.

A common effort to allow more refugees into the European Union

**PA 2.54 Resolution on a harmonized common EU asylum policy**

***(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.18))***

(Former 2.46 prior to Online Congress 2020)

**Keywords:** migration, refugees, Dublin system

**Noting that:**



- More than 50 million people in the world today have been forced to flee their country because of war or unwarranted and arbitrary prosecution;
- These refugees often risk their lives as they are threatened by war and violence in their home country
- Refugees are vulnerable for human traffickers and flee on life endangering smuggling routes or use life endangering methods (overcrowded boats over sea, hiding in trucks...);
- Empowered refugees, educated and skilled, can enhance future stability in their countries

**Considering that:**

- The international community, especially the The European Union as member of the international community, has the responsibility to protect these refugees and respect their demand for freedom and security as outlined in the Geneva Convention of 1951;
- Due to its central location close to several conflict regions and the unique political integration the European Union plays a major role in dealing with refugees worldwide.

The current EU asylum system is a patchwork of national competences and no common European approach has ever been addressed,

- The lack of a common approach to manage migration by the European Union's current Dublin-system has lead to a disproportionate burden on certain countries like Italy and Greece;
- The vast amount of refugees coming to Europe is causing chaos within preferred asylum countries and at national borders within Schengen as Dublin II/III agreements are becoming increasingly impossible to enact by member states.
- Irregular migration and human trafficking has cross-border effects and therefore fighting it requires a common transnational approach of the European Union in cooperation with third countries
- Intensive cooperation and harmonization of asylum policies among EU member states benefits refugees and potential host states as well.

**LYMEC therefore calls upon ALDE:**

- to reallocate the UN Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) resources in order to focus on urgent action and empowerment of refugees instead of building long term dependency structures;
- to invest in accommodation and education in the region of conflict areas, in order to prevent the development of a lost generation in refugee camps and to guarantee refugees a safe place to stay;

- to provide for a legal and safe alternative to irregular migration, in order to prevent smuggling, human trafficking and fatal accidents on the sea, for example by making it possible to start the asylum procedure outside of potential host states within the EU and making it possible to apply for humanitarian visas at all EU embassies;
- to urge the EU to eliminate its Dublin System and replace it by a balanced, common asylum policy based on solidarity and justice, which allocates asylum seekers according to their individual skills (e.g. language, family members or contacts willing to support them) as well as the capacities and resources of potential host states to make sure the burden of refugees does not lie only with countries at the European borders.

### **PA 2.55 Urgency resolution on preventing Romania from holding a referendum against Gay Marriage**

*(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.22))*

#### **Noting that:**

- Social Democrats in Romania hope to organize a referendum this autumn to restrict the constitutional definition of family
  - which would rule out the possibility of legalizing same-sex marriage
  - which would also hurt single parents, unmarried couples and other non-traditional parenting units
- Very few politicians are supporting same-sex marriage in Romania

#### **Considering that:**

- Romania is a member state of the European Union
- Romania is preparing to hold a referendum to amend the constitution to prohibit gay marriage

#### **Taking into account that:**

- A referendum against gay marriage would undo decades of campaigning by LGBTQ groups in Romania, and a referendum like that would be a giant step backwards
- Not accepting gay marriage is a considerable step backwards in developing equality in Romania and it is clearly against European values and norms.
- Equal rights are an important part of a democratic society and a demand towards all Member States in the European Union
- That the organisation behind the reason of planning a referendum is The Coalition for the Family

- who also support cancelling subsidies for contraception and elective abortion, forcing parents of minors to have counseling if they want divorce, and lowering some taxes for married couples
  - which is a civil society group who collected 3 million signatures in favor of changing the constitutional definition of marriage as a union strictly between a man and a woman
- This referendum would make the minorities situation in Romania worse and most likely open up for infringements on contraception and abortion

**LYMEC calls on its member organisations especially in Romania to:**

- Advocate for equal rights for Romanian LGBTQ people
- Plead to European institutions and liberal leaders to prevent Romania from holding the referendum against gay marriage
- Call on liberal parliamentarians and leaders to protect democracy and human rights
- Push political decision makers and responsible institutions to protect democracy and all citizens' fundamental rights

**PA 2.56 Establishing a formal definition and protection system for Climate refugees**

***(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.31))***

Movers: SU, JnC, JD, NUV, LUF, CUF

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

**Considering that:**

- Climate change does not take notice of countries' borders, which is all the more reason for us to work together.
- Persons forced to flee their country of origin as a consequence of their native soil becoming uninhabitable as a result of climate change aren't recognized as refugees with a right for asylum;
- The term Climate Refugee lacks any formally legal definition both at a global and European level, leading to the impossibility to create an adequate protection system;
- The recent adoption of 2017 European Parliament resolution on 'Addressing refugee and migrant movements: the role of EU external action' stressed that EU development cooperation should continue to address and effectively tackle the root causes of forced displacement and migration, including lack of economic opportunities and climate change, in line with Goal 16 in the Agenda 2030.

**Believing that:**

- The above mentioned EU Parliament resolution represents a crucial step towards diminishing the future number of displaced persons due to the effects of climate change;
- Such resolution doesn't tackle the the issue entirely, since some people won't have any choice but fleeing to the nearest habitable place, including Europe;
- Persons who are forced to flee need international protection.

**Calls for:**

- The establishment, at least at the European level, of a formal definition of the term climate refugee;
- The creation, at least at the European level, of a legal instrument recognizing such category of refugees and providing adequate protection

**PA 2.57 Against the new wave of xenophobia and racism in the EU**  
**(Archived Online Congress 2021 (Former 2.33))**

Movers: JNC, FEL, JD, YL

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

**Considering that:**

- politicians have failed to counter the rampaging speeches of hate and fear made by others;
- there are newly elected office holders who base their political speeches on the fear of others, scapegoating migrants and refugees;
- the consequent fear and hate felt by some citizens in society leads to hunts and other types of violence that have to be eradicated; and
- a patronising or clientelist discourse is just as harmful as those that aim to disrespect newcomers.

**Recalling that:**

- the LYMEC Policy book currently has several resolutions on the matter:
  - *Towards a common migration policy* (2.08);
  - *Tougher measures against racism* (2.53);
  - *Minority Rights* (2.70);
  - *Countering radicalisation of youth in Europe* (3.25); and
- LYMEC is one of the European political umbrella organisations with the most thorough anti-xenophobia stance.

**LYMEC:**

- reiterates its determination to fight all forms of racism;
- rejects and condemns racist and xenophobic comments made by elected officials as well as any type of discriminatory policy in European countries;
- urges the ALDE Party and its member organisations not to make racist or xenophobic comments or discriminatory policies.

**PA 2.58 For a better world we need to end the war on drugs**  
***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 2.15))***

Updated following LYMEC Spring Congress 2021

Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal

**Noting that**

- After careful consideration the liberal government of Canada wishes to legalize cannabis – the estimated amount of possible new influx to the budget could generate an additional 5 billion \$ in tax revenue
- Portugal and Switzerland have had success dealing with crime and overdoses through decriminalization of user doses in Portugal and safe, free heroin injections to heavy users in Switzerland by introducing and establishing low- threshold institutions and the distribution of clean needles to the people that may be addicted to drug use which involves the regular injection and repeated use of needles.
- Other countries, like Norway, Sweden, which regulate and conduct their drug policy based on the deliberations of a punitive jurisdiction and heavy regulations imposed upon drugs and are among the countries with the highest number of fatal overdoses. There is also evidence of the fact that a strict and draconian regulation may lead to higher criminal activity related to drug trafficking and offenses, based on the data provided by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.
- According to Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the UN, illegal drug trafficking is a major problem in e.g. Western Africa drugs, and sources say that the police is covering up evidence to justify these killing
- The illegal drug trafficking cartels and organised crime in general are among the world's most powerful criminals, and their violent actions have cost more than 120.000 lives in the last ten years.

- The abuse of prescription drugs as a replacement for illegal substances has heavily increased throughout the industrialized world
- The UN Commission for Narcotic Drugs has in 2020 voted to remove cannabis for medicinal purposes from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic drugs, where it was listed with the most dangerous addictive substances

### **Considering that**

- For years, drug policy has been delegitimized, demonized and removed from the public discourse in many countries, by way of disregarding and fabricating arguments about the supposed harm that a liberal drug policy would bring, focusing and constructing narratives that liberal drug policy exponents wish to bring harm and exploit the people who would want to partake in drug use and

those who, regrettably, have become dependent from drug consumption

- The legalization of cannabis (and decriminalization and further regulation of all other drugs) leads to the state being able to levy a tax upon the goods containing THC and CBD (and other psychoactive substances), therefore effectively removing and placating a good portion of the black market dominated

by criminals and drug traffickers. The UN reports that criminalization of

personal use of narcotics often prevents ordinary people to get their health rights fulfilled due to, amongst other things, a fear of prosecution

- Conservative UN countries restrict other countries' paths to a more humane drug policy through UN conventions.
- These conventions might prevent countries like Canada and Mexico to continue their current reforms without breaking international law
- The UN and their conventions are currently restricted on international drug policies rather than being progressive and open to liberal solution
- The war on drugs has failed; it has cost several trillion dollars and has led to a strong increase in global drug trafficking and a rapidly increasing pattern of sporadic drug epidemics (of either legally prescribed drugs or drugs stemming from an illegal source). For example, the data provided by the official institutions of the US, famous for conducting a war on drugs since the Nixon administration, point towards the conclusion that the War on Drugs was merely a fabrication to truncate the anti-war

movement and has disproportionately damaged other already vulnerable minority communities.

- The consumption of currently illegal drugs or psychoactive materials is universally considered to be harmful to the public, but first and foremost, individual health. Therefore, the governments of Europe should strictly regulate the future market of drugs, including, keeping the advertisement of drugs illegal, as to prevent creation of vast new demand.

### **LYMEC calls for**

- The institutions of the EU and their national governments to closely follow the Canadian reforms on their drug policy and watch the consequences it has on the number of users, and the effect of illegal drug trafficking
- Their member organisations to push their governments to change the UN's restrictive policies on drugs and to promote a new international agreement on legalizing drugs
- A certificate of origin for the import of drugs or their basic materials to avoid the financing of organised crime and other non-state actors that seek to battle the state for control of the drug market
- Their member organisations to push for the gradual implementation of liberal drug reforms in their countries, like decriminalisation of user doses
- EU member states to reinvest the money saved by ending the war on drugs and the measures it entails into rehabilitation projects and seek shift the focus of drug policy towards being considered as a public health question, instead of the status quo, where it is administered by the judiciary branch with arguments of deterrence and punishment.
- Their member organisations to push their governments towards amending the European treaties accordingly.
- National governments to learn from the experience of Portugal and Switzerland and seek to implement and adopt a drug policy that would answer to the needs of the broader public and serve the interest of the citizens primarily instead of creating needless bureaucratic pressure through the criminalization of drugs and the people who use and suffer from drug addiction.
- To seek a more balanced outlook towards drug users and people that suffer from drug addiction, as the stigmatization and the otherization of drug users leads to a further discriminatory and exclusionary society

which burdens the individuals that constitute that society with unnecessary expectations or discriminates them because of their addictions.



## Policy Archive Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology

### **PA 3.01 – Policy paper on Youth Unemployment**

#### **Aim of the policy paper**

This Policy Paper aims to communicate the Youth Policy of LYMEC – European Liberal Youth. LYMEC is a political youth organization unifying more than 250,000 young people in Europe; it is by that means concerned with the role of young people in the Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **Definitions**

Youth is regarded by both European and worldwide organizations as the group of citizens from 15-25 years of age. By analogy the YOUTH programme of the European Commission and the various other programmes dedicated for 'youth' of the European Union and the Council of Europe are implemented for this group of people. Without doubt young people are commonly regarded as the potential of Europe, not only by its citizens but also by its institutions, also in concrete demographic numbers: following enlargement to 25 member states, there will be 75 million young people in the European Union between the ages of 15 and 25. This makes about one sixth of the total population.

#### **Demography**

Between 2000 and 2020, the 65-90 age group will increase from 16% to 21% of the total population of the European Union, while the 15-24 age group will fall to only 11%. With this process of ageing, more is expected of the last group. Also the period of youth is changing. Demographers have observed that, under pressure from economic factors (employability, unemployment, etc.) and socio-cultural factors, young people are, on average, older when they reach the various stages of life: end of formal education, start of employment, starting a family, and so on. It is necessary that policies of the European Union and its member states adapt to this demographic trends.

#### **Youth policy at the European level**

LYMEC supports the White Paper on youth as approved by the European Commission on 21 November 2001. It is the first step towards an integrated European Union policy on youth. The follow up on the White paper has been the resolution of the European Council of 27 June 2002, setting a new framework for co-operation in the youth field. In this Resolution, the Council called for the open method of co-ordination (OMC) to be applied to four priorities i.e. participation by young people, information of young people, voluntary activities among young people and a greater understanding and knowledge of youth.

At the Spring European Council of 22 – 23 March 2005, the EU Heads of State and Government adopted a European Youth Pact as one of the instruments contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon Objectives: making Europe “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world”. LYMEC supports the adoption of a European Youth Pact; we think that the Lisbon Objectives can never be achieved without a focus on the role of the youth in the process towards achievement. Adding the youth dimension to the overall Lisbon strategy is vital for its success. LYMEC asks the European Council for a sustainable commitment to the implementation of the Youth Pact as a way to achieve the Lisbon objectives.

## **2. Towards life-wide learning**

Non-formal education is an organised process that gives young people the possibility to develop their values, skills and competencies others than the ones developed in the framework of formal education. It is no longer sufficient to think only in terms of formal education. Non-formal education is an essential part of life long learning process and youth organisations as LYMEC are a space for and providers of non-formal learning.

In many communities, young people's involvement in youth work and the related skills and competencies acquired in non-formal learning environments are not sufficiently recognised. LYMEC calls upon local, national and international institutions, schools and universities, labour market organisations companies, to recognise the values of youth work. Especially the contribution of non-formal education to the development of skills, knowledge and attitudes gained through voluntary work by young people. LYMEC believes that this can be achieved by taking away unnecessary barriers between formal – and non-formal education. Formal education programmes need to show their flexibility towards non-formal schedules.

LYMEC believes that in a knowledge-based society the skills and competencies gained by non-formal education should be visible, tomorrow even more than today. LYMEC supports initiatives taken by the European Commission to develop a passport for experiences gained through youth work.

## **PA 3.02 Policy Paper on Youth Employment**

*Employment, Social Rights*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

Introduction

The situation of young people on today's labour markets in Europe is a major challenge for policy shapers on all levels of governance. The participation in the labour market of all possible persons including the younger generation is an important contributor to economic growth, though the situation in several European countries is worrying. Increased participation is furthermore needed in order to limit as much as possible the negative consequences of a declining labour force in Europe from 2010 onwards.

The social consequences of high youth unemployment rates are enormous. Several researches show that having or not-having a job is a major determinant for a person's happiness. Next to that young people who are unemployed are statistically seen as a higher risk for juvenile criminality and socially unaccepted behaviour.

There are both social and economic reasons why youth employment should be on the top of the agenda. LYMEC as a youth organisation needs to have developed opinion on this matter, even more so now that we are asked to give young liberals' inputs to several discussions on this topic, like the one taking place in the Youth Forum.

*Facts:*

*The ratio of youth-to-adult unemployment rate is 3.*

*In total, with about 7,4 million unemployed young people in the EU, young people aged 15-29 represent 38,5% of the total unemployed.*

*There is a significant gender gap in youth employment in the EU with the employment rate of young women in 2006 being 5,9% lower than of their male peers.*

*In the age group 15-24 in 2006 the EU-15 average unemployment rate was around 16%, the EU-27 average around 17% with the highest numbers amounting up to almost 30% (Poland) and the lowest down to nearly 6% (the Netherlands).*

## Background

The employment rate for young people depends on many different social – and economic issues. Policies are currently made on several different levels; the EU only has a role of coordination and can serve as a platform for best-practise exchange. In the future this should remain the same: employment policies have to be decided and executed on the national or even local level.

Policies will have to be shaped and existing ones to be improved in a larger area. With youth employment comes education, transition from education to the labour market, social security systems, age discrimination and equal opportunities.

## General assessment

Participation of all different categories of people at the labour market is an important key to economic growth and a possible solution to challenges that come with our

ageing societies. The full participation of youth and starters is the category that this paper focuses on.

Looking at the unemployment rate of young people it is obvious that the levels are way too high and that young people are at risk. The causes of youth unemployment are various and differ very much from state to state. There are however certain overarching problems that can be defined.

### *Education*

The transition from finishing education to full employment is seen as one of the most important moments on a young person's life. This is the moment where knowledge acquired during a period of education (formal and non-formal) has to be transformed into employment possibilities. Often the education does not match the requirements of the employers. Even worse are the high amounts of early-school leavers that have no to little chances at the labour market

### *Young Entrepreneurship*

Over half of the EU's young people wish to start up a business within five years according to Eurobarometer. At the same time there are severe barriers that withhold these youngsters from really starting the business. Many young people are not considering it any longer once they are faced with the enormous administrative burden and difficulties to get loans because of short credit records. Furthermore skills required for starting up a business are not always sufficiently taught during primary and secondary education.

### *Age discrimination on the labour market*

Today's labour markets in Europe often suffer systems that overprotect older people. Discrimination on the basis of age is done in both legal and illegal ways. These practices that are often the result of collective bargaining agreements between different social parties are very harmful for young people.

### *Employment costs*

High employment costs are a problem for many labour markets in Europe. Employment costs generally consist of a salary, the patronal part of social security costs and taxes as well as possible secondary benefits for employees. These costs combined with an often high level of regulation make it sometimes unappealing for employers to attract new employees on long-term contracts, leading to high frictional unemployment, high levels of temporary jobs and other ways to avoid committing long-term contracts (internships etc.). More vulnerable groups on the labour market such as women and young people are affected the most by high barriers for employers to recruit new people.

### *Dialogue*

In Europe's current societies where unionisation is decreasing fast especially amongst young people, Trade Unions can no longer be seen as the only representative voice of workers. Young workers and starters often do not longer engage themselves in

Unions and this has serious consequences for their representative voices. Civil Society organisations can play an active role in discussions around youth employment, intergenerational solidarity and other social-economic challenges.

The LYMEC Congress, meeting from 1-3 May in Barcelona, concludes the following:

- When implementing the Lisbon Strategy and possible further EU coordination plans on innovation related to social-economic policies, special attention has to be drawn to young peoples' participation in the labour market as a part of boosting labour participation in general;
- The EU should develop individual targets for member states so that the EU-27 average youth employment rate goes down from 17% to 10% by 2020;
- National policies will have to be developed in order for European states to focus on early-school leaving and the transition from education to employment when improving education policies;
- European states urgently have to start cutting Red Tape for starting up businesses. Ambitious programmes in some countries where it has to be possible to set up a business in one day could serve as an example for other member states;
- The EU has to take legal steps against member states practicing policies of legal age discrimination within national labour law;
- The EU has to urge its member states to cut employment costs in order to increase employment. This can be done by absolute cuts on taxes and social charges for employers and alternatively by transforming current tax regimes from taxing labour and production to taxing consumption;
- New forms of dialogue will have to be created on all levels of governance that are concerned with youth employment. It has to be recognised that trade union cannot longer be seen as the only voice for young people in various policy discussion

### **PA 3.03 Set Culture free**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.01 before Paris 2021))***

Culture, Social Rights

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

#### **Considering that:**

- Technological development has made it possible to spread culture, both popular and niche, around the globe at minimal cost
- Large distributors and copyright owners systematically and widely misuse copyright to stall artistic development and innovation

**Observing that:**

- Today's legal framework for copyright is not adapted to new technology in modern society
- New technology creates vast opportunities, but also challenges for both artists and consumers
- Today's restrictive laws regarding copyright create a difficult situation for musicians, movie producers, writers and other artists when they want to recreate and rework old works and productions
- Stringent and non-enforceable copyright laws have criminalised a generation of digital consumers who as a result are losing respect for the rule of law

**Recognising:**

- The need to strike a balance between consumer demands, society's need for openness and access to culture, and the artists' right to revenue and attribution

**Declaring that:**

- Anyone who has bought the right to use a product should be able to use it with the technology of his choice
- Copyright terms should be at a level that properly balances innovation and widespread use of culture

**LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls for:**

- Laws and regulations to be changed so that they only regulate limitations of use and distribution in a commercial for-profit context
- Recreation of old works to be regulated as fair use, as existing laws against plagiarism are more than enough to protect the rights of copyright holders.

**PA 3.04 Freedom of Scientific Research**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.02 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.01***

Innovation, Technology, Modernization of Society

**Noting that:**

- Science represents an opportunity to individuals, enhancing their economic and social conditions.
- Science is an occasion for creating new jobs and economic growth.
- Science constitutes a hope for people affected by genetic or chronic diseases.

- As a result of rapid advancement in scientific research, and in particular of the encouraging results of recent work with stem cells from human embryos, there exists today a genuine prospect that such research may result in cures for human diseases.

- In order to safeguard this research there must be adequate legislation, able both to safeguard respect for human dignity and prevent the imposition of moral or religious beliefs that might destroy the ability of scientists to advance the cause of human well-being.

**Whereas:**

- Article 15 (3) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights lays down that the ratifying States "undertake to respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research";

- Article 12 lays down "the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health";

- General Comment 14 to said Article lays down the obligation of ratifying States "to respect, protect and fulfill" such rights.

- 40 Nobel laureates released a statement in April 2002 that supported a ban on reproductive cloning but opposed restrictions on cloning research to make stem cells for therapeutic reasons.

**Having regarded to:**

- - The resolution on "Biotechnological research and cloning" adopted by the LYMEC Congress in Vilnius in April 2003.

**Considering that:**

- Science is in many EU countries tighten to ideological and moral a priori conditions;

- Stem cells and therapeutic cloning research is banned in some EU countries, thereby there are no investments, publics or private, in these sectors;

- Some EU regions are not capable of guarantying the hope of health care and cures to individuals with chronic and genetic diseases;

- General research funds and investments are very low in some EU countries, under 2% of GDP, insufficiently to represent a growth potential;

**The LYMEC Congress concludes that:**

- The EU should support and respect the freedom of ethically acceptable research, considering that science must be safeguarded from any religious, political and ideological interference.

- Science must represent an opportunity for any individual that aim to enhance and improve his or her life, bringing a general benefit for the entire human beings that could enjoy as a result of his or her work.

- Cloning human cells for reproductive reasons must be banned, but all restrictions to human-cell cloning for therapeutic reasons should be removed.

- All proposals aimed at the prohibition of scientific research on stem cells from human embryos for therapeutic reasons, either regarding the use of supernumerary embryos (otherwise to be destroyed) or the technique of cell nuclear transplant for the production of stem cells, should be rejected.

The LYMEC Bureau will inform the ALDE Group in the European Parliament of this position

### **PA 3.05 No to Software Patents**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.03 before Paris 2021))***

Patenting, Innovation

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

#### **The LYMEC Congress**

##### **Whereas:**

- The European Patent Office (EPO) - which lies entirely outside the EU - has, in contradiction to the letter and spirit of the written law, granted tens of thousands of patents on rules for computing with conventional data processing equipment, below termed "software patents".
- In 2000, the removal of software patents' exclusion in the European Patent Convention (which governs the EPO) failed due to an unexpected public resistance.
- The European Commission adopted in 2002 a draft directive that aims at legalising patents on "computer-implemented inventions" and making them uniformly enforceable in Europe.
- Following continued public mobilisation and a negative opinion expressed by the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament made, in the first reading of the text (September 2003), very substantial amendments to the draft directive.
- The votes of the ELDR Group were highly divided in the first reading of the text
- Under the Irish presidency, the Council of Ministers of the EU has rejected, through its political agreement of 18 May 2004, most amendments of the European Parliament.
- Following irregularities in the vote of the 18 May 2004 (no qualified majority of Member States), the approval of the Common Position by the Council has been several times pushed back.



- After the Council approves a Common Position, the directive will come back to the European Parliament for a second reading of the text

**Noting that:**

- Empirical studies show that software patents stifle innovation by increasing entry costs and favour large over small businesses: most software patents are indeed owned by large companies and obtained for strategic purposes rather than for preventing imitation of products
- In the US, software patents have resulted in a transfer of resources from R&D to patenting activities and have created considerable implementation difficulties
- The software industry is characterised by cumulative innovation, low capital costs, rapid consequential innovation and short life span of products, and alternative incentives for innovation such as copyright and Open Source.
- The Irish Presidency was co-sponsored by Microsoft

**And considering that:**

- Software market is different from traditional industries: small or no market in 'components', most programs are written from scratch, high chances of infringement
- Widening the scope of patents, tools of industrial age, to intellectual works which are immaterial, such as software, is highly questionable
- Software patents not only may cause the software industry to cease being a creative industry, restricting it to large companies that cross-license, but also hurt Open Source and other non-corporate models for the software industry
- The votes of the ALDE Group could be critical on the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the European Parliament

**The LYMEC Congress concludes that:**

- LYMEC urges the European Parliament to stand firm against the Council of Ministers in case the controversial political agreement of May 2004 is confirmed
- The Bureau should on behalf of LYMEC contact Graham Watson MEP (Leader of the ALDE Group) to encourage him to call for all ALDE MEPs to vote against the patenting of software
- LYMEC President should sign the *Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure* (FFII)'s petition against software patents on behalf of LYMEC
- LYMEC should join forces to FFII's campaign "Software Patents vs. Parliamentary Democracy".

## **PA 3.06 Resolution for a Competitive University**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.04 before Paris 2021))***

***merged into new 3.02***

Education, Students' Mobility

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

### **Whereas**

- European universities' leading role has been declining for the last decades .

### **Noting that**

- World-top rankings place European universities below the North-American ones.
- Most Scientific innovations are developed in American universities.
- All Nobel prizes in sciences were awarded to American researchers last year, being an indicator of their excellent research programmes.

### **And considering that**

- Students in Europe are quite determined by geography, meaning that they tend to study in their country of origin.
- There is no real competition among educational centres trying to incorporate the best students and professors.
- The budget of universities is determined by public administrations with few or no incentives by universities to strive for both public and private funds.
- The government fixes the curriculum in many European countries.

### **European Liberal Youth asks for**

- A change in the funding of the European public universities to incorporate private funding with the aim to increase students and researchers possibilities, and accommodate it to the demands of the labour market.
- An educational system based on incentives and promotion of excellence inside and outside the university.
- Effective policies to increase the mobility of students and researchers around Europe, being English the common second language.
- Real autonomy in the management of the universities.

## **PA 3.07 Save Stem Cell Research**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.05 before Paris 2021))***

***merged into new 3.01***

Innovation, Technology

Taking note of ECJ Judgement in case C-34/10 of 18 October 2011, which effectively prohibits patents on stem cells extracted from human embryos that are later discarded;

Pointing out that the judgement is based on the argument that Directive 98/44/EC does not define the concept of an embryo, which is why the Court had to apply a wider definition of the concept;

Convinced that stem cell research has the potential to cure numerous diseases, especially curing some for which there is no cure today, and curing others more effectively than traditional treatments, thereby not only ease the suffering of many people but also ease the strain on increasingly expensive health care systems in Europe;

Noting that the recent judgement has already created insecurity in the scientific community in Europe, fearing that benefits of their discoveries will now be reaped elsewhere, especially Asia, and that funding opportunities both from the private and the public sector could now be in jeopardy;

Fearing the long-term economic consequences of Europe not able to reap the benefits of discoveries in this field as they might be made elsewhere;

Also fearing the start of a new debate on the topic at large led by the moralistic arguments of social conservatives that stem cell research is an experimentation with human life. Liberals should rather look at scientific arguments that while embryos have a potential for life, they are not equivalent to human life. Initial cells often do not implant after conception, and heartbeat or brain activity does not develop until after the fifth week of a pregnancy. Furthermore, through the utilisation of in vitro fertilisation, a large amount of unused embryos already exists. Embryonic stem cells are also superior to adult stem cells and cannot (yet) be effectively produced artificially.

Furthermore pointing out that Member States with the most liberal regimes in that field, such as Sweden and the UK, are severely affected by this ruling, while others are not, as for instance Austria, Denmark, France and Ireland prohibit the generation of human embryonic stem cell lines. These Member States and others opposing such research shall be reminded that the patentability on the EU level will not affect any national ban on stem cell research;

LYMEC calls on the European Union to amend Directive 98/44/EC on the legal protection of biotechnological innovations to define the concept of a human embryo in a way that specifies scientific research on human embryonic stem cells derived from fertilised eggs as not affecting human dignity and explicitly allows for patents based on discoveries through such research.

To ensure that liberal decision makers will spearhead this effort, LYMEC will consider an urgency resolution in this spirit to the 2011 ELDR congress.

### **PA 3.08 Resolution on Drones and Privacy in the EU** ***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.07 before Paris 2021))***

**Summary:** The European Commission plans to open EU airspace to drones by 2016. However, the privacy infringements caused by drones are unclear. LYMEC should call for an EU investigation on possible privacy infringements.

**Noting that:**

- drones are small unmanned airplanes that are used for both military and non-military missions;
- non-military missions include the search for criminal activities in populous areas within the national borders of several member states;
- public prosecutors put drones fairly easy into action within their jurisdiction;
- the missions are mainly random searches and the information supplied before, during and after these missions is very limited;
- the European Commission is working on a plan to open European civil airspace to drones by 2016;

**Taking into account that:**

- there are currently no laws regulating government drone usage;
- it is therefore unclear what information is gathered and stored by government drones;
- privacy is one of the core values of liberalism;

**LYMEC, gathered in Tallinn on 27 April 2013:**

- **affirms the undesirability** of drone usage by EU member states;
- **calls for** EU member states to implement laws regulating their drone usage;
- **calls for** the European Commission to start a thorough and independent investigation on the possible privacy infringements caused by drone usage, before opening civil airspace to drones.

**PA 3.09 Resolution on Education**

**(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.08 before Paris 2021))  
merged into new 3.02**

Education

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Paris, France on the 17-19<sup>th</sup> of January 1992.

The Congress agreed on a number of general principles for education systems:

- Education should be open to all
- It represents a value in itself
- It should be based on liberal principles, allowing choice and participation in the decision making

There was no agreement about whether tertiary education should be free.

The diversity of Europe's education system should be maintained, competition can only come about if there are enough opportunities for people to choose in which system they want to be educated.

The role of the EC should be to co-ordinate the various national education systems and to provide the frameworks for mobility. There should be no standardisation of education systems in general. But, it would still be desirable to harmonise some administrative aspects, e.g. the grading system. We appreciate that harmonisation is already on its way, while there remain serious difficulties at the moment. The LYMEC Bureau should therefore influence the ELDR to speed up moves to mutual recognition.

At the end of secondary school, every pupil should be able to speak at least two foreign languages. One of these two should be (British) English, unless it is a person's native tongue. Under this aspect, exchanges between schools from different countries should be encouraged and actively supported by the EC. LYMEC should also promote youth exchanges among its members.

Erasmus is suffering from lack of funding. It should be better advertised in order to increase participation. In general we recognise that the scope of Erasmus is limited, as it allows participants only study periods abroad. If there is to be competition between the different education systems, every person has to have access to a full education in any system in the EC. A precondition for this is that there is adequate funding for living expenses for the study in another country. There are two options:

- The existing support systems are used. A student would receive funding in the country she/he is studying. Countries would reimburse each other, with a special fund to help the poorer member states.
- The funding travels with the students on the level a student would receive in the host country. A European fund should be set up to help students travelling from poorer to richer countries.

A prototype European University should be set up (in Mallorca) to run alongside the national university systems to encourage competition. Access should be based on merit.

### **PA 3.10 New Youth Programme (2007-2013)**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.09 before Paris 2021))***

Youth, Social Rights

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

The LYMEC Congress in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, upon the proposal of the LYMEC shadow committee on youth and education.

**Whereas:**

- in 2003 the European Commission declared its intention to come forward with proposals for a new generation of programmes in the area of education, training and youth in the first months of 2004.
- the proposal for a future EU programme called *Youth in Action* was finally adopted by the college of Commissioners on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2004 with the aim to replace the current EU Youth Programme for the period of 2007-13.
- the proposal for a future EU programme was adopted as part of the Commission's Financial Perspective package with a budget of 915 million according to the Commission proposal and five Action lines: Youth for Europe (youth exchanges and initiatives, participation projects), European Voluntary Service, Youth of the World, Youth workers and support systems and Support for policy cooperation.
- LYMEC actively contributed to the consultation of the new Youth Programme through the European Youth Forum (YFJ) in 2002 and 2003.

**Noting that:**

- the Youth Programme has increased the mobility of young people in Europe, which leads to a further understanding of cultural diversity in Europe.

The LYMEC Congress expresses its support to the Commission proposal especially with regard to the emphasis on strengthening youth participation, intercultural understanding and organised youth, as well as on allowing and enhancing cooperation beyond the current EU member states.

Nonetheless, the European Liberal Youth wishes that the following points are taken into consideration:

- We believe that **Action 1** -Youth for Europe- and especially the exchange projects are of utmost importance for the European youth.
- We stress the importance of **Action 1** -Youth for Europe-, especially over those programs on **Action 2** -European Voluntary Service-. This qualitative difference should also be acknowledged when the different funds are to be allocated
- We believe that the focus on **Action 3** -Youth of the World- should be clarified. First of all, the following countries should be included in the list of neighbouring countries: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Second of all, the status of the following countries should be re-considered: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia, as there is a need for co-operation between the

European youth with youths in these countries, but then more financial resources would be necessary in order to succeed.

- We emphasise that programs under **Action 4** -Youth workers and support systems- are crucial for many European wide organisations, such as LYMEC, and therefore we welcome its inclusion. These organisations play a key role in forming and educating the future of Europe and thereby they should be given the necessary resources in order to perform these tasks.

### **PA 3.11 LYMEC policy paper on youth**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.10 before Paris 2021))***

Youth, Education, Innovation

#### **1. Combating youth unemployment**

##### **Tackling youth unemployment**

One of the biggest challenges of Europe in the field of youth is tackling youth unemployment. It continues to rise and is still twice as high as the average unemployment rate. LYMEC calls to put youth unemployment as top priority in the European Employment Strategy. In particular, we urge the EU and its member states to commit themselves to reducing youth unemployment in the EU from 18% to 9% in the period 2006-2010. As long term unemployment has severe consequences for young people, LYMEC also calls on all member states to reduce the average transition period between school or training and obtaining a paid job.

##### **Discrimination on the labour market**

Recent developments in for instance France have shown that there is a real danger of discriminating young people on the labour market in ageing Europe. LYMEC is strongly against measurements which put young people in a less favourable position than elderly people. This includes pension policies. It should not be this and future generation of young people who will have to bear the burden of ageing Europe. Among others these actions should be that government make the pension age higher, eliminate subsidies of early retirement and encourage people to stay active in working life longer.

Young people have to be regarded as a resource on the labour market, not as a problem. Special attention is required when it comes to the position of young women, young immigrants and ethnic minorities, disabled young people and young people possibly discriminated by their religion or sexual orientation. If these groups are not socially included, this possible resource is wasted. Society will always pay the costs for the possible exclusion, that is exactly why all groups have to be regarded as a possible resource on the labour market.

Governments should promote entrepreneurship among young people, making it easier for them to start their own business. Member states should also set up

covenants with business to increase the number young people who do practice, simultaneously increasing the relative amount of trainees in civil service.

## **2. Empowering young people**

### **Active citizenship**

Citizenship and participation should not remain theory; young people should also get the opportunity to practise it. Governments have to encourage and empower participative youth organisations, providing increased resources and involving them in consultations related to policies affecting young people. Supporting youth organisations financially is of a key importance. The European Union should commit increasing funds to candidate-countries and other countries on the European continent in order to support the young people building and supporting active citizenship and democracy in those communities.

It is also vital to establish the link between youngsters and politics already at lower levels at schools. There is a need for civil education for pupils. Pupils and students should also be involved in decision-making at their learning places, via school councils etc.

### **Participation in decision making**

The active participation of young people in the decisions that affect them is essential if we are to build democratic societies. The European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations must involve young people in various working structures and decision-making bodies, especially those issues that are directly linked to young people (i.e. Ministerial meetings).

### **Participation in elections**

LYMEC is concerned about the decline of participation rates at the elections. In ageing society, the amount of young people is lowering. Giving the young people right to vote would balance the ageing voters.

LYMEC believes that lowering the minimum ages (for both voting and candidacy) would be a clear statement that politicians trust young people and take their views seriously. LYMEC would like to encourage all member states to follow the examples that among others some of Germany's regions have taken in lowering voting age to 16 years in local elections. LYMEC condemns that in some countries it is currently only possible to stand for elections after reached the age of 25. LYMEC calls for all states to comply citizens' rights also with young people – they cannot be discriminated!

## **3. Mobility**

### **Mobility in the European Union**

They are also useful tools in providing a real sense of European citizenship. In today's globalised world the challenges for young people are changed. It calls for broad understanding of cultures and learning other languages. Mobility as a way for more cultural understanding is one way to combat racism and xenophobia.



LYMEC welcomes the different exchange programs developed by the European Commission. At the same time we realize that it is only a very small amount of people who takes part in actions as for instance the Erasmus exchange program for university students. If we want to create real European citizenship, the European Union and its member states have to dedicate more resources to enlarge the current exchange programs. LYMEC wants to see an increased number of young people working or studying abroad. At the same time LYMEC calls for the funding of Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013) to be secured with sufficient funding.

## **Visas**

Visa procedures are often unclear, time consuming, expensive and very bureaucratic. Extreme requirements such as proof of a large sum of money before travelling can make the visa application impossible, especially for young people involved in youth work coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The current visa regimes of both receiving and sending countries are a clear obstacle for youth work. Current visa systems recognize different categories of visas, such as business, tourism and other. However, the visa system does not reflect an important category of users, different from the existing ones, namely youth workers and volunteers. Situations occur in which embassies do not recognize the purpose of the visit and therefore do not issue the needed visa. Requirements for visas differ from embassy to embassy, even inside the Schengen area. This creates even more obstacles. Worrying is that embassies put extra limitations on visas issued who contradict the free movement of people principle of the Schengen agreement.

LYMEC therefore asks the European Union to establish a visa category for youth workers and volunteers. It is unacceptable that the European Union promotes voluntary work intensively, but refuses to take away visa obstacles. LYMEC also asks for the implementation of the Schengen agreement: free movement of people carrying a Schengen visa should be allowed. Countries who signed the Schengen agreement should not be allowed to limit entries and exits when issuing the needed visa. Visa costs should reflect the real costs, not being regarded as an admission fee. Further on applications procedures should be transparent, fast and according rules set and published.

## **4. Conclusion – We are the future, now!**

LYMEC is concerned with the position of young people in Europe. The lack of elected young officials on different levels is unacceptable. It cannot be that the voices and concerns of 1/6th of population are not taken seriously.

LYMEC calls for its member organisations for active involvement in shaping the youth policies in their respective organisations. As well as it's important to take active part in regional and national youth structures, such as National Youth Councils where possible, and contributing to the youth policy at the European level through LYMEC and European Youth Forum.

## **PA 3.12 A Student's Perspective on the Bologna Process** ***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.11 before Paris 2021))***

## Education

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

### **Whereas:**

- The stated goals of the Bologna process are to facilitate student mobility through the reduction of mobility restraints and to improve employability by providing comparable degree and quality assurance standards among the member countries of the European Union;
- International study experience and knowledge of foreign languages is deemed absolutely necessary for students in order to succeed in today's labour markets and

### **Noting that:**

- Standardization of university degrees alone does not imply standardization of studying conditions nor an improvement over existing studying conditions;
- Student mobility is severely impacted by uncoordinated modularization and intense workloads of the new undergraduate degree required by the Bologna process. Student mobility is decreased due to the lack of harmonisation of financial costs for access to studies.
- Governments and universities are forcing the implementation of the Bologna process without proper quality assurance and in an "à la carte" approach, with certain action lines being implemented and others ignored, thus further degrading study conditions contrary to the goals of the process;
- The individualization of curricula by students according to their personal preferences, needs and interests is impeded by the rigidity brought by the implementation of modularized courses;
- Universities are forced to reduce the quantity and quality of the range of subject taught in order to comply with new study structures, thus eliminating competences in study subjects in which they have acquired specialized and unique knowledge;
- The acceptance of the new undergraduate degrees by employers is hindered by reduction in expertise compared to the older and longer degrees;
- Student mobility within the ERASMUS program of the European Union and other programmes for student exchange is further hindered by the continuing existence of strict Visa requirements among European countries. An unnatural barrier has been created to European students in rejecting countries outside of the Council of Europe in joining the Bologna process.
- The tightening of degree curricula has a potentially adverse impact on the commitment to social and political activities by students;
- Students' concerns are not properly taken into account in political discussions in many Bologna member states and participating higher education institutions;

### **LYMEC**

*Calls all actors concerned with the implementation of the process for joint quality assurance to be taken into account when implementing the Bologna process. Quality assurance should be the main topic of the next Follow-Up-Conference and the whole process should be revised in reference to aims and outcome;*

*Demands from all actors concerned with the implementation of the process that students as main stakeholders of the reform process should be included in political and administrative discussions on all levels;*

*Calls the member states for more autonomy for universities when establishing new degree courses in order to promote competition and diversity;*

*Calls the member states for the abolition of VISA requirements among European countries. Calls for an opening of the Bologna process to countries outside of the Council of Europe;*

*Calls the universities to foster mobility through more cooperation with other European Universities, local exchange programs and scholarships, joint and double degree programs as well as more language courses;*

*Calls the universities to implement ECTS via the learning outcome approach by linking the credit points to a properly measured student workload, thus improving comparability and allowing mobility without discontinuance;*

*Wants to actively encourage student mobility by facilitating contacts to other young liberals across Europe in the context of Erasmus and other exchange-programs;*

*Encourages its member organisations - especially through the European Liberal Students Network (ELSN) - to exchange good practices and to report regularly on major problems within their respective countries;*

*Calls ELSN and the LYMEC bureau to develop a student campaign targeted at campuses on the above issues (production of a leaflet).*

### **PA 3.13 Resolution on the Bologna Process**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.14 before Paris 2021))***

Education, Modernization of Society

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

#### **Whereas:**

The stated goals of the Bologna process are to facilitate student mobility through the reduction of mobility restraints and to improve employability by providing comparable degree and quality assurance 12 standards among the member countries of the European Union;

International study experience and knowledge of foreign languages is deemed absolutely necessary for students in order to succeed in today's labour markets and;

The Bologna process is an important measure to increase European cohesion through promoting knowledge, mobility and innovation and thus strengthening the role of Europe in a globalized world

#### **Noting that:**

Standardization of university degrees alone does not imply standardization of studying conditions nor an improvement over existing studying conditions;

The universities are lacking behind in the implementation of proper quality assurance systems and that student participation in existing systems is still at a low level.

Student mobility is severely impacted by uncoordinated modularization and intense workloads of the new undergraduate degree required by the Bologna process;

Governments and universities are forcing the implementation of the Bologna process without proper quality assurance and in an "à la carte" approach, with certain action lines being implemented and others ignored, thus further degrading study conditions contrary to the goals of the process;

The implementation of the process in some countries is untransparent and information on the decision making process is scarce.

The individualization of curricula by students according to their personal preferences, needs and interests is impeded by the rigidity brought by the implementation of modularized courses;

Universities are forced to reduce the quantity and quality of the range of subject taught in order to comply with new study structures, thus eliminating competences in study subjects in which they have acquired specialized and unique knowledge;

The acceptance of the new undergraduate degrees by employers is hindered by reduction in expertise compared to the older and longer degrees;

Student mobility within the ERASMUS program of the European Union and other programmes for student exchange is further hindered by the continuing existence of strict Visa requirements among European countries;

Mobility of teaching personal and researchers is hindered by obstacles concerning different career structures, methods of recruitment, pension rights and visa requirements, thus making European careers in science and HE unappealing;

The tightening of degree curricula has a potentially adverse impact on the commitment to social and political activities by students;

Students' concerns are not properly taken into account in political discussions in many Bologna member states and participating higher education institutions;

Lifelong Learning has become an important aspect in the global knowledge community and an integral part of most local education systems.

## **LYMEC**

Calls all actors concerned with the implementation of the process for joint quality assurance, aligned on the "European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance", to be taken into account when implementing the Bologna process. The students and their representative bodies should play a crucial role in quality assurance on all levels. To guarantee a student-centered implementation and maintenance of the process the Social Dimension, especially the provision of Student

Services, should not be left out, when measuring the quality of HE. It is of general importance, that the evaluation of quality in HE is not only preserving the status-quo, but putting forward proposals for improvement to the actors concerned.

As an outcome of the Leuven Follow Up Conference the whole process should be revised in reference to aims and outcome especially on the national and university level;

Demands from all actors concerned with the implementation of the process that students as main stakeholders of the reform process should be included in political and administrative discussions and decisions on all levels. In countries without proper bodies for student participation on university level, the bologna process should be used as stimulus to introduce such structures;

Also urges the actors concerned to put a strong focus on making the implementation of the process more transparent, especially in terms of information about the decision making process, it's main stakeholders and outcomes;

Calls the member states for more autonomy for universities when establishing new degree courses in order to promote competition and diversity. Achieving more autonomy should not be a hindrance to the goal of fostering mobility but both objectives have to be made coherent with one another. Also autonomy should take the utmost good of preserving academic freedom into account;

Calls the member states for the abolition of VISA requirements among European countries;

Calls the member states and the universities to put a stronger focus on strengthening possibilities for lifelong learning and to foster the flexibilisation of study-programs in terms of enabling more compatibility of HE and professional life.

Calls the universities to foster mobility through more cooperation with other European Universities, local exchange programmes and scholarships, joint and double degree programmes as well as more language courses. Access to information on grants and programs provided should be made easier for the students.

Calls the member states and universities to tackle any obstacles to the mobility of teaching personal and researchers as this is not only a way to foster academic freedom but also adds to the overall attractiveness of careers in the HE sector.

Calls the universities to implement ECTS via the learning outcome approach by linking the credit points to a properly measured student workload, thus improving comparability and allowing mobility without discontinuance.

Calls the universities to strengthen the linkage between teaching and research especially by integrating more research related content into the curricula starting on bachelor-level;

Wants to actively encourage student mobility by facilitating contacts to other young liberals across Europe in the context of Erasmus and other exchange programmes;

Encourages its member organisations - especially through the European Liberal Students Network (ELSN) - to exchange good practices and to report regularly on major problems within their respective countries.

Calls ELSN and the LYMEC bureau to develop a student campaign targeted at campuses on the above issues (production of a leaflet).

### **PA 3.14 Student Services Across Europe**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.15 before Paris 2021))***

Education, Modernization of Society

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 2010, 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

#### ***Considering that***

- student services are of paramount importance for the well being and the full and proper use of any forms of higher education on the part of Europe's citizens;
- student mobility is highly dependent on the availability and quality of proper services at a guest university;
- students have a better knowledge of what their needs are and are able to fruitfully contribute to the provision of such services;

#### ***Seeing that***

- the provision of student services is highly fragmented between European countries and, inside that countries, among state, private actors and other forms of associations;
- the possibility of students to participate in the decision making in regard to the provision of student services is similarly unequally distributed among the systems of provisions;
- there is no centralized source of information about the availability and quality of student services in universities across Europe;
- there is no established catalogue of criteria regarding a minimum level of quality providers should respect in the provision of student services;

#### ***Calls***

- on national organizations to provide for equal co-determination between state and student representatives in the decision-making regarding the provision of student services;
- on ECSTA to become more active in establishing an European dimension of student services and creating, with the contribution from student organizations, a European-wide quality criteria catalogue regarding minimum levels regarding student services;

- on universities to inform themselves on who provides student services and to engage in quality assurance on the services offered by third parties to assure an appropriate level of quality and communicate those results to ECSTA;
- on student organizations to also engage in quality assurance, especially in case the universities themselves provide student services, and communicate those results to ECSTA;
- on ECSTA and the universities to establish a centralized source of information regarding the availability and quality of student services;
- on European countries to provide for an uncomplicated possibility for medical insurance for all students, independently of their financial possibilities;

### **PA 3.15 Resolution on the Liberal Challenge of the Communication-Society**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.18 before Paris 2021))***

Data, Civil rights

Adopted by the LYMEC Congress, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> of March 1996.

The post-industrial revolution society is rapidly transformed again by the new means of information interchange and communication. This opens new opportunities to form a more liberal society than today.

On the other hand, information technology can threaten our individual freedom. Liberals should therefore protect the individual from the possible misuse and give him a chance to realise as much as personal freedom as possible.

The aim should be that everyone could access the new media's, personal information can be gathered by the provider of services. The user should be made aware of this and has to have the right to review the information.

The growing necessity for fast and secure transport of information requires the right to choose whatever way to crypt the information. This right should not be alienated by the possibility to protect criminal or illegal operations. Nor should encrypted technology be restricted to certain, approved programs or users.

An international effort, starting on European basis, should be made to prevent the abuse of the networks by anyone to publish illegal materials. The owner of communication-platforms cannot be made responsible for all information traffic using their resources. But they are responsible for careful consideration of the persons they give access to. The new possibilities of individual education, by the means of new media's should be used to give everyone the best possible education according to the personal needs. The danger of alienation because of too extensive use of virtual

realities must be considered and measured against taken. Tele jobbing is opening new means of combining work and private live. It can also integrate handicapped in a new way. These changes should be taken wherever it is useful. The individual rights of employees should be honoured. Using information technology on transport should not mean collecting data on who went where but controlling and directing in order to reduce it. It should be used as an instrument to implement an ecological market economy.

Using information technologies on medical services can end up in an abuse of highly sensitive data. On the other hand it could provide life-saving information. These two extremes have to be carefully considered. A liberal position would give the individual the choice of how all data concerning his health-status should be stored. With the possibilities of the information technologies the government could be more accessible to its citizens. Efforts should be made to allow contact to offices in electronic ways wherever possible.

### **PA 3.16 Resolution on Biotechnological Research and Human Cloning**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.19 before Paris 2021))  
Merged into new 3.01***

Science and Technology, Justice and Citizens Rights, Cloning

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 - 6 April 2003.

Recognising that the human genome represents underlying unity of all human beings, and is the source of their natural dignity and diversity;

Recognising the need to respect the freedom of ethically acceptable scientific research;

Reaffirming once again the basic liberal principle that human beings must never be discriminated on the basis of their genetic characteristics;

#### **LYMEC - The European Liberal Youth**

##### **Resolved that**

research in the field of human genetics must be carefully balanced against strict ethical and social constraints.

all human cloning should be banned in Europe and all the countries of the world due to many ethical dilemmas it involves and many health risks it poses.

human beings that may have been born so far as result of cloning are human beings equal in rights to other human beings, including the right to privacy and protection from unwanted scientific research.



with the exception of cloning humans, we do not oppose the use of cloning techniques in the production of molecules, DNA, cells, tissues, organs and plants.

### **PA 3.17 European Net Neutrality**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.21 before Paris 2021))***

#### **Noting that...**

- Net neutrality is a principle in which Internet Service Providers (ISP's) and governments treat all data on the Internet equally, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, and modes of communication (Source: Wikipedia);
- Several European ISP's have made proposals to abandon the net neutrality principle. Examples include ISP's which proposed to ban or throttle ('slow down') competing services like Voice over IP (Skype) or Internet Messaging (WhatsApp) in order to increase revenues made on their own telephone and text message services;
- In response, Italy, France, The Netherlands and Slovenia have adopted laws which protect net neutrality;
- The European Commission (Neelie Kroes, Commissioner for Digital Agenda) just recently created a proposal for telecom legislation ('laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent, and amending Directives');
- Kroes has decided to rush the adoption of this proposal in order to pass it before the 2014 elections, despite the inclusion of a controversial anti-net neutrality component;
- While the Commission's proposal speaks highly of net neutrality ('The measures provided in this Regulation respect the principle of technological neutrality'), it bypasses that principle in article 22 section 2, where the breaching of net neutrality is framed as 'offering specialized services';

#### **Believing that...**

- Allowing ISP's to block or throttle websites or services without any judicial justification goes against the open and transparent nature of the Internet and disadvantages small websites, businesses and start-ups;
- Measures which need to be taken by ISP's in order to enforce unequal treatment of data require severe privacy breaches, as prioritising one service of

another requires the use of 'Deep Packet Inspection' - inspecting and analyzing all Internet traffic generated by customers;

- ISP's which fear competition by other services have plenty of options without breaching net neutrality, for example by innovating their own services, raising prices for all internet traffic and/or enforcing limits for data plans without advantaging one Internet service over another;

#### **LYMEC therefore**

- Recognizes the importance of neutral treatment of Internet traffic by ISP's and governments;
- Calls upon it's board to urgently raise awareness within ALDE about the deficits of the Commission's current proposal with regards to net neutrality;
- Calls upon its member organizations to bring the topic of net neutrality and the commission's current proposal under attention of 'mother parties' in the European Parliament;

### **PA 3.18 A welcoming student culture – establishing language courses for refugees**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.22 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.09***

Keywords: refugees, language courses, higher education system, integration

#### **Noting that:**

- Europe is challenged to integrate hundreds of thousands of refugees in the european society in the next decade.

#### **Considering that:**

- Cooperation between all parts of society is absolutely necessary for complete integration of refugees. In particular, this includes colleges and universities.
- The integration process for the refugees has to start as soon as possible.
- Knowing the language of the host country is essential to a full integration since it allows a better integration on the labour market, a better understanding of one's rights and duties and a better monitoring of the educational path of one's children."

#### **The European liberal youth:**

- Therefore calls for the national governments of the EU-Members to get refugees access to special language courses. At the very least, colleges and universities should provide rooms and equipment to voluntary language teachers. In addition, colleges and universities should actively consider supplying

interpreters to refugee students on the short term and changing the course language in order to give refugees the linguistic prerequisites to be included in education as soon as possible. The funding for such actions ought to be funded by EU institutions.

- Calls for Europe's colleges and universities to give ECTS-points to students pursuing a Certificate in Education or in their national language for teaching their national language to refugees. With these opportunities and the realization of such language courses, students will gain more practical experience.
- Furthermore calls for Europe's colleges and universities to ensure that regular students still get a sufficient access to language courses without any disadvantages due to the support provided to refugees.

### **PA 3.19 Resolution on youth unemployment**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.23 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.10***

#### **Noting that:**

- Youth unemployment rates are as high as 50% in some member states and overall up to 4 times higher than unemployment in the general population
- The EU youth unemployment rate averages around 22%, with highly skilled youth seeking opportunities outside of Europe.
- The recession has hit young people the hardest, especially those without proper vocational education or those that are unable to compete due to discrimination or limitations.
- The European commission has called on Member states to draw national plans to combat youth unemployment
- European government investments are currently being proposed to create state sponsored jobs for youth.

#### **Considering:**

- Unemployment at a young age is a predictor for unemployment and welfare dependence later in life.
- Achieving decent work for young people is a critical element in poverty eradication and sustainable development for future generations.
- The government should support policies that promote a sustainable future.
- Intergenerational solidarity is not always a priority for several labor unions or several political parties.
- Not being in employment, education or training is wasteful for society, as one has no outlook on change in such situation.
- Unemployment is a unnecessary burden for society as one is unable to create a benefit for society.

- That pan-European internship possibilities are lacking, Lymec should back the creation of more internship possibilities connecting young people all over Europe and offering them new opportunities.

### **Acknowledging:**

- The recession and record youth unemployment threaten the long-term future of our communities.
- The current young generation is the best educated and highest skilled youth ever.
- There is a wide spread in youth unemployment within Europe, with over 50 percent in Spain and Greece less than 10 percent in the Germany.
- A general trend within Europe exists with more youth unemployment than in the general population.
- Specific groups are under particular hardship based on discrimination and social exclusion, such as GLBT's, immigrants, ethnic minorities and socially disadvantaged youth.
- Education should be tailored to job market demands and labour market policies should encourage new jobs to be created under proper conditions.

### **Calls for:**

- LYMEC to focus on the problem of youth unemployment and the broad differences within Europe, to seek a solution to this pressing issue.
- LYMEC to focus and advocate on a European level for the removal of barriers; seeing to actions such as the mutual recognition of vocational and academic degrees, changing priority rules, apprenticeships, reformed employment services and better support in the transition; for entry on the job market by removing protectionist policies and supporting a single European Job Market.
- LYMEC to advocate for the sharing of best practices on how to integrate young immigrants and refugees into the European labor market, furthering a view of the refugee crisis as an opportunity in the making, and call for more coordination on how the education system needs to reflect the change in the European population. Recognizing degrees from outside of the EU calls for better and shared instruments for validating the degrees of incoming laborers to the EU labor market. And for LYMEC to advocate for a flexible labor market with lower thresholds, which are essential for creating both mobility and security.
- LYMEC to advocate for networks of startup entrepreneurs and young chambers of commerce to be consulted when the European agenda on employment and entrepreneurship is set.
- LYMEC to call for the European institutions to designate more high risk funding to young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial networks in connection to academic institutions.
- LYMEC to promote liberal solutions to youth unemployment.

## **PA 3.20 The role of education in the fight against youth unemployment**

*(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.24 before Paris 2021))*

*Merged into new 3.10*

**Taking account of:**

- **Resolution 3.23 on Youth unemployment**

**Considering that:**

- Unemployment levels and rates are largely related to the general business cycle.
- However, other factors such as labour market policies and demographic developments must be taken into account as well.
- In some Member States the youth unemployment rate is much higher, even double, than unemployment rates for all ages.
- In March 2017 youth unemployment rate is 17.2% in the EU and 8.90 % in the USA.

**Noting that:**

- It's important for the consistent development of the next generations and our economies to properly include young people in the European labour market. For many of the youths, entering and re-entering the labour market does not need to be the cause for financial or personal distress. But unemployment spells with a duration of longer than 12 months can very well cause problems like skills erosion or rising social exclusion. A particularly vulnerable group are those young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) which should be offered tailored coordinated, comprehensive and personalised package of support in order to facilitate their successful social inclusion and active participation.
- Study programs need to be adapted to a rapidly changing labor market and teachers trained to face the new challenges. The continuing trend towards more academization, demographic developments and technological progress make constant evolution and adaptation necessary.
- Partnerships between private structures and public educational structures are developing and can be an opportunity for young people to link studies, internship and labour market.
- An early and good orientation for the youth is often key to find a job.
- Practical experiences such as internships are an important step towards the labour market.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- Bringing long-term reforms in the field of education allowing the reconnection between studies and the labour market, such as introducing dual vocational training programs that combine school and workplace learning.
- Launching a proposal on the creation of paid pan-European internships in most of the policy areas.
- For enhanced cooperation between education institutions, including vocational education and training Institutions and entrepreneurs in developing curricula adjusted to the labour market needs.
- Promoting paid internships as an important step in the way to get in to the labour market

### **PA 3.21 Improving technology in favour of education**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.26 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.02***

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

#### **Considering:**

- Technology is an essential part of good education policy.
- Open and flexible learning is about fully exploring the potential of Information and Communication Technologies to improve education and training systems, aligning them with the current digital world.
- Staying competitive in terms of digitalization in today's world is a key issue, education in that respect should follow as well. Nowadays, new methods of sharing knowledge are being developed really fast, putting education at the core of these systemic changes is an important issue. Improving of technologies in the field of education can have a huge positive impact on the way exchanges are managed, since it helps to connect the educational systems in a more efficient way.

#### **Welcoming:**

- The initiative "Opening up education" by the European Commission. The EU has taken the steps in the right direction with this project to improve technology in favor of education.
- The targets of the Horizon 2020, aiming to invest in both technologies and training in the 19 field of education.

#### **Criticizing:**

- In 2013, the Commission launched the project consisting in funding Erasmus + and Horizon 2020. Since then, only "openeducationeuropa.eu", a portal aimed at supporting users (teachers or learners) in finding relevant Open Educational Resources was created.
- The implementations are falling short to rhetorics, therefore concrete actions are needed.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

- The Member States to promote and seek public-private partnerships between schools, universities and companies to provide students and teachers with modern hardware and software, and to show teachers how to use these resources effectively. A comparable digitalization level at schools and universities within the European Union. Clearly measurable indicators, which will take into account economical differences between countries, should be set up to evaluate this digitalization level
- The European Commission to promoting distance learning and massive open online courses (MOOCs) via the cooperation between regional educational stakeholders, especially in higher education. However, regular presence at school should be compulsory, so that digital tools do not prevent any form of socialisation and group working
- Expanding the system where classes in primary, secondary and higher education are being livestreamed in order to help students who can't go or have difficulty going to school.
- The European Commission to use technology to interconnect and interlink educational structures throughout the EU in order to enhance students mobility and improve exchanges across the EU. Strong competition for hardware and software purchases by schools and universities, and the European Commission to advocate open-source software and standards

### **PA 3.22 Refugees in Universities**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.28 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.09***

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

#### **Considering:**

The current refugee situation presents many challenges for the European Union however, many yet unutilized opportunities exist. Demographic changes across Europe can be addressed by properly employing human capital. At present a lot of

this capital is wasted due to a lack of concrete measures aimed at integrating refugees into education and the workforce. The correct implementation of these measures can yield higher productivity and integration, provided a common strategy is employed across all 28 member states.

### **LYMEC proposes:**

An innovative four-stage plan aimed at tackling these issues: The SETL Program's four key pillars endeavor to take a holistic approach in addressing the refugee situation. This is achieved through measures assisting refugees before, during and after their course begins.

S – Support. Particularly during their studies, refugees need a dedicated support network tasked with acting on their behalf and offering specialist advice. This could be achieved through a counselling service, or an allowance for more contact hours on a degree course. Additionally, Universities could utilize innovative e-learning platforms such as the Erasmus Program's online linguistic support. This could be achieved through a counselling service, or an allowance for more contact hours on a degree course. Additionally, Universities could utilize innovative e-learning platforms such as the Erasmus Program's online linguistic support, striving to get student associations in each university involved in the program.

E – Employment. Being one of the ultimate aims of University, it is crucial that refugees have the opportunity to enter the labour market with an equal chance of employment. A dedicated network of refugees both in employment and as employers around Europe could be established, and a refugee fair could be held yearly in conjunction with this. Any University employment service could also receive training in how to advertise refugees to potential employers, and in how to create an understanding that refugees can be a valuable asset to respective employers.

T – Training. Refugees may enter a country with no or limited skills, and so catch-up training could be provided to study effectively. This could be carried out both initially during the often-long refugee status waiting period and continuously during their period of study.

L - Learning. All the additional support previously outlined should ease the transition into study and provide a base of knowledge and guidance upon which academic study can be built. Now, the actual degree course studied will be addressed. Dedicated courses built with refugees in mind could prove hugely beneficial, and may even persuade more refugees to enter tertiary education in the first place. More contact hours and lower course monetary requirements are just two possible examples.

In addition to the SETL Program, legislators must also address the recognition process concerned with previously held qualifications, and look to standardize refugee status waiting times so that courses with standard timeframes can be offered during this period. Currently this recognition process is massively disjointed, varying hugely across all member states.



## **PA 3.23 Educating Europe**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.29 before Paris 2021))***

***Forms basis of new 3.02***

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

Education is the foundation of a progressive society. The diversity of education within the European Union should be seen as a strength but the harmonization of some standards as well as common values ought to be achieved in order to develop the union and cooperation between the EU countries.

### **Early Childhood Education**

#### **Considering:**

- Early Childhood Education has an immense influence on the children's development and represents the foundation of knowledge and socialization skills.
- Reliable information on early childhood education and care (ECEC) systems in Europe is essential to understand the challenges European countries are facing, what we can learn from each other and what solutions might be developed to meet the needs of the youngest members of society.

#### **Welcoming:**

- The establishment of and work by the network Eurydice and its report with Eurostat for the European Commission about key data on early childhood education and care in Europe.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

- Promoting more multilingual nurseries and pre-schools.
- Guaranteeing a high quality first approach in education for the children so that the transition into primary school can easily be executed. (e.g. children should already know the alphabet and numbers when they enter primary school)
- Moreover, improvement in the five main aspects of ECEC: access, workforce

(professionalization of ECEC staff), curriculum (developmental care, formative

interactions, learning experiences, supportive assessment etc.), evaluation/monitoring and governance/funding is obligatory by all means as it is a dynamic, continuous and democratic process.

- Pupils should learn the European anthem in their language and, if possible, in English, French or German (the school would decide).

In order to have an equal system of early childhood education and care,  
**calls upon:**

**LYMEC**

- All the European countries to establish a pre-school year for 4-year-old children and to follow the goals of the European Commission. (By 2020 at least 95% of pre-school children of 4 years or older should participate in early childhood education.)

## **Primary Education**

### **Acknowledging that:**

Three main models of organization within compulsory education in European countries exist:

- First, single structure education which means no transition between primary and lower secondary education.
- Moreover, common core curriculum provision where all students progress to the lower secondary level where they follow the same general common core curriculum.
- Finally, differentiated lower secondary education. After successful completion of primary education, students are required to follow distinct educational pathways or specific types of schooling, either at the beginning or during lower secondary education.

### **LYMEC proposes:**

- To aim for some harmonization between systems and promote one model which would be the differentiated lower secondary education in order to give opportunities to students to express their specific skills and knowledges at an early age.

### **Considering that:**

- Primary education programs are typically designed to provide students with fundamental skills in reading, writing and mathematics (i.e. literacy and numeracy) and establish a solid foundation for learning and understanding core areas of knowledge, personal and social development, in preparation for lower secondary education.
- Age is typically the only entry requirement at this level. The customary or legal age of entry is usually not below 5 years old nor above 7 years old. This level typically lasts six years, although its duration can range between four and seven years.

### **LYMEC calls for:**

- Maintaining legal entry to primary school between 5 and 7 years old is allowing some flexibility and it is in fact a more liberal way to approach primary schooling.
- Regarding the duration of the cursus, a balanced 6 years each between primary and secondary education seems to be the best to valorize the 2 structures. This should be promoted.

**Noting that:**

- There are more young people in pre-primary and primary education than before.

**Considering that:**

- We need to have all children in primary education in the 21st century in the EU.
- Non-compulsory pre-primary education is increasingly provided free of charge. This clearly facilitates access to pre-primary education for all children and especially for those who belong to low income families. All these measures may explain the increasing participation in education at this level.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- European symbols, such as the anthem, the flag and a basic explanation of how the EU works should be taught.
- Backing free pre-primary education all over the EU because it can lead to more children in primary education.
- Coming up with a roadmap for making progressive steps towards free primary education.

**Secondary Education**

**Considering that:**

- The European Union promotes adult education, which often entails secondary education for adults.
- The European Union provides European High schools, especially for the children of European employees, international ambassadors etc.
- The European Union has policies in primary education and has important policies and programs in higher education, but lacks action in secondary education.

**LYMEC Calls for:**

- A common European set of guidelines for high schools in the member states. Creating a European sense of unity amongst young Europeans and helping all students realize the need, historical and current, for European unity across national borders.
- The introduction of more focus on critical thinking, either as a separate subject or through the curriculum and extracurricular activities offered by educational institutions.
- Implement a mandatory course on the European History, Institutions and main policy areas.

## **Higher Education**

### **Considering that:**

The Bologna process has come a long way in harmonizing the higher education system with regards to the well-known cycle structure of higher education. The system allows for easier exchange studying.

### **LYMEC calls for:**

Improve harmonization when it comes to grades, semester length, in order to increase mobility between different universities and increase screening of job-seekers.

### **Considering that:**

The Erasmus+ program is mainly based on bilateral agreements. It mainly implies that you may study a part of your program at a partner university and credit for that period in your degree. The Erasmus+ program also revolves activities such as sports. The

Erasmus+ program costs some 2 billion euros yearly.

### **LYMEC calls for:**

- Considering more harmonization instead of bilateral agreements. This would allow students to more freely choose between different educational institutions.
- Erasmus and Erasmus + should become mandatory and offer suitable programs for higher education.

## **Vocational Education**

### **Considering:**

- In most EU countries, vocational education is still considered as less important than studying.

- The quality of some jobs in countries of eastern Europe are considered lower by the countries of western Europe because of the bad reputation of the vocational trainings.
- The European Union has taken a right step with the Copenhagen Process. Yet most of the points of this process have not been put into practice. The differences of education between countries are still too important.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- Harmonizing the standards of the trainings to minimize the differences between the EU-countries.
- Enabling the recognition of all the vocational training from European countries within the EU.

**PA 3.24 Free Trade for Education**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.31 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.02***

**Noting that**

- Universities today do not have the same ability as companies to establish overseas faculties and units where students can go abroad and keep studying at the same university.
- Higher education is a highly regulated and politicized sector. There is a need to make it easier for universities to establish themselves abroad within the whole of Europe.
- Campus branches are now registered as private education providers under the jurisdiction of the host ministry of education.

**Considering that:**

- Making it possible for European educational institutes to be present in many different countries will improve the internationalisation of education.
- Branch campuses are not a manifestation of a relentless globalisation of higher education, but a transitory alignment of motivations: universities seeking to build their brands and spreading their knowledge by extending their global reach and host governments seeking to accelerate the development of their higher education systems.

- Establishing branches in other European countries would improve European relationships and mobility of teachers and students across Europe.
- Branch campuses will increase quality and prestige as they attract "foreign talent" and make research collaborations between universities easier. Making it possible for universities to operate in different countries will also attract funding for research and establish cross border institutions.
- The freedom of establishing campuses in different countries will improve accessibility to education and increase competition within education in each country and the whole of Europe.
- Free education is an instrument of social change, temple of civilization and platform for innovations.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

- Freedom for universities within the EU to establish branches in other EU member states.
- Reducing bureaucracy to be able to expand the university in another EU country.
- It must be prevented that the establishment of a campus abroad will turn into a prestige project for a publicly funded university due to the high investment of taxpayers' money in such projects.
- Education accessible to all European students.
- Expanding Europe's outreach in education to keep up with globalisation.
- A greater supply of a wider array of education providers to fulfill the growing demand of students seeking higher education.

### **PA 3.25 A liberal way for European education**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.34 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.02***

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

European Parliament elections are coming up. We, as young liberals, need to make sure that a focus is made on education. This resolution on a manifesto tries to bring forward the main points of the education policies adopted by LYMEC but also adds new elements that are missing and updates elements that are going to be relevant in the upcoming 2018.

#### **More competences in education for the EU**

- Leave parts of the competence in education policies to the EU while ensuring an equal access to education all over the Union.
- Converge the different education systems without leveling down.

- Harmonize the different educational systems in the EU with regard to same starting points, exam periods and the whole bureaucracy and institutional procedure. Cross border exchange can only happen when there are equal procedures and systems.

## **Budget**

- Creation of a specific budget line for education in the EU budget.
- Increase investment in national educational systems with a new investment plan at European level available in/for the Members States.
- Member States should increase spendings and interest in policies related to Education and avoid cuts in this field putting at risk next generations.
- Member States should develop specific and comprehensive financial strategies for all levels of their educational systems.
- Creation of a benchmarking system regarding education with an EU educational scoreboard to point out namely financial and structural weaknesses and propose improvements.

## **Digitalisation (3.26 Improving technology in favor of education)**

- Provide students and teachers with modern hardware and software, and to show teachers how to use these resources effectively.
- Promoting distance learning and massive open online courses (MOOCs).
- Use technology to interconnect and interlink educational structures throughout the EU in order to enhance students mobility and improve exchanges across the EU. The use of ICT in education should always be a means to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness, and never be an end in itself.

## **Brexit**

- Keep an active exchange in teaching and research with the universities in the UK.
- EU should call upon the governments in the UK to keep teaching european and liberal values at schools.
- Erasmus+ should remain between the UK and the EU.

## **Reaching excellence in higher education (3.04 Resolution for a Competitive University )**

- Use the potential of private funding of the academic world, while never forgetting that universities should never become a for-profit structure. Therefore, private investments in education must always happen in a transparent way. Private-public partnerships can thus be a useful means to finance education.
- Reform the way our higher education system allows our students to compose their curriculum: give the possibility to pick additional and optional classes that are not necessarily related to their degree but that however triggers the curiosity.
- Allow scholarships based on sport talents since sports are a good way to advocate team spirit, a healthy competition among individuals and is a way of remaining healthy. This is common practice in the USA, the EU is lagging behind.

Fight against youth unemployment (3.23 Resolution on youth unemployment; 3.24 The role of education in the fight against youth unemployment)

- Mutual recognition of vocational and academic degrees, changing priority rules, internships, apprenticeships, reformed employment services and better support in the transition
- Remove protectionist policies and supporting a single European Job Market
- Bring long-term reforms in the field of education allowing the reconnection between studies and the labour market

Promoting exchange programs (3.27 Joint degree Programs integration in Erasmus)

- Transform our current "exchange program" into a real and ambitious European educational framework.
- EU agreements with third countries regulating the non-discriminatory access of EU students to their education facilities, effectively replacing existing bilateral agreements.

Pan-European universities (3.31 Free trade for education)

- Freedom for universities within the EU to establish branches in other EU member states.
- Reducing bureaucracy to be able to expand the university in another EU country.

Vocational education

- Erasmus+ programmes are to be extended to students at all educational levels.



- Those enrolled in vocational tertiary education are to be given student status throughout the EU, enabling them to follow courses in, move to and live and study in other EU Member States.
- Students in vocational tertiary education and other forms of education which require the students to do an internship or exchange abroad should be enabled and encouraged to do so abroad under the Erasmus+ programme.

## **PA 3.26 Facilitating the academic cooperation with the EU in higher education**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.35 before Paris 2021))***

**Merged into new 3.02**

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

### **Considering:**

- A deeper academic cooperation between the EU and countries with academic relevance would help ending the prejudices and discriminations imposed on some people, opening the minds of others, improve the exchange in research and technology, promote globalism, cosmopolitanism and peace.

### **Noting:**

- There is only little deep cooperation with the EU in the field of higher education.
- Cooperation in this area can only really be improved globally through national level and politics. The universities should be able to decide for themselves what kind of exchanges they want to have.

### **Calling for:**

Improvement for students:

- More funding regarding exchange programs abroad
- A recognition of diplomas
- Less bureaucracy and cheaper visas when travelling
- More possibilities and destinations
- Continuity in their studies despite university change
- Better connection with the labour market

Improvement for universities:

- More sharing of best practices
- An online platform of interaction in the academic field
- Non-EU universities to be able to have campuses in the EU and vice-versa (ex: CEU)
- New partnerships and strengthening of existing ones by providing the necessary funds.

Improvement for staff:

- Less bureaucracy and cheaper visas when travelling
- Common trainings
- Common broad educational schemes

## **PA 3.27 Academic freedom in a time of populism and political volatility**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.36 before Paris 2021))***

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Academic freedom is a cornerstone for open and inclusive education and research in Europe. The populism the politicians cling to around Europe is threatening the freedom and autonomy of education institutions. Politicians want to close universities because of they do not like or disagree with the management of the university, as the Central European University dispute. Another example is the campaign by China to censor more than 300 politically sensitive articles in Cambridge University Press in 2017.

Universities need to be the voice for freedom of expression where new ideas grow and progress in research makes for new innovations. Entrepreneurship and innovations should be fostered at the universities to strengthen the ability to build a stronger and better society.

Critical thinking is how new ideas grow and curiosity a way of challenging preconceived ideas. Governments set the framework for universities but should not control the education and research performed at universities and the academia.

### **Noting that**

- Politicians want to influence what literature to be used in teaching in university, elementary and high schools courses.
- Politicians want to influence research performed at universities
- Foreign governments interest in influence education and research performed in Europe

### **LYMEC calls for**

- LYMEC member organisation to stand up for the freedom of academia
- Freedom of speech, write and thought to be safeguarded by all European states
- EU to support and respect the freedom of ethically acceptable research

- Science to be safeguarded from any religious, political and ideological interference.
- All European universities to stop partnering with confucius institutes
- Real autonomy in the management of educational institutions.

### **PA 3.28 European Digital University**

***(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 3.39 before Paris 2021))***

***Merged into new 3.02***

Movers: ELSN, LHG

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

#### **Noting that**

- digitalisation is on the rise and the internet can be used for meaningful objectives;
- lives become more individually and self-determined;
- we have plenty of good lectures in Europe and only the enrolled students of the specific university can profit from it;

#### **Considering that**

- the digitalisation is used efficiently with an added value for all participating parts;
- the universities in Europe share online lectures and materials;
- students can get the best offers and study with a European focus.

#### **Calls for**

- a European Digital University (EDU), a European online university. EDU should allow for online study all around Europe with a pan- European approach;
- a pan- European conception implementation, coordination and financing;
- trans-European committees for conception, implementation, coordination, quality assurance and accreditation, and affiliation to Erasmus+;
- an access for all Union citizen with university entrance qualification and contingents for non-European citizens by autonomous entrance procedures;
- a development of databases and IT for a technical access all around Europe;

- a development of digital teaching and research cooperation with European universities;
- an examinations cooperation with universities and accredited institutions, on the spot;
- a cooperation between EDU and already existing successful online-universities;
- a high Data security within the university.

## Policy Archive Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies

### **PA 4.01 Pan-European Legalisation of Soft Drugs**

*Tax, Industry*

Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress 2-3 December 2000, Barcelona.

#### **Considering that**

- Soft drugs are less dangerous than hard drugs. Hard drugs are both mentally and physically addictive. Soft drugs are only addictive in a mental way. It is possible to die from an overdose of hard drugs, concerning soft drugs dying from an overdoses is impossible. Hard drugs makes people often aggressive and criminal, with soft drugs this is not the case.
- Many hard drugs like Alcohol and Nicotine are legal. Addiction to legal, chemical, drugs is also widespread.
- Every individual should have the right to consume whatever he or she wants as long as nobody else gets endangered. Individuals should be free to make their own choices and have their own responsibilities.
- Criminals benefit from the illegal production and trade of cannabis. Legalising soft drugs will undermine the activities of maffias, organised crime is a huge threat for Europe.
- In many countries the soft drugs dealer sells hard drugs as well. This means a big risk, people who just want to buy cannabis, will be offered hard drugs.
- There is no (state) quality control on cannabis. This endangers the health of the individual consumer, whilst the health of the individual consumer is most important.
- Legalising the soft drugs market increases official GDP and means extra tax income and a possibility for excise-duty.

#### **The LYMEC-Congress concludes**

- To support individual European countries which aim to legalise soft drugs.
- The ELDR Party should equip a strong pro soft drugs legalisation policy in the European Parliament.

## **PA 4.02 Resolution on the legalization of recreational use of soft drugs**

### **(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 4.28))**

**Keywords:** Drugs, Stimulants, Legalisation, Industry

LYMEC, gathered in Zagreb on June 7th, 2014,

#### **Noting that**

- recently, an increasing amount of countries around the world are legalising or consider legalising the production, sale and consumption of recreational drugs;
- in the Netherlands, a policy allowing the sale and consumption has been in use for several decades without having significantly higher addiction rates or recreational drug users;
- recreational use and addiction rate in drugs allowing countries does not exceed the use of drugs in countries with strong prohibition;

#### **Considering that**

- the harmfulness of recreational soft drugs use is comparable with using legal substances as alcohol and cigarettes;
- the legalisation of the recreational soft drugs use will cause less damage to society as it leads to decriminalisation and therefore less damage to both the individual and society;
- Europe should play a leading role in advocating liberal values such as tolerance and self-determination and preventing damages to others;
- government should control the health and safety of the individual users instead of prosecuting and stretching the legal system;
- treatment of any addiction should be a healthcare priority in any countries as it limits self-determination and can lead to criminal behavior.
- Europe and its free internal market should have a level playing field for soft drugs;
- social healthcare should focus on preventing damage due to bad quality drugs and prevent addiction by informing and educating soft drug users;
- organized crime gets a large income from drug sale and leads to direct contact between organised crime and recreational soft drug users;
- decriminalization of soft drugs creates public income through value added taxes and other taxes, whilst lowering law enforcement and legal expenses.

#### **Calls upon**

· LYMEC and its Member Organisations strive for the legalisation of soft drugs in Europe, provided that governments assure proper information is given to users at the point of sale.

## **PA 4.03 Harm Reduction Through Heroin Assisted Treatment Programs**

**(Archived Paris Congress 2021 (Former 4.29))**

**KEYWORDS:** Drugs, Stimulants

*LYMEC Congress, Berlin, Germany 23-25 October 2014*

### **Noting that:**

Heroin is an extremely harmful and addictive substance

The zero tolerance policy has failed to diminish the demand for heroin

### **Taking into account that:**

Criminal organizations collect a huge profit from the production and supply of heroin

Many heroin addicts resort to crime in an effort to fund their addiction

A large minority of heroin addicts do not respond to traditional treatment

### **Recognizing that:**

A series of clinical studies report a substantial reduction in the use of street heroin, and criminal activities amongst addicts taking part in HAT programs.

Clinical studies of HAT programs report a substantial increase in the health and social functioning of HAT program participants

After the introduction of HAT programs Switzerland has experienced a decrease in the number of first time offenses for possession of heroin

### **Considering that:**

HAT programs limit the potential profit of producing and supplying street heroin through reducing the demand for illegal opiates

Opiates distributed through HAT programs are far less harmful and far better controlled than street heroin

Recent studies suggest that the law enforcement costs connected

with a zero tolerance policy on heroin addiction far exceeds the cost

of HAT programs



Naloxone is an effective antidote to the effects of heroin and other opiates overdoses.

**Believing in:**

The importance of limiting and preventing crime

The importance of effective treatment of heroin addiction

The intrinsic value of life

**LYMEC:**

Calls upon the European countries to establish and improve HAT programs as part of their treatment programs for heroin addicts.

Calls upon European countries to provide opiate users training on how to administer Naloxone.

**PA 4.04 Resolution on Completion of the Single Market**

Archived Prague Congress 2022 (former 4.01)

*Tax*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 20th. of December 1992.

"First January Nineteen Ninety Three" has been a reference for all Europeans in past years. Our open-minded generation strongly believes in the total elimination of physical, technical and fiscal borders between the member states. Free from the historical tensions of the past, between the European states, the youth of today shares the common ideal of an ever-deepening European Union.

However, the completion of the single market will not take place, as foreseen, on 1/1/93. Even though the free movement of capital, services and goods is almost fully regulated, the free movement of persons is far from being possible in the beginning of next year.

The LYMEC Congress meeting in Konstanz (Germany) on 20/12/92,

- **Demands** that the remaining 5% unregulated sections of the white book on the Single Market, be approved by the twelve, as soon as possible;
- **Insists** that the "Single Market" should be accomplished as soon as possible, as it is a fundamental basis of the Maastricht treaty;
- **Draws attention to** the fact that it is not enough to have the Single Market on paper and, therefore, the European young liberals and radicals will be attentive, regarding the elimination of the European internal borders.

## **PA 4.05 LYMEC Urges FIFA to Adhere to “Fair Play”**

### **Archived Prague Congress 2022 (former 4.02)**

*Business*

Adopted at LYMEC EC, Helsinki, Finland 2005

Resolution submitted by JD (Jonge Democraten, Netherlands) and LDYS (Liberal Democrat Youth and Students, UK)

#### **Whereas:**

- Football has become one of the most widely practiced human activities. Whether as professionals or amateurs, regularly or occasionally, actively or passively, millions of people now engage in the various forms of this sporting activity available in the European Union.
- In addition to its health benefits, football plays an important economic and social role. It contributes to social integration and inclusion, promotes cultural exchanges and creates jobs in the EU.
- In the spirit of the Declaration on Sport in the 1997 Amsterdam Treaty, the EU has, on several occasions, emphasized the importance of sport's social function, such as in the European Council's Nice Declaration in December 2000. This Declaration stresses the need to preserve and promote the social functions of sport.
- There is no exemption for sport in the EC Treaty, sporting rules may be subject to the full application of the EU legal framework.

#### **Noting that:**

- The FIFA World Cup Organising Committee offers the possibility to purchase on-line conditional tickets for the Football World Cup 2006 in Germany. Applicants are required to pay in advance without knowing whether they will get their tickets. Applicants who are not eligible to get tickets will only be reimbursed after the tournament in July 2006. This means that applicants cannot dispose of their money for several months. Moreover, all applicants will be charged a non-refundable fee.

#### **Considering that:**

- Sport, as an economic activity in the sense of Article 2 of the EC Treaty, must comply with Community law.
- A Court of Justice judgement in 1974 (Walrave judgement) established that sport is subject to Community law to the extent that it constitutes an economic activity.
- The sale of on-line conditional tickets for the Football World Cup 2006 by the FIFA World Cup Organising Committee is a commercial activity subject to European competition law.

- The economic interests are in no way over-ridden by sporting or social interests in the sale of on-line conditional tickets for the Football World Cup 2006 by the FIFA World Cup Organising Committee.
- Article 82 of the EC Treaty provides that 'Any abuse by one or more undertakings of a dominant position within the common market or in a substantial part of it shall be prohibited as incompatible with the common market insofar as it may affect trade between member states. Such abuse may, in particular, consist in: (a) directly or indirectly imposing unfair purchase or selling prices or other unfair trading conditions;

**The European Liberal Youth – LYMEC believes that:**

- Governing bodies like UEFA and FIFA can no longer act contrary to EU legislation and should adapt their rules and regulations to the *acquis communautaire*.
- The FIFA World Cup Organising Committee is abusing its monopoly position by imposing unfair trading conditions on individual consumers.
- The European Commission must protect consumers' interests and should therefore enter into a dialogue with FIFA and UEFA and if necessary take appropriate action in order to ensure adherence to competition and consumer regulation.

**PA 4.06 No More Fiscal Harmonisation in the European Union**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.03)**

*Tax, Business*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

**Whereas**

- Europe is lagging behind on competition in a global scale partly due to high tax pressure on European companies;
- The countries of the European Union need to reduce tax pressure in order to gain competitiveness;

**Noting that**

- Several of the EU member states enjoy high economic growth levels because of substantial lower levels of corporate taxation than other member states;
- Calls have been made by European politicians, trade unions and other organisations to impose minimum levels of taxation across all European Union member states;
- Taxation policy should be considered a national competence of the member states;

**Considering that**

- Fiscal competition within the European Union will lead to a general decrease of tax levels;
- Fiscal competition will lead to better use of tax payers money through budgetary discipline;
- Low corporate taxation is a suitable mean to keep European companies in Europe which will lead to more employment;
- Lower fiscal pressure on companies will increase their investments in research and development;

#### **LYMEC asks for**

- The European Union not to take anymore policy actions in any form that impose more harmonised tax levels in member states;
- The ALDE-group in the European Parliament to fight strongly against policy proposals that will lead to harmonisation of taxes in the EU

### **PA 4.07 Urgent Resolution, Time to Complete the Internal Market**

#### **Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.04)**

*Free Trade, Duties*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

#### **The LYMEC Congress,**

#### **Considering that:**

- LYMEC held a seminar on "The Internal Market: Unfinished Business" on 17-20 April 2007 in Berlin, Germany, the outcome of which is the present Resolution
- The Internal Market, as defined by the Maastricht Treaty, stands for the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, which means that all EU citizens should be able to live, work, study and do business throughout the EU as well as to enjoy a wide choice of competitively priced goods and services
- Since its inception in 1993, the Internal Market has opened up economic and working opportunities that have transformed the lives of hundreds of millions of Europeans: the European Commission estimates that the Internal Market has boosted Member States' output by 2.2% and has created 2.75 million extra jobs
- The Internal Market is still largely incomplete, as several essential sectors remain to be harmonised/liberalised
- Removing the barriers that still prevent citizens and businesses from fully enjoying the benefits of the Internal Market is a key aim of the EU
- The Internal Market is instrumental in increasing economic ties between EU Member States and thereby promoting peace and democracy on the European continent

#### **Calls for:**

- The completion of the Internal Market for services, particularly in the following areas:
- Mobile telecommunication: All EU-internal mobile phone calls should be considered as domestic and priced the same, whether national or cross-border. Roaming charges should be phased out: they are not compatible with the Internal Market principle. We reject any price setting as it stifles competition rather than promote it. Postal services: Postal services should be liberalised before 2009, as proposed by the European Commission. Universal service obligations (USOs) related to postal services shall be defined by the Member States and may be financed by national public subsidies if necessary. No other State Aids to postal companies should be allowed in order to preserve a level playing field in the Internal Market. Multiple operators may be allowed in the same national market.
- Railways: As a matter of priority, railway operations between EU Member States should be liberalised by 2010. The newly created European Railway Agency (ERA) should regulate operators as regards such traffic.
- Energy: the Internal Market for energy provision services should be liberalised as soon as possible and interconnections between national networks should be improved. The EU should play a key role in this project and promote the necessary investments.
- Financial services: the legal framework for retail banking and insurance services (mortgages, payment services, etc.) should be harmonised and competition at EU level fostered in this area
- Further improvement of the mobility of labour force within the Internal Market, specifically through the following measures:
- EU Member States must make greater efforts to ensure the compatibility of national social security systems (pensions, unemployment benefits, etc.) and ultimately move towards privatisation of the social security systems, in order to facilitate the fluid movement of people across national borders.
- In order to break down cultural barriers/stereotypes and promote a positive image of European identity:
- The EU should encourage language education at an earlier age and promote English as a common second language in Europe
- The EU should encourage Member States to exchange best practices in both the fields of communication on European citizenship and education on European issues.
- The EU should fully implement the Bologna process and promote the compatibility of second-level education
- The EU should promote Europass as a tool to make the European labour market more open and dynamic
- Transitional arrangements on the freedom of movement for citizens from new EU Member States should be immediately removed: there should not be '2<sup>nd</sup> class' citizens when it comes to the application of the "four freedoms".
- The European Commission to further develop its "Better Regulation" initiative and intensify its efforts in cutting the bureaucratic "red tape" that frustrates businesses that operate in the Internal Market
- The establishment of a common EU patent system (excluding computing-implemented inventions) in order to better protect intellectual property rights at European level

## **PA 4.08 Resolution on Cross Border Healthcare Services in the EU**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.05)**

*Industry*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

### **Whereas:**

- Health systems are the responsibility of EU Member States
- In most cases, healthcare services are to be considered as an economic activity and thus submitted to Community law
- The European Court of Justice ruled that in some cases EU citizens can seek healthcare in other Member States with the cost being covered by their own health systems
- Health services were excluded in spring 2006 from the Services Directive (the so-called "Bolkestein Directive")
- After repeated delays, the proposal for a framework directive for cross-border healthcare in the EU was shelved on December 2007 due to internal disagreement within the Commission (including serious reservations from VP Margot Wallström) and heavy criticism from the Party of European Socialists

### **Considering that:**

- In some instances healthcare may be better provided in another Member State, e.g. for rare conditions or specialised treatment
- In border regions, the nearest facility may be situated in another country
- The proposed directive is not about liberalising health services but about codifying the circumstances under which people can legitimately be covered by their national health systems for treatment they receive abroad
- Community action on facilitating cross-border health services does not mean harmonising national health or social security systems, it only creates more competition between national systems and through this way fosters their efficiency

### **The LYMEC Congress concludes that:**

- EU citizens should be entitled to exercise their right to seek healthcare in other Member States if they think that the foreign healthcare system provides a better service than their own national system (quality, rapidity...), with the cost that would normally be covered in their own country being covered by their own national health system
- The ELDR Party and ALDE Group should maintain political pressure on the European Commission so that the foreseen draft framework directive for cross-border healthcare is put forward as soon as possible to the European Parliament's agenda

### **And asks the LYMEC Bureau to:**

- Put forward a resolution on this topic at the next ELDR Congress
- Take public positions on the matter, when appropriate

## **PA 4.09 No Double Standards**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.08)**

*Tax*

### **Whereas:**

- Europe is apparently in a period of inevitable change in its economic sector;
- such change is accompanied by recession, which has created serious problems in the relationships of member countries;
- some member countries are experiencing severe crisis
- the principles of European subsidiary and solidarity should become effective promptly and efficiently.
- Considering the fact that resolving financial issues does not necessarily resolve the political issues of responsibility.

### **We wish to point out that:**

- The European Union is a union of unanimity where no discrimination should exist: neither racial nor cultural or linguistic nor on nationality,
- the latter implies that deep economic division should not be allowed to occur;
- EU should endeavor to achieve economic unity – in terms of standards of individual countries, in terms of fiscal policies, etc. , the best performing countries serving as examples;
- a systematic strive is required of each country to reach the standards of best performing countries;
- the countries of the former Eastern Bloc have been living with belts tightened to the extreme for more than 7 years now;
- it is only natural to require countries experiencing difficulties to impose similar restrictive measures;

### **We appeal to:**

- the governments of these countries to introduce a nationally responsible policy and to apply the same fiscal restrictions as East European countries
- the governments of these countries to assume full political responsibility as a principle, which must apply to the entire European Union;
- to do that as soon as possible preventing issues dangerous to internal integration without double standards, such as “Why is this possible for them and not for us?”;
- for stronger integration of mutual regulatory mechanisms of the member states

## **PA 4.10 Completing the Digital Single Market**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.09)**

*Tax, Industry*

Proposed by the Seminar on the Digital Agenda, Copenhagen 2012

**Considering that:**

- Problems with lack of access to the internet, restricts the range of the Digital Single Market.
- Differing national regulations regarding patents and copyright restrict the scope of the Digital Single Market.
- Mobile internet offers significant growth opportunities.

**Noting that:**

- The structural funds are already being used to enhance internet access for regions with inadequate or no internet access.
- In lockstep with the increasing spread of mobile internet, it becomes necessary to increase the bandwidth dedicated to mobile internet.

**Believing that:**

- A more integrated Digital Single Market can enhance growth to the benefit of all Europeans.
- Building a digital infrastructure, that is inclusive, will enhance the competition in the digital marketplace and the quality of life for those who previously had inadequate internet access.
- Copyright levies are not compatible with the increasingly digitalized world.

**LYMEC encourages:**

- The member states to increase their use of the structural funds in investing in spreading internet access to the regions with inadequate or no internet access.
- The member states to convert analog broadcasts to digital and use unutilized, dedicated military frequencies in order to free up frequencies for mobile internet.
- The European Commission to initiate the harmonization of the radio frequencies that are used for mobile internet.
- The European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to adopt the unitary European patent.
- The member states to eliminate copyright levies.
- The European Commission to consider harmonization of copyright law.

## **PA 4.11 European Market for Retirement Funds**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.11)**

*Industry, Tax*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress on the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

**Considering that:**



- directive 2003/41/EC offers a framework for a European Market for retirement funds;
- directive 2003/41/EC considers retirement funds as an insurance that guarantees a fixed amount of money after retirement;
- in some EU member states, non-insurance retirement funds make an implicit promise to pay a certain, indeterminate, amount of money after someone's retirement and retirement funds in those countries are among the best in the world;
- the European Commission plans to apply the rules for regular insurances to all retirement funds, which makes it impossible for the non-insurance retirement funds to meet the solvability needs;
- proportionality and subsidiarity are core principles of the EU.

**Believing that:**

- the plans of the European Commission are a violation of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, as they offer an unequal hamper to the retirement system in those countries that only have non-insurance retirement funds.

**Calls on:**

- LYMEC bureau to call upon the European Parliament and ALDE to stop further development of the plans concerning retirement funds of the European Commission.

## **PA 4.12 Resolution on Banks**

### **Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.13)**

*Industry, ECB*

**Noting that**

- To expand a national bank to a different EU country, there is a need to apply for a new licence in that country.

**Considering that**

- The current system increases bureaucracy and inefficiency.

**LYMEC Concludes that**

- If the licencing should be centralized to the ECB and this increases transparency, trust towards banks and minimizes bureaucracy.

**LYMEC Calls upon**

- The establishment of the new common EU licencing system under the ECB.

## **PA 4.13 It's Time for Innovative Solutions!**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.15)**

*Business, Tax*

### **Whereas:**

European member-states continuously struggle with various challenges, mainly caused by the financial crisis;  
the "Europe 2020" Strategy for Growth, as introduced in 2010, includes the Framework Programmes, of which FP8 will start in 2014.

### **Considering that:**

- unemployment rates alarmingly continue to rise;
- a "lost generation" caused by these high youth unemployment rates is feared;
- over the past decades innovative companies seem to come mostly from outside of Europe;
- the challenges do not only include financial issues, but also include sustainability and food production.

### **Building upon:**

- the resolution 1.1.28 "Resolution on the "Innovation Union" strategy" as adopted during the LYMEC Congress in Ljubljana, November 2010.

### **Demands:**

- **the European focus to include more creative and innovative solutions, as to improve not only the short-term situation, but also focus on long-term yet financially neutral structural improvements;**
- therefore the EC and European member-states should introduce initiatives such as regulation-free zones to encourage young (student) entrepreneurs and SMEs;
- investments made in education should continue and initiatives encouraging the links between education and the labour market should continue and expand;
- that FP8 focuses more on SMEs and small entrepreneurial initiatives.

### **LYMEC gathered at the Congress in Tallinn, Estonia calls upon:**

- the LYMEC Bureau and LYMEC MOs to continue their work on the youth unemployment campaign;
- the LYMEC Bureau and LYMEC MOs to raise awareness among ALDE and the respective national parties to focus on more creative and innovative solutions to the financial crisis to encourage young entrepreneurs and small initiatives and SMEs.

## **PA 4.14 Upholding Stability Pact**

Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.16)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 - 6 April 2003.

**ascertains,**

- the Stability pact that warrants a stable Euro,
- that in consonance with the Stability pact, EU countries are allowed to have a budgetary deficit of no more than 3%,
- that in consonance with the Stability pact, EU countries should have reached a budgetary balance in 2004,
- that countries like France, Germany, Italy and Portugal probably will not fulfil the above mentioned goals,
- that following this the European Commission (EC) wants to give the above mentioned countries more time to balance their budget and proposes that this should be the case in 2006,

**considers,**

- that the policy of the EC, concerning the Stability pact, is inconsequent,
- that if the EU countries will not live up to the rules stated in the Stability pact, the situation will become impossible,
- that the stability of the euro will be in danger if countries do not live up to the Stability pact,

**having regarded these considerations, LYMEC declares,**

- that the EC should stay consistent in the policy concerning the Stability pact,
- that the above mentioned countries should be persuaded into observing the Stability pact.

## **PA 4.15 To Go Greek or Not to Go Greek**

Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.17)

Adopted at LYMEC Congress, 30<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, Sinaia, Romania

The LYMEC Congress, **considering that:**

- the Greek budget deficit has rapidly increased over the past years, to the point where it represents a serious risk for long term economic stability in the European Union;
- because of this deficit, Greece has acquired so much sovereign debt that the capital markets are reluctant to lend her any more, fearing a default.
- Standard & Poor's further downgraded Greece's sovereign bond rating to 'junk', and Spain's rating from AA+ to AA.

- other countries run the risk of ending up in a similar situation as Greece, which can be seen in the sharp increase of the sovereign bond rates of many Southern European countries in the past few days.
- the European Union's attempts to respond to this threat have been scattered if not nonexistent, because of a lack of leadership and institutional problems.
- a prolonged situation of insecurity poses a risk to the EU as a whole, because of (i) increased uncertainty in the economy, (ii) an undermining the credit worthiness of the rest of the Eurozone, particularly Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain, and (iii) depreciation eroding the external value of income and savings.
- the stability of the Euro currency is to a large extent based on the credibility of its regulations and safeguards, which in the case of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) have been substantially watered down already.
- the ALDE Group, in a 29 April 2010 press release, calls on the EU to act immediately to prevent a further widening of the crisis, with Guy Verhofstadt saying: *"Those political leaders who are procrastinating in releasing the funds to shore up Greece against defaulting on its public sector debt are compounding the problem making it ever more expensive to bailout Greece and undermining the credit worthiness of other countries in the single currency area. (...) For the weaker economies of the Eurozone it is precisely the solidarity of the single currency area that ensures stability."*

#### **Concludes that:**

- in the short term, Europe should ensure that Greece does not default, by aiding her with a package of loans at an interest rate slightly above the average Eurozone bond rate.
- Greece should temporarily lose her budget sovereignty to the Commission if she receives such an aid package.
- any aid to Greece should be made conditional on the fulfilment of stringent but realistic conditions that decrease the moral hazard of giving aid to a country, but do not significantly impair Greece's ability to recover.
- in the long run, the European Union's ability to deal with budget crises in her member states should be strengthened.

#### **Supports:**

- an addition to the SGP which specifies that countries should work towards a budget surplus in times of growth, to account for the deficit in economic downturn.
- the introduction of a link between debt and deficit in the SGP.
- the depoliticization of the power to enforce the SGP, by moving the decision from ECOFIN to the European Commission.
- the introduction of European standards for EMU member states' financial accounts, including clear and enforceable reporting standards that require a certified accountant's approval.
- the temporary transfer of budget sovereignty of bailed-out countries to the European Commission as a general rule, if the bailout was made necessary due to government failure.

#### **Calls upon the LYMEC bureau to:**

- Put forward a resolution on this topic at ELDR congress in Helsinki, Finland.
- publicly propagate the above.

### **PA 4.16 Capitalism Not to Blame for the Crisis**

Finance, Tax

Adopted at LYMEC Congress 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania  
(Formerly 4.20)

The economic crisis leads to many analyses, conclusions and possible solutions but strikingly enough there is a common consensus that the free market is to blame for the crisis. Greed is the cause and the free market the tool used by immoral bankers and others to fill their own pockets with money at the expense of others. Lymec finds these analyses staggering and short-sighted. The free market has instead provided people the means to evolve from an agrarian society to an industrial society and then to a post-industrial society. No other moment in the history of man can so many people enjoy freedom and wealth and pursue their happiness. Greed has always been around and yet it is that manifestation of self-interest that is fundamental to the growth of wealth, or as Adam Smith said: "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we can expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest" Lymec is of opinion that in their analyses many people forget that it was bad regulation that is the root of the problem. Taking these facts into account, Lymec thinks that legislators and bureaucrats should consider carefully the role of the government while trying to find solutions to stimulate the economy. Imprudent regulation and over-regulation of the free market is not the solution but one of the causes. Lymec therefore appeals upon the wisdom of the European leaders to see this crisis rather as an opportunity to rethink models of mixed economy and regulation. More intervention now will only burden us, young people, and future generations. We should not take responsibility for mistakes made in the past and are highly likely to be made again. Do not jeopardize our future.

### **PA 4.17 On Europe's Sovereign Debt Crisis**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.21)**

Economy, Tax

*Believing that* the history of the European Union is one of peace, friendship and economic growth, the introduction of the Euro is amongst the most important achievements of our Union, facilitating economic activities throughout Europe and increasing the common spirit among the European people. As liberals, we believe that the common currency does not only strengthen interactions between national economies, but that economic cooperation strengthens political and civil cooperation. Therefore, we are deeply convinced that the Euro is an important achievement worth making the necessary efforts for in order to overcome its current crisis. Aiming at that, we assert the following:

*Observing that* the sovereign debt crisis in Europe is getting worse, with Portugal being the latest member state to seek a bailout from the European Union and with Italy's credit rating recently downgraded;

*Firmly believing that* the management of the sovereign debt crisis in Europe so far has been a failure. First, what is often overlooked is that it takes more than just a fiscally irresponsible government to create a bond crisis. For every reckless lender there is a reckless borrower. It is true that Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain did nothing to solve their structural problems and implement fiscal discipline and that Ireland steered itself into a banking crisis, but it is also true that nobody forced investors to lend money to these sovereigns. Loans to at-risk governments were seen as a risk-free investment, when in reality they were the exact opposite. On the free market, interest rates are an indicator of risk. Investors need to assess where their money is going and how sustainable the economies of the countries they are lending to really are, also beyond sheer statistics and credit ratings. Through bailouts and the EFSF, however, investors have not assumed the responsibility that comes with opportunity as they have not had to bear any of the risk that is inherent to higher yields; instead, the cost has been borne by the tax payers of those countries which have a more sound fiscal policy;

*Pointing to the fact that* Greece is a good example of why bailouts do not work as Greece was aided with 110 billion Euro in May 2010, with the goal to avoid a write-off of debt, meet half of the countries financing requirements in 2012 and a full return to markets in 2013. These goals have not been met. It was overlooked that Greece's problem is less one of liquidity than of solvency. Instead, budget deficits agreed with the EU and the IMF were not met; on 26 April 2011 Greece announced that its deficit for 2010 amounts to 10.5 per cent of GDP instead of 8.1 per cent promised, and one week earlier the countries government bonds have reached 20 per cent yields for the first time. With public debt to reach 160 per cent by 2012, it is unsurprising that despite austerity measures, Greece is not able to reduce its deficit substantially because any reduction in structural deficit is more than compensated with by higher cost of refinancing and interest payments, which become more and more unaffordable;

*Taking note of* voters throughout Europe recognising that the EU/EEA and its Member States are on the wrong track when it comes to solving the debt crisis. In Finland, a nationalist-populist party became a major force in Finnish politics partly because of its opposition to "rescue" Portugal. In Ireland, the Fianna Fáil-led government was voted down because of its decision to issue a 440 billion Euro guarantee for six Irish banks and the increase of the deposit savings guarantee to 100,000 Euro; which led to the Irish banking crisis becoming a sovereign debt crisis. In Iceland, voters rejected a government proposal for the second time that would have had the Icelandic state assume the liability for deposits in default private banks to Dutch and British investors; but the public rather wants to have the EFTA court confirm the existence of such a liability first;

*Acknowledging* that bailouts can be seen as contrary to the spirit of liberalism at large;

*Specifically considering*, in the light of the above, bailouts of Eurozone countries to be contrary to the spirit of the Treaties, especially the intentions behind Article 125 TEU;

*Reiterating* its previous opposition to Eurobonds;

*Calling upon* the European Union not to extend the temporary European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) and furthermore abandon all plans to implement a permanent successor such as the envisioned European Stability Mechanism (ESM);

LYMEC believes that in order to guarantee a sustainable common currency, the on-going crisis needs to be solved in a different way, and thereby at its congress in Barcelona, proposes a truly liberal path to recovery:

*First*, in order to prevent a collapse of the Eurozone, the debt crisis in the countries most severely affected, namely Greece, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, and Spain need to be tackled first, and it needs to be tackled fast. The most viable way to accomplish that is a write-down of debt. Through a so-called haircut, Greece's total public debt should be reduced to 90 per cent of GDP, and the debt of Italy, Ireland Spain and Portugal should be reduced by 25 per cent of GDP.

A hair cut restores the public's trust in the common currency as it is fairer to European tax payers as investors will share the burden and it is also much more likely to lead to confidence of markets in the affected countries as interest and refinancing obligations will be significantly easier to meet in the medium and long term. But it can only lead to a sustainable debt reduction if it is accompanied by other measures. LYMEC therefore advocates that any debt write-down is accompanied by privatisation packages negotiated between the European Union and the respective countries. In the case of Greece, privatisation amounting to 50 billion Euro within the next four years can lead to a debt level 20 per cent lower in terms of GDP compared to the current base scenario. The binding goal of these measures needs to be that primary debt (i.e. without interest payments) in these countries must not exceed three per cent from 2013 on. In the case of Greece, even an exit from the Eurozone should not be off the table if there cannot be any agreement on such or a similar strategy.

*Second*, LYMEC reiterates previous commitments to a reformed enforced, sound, non-political Stability and Growth Pact (SGP). From 2015 on, it shall contain an additional criteria, namely that government expenditure in terms of GDP shall not exceed 40 per cent of GDP. Only in that way can a spill over of the crisis to other countries be prevented, competitiveness restored and intergenerational fairness guaranteed.

*Finally*, to secure a strong common currency, LYMEC is in favour of a sound, non-expansionary monetary policy with the ECB abstaining from quantitative easing, accompanied by significantly stricter reserve requirements. The importance of an independent ECB is crucial.

## **PA 4.18 Roaming Free Europe**

**Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.22)**

*Industry, Tax, Roaming*

**Considering that:**

- Virtual Providers who operate few, if any transmitters, use other Providers networks without making the user pay for it, even offering lower tariffs than larger Providers.
- Freedom of movement should be extended to telecommunication operations.
- Belonging to a network Provider that offers its services in multiple countries does not prevent you from paying their roaming fees.
- People living near border areas can inadvertently be switched to another network in case of low coverage.
- In 2010 Portugal and Spain studied suppressing roaming but there are no news about it since then.
- Suppressing roaming would encourage and ease trade between member countries.
- The current Roaming Regulation expires on 30 June 2012.

**The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for:**

- Eliminating roaming inside the European Union jointly within the European Economic Area, and with the rest of the European Free Trade Area members.
- Study the implementation to other European states not part of the areas mentioned above.
- Maintaining and standardizing existing contract between customers and their providers. This includes those calls sent and received, text, and data services that have occurred while outside the customer's home country.
- Allowing customers to switch to another operator in the new country and being able to maintain the same phone number. This would add the international prefix to the phone number in order to avoid conflicts with that country's numbering system.
- The creation of an international prefix for Europe, recognising the success of .eu for the internet

## **PA 4.19 Resolution on Free Market in the Third World**

### **Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.23)**

*Business, Free Trade, Third World*

Adopted by the Congress of LYMEC held in Paris, France on the 17-19<sup>th</sup> of January 1992.

An international state of law is needed:

- Providing rules for multi-nationals with regard to environmental protection, the GATT negotiations must be successful in order to establish a multilateral worldwide free trade order.
- Permitting to help different countries in the peculiar way each needs, controlling that civil rights are not affected by free market economy (especially with regards to experiments of new medicines on 3rd world people).
- Lower European market protection in relation to 3rd world countries and permit importation of more kinds of goods in the European markets



- Decrease the help to European agricultural production and the production itself (gradually) in order not to produce more than we need so 3rd world markets are not invaded by European products and can develop alone. (eventually helping European regions that live on agriculture through the Regional Development Funding). This would lead to free market in Europe (because artificial mechanisms that influence agriculture would be destroyed) and in the 3rd world.
- We call on developed countries to sincerely consider ways of reducing the debt burden of developing countries by cancellation and or rescheduling of debts.
- The Congress points out that agriculture is not necessarily more clean than industry. New industries can be less polluting (high tech industry, computers...)

#### **The Congress suggests to:**

- Export know-how in a free market co-operative system into the 3rd world in sectors of production that permit this kind of aid, for example: exporting farmers and clean farming techniques, the rural areas of the third world could be vitalised, reducing the problems of great cities.
- Pay attention to the NIC (Newly Industrialised Countries) the relations between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> world should not permit the NIC to spoil 3rd world countries indirectly damaging the 1st world too. (for example through the international global state of law).
- Begin a policy of convincing and actively supporting 3rd world countries to reduce population growth. We are aware of the cultural problem connected to this policy but we are of the opinion that the economic advantage would be great.
- The EC should try to have only one common voice, with regard to these problems.
- The EC should contribute to the creation of the international state of law, in an international way of administration by UN.

### **PA 4.20 Resolution on Foreign Aid and Development**

#### **Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.24)**

*Democracy, Third World, Corruption, International Law*

Adopted by the Congress of LYMEC held in Paris, France, 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of January 1992.

Foreign aid from developed countries is an especially important key not only to immediate relief in the third world but, as far as it is cleverly done, also to the future wealth of underdeveloped societies.

Very often foreign aid doesn't meet the needs of helped countries, and this happens basically because it is more controlled economically than politically, there is a lack of

parliamentary control on ODA. In most countries, corruption in counterpart administrations, money given in not so much as needed.

### **The Congress:**

**Calls** upon all developed countries and international organisms to increase their aid to the Third World at least to 0.7% of their gross national income as suggested by the UNO.

**Stresses** the importance of foreign aid being used by non-governmental organisations for direct co-operation, while donor countries should keep rigid control against corruption both in NGOs, enterprises and third world administrations.

**Stresses** the need for a European development agency. National governments should contribute to this agency, hence integrating European ODA. This should be a very executive body closely watched by a EP committee.

**Considers** that ODA should support democratic and sustainable development, human rights and environmental respect (debt for nature swap).

## **PA 4.21 Urgent Resolution on Global Financial Crisis**

### **Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.25)**

*Financial Policies, Liberalism, Banks, International Aid*

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress  
Assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

### **Whereas:**

- The dramatic crisis in the international financial markets and its global repercussions are major challenges for the liberal economic system, demanding a rapid joint reaction by EU Member States and a far-reaching orchestration of international efforts.
- The Eurozone fell into its first ever recession even before October's intensification of the global financial market crisis, official figures have shown, adding to fears that worse economic news is yet to come
- The presidents/leaders of LYMEC's member organisations formulated a common response to the ongoing financial crisis at the occasion of the LYMEC Young Leaders Meeting (YLM) held in Varna on 9-12 October 2008
- European Commission president Barosso has neglected to show leadership on behalf of the EU during the financial crisis, instead hiding behind the European Council.
- Currently no institution monitors the rights of the financial system as a whole

### **Acknowledging that:**

- Free market can fail in some cases to lead to optimal social outcomes (market failure), notably in the presence of monopolies, negative externalities, or information

asymmetries. In these cases, regulation should be pursued – as always acknowledged by liberals.

**But at the same time stressing that:**

- By intervening, governments curtail the responsibility of free enterprise for the risks involved, reducing the personal responsibility of the citizen.
- Government intervention can cause a more inefficient allocation of goods and resources than would occur without that intervention (regulation failure), resulting in missed opportunities and wasted resources and a crowding out of private investors.
- The search for yield has continuously brought the world prosperity and wealth

**And considering that:**

- Erroneous developments in US economic and financial policy and the apparent failure of banks and insurance companies are no reason for losing confidence in the free market economy and in individual responsibility.
- The only guarantee for prosperity lies in the high-level personal responsibility of market participants. Personal responsibility as well as self-determination is politically and economically the driving force of every democratic society.
- Global financial markets require globally orchestrated regulations if we want to avoid the repeated contagion of global markets by local financial crisis. National and even EU rules are not sufficient anymore.
- A relapse into obsolete policies of nationalisation, over-regulation and protectionism would be a major mistake.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) Extraordinary Congress, assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

**Concludes that:**

- Liberalism is not to blame for the current financial crisis and there is no room for fantasies about new world orders or a reinvention of capitalism. What we need is a reformed and sound financial system, not a new economic order.
- If the nationalisation of certain banks appears unavoidable to prevent contagion, these nationalisations shall remain temporary.
- Coordination and orchestration of the global finance architecture in the context of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), including the implementation of a global early-warning system in order to identify specific risks for the world economy and financial stability at an early stage. In order to play an effective role in this process, the IMF should be reformed.
- Globally accepted standards for supervision as well as regulation and cross-border supervision of transnational finance companies, including credit rating agencies. Capitalisation better matched to risk, counter-cyclical accounting regulations, tightened risk-management, and tougher regulation of new finance products need to be considered for harmonised and revised financial market standards.
- Further use of EU Regulations instead of EU Directives should be enhanced as regards financial markets, so as to leave less room for transposition/interpretation at national level

## **PA 4.22 – Rejecting A Common Eu Tax Policy**

### **Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.29)**

*LYMEC, gathered in Rotterdam on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2015.*

#### **Considering that:**

- All EU member states levy tax, all of them in a different way abiding by their own set of rules laid out in a national tax system,
- The differences between the various taxation systems are fundamental and given shape by the individual history and mentality of each member state.
- Within the current TEU framework, a common EU tax should serve a legitimate predetermined goal

#### **Noting that:**

- Provisions for a Common EU Tax Policy have not yet been made, nor laid out in the TEU,
- Creation of an EU tax mandate should occur through amending the TEU, rather than unilateral motion of EC and EP.

#### **Furthermore stressing that:**

- Given the current division of seats in the European Parliament, it is unlikely that if such a policy were to be introduced, the taxation system would be of liberal character such as for example in Estonia.

#### **LYMEC urges:**

- the European Commission to stay within its mandate which is framed by the Treaty of the European Union.

#### **LYMEC affirms:**

- that the subsidiarity principle applies to the principle of taxation in the European Union.

## **PA 4.23 European Digitalisation Accelerated**

### **Archived Prague Congress 2022, (formerly 4.35)**

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

Digitalisation is not some factor in the distant future, for which we might prepare, it is already part of contemporary life. And LYMEC sees the liberal responsibility to leverage this potential to the fullest and use technologies to our advantage. By

increasing competitiveness, and e-government whilst protecting citizens' privacy and ensuring appropriate education, the European Union can progress to the benefit of the whole society across the continent.

**Whereas:**

- The process of engaged policymaking towards a digital society is often met with anxiety and skepticism driven by the lack of active policymaking in the past
- Most successful tech companies are founded in, or move, to the United States of America, and a great reliance on American investors exists
- The mechanisms of matching markets and networking effects often in place in the digital sphere lead to the creation of oligopolies and monopolies
- Newest technological achievements, like Blockchain, often question the state's gate keeping and administrative role in certain policy areas (monetary policy, processing of contracts)
- The abolishment of roaming charges in the EU and improvements in technologies make mobile internet more accessible than ever

**Considering that:**

- A digital society is democratic and liberal per se
- The state needs to set themes and act, actively
- Modern and reliable infrastructure is the basis for a digital society, thus cohesion also includes the access to fast and reliable internet everywhere in Europe, including in the remote, outermost and rural areas of the EU
- The possibilities of companies to scale up are seriously hampered by the fragmented digital and capital markets
- To leverage the full potential of digitalisation education is key, and even though most digital natives are capable of passively using modern technology they often lack technical understanding of ICT and its impact on the social fabric of our societies
- Public services seem to be overly reluctant in adapting to changes in some member state, whereas other member states go ahead. Despite the possibilities in making government leaner, more transparent, accountable, and foremost less cumbersome for citizens.
- The labour market is already one of the most affected areas, with software being at the core of almost all businesses.
- The European Commission already is engaged in the active Digitalization process, with the support of the creation of free Wi-Fi hot-spots across Europe ("WiFi4EU"), and Digital Innovation Hubs

**Recalling:**

LYMEC resolution on "Completing the Digital Single Market"

LYMEC resolution on "Improving technology in favour of education"

**LYMEC:**

- Reiterates and strengthens its call for the completion of the Digital Single Market, in conjunction with easements for European Venture Capital, and a free flow of data within the Economic Area and with credible trade partners
- Supports the commitment of the Commission to provide for a well-established network of Digital Innovation Hubs, and believes that harnessing their full potential would bring added value to the digitalis action of Europe and the promotion of R&I activities in the digital sphere
- Calls for the creation FTTH (fiber to the home) across Europe, where feasible, and equivalent wireless technologies where it is not
- Calls for the stop of supporting free Wi-Fi in the EU, and focus on the technology neutral support of technological developments
- Calls for acceleration in introducing new technologies like 5G, with a unified spectrum distribution procedure in all bands
- Calls for measures supporting schools in educating pupils in ICT skills, especially with the aim to increase pupils' knowledge of programming and of the threats to privacy a digital society may create, and focused retraining efforts for those negatively affected by the shift
- Encourages its member organisations to push for the creation of Chief Digital Officers at school level and Chief Innovation Officers in their jurisdiction
- Calls for replacing the Official Secrecy by Freedom of Information in the process of the extension of Open Data initiatives, starting with the EU institutions itself
- Calls for the creation of new types of enterprises which make it easier to do digital business across the Union

## Policy Archive Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights

### **PA 5.01 Legalize Prostitution**

*Employment, Social Rights, Tax*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of April 2004

The LYMEC Congress

Noting with concern the goal of the Irish EU presidency to ban paying for sex throughout the EU,

Further noting that the Danish and Dutch policy on prostitution (legalisation) is not a standard policy, and would thus be overruled by an EU majority.

Recognising the fact that prostitution has existed since the settling down of the prehistoric 'hunters and gatherers', and the inevitability of its existence, in whatever form, in the future.

Considering the following advantages of legalisation of prostitution:

- Control and regulation of industry (hygiene, STD's, minimum age and permits of workers)
- Prevention of abuse and involuntary prostitution due to pulling the sector out into the open (including sexual abuse of children and illegal aliens)
- Safer industry (disentanglement of prostitution from potential criminal ties)
- Collecting taxes on the industry benefits the government.

Stressing that:

- An association, such as the Dutch trade union for prostitutes and ex-prostitutes, to whom prostitutes can address their complaints, helps insure the protection of the rights of the prostitutes, including the absolute right to say no and provides access to re-training programmes for sex workers who want to leave the industry.
- Prostitutes show a lower incidence of all sexually transmitted diseases than the general public does.
- Most national constitutions in Europe guarantee that not only can we freely practice the religion of our choice, but also that the government will not impose religion upon us. Almost all the arguments in favour of maintaining laws against consensual activities have a religious foundation. The government is then asked to enforce these religious beliefs by arresting the non-believers and putting them in jail.
- For the government to say that certain services cannot be bought or sold is a direct violation of the fundamental principles of our economic system.
- One should be allowed to do whatever one wants with one's own person, as long as one does not physically harm the person and violate the rights of a non-consenting other.
- It should not be a business of government what consenting adults are doing voluntarily.

- Sex is a positive, nurturing act, and whether it is given out of love or rendered as a service, as long as it is consensual it is still positive. Making another human being feel good for a fee is not degrading unless it is degrading to make other people feel good.
- The only way to fight crime in this sector is the total legalisation, and inclusion of prostitutes in society. It is impossible to police an illegal industry that is closed to society, and thus at the mercy of criminals and violent customers.

LYMEC is of the opinion that:

- Laws and legislation concerning prostitution should be formulated at national level in accordance with the subsidiarity principle (the sovereignty of the nation state on national issues) which is of utmost importance for a strong Union, one that is 'united in diversity'.
- Laws against consensual activities are opposed to the principles of free enterprise, the open market and the separation of church and state and create a society of fear, hatred, bigotry, oppression, and conformity; a culture opposed to personal expression, diversity, freedom, choice, and growth.
- There should be no law discriminating against prostitutes forming and joining professional associations or unions and working collectively in order to acquire a high degree of personal security.
- Prostitutes should pay regular taxes on the same basis as other independent contractors and employees, and should receive the same benefits according to the different regulations in different countries.
- The spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases by unsafe sex can only be eliminated through education, not by prohibition.
- Each individual should have the right to decide by oneself whether to work in the sex industry.
- To oppose the legalisation of prostitution, is to oppose the freedom to make use of one's own body, as one wishes.
- Prostitutes are entitled to all human rights and civil liberties, including the freedom of speech, travel, immigration, work, association, marriage, motherhood and the right to unemployment insurance, health insurance and housing.
- Asylum should be granted to anyone denied human rights on the basis of a "crime of status".

LYMEC calls upon the Member States to:

- Decriminalise and legalise all aspects of sex work involving consenting adults and regulate third parties according to standard business codes.
- Enforce laws against fraud, coercion, violence, sexual abuse, child labour, rape, human trafficking and racism across national boundaries.

## **PA 5.02 Youth Unemployment**

*Employment, Social Rights*

Considering:

- Young men and women should focus on their dreams, hopes and aspirations. Yet the limited availability of jobs in most areas of the world limit their opportunities in the labor market.



- Achieving decent work for young people is a critical element in poverty eradication and sustainable development for future generations.
- The government has a responsibility to create a sustainable future for all.
- Intergenerational solidarity is not a priority for labor unions or political parties.
- Not being in employment, education or training is wasteful for society, as one has no outlook on change in such a situation.

Acknowledging:

- The current young generation is the best educated and highest skilled youth ever.
- There is a wide spread in youth unemployment within Europe, with over 40 percent in Spain and less than 10 percent in the Netherlands.
- A general trend within Europe exists with 50% more youth unemployment than in the general population.
- Specific groups are under particular hardship based on discrimination and social exclusion, such as GLBT's, immigrants, ethnic minorities and socially disadvantaged youth.

Calls for:

- LYMEC to advocate on a European level more mobility for young workers and entrepreneurs to start business in another area or country.
- LYMEC to call for education based on market requirements. Students of applied sciences should have an outlook to applying their talents and skills.
- LYMEC to focus on the problem of youth unemployment and the broad differences within Europe, to seek a solution to this pressing issue.
- All member organizations to support the exchange of young people between European countries and support a mobile young workforce.
- LYMEC to promote in cooperation with ELDR the drafting of a joint resolution.

### **PA 5.03 Resolution on Youth Unemployment**

*Employment, Social Rights*

Adopted at the 20th Anniversary Congress of LYMEC, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the 29-31st of March 1996.

Dropping unemployed, homeless young people out of the social society is a very serious European problem. The high juvenile unemployment shouldn't be underestimated. There must be efforts to ease the problems of juvenile unemployment in the whole of Europe with different kinds of local projects financed by the EU. All those projects, which aim to ease international juvenile unemployment must get financial help from the budget of the EU.

Projects of all social foundations and community initiative YOUTHSTART must be developed taking into consideration special needs of young people. Also developing the educational system to be preparing for lifelong learning is one of the main points of solving unemployment in general.

## **PA 5.04 Establishment of a Common European Job-bank**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.01)**

### *Employment*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

### **Considering**

- That the Lisbon Agenda called for the Union to become the world's most competitive economy in the year 2010.
- The structural problems of the labour market in some of the member states.
- The limited use of the common European labour market.
- The mismatch between supply and demand of skilled labour.
- The strong link between the free movement of labour and the flourishing of a European identity.

### **LYMEC proposes that**

- The Commission moves to establish a common European job-bank which integrates and translates the lists of positions contained in the national job-banks.
- Companies and state agencies are strongly recommended to submit lists of vacant positions on their own.
- The Commission works to secure the integration of the job-bank with national employment policies.

### **Motivation**

- Increased usage of the European labour market is one of the key steps in fulfilling the Lisbon Agenda as well as strengthening the democratic foundation of the Union. Through a common European job-bank the Union will be able to address the mismatch between supply and demand of skilled labour thereby lowering the structural unemployment rate. Increased integration of the labour market will furthermore enhance the individuals' career opportunities leading to a stronger European identity which at the end of the day should strengthen the democratic foundation of the European Union.

## **PA 5.05 Make labour markets more flexible**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.02)**

**Merged into new 5.01**

*Employment*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

### **Whereas**

- Globalisation and removal of trade barriers have made markets in goods and services more flexible
- Many European countries maintain rigid labour market regulations which make it extremely expensive and/or difficult to hire and fire employees

### **Observing that**

- Rigid labour market regulations are motivated by a desire to protect people from unemployment
- An inflexible labour market leads to an ineffective allocation of human resources on the market

### **Considering that**

- The lack of labour market flexibility prevents job creation and force able workers into becoming passive recipients of unemployment benefits
- Job training is an effective way to help the unemployed cope with the changes of a flexible market and allow them to reenter the labour market
- Flexicurity combines worker security with a high degree of labour market flexibility

### **LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls for**

- Deeper integration of European labour markets
- The European Commission to make a white paper available to the member states in order for them to exchange best practice
- Labour unions to shift their focus from protection of jobs to protection of workers
- An active labour market policy in order to make sure that the unemployed make an effort to regain employment
- European governments to consider flexicurity as a possible compromise between employment and labour market flexibility.

## **PA 5.06 End all Restrictions on the Free Movement of Labour**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.04)**

**Merged into new 5.01**

*Employment, Social Rights*

**Considering that:**

- The Treaty founding the European Community introduces four fundamental freedoms, namely the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital
- That the maximum restriction period for new member states in terms of free movement of labour is 7 years,
- That Spain ratified the Treaty of Accession for Romania and Bulgaria workers in 2005, but is currently trying to reintroduce restrictions, by utilizing the safeguard clause.

**Believing that:**

- Free movement of labour is a core element of the European Union
- Free movement of labour has a positive impact on the European economy, both for the countries importing labour and for the countries exporting labour
- It is unacceptable to use the current economic crisis as an excuse for protectionism of any kind

**LYMEC calls on:**

- ALDE to take a clear stand against the current development of protectionist measures taken by Spain.
- ALDE to work for bringing the concept of transitional agreements for labour from new member states to an end.
- LYMEC member organizations to promote free movement of labour on all levels.

**PA 5.07 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.05)**

**Merged into new 5.01**

*Employment, Social Security*

*Believing that* Mobility in Europe should be increased, between different regions and countries, but also between different economic sectors;

*Considering that* hiring and firing procedures are rather complex and expensive in many EU Member States, resulting in labour market segmentation;

*Recognising that* rigid labour markets lead to a higher share of long-term unemployment and youth unemployment;

*Noting that* wages are often not adjusted to workers' individual productivity and business cost structures;

*Criticising* labour unions for contributing to this misalignment;

*Firmly believing that* the role of government in employer-employee relations should be limited to the protection of contract, property and human rights;

*Noting* the risk of welfare traps caused by too high unemployment benefits, while at the same time insufficient income security poses a risk of a large informal economy and increased criminal activity;

*Pointing out* that active labour market policies conducted by Member States should combine flexibility in the labour market with planning security for job seekers, which is best achieved through systems whereby in exchange for unemployment benefits, beneficiaries are required to seek actively for a job, and attend relevant training;

LYMEC calls on the European Union to:

- further develop and promote, taking the above into consideration, the concept of Flexicurity, focussing on the four main areas of labour market policies, contractual agreements, lifelong learning strategies and modern social security systems, and
- dedicate a larger share of the EU budget to strengthening the EU's lifelong learning programmes, also aiming to increase the chances of people already active in the labour market to further qualify according to developments and actual needs of the labour market.

Furthermore, LYMEC calls on EU Member States to:

- simplify procedures regulating hiring and firing, as well as to make them less costly;
- base their unemployment benefit regimes on a system whereby high nominal unemployment benefits are granted for a short transition period, after which a two-pillar system kicks in consisting of voluntary private unemployment insurance and minimal benefits to prevent poverty;
- ensure strict monitoring and control of the benefit recipients' activities related to active job seeking and their participation in training programs;
- set up a more individualised approach to vocational counselling and assistance in job seeking, and
- give incentives to employers who enable employees to combine their careers with obtaining further education.

## **PA 5.08 Urgency Motion on YFJ GA**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.06)**

*Social rights, Employment, Working time*

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress  
Assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

**WHEREAS :**

- The European Youth Forum (YFJ) held its General Assembly in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 14-15 November 2008
- At this occasion the LYMEC Delegation voted against a resolution on EU Directive on working time that had been submitted for adoption
- This resolution explicitly asks YFJ to coordinate lobbying in the European Parliament against this directive
- LYMEC has not yet a clear policy on the issue of working times
- A new YFJ bureau has been elected at the occasion of this GA

**The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) Extraordinary Congress, assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008:**

- Is of the opinion that this resolution goes beyond youth policy issues
- Confirms that this resolution cannot be supported by LYMEC
- Asks the LYMEC bureau to abstain lobbying on this issue under YFJ umbrella
- Asks the LYMEC bureau to send a letter to YFJ bureau congratulating them about their election and explaining LYMEC's position on the above-mentioned issue

**PA 5.09 Effective approach prostitution**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.07)**

**Merged into new 5.03**

**KEYWORDS:** Employment, Social Rights

*LYMEC Congress, Berlin, Germany 23-25 October 2014*

**Considering that:**

- Thousands of men and women, in particular from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia travel to European countries for a better life under false pretences;
- The EU is moving towards the Swedish prostitution model in which the customer is committing a crime when having interaction with a prostitute

**Noting that:**

- The Swedish model is making prostitutes anonymous while governments are looking for a method to find and help forced sex workers
- The EU is working on an effective method that looks out for forced sex workers, their exploiters and to fight these exploiters
- Voluntary prostitution should not be disrupted by the approach to fight forced prostitution, like the Swedish model does;
- Self-determination is considered as one of the most important and primary rights of an individual

### **LYMEC urges:**

- The European countries should work together to fight illegal trafficking of forced sex workers, identify forced sex workers and counteract at European level)
- European governments should cooperate with security agencies and civil society organizations to ensure an effective approach and share best practices with each other
- The European Union member states should see prostitution as a legal industry in which sex workers are entitled by definition to labor rights and related conditions, so that the safety of prostitutes is guaranteed and to hold grip on forced (ex) sex workers;
- Instead of criminalizing clients of sex workers, the EU should encourage them to help fight crime, by notifying authorities when they become aware of possible sex trafficking and labour rights' violations in the industry.

## **PA 5.10 Social Union**

### **Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.09)**

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

### **LYMEC notes**

- The European Union was created on the principles of more liberated and increased trade across the national borders. Since then the co-operation has grown into a transnational community which has secured improved conditions for the environment, peace and joined prosperity. The European Union can therefore no longer be considered only as a trading union. With the expansion of the inner market comes common challenges, and one of these challenges is the lack of social security for the European citizen. A challenge which has resulted in a still increasing inequality, insecurity and skepticism towards the union. A strong union is a union who can make a positive difference in all citizens' everyday lives, and if we want a European continent that grows continuously stronger and closer together, we must promote a standard for our social rights in unity.

### **Basic visions for the social union**

**LYMEC Believes** that the European Union exists for the singular citizen. When social inequality and insecurity increasingly divides our community, it must be the Unions' responsibility to step up. The Commissions' desire to create a social column in the European cooperation is a priority that meets the issues and can create a necessary positive change in all our lives. It is a desire that we in LYMEC support. However, supranational social policy can only work based on competition and pluralism. In principle, the member states should be responsible for social policy.

### **LYMEC therefore installs that:**

- It should be a high priority for the European Union to establish a social pillar.
- A social pillar should contain all member nations of the EU and not just nations in the Euro-zone. This must happen with respect for the countries differences and strengths.
- A social pillar must be concrete and legislative even if this means changing the treaties.
- The social pillar should be upheld by EU's institutions in close cooperation with the member nations, which are responsible for social policy. If a member nation does not meet the goals of the social pillar it should have consequences also established by the EU's institutions.
- It should be a priority in the social pillar to minimize analphabetism in all member nations so that no citizen has to go through life without a minimum of skill in language.
- It must be fundamental for the social pillar that it contributes to the fight against inequality and discrimination on any grounds (gender, sexuality, race, age, religion, ...).

### **Equal opportunities and access to the labor market**

**LYMEC Believes** that everyone should have equal opportunity to get in to the labor market. There must be no discrimination from the employers. It is the European Union's role to secure an available, open and equal labor market for all the citizens of the union. In LYMEC we see it as one of the corner stones in the free movement that we freely can apply for and choose jobs without thinking about borders.

### **LYMEC therefore installs that:**

There shouldn't be a common minimum wage in the EU.

EU has to secure that people with the same qualifications, doing the same job and working within the same country, must receive equal pay. This demand is also applies if you work in a different country than where you live.

Free movement in education and vocational training should be added to the four freedoms to make it easier for young people to follow their education and training abroad.

### **Fair rights on the labor market**

**LYMEC Believes** that it is relevant for both wealthy and not so wealthy nations to have equal rights in the labor market to e.g. avoid social dumping and discrimination. There can occur discriminating choices both upwards and downwards. It is important to avoid in order to, ensure equal and even treatment.

### **LYMEC therefore installs that:**

One has the same rights on the labor market in the country one works as colleagues with the same qualifications. Regardless of national background and residence. This includes pay, pension, sick days etc.



Injuries incurred at the job must be cared for in order of treatment and compensation, as declared by the rules of the member nation in question. This being the nations where the injury was incurred in.

All member nations must enhance the importance of a common effort against social dumping across borders.

### **Appropriate social protection**

**LYMEC Believes** that it is fundamental for the European Union that every citizen feels safe and secure on the labor market and in everyday life. Therefore, it is important that citizens in the EU have just and similar social rights across the borders of all member nations.

#### **LYMEC therefore installs that:**

- In the nation where one pays income taxes is where one has the rights to social benefits following the laws of the member nation in question. This includes child support, unemployment benefits, handicap rights, parental leave etc.
- One has the right to child care and education in the country where the children are residents following the laws of the country in question. This installs the best stability for children which must be the highest priority.
- All member nations must inform foreign employees about the current rights to social benefits they have when they obtain employment in the country.
- It should continuously be a right as a citizen to have legal advisement at hand, if they don't have the resources to obtain it by themselves.
- The EU should have a common benefits database spanning the entire Union, to prevent situations in which the same citizen claims social benefits in two different Member States or, on the contrary, is left without social protection in any Member State.
- Social benefits, such as unemployment benefits and pensions, accumulated in another EU country should be transferable to a new country of residence, however adapted to the difference in living standards.
- The European Union must secure all member nations to ensure a minimum standard for its' employees so that all citizens have a standard of living, corresponding to the UN's goals. This means that a citizen has access to; heat, running water, electricity, residential, banks and medical assistance.

## **PA 5.11 Liberalise the sex industry**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 5.10)**

**Merged into new 5.03**

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, JNC

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

#### **As liberals we believe that:**

- Every individual has the right to decide over its own body.
- As long as other people's way of life does not affect you, you should not interfere in their life.

- All individuals should be tolerant and respectful of different choices of life, even if they do not personally agree with it.
- Self-determination is one of the most important rights of an individual.

#### **Noting that:**

- Human trafficking is illegal and can never be justified.
- Prostitution should not be legal to anyone below the age of 18.

There are 5 main laws regarding prostitution in the EU;

1. In some countries prostitution is illegal.
2. In some countries prostitution is legal, but it is illegal to buy sex.
3. In some countries prostitution and the buying of sex are decriminalised, so prostitution is not legal, but it is not recognised as a profession either.
4. In some countries prostitution and the buying of sex are legal, but procuring and the running of brothels are not.
5. In some countries both prostitution, the buying of sex, procuring, and the running of brothels are legal. The many different prostitution laws within the EU complicates the free movement of services.

#### **Considering that:**

- Voluntary prostitution should not be disrupted by the approach to fight forced prostitution.
- It is both unfair and discriminating that in some countries prostitution is decriminalized and thus the sex workers must pay taxes but simultaneously the profession is not recognised, meaning sex workers cannot be members of unemployment insurance fund, do not obtain fair working rights, etc.
- Legalising prostitution without legalising the buying of sex, forces sex workers to work in uncertain environments hidden away from the public as their clients are technically criminals and therefore have to worry about being caught by the police.
- Strict regulation of prostitution in groups, e.g. brothels, deprives the sex workers the possibility of working in the safest possible environment with colleagues and easy access to help, should problems arise.
- It is unfair that sex workers cannot work as prostitutes without having to be self-employed, as being self-employed entails both economic uncertainty and extra work.

#### **Calls for:**

1. All EU member states to legalise prostitution and the buying of sex as well as making prostitution a recognised profession, giving prostitutes access to health care, unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance funds etc. on equal terms with people in other professions.

2. All EU member states to remove barriers for sex workers to set up cooperative businesses fulfilling all obligations under EU and national laws, respectively, and to ramp up their efforts to combat human trafficking.
3. All EU member states to legalise prostitution in groups, e.g. brothels, allowing these businesses to work as any other business in each EU member state.
4. All EU member states to recognise prostitution as a service which should be able to move freely across the EU.
5. All EU member states to make sure the necessary help is available to sex workers who wish to leave the sex industry, as any sex worker should be able to quit her/his job if they wish to do so. Otherwise, it is no longer voluntary prostitution.

## Policy Archive Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources

### **PA 6.01 A Call for Forceful Stands to Combat Climate Change**

Renewable Energies, Natural Resources, Nuclear

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

During the current decade, the issues of climate change and emissions of greenhouse gases have rapidly increased in importance. In the past year, the complex issue of how to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases has become one of the top priorities today, much due to the IPCC and the Stern reports.

LYMEC calls for forceful measures in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by the governments of Europe. Thus, LYMEC calls for the following measures:

LYMEC urges governments to stop further large scale investments in greenhouse gas producing energy sources. These sources should gradually be replaced by energy sources not producing greenhouse gases, such as wind power, solar energy, hydropower, bio energy and nuclear power.

### **PA 6.02 Resolution on the Environment**

*Natural Resources, Conservation*

Adopted at the 20th Anniversary Congress of LYMEC, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the 29-31<sup>st</sup> of March 1996.

#### **The Binding Common Environmental Policy of the European Union**

The biggest threat to European security is damage to the environment. The Greenhouse effect, for example, is an enormous threat of all the member states of the EU. These kinds of problems can only be solved together with very binding decisions. Common pan-European environmental policy has to be created. That must be the most important issue and challenge of the future in the European Union.

The European Parliament has to have rights to make initiatives in European environmental policy. The EU should be effective in all such issues concerning the environment and nature conservation in which measures transcending national boundaries are required. All member states should, amongst other things, rapidly

introduce a tax on carbon dioxide. EU decisions must not prevent member states from going further in their national decisions than the common environment norms.

There must be a common high level in a tax of energy and environment, in which all the member states will commit. With this tax money the EU should give financial support to middle- and eastern ecological reconstruction.

### **PA 6.03 Kyoto Protocols**

*Kyoto-Protocol, Renewable Energies, Natural Resources*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

- Whereas the Kyoto protocols, aiming to curb the air pollution causing global warming, have finally come into effect, seven years after they were agreed.
- Whereas further cuts in air pollution must be made in order to stop global warming and climate change.
- Whereas the USA and some of the new developing countries, like China and India, are at present not willing to participate in battling our common environmental problems.

The Congress the European liberal youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam from April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2005 states:

That as liberals and radicals we see the challenges of global warming and climate change as one of the most important political issues of Europe and the world today. That Europe needs to be a driving force for developing better environmental policies, especially in terms of developing and using new technology.

That the EU and other European countries must fulfil all their commitments under the Kyoto-protocols, and a special obligation rests on those countries presently far behind their commitments.

That liberal and radical political groups must support political and technological initiatives towards elimination of the use of fossil energy such as oil and natural gas.

### **PA 6.04 Resolution on Basic Principles and Goals for an EC Environmental Policy**

*Natural Resources, Renewable Energies*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Paris, France on the 17-19<sup>th</sup> of January 1992.

**Intending** to guarantee a broader environmental protection in the EC.

**Acknowledging** the principle that every use of nature has to have a price in the production of goods and thus thriving for an ecological market economy.

**LYMEC proposes the following ideas:**

- Drastic reduction of the use of energy.
- European wide combined tax on the emission of carbon dioxide and energy use without any exception for certain energy branches. The tax rate shall be increased on a step by step basis. The tax income should be used for investments and support of Eastern European industry to help restructuring and decreasing pollution.
- Support of research and introduction of regenerative energy.
- The use of nuclear energy should not be extended above the level already reached, and in the long term the use of nuclear energy should be abolished.
- The EC should invest in and give incentives for private enterprise to invest into the energy producing and distributing industry in Eastern Europe in order to reduce the waste of energy and to improve the environmental situation in those countries. On the other side Russia has to give a guarantee on the delivery of energy.
- The EC countries should implement provisions into the treaties of Rome that declare environmental protection a major policy aim of the community. Also provisions should be implemented which describe instruments of an ecological market economy.
- The EC should use its influence in securing that the IMF flexibly links credits to third world countries to ecological commitments.
- Recycling of waste must have priority over dumping and burning.
- The EC countries must be able to have more restrictive regulations as protection of environmental interests as long as they are not used for protection of economic interests.

## **PA 6.05 Resolution on Sustainable Development**

*Kyoto-Protocol, Natural Resources*

Adopted by the LYMEC seminar in Göteborg, Sweden, 14 - 17 June 2001 and readopted at the LYMEC executive meeting in St. Gallen, Switzerland 19th-21st of October 2001.

**Noting with concern**

- that ten years after the Rio Summit, we have not yet succeeded in halting the environmentally alarming trends, among which the climate threat is one of the most acute
- the alarming decrease in biodiversity within the European Union
- the failure of the United States to sign the Kyoto Protocol.

**Recalling**

- that the Kyoto protocol is only a first step towards a truly sustainable development

- that high environmental standards can work as an engine for new technology and innovations
- that free individual choices on a functioning market and international cooperation are two fundamentals in reaching a sustainable development
- that market prices have a powerful influence on the behaviour of individuals and businesses
- the different characteristics of the landscape, biodiversity and natural habitats between the European countries

#### **Urges the European Union**

- to take a leading role to stimulate progress towards sustainable development
- to halt its loss of biodiversity and to restore the functioning of natural systems
- to acknowledge its key role in bringing about a sustainable development also on the global level, and therefore
- to work for sustainability in all its external relations and within its internal policy-making
- to use the benefits of market economy to improve its own and the global environment, through for example setting a price on pollution using tradable permits
- to increase educational resources in order to improve environmental technology and improving consumer information
- to accept American demands of Joint Implementation and Co2-credits for planting of forests and thereby put maximum pressure on the US in order to make them sign the Kyoto Protocol.

### **PA 6.06 Urgency Resolution on Climate Change**

*Kyoto-Protocol, Natural Resources, Nuclear*

Adopted at LYMEC Young Leaders Meeting held in Copenhagen on 4-7 October 2007

Adopted at LYMEC Executive Committee held in Stockholm on 7-9 December 2007

There is now scientific evidence: climate change constitutes a serious global threat and demands an urgent global response.

Global warming will indeed affect the basic elements of life for people around the world, such as access to water, food production and the environment. As a result, in addition to environmental disasters, hundreds of millions of people could suffer hunger and water shortages, prompting flows of environmental refugees.

It is essential in this context to take the necessary steps to build resilience to climate change and minimise costs. The recent Stern Review indeed estimates that, if we don't act, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing from 5% to 20% of global GDP each year, whereas the costs of action (reducing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change) can be limited to around 1% of global GDP each year.

Since the end-90s, the EU, responsible today for around 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions, has committed itself to play a global leadership role in tackling climate change. Under the Kyoto Protocol, all EU Member States have committed to cutting their combined emissions of the greenhouse gases to 8% below the 1990 level by 2012,

an overall target which was translated into specific legally binding targets for each Member State.

To help meet its Kyoto targets cost-effectively, the EU has also developed the world's largest company-level scheme for trading in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>. As a result, new markets are created in low-carbon energy technologies and other low-carbon goods and services, creating global business opportunities for EU companies. The EU has also mandated that biofuels make up at least 10% of liquid fuels used and that 20% of energy supply comes from renewable sources in Europe by 2020.

The first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is however closing in 2012 and the EU needs to define its future long-term strategy to fight global warming. The feasibility of reaching certain ambitious targets has also been questioned, not to mention the reluctance of certain EU trading partners to embark on legally binding pollution-cutting targets.

In this context, European young liberal leaders call for the EU and European governments to:

- 1) Take on a firm commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction of GHG emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 and 70% by 2050 within an international agreed framework;
- 2) Include more sectors, including transport (aviation, road, maritime) and agriculture, in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme;
- 3) Persuade all major world emitters (including the US, China and India) to commit to a legally binding pollution-cutting scheme, notably by incorporating where relevant environmental considerations into global trade rules and by further developing the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);
- 4) Make sure that at least 1% of their GDP is devoted to environmental policies and investments;
- 5) Develop consumer awareness about climate change issues through appropriate campaigns;
- 6) Increase public and private research and development in support of sustainable development technologies, notably renewable energy (wind power, solar energy, hydropower), bio-fuels, and hydrogen, as well as in the field of nuclear waste management and fusion energy;
- 7) Consider nuclear power as one of the options available for alleviating the risk of global climate change and reducing GHG emissions and further develop nonelectrical applications of nuclear energy (such as heat, potable water and hydrogen production);
- 8) Design appropriate incentives (e.g. tax reduction, eco-labelling) for the private sector and private individuals to invest in new climate-friendly technologies and solutions;



9) Avoid that biofuels production lead to deforestation and food shortage by adding a development sustainability criteria to biofuels imports and production;

10) Adapt policies to deal with the impacts of climate change, adopt a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach, and promote green public procurement.

## **PA 6.07 Towards a Sustainable Future**

**Keywords:** Climate Change; COP21; Sustainable Development

### **Considering that:**

- An overwhelming scientific consensus confirms the climate and global temperature is unequivocally warming, as a result of human activities that increase the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere;
- The 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) is scheduled to take place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015; tasked with finding a global agreement on climate change and emissions;
- Climate change policy should be central to the liberal ideology, as it is indispensable in order for all individuals to enjoy the right to equal starting possibilities;
- The issue of climate change is also critical in terms of intergenerational justice, as unsustainable consumption of resources is purported on the cost of younger generations;
- As agreed by the parties at the Durban Conference, global warming should be kept below 2°C in order to limit the most dangerous risks of climate change;

### **Notes with concern that:**

- The amount of annual global emissions has risen continuously since pre-industrial times; the global mean temperature has to this day risen by ca 0,85°C as a consequence of climate change; already posing threats to unique ecosystems and species, irreversible effects on the polar ice sheets, and increasing the likelihood of extreme weather phenomena as well as food and water scarcity;
- Developing states are deemed disproportionately affected by the negative effects of climate change, such as extreme weather, drought and food and land scarcity;
- The business-as-usual path is estimated to lead to a 4-6°C rise in global temperatures as of 2100, causing serious, widespread and irreversible impacts globally;
- The 2°C target only bears a 50 % probability of reducing the most devastating consequences of climate change; several vulnerable states – including all African states – have demanded that warming is kept to a safer level of 1.5°C;
- Climate change is also expected to increase the risks of unrest and conflicts in areas most gravely affected, also increasing the likelihood

of climate refugees. Researchers have already proven that weather phenomena, such as hurricanes and typhoons, are more powerful because of oceans getting warmer due to the climate that is warming up.

- Climate change and global warming are topics that have to be tackled at the European level to be fought efficiently

**Stresses that:**

- According to the IPCC 5th Assessment Report, global GHG emissions would need to be reduced by 40 - 70 % by 2050 compared to 2010 levels and close to zero by 2100 in order to reach the 2°C target;
- The remaining carbon budget needs to be well below 1000 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> in order to have a reasonable chance to keep the 2°C limit. With the current trend, the budget is estimated to be consumed within the next 25 years;
- The preliminary UNEP assessment of the submitted national pledges to COP21 so far suggests that the proposed reductions will not be consistent to the 2°C target, but lead to an estimated 3°C rise in temperature;

**Underlines that:**

- The efforts to mitigate climate change should not be seen as an obstacle to economic growth, but as a driving force to of new sustainable growth and employment;
- Fossil fuels subsidies, which according to reports reach €4.7 trillion globally and €100 billion within the EU constitute an obstacle to climate aims. Phasing out such subsidies could reduce global GHG emissions by 20%;
- A sustainable future is still in reach, but require bold decisions and political leadership by drastically reducing the global ecological footprint as soon as possible;
- Youth participation should play an essential role in climate policy, as it is the youth that will have to face the results of the decisions of today;
- All nations need to participate in fighting climate change through a just sharing of burden, taking economic development, historical emissions and natural circumstances into account;

**Calls on LYMEC and its Member Organisations to:**

- Act with a strong voice in environmental and climate issues, especially ahead of the COP21; as well as work towards strengthening the role of youth participation in climate policy-making and addressing the issue of intergenerational justice;
- Push for the EU governments to strive towards finding a fair, ambitious and globally binding agreement at COP21, including regular evaluations of national pledges and progress, aimed at limiting global warming to 1,5°C;
- Push for the EU governments to lead by example in the negotiations and make firm commitments in order to achieve EU's climate goals and IPCC's recommendations; EU to design a clear roadmap towards its 2030 and 2050 targets including national commitments; establishing an attractive market for green investments;
- Require the governments to mobilise just and sufficient climate financing and the proper implementation of the Green Climate Fund, in order to help most

vulnerable countries mitigate and adapt to climate change; including making use of new sources of private and public funding, including the ETS;

- Urge national governments and the EU to step up their efforts in R&D, as well as in attracting investments 4
- in order to speed up decarbonisation and its competitiveness;
- Pushing the EU governments to outline a concrete roadmap for phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies, including subsidies for fossil fuels, as decided in the European Council conclusions of May 2013, as soon as possible;
- Put pressure on national governments to cooperate with one another to reach a globally binding agreement enabling a rapid transition to decarbonized, climate-resilient economies and societies;
- Promote a coherent development of other relevant initiatives on an EU and national level in order to fulfil and strengthen the above mentioned aims, for instance through the Energy Union, the ETS reform and Circular Economy initiatives.

## **PA 6.08 Increase Security of Nuclear Power in Europe**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 6.03)**

**Merged into new 6.03**

*Nuclear*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

Considering that:

- The earthquake and tsunami in north-eastern Japan have caused severe damage to the nuclear power plant of Fukushima
- Nuclear energy remains a contentious source of debate in Europe and elsewhere
- Europe is to a large extent dependent on nuclear energy as a major source of electricity

**Believing that:**

- The safety of nuclear power plants in Europe is paramount and all effort must be made to ensure that risks are minimized
- The EU has expressed a justified desire to lead the global transition towards more sustainable sources of energy
- The realization of this transition should be accomplished as soon as possible
- During this period of transition nuclear energy remains an essential provider of CO<sub>2</sub> clean energy for Europe

**LYMEC calls on:**

- The EU member states to increase constantly health and safety standards of the nuclear power stations on our continent according to the latest scientific developments

- the EU to introduce stringent measures that ensure the safety of the European people is ensures against calamities comparable to the one being witnessed in Japan today
- all European nations to revise their risk assessments for new contingencies, such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks and the like
- The EU to support measures of improving the European electricity network
- the EU to allow for nuclear energy to be an acceptable source of energy in the short term while Europe makes a swift and robust transition towards a green economy, free from nuclear and fossil energy in the long run

## **PA 6.09 The future is nuclear**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 6.08)**

**Merged into new 6.03**

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

### **Considering that:**

- According to the United Nations climate panel, the worlds medium temperature has increased by 2-4 degrees (Celsius) in the last 100 years.
- The world's population has grown by 2 billion people the last 20 years, and the UN expect the population to have expanded to 10,9 billion in 2100.
- Almost every scientific result on nuclear energy has proven it to be the most effective, clean and safe way to produce big amounts of energy.
- Other energy sources, like wind energy, can be more harmful for peoples' lives than nuclear energy. The safety of citizens must remain paramount.
- Newer reactors all over Europe are running on other reactors nuclear waste instead of new raw materials, and we are able to storage the rest of the waste in depots.

### **Believing that:**

- A bigger population will lead to a bigger energy production, which will affect the global warming. - Wind and solar power is too expensive and unreliable.
- European countries, in the coming 17 years, will be able to produce nuclear energy using thorium.
- Thorium is more effective than Uranium, can't be used to explosives, and leaves the half of the radioactive waste as Uranium does.
- European companies, specializing in fusion energy, has turned on the first test reactors, and is predicting the nuclear energy type will be ready in 40 years.
- The risk of earthquake and other natural disaster is low in Europe.
- We, as liberals, have to be frontrunners on openness to facts and science.

### **LYMEC calls on:**

- The removing of legislation that's restricts the scientific investigations in nuclear energy beyond reasonable. Every issues regarding this should be solved before 2030.
- More international collaboration in nuclear science, so we together, in the most effective, clean and safe way, can produce energy enough to the growing population.
- The need to build a platform for liberal organizations, big enough to compare with the alternative facts on energy solutions.

## **PA 6.10 European Railway Authority**

Movers: Jonge Democraten (JD), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Jeunes Radicaux (JR), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Jeunes MR, European Youth of Ukraine

Archived at LYMEC Riga Autumn Congress on 11 November 2023 (formerly 6.11)

### **Considering that:**

- As per the Paris Agreement, the EU aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 50-55% by 2030;
- A non-negligible part of European CO2 emissions are a result of air traffic;
- Some EU member states have expressed the desire to cut back on short-haul flights in favour of railway transport;
- The European Commission has agreed to invest in the transition to a sustainable economy through the Green Deal and the Next Generation EU (NGEU) schemes;

### **Believing that:**

- High-speed railway travel is the most sustainable alternative to short-distance flights;
- High-speed trains could connect destinations within 750 km in travel times under or equal to those of commercial flights;
- The highly urbanised European continent is ideally suited to replace short-distance flights by a high speed railway network
- Greater physical interconnection between central and peripheral parts of the European Union is beneficial for both economic development of these regions and the cultural understanding between them;
- National high-speed railway networks often do not connect via an efficient international network;
- International and national railway and train systems are often incompatible on a technical level;
- The development of railway infrastructure needs considerable investment that should be proportional to the territory to be covered in each member state to promote inter-territorial solidarity and the development and growth of the most disadvantaged European regions;

- Negotiations between nation-states about these infrastructures will become increasingly difficult as the number of participating states increases;

**Calls for LYMEC to:**

- To extend the competencies of the European Railways Agency (ERA)) in order to promote the development of a European high-speed railway network connecting the major cities and urban regions in the EU. This authority could also explore possibilities beyond Union territory;
- Work for increased investments for development of a European railway infrastructure.

### **PA 7.01 Cut the Crap, Scrap the CAP!**

*Common Agricultural Policy, Subsidies*

Resolution adopted by LYMEC Congress, 7-9 April 2006, Winterthur, Switzerland

#### **Whereas:**

- There are two main areas (so-called 'Pillars') of agricultural expenditure:
  - Market and income support (Pillar 1)
  - Rural development (Pillar 2)
- In 2002, an agreement was reached by EU leaders on a budget for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) until 2013, together with a new reform of EU's agricultural policy that included a shift of funds from direct aids for farmers to rural development objectives.
- The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has recently been a source of considerable contention in both the negotiation of the EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 and the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s ongoing "Doha Round", blocking any satisfactory compromise
- As part of the deal on EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013, it was agreed that - by 2008 - the Commission should make a "comprehensive and wide-ranging review, covering all aspects of revenue and expenditure, including, inter alia, the Common Agricultural Policy, and the UK rebate", in order to allow a medium term overhaul of the EU's budget in 2008.

#### **Considering that:**

- Whilst the CAP was initially successful in encouraging better productivity and in securing a stable supply of affordable food for European consumers, it is now outdated.
- Money spent on agriculture could be better spent in areas more relevant to modern society or not spent at all and returned to the Member States.
- Globalisation and trade liberalisation are the critical to development in the third world, and also to future growth for industrialised countries
- Production subsidies in this context distort world trade and should be illegal
- Rural development, the "second pillar" of the Common Agricultural Policy, should not be dealt with at EU level: it is more appropriate for it to be dealt with at national level, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- Cutting agricultural tariffs creates big welfare gains for competitive agricultural exporters like Brazil, but at the same time erodes the preferential access already extended by the EU to least developed countries.
- The Council's deal on EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 still needs to be approved by the European Parliament

**Concludes:**

- The EU Common Agricultural Policy should be disbanded and agricultural trade liberalised at worldwide level through the WTO
- Agricultural tariff cuts need to be accompanied with assistance to least developed countries in order to mitigate the negative impact and maximise the positive
- LYMEC will develop a campaign "Cut the crap, scrap the CAP!", using leaflets and e-banners that can easily be disseminated by its Member Organisations, as a way to put pressure on the European Commission in advance of the review of EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013

**PA 7.02 EU Should Bring Down Barriers for the Use of GM Crops****Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 7.02)**

GM, CAP

LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,

Genetically modified (GM) foods are food items derived from organisms that have had their DNA changed through genetic engineering. This document focuses on GM crops, although its general principles are widely applicable to GM animals, fungi and microorganisms as well.

Whereas:

- A widespread use of GM crops in Europe could, due to their inherent potentials, contribute to improving public health, increasing food safety, lowering food prices, protecting the environment and reducing waste
- Denying European farmers to access GM crops is harming their ability to compete with their global counterparts, e.g. China, India, South America and the US, where GM crops are widely adopted
- Relaxing patent protection (but granting plant variety protection) on GM plants will make the technology more accessible to humanitarian efforts as well as stimulate competition, leading to greater consumer choice

Believe that:

- GM technology is a natural extension of modern breeding techniques, with the benefit of conferring a much greater control over unforeseen gene flow
- GM crops represent an opportunity to ensure food safety in the developing world by increasing yields and reducing losses to plant diseases and pests
- GM crops represent an opportunity to produce medicines in a way that is practical and affordable, in the EU as well as in developing countries

Concludes that:



- Strict anti-GM import rules act as a de facto trade barrier to the developing world, should they choose to employ the technology
- Crops (conventional or GM) should be permitted or banned on the merits of their health and environmental effects, not based on the methods used in their development (cautionary principle vs. equivalence)
- There is a need to change the authorization process in EFSA (European Food Safety Authority). We do not want to compromise on safety but as it is today there is a lot of bureaucracy involved in the process of authorization.
- EU labelling rules should be the same for EU imports than for products produced in the EU, in order not to put the EU products to a disadvantage.

Asks the LYMEC bureau to:

- Put forward a resolution about the topic at the ELDR congress in Barcelona in 2009
- Send this resolution to the EU Commissioner for agriculture, Mariann Fischer Boel, and to the ALDE-group in the European Parliament.

## Policy Archive Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development, Transport and Travel

### **PA 8.01 - Resolution on Europe of the Regions**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 8.01)**

**Merged into new 8.01**

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 20th. of December 1992.

The Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Community (LYMEC)

**Calls** on the member states of the European Community to accelerate the process of political and economic integration, to create a unified and harmonious Europe. Therefore, we call all member states of the EC to ratify the Maastricht Treaty as quickly as possible.

**Believes** that a European Union can only have a viable future if based on the concept of subsidiarity, meaning the exercise of power as close to the people as possible. In particular we call on the European Commission and the governments of the EC member states to co-operate with and recognise the regions/historic nations of Europe (such as Catalunya and Scotland).

**Demands** that the European Community institutes democratic elections to the European Regional Assembly, by the people of the regions

### **PA 8.02 Connecting Regions**

**Archived Bucharest Congress 2022, (formerly 8.02)**

**Merged into new 8.01**

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

#### **Considering that:**

- Lymec values the importance of tackling Regional Disparities.
- Regional transport infrastructure varies greatly throughout Europe.
- The task of synchronizing the European railway system has been delegated to the European Railway Agency (ERA).
- Cooperation in the railway industry will extend across borders: not just national frontiers, but regarding commercial, industrial and organizational borders as well.
- Transport connectivity is a key factor for investors when considering investing in an area.
- Motorway and Public transport links are often radial from a country's capital city and do not interconnect to other regional cities.
- Transport connections such as inter-rail have promoted European integration.

#### **Concludes that:**

- Regional disparities can be improved by improving transport connections to other regions.
- Regions can develop and access new markets through developing new transport connections.
- Commuting times for workers can be cut through investment in public transport.
- Trains are one of the most popular methods of public transport.

**LYMEC calls upon:**

- Rail links to be improved between regions and cities across Europe that are not solely to capital cities.
- The European Commission to exercise increased oversight to ensure that EU funds earmarked for specific railway infrastructure projects are not diverted to other projects
- The European Commission to renew ERA's goals, so that ERA can be more useful in aiding railway operators in their quest to serve passengers better in the future.

### PA 9.01 - Recognise Western Sahara

*Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007*

#### **Whereas**

- The territory of Western Sahara has been under occupation by Morocco since 1975.
- The United Nations General Assembly already in 1960 declared that the people of Western Sahara have the right to self-determination.
- The International Court of Justice in 1975 ruled against Morocco's territorial claim on Western Sahara.
- Western Sahara is formally recognised under the name of the *Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic* by 85 states, but by no European state to date.
- Western Sahara is on the UN list of Non-Self Governing Territories and is considered Africa's last colony.
- Under the terms of the UN's settlement plan in 1991, Western Sahara should decide its own future status in a referendum.

#### **Noting that**

- Attempts to hold a referendum on the future state of Western Sahara have repeatedly failed.
- Human rights agencies and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have reported grave and systematic violations of human rights in the occupied territories.
- The people living in the occupied territories are subject to severe restrictions on their freedom of speech, assembly and movement.
- Human rights activists and pro-independence journalists and editors have been put behind bars.
- The Baker Peace Plan – calling for the establishment of a Western Sahara Authority, which would be followed after five years by a referendum – has been blocked by France in the UN Security Council.

#### **Considering that**

- The EU has signed agreements with Morocco that allow EU vessels to fish in territories that are legally under occupation. This constitutes a clear violation of international law and constitutes a de facto recognition of the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara.
- The US-Morocco free-trade agreement does not extend to products from the occupied territories of Western Sahara.

#### **LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon the EU and all European states to**

- Formally recognise the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as an independent state.

- Exclude from all trade agreements with Morocco products originating from the occupied territories of Western Sahara.
- Put pressure on Morocco to respect the human rights of all Sahrawis and to release all prisoners of conscience.

## **PA 9.02 - Stop exploitation of occupied Western Sahara**

*Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia*

Whereas

- The territory of Western Sahara has been under occupation by Morocco since 1975.
- The International Court of Justice in 1975 ruled against Morocco's territorial claim on Western Sahara.
- Western Sahara is on the UN list of Non-Self Governing Territories and is considered Africa's last colony.
- Under the terms of the UN's settlement plan in 1991, Western Sahara should decide its own future status in a referendum.

Noting that

- Morocco has repeatedly blocked the execution of a referendum.
- Human rights agencies and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have reported grave and systematic violations of human rights in the occupied territories.
- The people living in the occupied territories are subject to severe restrictions on their freedom of speech, assembly and movement.
- Human rights activists and pro-independence journalists and editors have been arrested.

Observing that

- Nothing of the income from the exploitation of Western Sahara's rich fish and phosphate natural resources is diverted back to the people of Western Sahara.
- The EU has signed an agreement with the government of Morocco that allows EU vessels to fish in occupied territorial waters off the coast of Western Sahara, in clear violation of international law. The EU/Morocco fishing agreement specifies that it does not prejudice the EU's position about the status of the territory of Western Sahara.
- The USA has specifically excluded from its free-trade agreement with Morocco all products that originate from the occupied territories of Western Sahara.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon

- The EU to exclude the coast of Western Sahara from its fishing agreement with Morocco.

## **PA 9.03 – Ukraine**

*EU's foreign affairs, EU Enlargement/Pre-Enlargement, NATO, Ukraine*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

The LYMEC Congress taking into consideration that:

Further enlargement of the European Union endorses spreading democracy and human rights as well as guarantees higher level of security for all European countries

The Ukrainian Society categorically opposed the attempts of Presidential Election's falsification by triggering the "Orange revolution"

Ukrainian society arduously fought for fairness, democracy and the right for self-determination and therefore proved their belonging to the family of democratic European nations

The newly elected President of Ukraine – Victor Yushchenko has clearly declared the willingness of his country to tighten the cooperation with EU and NATO

Strongly urges the European Commission and European Parliament:

To define clear perspective of Ukraine's integration with European Union

To set precise criteria, which Ukraine has to fulfil to commence membership negotiations

To endorse Ukraine in the process of implementing European legal regulations.

Declares

To observe carefully the situation in Ukraine and react properly in case of any violation of democratic rules

To support the development of Ukrainian civil society through cooperation with local NGOs

To organise joint conferences, seminars and trainings with the aim of sharing our experience with young Ukrainian liberals

To spread knowledge about developments in Ukraine among liberal politicians.

## **PA 9.04 Resolution on the Status of Turkey as an EU Candidate Country**

*EU Enlargement/Pre-Enlargement, EU's Foreign Affairs, Turkey*

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress in Andorra, 2002.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth:

...recalls the status of Turkey as a candidate country to the EU since the Helsinki Summit in 1999, and following the Accession Partnership Program and the National Program.

....regrets the reluctance that was expressed in the European Commission's latest status report on the applicant and candidate countries. In spite of the clear progress Turkey has shown in the 'pre-negotiation', the EU has not taken serious steps to support the reforms in Turkey further.

....considers, that the lack of progress in the negotiations between the EU and Turkey is partly due to the ambivalence and reluctant attitudes within the EU towards Turkish membership of the Union.

....affirms the Copenhagen Criteria as the primary criteria evaluating membership applications instead of culture and religion.

....calls upon the European Council at the Summit in Copenhagen in December 2002 to initiate serious and fruitful negotiations with Turkey. However it shall be made very clear, that the political criteria of the Copenhagen Criteria has to be fulfilled completely before real accession can be an issue on the table.

....furthermore calls upon Turkey to increase the pace towards reaching full compliance with the Copenhagen Criteria.

## **PA 9.05 Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996**

***(excerpt deleted from the resolution 9.01)***

### **VII. European Foreign and Security Policy**

In this part we will describe our vision of the development of a European defence-structure. This structure must guarantee democracy, peace, human rights and individual rights. First we will briefly describe the current situation, then we will describe what we see as the best European defence-structure for the next century. This is how we see a possibility of implementing the Maastricht Treaty. We realise that it is a difficult subject and that it will provoke a lot of discussion. That is exactly what we want. We want you to think with us in order to come to a thorough paper. When the goal is clear we will state a couple of propositions which can lay the foundation for a discussion.

The Maastricht Treaty contains an article about the intention to form a third pillar of the European Union, being the common Foreign and Security Policy. In this article (Art. J.4.), the European Union requests the WEU (West European Union) to implement the decisions of the European Union. The necessary practical arrangements will be made by the European Council together with the institutions of the European Union, somewhat in the shadow of NATO. The Treaty that formed the WEU in 1954 will end in 1998. So the WEU either will be dissolved or continued but with a different goal.

#### **Proposal**

Europe has to divide its attention between European interests and our obligations in the NATO structure. This can be done by reforming NATO into a bilateral structure

between Europe and Northern America. The American pillar consists of the USA and Canada. The European pillar must consist of all the Member States of the European Union, with addition of the non-EU NATO-members (Iceland, Norway and Turkey), for whom a 'status apart' must be created. This automatically includes the fact that Europe decides which countries are to be included in the European Union and thereby in the European part of NATO. The countries that have applied for EU-membership are also positive about membership of NATO or the WEU.

In order to fulfil our obligations to NATO, it is necessary that the European pillar of NATO has the same rigid structure as NATO has today. Amongst other things this means that once a NATO commander issues an order to a multinational European unit, none will check with their individual Ministries of Defence whether or not to follow the order.

In addition to deployment of troops within the NATO-structure, it must also be possible to deploy the respective forces of the two pillars separately. In this respect it must be mentioned that today the European forces are not able to operate without extensive help of the North-Americans. This does include the logistical side of military operations, but also striking capacity of the American aircraft carriers is unmatched by any number of European military units. This also counts for the American capability of information gathering by satellite. The WEU does have its own Space Intelligence Centre in Spain, but this in no respect matches up to the possibilities the Americans have.

### **Problems**

To come to such a new transformation of the Defence and Security Policy of the European Union a lot of practical problems should be resolved first. First, the memberships of the different organisations are not the same. Secondly, the American pillar is divided. Thirdly, there is a tendency in Europe to cut back on defence-costs. People will not be eager to spend more on national defence in order to make it more international. The most important factor is to get the members of the European Union to see, that in order to have a common Security Policy they should first come up with a common Foreign Policy in all aspects.

## **PA 9.06 Resolution on A Common Foreign and Security policy in the EU**

*EU's Foreign Affairs, NATO, Security*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Helsingborg, Sweden, on the 14-16<sup>th</sup> of March 1997.

### **Noting that:**

- The Maastricht Treaty contains an article about the intention to form a second pillar of the European Union, being the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- In this article (Art. J.4.) the European Union requests the WEU (Western European Union) to implement the decisions of the European Union.



- The necessary practical arrangements will be made by the Council of the European Union together with the other institutions of the European Union.
- The Treaty that formed the WEU in 1954 will end in 1998. The WEU will either be dissolved or continued with a different goal.

**Considering that:**

- Security and peace in Europe are common tasks for all countries in Europe. There is a need for the new situation to include existing structures (i.e. EU, NATO and WEU) and new structures, such as the PFP which must evolve into a complementary alliance..Europe is facing new threats to its peace and security. These include, internally, regional conflict, terrorism, environmental problems, human rights violations, ethnic and economic instability, and weak democratic structures.
- Security is not only dependent on the power and sizes of armies, but is as well a question of economic stability and treatment of ethnic minorities within and around the European Union.
- In order to facilitate military actions of the United Nations around the world the member states of the European Union should build reaction brigades who are able to go into action with very short notice, and who are trained and co-ordinated by PFP and available for UN- missions in especially Europe.
- Europe has to divide its attention between European interests and the obligations of the member states in the NATO structure. This can be done by reforming NATO into a bilateral structure between Europe and Northern America. The American pillar consists of the USA and Canada. The European pillar must consist of all European Union NATO members, with addition of the non-EU NATO-members (Iceland, Norway and Turkey), for whom a 'status apart' must be created.
- In order to fulfil our obligations to NATO, it is necessary that the European pillar of NATO has the same rigid structure as NATO has today. Amongst other things this means that once a NATO commander issues an order to a multinational European unit, none will check with their individual Ministries of Defence whether or not to follow the order.
- It must also be possible to deploy the respective forces of the two pillars separately. In this respect it must be mentioned that today the European forces are not able to operate without extensive help of the Northern Americans. This does include the logistical side of military operations, but also striking capacity of the American aircraft carriers is unmatched by any number of European military units. This also counts for the American capability of information gathering by satellite. The WEU does have its own Space Intelligence Centre in Spain, but this in no respect matches up to the possibilities the Americans have.

**Propositions:**

- All members of the European Union should become members, either full or associated, of the European defense-structure (i.e. NATO, PFP or WEU).
- The WEU will be expanded to a PAN-European defence-structure.
- NATO must be transformed into a bilateral organisation with a Northern American and European pillar.
- The European pillar of NATO should be made more self-supporting than it is today. In order to integrate a CFSP the EU should appoint a commissioner of Foreign Affairs.
- The two pillars of NATO must be able to operate separately.

- The creation and strengthening of the Pan-European defence-structure should not lead to a situation, in which any country feels isolated or threatened.
- The European Defence Pillar should be overseen in a European democratic way, that means by the European Parliament. It is proposed that the WEU set up a Common European Task Force, which could be used by the United Nations or the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for peace-keeping and peace-making or humanitarian actions, environmental catastrophes and terrorism.

### **The LYMEC Congress:**

- Fully supports evolution of the CFSP and future military co-operation in Europe, and the recent approach to make it possible for Central and Eastern European countries to join the various European security structures.
- Is convinced that the Alliance must be open for new members, while at the same time enhancing the strong, stable and enduring partnership with Russia and the Ukraine
- Welcomes the success of the Implementation Force (IFOR) in separating warring factions and maintaining an albeit uneasy peace, but regrets the lack of progress in re-establishing civil institutions in reconstruction's and in bringing war criminals to justice; believes therefore, that in Bosnia the conditions for the unchaperoned peace do not yet exist and that IFOR must continue until this has been established, in order to achieve the full implementation of all points of the Dayton agreement
- Urgently requests that IFOR must continue until at least the local elections have been held

## **PA 9.07 Defence**

*Military, Security, EU's Foreign Affairs*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 - 6 April 2003.

### **ascertains,**

- the diversity on brands of material used by different European military forces,
- the ongoing integration in Europe on different areas,
- that the US armed forces are currently superior in technology and strength

### **further ascertains,**

- that EU contains a growing number of neutral states,
- that certain states have chosen not to be part of a common foreign and security policy for other reasons,

**considers,**

- that closer military integration among member states is desirable,
- that Europe should not be competing with the USA as a military power but working with and through the UN to promote world peace,
- that attuning purchases in the future will improve the efficiency of military spending and promote further integration,

**having regarded these considerations, LYMEC declares,**

- that member states, remembering the aforementioned neutral states, and other states reluctant to enter such a communal structure, should be urged to coordinate military acquisition.

### **PA 9.08 Free Syria from Violence and Oppression**

*Peace Process, Minority Rights, Syria*

Whereas

· The ruling Ba'ath party have governed Syria since 1970, without the liberty of free elections.

· From 1963 until April 2011, the emergency rule had remained in effect which gave security forces sweeping powers of arrest and detention.

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· According to Human Rights Watch, Syria's human rights situation is among the worst in the world.

· According to Amnesty International, the government may be guilty of crimes against humanity.

· According to Human Rights Watch, both government and opposition forces have infringed on human rights

· On 26 January 2011, public demonstrations and nationwide protests against the government began, and continues still.

Noting that

· There is no freedom of expression, association, assembly, press or protesting allowed, with random arrests, torture and disappearances being widespread.

· Since March 2012, more than 3,000 civilians have been killed by the authorities.

· The al-Assad government is completely dependent on trade income to withhold its military regime and violence against protesters.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon the EU and all European states to

· take responsibility in working towards a speedy conclusion with the least loss of lives as possible to the Syrian conflict.

· Support only pro-freedom forces, rejecting any cooperation with the Muslim brotherhood of salafitz movement

· Press opposition forces to respect religious minorities and guarantee that Allzwites, Chritians and shite minority are not going to be massacred after the fall of the regime

· further pressure the Syrian regime and that those responsible be trialed before

an international court.

- express the possibility for the international community to consider a military intervention in order to protect the civilian population against the brutal regime, with or without a UN mandate
- encourage European and other countries to open asylum for Syrian citizen

## **PA 9.09 – European Defence**

*LYMEC Congress, Berlin, Germany 23-25 October 2014*

### **Considering that:**

- Europe is facing internal and external threats to its peace and security. These include regional conflict, terrorism, weak democratic structures, human rights violations and economic instability.
- Security is the foundation of economic stability and democratic structures within and around the European Union.
- The development of the international system since the Cold War is characterized by a shift in focus away from traditional interstate aggression, to threats of a more varied nature among which hybrid or non-linear warfare, digital threats and fundamentalist challenges to our European values
- In order to secure European interests and promote European liberal values soft power is not enough to meet the challenges, the European Union needs to increase its hard capabilities to provide diplomatic leverage against both state and non-state actors.
- Military cooperation between member states is taking place already. Both bilaterally (Dutch-German division Fast Forces), and multilaterally within a NATO context (Baltic Air Policing mission) and within a European context (procurement coordination through the EDA)
- The efficiency of defence spending could be markedly improved by closer cooperation between member states.

### **Noting that:**

- Many nations in Europe have a certain specialty in their military force.
- Many EU member states are currently obligated to assist other states under the NATO treaty.
- Such an obligation of assistance does not exist towards non-NATO EU member states.
- Military cooperation between member states is taking place already, without European coordination.
- Affirms that a European Union Defence Policy must be created, and that it:
- Shall stipulate that an attack against one member of the Union is to be considered an attack against the Union as a whole.

- Shall not lead to a situation, in which member states feel isolated or threatened.
- Shall be overseen by the European Parliament, European Commission and European Council.
- Shall include a strong and synergised cooperation with NATO, which is necessary for the security of the entire European continent.
- Shall have one single Headquarters for the Defence of the European Union.
- Shall focus on strengthening the international rule of law, fighting conflicts, maintaining peace and fighting terrorism, both internal and external
- Further believing that:
- Security and peace in Europe are common tasks for all countries in Europe.
- External and security policies can only contribute to a peaceful and stable world if supported by a credible military.
- The EU Defence Policy contributes to closer cooperation and shall commit member states to a shared responsibility concerning European security.
- The European Union Defence Policy and NATO can coexist and that this will only be advantageous to the security of the European continent.

#### **LYMEC urges:**

- European liberals to advocate the formation of a European Union Defence Policy that operates in line with the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.
- Members and member organizations to advocate expanding military cooperation between European Union member states.

### **PA 9.10 Resolution of European Liberal Youth on European New Neighbours Policy**

*European Neighbours Policy, European Integration*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of April 2004

Considering present historic enlargement that undoes the occupation of Eastern-Europe by undemocratic forces.

Considering the interests of European citizens to be secured of illegal immigration, hard drug and human trafficking. It is in the interest of Europe itself that the above mentioned countries develop themselves economically and in closer interaction with EU societies.

Having in mind that most countries bordering the EU still do not have liberal democracy, free market economy and rule of law, although the nations do aspire for it.

Having in mind the strong cultural and economic links and prospects over the future border of the European Union.

LYMEC strongly supports the commission initiative of establishing New Neighbourhood policy. We consider it vital that appropriate amounts of funds are distributed to these programs to include:

- student exchange and comprehensive programs for study from these countries
- comprehensive program of twinning of government agencies of neighbouring countries
- investments into infrastructure uniting neighbouring countries with EU infrastructure
- cultural exchange (folk singing, dance; sports, arts)

## **PA 9.11 The resolution of Cyprus**

*The resolution of Cyprus*

*International Conflicts, United Nations, Peace Process, Cyprus, Turkey*

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting/ Extraordinary Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1997

### **Noting:**

- The situation in Cyprus, where the northern part has been occupied by Turkish military forces since 1974;
- That Cyprus has applied for membership in the European Union;
- That negotiations will start with Cyprus early in 1998;
- That the UN Secretary General has started negotiations on behalf of the UN to solve the problem;
- That the first two rounds of negotiations have not resulted in any progress towards finding a solution;
- That there has been increased tension on the island during the last few months.

### **Considering:**

- That because of the imposed separation and division, a whole generation of Cypriots has not been giving a chance of living together;
- That ever since the invasion and occupation of the northern part of Cyprus by the Turkish troops, thousands of Turkish settlers have been illegally transferred to Cyprus;
- That the UN is planning another round of negotiations after the February Presidential elections in Cyprus;
- That Cyprus fulfils the criteria of becoming a member of the European Union and the European Monetary Union;
- That a membership of Cyprus in the European Union will contribute to the development of the European Union and Cyprus;

### **Stating:**

- That Turkey must withdraw its military forces from the island so that reunification of Cyprus, the only remaining divided European country, could become possible;
- That all the refugees must be allowed to return to their homes;
- That the Human Rights of all Cypriot Citizens must be respected and upheld;
- That everything must be done for the Cyprus problem to be solved peacefully and on the basis of all UN resolutions for a just and viable solution;

#### **LYMEC Supports:**

- The efforts of the UN Secretary General in promoting a solution through direct negotiations between the two sides;
- Cyprus' application for full membership in the European Union, which will benefit both communities on the island;

#### **LYMEC Urges:**

The two sides to continue the negotiations for a speedy, just and viable solution;

#### **LYMEC Welcomes:**

The contacts between LYMEC and the youth organisations ONED, NEFIL and NEDIK in Cyprus;

#### **LYMEC Hopes:**

- To establish further cooperation with these organisations;
- To establish cooperation with young liberals all over Cyprus, who agree on this resolution and who preferably have contacts with one or more of the above mentioned youth organisations in Cyprus.

### **PA 9.12 Resolution “Open Negotiations with Turkey Without Delay!”**

*EU Enlargement/Pre-Enlargement, EU's Foreign Affairs, Turkey*

Resolution adopted at the Executive Committee in Rome, 3-5 December 2004

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC),

*Considering that Turkey:*

- has been undergoing a historical reform process since 1999, when it was granted the EU candidate status at the Helsinki Summit;
- has especially witnessed significant reforms in the past three years leading to one of the most important periods in terms of reforms since the Turkish Republic was founded;

- has almost reshaped its political and social life from scratch based on European values;
- has made significant progress in terms of implementation of such reforms, despite there are many in Europe who claim that Turkey has not managed to go through the implementation phase of the legal reforms.

*Further noting that:*

- the regular progressive report issued by the European Commission on October 6<sup>th</sup> has welcome these reforms and has recommended the start of accession negotiations;
- the principles of fairness, objectivity and impartiality should be the basis for the decision of the European Council regarding Turkey;
- the prospect of EU membership in Turkey has triggered economic and political reforms, taking into account that, by the time of accession, Turkey will have modernized, stabilized and restructured its political, economic and legal systems as a country committed to fulfill all the Copenhagen criteria and implement effectively the *Acquis Communautaire*;
- a decision from the EU to launch negotiations will strengthen the pro-reform circles in Turkey and will enhance a rapid progress towards becoming a genuinely European country;
- LYMEC has fully supported the reforms undertaken by the Turkish government and society, with the aim not only to achieve full membership status in the EU but also to ensure the right of Turkish citizens to live in a free and democratic society.

*Calls upon:*

- the European Council summit in December to decide upon the opening of accession negotiations with Turkey without delay;
- its parliamentary group in the European Parliament (ALDE) to continue supporting the accession process of Turkey into the EU.

ENDS

This resolution will be sent to the liberal Prime Ministers and Members of the European Parliament.

### **PA 9.13 – On the European Integration of Turkey**

**Considering that:**



Accession talks between Turkey and the EU have been ongoing for almost ten years without significant progress for the integration of Turkey as a EU member state. Ten chapters of the *acquis communautaire* still remain frozen due to political unwillingness by current EU member states. Only one chapter has been successfully closed, with only three more completely in line with the EU *acquis*.

**Noting that:**

Turkey has made less reforms in crucial *acquis* chapters the past five years due to the stalemate in the accession talks, making Turkey less willing to pursue EU membership. Full integration of Turkey seems to have become a symbolic goal, rather than a worthy political indispensability.

Turkey has developed an ambitious foreign policy in which it places itself as a regional leader, resulting in a diplomatic position at a similar level as the EU.

Turkey's economic progress has made it the world's 17th largest economy.

Turkey-EU relations as well as Turkey-US relations and transatlantic relations suffer under the lack of commitment and progress in the accession talks.

**LYMEC urges:**

The EU Commission in the negotiation with Turkey put human rights high on the agenda. Turkey cannot become a member of the EU before radically improving the situation regarding human rights.

LYMEC believes that there is no alternative to membership of Turkey in the European Union in the long term, as it is pivotal to prosperity on the continent, as well as global security.

Considering the above, LYMEC calls on the European Commission to propose an integrated economic and political space comprising Turkey and the European Union, similar to the European Economic Area (EEA), and tailored to the specifics of Turkey and its relationship with the European Union, with negotiations starting as soon as possible.

Such an economic and political space must be designed as a stepping stone towards membership of Turkey in the European Union, and not as an alternative to it. Negotiations on EU membership shall continue during the implementation of this space.

**PA 9.14 - Resolution on Security, Disarmament and Defence in Europe**

(Former 9.06 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*NATO, EU's Foreign Affairs, Defence*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Hebden Bridge, Great Britain on the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1995

LYMEC finds that the questions on security, disarmament and defence of Europe are questions to be solved together within the EU. We believe that security is not only dependent on the power and sizes of armies, but is as well a question n economic stability and treatment of ethnic minorities within and around EU.

Now and in the future NATO will be the cornerstone in the security of the western world and we need to co-ordinate it with the WEU and EU. The military co-operation of EU must be in the WEU but not in the shape of one common army with soldiers from all countries. The European forces are to consist of national units who come from the same cultural and linguistic background. Due to this it i up to the member countries to decide whether the units shall consist of conscripts or professional soldiers.

As liberals we turn against the term "internal ethnic conflict". We will not accept discrimination on ethnical minorities in conflicts with political, economic or even military means.

In order to facilitate UN military actions around the world the EU member countries should build up reaction brigades who are able to go into action with very short notice, and who are trained and available for UN-missions.

Because security in Eastern Europe is necessary for security in Western Europe we see an enlargement of the NATO towards the Eastern Europe countries as a chance to secure the security in the whole of Europe.

The conditions for EU-membership must basically be in terms of democracy and liberal human rights and no conditions must be placed which have not been met by all members of EU. We will not allow any third party a veto on EU.

### **PA 9.15 - Resolution Self Determination for East Timor**

(Former 9.08 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Human Rights, Indonesia, East Timor*

Adopted by the LYMEC Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1992.

Since 1975, the Indonesian dictatorial regime of General Suharto has constantly violated the human rights in the illegally occupied territory of East Timor. In the past weeks, several pro-independence East Timorese were imprisoned and brutally beaten by the Indonesian armed forces.

In spite of these facts, the European Community and some of its member states insist in giving financial help to Indonesia, as well as to other Asian states that violate the human rights.

**The LYMEC congress meeting in Konstanz (Germany) on 20/12/92,**

- Demands Indonesia to comply with the United States resolutions and give the East Timorese the right to self-determination;
- Firmly opposes the United Nations Secretariats decision to hold a international human rights meeting in Indonesia in 1993, since that would give the idea that the Jakarta dictatorial regime does not violate the human rights;
- Asks for the immediate release of all political prisoners, both in East Timor and in Indonesia, including the resistance leader Xanana Gusmao;
- Demands that the European Community and its member states only give development aid to those countries that respect the human rights;
- Congratulates the East Timor parliamentary group in the EP for its work to defend the territory's self-determination;
- Mandates the LYMEC Bureau to send this resolution to the LDR group, the ELDR federation and the president of the East Timor parliamentary group in the EP, Ms Simone Veil

### **PA 9.16 - Resolution on Anti-Personal Landmines**

(Former 9.10 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*International Conflicts, Past Events, Conflict Regulations*

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting/ Extraordinary Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October - 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1997

#### **Noting:**

- That the victims of landmines claimed every year are more than 26 000, most of them civilians
- That most of the landmine victims receive deficient treatment or no treatment at all
- Since the negotiations about a landmine ban started in March 1994 have 56000 people either been killed or become disabled by landmines
- That significant progress has been made towards a ban on anti-personal landmines within the Ottawa process
- That the Ottawa process has to be considered of great importance in order to create an international norm, which makes the use of anti-personal landmines objectionable
- That Finland and Greece were present in the Ottawa negotiations only as observers

#### **LYMEC Welcomes:**

- The resolution on anti-personal landmines of the European Parliament from 18 September 1997
- The successful outcome of the negotiations in Oslo in September 1997, where 89 states succeeded in agreeing on a common text banning the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of anti-personal landmines. The Oslo negotiations will make it possible to sign the Treaty of Ottawa in December 1997

### **LYMEC Regrets:**

- That Finland, Greece and the USA have not taken full responsibility in order to achieve a global solution of the problems of landmines

### **LYMEC Urges:**

- Finland and Greece to sign the Ottawa Treaty in December 1997
- The LYMEC Bureau to forward this resolution to the ELDR-Group and to the ELDR-Council
- The LYMEC member organisations and member contacts in Finland and Greece to pressure their mother parties and other politicians in order achieve a change of policy in Finland and Greece

### **PA 9.17 - Resolution on the Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction**

(Former 9.12 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*International Conflicts, Past Events, Conflict Regulations, Iraq*  
Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress in Andorra, 2002.

#### **Affirming that:**

...military actions are never desirable and should be considered only as a last resort when all means of diplomacy have failed and where the consequences of no such action would be worse.

#### **Recalling that:**

...Iraq has refused to comply with UN Security Council resolutions adopted under chapter VII for more than ten years. The chapter VII of the UN charter concerns the matter preserving world peace. Only resolutions adopted under this chapter are obligating.

...There is a strong international support for disarming Iraq of any possible weapons of mass destruction.

...Several evidence on Iraq's possession and developing of weapons of mass destruction have been brought forward by the United States and its allies to the United Nations and to the public

...Iraq has used weapons of mass destruction in the war against Iran and it has mass murdered tens of thousands of civilian Kurds within the own country. It has gassed entire village populations in northern Iraq to death.

...Iraq has attacked neighbour countries with missiles capable of carrying nuclear,

biological or chemical warheads.

...The head of the United Nation's weapon inspectors, Mr Hans Blix, has recently urged the UN not to loosen pressure on Iraq

...It is internationally recognised that Iraq have been trying to build nuclear weapons for more than 20 years and that it was only months from being able to use them on allied forces and countries in the Gulf War in 1991

...Regime change is not a legitimate reason to engage in military actions on a state, whereas responsive and pre-emptive measures of self-defence are

### **LYMEC strongly urges...**

...Iraq to comply with the resolutions and co-operate fully with the weapon inspectors

...The United Nations Security Council to put weight behind its resolutions by mandating necessary force to disarm Iraq of possible weapons of mass destruction

...All member states of the United Nations to respect the authority of the UN Security Council and the UN charter and to do their utmost to solve conflicts within the framework of the UN organisation.

### **PA 9.18 - Win the Peace!**

(Former 9.13 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*International Conflicts, Past Events, Iraq Conflict*

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 - 6 April 2003.

*United* in the hope for a swift defeat of the Iraq regime with minimal loss of innocent lives;

*Condemning* the suffering of the Iraqi people during more than 25 years of rule by Saddam Hussein;

*Deploring* the suffering brought upon the Iraqi people by the perils of war;

*Deploring* the actions of the Coalition that has no mandate, which undermines the role of the UN, and against the will of the general public;

*Recognising* the need for a legitimate role in a post Saddam Hussein Iraq,

- *Determines* that international focus must be on winning the peace in Iraq;
- *Urges* the international society, though divided, to unite towards bringing Iraq a better future;

- *Decides* that a clear UN mandate must be reached, determining the future of Iraq;
- *Urges* the United States of America and the European Union to recognise their primary responsibility towards the establishment of a free, democratic, and prosperous Iraq and the auspices, and through the role, of the UN as the appropriate body.

### **PA 9.19 - Remove Iran's Resistance from Terror List**

(Former 9.17 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Terrorism, International Transparency, Iran*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

#### **Whereas**

- The Council of the European Union on 21 December 2005 decided to put the People's Mujahedin of Iran (PMOI) on the EU terror list and to freeze all its assets.
- The European Court of First Instance on 12 December 2006 ruled to annul this decision and ordered the removal of the PMOI from the terror list.
- The European Council on 31 January 2007 resolved not to appeal the Court's decision, but still refused to remove the PMOI from the terror list, effectively putting itself above the Court's decision and EU law.

#### **Noting that**

- The EU strategy of appeasement in talks with Tehran has failed to halt Iran's uranium enrichment and reprocessing related activities.
- Iran's clerical regime is calling for the annihilation of Israel, has close links with terrorist groups such as Hizbollah and Hamas, is supporting the insurgency in Iraq, and is moving toward obtaining nuclear weapons capability

#### **Considering that**

- The PMOI is a leading resistance group against the clerical regime in Tehran.
- The Iranian resistance was the first party which revealed the existence of Iran's nuclear programme in 2002

#### **LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon the Council to**

- Implement the court decision to unfreeze the assets of the People's Mujahedin of Iran and remove it from the list of terror groups

- Support the Iranian resistance in their struggle for human rights and a peaceful, secular, democratic Iran

### **PA 9.20 - A Call for European Coordination in Iraqi Refugee Crisis**

(Former 9.19 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Iraq Conflict, International Law, Refugees & Asylum Policy, Iraq*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

The situation for large parts of Iraq's civilian population has radically deteriorated due to the ongoing violence and the hardships of war in the area. As a result of this, many Iraqis have already fled their country and many more continue to do so in significant numbers. According to UNHCR, tens of thousands of Iraqis flee each month and, the UNHCR estimates that a million will have fled during 2007 alone. The Middle East has not seen such a number of refugees in motion since 1948.

LYMEC calls for strong measures to be taken to help the Iraqi refugees.

LYMEC recognizes the extent of the Iraqi stream of refugees and the importance of a clear policy of the European governments in addressing this issue. Many people today have failed to grasp the extent of this current tragedy.

LYMEC notes that a large majority of the Iraqi refugees fulfil the standards for protection set forth by the Geneva Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

LYMEC declares an urgent need for a coordinated European policy for welcoming more Iraqi refugees into the EU. LYMEC believes that following a liberal policy in this matter, with full respect to our obligations under applicable international law, is a demonstration of our commitment to human rights.

### **PA 9.21 - Revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East**

(Former 9.22 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*European Integration, International Democracy, Arab Spring*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Utrecht, Netherlands on 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

#### **Considering that:**

- Recent uprisings in North Africa and the Arab world have given a historic opportunity for democratic movements in these regions,
- European nations have long time backed dictators in North Africa and the Middle East
- Human rights and freedom of speech and convention in particular are being violated in many countries in the area,

- Backing dictators may provide short term stability, but is neither in the interest of democracy and rule of law nor in the interest of European values in the long run,

**Believing that:**

- The free and democratic nations of the world have a duty to assist people who, in the fight for democracy and human rights, are rising up to rid their country of tyrants and autocratic regimes
- Respect for human rights is universal and should be respected in all parts of the world,
- Reconciliation with the United Nations would provide the greatest legitimacy to any intervention or sanctions on autocratic regimes,

**Applauding**

- ADD; Applauding The broad participation in the now NATO-led effort to maintain the no-fly zone

**LYMEC Calls on:**

- the European Commission and specifically the High Representative of the European Union to ensure that European foreign policy does not support dictators but the peaceful democratic forces in their opposition,
- the European Commission to enforce an arms embargo among all European member states on autocratic regimes,
- NATO, the European Commission and the Member States to strive to involve the Arab League and Arab nations in any military intervention or sanction that would hit an autocratic government in the region of North Africa and the Middle East and minimizes civilian casualties
- the European Council and Commission to look for new ways of using the Neighborhood Policy as a vessel for promoting democracy and human rights in the area.
- All NATO and European Union member states to support the no-fly mission in Libya

**PA 9.22- Olympic Solidarity with Victims of Chinese Oppression**

(Former 9.24 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*International Democracy, International Transparency, China*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

**Whereas**

- The Games of the XXIX Olympiad will be held in Beijing, China, from the 8th to the 24th of August 2008.
- China was awarded the Games conditional on fulfilling its promises to improve its human rights record.

**Observing that**



- China still maintains an appalling human rights record, most notably in the fields of freedom of speech, access to information, persecution of political opposition, discrimination of minorities, and widespread use of torture and the death penalty.
- China employs a strategy of systematic oppression against minorities such as the Uyghurs and the Tibetans, including the recent brutal repression against the freedom-seeking Tibetan people's quest for self-determination.
- China is providing financial and diplomatic support to the Sudanese government and blocking UN approval for peace-keeping forces to intervene against the ongoing genocide in Sudan's western Darfur province.
- China poses a constant threat against the security and independence of Taiwan, which by the Chinese government is considered part of the People's Republic of China.
- China refused to exert any pressure against the Burmese government during the crack-down against the monks' peaceful protests in Burma last year.
- 1.5 million Beijing residents have been displaced from their homes for the Olympics event, according to the Geneva-based group, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions.
- Special laws and decrees have been introduced for the Olympics to strengthen control over NGOs, banning any protests during the Games, and banishing "undesirable" people (such as beggars, vagrants and the mentally ill) from the city of Beijing.
- Regretting that
- The IOC remains passive with regard to China's ongoing human rights abuses, refusing to put any pressure on China to deliver on its promises to improve its human rights record.

#### **Noting that**

- There are mounting calls for a boycott of the opening and closing ceremony of the Beijing Games.
- Several big names have pledged to stay away from Beijing for the entire duration of the Games.

#### **Considering that**

- The Dalai Lama has spoken out against an outright international boycott of the Beijing Olympics, fearing it would do more harm than good.

#### **LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls on**

- The EU and Member State to adopt a common position of symbolic protest against the Chinese communist regime by refraining from visiting Beijing during the Games, and at the very least boycott the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Games
- Encourages the Member States to have the same standing position in case absence of agreement at European level.

### **PA 9.23 - Resolution for Supporting Democracy in Cuba**

(Former 9.25 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

Resolution adopted at the Executive Committee in Rome, 3-5 December 2004

### **Observing**

- The brutal repression and the violation of Human Rights to all Cubans including the Liberal Parties, PLDC (Liberal Democratic Party of Cuba), MLC (Liberal Cuban Movement) and PSD (Democratic Solidarity Party).
- The lack of youth liberal movements within these Liberal Parties, due to the regularly state structured oppression toward any kind of alternative activity

### **Considering**

- That the majority of Cubans desire to establish freedom and democracy in their land through a non-violent democratic change.
- That it is intolerable that people continue to be imprisoned for their ideals and peaceful political activity in Cuba.
- That many democratic countries around the world are collaborating to support the democratic non violent transition in Cuba. (see attachment number 1)

### **Resolves in order to help create the conditions so that the Cuban people can establish democracy through a non-violent transition:**

- The creation of a group within each young liberal movement that is willing and has the possibility to support democracy in Cuba with the purpose to efficiently work for it.
- These groups to establish contact with the liberal parties in Cuba in order to support them on their task to motivate young people in Cuba to work toward democracy.
- These groups to collaborate and create a common internet site for supporting democracy in Cuba and supporting the liberal parties within the country.
- These groups to support for current EU policy on Cuba and to insist that the international community does not and will not tolerate any human rights violations in Cuba.
- These groups to bring out the topic in debates (in all possible media) against supporters of the present totalitarian Cuban regime.
- These groups to coordinate demonstrations in various European cities

### **PA 9.24 - Resolution on Cuba-Helsinki**

(Former 9.26 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

Adopted at LYMEC EC, Helsinki, Finland 2005

*Resolution submitted by Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF) and the Federazione dei Giovani Liberali (FdGL). This resolution is also supported by JNC Catalonia.*

**Whereas:**

The Cuban opposition urges the EU for an immediate international support.

The Cuban Civic Democratic Movement will be able to continue its struggle for a peaceful transition to a democratic government only with the support of the international community.

Since the 2003 crackdown when Castro's regime weakened the strength of the democratic movement by arresting its leaders and main activists, the opposition movement lost a major part of its political power, lowering the transition speed toward a democratic government;

Inclusive many independent journalists are currently imprisoned, so that in Cuba there are no official independent media who can report to opposition supporters.

**Noting that:**

The Spanish government has been working on the international stage in order to reduce the attention towards the Cuban Civic Democratic Movement.

The EU misguided by the Socialist Spanish Government has maintained a passive attitude.

**Considering that:**

**The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls the EU for:**

The legitimization of the Cuban Civic Democratic Movement by recognizing them as a representative part of the Cuban society;

The participation of Cuban dissidents in all formal activities occurring in their respective embassies.

**LYMEC calls all the European Liberal Organizations, the ALDE, the ELDR and LYMEC member organizations, for:**

Formally demanding their governments to legitimate the Cuban opposition by inviting them to participate in all formal activities that occur in their respective embassies.

Unfortunately, most of them ended this process under the lobby carried out by the Spanish Government.

LYMEC stresses the fact that this resolution can become a common international issue in our agenda: **while consuming freedom we are keen to export it in respect of our political mission. The Cuban dissident movement deserves to be legitimized by the democratic world.**

LYMEC expresses its warmest support for the European Parliament's decision to award this year's Sakharov Democracy Award to the "Ladies in White", a women's organized group of relatives of Cuban political prisoners.

## **PA 9.25 - Urgent Resolution on Cuba**

(Former 9.28 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Trade, Economy Human Rights, Democracy, Cuba, Spain*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007

### **Observing that**

Between April 3 and 4, the Spanish government made the first state visit to Cuba from an EU country since 2003. The purpose of this visit was to improve Spain's relationship with Cuba and a part of the Spanish government's process of getting the EU to adopt a more positive approach and lift sanctions against Cuba and the Cuban regime.

### **Considering that**

The European Union imposed political and diplomatic sanctions against Cuba after the imprisonments of 75 democracy activists by the Cuban regime in 2003.

These sanctions were suspended in 2005 at the urging of Spain's new socialist government.

That fundamental democratic and civil liberties are continuously being violated in Cuba, as much today as they were four years ago, the implementation of political and diplomatic sanctions is still necessary.

### **In response to Spain's state visit on April 3 and 4 to the totalitarian Cuban government, LYMEC:**

- Do not support the attempts by the Spanish socialist government to normalize relationship with the Cuban communist dictatorship due to economic interests.
- Urges the European Union to resume sanctions towards the Cuban regime such as they were before 2005 in order to support the Cuban opposition and stand for democracy.
- In 2003, Fidel Castro's regime arrested 75 people accused of being engaged in different activities against the regime, making it the largest political dissident detention in the history of Cuba.
- Zapata was arrested in 2003 on charges of "contempt for authority", transgression, public disorder and disobedience. He was sentenced to three years in prison, but, during this period, Zapata was sentenced to 30 years in prison for nine other crimes, supposedly involving disobedience to prison officers.

## **PA 9.26 - Resolution on Northern Ireland**

(Former 9.33 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*International Conflicts, Terrorism, Security, Ireland, United Kingdom*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Helsingborg, Sweden on the 14-16th of March 1997.

### **The LYMEC Congress:**

**Welcomes** the start and proceedings of the inter-party negotiations in Northern Ireland.

**Supports** the United Kingdom and Irish governments in insisting that Sinn Féin can only take part in the peace talks after a cease fire.

**Insists** on an immediate IRA cease fire and an end to all terrorist violence, which would allow for the immediate inclusion of Sinn Féin.

**Applauds** the contribution of Young Alliance and the Alliance Party towards advancing the peace process and its continuing campaign for the creation of a peaceful, pluralist society in Northern Ireland.

**Believes** that peace in Northern Ireland is just the first step in the development of the region. Political stability must be the basis for a dynamic plural society, in which further economic restructuring and development will ensure that the peace can remain.

**Believes** that any political settlement must have the four following elements:

- Entrenchment of the principle of consent,
- A power-sharing regional government,
- North-south institutions where co-operation can benefit both jurisdictions,
- A Bill of Rights.

## **PA 9.27 - A New Approach to the Euro-Mediterranean Policy**

(Former 9.35 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Mediterranean Union, EU's foreign affairs, Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Syria*

The Barcelona Process emerged during the Spanish Presidency in 1995 from the decision of the European Union and twelve countries from the south and east of the Mediterranean region -the so called Third Mediterranean Countries, TMC- to establish a perspective of partnership and association. After six years of implementation, the outcome of this space for a deeper dialogue between both shores of the Mediterranean has shown contradiction, excessive bureaucracy and budgetary constraints.

In fact, the difficulties for the implementation of the policy adopted in Barcelona in 1995 do not question its architecture defined to prevent conflicts in the area, on one hand, and offer a regional response to the challenge of globalisation, on the other hand. On the contrary, they reveal the need to prioritise the political and economic challenges and to work for getting rid of certain prejudices existing in the European institutions.

A number of external factors have also delayed the implementation of the partnership launched in Barcelona, including the crisis in South East Europe, the instability in some Islamic countries due to the waves of religious fanaticism or the increasing violence in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, there are three specific conditions, which demand a clear reformulation of the proposals and the strategy for cooperation regarding the EU Mediterranean policy:

- the first stage of the Barcelona Process should have allowed the involved countries to reach a relevant degree of economic liberalisation and political democratisation, in the countries from both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. In fact, the balance of reforms carried out is disappointing
- the enlargement of the EU that will start taking place in the short term has provoked mistrust in the associate countries. It has generated a feeling of exclusion among those Mediterranean partners that will not participate in such process
- the events happening the last September 11 determine new priorities in hard security matters

Therefore, in order to consolidate channels of dialogue and association between the European Union and the TMC, the Barcelona process is more necessary than ever and therefore it demands a highest political concern in the EU agenda.

Regarding the financial support programmes, the Union has already taken the decision to reform the Meda programmes increasing its flexibility, which is undoubtedly positive. From this point of view, within the new Mediterranean Youth Action Programme (2000-2004), a budget of 14 million Euro (10 million under MEDA and 4 million under the YOUTH Programme), has been established in order to strengthen the mutual understanding programmes among young people and stimulate the democratisation of civil society in the Mediterranean partners.

Taking all these elements into consideration and regarding the upcoming Conference in València to be held under the Spanish Presidency the next 22 and 23 of April, the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the EU (LYMEC) calls on the European Union institutions to:

Identify the priorities of action within the Euro-Mediterranean policy and impulse them:

- more ties and trust should be generated in the framework of political dialogue

- the EU should strengthen its role as a stabilising force in the economic and political transformation of the TMC.
  - the partnership should be more visible and closer to the needs of the individuals, putting emphasis in the training of human capital.
  - the need for the EU to generate synergies between the main challenge facing the EU -the enlargement to the east- and an effective association with the TMC, raising the idea of complementation.
  - a clear reformulation of the partnership in the sense of increasing flexibility in the functioning and introduce the possibility for reinforced co-operation among the partners in order to reach goals more effectively.
  - the immigration should be placed onto the Euro-Mediterranean agenda. That would allow the Barcelona Process to deal with the management of the migratory flow.
- 
- Identify the main reforms to carry out and take measures to get them achieved:
  - the TMC should advance along the way of consolidation of the rule of law, based on the good governance, and the respect for human and individual rights and the environment, as well as the promotion of individual freedom, individual competitiveness and free market. These deep reforms must not be only result of the cooperation with the EU, but the result of the internal reforms of these countries themselves. The creation of a *Human Rights Observatory* in one of the southern countries of the region would contribute very much to the achievement of these goals.
  - the creation of a Euro Mediterranean free trade area for the year 2010 - including agricultural products- is a basic objective of the Barcelona process. It would also enhance credibility on the policy among the TMC and be coherent with the liberalising proposals that from the liberals we have also promoted. From that perspective, the EU should advance in the liberalisation process of the agricultural trade, and therefore, with a progressive revision of the current Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).
  - among the measures to be adopted in the field of the Meda programme, there is a need to revise its financial system in order to increase its effectiveness and adjust it to the most relevant projects. From that point of view, LYMEC welcomes the creation of a *Mediterranean Development Bank* that will become very significant and positive.
- 
- Lastly, the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the EU also stresses the need to redefine the concept of partnership in the Euro-Mediterranean framework, understood as a fix intermediate step between association and membership.

### **PA 9.28 - Urgency Resolution on the Actions of the UK Government Regarding the Icelandic Financial Crisis**

(Former 9.37 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Bilateral Agreements, Terrorism, International Conflicts, United Kingdom, Iceland*  
 Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress  
 Assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

### **Considering that**

- The United Kingdom has issued the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 on 8 October 2008 to freeze the assets of the Icelandic bank Landsbanki in the UK on the legal basis of antiterrorist legislation under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, thereby believing that "action to the detriment of the United Kingdom's economy (or part of it) has been or is likely to be taken by a person or persons." Furthermore, the British Chancellor Alistair Darling defended the Order, claiming that the Icelandic government "had no intention honouring their obligations" regarding deposit guarantees; this statement, as revealed after the tapes of the actual conversation between him and Icelandic Minister of Finance Árni M. Mathiesen were made public, was, however, never made;
- At the same time, the UK government nationalized the British Subsidiary of Iceland's largest bank, Kaupping, despite the bank's reaffirmations that it was solvent. This action caused Kaupping's board of directors to step down on the following day, putting the bank in the hand of the Icelandic Financial Supervisory Authority, Fjármálaeftirlitið. With the last big Icelandic bank now nationalized, trading on the already collapsing Icelandic stock market had to be halted.

### **Believing that:**

- Considering the course of events, the actions of the UK government contributed heavily to the deterioration of Iceland's financial sector;
- The use of anti-terrorism legislation by the UK government was completely unjustified since no act of terrorism or takeover of the UK economy was planned;
- The victims of these actions are the people and the economy of Iceland.

### **Therefore, LYMEC:**

- Condemns the UK government for issuing the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 and for nationalizing Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 as an unjustified and hostile act and
- Supports initiatives protesting against this abuse of anti-terrorism legislation and restoring the reputation of Iceland, such as [www.indefense.is](http://www.indefense.is)

## **PA 9.29 - Resolution on the Former Soviet Union/Europe**

(Former 9.42 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Independence, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania*  
Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Paris, France on the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of January 1992.

The EC should support a peaceful transformation of the former SU into a democratic society. The natural consequence is that aid should be given only to Soviet



Governments but will respect human rights and the applications of sovereignty made by national entities like the Baltic Republics.

LYMEC should contribute to this process by establishing contacts with liberal and democratic movements and organisations in the former USSR.

### **PA 9.30 - Resolution on the Conflict in Chechnya**

(Former 9.43 in Policy Book – Budapest Spring Congress May 2023)

*Military Security, Russia, Chechnya*

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress in Andorra, 2002.

#### **Considering:**

...that the second war in Chechnya is going on for already three years.

....that there are tens of thousands casualties on both sides.

...that the major material damages in all over Chechnya and huge humanitarian crisis with hundreds of thousands refugees and tens of thousands civilian casualties both wars have brought about.

....recent events in Chechnya and Russia.

#### **LYMEC – European Liberal Youth:**

...strongly rejects among other actions the recent hostage taking in Moscow by the Chechen fighters.

....expresses its criticism on the disclosure of information by the Russian officials after the special operation.

....is convinced that for the time being neither complete occupation of Chechnya nor the full independence of Chechnya is feasible.

....strongly rejects Russian efforts to portray the whole Chechen nation and all Chechen rebels as terrorists.

....strongly urges Russia to open Chechnya for independent observers, international humanitarian aid and media access.

....strongly urges Russia and the EU to improve humanitarian conditions of the Chechen refugees.

....urges the EU to take the necessary diplomatic, political and economic steps to influence Russia to respect human rights, conduct independent investigations into grave human rights abuses in Chechnya and start finding political solutions to the conflict.

## **PA 9.31 Resolution on the Situation in Kosova**

(Former 9.20 prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, Peace Process, Independence, Kosovo, Serbia

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Helsingborg, Sweden on the 14th-16th of March 1997.

### **Considering that:**

- The Kosovo conflict occurred in 1998-99 when ethnic Albanians fought ethnic Serbs and the government of Yugoslavia in Kosovo. The conflict gained widespread international attention and was resolved with the intervention of NATO.
- Following the peace accord that ended the Kosovo conflict in 1999, Kosovo came under the UN administration, and UN peacekeeping forces were deployed there. The tension between Albanians and Serbs continued.
- Kosovo declared independence in February 2008. According to the International Court of Justice in Den Haag, this decision is legal. The following 5 European countries do not recognize Kosovo as independent: Greek, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and the Republic of Cyprus.
- Agreements regulating Kosovo's behaviour in international negotiations and border controls were signed in 2012 between Serbia and Kosovo.
- Rule of law mission Eulex has existed since 2012.
- Application for EU membership was announced in December 2022.
- Starting in 2024, Kosovo citizens no longer need a visa to travel to the European Union.

For the sake of peace and stability in the region, peace and tranquillity in Europe and in order to prevent other catastrophic conflicts in the Balkans;

### **We call on to take into consideration the following steps to address the Kosova issue and subsequently encourage a solution to the crisis:**

- To treat Kosovo as an international problem and call an international conference thereon
- To sign a comprehensive, legally binding normalisation agreement between Kosovo and Serbia (so that both countries can advance on their respective EU paths).
- To foster the relationship between local liberal organisations and LYMEC
- To maintain pressure on Belgrade to respect the civil liberties and political rights of the people of Kosova
- To promote exchanges between the European Union and Kosovan democratic forces.

## **PA 9.32 Resolution on the Future of Kosova**

(Former 9.22 prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, Peace Process, Independence, Kosovo, Serbia

Adopted at the 20th Congress of LYMEC, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the on the 29th-31st of March 1996.

Since the peace agreements in Dayton, geographical problems in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina are about to end. It seems that the problem of Kosova, which was the indicator of the crises in Yugoslavia, and still is a situation that can escalate any moment in a new war, in which some other countries could be implicated, deserves more attention. Therefore a new war should be avoided. In co-operation with the Junge Liberale, the Young Liberals of Kosova appealed to the 20th General Assembly of LYMEC to rise its voice against and condemn the Serbian authorities in causing this situation.

LYMEC appeals to the European and world diplomatic circles that the Kosova issue be included in their agendas. All the people of Kosova, whatever their ethnic background is, should have the right to democracy and peace, as one of the fundamental rights all the people of former Yugoslavia are entitled to.

Albanian pupils and students, the Kosova youth should be allowed to be educated in their mother tongue and to have access to their own school and university buildings, dormitories and other premises. These facilities are taken over by Serbs and now being given to Serbian settlers from Croatia, with a transparent aim to change the ethnic structure of Kosova, to Serbianize and ethnically clean the region.

Young people of EUROPE have to express their solidarity to their Kosovanian mates lacking fundamental human rights in education, employment and liberty, having been subjected to ruthless oppression by the Serbian regime. They are being ill treated, arrested, killed, forcibly drafted into the Serbian army, many of them being compelled to escape of their homeland and seek for shelter in European countries.

Kosova has to be placed under a temporary international protectorate in order to prevent the conflict breakout in the region, and with the aim of defending the rights of every individual, ethnic Albanian, ethnic Serbian or from any other ethnic group.

There is an urge for calling of an international conference on Kosova where legitimated representatives of Kosova, headed by the president Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, could equally participate in it.

If the problems of Kosova are not resolved, the issue is to be brought up by LYMEC with a similar motion to be presented at the next ELDR Congress.

### **PA 9.33 Resolution on an Independent Kosova**

(Former 9.23 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Justice, Peace Process, Independence, Kosovo, Serbia

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting held in Gummersbach, Germany on the 2nd of July 1994.

The European young liberals plead for measures to prevent the outburst of war in Kosova and the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia.

The sanctions against Serbia should be lifted only after a solution of the Kosova-question. The CSCE-observers are to return to Kosova and information bureaus of the European states should be opened.

War criminals have to be punished immediately by the international community. Kosova is to become a civil international protectorate.

The Republic of Kosova is to be recognised in principle as an independent state by the international community.

The ELDR Party should organise a conference on "the truth about Kosova".

### **PA 9.34 Resolution on the Rights of the Albanians in Kosova**

(Former 9.24 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, Peace Process, NATO, Kosovo, Serbia, Albania

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting/ Extraordinary Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 31st of October - 2nd of November 1997

Seven years of apartheid was established in Kosova. Albanian students recently demonstrated against this situation. The demonstrations were peaceful, announced earlier and all the details of demonstrations were published in the media. The aim of the demonstrations was to protest against the Serbian regime in order to release all university facilities for Albanian students, who are being denied of that right. In September of 1996 the agreement on education was signed between the Serbian president Milosevic and president of Republic of Kosova under occupation, Dr. Rugova.

The agreement was signed for humanitarian reasons beyond any political discussions on the future status of Kosova. The agreement as so was never implemented because of obstructions from the Serbian side. These demonstrations were brutally prevented by the Serbian police with the final result of 300 people wounded, a lot of them with bad injuries. The student's leaders and the rector of University were arrested and after being maltreated physically and mentally were released. Also, recently the Serbian police organised a new campaign of terror among Albanian population. The result of it is two murdered Albanians, hundred of them arrested on a non-juridical basis and thousands of them maltreated. Whole villages were surrounded by police and armed forces and nobody could enter that circle. After the retirement of these forces, only the testimonies of innocent civilians reminded of the brutal behaviour they received from the Serbian military forces.

The recent defeat on presidential elections in Montenegro of Milosevic's man Bulatovic, over the reformist Djukanovic gave another 'punch' to Milosevic after the recent defeat of 'his' candidate in presidential elections in Serbia. The situation in Montenegro is heated to the boiling measures. If you add to this the international pressure to Milosevic to fulfil the obligations taken from the Dayton agreement on Bosnia, it is obvious that positions of Milosevic were never so weak in last decade. It is very possible that Milosevic would start a new war again so he could save his power.

The recent provocation by the Serbian forces makes us think that they are not going to be 'so mild' this time.

Therefore, we are proposing this resolution:

- LYMEC gives full support to student's requests on the right for education and calls upon the Serbian side to implement the signed agreement on education.
- LYMEC condemns the exerted terror by the Serbian police on Albanian population and calls upon Serbian authorities in the future to restrain from any use of force among civilians.
- LYMEC calls upon EU-member states to exert pressure on the Serbian regime so they could start dialogue with Albanian representatives from Kosova on the political future of Kosova.
- LYMEC calls upon international community to organise an international conference on Kosova.
- LYMEC gives a full support to all democratic forces that are sincerely engaged in helping to find a peaceful political solution for the problems in the whole region.

### **PA 9.35 Resolution on the Situation in Macedonia**

(Former 9.27 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Bilateral Agreements, United Nations, Macedonia, Greece

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Hebden Bridge, Great Britain on the 18th- 19th of March 1995.

- Only one of the new Balkan republics, Macedonia, was denied international recognition after the fall of Yugoslavia. In the EU, Greece try to stop all support for Macedonia due to so called "historical and symbolic" reasons. Later the state has been recognised as Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) but Greece continues the hard attitude towards Macedonia.
- Macedonia is a very poor country and has lost important possibilities to trade as the result of the UN-sanctions on former Yugoslavia. The economic and social situation is at the moment very bad.
- UN-statutes, article 50, say that compensation can be given to countries, which suffer from economic problems related to economic sanctions on neighbouring countries. In December 1993, the General Assembly of the UN adopted a resolution, which declared that compensation should be given to Macedonia. Since then nothing happened.

#### **The Congress of LYMEC:**

- condemns the behaviour of Greece towards Macedonia
- demands that EU should be active in the support of the Macedonian independence and democratic development
- demands that Macedonia receive compensation for the economic problems related to the UN- sanctions on Serbia.

## **PA 9.36 Emergency Resolution on the Greek Embargo**

(Former 9.28 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, EU's Foreign Affairs, Macedonia, Greece, Serbia, Montenegro  
Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Hebden Bridge, Great Britain on the 18th-19th of March 1995

The Republic of Macedonia is struggling, under great political and economic difficulties, to maintain its democracy and respect for human and minority rights.

These difficulties are largely due to unilateral embargo imposed by the Greek Socialist Government. It is important to say that the Republic of Macedonia still implements the UN embargo on Serbia and Montenegro. It is not difficult to imagine the amount of the damages that Macedonia suffers on financial, economical, trade, as well as on cultural, creative and development way.

Therefore LYMEC:

### **Notes that**

- a year has passed after the Athens Government had imposed an unilateral blockade on its border with Macedonia

### **Stresses that**

- this action by the Greek Government on a frontier of the European Union puts in danger both the political and economical stability of a small democracy which threatens nobody and risks extending conflict to parts of Balkans which have so far been spared from horrors of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia

### **Believes that**

- the French presidency of the European Union, provides a new opportunity for the European Union to achieve a common position based on:
  - the ending of the blockade of the Republic of Macedonia
  - insistence on the principle of the maintenance of existing international frontiers
  - aid provided by the EU to the Republic of Macedonia which economy suffers from the isolation, both on its southern and northern border

### **Mandates**

- the LYMEC Bureau in collaboration with the LYMEC members to organize a European campaign based on this resolution

## **PA 9.37 Resolution Regarding the Conflicts in Macedonia and Preshevo Valley**

(Former 9.29 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, Bilateral agreements, Macedonia, Serbia, Albania  
Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Congress, 7 - 8 April 2001, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Bearing in mind the recent conflicts in Macedonia and Presevo valley.

Taking in to account all legitimate concerns of the people living in the Balkans.

Recalling the similar tragedies in the recent history of the region.

We:

- Recognise and support the territorial integrity of the Republic of Macedonia;
- Condemn the use of violence as a way for achieving political goals;
- Call for immediate and unconditioned talks between all sides involved in the conflict;
- Call for the international community to react promptly to the developments;
- Support the talks between Serbian authorities and Albanian representatives from "Preshevo valley" in solving the conflict peacefully.

### **PA 9.38 Urgent Resolution: Greece Must Act as an EU Member State**

(Former 9.30 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, EU's Foreign Affairs, Macedonia, Greece  
Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

#### **Expressing:**

- Deep regret that due to the Greek veto Macedonia was not invited to become member of NATO, despite fulfilling all required criteria
- Disapproval of the rise of nationalist feelings in Greece towards Macedonia
- Shock by the recent decisions of Greek authorities to block their airspace for Macedonian air companies
- Surprise that Greek Central Bank ordered blocking of certain financial transactions to Macedonia
- Disagreement with trade limits imposed on the Greek-Macedonian border by Greek farmers and with their government's support

#### **Calls on the European Commission and European Council:**

- To support the ongoing democratic reforms in Macedonia
- LYMEC Congress again re-affirms its support to the self-determination of the Macedonians regarding their state and identity.

## **PA 9.39 Resolution on Serbia**

(Former 9.31 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, Military, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Hebden Bridge, UK, March 1995.  
Emergency resolution proposed by MLH, Croatia.

The congress of the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union notes that:

- Substantial shipments of arms supplies from Serbia in the direction of the Serb-occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and other neighbouring countries.
- The Serbian air force is still taking part in acts of aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and other neighbouring countries
- The position of the Albanian minority in the province of Kosovo, the Muslim minority in the region of Sandzak, and the Hungarian and Croatian minorities in the province of Vojvodina is becoming every day more difficult.

### **The LYMEC Congress:**

- demands implementation of economic and political sanctions toward Serbia until it recognizes the territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia and Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and recognizes the rights of the national minorities of Serbia, not only by a declaration but with practical measures.
- This resolution will be forwarded to all the governments of the member states of the European Union and NATO.

## **PA 9.40 Emergency Resolution on Serbia's Genocide**

(Former 9.32 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Military NATO, United Nations, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Hebden Bridge, Great Britain on the 18th-19th of March 1995.

- What we witness happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina today is unacceptable for us young liberals in the European Union. Refraining from doing all efforts to stop the violence and oppression would mean not only betraying the population in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but also betraying ourselves.
- The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina concerns all of us. The governments in the European countries have proclaimed "patience". But patience has never stopped genocide. Hitler was not stopped by patience, and the few survivors from Auschwitz were not released due to patience, fifty years ago.



- Our visions of peace, co-operation, democracy and freedom and a multi-cultural European society must also include the Balkan countries. The president of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic, has a responsibility not only for encouraging the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but also the oppression of civilians in countries and areas. The situation for the Albanian people in Kosova and the Muslims in Sandjak, Serbia is also very bad.

#### **The Congress of LYMEC:**

- Condemns the attempts to divide the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a state recognised by the United Nations, by ethnic principles, after territorial acquisition by force of arms and expulsion of civilians.
- Demands respect for human rights.
- Expresses the full support for democratic multi-ethnic organisations working for peace, democracy and multi-ethnic society.
- Demands that no further sanctions on Serbia be lifted until the regime has recognised the other republics on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.
- Demands that the UN send peacekeeping forces or observers to the border between Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as between the part of Croatia occupied by rebel Serbs and Bosnia- Herzegovina.
- Expresses the support for opening Sarajevo and other closed towns for aid, mail, transports and the formal free movement of civilians.
- Demands that the EU open a diplomatic representation in Sarajevo.

### **PA 9.41 Urgent Resolution on Terrorist Activities in Southern Serbia and Kosova**

(Former 9.33 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

United Nations, Terrorism, International Conflicts, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo  
Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Congress, 7 - 8 April, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

#### **Noting:**

- The increased tensions and provocations in Southern Serbia caused by the military activities of the so-called Army of Liberation of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja - UCPMB
- The ongoing threats and attacks against the non-Albanian population within Kosovo
- The Agreement between NATO and FRY about the permission for the Yugoslavian Army (VJ) to re-enter the Ground Safety Zone (five km zone separating Kosovo from FRY)

The Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union - LYMEC

**Condemns:**

- The action and the activities of the so-called Army of Liberation of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja - UCPMB which is trying with military or terror methods to destabilise Southern Serbia and to change the boundaries of the Province of Kosovo.

**Urges:**

- KFOR and NATO to take additional measures in order to prevent UCPMB to operate from the territory of Kosovo. Specifically KFOR should increase the number of checkpoints and troops along the boundary between Kosovo and Southern Serbia in order to disrupt the military activities of UCPMB. Further KFOR and NATO should review their course of action towards extremists, terrorists or paramilitary groups within Kosovo.
- The European Union to have a differentiated financial approach within Kosovo. Mixed communities and municipalities should be prioritised and places with continued ethnic violence financially neglected until the situation improves.
- The OSCE to improve media monitoring in Kosovo. It is unacceptable that UCK and UCPMB is freely spreading war propaganda and that UCPMB and UCK is recruiting members through official newspapers and magazines distributed and printed within Kosovo under the eyes of the OSCE media monitors.
- The United Nations ICTY in The Hague to handle cases of UCPMB and UCK war criminals.
- KFOR, UMNİK, OSCE and UNHCR to normalise the relations with the new government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia in order to improve the situation in the area.

**PA 9.42 Resolution on Customs Union with Turkey**

(Former 9.34 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

EU Enlargement/Pre-Enlargement, EU's Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Turkey  
Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Hebden Bridge on the 18-19th. of March 1995.

Being aware of the continuous serious violation of human rights and discrimination of the Kurdish minority in the south east of Turkey by the Turkish government.

Taking into consideration supporting the Turkish economy and strengthening the relations to a state, of which some million citizens live in member states of the European Union.

LYMEC believes a customs union should be established with a democratic Turkey in the future but that signing a customs union now will undermine all efforts of democratic forces in Turkey to improve the current situation and could only be interpreted as a capitulation of human rights before other interests.

LYMEC therefore welcomes the last decision made by the European Parliament not to ratify a customs union with Turkey. LYMEC calls the Parliament to hold its position and not take a positive decision until clear progress concerning the respect for human rights and ethnic minorities in Turkey over a certain period is visible.

## **PA 9.43 Resolution on the Occupied Territories of the Republic of Croatia**

(Former 9.35 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Conflicts, United Nations, Independence, Croatia, Serbia  
Adopted at LYMEC's Congress in Hebden Bridge, UK, March 1995  
Emergency resolution proposed by MLH, Croatia.

The Congress of the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union notes that:

- one-third of Croatia's territory is still under occupation by the rebel Serb forces
- rebel Serb forces have committed war crimes (massive massacres of civilian, systematic ethnic cleansing and other crimes) against the Croatian population in the occupied territories
- some Croatian towns were completely destroyed by the rebel Serb forces (e.g. Vukovar)
- United Nations Protection Forces stationed in the occupied territories of Croatia, due to the active hampering by the rebel Serbs, have failed to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the Republic of Croatia (e.g. not a single refugee has returned to their home, 6500 more Croats have been expelled from and around 700 murdered on the occupied territories during the UNPROFOR presence)
- UNPROFOR is in fact protecting the territorial acquisitions of the rebel Serb forces, intended to create a "Greater Serbia", and not the territorial integrity of an internationally recognized state
- the occupied territories "cut" Croatia in two parts, connected only by the Maslenica pontoon bridge
- the rebel Serbs do not accept any kind of autonomy within the Croatian state.

The LYMEC Congress fully supports the legitimate right of the Republic of Croatia, as an internationally recognized state and member of the United Nations, to regain control over all its territories within its internationally recognized borders.

This resolution will be forwarded to all the governments of the member states of the European Union.

The map of the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia is attached to this resolution.

## **PA 9.44 Adding more oil to the fire...**

(Former 9.40 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Keywords: Syria, IS, Russia, Turkey, Intervention

**Noting that:**

- Russia has recently sent troops and advanced military equipment to Syria in support of the regime and started a bombing campaign targeting all anti regime forces in Syria - not limiting itself to IS - that is striking civilians and combatants alike;
- Turkey has recently claimed to have joined the coalition against IS but instead executes a bombing campaign that targets Kurdish (civilian) positions instead of IS targets;
- that previous external intervention in the Middle East have only created the west to become an outside enemy, furthermore have not provided a sustainable solution.

**Considering that:**

The advanced Russian equipment consists mainly of Anti Access - Area Denial equipment specifically aimed at hindering the airpower of coalition forces.

Stresses that,

Russian bombing has so far been targeted at anti-regime forces and civilians indiscriminately.

**Urges:**

- All parties currently engaged in the Syrian civil war to adopt a more constructive attitude towards a solution for the conflict
- The European Union, ALDE and LYMEC to express the strongest possible condemnation of the action of Russian military personnel and material in Syria and calls for immediate ceasing of the unilateral action by the Russian Federation.

## **PA 9.45 Resolution on common foreign policy towards Russia**

(Former 9.41 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

**Keywords:** EU – Russia relations; Aggression; Ukraine; Common foreign policy

**Noting that:**

- During the Crimean crisis Russia annexed Crimea via an internationally unrecognized referendum.
- Vladimir Putin has admitted to having Russian soldiers without insignia in Crimea before its annexation, confirming on-the-ground reports of a Russian incursion into Ukraine.
- Unrest in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine evolved into a war between the post-revolutionary Ukrainian government and pro-Russian insurgents.
- Military activity continues on a smaller scale despite Minsk II ceasefire;
- Russia is notably expanding its authority to enforce military measures and aggression.
- The High Representative of the European Union has a duty of representation and conducting political dialogue with third countries and is responsible for expressing the EU's positions globally.

**Considering that:**

- Common foreign policy in the EU is crucial for the alliance to stabilize international conflicts.

- The crisis in Ukraine has severely destabilized the security of European countries and the security of Europe in general.
- Stresses that EU doesn't approve Russia's actions in Ukraine which are against international law; EU's sanctions are justified and should be only mitigated through clear and unquestionable progress as stated in Minsk 2 –agreement.
- Whereas EU sanctions and Russia's counter sanctions affect differently to different EU member states; is of the opinion that EU should show European solidarity to these countries mainly affected by these common sanctions.
- Points out the need for EU to be tough concerning sanctions and standing on it's ground protecting freedom and peace in Europe; believes on the same time to express the need for soft power as well, meaning diplomacy.
- Is convinced that as a Nobel peace prize winner EU needs to show the power of diplomacy; underlines that there can be only a diplomatic solution to this crisis in Ukraine and to the relations EU has with Russia at the moment; believes that the EU has to speak with one voice to ensure the credibility of its diplomacy policies.
- Welcomes the planned reforms to the Ukrainian constitution; underlines the need to also enforce these plans; is convinces that EU should have a greater role in monitoring the adaptation of Ukrainian's new constitution.
- Energy security is a crucial part of any EU's common foreign policy. In the current conditions, where all member states decide their own policies, Russia is able to play off member states against each other and it is the Kremlin that decides where, to whom and on which conditions it is going to supply its gas in Europe.

#### **Calls upon:**

- The further establishment of relationships with Russian civil society organizations.
- Engaging in more dialogue with opposition leaders in Russia, alongside national government representatives.
- EU member states not to alleviate present day sanctions.
- The EU to monitor Russian activity in other states of the Eastern Partnership initiative and to remind EU member states to uphold their duties regarding the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU that has to be ratified by all the members of the European Union.
- Member nations of the European Union to remain seized on restoring Crimea to the Ukraine and to maintain, by all standards of international law, that Russia's possession of Crimea remains and illegal act of annexation
- A new meeting to be held, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, between the European High Representative and delegations from the top three contributing member states, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Ukraine and the OSCE, with the aim of reviewing progresses made since Minsk II and to further discuss the necessary steps to restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity.
- The EU to increase financial assistance to Eastern Partnership countries, which would combine large scale budgetary-support and political risk insurance, projects to support development of SME and place strong emphasis on structural democratic reforms, anti-corruption and curbing the influence of oligarchs.
- The EU to help the countries who carry the heaviest economic burden.

### **PA 9.46 Break the Turkish Olive Branch in Afrin**

(Former 9.45 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

**Noting:**

- Turkey launched a new air and ground operation, called 'Operation Olive Branch', in Afrin in Syria on 19 January to oust the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) from the border regions;
- there has been a worrying pattern of imprisonment of a large number of members of the democratic opposition, journalists, human rights defenders, lawyers, civil society representatives and academics in Turkey speaking out against the ongoing Olive Branch Operation in North West Syria;
- that a quarter of judges and prosecutors, a tenth of the police force, 110 000 officials and nearly 5 000 academics have been dismissed since July 2016, which is impeding the running of the administration, daily civil services and universities;

**Believing that:**

- that freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association are fundamental pillars of a democratic society, and that fundamental freedoms must be fully respected;
- that the failed military takeover 2016 cannot be used as an excuse for the Turkish Government to stifle legitimate and peaceful opposition and to prevent journalists and the media in their peaceful exercise of freedom of expression through disproportionate and illegal actions and measures;
- Turkey while conducting the Olive Branch Operation violates international law;
- Ensuring the security of Turkey's borders does not mean killing civilians in the border regions;

**LYMEC calls for:**

- The condemnation by the international community and exercising of pressure on Turkish authorities to stop the Olive Branch Operation conducted by Turkey in Afrin;
- The European Union to initiate peace talks including the fighting sides in the North Western parts of Syria;
- Turkish Government to lift the state of emergency immediately;
- Turkish authorities to immediately release and stop the prosecution of human rights defenders and journalists and the media speaking out against the Olive Branch Operation.

## **PA 9.47 Independence is the Only Solution for Kosova**

(Former 9.25 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

International Justice, Peace Process, Independence, Kosovo, Serbia  
Adopted by LYMEC EC, 7-9 December 2007 in Stockholm

Observing that Kosovo for the last eight years has found itself in a legal limbo as a UN protectorate following the 1999 NATO intervention against the Yugoslavian Army's attempted ethnic cleansing of the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo

Acknowledging the progress that has been made in setting up an institutional framework in Kosovo, most recently witnessed in the successful execution of the parliamentary elections held in November of this year

Also acknowledging the good work led by former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari in drafting a report on Kosovo's final status following talks with Kosovar and Serbian counterparts

Supporting the recommendations laid out in the Ahtisaari report, granting Kosovo independence under international surveillance and with specific provisions to guarantee the rights of the Serb minority

Observing that the Ahtisaari report has been adopted by the government of Kosovo, whereas Serbian authorities have dismissed it as an unfair and untimely intervention into internal matters

Noting that ongoing negotiations between the Troika, consisting of representatives of the USA, the EU and Russia, in trying to find a solution to the issue are due to be concluded by the 10th of December

Regretting Russia's openly stated opposition against Ahtisaari's recommendations and its continual efforts to block a UN solution to the issue of Kosovo's future status

Further regretting the recent warning issued by EU foreign ministers against any unilateral declaration of independence

Fearing that further postponement of a final settlement of Kosovo's status could cause civil unrest and destabilise the whole region

Reiterating that following the events of 1999, Kosovo can never again be returned to Serbian rule

Commending the Serbian liberals for supporting this position amidst huge popular demands that Kosovo be reunited with Serbia

Reaffirming the position taken at the 2006 LYMEC Congress in Winterthur, Switzerland, in favour of an independent Kosovo as the only viable long-term solution

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon the EU and all European states to

1) Support a UN Security Council resolution granting full independence to Kosovo within the terms of the Ahtisaari report

2) Recognise, in the event that such a resolution is not approved by the UN Security Council, a unilateral declaration of independence by the government of Kosovo

## **PA 9.48 Motion on the Republic of Kosovo**

(Former 9.26 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Bilateral Agreements, Peace Process, Independence, Kosovo, Serbia  
LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009

**Whereas:**

- LYMEC already acknowledged that independence was the "only solution" for Kosovo at its Executive Committee meeting on 7-9 December 2007 in Stockholm

**The LYMEC Congress:**

- Applauds the independence of Kosovo as gained on 17 February 2008 and welcomes the Republic of Kosovo in the international community;

**But at the same time notes:**

- The hostilities on March 2004 against the Serbian minority and against the heritage of the Orthodox Church;
- The latest annual report of the Ombudsman;
- The bad economic situation in Kosovo;

**And therefore calls on:**

The Republic of Serbia to:

- Recognize the Republic of Kosovo immediately;
- Stop sponsoring double administration in the Republic of Kosovo

The Republic of Kosovo to:

- Align fully with international standards regarding Human Rights in generally and especially towards its minorities;
- Fight against the largely spread corruption and criminality;
- Develop a proper property rights system that can be legally enforced;
- Fully implement the Ahtisaari Plan;
- Take further steps against human trafficking.

The international community to:

- Recognize the Republic of Kosovo as soon as possible and allow the Republic to join international organizations, especially the United Nations and the Council of Europe;
- Further monitor and support the situation on the ground, especially the human rights situation.

**PA 9.49 Promoting sovereignty over natural resources for the people of Western Sahara**

(Former 9.36 Prior to Riga, November 2023)



**Noting that...**

- Morocco has occupied areas of Western Sahara since 1975, a territory in process of decolonisation,
- Western Sahara is endowed with a wealth of natural resources, including phosphates and fisheries,
- more than 165,000 Sahrawis currently live as refugees in Algeria following the occupation of Western Sahara,
- European Parliament members of the Intergroup for Western Sahara have been denied entry to Morocco,
- the European Commission recently signed a new Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Morocco, which, if adopted, will also apply to the waters of Western Sahara,
- The European Parliament's legal service has stated that fisheries in Western Sahara would be illegal unless it is conducted in accordance with the wishes of the people of the territory.

**Believing that...**

- Western Sahara has the right to become an independent state, trade agreements between the EU and Morocco can have a positive impact on Morocco, but that such agreements should only apply to the territory internationally recognized as Moroccan,
- the EU entering into a fisheries agreement with Morocco which also covers the waters of Western Sahara can prove detrimental to the UN peace process.

**Resolving that...**

- the LYMEC Bureau and Member Organizations should raise awareness of the situation in Western Sahara with the ALDE Group in the European Parliament and in their respective member states,
- the EU Member States and the European Parliament should vote against any trade or fisheries agreement with Morocco that includes waters belonging to Western Sahara.
- archive resolution 9.24 Stop exploitation of Occupied Western Sahara.

**PA 9.50 Resolution on the Ukraine-Russian war**

(Former 9.37 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Keywords: EU's foreign affairs, Democracy, Ukraine

**Noting that in Ukraine:**

- Demonstrations started as a consequence of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign the Association Agreement with the EU.
- The Euro Maidan protests against the government led to aggression of police forces against protestors
- Military forces did not intervene in the political protests at Euro Maidan.

- On 16 January 2014 a series of anti-protest laws was adopted by the government majority severely limiting the freedoms of expression and assembly, which provoked international outrage and sparked violent clashes in Kyiv resulting in the loss of human lives;
- The popular uprising in Ukraine has reached a majority of the regions, with the administrations of those regions being under the control of the people, who democratically elected Petro Poroshenko as their leader.
- The situation in southern and eastern parts of Ukraine has deteriorated at an increasing pace
- A civil war is occurring between pro-Russian nationalists with Russian military support and government forces

#### **Considering that:**

- Ukraine is a European country.
- Ukraine must have a fair chance to build their democracy and shape its own future independently, including, if it chooses, greater integration with Europe.
- A sovereign, independent and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is key to European security.
- Ukraine needs to strengthen democratic control over the defence and security sector, with effective parliamentary oversight and the robust involvement of civil society.
- Ukraine military forces should be complimented for not attacking Russian forces in Crimea that could have led to bloodshed and a new world war.

#### **Also considering that Russia:**

- Occupied and annexed the region of Crimea by military force, imitating Crimean Nationalists.
- Is an important trade partner for Europe, especially for bordering countries

#### **Fearing that Russia:**

- Will continue interfering with the democratic political process in Ukraine
- Is supporting pro-Russian forces financially and militarily in Eastern Ukraine
- Is causing increasing instability in Europe and intimidating countries bordering Russia and with Russian minorities.

#### **Calls on LYMEC:**

- To keep the Ukraine crisis at the top of the European political agenda;
- To call on NATO to improve cooperation with the Ukrainian military and determine the most effective strategies to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and civil society;
- To support advancing practical policies in the most critical areas to ensure that Ukraine survives in the short term and thrives in the medium- to long-term;
- To seek cooperation within the European Community and the Member Organizations to advocate urgent support for and a long-term commitment to a European Ukraine
- To urge the European Community to uphold and extend sanctions on Russia

- As a matter of urgency, to help Ukraine's emerging liberal youth organizations prepare to educate the future liberal politicians.
- To inform individual members and member organizations on facts and fiction about the situation in Ukraine.

## **PA 9.51 Resolution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**

(Former 9.38 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Approved in LYMEC's Rotterdam Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2015

Keywords: TTIP, free trade, ISDS

### **Noting that:**

- The economies of the EU and USA account for more than 50% of world GDP in value, 41% of GDP in purchasing power and one third of world trade flows;
- The economies of the EU and USA are already well integrated and have a proper protection of private property, combined with due legal process in settling conflict;
- Investments between the EU and USA total over 1,3 trillion euros in both directions as we are each other's main investment partner;
- Trade between the EU and USA total over 290 billion euros for goods and over 157 billion in services;
- Differences in regulatory systems and standards prevent Small and Medium Enterprises from entering new markets;
- Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) receives much criticism for being potentially threatening to the policy-making freedom of democratically elected sovereign governments, even though ISDS provisions have been common practice in trade agreements and investment treaties for over 50 years. EU member states have included ISDS provisions in 1400 Bilateral Trade agreements.

### **Considering that:**

- The goal is to ensure jobs and economic growth;
- TTIP is currently being heavily debated in the European Parliament;
- Public dialogue on TTIP has uncovered many concerns on aspects of TTIP;
- Of the four major studies that have been done so far, three agree on a substantial growth caused by TTIP
- With projects such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade policy dynamics are shifting away from Europe, threatening to diminish the EU's significance as an actor in the global economy
- Asian economic integration is expanding both in scope and depth, possibly resulting in lower regulatory standards for the global economy including low standards for environment and consumer protection TTIP will create a new set of standards for product safety and environmental protection that benefit both economies now and future growth;

- The Trans-Atlantic economic integration has the potential to set regulatory standards for the whole global economy, including high standards for environment and consumer protection.
- All benefits can be achieved without direct government investment or debts;
- TTIP seeks to remove trade barriers, custom procedures and protectionist tariffs that will generate benefits to both exporting companies and importing customers, who have a wider choice of products and services at more reasonable prices;
- ISDS is essential for a TTIP treaty, as it will protect investor and individual property rights across both the EU and USA and creating a platform for settlement in case protectionist measures are taken by any form of government;
- Because TTIP will set the standard for further free trade agreements all over the world, TTIP offers the perfect opportunity to institute a modern and transparent form of ISDS.
- TTIP ought to be closely scrutinized before acceptance by the EU institutions.

#### **Believing that:**

- Free trade policy embodies the spirit of liberalism as it aims at waiving mandatory boundaries between people from different nations and ultimately increases their wealth.
- Free trade policy by attempting to harmonize “spaghetti bowl” of market regulations across different geographic regions justly seeks to improve the exporting competitiveness of small and medium enterprises which are now participating in global supply chains.

#### **Having in mind that TTIP will mean:**

- That doing business will be easier;
- Products and services will be cheaper and more accessible across the EU and USA;
- Higher regulatory standards are being harmonised and promoted, serving as a blueprint for regulations outside the transatlantic block as well;
- Creativity and innovation are stimulated and protected;
- Public contract opportunities are more accessible;
- More investment is promoted;
- More choice of services will be available.

#### **Calls upon**

- LYMEC and the ALDE Group in the European Parliament to stress the need for transparency and democracy in the negotiation process;
- Negotiating parties in TTIP to avoid as much as possible exemptions from liberalisation;
- ALDE Group in the European Parliament to promote the liberal spirit of TTIP agreement and ensure proper democratic checks and balances within the new open market;
- LYMEC Bureau to promote free trade as one of the solutions to (youth) unemployment by creating privately funded jobs and economic growth;

- LYMEC to ask ALDE Party and its member parties to support a modern ISDS mechanism, to safeguard proper democratic checks and balances with adequate oversight by independent judges.

## **PA 9.52 A coherent and ambitious EU development policy**

(Former 9.39 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Passed in the Congress of Rotterdam, May 2015

Keywords: Development policy, trade policy, European cooperation

### **Considering that:**

- 55% of the total development aid in the world comes from EU member states
- Common European development aid is distributed through EuropeAid roughly one third of all EU development aid is distributed through EuropAid

### **Believing that:**

- Development policy is an important area of European foreign policy
- EuropeAid can be an important factor in streamlining and strengthening EU development policy.
- Neither the EU, nor its policies, should hamper global freedom, equal chances and prosperity, so individuals around the world can flourish
- The aim of EU development policy should be to ensure:
  - a) Social and economic development
  - b) peace and reconciliation and
  - c) sustainable and good governance

### **Also considering that:**

- Tax loopholes, EU trade barriers and agricultural policies potentially negate the fruits of development aids
- United Nations' post-2015 development goals set the primary focus on the reduction of extreme poverty.
- Helicopter money alone will not end poverty; a comprehensive strategy for development aid is key

### **Stressing that:**

- Contributing to peace, freedom and prosperity is in line with European Values
- A more prosperous developing world contributes to global stability and security
- The common component of EU development aid can be effective at reducing the effect of externalities rooted in a lack of coherent policy
- A coherent EU development policy takes into account multiple policy fields, such as trade, taxation and climate
- A comprehensive development policy makes for a more effective contribution when a common EU development aid programme more effectively complements initiatives by EU member states when combating poverty

**LYMEC therefore calls upon the ALDE Group to work for:**

- A comprehensive strategy for development aid that builds on a combination of financial assistance, trade and capacity building for local professionals in health, education and governance is needed
- Making the Implementation of Common EU development policies subject to three conditions:
  - demonstrable economies of scale
  - plausible elimination of conflicting or competing policies of individual member states
  - significant increase of effectiveness
- Increase efforts to enable European citizens to take part in volunteer work with focus on capacity building,
- Grant EuropeAid the resources needed to strengthen the common development policy
- Strive to make EU the most effective and competent contributor of aid to the developing world.
- Ensuring that agricultural subsidies and other forms of European protectionism do as little harm as possible to developing countries.
- Eliminating policies that negate the positive effects of development aid
- Propose mechanisms to ensure a proper monitoring of development aid funds in countries with historical risks of corruption, maladministration and tax evasion, ensuring also further justified consequences in further aid provision if those scenarios are confirmed.
- Also encouraging involvement of investors and private partnerships, as well as focus on developing entrepreneurship and business culture in recipient countries.

## **PA 9.53 Tackling propaganda and fake news**

(Former 9.42 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

### **Summary**

To ensure maximum transparency and objectivity, awareness about propaganda among citizens of the European Union, it is important to maximize the quantities of resources of information about propaganda measures and tools, its spread and distribution, its influence and impact accessible for European Union society in general. Combating propaganda is necessary to uphold fundamental EU values and to ensure human rights, democratic values and functions of civil society. Despite the levels of concern in European institutions, citizens of EU member nations experience a lack of transparency with regard to the usability of and access to information channels, tools, measures and documentation concerning propaganda within the European Union. Citizens of the European Union are not currently involved in the process of identifying and combating propaganda.

### **Taking into account**

LYMEC Resolutions

9.64 – Resolution on the Ukraine-Russian war

9.70 Resolution on common foreign policy towards Russia

The Electoral Manifesto of 2014, especially article 7.

**International Documents:**

- European agenda for culture in a globalizing world (COM (2007)0242);
- The Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship (8496/15);
- European Parliament resolution on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values (2015/2139(INI));
- The explosion of populist and extremist political movements since the start of the financial crisis;
- The intensification of religious extremist activities, culminating in several terrorist attacks;
- The violation of national territories (airspace and territorial sea) of several EU member states and the annexation of parts of neighboring countries by foreign aggressive powers;
- The increase in cyberattacks that political institutions and economic actors in Europe have suffered;
- The dependence of Europe on American military capacity for its defense.

**Noting:**

- Deeply troubled by the concerning intensification of propaganda and disinformation towards European states.
- Taking into account that propaganda is a message designed to persuade its intended audience to think and behave in a certain manner or official government communications to the public that are designed to influence opinion
- The alarming content of Russian propaganda with anti-European sentiment, hate speech, homophobia and xenophobia, which encourages aggression against neighboring countries and impedes integration of national minorities in the Baltic States, through strategies such as falsifying the history of former member nations of the USSR.
- Noting that Russia's main propaganda tools in the Baltic states are television, radio, news portals and social networks.
- Further noting that Russian programming is slick and entertaining, and consequently widely watched even by people who do not feel politically drawn to the Kremlin
- These events are fueled and financed at least partially by foreign governments with the specific aim of creating dissent in Europe, break down its institutions, spread extremist political ideas (both of Far Left, Far Right and religion-based);
- The election of a new President of the United States that has threatened to weaken NATO, not defend its European allies in case of aggression and that is himself connected to some of the foreign interests that are threatening our continent.

**Considering that:**

- Russian TV reaches around 4 million Baltic States' Russian speaking and ethnic Russians
- Concerned that Russia has launched Sputnik, a so-called news agency, and the semisecret Baltnews site, which publishes anonymously produced "news" in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian.

- Taking into consideration that Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine itself have blocked Russian TV channels, to prevent them from exerting similar influence on their minorities.
- RFE/RL's budget today, stretched to support television, radio, web, and social media in 28 languages, is roughly \$100 million, while East Stratcom, the new EU unit which has identified and publicized 2,500 Russia-planted fake stories over the past year, may soon be upgraded to a paltry budget of €1 million out of a budget of 142 billion Euros.
- Russia's population is roughly 140 million people, while the EU's is 500 million
- Russia's GDP is of around 1300 billion US dollars, while the EU's is about 16500 billion.

#### **Concluding that**

- Pro-Russian broadcasters' influence is reflected in consistently stronger backing for the Kremlin among ethnic Russians than in the general population
- Deeply concerned that citizens of the European Union are not involved in a process of recognition and identification of propaganda

#### **LYMEC calls upon**

- To set up a task force, under the auspices of East StratCom, charged with identifying the best methods to counter any disinformation tactics seeking to undermine the unity and diversity of the EU;
- To significantly increase the EU's Strategic Communication budget, case specific to the needs of East StratCom, to a percentage of the European Union's budget that gives the appropriate attention to the defense of our democracies against foreign political powers' propaganda and that the implementation should start at the earliest date possible;
- To continue ongoing efforts in helping and building communications with Russian NGOs and civil union leaders that pursue the same political goals and ambitions as those of the EU;
- To facilitate as part of secondary education curriculums across EU member states, in some beneficiary form, critical evaluation studies of sources and their reliability, respective to the study programs;
- Stands for an urgent pooling of resources aimed at creating a permanent cyber-defense organization with operational capacity to defend European countries from external cyberattacks and propaganda activities.
- To ensure that appropriate funding is allocated to independent think-tanks as well as to research for countering and understanding the false news phenomenon through existent or to-be-created structures.
- Asks the Bureau to create a campaign aimed at our political partners, both within the Liberal family and from other political families, to promote these proposals.

### **PA 9.54 Resolution on the Western Balkans Enlargement Process**

(Former 9.43 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

#### **Considering that:**



- Any European country which respects the principles of liberty, democracy and rule of law; protects and preserve human rights and fundamental freedoms may apply and become a full member of the European Union
- Western Balkan states (Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina) share a common goal in joining the European Union
- The European Union and the Western Balkan states share a vision of common future, and that EU integration needs to remain key perspective for the Western Balkan states.
- EU enlargement has been the most successful European policy for promoting stability, peace and prosperity;
- EU enlargement has been the most effective EU policy for spreading Union's values and norms as well as for consolidation EU's global and regional role and influence.
- The EU enlargement process has been an important catalyst for key and bold reforms, and the massive public support which this process enjoys in Western Balkan states
- Peace and stability on the Balkans are in EU's own interest because the region is surrounded by EU member states.
- Antidemocratic trends, disinformation campaigns and increasing political influence of third countries in the region lead to lack of political dialogue, return of authoritarianism, worsen relations with neighboring countries and incomplete reconciliation processes.

**Believing that:**

- The EU should increase its cooperation with Western Balkans states in order to reassure on one hand region's path to democracy and on the other to consolidate pro-European course and membership perspective of the Western Balkan states
- In the wake of Brexit, the EU should speed up enlargement in Western Balkans in order to enlarge the common market and bring about new economic opportunities for both EU member states and Western Balkan states.
- The EU should be more active in the region and fix a timeline (concrete time period) for accession of all candidate countries from the region (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia).
- EU enlargement in the Western Balkans will promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region which on the other hand will have a long-term positive effect on security and stability throughout the whole European continent
- EU membership will bring many opportunities and benefits to citizens of Western Balkan states.

**Therefore LYMEC calls for:**

- The EU and its member states to increase their assistance and to pay more focused attention to the Western Balkan states and their EU membership aspirations
- EU institutions and member states to increase their support for economic development of the Western Balkans region. In particular, to support the successful implementation of the recent Sarajevo Declaration on the creation of a common market, which in a long term will decrease ethnic and cross-border tensions as well as decrease unemployment and poverty in the region.
- The EU and Western Balkan states to preserve the multi-ethnic character of the region within a peaceful, fruitful and cooperative framework, recognising that

good neighbour relations and regional cooperation will facilitate the enlargement process.

- The Western Balkan states to move forward with reforms and implementation of the Copenhagen criteria. The fight against corruption on all levels should be brought to a successful conclusion.
- Further and comprehensive assistance to regional liberal parties and organisations, especially youth organizations (like ISEEL) in order to encourage much stronger and intensified liberal cooperation in the region as well as to consolidate the European perspective of the Western Balkan states.

## **PA 9.55 Urgency resolution on the Start of EU accession negotiations**

(Former 9.52 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Mover: LiDEM

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

### **Recalls:**

- The 2003 EU Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans which confirms the ultimate EU membership of the countries from the region;
- The establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) in 2016 as part of the Berlin Process initiative for European integration of Western Balkan states, focused on promoting the spirit of reconciliation among young people in the region;
- The EU Council conclusions from June 2018 with regards to the opening of EU accession talks;
- The LYMEC Council Resolution on the Western Balkans Enlargement Process.

### **Welcomes:**

- The efforts made by the coalition government in Skopje towards building a free, democratic and pluralistic society where young people of all groups are supported to participate in public life and have access to decent employment through implementation of EU's Youth Guarantee scheme, after years of democratic stagnation and authoritarianism;
- The judiciary reforms undertaken by the government in Tirana;
- The progress made by Albania and by North Macedonia as noted in the Progress Report by the European Commission from May 2019.

### **Recognises:**

- Within the EU accession process, every country should be evaluated on its individual merits;
- The overwhelming majority of young people that support the EU integration in both countries.

### **Expresses:**

- Disagreement and deep regret that on the 18th October 2019 the European Council failed to agree on the start of the accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia;
- Concern that the EU risks politically destabilizing the region if accession talks with North Macedonia and Albania do not proceed as soon as possible.

**Notes:**

- That North Macedonia is the only country in the Western Balkans that has internationally delimited borders and no open issues with its neighbours, in light of the recent peace deals with Greece and the Republic of Bulgaria;
- The discussions and the conclusions of the European Parliament, as well as the parliaments of Germany and the Netherlands with regards to the opening of the EU accession talks;
- The statement of the French President on 18 October that the only compromise at the EU Council would have been to decouple the accession talks of North Macedonia and Albania.
- The heavy youth brain drain the countries face, eroding the energy and optimism young people channel;
- Concern that having no decision on the accession dates for both countries will cease young people's aspirations of entering and being equal with their European peers.

**Urges:**

- The European Council to set dates for start of EU accession talks with Albania and North Macedonia at the next meeting;
- The potential reform of the accession process not to delay the beginning of the already started EU accession processes;
- To take concrete steps to ensure that trust and confidence in Europe's commitment is restored with our partner countries in the Western Balkans;
- To enable a framework that will utilize young people's potential in the region by providing them with same opportunities as any other young Europeans.

**PA 9.56 We are Europe too**

(Former 9.68 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

*Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

Submitted by: Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF)

Co-signed by: Lidem, USR Tineret, Forum mladih Nove stranke, Istrian Democratic Youth

**Recalling:**

- The ALDE Resolution on Opening of EU Accession Negotiations adopted by the 2019 ALDE Congress in Athens;
- The expressed urge to support Western Balkans in their attempt to transform their society and political systems according to EU standards, stated in the ALDE Resolution on Improving Europe's Capabilities to Address the Rise of China adopted by 2019 ALDE Congress in Athens;
- The ALDE Resolution on North Macedonia's Membership in NATO and the EU adopted by the ALDE Council in Berlin, in February 2019;
- The LYMEC Resolution on the Western Balkan Enlargement Process adopted on the 2017 LYMEC Autumn Congress in Sofia;
- The ALDE Resolution on European Integration of the Western Balkans adopted by the 2015 ALDE Congress in Budapest;
- Recalling the statement from Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission regarding EU's strategic interest to offer the West Balkans a European perspective;

- The fact that the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties has backed visa liberalisation for citizens of Kosovo, amid continued opposition from several EU member states.

**Considering:**

- That the unjustified rejection of the EU of the application for membership for Northern Macedonia and Albania bears a risk of rising populist and nationalist political options (anti EU movements) is an obvious possibility; Whereas both countries made consistent progress and showed dedicated commitment on the path towards the EU, which resulted in the decision of the European Council of 26 March 2020 to open accession negotiations; Whereas the work on work on resolving bilateral issues with neighbouring countries needs to continue in the name of the shared European future of the region.
- The Agreement between Belgrade and Beijing about joint police patrols, whose implementation started to see light in October 2019, when Chinese patrols operated on Serbian soil; The delay in procurement of COVID-19 vaccines from the EU to the region, causing a void which is being filled by foreign powers in a strategic play of "vaccine diplomacy";
- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro are only partner countries in the Erasmus+ Programme, as opposed to Croatia, Serbia and North Macedonia, which are programme countries;
- Students from Western Balkan, who have ambition to complete their education within European Union previously need to apply for visa, and this affects also young entrepreneurs and youth start-ups, who wish to do business in member states and enter the EU single market from a number of the Western Balkan countries;
- There are continuous demands from both citizens and political leaders from the Western Balkan for a program that would ensure extending the roaming-free zone with the EU to the region;
- In respect to EU granted autonomous trade preferences to all the Western Balkans, it is difficult for the Western Balkan states to compete with Europe's trade partners and benefit from Europe's free market given the customs duties.

**Believing that:**

- The EU motto "United in Diversity" perfectly describes the values upon which the idea of European Union is established;
- and that Western Balkans, diverse as they are, would be the perfect ingredient for underlining these values in the future;
- Young people in the Western Balkan, especially young liberals, have a strongly developed European identity, which can be confirmed by the fact that, when in search for a better future, they mostly migrate towards EU member states;
- The EU is where young people turn to, when value crises in the region occur, as they perceive it as a beacon of hope that these values can be preserved;
- While the influence of non-EU global players is increasing in the Western Balkans, we perceive that it also can have an effect on youth and their identification with European values, proven by recent poll results, which state that support for EU accession in the Western Balkans has significantly dropped;
- The future belongs to the youth and most of Western Balkan youth identifies as Europeans, hoping to have a future based upon EU values – they rightfully feel that they are Europe, too.

**Therefore, we call for:**

- LYMEC, ALDE, Renew Europe, other liberal networks and liberal politicians in the EU and beyond to make a greater effort to nurture the European identity of the Western Balkan youth and the youth in Balkan EU member states, especially found in young liberals, aiming to make them feel as part of Europe;
- Liberal political parties and liberal politicians (elected officials, prime ministers, party officials) to consider the impact their political decisions and public statements make on the political work of liberal partner organisations in the Western Balkans;
- LYMEC, ALDE, Renew Europe, other liberal networks and liberal politicians in the EU and beyond ask for opinions from partner organisations in the Western Balkans prior to discussions and decision making, regarding topics relevant to the future of the region, such as EU enlargement and multilateral relations with/within the Western Balkans;
- Not applying double standards for the Western Balkan states that want to join EU;
- Additional support and empowerment to civic society of Western Balkan;
- The need for liberal politicians to continue emphasizing the values the EU was founded upon and not give in to populist rhetoric, so the European Union stays that beacon young people in the Western Balkans can turn to, when looking for a model of a society they can identify with.

**PA 9.57 Resolution on the racist and xenophobic riots in the USA**

(Former 9.44 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

**Summary**

- The presidential election of 8 November 2016 in the United States of America was won by a candidate who ran a campaign steeped in bigotry and offensive speeches against minorities.
- As the 45<sup>th</sup> president of the USA, Donald J. Trump has repeatedly courted controversy with xenophobic and hate speeches since he was sworn in on 20 January.
- Mr. Trump has also tried to play the Member States of the European Union against each other with the aim to divide the European people as well and to revive the specters of hatred and sorrow.
- The events of 11 and 12 August 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white supremacists rioted in the streets and an anti-supremacist activist lost her life, together with Mr. Trump's failure to condemn them, were a disturbing moment that worries us all.

**Believing that:**

- The United States of America is a key political, economic and cultural ally of the European Union;
- Speeches based on hatred, bigotry and violence to achieve their goals are incompatible with free and democratic societies; and
- All human beings are free and equal in our pursuit of happiness regardless of our origins, creeds, sexual orientation, and colour of skin.

**LYMEC:**

- Condemns all statements and speeches made by the Trump administration with the aim of dividing the American society and/or based on hate, bigotry and aggressiveness;
- Reaffirms its support for equal rights for all people regardless of their ethnic background;
- Rejects all types of demonstrations that use violence to achieve their goals, whether in the US, the EU, or anywhere else.
- Calls on the EU to lead a global response to these types of statements and speeches, abroad as well as domestically.

### **PA 9.58 Transparency and human rights led approach to EU deals with other countries on irregular migration**

(Former 9.46 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

#### **Whereas LYMEC has previously called for:**

- A common European policy concerning refugees and other irregular migrants;
- Strengthening the partnership and co-operation with countries of origin, transit and final destination;
- Developing and implementing co-operation programmes focusing on local and regional development in order to deal with the root causes of irregular migration;
- An open and transparent immigration policy, which is accompanied by the strengthening of efforts to combat smuggling and trafficking.

#### **Considering that:**

- The European Union requires a democratic, federal, open and transparent decision-making process which is accountable to its citizens in order to strengthen and maintain the relationship between the European Union and the people it serves;
- The European Union is financially supporting a number of countries with the objective of curbing irregular migration into Europe;
- The aim of the financial support is to improve the means by which countries of origin and transit can better control irregular migration and to address its root causes;
- Financial support has been provided to states that are fundamentally corrupt and are noted serial human rights abusers, including Sudan where the Head of State is indicted by the International Criminal Court;
- At present there is little to no transparency concerning the use of funds and the specific projects that have been approved, in addition to the relevant risks relating to such projects such as the possibility of dual use technology and/or training that can be used for internal repression and to assist the country in question perpetrating further human rights abuses;
- There is an overemphasis on the financial root causes of irregular migration and not on the political or security motivations that prompt civilians to leave their homes.

**Calls for:**

- transparency in the use of European Union funds in relation to support for countries of origin and transit in stemming irregular migration and combating human trafficking and people smuggling, including projects approved;
- the European Union to only fund projects that are compatible with the core values of the European Union, including the respect of human rights;
- human rights centred approach to dealing with irregular migration;
- the European Union to ensure that no dual purpose technology or training is provided to countries that are at risk of utilising such technology or training to perpetrate human rights abuses.

**PA 9.59 Support student activism internationally**

(Former 9.47 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 6-8 April 2018.

**Considering**

- In over 65 countries, students are exposed to threats, violence and other assaults when they engage themselves politically to promote democracy, human rights, and academic freedom.
- Since being established in 2014, the Norwegian student at risk program has had remarkable success in helping international student activist get a degree at a Norwegian university.

**Believing that**

- Young activists are the key to democratic reforms and social change.
- Education is a tremendous tool in improving political activist's agency
- Europe as a wealthy continent has a moral obligation to promote human rights and academic freedom internationally

**LYMEC calls on**

- European countries and the European Union to adopt the students at risk program from Norway by giving a certain amount of international student activists the opportunity to finish their studies in Europe. The purpose of the program is to give young activists an opportunity to finish their studies, strengthen their academic and organizational skills and build an international network of other activists. Afterwards, the students are intended to return to their country of origin and continue their fight for social change with greater knowledge and experience.

**LYMEC proposes**

- The selection of students, who will be offered a spot in the program should ideally follow the Norwegian approach. The candidates are appointed by different organizations and institutions who are given the right to nominate. Then candidates will then be judged by different criteria – how threatened they are in their homeland, the character of their political work as well as academic and language abilities. This is done to find the candidates with the largest potential and greatest need.

- The offer should only be targeted at activists who make use of nonviolent means and do not discriminate for reasons of race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability or gender in their political affairs.
- The students at risk program should be implemented through the EU whereby a substantial number of student activists can come to various parts of Europe to better themselves. However, until this can be realized we urge able European countries to adopt the program nationally to support the fight for academic freedom and human rights.

## **PA 9.60 EU support for sustainability and democracy in Tunisia**

(Former 9.48 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: JNC, FEL, RU, VU, SU, JD

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

### **Considering that:**

- Tunisia was the only country to make a successful democratic transition following the Arab Spring;
- the European Union (EU) should support the incipient Tunisian democracy and its steps towards stronger protection of human rights;
- the EU stands to benefit from having a successful and stable Tunisian state, in contrast with Libya, which serves as a cautionary tale of what happens when there are failed states at the EU's borders;
- the EU should take the lead in the fight against climate change, particularly following the abdication of responsibility by the United States under the Trump administration;
- Tunisia has a great deal of potential in solar power and wind power, but it remains susceptible to blackouts and power shortages;
- both Tunisia and Europe would benefit from tapping this potential, through improved energy security, better grid connectivity, job growth, business opportunities for European companies; and
- Tunisia, Europe and the world have a strong interest in transitioning to a low-carbon energy mix and mitigating climate change.

### **LYMEC:**

- calls upon the EU and its Member States to launch and support public/private initiatives to develop gigawatt-scale renewable energy projects in Tunisia;
- urges the EU and its Member States to get rid of protectionist rules and/or unnecessary bureaucracy so that European companies are in the best position to take advantage of business opportunities in the Tunisian renewable energy sector;
- stresses the importance of improving electricity transmission links between Tunisia and Malta, Tunisia and Italy, and Tunisia and France to improve grid connection and facilitate the import/export of energy among these countries;
- reminds the EU of the need to invest in a stable geopolitical neighbourhood;
- acknowledges that lessons must be learnt from previous European investments in the fields of the energy and therefore urges the EU to be self-aware of its investments. No political, financial or economic involvement shall be accepted should it endanger the sovereignty of Tunisians or the stability of its nascent democracy; and



- supports the nascent Tunisian democracy and urges its government to continue building on the protection of human rights.

## **PA 9.61 The relationship with Turkey under assessment**

(Former 9.49 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: *Junge Liberale - JuLis*

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

### **Considering that:**

- Turkey was officially recognized as a candidate for full EU-membership in December 1999, about twenty years ago and negotiations have been spanning over the course of fourteen years now - yet, not even half of the necessary chapters which have to be opened and completed for the accession process to be successful have been touched until this day. The talks have reached a stalemate.
- From the coup attempt in July 2016 until November 2016, about 120,000 Turks were dismissed or suspended from their public sector jobs, 40,000 Turks arrested, scores of journalists rounded up and figures of the political opposition detained.
- Over 300 Kurds are currently on hunger strike in Turkish prisons, Kurdistan, Europe and North America, including Leyla Güven - a democratically elected Kurdish MP to the Turkish Parliament -, calling for an end to the isolation of jailed Kurdish leader Abdulla Öcalan and put pressure on the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) to fulfil its duties.
- The freedom of speech and the freedom of press are under attack in Turkey to the point where journalists from EU-member states have been taken into custody without a fair trial.
- Turkey's president Erdogan has recently stated that he is in favour of the death penalty.
- Turkey is financially supported by the European Union with "pre-accession aid" amounting to several billion euros.
- According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world, with more than 3 million registered refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Turkey is the EU's fifth largest trading partner, while the EU is Turkey's largest. In addition, Turkey is an important growth market for the EU, while at the same time two thirds of Foreign Direct Investment in Turkey comes from EU Member States.
- EU and Turkey face common challenges and need to cooperate in essential areas of joint interest such as security, defence, migration, counterterrorism, energy, transport, economy and trade. Continued engagement and an open and frank dialogue with Turkey is of utmost importance.
- Turkey is a longstanding member of the NATO alliance and sits at a key geostrategic location for maintaining regional and European security. Partnership and enhanced cooperation between the EU and Turkey is for the benefit of all: the EU, NATO and each of our Member States.

### **Recognizing that:**

- In 2016, the European Parliament passed a resolution requesting the European Commission to suspend the accession talks. In 2019, a European parliament committee voted to suspend the accession talks.
- The EU General Affairs Council pointed out that Turkey has been moving further away from the European Union and the negotiations are not leading anywhere, stating that “no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing”.
- Since the introduction of the state of emergency the number of asylum applications by Turkish citizens has risen dramatically, the result being that Turkey now occupies fifth place in terms of numbers of asylum applications submitted in EU Member States, according to the European Asylum Support Office. In September 2018 more than 16 000 applications were still waiting for a first instance decision.
- Visa liberalisation is of great importance for the Turkish citizens, particularly for students, academics, business representatives and people with family ties in EU Member States. Stresses, furthermore, that the Turkish Government should fully comply with the 72 criteria identified in the visa liberalisation roadmap with the EU, in order to eliminate the visa requirements for Turkish nationals wishing to enter the European Union.

#### **Believing that:**

- The people of the member states of the European Union and the people of Turkey deserve more than political stalemate. Since an accession seems to be out of question at the current stage, with regards to the political development and the human rights development in Turkey, other dialogue channels should be also opened in order to foster the discourse between the EU and Turkey.
- Turkey is playing an important role in responding to the migration crisis resulting from the war in Syria, as the country and its population have shown great hospitality by offering shelter to more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees. Underlines that there are about one million Syrian children of school age in Turkey.
- The modernisation and the upgrade of the Customs Union, such as the inclusion of relevant sectors as agriculture, services and public procurement, would further strengthen the already strong ties between Turkey and the EU and would keep Turkey economically connected to the EU.
- To keep the accession talks open without any chance of success in sight is not fair - especially not to those within the Turkish civil society who are affected by the recent political development and must fear oppression.

#### **The European Liberal Youth calls for:**

- The end of the current accession process without closing the door to future European perspective for Turkey and strengthen relationship with the civil society.
- An assessment of common grounds as the basis for a new, strategic and effective partnership which does the people of Turkey and the people of EU-member states justice. This strategic partnership should also contain provisions on human rights, democracy and rule of law in order to seek improvement to the current situation.
- remaining in political and democratic dialogue with Turkey. This dialogue should take place not only at diplomatic level, but especially at civil society level as well as on the industry and business level, so as to empower the

individuals living there and counter the threat of Islamic radicalisation of the Turkish population.

- to use the funds currently allocated under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for protection and promotion of democratic values and principles, human rights and the rule of law.
- Upgrade of the Customs Union as an important instrument for closer economic relations between the EU and Turkey.
- Maintaining close dialogue and cooperation on foreign policy and security issues, particularly further alignment on foreign policy, defence and security issues, including counter-terrorism cooperation.
- to maintain the ERASMUS+ cooperation with Turkey.

## **PA 9.62 European Union's Role in Outer Space**

(Former 9.50 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: Radikal Ungdom (RU), Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Keskustanuoret (KENU), Jeunes Radicaux (JR), Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Junge Liberale Neos (JUNOS), Unge Venstre (UV), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

### **Considering that:**

- According to the EU Commission, over 9% of the entire European economy is directly dependent on space infrastructure such as satellites.
- The private sector is beginning to become established as spacefaring actors, a feat formerly reserved for states.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) has been far less proactive than its American counterpart, NASA, in forging R&D partnerships with the private sector that further European spaceflight and help to establish European champions of industry.
- European aeronautics and aerospace industries are lacking compared to Chinese and American industries and are thus in need of technological edge.
- According to NASA, there are over 500.000 different pieces of space debris flying at 28,000 km/h in 2019, with the potential to damage vital space infrastructure. China and India have tested their anti-satellite capabilities by destroying their own satellites, which led to China increasing space debris by 25% in 2007.
- If the scenario known as the Kessler syndrome comes to occur, humankind may become trapped on Earth due to space debris as a chain reaction of destruction and more debris until the orbits become virtually unusable and unpassable.
- The last United Nation space treaty was made in 1984 and the rest of the international legal framework is weak and outdated.
- Every time states have had an opportunity to exploit new territories, it has led to conflict and instability due to resistance from already present people who were already occupying that land or other states who also seek to exploit the same territory.
- India, Russia, China, and the United States are rapidly increasing their military capabilities in space.

- Research into outer space has developed technologies that have greatly benefited mankind.
- Space is the final frontier for mankind, and thus also the future of it.

**LYMEC calls on:**

- The EU to take action on the growing issue of space debris through an international effort.
- It should be a priority in which the status of the EU as a regulative and trade superpower may be leverage, to pressuring the other states for assistance.
- The EU to aggressively deter any states to employ anti-satellite weaponry, through the harshest diplomatic tools at its disposal.
- The EU to become a main actor in outer space affairs;
- The ESA to drastically increase its cooperation with the private sector to carry out cutting-edge R&D projects in the fields of aeronautics and aerospace;
- The EU and other leading spacefaring forces to mandate end-of-life provisions – such as but not limited to shorter mandatory deorbiting periods and failsafe self-destructing mechanisms – being made for all satellites sent to space, to ensure they can be safely decommissioned at the end of their lifetime instead of becoming space junk.
- The EU Member States, to address the inefficiencies resulting from Member States investing more into their own space programmes than into ESA and EU space projects.
- Outer Space cannot be utilized by a single European state, if Europe is to gain influence in this area then doing it in unison is the only way.
- The EU to plead for a neutral status of all Outer Space bodies and to push for an international ban of private purchasing. Outer space should be in the ownership of the UN as a proxy for mankind, with a system of selling temporary rights for using and exploiting Outer Space territories. This is to ensure the peaceful usages and transition of Outer Space territory, as well to ensure that the UN is a strong and vital actor in Outer Space affairs.
- The EU and ESA to make a treaty which defines the relationship between the two, thus the EU can then determine to either further invest into an EU space program or relying on ESA to carry out EU interests in outer space.
- The EU to step up cooperation with spacefaring states to conduct joint missions and projects that allow us to achieve more than either of us could separately. As well as boosting the capabilities of these missions, it would save money and increase diplomatic relations between the states. This cooperation should be aligned with the overall foreign policy of the EU.
- The ESA to expand the scope of itself so that it not only covers spaceflight, but also cutting-edge aeronautics research that can help turn Europe into a hotspot of aerospace R&D as well as giving our businesses a competitive advantage on the world stage.
- The EU to increase the focus on exchange students in the Erasmus+ programme in space-related studies as the space industry is internationally dependent.
- The EU member states for equal access to the research and findings of both ESA mission and national space programs.
- The International Community to make new treaties addressing the issues such as the private sector role in space, code of conduct and banning all weapons, nuclear and conventional, from orbit.

- The International Community to establish a tribunal for outer space, which should be akin to the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea, to resolve disagreement between states in outer space.
- The International Community to establish a tribunal for outer space to resolve crimes and disagreement between individuals in outer space.
- The EU to earmark funding in initiatives such as Horizon Europe to develop technology to prevent and fight the Kessler syndrome, such as vaporising lasers.
- The EU and other leading spacefaring forces to investigate the possibility of implementing a deposit system for satellites, where the deposit is refunded when the satellite is retrieved or obliterated, either by the owner of the satellite or a second party by agreement.

The LYMEC Bureau to forward this resolution to the ALDE Party and to the ALDE Council.

## **PA 9.63 DEMAND TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG**

(Former 9.51 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Estonian Reform Party Youth (ERPY), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Young Liberals (YL), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Attistibai Youth (AY), Joves Liberals d'Andorra (JLA), Junge Liberale Neos (JUNOS), Unge Venstre (NUV), Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Liberala ungdomsförbundet (LUF)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

### **Acknowledging that:**

- Before July 1997 and for 156 years, Hong Kong was under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom, sharing similar legal bases, political principles, and high democratic ideals with Europe;
- Hong Kong was transferred to the People's Republic of China according to the Sino-British Joint Declaration, signed by the governments of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China in December 1984;
- According to the provisions of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law of Hong Kong, Hong Kong has the status of a Special Administrative Region within the People's Republic of China under the constitutional principle of "one country, two systems";
- Within the "one country, two systems" model, Hong Kong has the inherent right to enjoy a high degree of autonomy, which includes the right to have its own legal, administrative, judicial and legislative systems, as well as to formulate its own policies (different from those in the People's Republic of China) on human rights, education, culture, economics (taxation system, currency), etc;
- The high degree of autonomy and the adherence to international political standards is guaranteed by the Sino-British Joint Declaration to last in Hong Kong at least until 2047;
- Despite its international obligations (as well as relevant provisions within the Basic Law of Hong Kong), the governments of the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong did not adopt a mechanism to ensure the fundamental principle of universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and legislative elections;

- In 2014, a mass pro-democracy movement for universal suffrage began in Hong Kong (commonly known as the Umbrella Movement) that was met by abuse of human rights and freedoms on the part of the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong governments;
- From 2014 to 2019, the governments of the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong have violated international law principles, repressing pro-democracy activists and young liberal leaders (such as Joshua Wong, Nathan Law, Agnes Chow, Baggio Leung, Yau Wai Ching, and others);
- In March 2019, the Hong Kong government proposed the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (FOO) and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance (MLAO), also known as the Extradition Bill;
- The highly controversial Extradition Bill (aimed to allow the right to extradite a political dissidents to the mainland China and subject them to an unfair trial) sparked a new huge wave of protests with the core idea to fulfill five pro-democratic demands;
- Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, under the pressure of the Hong Kong people (and after more than 2 months of protests), announced her intention to withdraw the extradition law, but completely ignored the other demands of the protesters, which include the following: an independent investigation on the violation of human rights by the police; the release of all political prisoners; the retraction of the government's description of the mass protests as a "riot"; and the establishment of universal suffrage for the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council elections;
- On 18 July 2019, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Hong Kong, whereas the European Union supports a high degree of Hong Kong autonomy;
- More than 2,000 protesters were injured due to the Hong Kong police's brutality.

#### **Considering that:**

- Peaceful actions of the citizens of Hong Kong were met by mass violations of international law (the Fourth of Geneva Convention regarding the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (articles 3, 32, 174); United Nations Convention against Torture; the Code of Conduct for Law
- Enforcement Officials (article 5), etc.) from the Hong Kong police, in particular the armed suppression of the protests, violent beatings which caused severe injuries, as well as instances of sexual assault;
- During the suppression of the protests, police disproportionally used force against peaceful civilians (such as the police's indiscriminate and violent attack on unarmed passengers in the Prince Edward metro station, etc.);
- More than 100 human rights NGOs, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Hong Kong Watch, Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, and Hong Kong Civil Rights Observer (and many other organisations) have demanded the Hong Kong's government to stop its violations of human rights and freedoms; to institute an independent inquiry on the police's actions; to discontinue politicised arrests and prosecutions, as well as to ensure the fundamental right to universal suffrage;
- The Hong Kong government, on multiple occasions, has taken actions that restrain the basic principles of freedoms and rights, such as restrictions on the

freedom of speech, the freedom of gathering, and politically motivated prosecutions.

**LYMEC calls:**

- To condemn the severe violations of human rights and freedoms in the territory of Hong Kong.
- To require the governments of Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China to respect international law and the provisions of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.
- To raise the issue of maintaining human rights and freedoms in Hong Kong on the level of the highly respected mother parties.
- To establish an independent and impartial commission to investigate the police violence.
- To guarantee a political asylum for protesters who are in danger in the EU.
- To make a referendum possible after 2047 and let the inhabitants of Hong Kong decide own future.
- To urge EU representatives, especially the President of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to meet with representatives of the democracy movement in Hong Kong.
- To establish sanctions for any breach of the Sino-British declaration as a breach of international law.
- To identify persons responsible for human rights violations and to enact personalized sanctions like freezing of monetary assets and entry bans to the EU.

**PA 9.64 Urgency Resolution on Peace and Stability after the Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Deal**

(Former 9.53 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Mover: Svensk Ungdom; Radikal Ungdom; Centerstudenter  
Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Considering that:**

- The war between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out after the fall of the Soviet Union and has been going on for decades. In late September 2020, heavy [fighting](#) broke out along the border.
- The war was caused by a dispute over the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.
- Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia have signed a peace deal, which inserts peacekeepers by Russia.
- Armenia controlled Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding region in the 1990s, which forced Azerbaijanis to flee persecution.
- Azerbaijan regained partial control of the Karabakh region through the latest peace deal, which was signed by Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan.

- The Armenian genocide happened during 1914-1917. The Nagorno-Karabakh war happened during 1988-1994. The USSR collapsed in 1991. Azerbaijan was declared an independent state in 1991.

Noting that:

- Nagorno-Karabakh is a region with an Armenian majority located within the Azerbaijani borders.
- Russia has increased its influence through mediating a peace deal and deployment of almost 2,000 peacekeepers.
- Turkey and Azerbaijan's alliance has deepened through Turkey's deployment of peacekeepers in the conflict region.
- The EU was absent in the mediation of a peace deal and is now excluded from the region, reducing its influence, leaving space for Turkey and Russia to fill with their influence/control.
- Whether it was Russia or Turkey or NATO, modern weaponry was sent to escalate the situation.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

- The EU to work for deploying peacekeepers from a third-party; country or multilateral organization which is not Russia or Turkey, that does not have a major political interest in the region.
- EU to be a third-party for the sake of human rights, minorities, and condemner of ethnic cleansing.
- Both sides to be held accountable for the deaths and damages.
- The EU to assist in the event of a refugee crisis as a result of the conflict.

### **PA 9.65 Let Taiwan be Taiwan: Recognise Taiwan as an Independent Sovereign State**

(Former 9.54 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: Radikal Ungdom (RU), Jong VLD (JVLD), Keskustanuoret (KENU), Venstre Ungdom (VU), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Jeunes Radicaux (JR), Jonge Democraten (JD), Lietuvos Liberalus Jaunimas (LLJ), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Uppreisn, Centerstudenterne (CS), Young Liberals (YL), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Online Congress, on 14th November 2020

#### **Considering that:**

- The "One-China-Policy" forces Taiwan to call themselves the Republic of China to legitimize the People's Republic of China (PRC) claim over Taiwan.
- Taiwan meets all the parameters to be an independent and legitimate sovereign state.
- the UN member states have to respect the self-determination of people, as enshrined in article 1(2) of the UN Charter.



- The Taiwanese rejected any move for reunification with the PRC as seen in the Sunflower Movement 2014 and the strong public support of political parties in favour of independence.

**Believing that:**

- The free and democratic nations of the world have a duty to assist people who, in the fight for democracy and human rights, are rising up to rid themselves of tyrants and autocratic regimes.
- That negative short term economic and political consequences can be a necessary evil in the fight for human rights and decency, which is more important than ever due to the rise of authoritarianism.

**LYMEC calls:**

- For the EU to end its "One-China-Policy".
- For the EU to work multilaterally with allies to ensure that a recognition materializes peacefully and in dialogue with the PRC
- For the EU to recognise Taiwan as a sovereign state, independent from the PRC, as long as Taiwan rid themselves of the title "Republic of China".
- For the EU to assist Taiwan in becoming a member of the UN and its organizations such as the WHO, if this is the wish from the people of Taiwan.
- The EU and its member states to strengthen bi- and multilateral relations with Taiwan through free trade agreements, student exchanges and enhanced cooperation in the fields of science, culture, defence and environment;

## **PA 9.66 A New Chapter for EU-UK Relations**

(Former 9.55 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Authors: Young Liberals

Cosignatory MOs: Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Uppreisn, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), JUNOS, Young Liberals of Andorra, Centre Party Youth of Sweden (CUF), Svensk Ungdom (SU), JNC, Young Liberals Greece, Momentum TizenX, Alliance Youth (AY), JOVD, Tim Robinson (IMS), Clara Puig de Solanot-Torres (IMS)

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

**Noting that:**

- The United Kingdom voted to withdraw from the European Union on 23 June 2016 and officially left the European Union on 31 January 2020;
- Despite pledging that "there is no threat to the Erasmus scheme" on 15 January 2020, the UK Government announced less than a year later that the UK would be leaving the Erasmus+ Programme
- In the process of leaving the European Union, the United Kingdom has also left the European Medicines Agency, Europol and Euratom;

**Understanding that:**

- The political climate in the UK is not one in which membership of the European Union can immediately be sought;

- Many non-EU states continue to participate in EU-affiliated peripheral schemes;
- Under the “Northern Ireland Protocol”, the Institutions of the European Union (including the Parliament, the Commission, the Council and the Court of Justice) still retain some jurisdiction in Northern Ireland;
- People in Northern Ireland have an automatic right to be Irish citizens, and therefore retain EU citizenship;

**Believing that:**

- The best relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union is one in which the United Kingdom is a full member of the European Union;
- The Erasmus+ Programme offers unparalleled opportunities for young people, championing education and skills, social mobility, and global cooperation, and that the United Kingdom has benefited both economically and academically from this reciprocal agreement;
- The European Medicines Agency offers invaluable cooperation on medicines as well as research and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector;
- Membership of Europol is in the United Kingdom's best interests in order to promote safety, security, and fight against organised and cross-border crime;
- Euratom remains a vital structure for energy security in Europe;
- In all of these schemes, full membership of the European Union is not required;
- Protecting citizens' rights and liberties must remain a strong priority in the developing relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union;

**LYMEC calls for:**

- The maintenance of a close relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union, with the possibility of the United Kingdom fully rejoining the European Union without special privileges;
- The United Kingdom to rejoin the Erasmus+, Europol and Euratom schemes, in the same way as any other non-EU member, at the earliest possible convenience; and the United Kingdom and the European Union to engage in research-oriented collaborations
- The continued protection and promotion of citizens' rights and liberties, including political rights and workers' rights, in both the United Kingdom and the European Union.
- A resolution of the current democratic deficit within Northern Ireland;
- The European Union, United Kingdom Government and Northern Ireland Assembly to begin negotiating a workable solution to the current democratic deficit;
- A future debate within LYMEC to further discuss this issue and contribute to the development of a workable solution.

**PA 9.67 Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Geoeconomic and Geopolitical Factors in the Arctic**

(Former 9.56 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by Uppreissn

MOs supporting: Svensk Ungdom, Unge Venstre, Young Liberals, Venstres Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Centerstudenter, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jeunes MR, Jong VLD

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

**Considering that:**

- There are considerable investment and growth opportunities in the Arctic.
- The emergence of Arctic shipping routes in the coming decades will shape the geopolitical landscape and flow of international trade.
- While China is planning a trans-polar shipping route, the Polar Silk Road, Russia is restoring ports along the Northeast passage and investing in state of the art icebreakers to ensure that the passage will be open year round within this decade. China is actively working to increase its soft power around the world through trade dominance and their strategic Belt & Road infrastructure investment initiative.
- Chinese investment and involvement in Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands has grown exponentially in recent years, especially in infrastructure projects such as shipping ports, airports and telecommunication systems.
- The USA has taken economic and diplomatic actions in the Arctic to secure its national interest, specifically in Greenland.
- The EU has a direct stake in Arctic affairs, as although the EU is an external actor with regards to the Arctic Ocean, three of its member states qualify as being Arctic states (Finland, Sweden and Denmark). In addition, two other Arctic states (Norway and Iceland) are members of the European Economic Area.

**Believing that:**

- The EU needs to increase its influence and soft power, especially in areas of strategic and geopolitical importance on the continent's periphery such as the Arctic.
- Autocratic and authoritarian governments such as China and Russia should not be allowed to unilaterally control the flow of international trade.
- While the Polar Silk Road is an exciting prospect for increased international trade, making it quicker, easier and more efficient, there is an undeniable danger that it will increase Chinese soft power and influence in Europe by a considerable margin.
- Chinese hegemony over arctic shipping routes could have serious ramifications for the European continent as a whole. Not least because shipping through the Suez canal and the Mediterranean may decrease, as Arctic routes are shorter and therefore quicker for most of Europe's major trade partners in Asia.
- In order to maintain geopolitical balance the growth of Chinese influence in Europe should be challenged.
- All activities in the Arctic must respect the sustainable development principles and the rights of indigenous populations in the region.
- The EU should provide its full support to the Ilulissat Declaration in all matters

**LYMEC calls for:**

- An updated EU Arctic Policy that addresses growing geopolitical and geo-economic interests, and the changed security environment in the Arctic.
- For the EU to acknowledge the Arctic Council as an arena for decision making in order to secure multilateral and rules based solutions to the rising tensions in the Arctic.

- An increase in EU infrastructure investment, aimed at the emerging economic growth opportunities in the Arctic, allowing for clear and viable alternatives to Chinese investment, as well as American.
- A stronger cooperation between the EU and the Arctic Council members, which are also members of the EU or NATO, on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) screening to protect critical infrastructure and technologies.

## **PA 9.68 A Vaccinated World by the EU**

(Former 9.57 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by Radikal Ungdom, Venstre Ungdom, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Uppreisn, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Jong VLD, Centerstudenter, YMRF, Unge Venstre, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Svensk Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jonge Demokraten

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

### **Considering that:**

- In a globalized world, viruses do not adhere to borders and a local outbreak can speedily become a global pandemic.
- It is estimated that developing countries will first have fully vaccinated their populations by 2024.
- The more widely a virus spreads, the more likely it is to mutate and mutations of the Covid-19 virus might be unhindered by current vaccine technology.
- The unchecked spread of Covid-19 will hinder the global economic recovery and undermine the security of governments and people worldwide.
- China and Russia see their vaccines as offering a boost to their prestige and soft power as well as providing them with trade and diplomatic opportunities.
- As long as the virus is able to exist and spread globally, vaccinating any one region alone will be fruitless as new mutations requiring altered vaccines will inevitably reach the union, and the costly time consuming process of vaccination will have to restart - making it economically ideal to attempt global vaccination as soon as possible.

### **Believing that:**

- All people have equal worth, with similar aspirations for health and productivity and therefore ought to have the same opportunities in life.
- It is an ethical and humanitarian imperative that all human beings should be offered a vaccine against Covid-19.
- Rich countries ought to show solidarity and work tirelessly for equal distribution of and access to vaccines globally.
- The EU has a legal obligation under international human rights law.
- It is the EU's strategic interest to have the strongest soft power in the world to encourage liberal democracy as a governmental system.

### **LYMEC calls on the EU and its member states:**

- To immediately ensure global Covid-19 herd immunity through international political cooperation.
- To pledge at least five percent of total COVID-19 spending to response and recovery measures in low- and middle-income countries.

- To commit fully to the COVAX scheme and end the practice of making bilateral deals with pharmaceutical companies and secure excess vaccines.
- To prioritize the vaccination of the elderly, health care workers and other people of significant risk globally.

## **PA 9.69 Boosting COVAX before boosting the EU**

(Former 9.66 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Jonge Democraten

Co-signed by: Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Venstres Ungdom, LHG, Radikal Ungdom, Clara Puig de TorresSolano, Tim Robinson and Christine Khomyk

*Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

### **Noting that:**

- Low-income countries are struggling with vaccine shortages and therefore vulnerable citizens are unable to vaccinate or become dependent on vaccine supplies from China and Russia;
- As of June 18, 2021, only 3.2% of persons in low-income countries have been vaccinated;
- The international COVAX alliance expects only 27% of the African population to be vaccinated; by the end of 2021;
- The EU has already allocated 1.8 billion BioNTech/Pfizer vaccines for the period from the end of 2021 to 2023;

### **Considering that:**

- The director general of the World Health Organization has been critical of the fact that children and young adults have been vaccinated earlier in high-income countries, than healthcare workers and the elderly have been in low-income countries;
- Inadequate global vaccination contributes to emergence of new COVID mutations;
- Vaccine costs and the continued COVID-related measures are pushing low-income countries further into debt;
- China and Russia use their vaccine supply as a geopolitical instrument;
- Investments in the global distribution of vaccines can also result in high-income countries getting as much as 12 times the investment cost back through recovery of the world economy.

### **Calls on LYMEC to:**

- Encourage EU member states, the European Commission and the European Council, to release its vaccines once a critical mass of an average of 70-80% of the EU population has been fully vaccinated, and donate them to developing countries.
- Support extensive donation programmes of vaccinations over the acquisition and utilisation of booster shots for domestic EU usage, recognizing not only the moral imperative to do so, but also the longer term economic and social benefits to do so.

- Encourage the EU to keep up its efforts to boost vaccine production, to speed up the global vaccination effort, which would also be useful if booster shots do become necessary for more people in the future.
- Encourage EU member states which are also WHO members to strengthen support of WHO vaccination programs mainly in regards to logistics, staffing, and financial support.

## **PA 9.70 For the Democratic Transition and Future of Belarus**

(Former 9.58 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, LHG, USR Tineret, Radikal Ungdom, Momentum Tizen X, Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, Young Liberals, Centerstudenter, Attistibai Youth, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, JUNOS, Jong VLD, Venstres Ungdom, Uppreisn, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals Greece, JOVD, ERPY, Jonge Democraten.

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

### **Considering that:**

- The dictator of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenka, has been continuously tightening his grip on power and other state institutions of the Belarusian state exponentially since the year 1994, when the only free and fair elections were held, which lead a fledgling post-soviet democracy to quickly backslide to authoritarianism;
- The regime has time and time again shown its impunity in persecuting and oppressing their regular citizens and members of the opposition with various means: censorship, extrajudicial punishments, violence and other means of deterrence were employed to silence critics and dissidents: since May 2020 the number of political prisoners in Belarus has risen ten times. As of February 19, 2021 there were more than 250 people. As of March 25, 2021 their number increased to 299. In a month 50 Belarusians were deprived of freedom on political grounds;
- The current government of the Republic of Belarus has been repressing student-activists for years as they are either not allowed to study in the institutions of higher education or they are "kindly" asked to drop out if they are already enrolled. During the last seven months the independent organization "Belarus Students' Association" collected proof of 442 detentions and 136 expulsions of students on political grounds. As of February 2021, 27 Belarusian students were under investigation for criminal cases and have been accused of committing serious offences. This way, these students are unable to gain knowledge or profession in their own country due to their personal and political beliefs. After the 2020 elections, approximately 700 students from Belarus are currently studying under the K. Kalinowski Polish scholarship program, which implies higher education at universities in Poland. The deprivation of the opportunity to receive education in their country clearly illustrates the fact of restricting the rights of young people to education in Belarus;
- Belarus is one of the only European states that is not in the system of the Council of Europe, which means that there is no possible mean to monitor the adherence to the European Human Rights Convention and that there is still the application of capital punishment among other inhumane punishment and treatment of citizenry: according to the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, since 1990 to 2011, 326 people have been sentenced to death. Since 2011, 18 people have been sentenced to death;
- The previously mentioned fact leaves the possibility for the authoritarian regime to conduct restrictive policies that directly curtail and harm the human rights and freedoms of the Belarusian people with no tangible consequences;
- The current regime is unwilling to cooperate with the democratic opposition of Belarus to redraw the Constitution and organize a peaceful transition of power, as seen by the

unwillingness demonstrated by Lukashenka in many instances, most recently by organising an illegitimate and false General Assembly, named All- Peoples Summit;

- The fact that the All-Peoples Summit was no genuine Assembly of the Belarusian citizens, but a carefully selected crowd of Lukashenka loyalists; in other terms, the Summit was organised in order to strengthen, relegitimize and bolster the image of the dictatorship in the eyes of the Belarusian people;
- The current actions of Lukashenka and the state apparatus are worrying, chiefly among these, the circumstance that Lukashenka has been increasingly turning towards the Russian Federation as a possible guarantor of his power and illegitimate rule;

**Noting that:**

- The Belarusian people have been protesting the processes and results of the elections, which have been considered by many international organisations and officials to have been falsified to an absurd extent, for six months already and are still protesting the injustice that it has brought upon them;
- The current situation in Belarus is still very volatile – as stated by the leader of the Belarusian opposition, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the streets are currently overrun by the power structures of the regime, as they have more resources than the democratic opposition;
- The protests in Belarus are not and should not be considered as a drift or shift of policy or national spirit of Belarus regarding the closer cooperation with the West or the East: first and foremost, it is a common call for the reinstitution of democratic norms for the citizens to establish and build legitimate institutions and reconstruct the rule of law; only later should discussions and deliberations on the future be raised by external parties;
- The democratic opposition, contrary to the current illegitimate administration, is committed to an honest dialogue and measures that would still guarantee the safety of the actors of the current regime and a fair and just treatment of those who have committed crimes and atrocities against the Belarusian people;
- Belarus has to have the possibility to join the European Union in the future if the prerequisite conditions are met and that would be the will of the citizens;
- There are many projects, both political and infrastructural, that are financed by the government of the Russian Federation, for example, the establishment of pro-Russian political parties such as "Soyuz" (The Union), which are to be considered as potential threats to the political sovereignty of Belarus; the unsafe Astravyets Nuclear Power Plant, which is not only used as a means to threaten the energetic autonomy and increase the dependence and need for Russian energy, but also the fact that it has been documented to be an unsafe and ill-equipped measure to combat climate change, among many other documented irregularities.

**Believing that:**

- The Belarusian people have a fundamental right of self-determination and self- governance through democratic means which respect liberal democratic values;
- The European Union and its member states should provide aid and assistance to those in dire need in the neighbourhood and elsewhere;
- The future of Belarus is in part dependent on the position that the European Union and other entities which support liberal democracy across the globe will be willing to take.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- The European Union, its Member States and the MOs of LYMEC to increase the cooperation and communication with the civil society in Belarus, especially with the democratic opposition in and outside the country, providing the needed expertise and advice that is required to realise the Victory strategy outlined by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and the Democratic opposition;

- The European Union and its Member States to increase diplomatic and economic pressure and to impose further sanctions, which would target the functionaries of the current regime of Lukashenka even further. Additionally, these sanctions must be focused upon the inner circle of power and the businesses that indirectly support and endorse the brutal regime;
- The European Union to offer its assistance in mediating the disputes between the democratic opposition and the current power structures in Belarus, if both sides, i.e., the current regime and the democratic opposition, were to agree to such a format, ensure a peaceful and democratic transition to begin;
- The European Union and its Member States to closely monitor the developing situation in Belarus and act accordingly – with swift resolution in order to guarantee a peaceful and democratic transition of the Belarusian state, which would then be able to re-establish the rule of law and join the Council of Europe, ending capital punishment and other authoritarian and illiberal practices which undermine human rights;
- The European Union and its Member States to facilitate the application procedure and create more opportunities, for example, scholarships and easing the application procedures for students coming from Belarus who are seeking higher education. This action will not only urge the current regime to step down but will also enable these students to gain knowledge and to develop their ideas for the better being of their country and Europe as a whole;
- The European Union and its member states to facilitate the relocation of private and independent companies suffering from the arrest of employees and internet blockades to the European Union;
- The European Union and its member states to facilitate the visa issuance to victims of the regime and to provide medical and psychological help for those who may need it.

## **PA 9.71 EUnited Against the Communist Party of China**

(Former 9.59 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Resolution presented by: Junge Liberale

Submitted by: Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, Radikal Ungdom, Vesna, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, JOVD, LDLU

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

### **Considering that:**

- In the past decades the People's Republic of China (PRC) has experienced extraordinary economic growth and thus an increase in not only economic but political and military influence as well;
- Unfortunately, and in contrast to the hopes of many liberal democrats, the PRC has not allowed for any political freedom, but has tightened its grip on civil society instead;
- Accordingly, the PRC is exerting its increased influence on the world stage not to defend and advance the multilateral world order, but to vigorously pursue its own interests regardless of human rights or international law;
- Thereof follows a long list of severe violations of international law that pose a threat to many sovereign states, world peace and freedom itself; most notably, the PRC:
- continues its wrongful occupation of Tibet, which started in 1950, to this day and denies the Tibetan people self-determination and basic human rights;



- has occupied and fortified the Paracel Islands, many of the Spratly Islands and the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea based on its unjustified sovereignty claim over all waters within the Nine-dash-line;
- has threatened to invade Taiwan and adopted a law that dictates an invasion of Taiwan in case the country officially declares its independence, changes its official name or enacts a new constitution;
- has unlawfully detained over one million members of ethnic minorities primarily of Islamic belief, especially Uyghurs, Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, in detention camps within East Turkestan;
- has conducted hundreds of thousands of forced abortions and forced sterilisations on Muslim women in East Turkestan in order to decrease their birth rate;
- has breached the Sino-British Joint Declaration by violating the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong including the continued refusal to uphold free and fair elections as guaranteed in the Basic Law;
- has conducted illegal military operations on Indian soil; withheld and suppressed information about the outbreak and dangerousness of SARS-CoV-2, thereby violating WHO rules, and contributing to the spread of the virus;
- has blocked Taiwan from engaging with its expertise on viruses in the WHO, and attempted to stall vaccine purchases made by Taiwan;
- the PRC's legal-scale transfer of Chinese settlers into Tibet is a serious violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which prohibits the transfer of civilian population into occupied territory;
- the PRC's authorities in the region of Xinjiang continue to flagrantly violate the rights of Uyghur women, notably by carrying out forceful abortion and sterilization acts as well as encouraging raping in the detention facilities;
- the PRC's authorities in the region of Xinjiang continue to flagrantly violate the rights of the Uyghur children to education by establishing the educational system aimed at wiping out the remembrance of the Uyghur native culture, traditions and customs and imposing the extrinsic principles of the Communist totalitarian system aimed at the infringement of human dignity as opposed to the principle mentioned by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (paragraph 2, article 26);
- the PRC's authorities practice nationwide the most abhorrent forms of physical and psychological tortures making, in fact, the law enforcement system the one of repressions;
- has shown complete contempt for international institutions, such as Interpol by arresting its president, Meng Hongwei, which is a dangerous precedent to set for officials in vital international institutions. has blocked Taiwan from engaging with its expertise on viruses in the WHO, and attempted to stall vaccine purchases made by Taiwan.

**Recognising that:**

- The invasion of Tibet violated Article 2 No. 4 Charter of the United Nations which prohibits the use and threat of force in international relations and consequently the annexation of Tibet is null and void;
- The same applies to the PRC's threats against Taiwan and would all the more apply to an invasion of Taiwan or any other means that intend to seize control of Taiwan against its free and democratically declared will;
- The Permanent Court of Arbitration has ascertained in PCA Case No. 2013-19 that the PRC has no right to claim sovereignty over the waters within the Nine-

dash- line and therefore violates the Law of the Sea with its continued occupation;

- According to Article 6 London Charter of the International Military Tribunal mass detention of people based on their ethnicity or religious beliefs is a crime against humanity;
- According to Article 2 lit. d) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide the imposition of measures intended to prevent births within a national, ethnical, racial oder religious group with intent to destroy the group, in whole or in part, constitutes a genocide.

**Believing that:**

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights;
- No state, no dictator, no religious leader and not even a democratic majority decision can strip a human being of their dignity and rights; self-determination is protected in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as a right of "all peoples".
- Human dignity and rights are universal and not limited by cultural peculiarities;
- The PRC, as it presents itself nowadays, denies these self-evident truths and therefore its desire to become a global superpower is a threat to the European Union (EU) and the entire world;
- Only a united coalition of liberal democracies stands a chance to counter the PRC's ambitions;
- It is the responsibility of the EU, which has to evolve into a federation, not only, but also to take the lead in this together with the United States of America (USA);
- We must not be deceived by short-sighted economic profits through appeasing the PRC as these profits are the result of a rule-based international order of peace and multilateral cooperation and therefore we must resist any attempts by the PRC to undermine this order to preserve and advance our economic wealth as well as civil liberties in the long-run.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- EU member states to change the EU treaties in order to allow for decisions within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) to be taken by a qualified majority and henceforth act with one common voice;
- The EU and its member states to develop, in consultation with its NATO partners and NATO's pacific allies, a common strategy regarding the challenges posed by the PRC that follows the principles laid down in this resolution and to act accordingly;
- The EU and its member states to extend mutual cooperation to become a geopolitical superpower that can withstand external pressure from states like the PRC;
- The EU to publicly condemn any violation of human rights or breach of international law by the PRC and to respectively impose reasonable sanctions if continued;
- The EU to enact a "European Magnitsky Act" in order to impose personalised sanctions like travel bans and the freezing of assets against the persons in charge of human rights violations in the PRC and anywhere else on the globe;
- The EU to enact a Supply Chain Act in order to oblige companies doing business within the PRC and elsewhere to ensure that they are not directly or indirectly supporting, enabling or profiting from violations of human rights for

example by supplying surveillance technologies for the Social Credit System and to sanction any failure to comply with this obligation;

- The EU and its member states to recognise Taiwan and Tibet as independent states, start official diplomatic relations with both countries and to disregard any claim of the PRC to their rightful territory, as well as to encourage other countries to follow its lead;
- The EU and its member states to deny in accordance with the principal of diplomatic reciprocity those officials of the PRC entry, who deny EU diplomats, journalists and Non-governmental organisations access to Tibet and East Turkestan;
- The EU and its member states to support Taiwan's efforts to become a member of the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other international organisations;
- The EU to push for an independent investigation within the WHO about the Chinese influence on the WHO and its decisions;
- The EU and its member states to allow arms sales to Taiwan and to prohibit any such sales to the PRC;
- The EU and its member states to strengthen bi- and multilateral relations with Taiwan through free trade agreements, student exchanges and enhanced cooperation in the fields of science, culture, defence and environment;
- The EU to demand the succession or reincarnation of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders including a future 15th Dalai Lama to be a solely religious matter of the Tibetan Buddhist community and to sanction PRC officials who try to intervene in it;
- The EU to demand an immediate withdrawal of the Hong Kong National Security Law and the restoration of the principle "One Country, Two Systems";
- The EU member states to cancel all extradition treaties with the PRC, Hong Kong and Macau;
- EU states to consider, in asylum proceedings, that it is inherently unsafe for members of the pro-Democracy movement of Hong Kong to return there.
- The EU to demand a binding referendum being held in Hong Kong to determine the status of the Special Administrative Region after the expiration of "One Country, Two Systems" in the year 2047 that offers a choice between a continuation of the autonomy, the integration into the PRC or full independence;
- The EU to demand an immediate stop to the genocide and the systematic persecution against individuals of Islamic belief and the release of all detainees in the detention camps and to end all bilateral and multilateral negotiations with the PRC not regarding health, security, climate and human rights until the aforementioned steps have been taken;
- EU member states to create an automatic presumption, in asylum cases, that it is unsafe for a person of Uyghur ethnicity to return to China.
- The EU and its Member States to recognise the right to self-determination of the people of East Turkestan which includes - in the face of the ongoing genocide - the right to secession and the right to establish a free and independent East Turkestan;
- The European Parliament to not ratify the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement until the genocide in East Turkestan is stopped and the PRC implements sufficient measures to ensure its compliance with ILO rules;
- The EU member states to bring charges of genocide and crimes against humanity against the PRC in front of the International Court of Justice (ICJ);

- The EU member states to boycott the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Beijing, if the genocide in East Turkestan is not stopped;
- The EU and its member states to end all development aid for the PRC;
- The EU to demand the PRC to fully respect a “One Europe Policy”, meaning that no intervention in inner-European affairs or bilateral agreements without the consultation of the European partners (such as within the 17+1 framework or by acquiring strategically important infrastructure like the port of Piraeus) are further accepted;
- The EU to develop a European Connectivity Strategy that binds our continent stronger together and links it to the rest of the world especially Africa and Asia while offering fair and sustainable opportunities for developing countries to counter the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI);
- The EU to improve controls of investments in critical technologies and infrastructure through the harmonisation of FDI screenings and the transfer of examination and restriction competences to the European Commission;
- The EU and its member states to not use components of PRC manufacturers in critical infrastructure like 5G or the electricity grid;
- The EU to ensure the enforcement of WTO rules in its trade relations with the PRC in particular to end forced technological transfers and mandatory joint ventures and to push towards effective investment protection, legal certainty, freedom of contract and the protection of intellectual property;
- The EU and its member states to push for EU and NATO membership for all states of the Western Balkan without compromising on the Copenhagen Criteria regarding the former and to grant visa-free travel into the EU to all citizens of the Western Balkans immediately;
- The EU to offer itself as a mediator for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in order to find a common stance on the contradictory territorial claims in the South China Sea and the Nine-dash-line as well as to secure the freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific;
- The EU and its member states to perform regularly freedom of navigation manoeuvres in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait in coordination with the USA and neighbouring countries;
- European intelligence services to gain more knowledge about and to prevent infiltration and espionage strategies of foreign powers, for example in institutions of higher education which have been targeted by the Chinese Confucius Institutes;
- Universities in the EU to evaluate the admission and continued existence of Confucius Institutes within their facilities. If the aim is not cooperation but unilateral influence and the propagation of ideology, scientific freedom is threatened. Higher education institutions must be obliged to record direct or indirect funding from the PRC and to publish this information in a transparent manner;
- The EU to build special relationships with Australia, Canada, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, the UK and the USA that include comprehensive cooperation in matters of foreign affairs, defence and signals intelligence (without compromising on the right to privacy), also by extending the relations with NATO, which the EU must join once it has become a federation; The EU and its member states to strengthen bi- and multilateral relations with Taiwan through free trade agreements, student exchanges and enhanced cooperation in the fields of science, culture, defence and environment;

- The EU to cooperate with the PRC despite of all differences in order to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius in comparison to the pre-industrial era preferably by creating an International Emission Trading System;
- The EU to initiate the creation of an Alliance of Liberal Democracies as a forum for democratic states to cooperate and support each other, develop international law and promote human rights, rule of law and democracy;
- Municipalities in the EU with official relations to municipalities in the PRC to reevaluate the conditions of their partnership treaties. If political preconditions such as the recognition of the 'One China' policy are part of the partnership treaty, these should be reevaluated or stopped.
- The EU and its member states should seek to open its market not just for low income countries but also for lower middle income countries without any requirements and especially for regions such as, but not limited to; Africa, South East Asia, and Latin America, to prevent the PRC from influencing policy decisions, contribute to furthering economic growth and prosperity, and expand the number of supply chains;
- The EU and its member states to provide attractive loans for developing countries inspired by the loans of the World Bank and specifically focused on an improvement of the infrastructure and electricity grid to give African countries a real alternative to China's support.

## **PA 9.72 Recognition of the Treatment of the Uyghurs by the People's Republic of China as a Genocide**

(Former 9.60 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Jeunes MR, Jong VLD, Uppreish and JD

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### **Noting That :**

- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of the 9th December 1948 (here under referred as "The Convention") established the notion of « Genocide » as : "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."
- All of the EU countries and the People's Republic of China have signed and ratified the Convention.
- The article 1 of the Convention binds « the contracting parties » to prevent and punish Genocide in times of war or peace.
- The European Union, by the means of the Treaty of Maastricht (1992), inserts in all of its trade agreements with non-European countries a democratic clause supposed universal and non-negotiable.

### **Considering that:**

- The Uyghur people can be considered as a « group » as defined by the Convention considering that they have their own religion, language and culture and are different from the Han's, representing the majority of the Chinese population.
- The Xinjiang Papers have brought to light exactions towards the Uyghur people such as acts of sterilisation or forced abortion that can qualified, per the definition of the

Convention, as genocide. In fact, article 2, section d) and e) of the Convention are met.

- No proof has been brought forward pertaining to the existence of mass murder towards the Uyghur people but a drop of 84% of births of Uyghurs can be observed in the south of Xinjiang between 2015 and 2018), children have been forcefully separated from their families and placed in institutions controlled by the Central Regime.
- The EU has already recognized the Armenian (1987) and the Yazidi (2016) genocides through the European Parliament.
- The American government has recognized the treatment of the Uyghur people as « genocide »
- The motion concerning the recognizance of the genocide of the Uyghur people has been voted in the Tweede Kamer (Netherland). A similar motion has been adopted by the Canadian house of Commons
- Guy Verhofstadt has expressed his will towards the recognition of the treatment of the Uyghur people as a genocide.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

- A declaration from the European Parliament recognizing the treatment of the Uyghur people as a genocide. This declaration should, at least, have a moral and political scope.
- Introducing conditions pertaining to human rights in European diplomatic and trade relations with China and doing so until the situation of the Uyghur people is not resolved.
- The EU Member States to bring charges of genocide and crimes against humanity against the PRC in front of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- The EU Member States to boycott the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Beijing, if the genocide is not stopped.
- The EU to impose sanctions like travel bans and the freezing of assets against chinese officials who are responsible for the genocide in East Turkestan.
- The European Parliament to not ratify the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement until the genocide in East Turkestan is stopped and China implements sufficient measures to ensure its compliance with ILO rules.
- The EU to enact a Supply Chain Act in order to oblige companies doing business within the PRC and elsewhere to ensure that they are not directly or indirectly supporting, enabling or profiting from violations of human rights and to sanction any failure to comply with this obligation.

## **PA 9.73 For Freedom and Democracy in Russia**

(Former 9.61 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Junge Liberale, LHG, Vesna, Radical Ungdom, Nowoczesna Youth, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, Jcs, Centerstudenter, Young Liberals Greece, LDLU  
Resolution presented by: Junge Liberale

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

#### **Defining**

- Fake news as any piece of information that is pushed forward into public discourse by entities who have an interest in inoculation of misleading opinions;
- Propaganda as the concept designed to include several persuasion techniques used in many different ways in order to enforce an ideology;

- Malign foreign intervention as any action perpetrated by non-EU States or actors linked with respective power structures that pose a threat to the state of internal climate inside a Member State.

**Considering that:**

- Russia continues its illegal occupation of Transnistria which is part of Moldova;
- Russia has committed horrendous war crimes in the two wars in Chechnya and is currently prosecuting LGBTQIA\* persons in the region;
- Russia attacked Georgia in 2008 and since that time it illegally occupies the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;
- Russia attacked Ukraine in 2014 and since that time it illegally occupies Crimea which it has annexed contrary to international law;
- Russia is oppressing Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians in Crimea;
- Russia continues its war against Ukraine in the Donbass and illegally occupies the cities Donetsk and Luhansk;
- Russia shut down flight MH17 murdering its passengers and continues to deny its responsibility for this war crime;
- Russia is supporting the autocratic regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria and has committed countless war crimes and crimes against humanity in doing so;
- Russia is responsible for cyber attacks targeting institutions and organisations in Ukraine, Georgia and the EU;
- Russia has interfered in multiple elections of EU and NATO countries including the Brexit referendum in 2016, the US presidential elections in 2016 and the French presidential elections in 2017;
- Russia has committed and attempted assassinations on Europeans soil including the murder of Litvinenko in London, the murder in Berlin Tiergarten, the attempted assassinations of Skripal in Salisbury and Zdeněk Hřib, the Mayor of Prague;
- Russia is threatening NATO's eastern flank with a massive buildup of troops as well as the deployment of nuclear capable Iskander rockets in the Oblast Kaliningrad;
- Russian president Wladimir Putin has justified the Hitler-Stalin-Pact and the Soviet annexation of the Baltics during World War II;
- Russia is oppressing any opposition within its own borders with brute force as shown in the assassinations of Anna Politkovskaya and Boris Nemzow as well as the recent attempt to poison Alexei Navalny with Novichok;
- Russia prosecutes LGBTQIA\* persons also outside of Chechnya by having implemented a pride ban;
- Russia does not respect basic human rights like freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of the press and freedom of expression;
- Russian government shows little or no respect to the rights of national minorities by disproportionately reducing the teaching hours of the minorities' languages (including those recognized as regional ones) in favor of the Russian language; persecuting the leaders of spiritual or ethno-political minorities' organizations, prompting some of those leaders to seek political asylum in other states; violating the rights of the representatives of such organizations to peaceful assemblies and professions of their faiths or religions
- Russia lacks free and fair elections as elections are frauded and oppositional candidates systematically excluded from even participating;

- Pro-Kremlin media continues to misinform about COVID-19 in Europe and Russian media spreads unfounded accusations concerning social distancing measures, lack of European solidarity, vaccines;
- Russian funded media continues to support financially as well as logistically media that spreads conspiracy theories concerning COVID-19 around Europe;
- The European External Action Service has covered thousands of misinforming Russian articles since the beginning of the pandemic, aiming at European citizens;
- Russian journalists are not granted freedom of speech and are oftentimes persecuted when pursuing non-governmental lines.

#### **Recognising that:**

- Human rights are equal and universal for the representatives of all genders, nations, ethnicities and beliefs, , they are not granted as an act of mercy but owned by every human being;
- Russia infringes the sovereignty of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine;
- Russia is threatening the European Union (EU) and its member states particularly those in the east;
- Freedom of the press is a fundamental human right.

#### **Believing that:**

- Peace in Europe is best preserved by mutual cooperation and friendship, but both is not an option in the face of an undemocratic and revanchist Russia, therefore the only way to preserve peace and freedom is deterrence;
- The open internet is vital to promoting innovative ideas and digital economic productivity, which develops pioneering solutions;
- The internet daily usage among the member states has risen by 30% between 2009 and 2019 (better "keeping in mind"?)
- Accessibility and availability of internet among the citizens of the EU is on an ascendant trend;
- A free and open internet is crucial for a whole generation of young people that has grown with it and that having it or no will define future generation and their relation with the Internet;
- Freedom of the press is a fundamental human right.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

- The EU to develop a common strategy on Russia by allowing decisions within the Common Foreign and Security Policy to be made by a qualified majority without the possibility to opt out;
- The EU to uphold its current economic sanctions on Russia and to increase them in case of further Russian aggression and strengthen responsibility for EU-based companies and EU citizens for the violation of sanctions against Russia;
- The EU to create an European Magnitsky Act that dictates personalised sanctions against Russian officials who are involved in human rights violations;
- The EU and its member states to reduce their energy dependency on Russia in particular by preventing the completion of Nord Stream 2 and an investigation of possible legal steps against Germany to stop the completion of Nord Stream 2;



- The EU, its member states and the Council of Europe to recognise the Holodomor, the famine caused by Soviet authorities that killed millions of Ukrainians from 1932 to 1933, as a genocide;
- The EU and its member states to enhance the cooperation with Russia's civil society through Erasmus+ and other educational and youth exchanges as well as visa liberalisations for ordinary citizens;
- The EU member states who are also member of NATO to continue to support the NATO Mission Enhanced Forward Presence in order to protect the Baltic states and Poland;
- The EU to offer membership of the European Customs Union to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and further increase other economic ties;
- The EU and its member states to support the restoration of the territorial integrity of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine;
- The EU and its member states to support the democratic opposition in Belarus, to demand free and fair elections and to sanction the illegitimate regime of Lukashenka;
- The EU and its member states to support the democratic opposition in Russia and to offer Russia a place in the family of democratic nations if it eventually becomes a liberal democracy;
- The EU should be granting political asylum to any opposition member to the government;
- The EU and its member states to install common protection systems against the Russian information war;
- The EU and its member states to deepen the cooperation with Eastern European countries in strategic military projects;
- The EU to create a designated fund to protect investigation journalists, who are oftentimes targeted for signaling fraud, crime, misinformation;
- The EU to work on a common strategy of support for national minorities oppressed by the Russian government;
- A common EU strategy for protection of whistleblowers, including Russian whistleblowers whose lives are threatened;
- A joint effort of all European member states to fight any kind of fake news with effective measures inside and outside the internet;
- European Union and the member states to work together on this issue because the Internet is borderless and therefore fake news and malign foreign interventions on the Internet have to be fought by the international community;
- The EU to condemn the poisoning attack on Alexei Navalny and to introduce personal sanctions against all involved persons;
- The EU bureaucracy to allocate more resources towards initiatives such as euvsdisinfo.eu and other such debunk and fact-checking sites;
- The European Parliament to define its framework of positions and sanctions applied towards the Russian Federation in order to discourage any further aggressions;
- The Renew Europe parliamentary group to foster the above mentioned points.

## **PA 9.74 Urgency Resolution on Czech Out the Russian Influence**

(Former 9.62 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Author: Mladé ANO

Co-signers: Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Momentum TizenX (TizenX), USR Tineret (USRT), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Junge Liberale

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

**Considering that:**

- As has been revealed in April 2021 Russian GRU intelligence services were involved in the explosion of an arms depots in Vrbětice, Czech Republic in 2014, in which two Czechs were killed
- The same agents that conducted the explosion are being linked to the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal which happened in the United Kingdom in 2018
- Russia expelled 20 members of the Czech embassy in Moscow in retaliatory move and is threatening the Czech Republic with harder and further measures
- Russian aggression towards the West is escalating in recent weeks

**Believing that:**

- This unprecedented event demonstrates the disturbing will of Russia to undermine Europe and shows the level of danger and malign behaviour of Russia
- European Union and its member states should never respect any foreign illegal subversive activity or attack on its sovereign territory
- An attack with the involvement of GRU agents on European citizens on European soil in any of the member state must be viewed as an assault on the entire European Union
- European Union should react by resolute and firm action

**LYMEC calls for:**

- Pan-European condemnation of this unacceptable act of hostility
- Full solidarity with Czech Republic from the Member States and European Council
- Adopting a common, strong and specific measures towards the Russian Federation as a response to the attack
- Member states to summon their respective Russian ambassador to express the concerns over the situation and to expel Russian diplomats from the embassies in the Member States to show the unity and zero tolerance to the subversive actions on European territory
- Providing the consular services by the embassies of the Member States to the Czech citizens living in Russia and providing the haven for Czechs in case of escalation of the conflict
- Creation of EU initiative that will actively search for the sources of Russian influence and agents in the Member States and intensification of the fight against disinformation.

## **PA 9.75 Demand to Stop Political Repressions Against Young Civil Rights Activists and to Restore the Rule of Law in Ukraine**

(Former 9.63 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

*Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

Sponsored by: Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Uppreisn, Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Joves Liberals d'Andorra (JLA), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Young Liberals Greece (YLG), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Centerstudenter (CS), Nowoczesna Youth (NY), Vesna

Youth Democratic Movement (Vesna), Young Liberals (YL), Jong VLD (JVLD), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Norges Unge Venstre (NUV), Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), Istrian Democratic Youth (IDY), Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Momentum TizenX (TizenX), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS), Liberale Hochschulgruppen (LHG), USR Tineret (USRT), Mladé ANO, Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux (FEL), Christine Marry Khomyk (IMS Delegate)

### **Noting that:**

- Deep-rooted high-profile corruption is one of the most harmful threats on the way to the integration of Ukraine with the European Union and NATO.
- The reform of the Ukrainian judiciary and law enforcement system was among the key demands of the people of Ukraine, fighting for freedom, democracy, and human rights during the Revolution of Dignity.
- A complete deterioration of the justice system of Ukraine has been observed since 2017.
- The police officers have been involved in a number of controversial illegal actions carried against anti-corruption activists and civil rights campaigners, especially in Ukraine's regions outside the capital.
- In early 2014, Ukrainian oligarch Arsen Avakov was appointed to the position of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine; as of April 2021, Arsen Avakov has held the respective office for 7 years and served in 4 governments, formed by parties with completely different backgrounds.
- The civil society of Ukraine accuses Arsen Avakov of the illicit police actions against Ukrainian civil society activists and the perpetuation of the top-level corruption in Ukraine.
- On 31 July 2018, a prominent anti-corruption campaigner and civil rights activist, Kateryna Handziuk (born 1985), was attacked with sulphuric acid following the campaign condemning criminal activity of the police and the responsible minister Arsen Avakov.
- On 4 November 2018, Kateryna Handziuk died as a result of the injuries received. In 2018, the Initiative "Who is Behind The Attack on Katia Handziuk?" published the so-called "Handziuk List", including 55 names of the activists attacked and assassinated owing to their anti-corruption activity (and whose cases have been never duly investigated by the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies), to draw the attention of the Ukrainian government and international community to the issue.
- One of the activists placed in the "Handziuk List" is a well-known Ukrainian civil rights campaigner and pro-liberal YouTuber Serhii Sternenko (born 1995) from the city of Odessa.
- During his anti-corruption activity, Serhii Sternenko became an assassination target at least 3 times; Sternenko believes that the physical attacks were ordered as a result of the investigation he carried out and subsequent disclosure of the alleged corrupt activities of the Odessa mayor and his surrounding, including a number of police officers.
- At least 4 criminal cases against Serhii Sternenko have been opened by the Ukrainian police services with a lack of transparency and apparent political motivation, as stated by the major civil and human rights organisations.
- On 23 February 2021, Serhii Sternenko was sentenced to 7 years and 3 months imprisonment with ordered confiscation of half of his property; the respective conviction is a consequence of the persecution that started in 2015 with violation of the Ukrainian national law and international legal standards, including decisions of the European Court of Human Rights.

- The absence of a fair trial for Serhii Sternenko, open infringement of the rule of law by the Ukrainian judiciary and law enforcement bodies, and a systemic stagnation of law and democracy in the country have led the youth of Ukraine and civil rights stakeholders to join the leaderless pro-democracy movement to demand judicial and police reforms, the resignation of officials involved in political corruption at the top level, and the restoration of the rule of law in other ongoing politically motivated cases against civil society activists (Andrii Antonenko, Yuliia Kuzmenko, etc.).

**Considering that:**

- After the victory of the “Servant of the People” party in the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine, the political impact on the judicial system of Ukraine has significantly increased.
- The Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova, former top-advisor to Volodymyr Zelensky's presidential campaign and member of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine from the “Servant of the People” party, was personally involved in the prosecution process against Ukrainian activists, threatening Serhii Sternenko and other civil rights campaigners with “guaranteed” notifications of suspicion.
- A group of members of the Ukrainian Parliament with strong pro-Kremlin views from the “Servant of the People” party have repeatedly demanded criminal punishment for Serhii Sternenko, ignoring principles of noninterference in the justice system and the presumption of innocence (among them were Alexander Dubinsky, Maxim Buzhansky, Daniil Hetmantsev, etc.).
- The interference in the criminal process against Serhii Sternenko was strongly supported by the pro-Russian political forces of Ukraine (“Opposition Platform — For Life”, “Party of Shariy”) and politicians formerly affiliated with the Yanukovich regime (Nikolai Azarov, Olga Bondarenko, Elena Lukash, Andrey Portnov, etc.).
- On 23 March 2021, a Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Anton Herashchenko, published a video on his personal Facebook page showing faces and personal data of the activists to be punished by the police after the March 20 protest, neglecting due legal procedures and in violation of the European standards of personal data protection.
- On 25 March 2021, the “Voice” party (a full member of ALDE) published a statement condemning the political persecution of activists taking part in the March 20 protest and urged the government to provide for a transparent judicial reform instead of imposing disproportionate punishment (criminal sentence) on those against the current political stands.
- On 26 March 2021, Alexey Arestovich, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine on Strategic Communications in the field of National Security and Defense, publicly affirmed that Serhii Sternenko, Andrii Antonenko, and other imprisoned activists are political prisoners.
- On 30 March 2021, the Parliament of Ukraine passed the resolution “On Condemnation of the Events that Took Place on 20 March 2021 Outside the Office of the President of Ukraine”, initiated by over 130 members of the “Servant of the People” and with 237 votes in favor (214 - “Servant of the People” Party, 9 - “For Future” Party, 9 - “Dovira” Group, 5 - self-nominated) and 11 votes against (10 - “The Voice” Party, 1 - self-nominated), calling upon the law enforcement bodies to examine the participation of political parties and associated individuals in organizing the protests and to ensure that accused activists are brought to justice, even though their guilt has not been proven.

**Stressing that:**

- On 23 March 2021, activists of the street protest art movement "Gonor" Serhii Filimonov (age 26) and Oleksii Bilkovskyi (age 24), who also participated in the March 20 protest, received notifications of suspicion of 398 committing criminal offences without clear evidence: the police demand up to seven years of imprisonment for both; both activists were sentenced to house arrest on 1 and 2 April 2021.
- On 23 March 2021, a pro-liberal activist and anti-corruption campaigner Roman Ratushnyi (age 23) received a notice of suspicion of committing criminal offences without clear evidence: the police demand up to seven years of imprisonment for Roman Ratushnyi.
- On 29 March 2021, the Pecherskyi District Court of Kyiv sentenced Roman Ratushnyi to a house arrest with a 24/7 watch and electronic tagging, confirming in its decision "the fact of the existence of a serious crime"; at the same time, the only evidence examined by the court was a black-and-white photo taken during the night protest and reflecting a black square with small white spots.
- A group of liberal members of the Ukrainian Parliament from the "Voice" party (Roman Lozynskyi, Yaroslav Zhelezniak, Yaroslav Yurchyshchyn, Solomiia Bobrovska, etc.) tried to stand surety for the arrested activists, but their petition was denied by courts.
- The total number of young activists arrested after the March 20 protest on the grounds that lack evidence is 7.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- On 21 February 2021, Ukrainian civil society organisations (Human Rights Center ZMINA, DEJURE Foundation, Anti-Corruption Action Center, Association of Ukrainian Military LGBT veterans, Crimean Human Rights Group, Ukrainian Association of War Veterans and Participants in the AntiTerrorist Operation, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine / Free Hong Kong Center, etc.) introduced the statement "We demand justice for Serhii Sternenko: the statement of civil society organizations" - a joint position expressing concern over the political motivation of repressions against Serhii Sternenko and other civil rights activists and sabotage of the justice system reform on the part of the government.
- On 27 March 2021, the human rights organisation Open Dialogue Foundation published a joint statement "On the unacceptability of political pressure on the investigation into attacks on public activist Serhii Sternenko" (co-signed by Association of Ukrainian Monitors on Human Rights Conduct in Law Enforcement, Charity foundation "East-SOS", Rights Education House – Chernihiv Information, Centre for Civil Liberties, Transparency International Ukraine, etc.), urging the Minister of Internal Affairs, members of the Ukrainian Parliament, and representatives of other authorities to refrain from political pressure on the case investigation, and calling upon the Security Service of Ukraine and the Prosecutor General's Office to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into the circumstances of the attacks on Serhii Sternenko.
- On 29 March 2021, Ukrainian civil society organisations presented a joint statement "On persecution of activist Roman Ratushnyi by law enforcement agencies" regarding the political motivation of repressions 399 and groundless criminal prosecution against pro-liberal activist Roman Ratushnyi ( co-signed by Human Rights Centre ZMINA, Human Rights Initiative, NGO "Kharkiv Anti-Corruption Centre", Media Initiative for Human Rights, NGO "Centre for Development and Democracy", Human Rights Centre ACTION, Civic Initiative "Protect Forest", Open Dialogue Foundation, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine / Free Hong Kong Center, etc.).
- On 30 March 2021, the Center for Civil Liberties introduced a position on the Roman Ratushnyi case, recognizing that both the chosen precautionary measure and the

correctness of the categorization of the actions of the participants of the March 20 protest outside the President's Office are questionable; the Center also acknowledged the existent risk of political persecution in Ukraine.

- The report of the civic monitoring group "OZON" has come to the conclusion that the case of Roman Ratushnyi does not reflect the features of such classification of criminal offences as "the use of firearms or melee weapons or other objects specially adapted or pre-prepared for infliction of bodily harm", utilized by the police to sentence Roman Ratushnyi and other activists.
- On 30 March 2021, the U.S. Department of State published an executive summary on Ukraine within the 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, pointing out significant human rights issues in Ukraine, including, inter alia, unlawful or arbitrary killing; torture and cases of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of detainees by law enforcement personnel; harsh and life-threatening conditions in prisons and detention centers; arbitrary arrest or detention; serious problems with the independence of the judiciary.
- On 6 April 2021, the Netherlands Helsinki Committee introduced the Statement "Ukraine: Uphold Fair Trial Rights of Anti-Corruption Activist, Serhii Sternenko", calling on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that Sternenko's fair trial rights are respected throughout the appeal process (begun on 5 March 2021) and to seek proportionate alternatives to his current terms of detention.

#### **Believing that:**

- Every person is entitled to fully enjoy inalienable human rights and civil liberties, equal treatment before the law, and the right to a fair trial.
- Political corruption has no justification within the European, open, transparent, and democratic society.
- A fair and transparent judicial system is an undeniable part of the liberal democratic order and a core European value.
- The controversial past background of an individual fighting for freedom shall not be subjected to prejudice. ◦ The fundamental principle of impartiality is one of the key pillars of European liberalism.

#### **Taking into account all the above, LYMEC:**

- Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to stop politically motivated persecution of civil society activists in the country.
- Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure a full, impartial, fair, and independent trial of civil society activists (Serhii Sternenko, Anatolii Antonenko, etc.) in Ukraine in compliance with the principles of international law.
- Calls on the "Servant of the People" party to stop political interference in the justice system of Ukraine. ▪ Urges to condemn actions taken against the civil society of Ukraine by Iryna Venediktova, Arsen Avakov, Anton Herashchenko, Alexey Arestovich, and other Ukrainian officials, affiliated to the "Servant of the People" party, at the European Union level.
- Calls on the "Servant of the People" party to cease obstruction of the justice reform in Ukraine. ▪ Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to duly investigate crimes and illegal actions committed against civil society activists in Ukraine.
- Calls on the LYMEC Bureau to support the people of Ukraine on their way to restoring the rule of law in the country;
- Calls on the LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Congress to raise the issues of political persecution of young civil society activists and violation of the rule of law in Ukraine at the upcoming ALDE Congress.

- Calls on the LYMEC member organisations to share the raised concerns with their mother parties and other liberal stakeholders at the national level.

## **PA 9.76 The Future of EU – Afghan Relations**

(Former 9.64 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Centre Party Youth (CUF), LYMEC Bureau, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Civil Forum (Belarus), Centerstudenter (CS), JuLiS, Young Liberals, LHG, Svensk Ungdom (SU), JOVD, Jong VLD and Venstre Youth (UV), LUF, JUNOS.

*Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

### **Considering that:**

- The Taliban has taken power in Afghanistan by force, with complete disregard for the Doha Agreement and the domestic democratic process.
- The Taliban as an organisation does not value or believe in democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech and the press, women's rights or the will of the people in free and fair elections.
- Actors like Pakistan, mainly from the country's intelligence service ISI played an important role in helping the Taliban take over the power in Afghanistan by financing military equipment and weaponry or by providing them military training.
- Many Afghans who worked for western military forces on site in the last 20 years are now in high danger of being persecuted by the Taliban.
- Tens of thousands of Afghans fled the country immediately following the Taliban takeover, with UNHCR projecting that over half a million may seek to leave the country by the end of 2021.
- Most of these refugees will flee to neighbouring countries, themselves often undemocratic and with no respect for the fundamental values of the EU, where conditions are often far from optimal for long term settlement, while a select few will seek asylum within the EU and other countries around the globe.
- The caretaker government appointed by the Taliban includes individuals currently under UN sanctions.
- The Afghan economy is predicted to collapse succeeding the withdrawal of foreign aid following the Taliban's takeover. Consequently, Afghanistan stands before a considerable humanitarian crisis as its people become unable to obtain basic needs.

### **Recalling that:**

- The Taliban historically has actively and intentionally persecuted religious and ethnic minorities, curtailed the rights of women and girls, committed massacres against civilians and blocked humanitarian aid from reaching certain groups and parts of the country.
- The EU has, between 2002 and 2021, provided Afghanistan with over 4 billion euros in development aid, making Afghanistan the largest beneficiary of EU development assistance out of any country in the world.

### **Calls for:**

- The EU to stand by the promise that no recognition or general development aid shall be offered to the Taliban government.

- All countries of the EU to refrain from recognizing the Taliban government unilaterally.
- The EU+ countries to only engage in dialogue with the Taliban to help humanitarian organisations in creating a safe haven in Afghanistan.
- The EU+ countries operational engagement with the Taliban government to be limited to the areas of humanitarian aid and safe passage of those wishing to leave the country, with eventual EU diplomatic missions in the country being similarly limited in scope as to not legitimize the Taliban government.
- The EU to establish and deepen cooperation with Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid, counteract the likely increase in drug smuggling activities, as well as to facilitate the safe passage of those wishing to leave Afghanistan.
- The EEAS and its Member States to strengthen the dialogue with the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan as an effort to accelerate and maintain their engagement in seeking political solutions within Afghanistan.
- The EU to make sure that the implementation of the above-mentioned point does not, wherever possible, compromise the fundamental values of the EU by giving funding to corrupt and undemocratic governments in the region.
- All EU+ countries to stop any form of financial development aid going to any source directly connected to the Taliban, and to keep watch that any other developmental aid does not turn into de facto aid to the Taliban, while ensuring the humanitarian aid needed in the region can continue.
- The EU+ countries to aid the relevant NGO:s and the UN efforts regarding immediate famine relief and humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. The EU+ countries to increase logistical and financial support for relevant NGO:s and the UN programmes that are active in Afghanistan's neighbouring countries as the refugee situation develops.
- The EU member countries to develop a united response to asylum seekers and refugees from Afghanistan wishing to enter the EU, preferably via a swift implementation of the "New Pact on Asylum and Migration" to make sure all countries take equal responsibility regarding the flow of refugees. All EU+ countries should accept refugees from Afghanistan as a part of that responsibility.
- EU members that have been active on the ground to not only evacuate its citizens but also their Afghan employees and their families and create a special visa program for those especially at risk by a Taliban government like women, children as well as human rights and democracy activists and journalists.
- The EU to put pressure on the Taliban within the international framework to make sure ethnic and religious minorities as well as women are not persecuted by the Taliban government.
- The European Council to use the powers granted to it in the European Magnitsky Act to sanction responsible individuals within the Pakistani intelligence service and any other actors who contributed to the Taliban's seizure of power as well as to sanction the Taliban whenever gross violations of human rights occur in Afghanistan while making sure that the currently active UN sanctions are not breached



## **PA 9.77 In response to the asylum seekers' influx provoked by the illegitimate government of the Republic of Belarus**

(Former 9.65 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Momentum TizenX, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), USR Tineret, Centerstudenter, JUNOS, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Young Liberals, Jong VLD, Attistibai Youth, Junge Liberale, Young Liberals Greece, JNC. No resolution to be archived is this proposal is approved by the Congress.

*Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

### **Recalling that:**

- A little more than a year has passed after the fraudulent Belarusian presidential elections, which sparked a massive and momentous chain of protests all over the country;
- On the 23rd of May, 2021, the Belarusian government intercepted and coerced the pilots to land fight FR4978 in Minsk, thereby committing an act of state sponsored air piracy and endangering the civilians aboard in order to seize persons which were critical of the regime;
- The European Union, in response, rolled out even harsher and stricter sanctions aimed at the dictatorial regime of Lukashenko;
- The last sanction package prompted a rash and brazen declaration by Lukashenko to „food Lithuania and Europe with drugs and criminals“, which was soon followed by exploiting existing and creating new migratory corridors through Belarus by spinning a narrative that Belarus will work as a gate to Europe, thus enticing people from third countries to undertake the uncertain voyage from their countries of origin only to be sent to the Belarusian border,
- Lithuania, Poland and Latvia, as a result, suffered an enormous amount of pressure and an unprecedented influx of illegal border-crossings, asylum applications and border violation attempts;
- Numerous violations have been reported, namely the restriction of access to the border for NGOs, journalists, activists etc; pushback practices were employed during the first weeks of the crisis, which began in the Summer of 2021; passing legislation that strips asylum seekers their right to appeal unfavourable asylum requests.

### **Underlining that:**

- While the illegal crossing of a border is considered to be a criminal activity, it does not give free reign for the affected member states to curtail the rights of any specific asylum seekers or otherwise treat them in a way that would degrade and threaten their inherent human dignity;
- The crisis has a clear and deep political undertone, whereas the current regime of Belarus has fabricated and actively worked tirelessly to further spur and increase the number of possible asylum seekers to be sent near the borders of EU member states;

### **Considering that:**

- Some of the core values of the European Union are human dignity, freedom, equality and a deeply ingrained respect for human rights;
- Physical safety, physiological and psychological needs must be fulfilled at any cost to any who may seek shelter or asylum anywhere;

- Asylum seekers are not treated fairly and equally under the current EU asylum rules and the proportion of fulfilled asylum requests varies greatly in different Member States which results in the asylum seekers seeking asylum in the countries where there is a „higher chance“ to get one;
- Policies that undermine human rights in order to bring about arbitrary safety and „stability“, which are detrimental to asylum seekers and immigrants, even the ones who enter illegally, are to be seen as a threat to liberal democratic principles of due process.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

- The European Union to further increase diplomatic and economic pressure on the Belarusian regime and those who are responsible for organising the international migratory corridor through Belarus and seek to dismantle the networks which are used to put people under such duress;
- The European Union and its appropriate institutions to closely monitor the situation near the Eastern external border and support higher security and safety of the borders and guarantee that the human dignity and the human rights of the asylum seekers shall be protected and safeguarded. Additionally, freedom of the press and access to the border, with appropriate safety measures, should not be curtailed from those willing to provide information and news in order to inform their respective societies;
- The Member States of the European Union to act in solidarity when responding to common migration disbalances, as to avoid potential human right violation from countries that have limited resources to face the local migration crisis. The support of all Member States should come in all forms, including accepting refugees from these areas if possible;
- The governments affected by the scheme set up by Lukashenko to not give in to the pressure to mimic the tactics used by the regime; more specifically, forcing asylum seekers away from the border, not providing appropriate shelter and amenities for those who have crossed the border.

### **PA 9.78 Political Situation in Venezuela**

(Former 9.67 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Jóvenes Ciudadanos Co-signed by: JUNOS, LHG, Jong Democraten, Jeunes MR, Momentum TizenX, Jong VLD, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Nova Stranka Youth, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Clara Puig de Torres (IMS), Tim Robinson (IMS), Christine Marry Khomyk (IMS), Joves Liberals Andorra, USR Tineret, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Young Liberals Greece, Svensk Ungdom

*Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

#### **Background**

The Venezuelan politician and de-facto President Nicolás Maduro has eroded the democratic institutions in Venezuela while neglecting the law that protects the fundamental rights and liberties of the Venezuelan citizens. As a consequence of this institutional deterioration, Venezuela suffered from an economic crisis, misery, and poverty. In 2015, the democratic opposition won the parliamentary election, obtaining the majority at the National Assembly. Since then, Maduro has attempted by all means to undermine the Assembly's ability to act.

Firstly, Maduro constituted a National Constituent Assembly, controlled by his supporters, to empty the legitimate Parliament's power. Secondly, he summoned a presidential election with no democratic guarantees. Lastly, he organized a fraudulent and illegitimate presidential swearing on the 20th of January of 2018. On January 5th, 2019, the opposing democratic leader, Juan Guaidó, became president of the National Assembly. However, his mandate was not long after being stopped by his arrest by the Venezuelan Intelligence Service (SEBEIN), as part of an attempt orchestrated by Maduro to repress the political opposition through intimidation and violence. Maduro's government took the Venezuelan National Assembly in December 2020, after the opposition decided not to participate in the last election due to a lack of transparency. Earlier this year, on February 2021, the EU ambassador to Venezuela, Isabel Brilhante Pedrosa, was expelled from the country by Maduro's regime in response to the new sanctions imposed to his regime by the EU two days before.

On July 12th, 2021, Freddy Guevara, an elected member of the National Assembly and founding member of the opposition party "Voluntad Popular", was added to the list of prisoners of Maduro's regime. Meanwhile, living conditions in the country continue to degrade with a threatened electricity supply, inflation record, a social system collapsed, and massive migration flows.

### **Considerations**

The Venezuelan Constitution recognizes the Legislative Power as the State's only legitimate institution after Maduro's fraudulent take of power, which did not take place upon the National Assembly. On January 2019, Guaidó started to be publicly recognized as the legitimate President by the governments of the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, as well as the Presidents of the EU Member States at the European Council and the European Parliament. The situation continues being critical and demands from a solution. It is necessary to rebuild the relations of understanding, dialogue and respect of the EU with the people of Venezuela. This situation demands a solution to improve the links between Europe and Latin America as well as providing an optimal alternative to the regime of Maduro. The next elections will be held on the 21st of November of 2021 after the opposition announced its intention to participate.

### **Conclusions**

Maduro has launched a diplomatic offensive against the European Union and its allies.

His actions not only affected global political connections but also compromised the functioning of the socio-political system in Venezuela. The European Union has the capacity to influence other States' national policies around the globe, supporting freedom, democracy, and human rights and cooperation, having the citizens' interests at heart. The situation is still critical and demands a solution. It is necessary to rebuild the relations of understanding, dialogue and respect of the EU with Venezuela. This

situation requires a solution to improve the links between Europe and Latin America as well as providing an optimal alternative to the regime of Maduro.

**As a consequence, LYMEC Stands for:**

- Supporting the initiation of a pacific transition to a solid democracy in Venezuela that gives back the citizens their voice by having a free and legitimate election, complying with the constitutional order and the Rule of Law.
- Expressing its support to young Venezuelans who live and work in the EU and to their associations that claim and support such pacific transition.
- Taking position in the situation that Venezuela is facing.

**Calls: On the EU Commission, EU institutions and all Member States**

- To guarantee compliance with human rights in Venezuela and all Latin American countries, using their commercial and political influence over these regions.
- To take Latin America into consideration as a key region within the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, establishing stronger links and relations, and foreseeing the relevant actions to be executed for the democratization of their regimes.
- To sanction Venezuelan officials in case of human rights violations.

**PA 9.79 Europe stands with Ukraine: Stop the Russian war**

(Former 9.69 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: LYMEC Bureau, European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Junos, Jong VLD, FEL, Jeunes MR, Svensk Ungdom, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Youth MRF, USR Tineret, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Jonge Demokraten (JD), Young Liberals UK, Centerstudenten, CUF, Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Momentum TizenX, Individual Members' Section.

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic

**Noting that:**

- Borders of European States have to be stable and untouchable by the use of force;
- The war in Ukraine has been going on long before 24th February 2022. For eight years, Ukraine has had to endure violent attacks carried out by Putin and Russia. Vladimir Putin and Russia have brought back war to Europe;
- Every state has a right to determine its own social, economic, cultural and political vectors of development;
- Since the nineties, Russia has been invading the sovereign territories of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine and continues to do so to the present day;
- Urgent measures are needed to stop these aggressions and prevent further similar actions in the future;
- The EU respects the right of European countries to self-determination;
- Ukraine is an integral part of European society, culture, security and development.

**Believing that:**

- Humans must live in a world free from fear and one which is governed by the rule of law;
- Human rights, people's safety, international law and free, democratic choice are core European values;
- No state should intervene in the domestic affairs of other independent states;
- The occupation of the territories belonging to Ukraine, including Crimea and Donbas as well as Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia are illegal and illegitimate;
- Russia is trying to promote, through the use of force, a worldview based on spheres of influence, reminiscent from the Cold War, that has no place in the free and globalised world of the 21st century;
- The Russian Federation uses their state channels as a means of spreading war propaganda internally and to consciously spread disinformation and fake news externally in other countries;
- The EU should do everything in its power to avoid further violent aggression instigated by Russia;
- A sovereign, independent and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is key to European security;
- Every European state that matches the Copenhagen criteria should have a chance to become a member of the European Union;
- Non-members of the European Union should not have an opportunity to deprive the right of other states to join the EU;
- A positive example of one country within the Associated Trio will cause reforms in other members of this initiative;
- The sanctions placed on Russia by Western countries and their allies could be effective and set out a long-term perspective in the hopes of moving towards an end to the war in Ukraine, subject to continuous re-evaluation so as to maximise their effectiveness.

**Recalling that:**

- Ukraine does not have enough military supplies to protect themselves from Russia on their own;
- The EU stands for human rights, equality, self-determination, peace and democracy, as established by the Lisbon Treaty;
- The European Union is a group of states who share common values, principles, ideas and want to cooperate with each other in the most productive way;
- Russia corrupts Western politicians to push its interests and project them into the Western political space;
- The Kremlin administer mercenaries from the Wagner group to provoke new and restart old weaponed conflicts in problem areas;
- This great war in Europe is causing a field of instability and inflation in the whole region;
- Protecting Ukraine is to protect a border of the western democracy who stands for the same values as the EU; it's a conflict between freedom and authoritarianism;
- The EU had a few waves of block enlargement; the doors for the future EU enlargement should be open.

**Alarming that:**

- More than 21000 civilians have been killed by the Russian army in the city of Mariupol, while more than 100,000 Mariupol people suffer from water shortages and are starving. Moreover, Mariupol became an epicenter of the Russian army crimes against humanity.
- The Russian army used white phosphorus munitions in Ukraine at least 13 times.
- At least 3000 Ukrainian women reported to the Police that they were raped by Russian soldiers.
- The Russian army has destroyed 3500 civilian infrastructure facilities, including 72 educational institutions, 230 objects of transport infrastructure, 165 objects of life support, 21 health care facilities, 10 social institutions, more than 2700 residential buildings, and over 400 other objects.
- Russian army refuses to open humanitarian corridors and fire on vehicles with civilians inside trying to leave the war zone.
- Citizens of Ukraine living in the territories liberated from the Russian occupiers reported numerous cases of looting by the Russian army.
- The Russian army shelled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant - the largest nuclear power plant in Europe; earlier they have used the Chernobyl nuclear power plant area to prepare an attack on Kyiv and Kyiv region.
- At least 222 war crimes were committed by the Russian army against unique monuments of Ukrainian culture since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- At least 1000 Ukrainian civilians are being held hostage by Russians, more than 500 of them are women.
- More than 500,000 Ukrainians, including 121,000 children, have been forcibly relocated to Russia.
- The war crimes of Russia in Mariupol, Bucha, Irpin, Hostomel, Borodianka, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Okhtyrka, Trostianets and other Ukrainian cities are the most bloodiest and barbaric in the European post-WWII history.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- All European countries not to acknowledge the joining of Pompeo's declaration, and not to recognize the occupation of the territories belonging to Ukraine, including Crimea and Donbas as well as Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as it violates all the standards of international law;
- All European countries to hold Russia responsible for what is happening within these territories and the territory of Ukraine where Russia-caused hostilities take place;
- All European countries to share information about the crimes against humanity committed by Russia;
- The EU to promote independent Russian speaking media within and outside the EU and require media to transparently disclose their financial resources to fight disinformation and share information about the crimes against humanity committed by Russia
- All European countries to reinforce and strengthen existing sanctions and to develop new ones if needed;
- All European countries to expel remaining Russian diplomats who cooperate with Russia's security services;
- The EU and its member states not to let energy projects be launched and used as a geopolitical weapon of the Kremlin;

- The EU to enhance financial aid for suffering territories, provide civil, military and medical humanitarian aid for citizens on the ground as well as medical assistance to soldiers fighting on the frontlines;
- All European countries to pay attention to and call out human rights violations being carried out by Russia, enforcing necessary sanctions and punishments where possible;
- All European countries to immediately phase out imports of Russian oil, gas and oil-based products and implement a prompt EU gas exchange mechanism to avoid being subject to manipulation and contribute to the financing of the Russian regime in its war against Ukraine; All trade routes to and from Russia and countries officially supporting Russia should be blocked.
- The EU to invest in new energy resources and to help the countries who carry the heaviest economic burden due to the sharp spike in energy and raw material costs.
- The EU to deepen its cooperation with Ukraine in all spheres;
- The EU not to make the integration of Ukraine dependent on the integration of Western Balkan countries.
- Its Member Organizations and ALDE Member Parties to pressure their governments into taking real and radical actions against Russia and its supporters.
- For the EU and NATO to recognise Ukraine and NATO to improve cooperation with the Ukrainian military and determine the most effective strategies to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and civil society;
- For the UK and all the EU countries to provide a visaless regime to all Ukrainians fleeing the war.
- The EU and NATO to provide all possible and necessary ammunition and weapons to protect Ukraine from the Russian army (including air defence, sea defence, land defence, and weapons to counter-attack).
- Russia to take full blame for their human rights violations and war inflicted on innocent Ukrainian citizens. As a result, Vladimir Putin and all persons responsible for the war, should face war crimes trials .
- Russian oligarchs supporting the Putin regime to be prevented from accessing any European benefits (in finance, travel, health, education etc.) and all bank accounts and assets in European countries should be frozen.
- The EU Member States to continue to protest and speak out about the atrocities in Ukraine and the damage Putin and Russia are causing.
- The EU to assert that a nuclear attack on Ukraine or an explosion on any nuclear plant on the Ukrainian territory, controlled by Russian troops, will be considered equal to a nuclear attack on all Member States of the EU. This proclamation is the only effective way to deter Russia from using such a nuclear weapon.
- EU and NATO member states that have imposed an airspace ban on Russian and Belarusian air carriers and direct flights to Russia and Belarus, to expand this ban to third-country airlines operating flights through Russian/Belarusian airspace, and any airline that operates flights to Russia or Belarus.

#### **LYMEC:**

- Will regularly cooperate with its Ukrainian Member Organisations and Ukrainian Youth Organizations that are close to LYMEC and that are respecting the liberal democratic values shared by the European Liberal Youth;

- Will always build bridges between its Ukrainian Member Organizations and the rest of the Member Organisations to facilitate the exchange and cooperation;
- Will develop a recovery plan with its Ukrainian Member Organisations, in order to help them rebuild the country after the war;
- Will push for policy and actions helping the situation in Ukraine at the ALDE Party and Renew Europe Group, so that they provide maximum assistance on these matters;

## **PA 9.80 Recognition of the Genocide of the Ukrainian People by the Russian Federation**

(Former 9.70 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: European Youth of Ukraine

Co-signed by: Centre Party Youth (Sweden), JNC (Catalonia), Joves Liberals d'Andorra (Andorra), Jonge Democraten (the Netherlands), JOVD (the Netherlands), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (Ukraine), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania), LHG (Germany), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ireland), TizenX (Hungary), Unge Venstre (Norway), Uppreisn (Iceland), USR Tineret (Romania), Venstres Ungdom (Denmark)

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic

### **Noting that:**

- The provisions of the [United Nations Genocide Convention of December 1948](#), the rules of customary international law, and the provisions of the [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#) are recognized by the democratic community.
- Numerous public statements have been made by the high-ranking officials of the Russian Federation regarding the non-recognition of the right of the Ukrainian people to self-identification, self-determination, and, as a consequence, existence.
- According to official data from the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, as of April 21, 2022, 2,345 civilians were killed, including 177 children, 2,919 wounded, including 285 children (but the actual figures are currently unknown due to active hostilities).
- The Parliament of Ukraine has approved Resolution No 2188-IX of April 14, 2022, on the Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the Genocide of Ukraine by the Russian Federation."
- The US president Joe Biden called the invasion a genocide, as did former US President Donald Trump, Colombian President Iván Duque, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, Polish President Andrzej Duda, Latvian Prime Minister Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament, the Foreign Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic, the Polish Sejm, as well as the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC).
- The parliaments of Latvia and Estonia adopted a statement on Russian aggression and war crimes in Ukraine, recognising that Russia is currently committing genocide against the Ukrainian people.



- All the Western allies of Ukraine, the EU Council, NATO, and the UN Secretary-General, have strongly condemned the massacre in Bucha and other Ukrainian cities.

**Considering that:**

- The crime of genocide, as defined by the United Nations Genocide Convention of December 1948, includes acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group". Genocide is seen as the gravest and most serious of all crimes against humanity.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called the massacre a "fake attack" by the collective West against Russia, claiming it had been staged and trying to hide the cruelty of Russian troops.

2.1. "Modern Ukraine was completely established by Russia," Putin declares.

- The stated purpose of the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is the "denazification" of Ukraine, which covers up the destruction of the Ukrainian people and their identity, as well as deprivation of their right to independent development.
- Russian troops committed one of "the most terrible war crimes" since World War II by the grisly civilian massacre in Ukrainian areas, tying the hands of people, burning their flesh, and shooting in the back of the head.
- Russian troops forcibly relocated Ukrainian children to the territory of the Russian Federation to distort their self-identity and deported thousands of civilians to the territory of the Russian Federation.
- According to Article 2(e) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the "forcibly transferring children of the group to another group" to destroy a group as such is genocide.
- The unanimous UN General Assembly Resolution 96 (I) in defining the features of a genocide comparing it to homicide states as follows: "genocide is a denial of the right of a human group to exist, while homicide is a denial of the human right to life." Thus, genocide may take place without physical extermination, the intent to destroy mental connections of people of the same nationality, to ruin ties constitutes a *dolus specialis* in recognizing a crime as genocide.
- The updated Russian constitution enshrines the primacy of domestic law over international law, i.e., the Russian Federation allowed itself not to comply with the decisions of the international courts.

8.1. Russia has ceased to respect the decisions of the UN International Court of Justice failing to comply with the [Order dated March 16, 2022 \(p.81\)](#).

**Recognising and condemning that:**

- Russia's centuries-old policy has been the "de-Ukrainization," the absorption of the Ukrainian nation by distorting and appropriating its history, achievements in science, culture, and art.
- The Russian military committed mass atrocities in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine (in particular, in the cities of Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, urban-type settlements Borodyanka, Gostomel, as well as recently liberated from the Russian occupation areas in Kherson, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and Sumy

region), manifested in numerous cases of murder, abduction, freedom of people, their torture, rape, mockery of the bodies of the killed and tortured.

- The Russian military has systematically carried out premeditated killings of civilians and created inhumane living conditions, blocked settlements, prevented the transfer of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians, and seized and deliberately destroyed infrastructure facilities that provide basic human needs.
- Russian troops have committed numerous cases of physical, sexual, and psychological violence against the population of Ukraine, including women, children, infants, and the elderly, regardless of their gender.
- The actions of the Russian Federation are aimed at undermining economic potential and security, destruction of economic infrastructure (damage to granaries, obstruction of sowing campaign, blockade of sea trade routes, destruction of electricity and gas infrastructure), which prevents the full existence of the Ukrainian people.
- Russia is preparing a legal mechanism for adopting children with a nationality, other than Russian, granting parents a right to change their first and last name, as well as the date of birth of a child (the same mechanism already exists for the occupied Crimea).

6.1. The number of forcibly displaced children from Ukraine to Russia is at least 2389 persons as of March 19, however, the Ombudsman of Ukraine says the number exceeds 100,000 children, some of whom are not orphans.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- Recognising the actions committed by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and its political and military leadership during the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, as genocide of the Ukrainian people.
- Appeal to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, foreign governments, and parliaments to recognize the Russian genocide of the Ukrainian people, crimes against humanity, and war crimes against Ukraine.
- Appeal to all countries recognising the genocide to assist the International Court of Justice in collecting evidence and ensuring that the individuals responsible are prosecuted for the genocide to the full extent provided by international law.

## **PA 9.81 In solidarity with the Iranian women for freedom**

(Former 9.71 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by Julius Graack (JuLis), Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom), Lova Bodin (Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund).

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

- Deeply disturbed by and condemning the violent death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of the Iranian Guidance Control, following her detention because of a supposedly 'morally indecent attire';

- Inspired by and supporting the courageous wave of protests for women's rights, freedom, and democracy that has sparked in many regions of Iran following those events. The movement for Women, Life and Freedom is currently fighting for gender equality and against not only the tyranny of oppressive laws but also institutionalized violence against women;
- Alarmed by and condemning the Iranian security authorities using deadly force, illegal surveillance and harsh enforcement of censorship against those peaceful protestors. As well as by the effort to conceal their hideous actions by massively restricting access to information by shutting down the internet, blocking communication, arresting journalists, and the general rise in numbers of executions and torture in Iran in the last years, including death penalties for minors.
- Opposing the responsible patriarchal and Islamist mullahs' regime in Iran that has exercised power over women for decades and has installed a massively oppressive system for the whole of Iranian society. A regime that is by all metrics lacking any respect for even the most basic of human rights;
- Committed to a feminist foreign policy that opposes every dimension of the oppression of women, that always examines foreign policy decisions with regard to their effects on women, and that fights for a world where women are free and safe;

#### **Considering that:**

- The EU commission, the foreign affairs council and the member states of the EU have neglected to properly take action in support of the people of Iran.
- Protestors in Iran continue to be arrested, hurt and killed for exercising their right to freedom of expression.
- With the communication abilities of the Iranian people severely limited, the whole truth of what the people are suffering may never be known to the outside world.
- The current regime in Iran provides support to various undemocratic movements, regimes, and their criminal activities, including the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine by supplying drones and other equipment.
- Over 14.000 protesters are currently incarcerated by the Iranian Authorities, many of them potentially facing death penalty.

#### **Recalling that:**

- Human rights violations are not only a crime against their own citizens, but also a violation of international treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- The ICCPR was adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966. The ICCPR aims to ensure the protection of civil and political rights including freedom from discrimination, the right to equality between men and women, the right to life, the right to liberty and security of person, freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, right of peaceful assembly and et ctr.
- In 1975, the Islamic Republic of Iran ratified ICCPR and undertook to abide by its provisions.
- The current Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which gained power during the 1979 revolution has been systematically carrying out repression and human rights violations against its citizens for more than 40 years.

#### **Believing that:**

- The Iranian people show immense bravery in protesting openly against a regime that continues to use deadly force against them.

- The EU and its member states should do everything in their power to support and aid the Iranian people in their fight for freedom.
- The freedom of self-expression and freedom of association are fundamental human rights and essential parts of a functioning democracy.
- We have an obligation to support human rights globally and speak out against those who oppress, torture and kill human rights defenders.
- Every person on earth has a right to dress themselves however they see fit.
- Governments should stay out of the closets of women - no matter if they choose to wear or not wear certain clothing. LYMEC calls for: The EU and its member states use all engagements with the Iranian authorities. to demand the mullahs' regime to immediately:

1. stop the violence against and brutal repression of the Iranian people, and particularly Iranian women;
2. release all of the peaceful protestors who have been arrested;
3. independently investigate the death of Mahsa Amini and prosecute the perpetrators;
4. terminate the mandatory covering for women demanded by the regime;
5. dissolve the Guidance Control;
6. end internet censorship and instead enable free and universal access to independent information channels for the entire population;
7. refrain from executing the death penalty and torture, as well as other human rights violations;
8. let the Iranian people decide freely about the future of their country in a democratic way, without them and their "Guardian Council" exerting undue influence on their eligibility and right to vote;

- All EU member states officially declare support for the women's rights movement that is evolving in Iran and firmly condemn the human rights violations of the mullahs' regime.

All EU member states to formally summon the Iranian ambassadors;

- The EU commission to facilitate European companies who wish to supply the Iranian people with internet and communication services, to support their free access of information, e.g. by also providing VPN infrastructure.
- All EU member states to give Iranian women and freedom fighters the opportunity to apply for humanitarian visas, and to take responsibility for accepting political refugees fleeing due to fear of persecution by the Iranian regime.
- All EU member states to prepare their national refugee reception office and infrastructure for the potential arrival of political refugees fleeing the violence of the Iranian regime.
- The European Union to join and support the fight for the freedom and safety for women around the world by establishing the European Mission for Women's Rights with the general purpose of:
  - All those responsible for the state crimes against the Iranian people and protestors, such as officers of the religious police, members of the Revolutionary Guard, government officials, individuals affiliated with the regime, and their facilitators, to be decisively sanctioned according to the EU's global sanctions regime for crimes against human rights.
  - The European Union to develop further sanctions targeting specifically the assets of the Iranian regime while always keeping the door open for the economic and technological sanctions targeting Iran to be eased

or even lifted the moment the current government is held liable for their crimes and supplanted by a democratic one.

- The EU and its member states to push for the UN to launch an investigation of the events, led by the UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## **PA 9.82 Urgency resolution on the missile hit on Polish soil and citizens**

(Former 9.72 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: JD, European Youth of Ukraine

Co-signed by: Nowoczesna Youth, Momentum TizenX, Mladé ANO

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

### **Considering that:**

- the unprecedented missile hit on Polish soil, where two Polish citizens lost their lives on the evening of 15 November 2022, is a cause for grave concern for all NATO and EU member states as well as their geopolitical partners;
- the incident happened during a week-long increased missile assault by the Russian Federation on Ukrainian territory as another manifestation of the war of aggression led by the Russian Federation, counting hundreds of missiles launched all over Ukraine on that very day;
- Ukraine has been using anti-ballistic missiles to take down Russian cruise missiles and prevent shellings of critical infrastructure and possible casualties among the civilian population;
- investigations into the incident are still ongoing;
- there is currently no indication that the missile strike was intentionally targeting Polish soil;
- currently, there are no party consultations as mentioned in art. 4 of the NATO treaty planned, seeing as Poland has refrained invoking it;
- any action in the Russian war on Ukraine that intentionally or unintentionally endangers the safety of a NATO member state has the potential to cause highly severe escalation that could even result in an all-out nuclear war, but that does not mean that inaction is a viable option.

### **Believing that:**

- it is important not to cause panic by too hastily running with non-final findings, seeing as spreading rushed conclusions within NATO, the EU, and their geopolitical allies is in the interest of the Kremlin;
- even if the missile that hit Polish soil and citizens was fired by the Ukrainians, the blame for the incident still lies with the Russian Federation;
- regardless of who fired the missile that hit on Polish soil and citizens, the incident clearly shows that the continued Russian war of aggression on Ukraine, for which the Russian Federation bears sole responsibility, poses a serious and material threat to the territorial integrity of NATO and EU member states as well as to the safety of their citizens;
- the incident shows that ending this war as soon as possible is in the interest not just of the states directly involved in the war but also in that of the whole world;

- none of this means Ukraine should give up on any part of its sovereign territory to Russia so that peace will be achieved.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- European Union and NATO member states, as well as other European states, to provide Ukraine with more and better air defence systems, anti-ballistic equipment, long-range precision missiles, and other military equipment that can aid with nullifying the Russian missile threat, and continuing with existing military aid;
- the European Union and its member states and NATO member states, as well as other European states, to further aid Poland and other countries that due to their geographical proximity to the war are disproportionately affected, in ways other than military aid, seeing as that should primarily be focused on Ukraine;
- European Union and its member states and NATO member states, as well as their geopolitical partners, to enhance their mutual communication channels in order to formulate joint positions in a timely manner;
- the Polish government to provide access for all the international experts possessing necessary qualifications and without threatening national security, to the missile hit site to conduct the investigation proceedings.
- NATO parties to consult on the matter quickly, but not necessarily through the procedure of art. 4 of the NATO treaty.

## **PA 9.83 Nuclear Terrorism Prevention in Europe**

(Former 9.73 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: European Youth of Ukraine

Co-signed by: LHG (Germany), Momentum TizenX (Hungary), Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ireland), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Unge Venstre (Norway), JOVD (the Netherlands), USR Tineret (Romania), Centerstudenter (Sweden), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), JUNOS (Austria), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Young Liberals (United Kingdom), Liberalus Jaunimas (Lithuania), JD (the Netherlands), Mlade ANO (the Czech Republic), Joves Liberals d'Andorra (Andorra), Uppreisn (Iceland), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), CUF (Sweden), Jonk Demokraten (Luxembourg), LUF (Sweden), LDLU (Ukraine), Attistiabi Youth (Latvia)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

**Bearing in mind that:**

1. After years of protests against nuclear power station projects at national and international levels, and fuelled by the accident at Three Mile Island (U.S.) in 1979 and the Chornobyl catastrophe in 1986, there is a pending mass decision in Europe to shut down nuclear power plants (hereinafter — NPPs) and switch to renewables in the following years.
2. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine was met with great moral condemnation and substantial sanctions by civilised countries. It has led to a decrease in gas and oil imports from the Russian Federation (hereinafter — Russia) to Europe making the latter save electricity and find alternative ways to cushion a growing energy crisis caused by Russia.
3. System costs for nuclear power are much lower than for intermittent renewables.

4. Nuclear has been the Atlas of carbon-free energy production, keeping the world hefted on its shoulders, year after year, with thousands of megawatt-hours of electricity that required burning no fossil fuels. Even today, nuclear plants generate more zero-carbon power worldwide than wind and solar do combined.
5. The European “green taxonomy,” a lengthy regulation that specifies what forms of energy investment qualify as “green” according to the European Union, is expected to list nuclear as climate-friendly.
6. Possible radiation release, caused by Russia’s damaging of Zaporizhzhia NPP – the largest in Europe and among the ten biggest facilities in the world, could lead to a long-term disaster in various parts of the world, depending on weather conditions during the leakage.

#### **Believing that:**

1. The EU is to a large extent dependent on Russian gas, paying 46, 592 million euros daily since Russia started a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Thus, funding the war from the continued burning of fossil fuels imported from Russia.
2. It is the moral duty of the EU Member States to find a quicker alternative to Russian fossil fuels, by ending financing the Russian terrorist regime.
3. Renewable power and energy savings promote peace by building energy security and resiliency for all European citizens, including Ukraine.
4. The period of transition to renewable energy sources and more efficient energy systems shall be an overriding priority for the European continent. Nonetheless, it may take several years to realise this transition.
5. During this period, nuclear energy remains an essential provider of energy for Europe, available for now as an alternative to Russian gas. Therefore, the EU Member States shall reconsider their shutting down of NPPs during this challenging energy crisis period.
6. Nuclear security is crucial, and the respective policy shall be further developed to tackle the possible risks of nuclear explosions at NPPs.
7. Creating nuclear security zones around NPPs is of paramount importance and shall be overseen by the International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter — IAEA) to ensure minimising risks for terrorist attacks, control seizures, and contingencies.

#### **Recognizing and condemning that:**

- Following Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine, Russia has been carrying out acts of nuclear terrorism in Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia NPPs.
- The Russian troops took control of the Chernobyl nuclear site in Ukraine in late February and used its territory to move military vehicles and stir up radiation dust. Consequently, the radiation levels went up and the monitoring equipment was disabled.
- The Russian army seized the area around the biggest nuclear facility in Europe, with six functioning reactors, Zaporizhzhia NPP, near the illegally occupied city of Enerhodar, on 4 March.
- On 1 September 2022, one of the reactor units experienced an automatic shutdown. It resumed operating on 2 September.
- On 3 September 2022, the operating power of the two operational reactor units was reduced. Subsequently, one of the reactor units was shut down, and the other reactor unit remained in operation.
- The Russian troops have been actively using the NPP site as a shield to fire at the Ukrainian Armed Forces positions. They have constantly been shelling the

cities of Enerhodar, Nikopol, and Marhanets (with two latter ones situated across the Dnipro River from the power plant).

- Russian military vehicles have been parked in the turbine halls, causing damage to the plant, including to areas used to store fresh nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.
- The Russian facilities arrested the Director General of Zaporizhzhia NPP. He was taken out of the car, and with his eyes blindfolded driven in an unknown direction, where he was held as a hostage for several days.
- The Russian troops struck the Pivdennoukrainsk nuclear power plant in Mykolaiv, southern Ukraine on Monday, 19 September 2022.
- Russia has illegally occupied and militarised nuclear power plants in Ukraine in Chernobyl and in Zaporizhzhia.
- Although urged by the IAEA, the Russian occupational forces have failed to establish a security zone around Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and ensure the safety of NPP staff who were harassed by the Russian troopers. The IAEA mission to the station in September 2022 discovered the fact that Russian military equipment and soldiers were stationed there and hence, contrary to international law, abused civil infrastructure for military means. Nevertheless, they did not provide details about these military vehicles. The IAEA recommended stopping the shelling at the site of the Zaporizhzhya NPP and paying attention to the challenging work conditions of the Ukrainian staff and the shortage of personnel. Notwithstanding, after this working visit, the specified actions were not taken and the shelling has not stopped.

#### **LYMEC calls for:**

1. Recognising the actions committed by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and its political and military leadership during the full-scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine on the sites of the nuclear power plants of Ukraine, as acts of nuclear terrorism and war crimes.
2. Emphasising that such actions by Russia are in breach of international law and incompatible with the responsibilities of a nuclear power holding a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.
3. Establishing security zones around nuclear power plants in Ukraine to minimise the risk of nuclear catastrophes, further terrorist attacks, and contingencies.
4. Immediate cease of all illegal actions by Russia at the Zaporizhzhya NPP and any other nuclear facility in Ukraine, in order for the competent Ukrainian authorities to regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, to ensure their safe and secure operation.
5. Appeal to IAEA and the UNSC to assist in monitoring the situation around nuclear facilities in Ukraine and Europe to prevent any terrorist acts in the future, with the further designation of respective security policies.
6. Supporting the establishment of nuclear security zones as such around the nuclear facilities of the EU Member States.

### **PA 9.84 Recognizing the Russian Federation as a Terrorist State**

(Former 9.74 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Mladé ANO, European Youth of Ukraine, Ógra Fianna Fáil, LUF, Young Liberals, LYMEC Individual Members, Centerstudenter, JOVD, Attistibai Youth, Nowoczesna Youth, USR Tineret, Joves Liberals d'Andorra



Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

**Considering that:**

- The Russian war against Ukraine has been going on since April 2014. On the 24th of February, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin started the full-scale invasion in Ukraine as Russian forces launched an assault on Ukraine after months of a military build-up along its border;
- Mass war crimes were and still are being committed by the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine with the aim of entirely or partially destroying the Ukrainian nation, breaking the spirit of its citizens, indiscriminately killing entire families, including children, abducting and deporting, torturing, raping, mutilating the bodies of the murdered and tortured civilians. After the liberation of the territories that the Russian Federation formerly occupied these inhuman and cynical facts are increasingly surfacing and there are grounds to believe that more evidence of war crimes in different areas may be recorded and uncovered in the future;
- The systematic intentional killing of civilians by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, attacks on specially protected objects (hospitals, maternity homes, schools, kindergartens), as well as the deliberate creation of intolerable living conditions, such as the blockade of settlements, the obstruction of the provision of humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians, infrastructure facilities necessary to satisfy basic human needs, seizure and intentional destruction;
- Cases of physical and psychological violence against Ukrainian residents, representatives of the Ukrainian government, public organizations, other local activists, journalists, and persons with authority in Ukrainian society are systematically used by the Russian army;
- The Russian military exposed the civilian population to unnecessary and disproportionate harm by using cluster munitions, which are prohibited in most democratic countries, and by firing other explosive weapons with wide-area effects such as bombs, missiles, heavy artillery shells and multiple launch rockets;
- The Russian Federation purposefully seeks to destroy the Ukrainian state by violating its security and destroying the economic potential of the country (e. g., damaging grain warehouses, blocking sea trade and shipping routes, destroying electricity and gas infrastructure, etc.);
- The main goal of the war started by the Russian Federation is the destruction of the Ukrainian nation, its identity, and the denial of its right to independent development and existence;
- These acts undermine the principles of international law, liberal democracy, and human rights. There have been numerous reports of Russian soldiers committing war crimes and crimes against humanity;

**Noting that:**

- On 30 September 2022, the president of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin announced the annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions based on fake referendums that had no legal or physical basis;
- Even though there is no clear evidence that Russia contributed to the damage caused by denotations in Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines. Regarding Swedish authorities, sabotage is suspected and it is conceivable that Russia organized explosions at the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines as part of an operation to

cripple the European economy, to unfreeze and launch the Nord Stream 2, and to create conditions to ensure it cannot be blocked further, as the alternative route is inoperable;

- The partial shutdown and sabotage of Europe's energy system is also a reason to declare Russia a state sponsor of terrorism and a terrorist state, and to expel it from the United Nations (UN) Security Council, where Russia has vetoed any attempt to interfere in its terrorism and war;

**Whereas:**

- Terrorism is defined as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims;
- In the acts, UN terrorism is described as "criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.";
- In Ukraine, Russia has chosen a similar, cruel, immoral, and illegal tactic, using imprecise and internationally banned weapons and ammunition, targeting disproportionate brutality against civilians and public places;
- Many European states have laws against 'Trading with the Enemy' in times of war, that totally prohibit and criminalize economic dealings with agents in enemy states;

**Believing that:**

- If in any part of the world any organization behaved in such a brutal way as the Russian army killing Ukrainians, it would be recognized as terrorism;
- What is punished at the level of specific criminals and criminal organizations must not go unpunished in the story of a state that has become a terrorist;
- All forms of trade with Russia provide it with the economic means to continue its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine;

**Recalling that:**

- Despite the war in Ukraine, there is overwhelming evidence that contemporary Russia is a terrorist state: from Russian apartment bombings in 1999, a program ran by the Russian government agencies to facilitate Russian radicals to leave Russia and go to Turkey and then on to Syria to join jihadist groups from 2012 to 2014, the poisoning of Skripals in 2018, to 7 Russians preparing a car bombing against a Ukrainian military intelligence office in 2019 and et cetera;
- Russia has been declared a terrorist state by Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as a result of starting the war in Ukraine;

**Underlining that:**

- The Russian Federation, whose military forces deliberately and systematically target civilian objects, is a state sponsoring and perpetrating terrorism;

**Calls upon:**

- Establishing an international tribunal to investigate and evaluate the crime of Russian aggression against Ukraine's sovereignty and bring the perpetrators to justice;

- European countries use the principles of universal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute crimes against humanity, genocide, or war crimes committed outside their territory;
- UN General Assembly to expel Russian Federation from the UN Security Council, in accordance with the precedent set by UNGA Resolution 2758, by awarding the Soviet Union's seat on the UNSC (per the UN Charter) to Ukraine;
- The European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the parliaments, and governments of Europe countries to recognize the Russian Federation as a terrorist state that carries out terrorist attacks against the Ukrainian people and to seek responsibility for these crimes;
- The European Parliament to enact sanctions against The Russian Federation that would impede The Russian Federation's ability to perpetrate terrorist actions in Ukraine;
- European states to designate Russia as an enemy state for the purposes of 'Trading with the Enemy' laws once the phase-out of Russian oil and gas is complete.

## **PA 9.85 Escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean**

(Former 9.75 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Jóvenes Ciudadanos

Co-signed by: Uppreisn, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund, Jonge Democraten, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Mladé ANO, Centerstudenter, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Liberale Hochschulgruppen, Svensk Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Momentum TizenX, Nowoczesna Youth, Jeunes MR, Attistibai Youth, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Eastern Mediterranean region has become an increasingly important and strategic space for Europe and the Middle East in the last years. The flow of refugees from Libya or Syria to Europe through that region and the increasing influence of Russia since its involvement in Syria's Civil War, among other events, have had a great impact in the region.

In August 2020, a Turkish vessel began carrying out surveys to search for undersea oil and gas in waters where Greece claims jurisdiction. Turkey decided to send Turkish warships and that situation added another perilous element to the safety and stability of the region, as well as a threat for maritime security.

This situation has continued through the time. Moreover, since the war started in Ukraine, that part of the region has become more important especially for the transportation of Ukrainian grain coming from the Black sea, crossing the Bosphorus via Turkey and then going to the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean. In September 2022, the EU voiced concerns over an increase of overflights and violations of Greek airspace by Turkey and hostile remarks after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan stated that Turkey was ready to "do what is necessary " when the time arrives.

## CONSIDERING THAT

- the Eastern Mediterranean is an area of strategic importance for the EU and a key area for the peace and stability of the whole Mediterranean and Middle East regions;
- the escalating tensions from the past years in the Eastern Mediterranean were started by Turkey, including military action with a lack of previous comprehensive diplomatic dialogue
- the illegal exploration and drilling activities by Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean is posing a serious threat to the security and peace of the entire region;
- In recent years, Turkey has been challenging its neighbours, particularly EU members such as Greece and Cyprus, with regards to international law and the delimitation of their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and continental shelf.
- Turkey has not signed yet the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) of 10 December 1982 to which Greece and Cyprus are parties, in order to solve ongoing maritime dispute over the delimitation of an EEZ;
- Turkey is still a candidate country, a NATO Member and an important partner of the EU and is expected, as a candidate country, to defend the highest standards of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, including the compliance with international treaties;
- the Council has repeatedly expressed its concerns and strongly condemned the drilling activities in various sets of conclusions in response to Turkey's illegal drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean, including the European Council conclusions of 22 March 2018 and 20 June 2019;
- the national leaders at the Med7 Summit with Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain (made on 10 September 2020 in Porticcio, Corsica ) expressed full support for and solidarity with Greece and expressed regret that Turkey had not responded to the EU's repeated calls to end its unilateral and illegal actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean zone.
- the Article 1 of the NATO Treaty provides that "the parties thereto undertake to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations";
- the UN Charter provides that "states must undertake to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations";
- the EU is clear and determined in defending the European Union's interests, demonstrating its firm and solid support and solidarity with Greece and Cyprus and the protection and respect of international law;
- A sustainable conflict resolution in the region can only be found through dialogue, diplomacy, and negotiations in a spirit of good will and in line with international law.
- the stability in the region is a key element especially since the Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in 2022, in order to be able to reintroduce vital food and fertilizer exports from Ukraine-passing by the Bosphorus and going to the Mediterranean to other countries, most of them

suffering from food crisis and famine such as Kenya, Sudan or Lebanon, among others.

- The UN is aware that keeping shipments sailing smoothly out of Ukrainian ports will require the continued collaboration of Turkey and an escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean will not help to that extent.

### **CONDEMNS**

- Turkey's unilateral actions in the continental shelf and EEZ of Greece and Cyprus, which violate the rights of EU Member States, NATO treaties and international law;
- military escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

### **EXPRESSES**

- serious concerns about the current state of EU-Turkey relations, mainly regarding the human rights situation in Turkey and the erosion of democracy and the rule of law and the Turkey's unilateral foreign policy within the region;
- serious concerns about an escalation in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean and the consequences that can pose to the countries within the region and beyond.

### **LYMEC CALLS ON**

- reducing the escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean between EU Member States and an EU candidate country, Turkey;
- urging Turkey to engage in the peaceful settlement of disputes and to refrain from any future unilateral and illegal action or threat;
- the Commission and the Member States to remain firmly committed in this dialogue to the fundamental values and principles of the Union, including respect for the rule of law;
- expressing the need to find a solution by diplomatic means and international law and strongly supports the return to the dialogue between the parties like for example through the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC);
- Turkey, as an EU candidate country, to fully respect the law of the sea and the sovereignty of the EU Member States Greece and Cyprus over their territorial seas, as well as all their sovereign rights in their maritime zones;
- the Turkish Government to sign and ratify the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea);
- the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and other international institutions such as NATO, to contribute to find a solution through dialogue and diplomacy to negotiate the delimitation of EEZs and the continental shelf;
- the Commission and all Member States to pursue a broader, comprehensive and strategic security architecture, energy cooperation for the Mediterranean and a comprehensive environmental risk assessment of any drilling activity, considering the multitude of risks associated for the environment;
- the EU and non-EU Member States to support the development of a Green Deal for the Mediterranean, with plans to invest in renewable energies that could potentially reduce future disputes over limited fossil resources;
- the Member Organizations to acknowledge the importance of the Eastern Mediterranean and to advocate for a reduction of escalations and for a

peaceful and stable region which is vital for the security in the Mediterranean and Middle East and to be able to continue helping Ukraine's economy.

## **PA 9.86 Stop Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe**

(Former 9.76 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Nowoczesna Youth

Co-signed by: Ógra Fianna Fáil, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Momentum TizenX, Attistibai Youth, Julis, USR Tineret, JNC, ERPY, Ze. Molodizkha, JD, IMS Delegates, Mladé ANO, Radikal Ungdom

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

### **Noting that:**

- The safety and independence of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova is crucial to the stability and security of the European continent;
- The Russian influence and aggression have resulted, among others, in the occupation of Transnistria in Moldova, South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia, Crimea in Ukraine, and the current brutal war in Ukraine;
- Ukraine and Moldova currently hold an official EU-candidate status and Georgia should be granted an official EU-candidate status, as soon as it complies with the requirements imposed by the EU;
- The Russian Federation actively undertakes actions aiming at destabilising domestic order in European countries by bribing high-ranking Moldovan and Georgian officials such as the Moldovan ex-president Igor Dodon, Georgian oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili, The Georgian Dream party and a Moldovan pro-Russian party Șor, developing plans on enforcing a pro-Russian shift in power;
- The recently proposed 'Foreign Agents' Law constitutes a violation of the freedom of media which primarily targets liberal organisations, and threatens the diversification of funding in the public institutions;
- The state of democracy of Georgia has been weakened by the government's persecution of independent journalists and the lack of judicial and political reforms in the country;
- The actions of the government undermine the country's effort to join the European Union against the will of the society, clearly expressed through the protests in February and March 2023 as in favour of European values and reforms;
- Russian influence in certain regions of Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine is holding a firm grip over a portion of the population, due to the russification and marginalisation of the language and culture of minorities in the USSR;
- Moldova is an emerging country with a GDP per capita eight times smaller than the European average;
- Moldova has a history of conflicts with Russian separatists from the Transnistria region being supported by and dependent on the Russian state;
- Russian state-owned energy concern Gazprom is limiting gas flow to Moldova and disrupting energy production in the country leading to a growing energy crisis;
- Moldova has severely suffered from an outflow of investments due to the regional geopolitical situation influenced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine;

- Ukrainian people have shown resilience against pro-Russian and authoritarian policies on multiple occasions such as the Orange Revolution and Revolution of Dignity;

**Believing that:**

- Nations have sovereignty and the right to self-determination;
- Peace among nations is a value that allows them to freely develop trade and foster the economy while creating social and cultural growth;
- Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova should be states where freedom of speech, media and press are abide by;
- European integration is increasingly important due to Russia's aggression towards the states;
- The states' future lies in the democratic world, and according to social surveys the majority of the citizens wish to increase integration with the European Union;

**LYMEC calls for:**

- Expressing public and political support for the states' democratic groups' efforts to resist Russian influence and aggression, including through its integration with the European Union;
- Providing expertise and resources to the states' officials and civil society organisations to support the strengthening of democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights;
- Promoting transparency in political and financial relations between the states' oligarchs and national governments to prevent corruption under Russian influence;
- Recognizing the importance of protecting the language and culture of minorities in Ukraine, including those that have been marginalised and russified under Soviet rule, and supporting Ukraine's sovereign right to promote the Ukrainian language and culture within its borders;
- Continuation of integration of Moldova into the European infrastructure such as the European Electric Grid and transport networks;
- Continuation and expansion of macro-financial assistance (MFA) by the EU in order to help overcome current crises and strengthen structures of the Moldavian economy;
- Expressing public and political support for granting Georgia the official EU-candidate status;
- Encouraging trade between the European Union and the concerned states.

## **PA 9.87 Towards Stricter Screening of Foreign Direct Investments Into Critical EU Infrastructure**

(Former 9.77 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)

Co-signed by: Radikal Ungdom, Junge Liberale (JuLis), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), JOVD, Centerstudenter, Centre Party Youth (CUF), Estonian Reform Party Youth (ERPY), Unge Venstre.

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

**Considering that:**

- The EU seeks to welcome foreign direct investments while safeguarding essential interests;
- There is growing concern over the potential security implications of certain foreign acquisitions in Europe;
- The threat to European critical infrastructure has risen since 2014, with particular emphasis on the last year, as a result of Russian aggression against Ukraine;
- Due to the high degree of integration within the EU, especially economically, direct foreign investment into or procurement of critical EU infrastructure in one Member State could put at risk the security of another Member State or the Union as a whole;
- Chinese companies, and thereby the Chinese state, own or have stakes in various forms of critical EU infrastructure, including ports, airports, telecommunication, and energy infrastructure;
- Since these acquisitions were made, China has become more authoritarian.

**Believing that:**

- Partial or complete Chinese or other authoritarian ownership of critical EU infrastructure could pose a risk to security both in peacetime, through espionage or the favouring of Chinese companies over regional ones, and in wartime, by leveraging access to retaliate or exert pressure, thereby constricting the EU's capacity for action.

**Noting that:**

- The EU's framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union (Regulation 2019/452) allows the Commission to issue opinions on specific investments that may threaten the security or public order of other Member States. These opinions must be given due consideration, but compliance is always voluntary and only when the investment is deemed likely to affect projects or programmes of Union interest (Article 8(2)(c)) is an explanation for noncompliance required.
- Only 15 EU Member States currently have investment screening mechanisms in place and the EU Regulation does not require nor officially recommend they be instituted where they are absent, which means that foreign investors that may otherwise be deemed to constitute security risks can access sensitive sectors of the internal market by investing through non-screening Member States;
- The EU Regulation lacks specificity concerning parameters for the application of screening mechanisms, leaving Member States to interpret what constitutes a vulnerability or a security risk and resulting in lacking convergence between Member States.

**Calls upon:**

- The EU to require all Member States to institute investment screening mechanisms;
- The EU to adopt basal criteria for foreign investors in order to harmonize the application of investment screening mechanisms between Member States;
- The EU to mandate Member States' compliance with the Commission's opinion in cases of foreign direct investment into infrastructure installations that are deemed especially critical for the Union's ability to manage crises.



## **PA 9.88 Closing Putin's gates means welcoming allies - Extending an invitation to Georgia**

(Former 9.78 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by Junge Liberale (JuLis), ZeMolodizhka, Radikal Ungdom, Jungfreisinnige, Ógra Fianna Fáil, JOVD, Attīstībai Youth, Felix Schulz (IMS), LUF, Młodzi Nowocześni, CUF, LHG

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

In the midst of Russia's invasion of Ukraine an increasing number of politicians, experts, and analysts are recalling the 2008 Russia-Georgia war and the errors made by the democratic world community before and after the ceasefire agreement was signed. Anyone walking through the streets of Tbilisi will immediately notice that Georgia stands closely alongside Ukraine in the struggle for the values of freedom and democracy. It is committed to the Western community of values. Despite this and the constant threat from Russia, Georgia receives little attention from Germany and Europe. As Young Liberals, we, therefore, want to expand the strategic partnership with our Georgian friends massively. The discussion about Georgia's membership in the EU must become a matter of the heart for all Europeans and our allies. We want to do everything we can to accompany Georgia's liberal parties and their respective youth organizations on their way into the EU.

### **Noting that:**

- Georgia has been pursuing an application towards EU-members for years, resulting in the following:
- On March 3rd, 2022, Georgia applied for EU membership
- On June 17th, 2022, The recommendation about the application to join the EU was made public by the European Commission.
- On June 23rd, 2022, the European Council discussed Georgia's EU membership application. The European Council stated that it was ready to grant the status of candidate country to Georgia once the priorities specified in the Commission's opinion on Georgia's membership application have been addressed.
- Georgia has been left on the waiting list of EU accession, after the 27 leaders of the European Union granted Ukraine and Moldova the status as candidate countries;
- Currently 30% of Georgia's legal territory are occupied by Russia;
- Currently ALDE has welcomed the following Georgian liberal parties into the liberal family: Girchi-More-Freedom, Lelo for Georgia, Strategy Aghmashenebeli, Republican Party of Georgia, Free Democrats;
- Georgia and the Georgian people have been allies to Ukraine and the fight against the Russian regime since before 2008.

### **Recalling that:**

- LYMEC co-organizes events, which welcome political representatives from Georgia such as the Alliance of Her Event series as well as the respective youth cohorts
- LYMEC brought together representatives from European youth organizations in Georgia in the past, creating the former Liberal Youth Network of the South Caucasus

**Considering that:**

- Many Georgians consider themselves Europeans and want to see their country become a member of the European Union and NATO;
- Since the adoption of the Istanbul Convention, Georgia has been one of the non-EU countries who has ratified the Convention while also following European Law in many internal and foreign policy matters;
- Current affairs and protests within the country have shown the longing and commitment of the Georgian people to the European Union and its values.

**LYMEC calls for:**

- Strengthening the allyship with Georgian liberal youth organizations by:
- pursuing strategic member recruitment from Georgia regarding Individual Members and Member Organizations
- inviting the Georgian liberal youth organizations to events, trainings and networking affairs
- extending an invite to potentially joining LYMEC and supporting these efforts by offering mentorship and guidance
- creating a forum for those severely impacted by the Russian Aggressions
- promoting an open debate within LYMEC and its member organizations to discuss this issue.

### **PA 10.01 Internal Motion on Fianna Fáil**

*LYMEC – ELDR/ALDE, Ireland*

*LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,*

Whereas:

- “Fianna Fáil has become the newest member of the ELDR Party on 16 April 2009 and it is expected that Fianna Fáil will join the ALDE Group after the EP elections in June
- LYMEC respects the decision of the ELDR Council to accept Fianna Fáil as a new member
- The “Emergency motion on the ELDR Group” adopted at the LYMEC EC in Gummersbach on 2 July 1994 mentions Fianna Fáil as a party not coming from a “genuine liberal and democratic tradition” and states that it would be an “inappropriate” party “for genuine liberals to sit with in a parliamentary group”;
- Only three years ago, the LYMEC Congress in Winterthur adopted a resolution stating that “LYMEC believes that Fianna Fáil is currently unsuitable for membership of the ELDR party and the ALDE Group”;
- Fianna Fáil has traditionally had a socially conservative ideology and remains critical towards euthanasia, abortion rights, contraception, gender-neutral partnership laws and the decriminalization of soft drugs;
- The (Fianna Fáil) Prime Minister Bertie Ahern has been one of the most eager supporters of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and is opposed to its reforms claiming that the aims of the CAP set down in the Treaty of Rome were still valid;
- LYMEC condemns Fianna Fáil for trying to introduce blasphemy as a crime in Ireland.

The LYMEC Congress proposes:

- LYMEC acknowledges the decision of the ELDR Council to accept Fianna Fáil as a member but also needs to respect the decisions made at the EC in Gummersbach and the Congress in Winterthur. This means that LYMEC for the moment retains its position on Fianna Fáil but is also ready to re-evaluate it as early as at the 2011 Congress in two years in the light of the performance in and the contribution to the liberal family that Fianna Fáil will have made.
- The LYMEC Bureau shall inform the ELDR Party and the ALDE Groups in the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions of its position on Fianna Fáil.

### **PA 10.02 Emergency Motion on the ELDR Group**

*LYMEC – ELDR/ALDE, Ireland, France, Italy*

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Meeting held in Gummersbach, Germany on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1994.

This LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting notes:

- That at the recent ELDR Council Meeting in Rome there were discussions concerning the future make up of the ELDR Group in the European Parliament.

This Executive Committee Meeting declares:

- That we wish to see a genuine Liberal Group in the European Parliament made up of members of parties with a genuine Liberal and democratic tradition. The French RPR, Irish Fianna Fail and Italian Forza Italia do not come from such a tradition and would not be appropriate parties for genuine Liberals to sit within a Parliamentary Group, whether that be a technical group or a political one.

This Executive Committee Meeting calls:

- On the LYMEC representative at the next ELDR Council Meeting to make these views clear and do anything within their power or influence to prevent any proposed group co-operation with members of the three aforementioned parties.

### **PA 10.03 Resolution on Fianna Fail and ELDR**

*LYMEC – ELDR/ALDE, Ireland*

Resolution adopted by LYMEC Congress, 7-9 April 2006, Winterthur, Switzerland

LYMEC believes that Fianna Fáil is currently unsuitable for membership of the ELDR party and the ALDE Group.