

POLICY BOOK

LYMEC Policy Book

1992-2024

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Chapter 1 - EU Institutions and Institutional Reform

1.01 Debate on the Future of the EU Is a Basis for Cooperation

(Former 1.06 prior to London 2019)

Freedom of Movement, Future of Europe

Adopted at the LYMEC Young Leaders Meeting in Gibraltar the 1st of September 2001 and readopted at the Executive Committee meeting in St. Gallen, Switzerland in October 2001.

Considering:

- That the majority of European citizens do not relate to the European Union;
- That the same citizens do not feel that the European Union bears any direct relation to their daily lives;
- That the Member States do not fully encourage or promote public awareness or debate in relation to the development and future direction of the European Union;
- That most people conceive the European Union as a complex bureaucratic labyrinth;
- That the fundamental concept of a *Europe of the People* is not being realised.

LYMEC finds essential that the debate on the future direction and enlargement of the European Union be invigorated and furthered; and that moreover the Member States soundly exercise their incumbent responsibility to create public awareness and encourage debate on these core European issues.

LYMEC feels that the European Union is seen as an impersonal and institutionalised "club" by the majority of everyday Europeans. It is evident that the average citizen is alienated from the important developments and decisions concerning the future of the European Union.

The European citizen also bears a personal responsibility in connection with the creation of our future European Union.

If we want the European Union to flourish and be a decisive and progressive force in the world we need to strengthen the conception of the Union among its own citizens. The citizens are the basis for the European Union and without their belief in the European idea and contribution to the development the project is bound to fail.

We therefore have to find ways of bringing the European Union to the people and at the same time bring the citizens of different states and regions together in a mutual understanding of the Union that they all form part of. This can be done in various ways:

- A percentage of the MEPs can be elected to the parliament through the European political parties as opposed to citizens only electing MEPs from their own national constituencies;
- More attention should be paid to the principle of subsidiarity as a tool of ensuring that decisions are taken as closely to the citizens as possible;
- "A federal constitution with a positive list of political areas that the EU is allowed to operate within is the best way to ensure the ideas and principles of the principle of subsidiarity".

The LYMEC Young Leaders commit themselves to launching a public awareness campaign to ensure more active individual participation by all citizens so that the destiny of our Union is designed and decided by the people and not exclusively by the Institutions and Heads of State.

1.02 Resolution “English as single primary working language in the institutions of the European Union”

(Former 1.11 prior to London 2019)

European Integration, Future of Europe

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

The LYMEC Executive Committee

Whereas:

- Today the *primary working languages* of the institutions of the European Union are English, German and French;
- The concept of three *primary working languages* is mainly the result of bargaining and neither practical nor reflecting the actual use of languages in the institutions of the European Union. Therefore the current situation can be challenged easily and become subject of permanent discussion lead by national governments and NGOs defending cultural values and seeking influence in the institutions of the European Union;
- The latest example for this is the fact that French legal and language experts have launched a campaign to establish French as “the legal language of Europe” aiming at defying the decline of the French language and thus influence in the institutions of the European Union.

Considering that:

- A study carried out by the European Commission points out that 47% of all EU citizens speak English as either *mother tongue* or *foreign language* whereas the other two *primary working languages* in the institutions of the European Union, German and French are spoken by 32% and 28%. Moreover, if not *mother tongue*, English is first *foreign language* in all member states of the European Union;
- Establishing English as single *primary working language* – the language that is most widely known among EU citizens – would enable the institutions of the European Union to work more effectively. In contrast, accepting any other language but English as *primary working language* in any domain of the institutions of the European Union would signify an unjustified privilege for native speakers of the respective language;
- In particular cases, however, evidence shows that the use of more than one single *working language* can be of advantage, as for instance in describing complex legal affairs.

Concludes:

- LYMEC having chosen English as single *working language* actively stands for a pragmatic and non-nationalistic approach to the use of languages in the institutions of the European Union.
- This involves thus far approving English the status of single *primary working language* in all domains of the institutions of the European Union, implying that any document is primarily drafted in English and all communication is primarily taken place in English.
- This must not be seen as prohibiting the additional use of other *official languages* of the European Union in particular cases or domains if this turns out to be appropriate and discrimination is avoided.

1.03 Resolution on excessive legislation

(Former 1.13 prior to London 2019)

EU Legislative System, Our Vision for Europe, Future of Europe

The LYMEC Executive Committee,

Whereas:

- Excessive legislation is currently one of the most urgent problems for the European Union development process;
- Euro-skeptics often accuse EU economic and social development to be slowed down by the excessive bureaucracy and massive presence of redundant rules;
- EU citizens, in the recent years, have denounced the excess of bureaucracy intended as a massive presence of norms that do not simplify their relationships with the EU institutions, as they would aim to;
- Harmonised legislation could also decrease bureaucracy in the Internal Market and thereby give markets greater freedom to flourish, since one single piece of legislation is often simpler than up to 25 different sets of norms and rules.

Noting that:

- the excess of norms tends to over-regulate EU citizens lives;
- the excess of rules deteriorates EU citizen's trust toward an European stronger presence and their more active participation in the construction of an European effective bureaucratic system;
- the presence of a too heavy normative system slows down the economic process and reduces EU competitiveness in the global market, rising several barriers in the market and threatening individual freedom;
- the EU institutional structure risks becoming too heavy, slow, expensive to maintain and far from citizens' real needs.

Because LYMEC believes that:

- norms and rules are necessary means in contemporary society for the regulation of relationship among free citizens who enjoy the same rights;
- the excess of norms often over increases the power of the state, its institutions and people working for or within them to the detriment of EU citizens;
- norms and rules do not have any aim but guaranteeing freedom and equal rights to citizens.

Considering that LYMEC:

- has always sustained the urgency of deregulating Europeans life;
- is aware of an excessive presence of norms and rules in the EU;

- citizens' disaffection versus EU institution could partly depend on the excessive number of rules that complicate their lives reducing their freedom and equality of rights;
- EU officers are too often devoted to regulating social situations with a heavy normative system that ends up with an opposite result than the one proposed.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) claims for:

- an EU lighter normative system that can guarantee citizens' rights and therefore freedom to act without tight restrictions;
- the abolition of useless rules: citizens' initiatives must be liberalized;
- EU officers to respond to citizens' real and urgent needs working close to them;
- European Parliament and Member of Parliaments renounce to act by following the logic of continuous "political compromises" that concur to create an excessive normative system, but operate in order to simplify and improve citizen's lives;
- Stronger EU communication to citizens of its attempt to reduce and simplify norms, in order to bring them nearer EU initiatives.

1.04 EU driver's license as travel identification within the European Union

(Former 1.15 prior to London 2019)

Freedom of Movement/ European Integration

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

The standardised EU-drivers license is valid in all EU and EES-countries. The thought behind the card was to increase the understanding of documentation in the different EU countries and thus to increase the safety on the roads.

Within the own state, many people use the drivers license as an identification card. Unfortunately, the card does not state the card holder's nationality; hence the card cannot be used as travel identification. The driver's license only states in what member state the card has been issued in, but as familiar one does not have to be a citizen of a country in order to get a driver license of that country. Free movement is one of the EU's founding pillars, and the Schengen agreement has further strengthened the possibilities for this.

LYMEC will work for:

that the nationality of the card holder should be stated on the EU-drivers licenses, in order for EU drivers licenses to become valid travel document

1.05 Towards a more transparent and accountable Europe

(Former 1.21 prior to London 2019)

European Democracy, Transparency

Considering that:

- recent corruption claims on three senior MEPs for taking cash to change laws has provoked new criticism towards transparency and accountability in the European Union and especially in the European Parliament;
- concerns regarding corruption in the European Union and outside of the European Union still exist;

Believing that:

- the European Union should be on the front line of fighting corruption in the Member States, the European Union itself and in the world;
- absence of corruption is one of the most important conditions for a transparent and accountable government;
- the credibility of the European Union should not be damaged by charges on corruption on any level;

LYMEC Calls on:

- the European Commission to reinforce efforts to combat corruption on all levels within the European Union as well as the European Neighbourhood, Eastern Partnership and partner states.

1.06 Resolution on Institutions

(Former 1.23 prior to London 2019)

European Parliament, European Democracy, European Integration

Noting that:

- the Commission does not reflect the political composition of the Parliament;
- the nomination negotiation for Commissioner positions is an untransparent process behind closed doors;
- the voting turnout in European elections is generally very low;
- the European Union already decided to reform the composition of the Commission for the next legislature, dropping the requirement to have one Commissioner for each country;

Considering that:

- Members of the European Parliament always represent their own country and that national interests can conflict common interests;
- the European citizens have few possibilities to influence the political composition of the Commission as a whole, reducing the democratic legitimacy and the accountability of the body;

Believes that:

- European elections' turnouts can be improved if citizens feel like the composition of the Parliament has an influence on the Commission's political composition;

Stresses out that:

- the current system, while mainly defending national interests, is a good way to have a connection between citizens and European politics and the decision-making process in the European Union;

LYMEC supports:

- an evolution of the representation within the European Parliament through the introduction of a new constituency for Europe as a whole, creating a balance between national particular interests and the common European goal;
- a new process where a majority of political groups in the European Parliament form a coalition, which political colour will decide the composition of the Commission.

1.07 Resolution on the European economic, political and financial crisis

(Former 1.24 prior to London 2019)

Economic and Monetary Policy, Future of Europe, EU Legislative System

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC):

- Considering the ongoing economic, political and financial crisis within the European Union as a whole and in individual Member States;
- Taking into account the externalities that occur in an highly integrated framework of European member state economies, when combating recession through discretionary policy by individual EU member states.
- Noting that the framework of the EMU, based on the Stability and Growth Pact and relevant Treaty provisions, has not been enforced from the start and thus has not sufficiently addressed the issues that resulted in the on-going crisis;
- Considering therefore that EMU and more general institutional reform is a part of the solution to the on-going crisis;
- Considering also that sound public finances are a key component of addressing issues concerning to growing deficits and spiraling debt;
- Recognizing that neither institutional reform nor sound public finances alone are sufficient enough to tackle the challenges posed by the crisis; they must be accompanied by economic growth, which must be driven by the private sector;
- Reaffirming its liberal and democratic principles and goals;
- Reaffirming its commitment to the completion of the Single Market, including services and the financial sector;
- at its 2013 Spring Congress in Tallinn, Estonia, calls for a comprehensive solution to the current crisis with the goal of a freer Europe that can unleash its potential. Such a solution needs to be based on A) sound public finances, B) economic growth, and C) institutional reform:

A) Sound Public Finances

- Member States must manage their public finances in accordance with principles of sound financial and economic management with the

incontrovertible goal of balanced or surplus budgets, so as not to create a situation of spiraling deficits and unsustainable public debt levels ;

- Weak economic growth or economic contraction also has a significant impact on public finances, and should therefore be considered a crucial part of restoring fiscal sustainability;
- Without prejudice to the above, should any financial assistance be provided to a Member State, that financial assistance should be temporary in nature, and should be accompanied by a firm and binding commitment of that Member State towards reform that results in increased competitiveness and in its public finances being stabilized and rendered sustainable;

B) Economic Growth

- Economic growth in the long run is driven by the private sector, with the logical consequence that reforms aimed at enabling stronger economic growth need to focus on curtailing needless bureaucracy, public expenditure cuts to free up resources for productive endeavors, all the while making sure that the State's ability to perform its most vital functions is not compromised; a policy of free trade with third countries; continued market integration at European level, in particular in the services sector;
- Economic growth can also and must be supported by governments where possible in times of recession and economic weakness, for social as well as economic and fiscal reasons, including through state investment; PASSED
- Protectionist measures cause much more harm than good, resulting in less growth and decreased opportunities, and should be abolished;
- The Private sector should be reaping the rewards of innovation that ultimately comes from investments by the public sector in R&D and higher education.
- European member states must improve the productivity of their labor forces, by:
 - a. Combating early school leaving
 - b. Maintaining high quality of education
 - c. Improving and expanding vocational training programs
 - d. Installing effective and intelligent systems of vocational rehabilitation of the unemployed population, in order to constantly adjust the work force to the needs of the private sector;

C) EMU and Institutional Reform

- The European Central Bank should have sole power over monetary policy, must be independent, and commit to price stability and a public expenditure currency;
- The establishment of the European Central Bank as the single European banking supervisor is welcomed, but the European banking supervisor should have authority over all European banks from the onset, and complete independence between the ECB's monetary and supervisory functions must be rigorously upheld;
- Any further measures aimed at establishing a full-fledged banking union should be taken as swiftly as possible, but only as far as a common regulator and a common resolution mechanism are concerned, while rejecting the idea of a rescue fund for banks and the idea of direct recapitalization through the ESM.
- European banking rules should rather come in form of regulations than directives in order to minimize the ability of distortions through variations at Member State level;
- The idea of further tax harmonization amongst Member States must be rejected as tax competition should remain a key component of European competitiveness.

In conclusion, LYMEC stresses that to overcome the crisis of trust in the Union, any further integration and transfer of power to the European level needs to be democratically accountable, accompanied with necessary reform, and always be fully consistent with a rigorous application of the subsidiarity principle.

1.08 A True European Customs Union

(Former 1.26 prior to London 2019)

Taking note of the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy and Progress Reports published on 12 October 2011, which regrettably revealed a lack of progress in a number of potential candidate countries, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Albania and Macedonia;

Also taking note of strong Euroscepticism in other candidate countries and potential EU Member States, such as Iceland and Norway;

Regretting that Ukraine, an important partner for stability in the region, seems to move further and further away from Europe after the recent verdict in the Tymoshenko case, after which Ukrainian Prime Minister Azarov declared interest in joining the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union established on 18 October 2011;

Fearing these factors will lead to a lost decade in terms of advancing European integration;

Pointing out that while non-EU countries in Europe to a large extent already, on paper, trade freely with the European Union, trade relations in Europe still consist of a complex network of multilateral treaties and costly bureaucracies that discourage the flow of goods and investments into markets and impact the EU's border regions;

Also pointing out that the European Union started off as a common market and that a true European customs union could be both, of benefit to the EU as well as an incentive for non-EU countries to implement reforms;

Reiterating its belief in free trade as a system securing freedom and creating prosperity;

Considering that the EU Customs Union already not only comprises EU Member States, but also Turkey, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino;

LYMEC calls on the European Union to take immediate action and invite EFTA countries, CEFTA countries, Ukraine and the three Caucasus republics to start talks on joining the EU customs union and assisting them in strengthening their customs capacity. A truly European Customs Union would create stability and has the potential to kick-start the European Integration process. It must not be used as an excuse to slow the Union's Enlargement Strategy and Neighbourhood Policy. This position will be communicated to and discussed with ELDR and ALDE.

1.09 System of substitutes in the European Parliament

(Former 1.30 prior to London 2019)

Whereas:

- There are an increasing number of cases of temporary absence of a Member, notably owing to maternity, which is causing disruptions in parliamentary work and is particularly detrimental to smaller political forces
- The principle of leave for maternity or paternity, illness and other incapacity should be established in the Parliament's Rules of Procedure in a way which would leave untouched the existing powers of the Bureau and provide the necessary flexibility at the moment when the Members' Statute will come into force.
- In several Member States rules allowing for the temporary substitution of an elected Member of the national Parliament are existing (notably in Portugal, Denmark, Sweden and Latvia). In other member states (notably Austria, Finland, Hungary and Poland) during a maternity leave this absence of a Member of the National Parliament from the sitting is excused.
- As it is today it is possible for a Member of the European Parliament to have parental leave. But there is no system of substitutes, if a MEP wants to have parental leave, the seat will remain vacant and the group will lose one member, and therefore one vote for the duration of the parental leave. This again puts pressure on the parent concerned to take as short a leave as possible and certainly does not encourage fathers to take parental leave, as is otherwise one of the core equality objectives of the EU.
- The perceived democratic deficit stems from the fact that the European Parliament does not "look like Europe", e.g. only one out of three MEPs are female.

Concluding that:

- The European Parliament should set a good example for equality in the rest of the world and make a system of substitutes, so that parental leave (and thus the fact that politicians can have children) becomes a natural part of the political system, and not as it is today something out of the ordinary. This is not only an argument for gender equality but also an argument for maintaining and developing European democracy.

- In order to achieve a European Parliament that looks like Europe, a system of substitutes would make the European Parliament more attractive to young people - especially younger women.

Asks the LYMEC bureau to:

- Convince the ALDE-group to have a common stand on this issue and that they put forward a resolution that asks for the establishment of a parental leave and substitution system in the European Parliament.
- Work with the other European Political Party Youth Organizations on bringing attention to the need for such a system.

1.10 On secret ballot voting in the European parliament

(Former 1.31 prior to London 2019)

European Parliament, European Democracy, European Political Parties

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

Considering that:

- The Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament (Title 6, Chapter 5, Rule 169, Sections 2 and 3) allow for secret ballot voting (anonymous voting) when requested by at least 20 percent of the MEP's;
- Secret ballot voting has been used frequently in the recent past, especially for more controversial proposals like the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA);

Believing that:

- The ability for citizens to track the voting history of their representatives is a fundamental part of a representative democratic system;
- Secret ballot voting increases the influence of special interest lobby organizations, as MEP's might vote without considering the views of their electorate;

- Secret ballot voting is only an acceptable procedure when votes are cast on the appointment of persons for specific functions.
- A European Parliament without secret ballot voting on all other proposals will improve transparency and democracy;

LYMEC, at its congress in Sofia, Bulgaria, calls upon:

- The LYMEC Board to call upon the European Parliament in general and the ALDE group specifically to pledge for a removal of secret ballot voting from the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, with a single exception for voting on the appointment of persons.
- Its member organizations to bring the topic into discussion in their respective mother parties and countries.

1.11 Resolution on the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)

(Former 1.32 prior to London 2019)

EMU

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

Considering that:

- The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) is a logic consequence of the ongoing integration of Europe.
- The EMU gives an impulse to all member states to intensify the political and economic integration within the European Union.
- EMU should not prevent the process of enlargement of the Union towards the Central and Eastern European countries.
- The efforts to inform the citizens of Europe about the aims and the consequences of the single currency in Europe must be strengthened.
- The EMU helps to save costs on transactions and to remove risks on exchange rates for trades and capital. EMU co-operation is necessary for the common fight against unemployment.

Stating that:

- Previous to an entry the mentioned convergence criteria of the Maastricht Treaty and the timetable for the completion of the EMU must be adhered strictly. Exceptions due to political reasons should not be allowed in any circumstances.
- The decision of the criteria are fulfilled should not only be taken by the national governments, but also by the Presidents of the central banks, the President of ECB, the Council of the EU, the EC and the EP.
- The independence of the European Monetary policy has to be guaranteed.
- The Euro has to increase the political weight and the international role of the European Union and strengthen the position of the Union within the multilateral trade organisations. The Euro must be more equipped to compete with the US dollar and the Japanese Yen in the international financial relations.
- The single currency must manage the EU to be more resistant towards international financial speculations.

The Congress:

- **believes** that all member states of the European Union should join the European Monetary Union as soon as the criteria have been fulfilled,
- **calls** for effective mechanisms in order to sanction countries with too high budget deficits and shadow budgets after having entered the third step of the EMU. Budgetary discipline of all member states participating in the EMU must be re-enforced by an agreement on a stability pact,
- **calls** on national governments to reduce their borrowing requirements and take actions to balance their budgets,
- **calls** on that monetary decisions are being made by the European Central Bank,
- **calls** for an implementation of EMS 2, compulsory for Member States not included in EMU.

1.12 Towards a democratic approach to the issue of self-determination

(Former 1.36 prior to London 2019)

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

The LYMEC Congress,

Considering:

- That the EU is committed to observing international law as established by the Charter of United Nations and associated Covenants, which contains the right to self-determination of all peoples to strengthen universal peace;
- That the legitimacy of democratic systems and of political institutions in the EU is based on political participation through representation as defined by the international standards in democracy and respect for the rule of law;
- That citizens from all European nations have the right to express their political will by peaceful, legal and democratic means that must be respected by all levels of government;
- Europe to be founded on the values of freedom, democracy, respect for the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including minorities' rights.

Acknowledging:

- That the question of self-determination is a legal issue as well as a political one;
- That European peoples and nations, due to historical reasons, may have achieved statehood, may have remained divided across different States, or may have formed multicultural States;
- That the EU is a mosaic of languages, religions, cultures, traditions and history, whose citizens share common values and a common future;
- That citizens and national minorities have the right to decide their own political future whilst complying with international and European standards on democratic processes, as defined by the guarantees stipulated in the EU Treaties, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the best practices promoted by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe;

- That referenda, as best practice to resolve self-determination issues, should ideally comply with the aforementioned rules;
- That none of the above provisions should be interpreted as allowing a state to act in bad faith by systematically refusing to dialogue and ignoring the democratic aspirations of a large part of the population in the region that wants to exercise self-determination;
- That the liberal goal of a stronger EU does not oppose the defense of the particular identity of all European people and nations within the union.

Calls for:

- The recognition that the establishment of solid democratic systems founded in the rule of law, the principle of representation in all political institutions without discrimination, and the respect of the rights of national minorities and the competences of regional entities as the best means of progressing to a more integrated European Union;
- The recognition that issues of self-determination should be resolved through peaceful and democratic means and bona fide dialogue that respects the rule of law, human and fundamental rights (including the rights of national minorities and regional entities) between the parties involved;
- LYMEC and the EU institutions to firmly stand in defense of the democratic and legitimate rights of European citizens and to condemn any violation of International and European Treaties;
- The EU to respect the rulings of the relevant authorities and the choice of the people in matters of self-determination;
- The EU to call for dialogue in those cases where a state and a region clash on self-determination issues, and to act as a facilitator in those cases where dialogue within the legal framework has broken down.

Decides:

To archive (the old) resolution 1.37 of the LYMEC Policy Book.

1.13 Security at the border of Eastern Europe and more attention on Transnistria

(Former 1.37 prior to London 2019)

Notes:

- That the eastern border of Europe faces political and military conflicts. Frozen military conflicts such as Transnistria are real threat for EU border - this region is a gate for drug, weapon and human trafficking;
- Syria civil war causes emigrants to Balkan countries, especially for Romania and Bulgaria, which exceeds their capacity and experience to how to handle the issue;
- That the energy market of Balkan countries is limited in alternative sources of energy. Therefore, diversification and security of energy market, besides gas and petroleum problem, is hard to ensure.

Therefore questions:

- With concern the recent developments of Russian commercial embargo to neighbourhood countries on wine, vegetables, fruits, milk, etc. This is done by Russian government in connection to Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius that will be held in November 2013;
- The efficiency of the border control.

Highlights:

- That external border of European Union is not stable, i.e. countries from near neighbourhood of EU face a lot of internal problems;
- The positive impact of signing the agreements at Vilnius Summit between Moldova and European Union;
- The positive effect that deepened EU integration of Republic Moldova would have on Moldova's independence and national security.

Calls on:

- All European liberals to express support for a continued path of rapprochement between the EU and Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries, including support for Moldova to meet necessary targets in order to sign the Association Agreement, the Agreement on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade and the Visa Facilitation Agreement this autumn and the 5+2 talks to be made a priority by the European Union, upon whose

successful completion Moldova shall be considered a potential EU candidate country."

1.14 Transfer of the permanent seat of the European Parliament in Brussels and the creation, in Strasbourg, of a European university of public administration, political sciences, international relations, European law and history of the European construction.

(Former 1.40 prior to London 2019)

The European Parliament has nowadays three headquarters: one in Strasbourg, a second one in Brussels and a last one in Luxembourg (only for the general secretariat). Brussel and Strasbourg's headquarters share the parliamentary activity which includes the regular plenary sessions in Alsace as well as the commissions in Brussel. All the Europarlamentarian world has therefore to make the trip from Brussel to Strasbourg, once a month to spend only four days in the Strasbourg's seat. According to Deputies' assessments, it would represent 180,000,000 EUR and 19,000 tonnes of CO2 each year. The total budget of the European Parliament is about 1,718,000,000 EUR a year. On the other hand, there is no European university or high school. The European youth deserve a higher education system that aim at training the future European workers and public servants.

Considering:

- the European Parliament is a symbol among the population;
- other major European institutions, such as the European Commission and the European Council, already have their headquarters in Brussels;
- that weekly commissions and extraordinary plenary sessions already take place in Brussels;
- that Brussels has a performing transport network, an international airport which is easy to reach from the European Quarter, direct lines to other European (capital) cities, and also a huge offer of housing facilities;

Taking into account:

- the 1,270,000 signatures of European citizens under the Single Seat petition;

Regretting:

- the economic cost induced by the monthly moving between the French and the Belgian headquarters, among others for the maintenance of the different buildings, the transfer of records and the staff;
- the ecological footprint caused by the movements between the two seats;
- that the Member States' leaders still do not follow the demand of the European Parliament for a Single Seat;
- the lack of training of some public servants of the European Union;
- the absence of any European high school or university;

Acknowledging:

- that a symbol of peace between France and Germany could be requested by both countries;

Supporting:

- the creation of a European university of public administration, political sciences, international relations, European law and history of the European construction in order to train the European youth and the European public servants;

Stressing:

- that tax payers' money should be used wisely by the political authorities;

Recalling:

- the ELDR (now ALDE Party) resolution "A single seat for the European Parliament" adopted in November 2011 in Palermo;
- the European Parliament resolution of 23 October 2013 on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014, supporting the single seat;
- the seat of the French ENA (Ecole Nationale d'Administration – National School of Administration) is located in Strasbourg, which could help creating a European university;

Lymec, the European Liberal Youth, meeting in Bucharest on 14-17 November 2013,

- calls on the European Union to put an end at dual-seat arrangement;

- supports the Single Seat campaign and propose Brussels as the only headquarter for the European Parliament;
- asks to member States' governments to amend the Lisbon Treaty and give to the European Parliament the right to define its own seat or to make of Brussels the only headquarter of European Parliament;
- encourages the relevant authorities to takes all necessary measures to the creation of a trans-European university of public administration, political sciences, international relations, European law and history of the European construction, on the current Strasbourg's site.

1.15 – CCCC – Copenhagen Criteria Control Cycle (Nuclear capability requires C4)

(Former 1.43 prior to London 2019)

Copenhagen Criteria, review

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna; Austria on April 29-30 2016

Whereas:

- The EU is not simply an economic union, but foremost a value union based on principles of human rights and the rule of law
- Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union states clearly that the Union 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 therefore at the core of the Copenhagen Criteria to which aspiring member states should adhere before they can be granted full membership of the Union

Noting that:

- After countries become full members of the European Union they can only be held accountable for infringements upon the values mentioned in art. 2 TEU, by taking away their voting rights in the European Council (art. 7 TEU, also known as the nuclear option).
- Article 7 is considered too drastic for regular control and is only used as a last resort.
- Consequently, many new member states reverse laws and policies installed to meet the Copenhagen Criteria after becoming full members and,
- Even some founding members of the Union have over the years passed laws and policies that are contrary to the values they have based their Union on.

Considering that:

- the absence of an effective and transparent system of accountability allows members states to drift away from the core values of the European Union, thereby endangering the fundamental rights of European citizens, non-European minorities and stateless habitants of the European Union
- The choice between going nuclear and doing nothing is too drastic, member states should be able to choose a less drastic measure

Believes that:

- The credibility of the European Union as a value-based power is dwindling and consequently the appeal of the values mentioned in article 2 TEU to the rest of the world is dwindling

Therefore LYMEC calls upon:

- the European Commission and European Council to agree on the institution of a five-year review cycle where member states, in turn, are held accountable for laws and policies that are contrary to the values of article 2 TEU.
infringements should lead to:
 - penalty's in subsidies;
 - decreased eligibility of citizens of an infringing member state for European office;
 - Member States place in line for the presidency.

1.16 Towards European Military Cooperation

(Former 1.44 prior to London 2019)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12, 2016

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.
- 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.

Noting that:

- the EU member States divided in 28 military structures at the moment, spend an equal amount of money on Defense compared to China and Russia combined. These are huge expenditures which could be reduced by close cooperation.
- A European Common Security and Defense Policy is already in place, however not efficient due to different national security strategies and interests.
- Military cooperation between member states is taking place already. Both bilaterally (Dutch-German division Fast Forces), and multilaterally (BENELUX defense cooperation between Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg and the partnership between the Nordic states), further within a NATO context (Baltic Air Policing mission) and within a European context (procurement coordination through the EDA).
- Britain's exit from the European Union removes one of the biggest obstacles to stronger EU defense in tandem with NATO.

LYMEC calls upon:

- Security strategies to be focused on prevention of conflict rather than conflict resolution. By cooperation between development aid, diplomacy, police, justice, sanctions, cyber and defenses could help in crises before it ever escalates into a (violent) conflict. This cannot be done by one country alone, working together as EU is crucial. The efficiency of defence spending could be markedly improved by closer cooperation between member states. 30
- European member states to work towards intensifying the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and to as soon as possible move towards the creation of a "Defence Union", including joint defence procurement as one of the first steps.
- Member organisations to push ALDE group and its member organisations to support the creation of a European defence force.
- Member organisations to push ALDE group and its member organisations to support the creation of a European defense force subject to parliamentary control.
- European member states to make concrete steps in military cooperation, to in the future develop a European Military, overseen by a European Ministry of Foreign Affairs that can appoint a European Secretary for Defense. The goals of these institutions should be limited to: To secure the European territory, To protect and promote international peace and stability, To support civil authorities with law enforcement, disaster relief and humanitarian aid, both inside and outside of the EU
- All European member states to rapidly increase their defence budget to at least 2% of GDP in accordance with the 2006 agreement.

1.17 Moving the European Union Forward Together

(Former 1.45 prior to London 2019)

Summary

1. The White Paper on the Future of Europe was presented by President Juncker on 1st March 2017 to launch the debate ahead of the Rome Summit in March 2017. The document set the main challenges and opportunities that Europe will face in the upcoming decades and it offers five scenarios for how European Union could evolve by 2025.

2. The European Commission stressed that scenarios are neither mutually exclusive, nor exhaustive.
3. In the first scenario EU sticks to its course, it focuses on implementing and upgrading its current reform agenda. Priorities are regularly updated, problems are tackled as they arise and new legislation is rolled out accordingly. EU's single market is strengthened and EU invests in digital, transport, energy infrastructure and deepens defense cooperation.
4. In the second scenario, the functioning of the single market becomes the main mission of the EU27. Cooperation in other policy areas, such as migration, security or defense, would be limited or left to bilateral collaboration.
5. The third scenario offers liberty to Member States to choose to be more active. Groups of Member States that want to do more would deepen their cooperation in chosen areas and other Member States retain the possibility to join those groups over time. The single market is strengthened and four freedoms are reinforced. EU would still manage relations of its members with third countries.
6. The fourth scenario focus attention and limited resources of EU on a reduced number of areas to be able to take quick and decisively actions. There would be stronger tools enabling EU to directly implement and enforce collective decisions. The EU27 steps up its work in fields such as innovation, trade, security, migration, the management of borders, defense, employment and social policy.
7. In the fifth scenario, cooperation between all Member States goes further than ever before in all areas. Decisions are agreed and implemented faster on the European level. Europe speaks and acts as one in trade and is represented by one seat in most international fora. Defense and security are prioritized and European Defense Union is created. EU supports fight against climate change and is an active humanitarian and development aid donor. Citizens have more rights derived directly from EU law.
8. After the Rome Summit the heads of state expressed the intention to push European integration forward, but in varied pace, in a shared but not completely levelled voice.
9. This means a continued hope for a united and integrated Europe, while allowing for some Member States to take action to do more together and for some to join that action at a later stage.

10. In practice, this stand reflects the very different dreams and aspirations towards integration and disintegration in the EU member states as of 2017. The stand accepts the present landscape and is very cautious in presenting a true vision for EU and Europe.
11. Despite expressed dedication to non-negotiables such as the single market, the four freedoms, the values of liberty, of freedom of opinion, of freedom of speech, of freedom of press, of freedom of religion, of democracy and human rights, Member States like Poland and Hungary display repeated threats to these non-negotiables.

Considering that:

- LYMEC has repeatedly expressed its commitment to continue to work for a united Europe, and a federal and decentralized European Union that guarantees freedom, democracy, human rights.
- LYMEC has previously emphasized the need for a shared constitution as a step towards more clarity on the rights of the individual in the EU and the need for a coordinated debate at the face of increased Euroscepticism.
- In the light of populist voices and disintegration rhetoric by leaders in Member States, carrying on without a further vision is a risk. The gap between expectation and delivery needs to be bridged.
- At the face of a new balance in global trade and regional conflicts, trade, a shared European Asylum Agency and border management needs to be a priority for the EU.
- The single market needs to be open to free movement of people and services in order to make for an agile market on an aging continent with issues of mismatch of skills and education levels in the labour force. A singular focus on the single market and the lack of other cooperation will result into not fully guaranteed free movement of workers and services and into more border checks. European Commission stressed that a singular focus on the single market would put at risk the integrity of the Euro and make EU vulnerable to a new financial crisis.
- A multi-speed Europe might lead to policing Member States that do not adhere to core principles of the Union. This implies a decrease in efficiency over guarding a patchwork of agreement and exceptions for Member States. Allowing for different levels of integration will result in an unlevelled single

market in terms of trading, social and economic standards, labour market - thus resulting in increased risks for internal conflicts. The vision of doing much more together on all levels demands strong leadership, openness and transparency on all levels. Benefits of the increased cooperation need to be quantified and visualized more clearly to citizens. All forms of unnecessary bureaucracy needs to be eliminated.

Believing that:

- The EU needs to embrace and tackle its place in the global community, accepting different power relations and isolationist policies by allies as an issue and an opportunity for the Member States in EU to take shared leadership.
- In order to maintain and boost its global position, the EU single market is a priority. This calls for coordination on other areas too, such as migration, labour policy, digitalization and innovation in order for the single market not to cause and emphasize inequalities and prevent internal borders.
- Internal law enforcement, counter-terrorism, integration strategies as well as pooling military industry and military capacities are necessary for a sustainable approach to security in and on the borders of the EU. A safer EU requires a defense union, a strengthened border agency and a better-coordinated Interpol.
- The EU's surrounding regions in conflict have a dire need for a more humane refugee and migration policy in the EU. Such a policy should include setting up long-term solutions ensuring that not only south and south-eastern Europe end up dealing with the stream of refugees. The EU needs a single European Asylum Agency, but also a shared outlook on integration and labour policy. The Member States need to accept the agreed quotas as a part of the shared responsibility for migration. After such a sustainable system is set up, the EU should move towards scrapping the Dublin system, cancelling the deal with Turkey and preventing deals with Libya.
- At the face of mismatch of skills and an increasingly aging population, there is a need to speed up the recognition of vocational degrees across member states. While youth unemployment is still far too high, ensuring mutual recognition and thus a well-functioning single market for labour is one of the few concrete things the EU can do to increase agility. Continued shared

efforts for digitalization will also support the young generation of labourers and entrepreneurs.

- The Union can do much more together. But, with loud voices questioning the credibility and mandate of the EU, increasing transparency, democracy and reducing bureaucracy must be on top of the agenda. LYMEC believes that the European Parliament needs to have a single seat. The decision to move between Strasbourg and Brussels was made during a different era in European history. Moreover, the EU must move in a more democratic direction, by restructuring the European Commission to a parliamentary system, under which the President of the European Commission commands a majority in the European Parliament, and the Commission reflects the composition of said majority. Europe and its coming young generation demands more transparency and less backroom deals. This will give more legitimacy to the President and bring the EU closer to the citizens of Europe.
- The internal tone and responsibilities need to be clarified in the light of Brexit, setting the tone for improving the Union as opposed to leaving the Union. Trust between Member States needs to be reinforced. Setting up defined EU memberships of different levels of integration will create an incentive for Member States to reduce their membership ad infinitum and decrease the much-needed defense of the European citizen.
- The fourth scenario focuses on the limited resources of EU in a reduced number of areas to be able to take quick and decisively actions. This outlook fits well with the LYMEC vision for a federal and democratic Union, set to solve and decide on matters as close to citizens as possible and make decisions together when its seen to be more sustainable, such as within trade, migration, border management and defense. EU Member States move forward on integration or reduce the areas of cooperation, so that a higher level of delivery can be met.
- Policy areas that can be left to the determination of **Member States**, should be left to **Member States** Responsibilities between national and EU level need to be clarified and the institutions need to answer better to the need for transparency in decision-making.

LYMEC calls for the ALDE MEPs and Member State representatives to:

- defend the single market and the four freedoms at the core of the development of the European Union.
- Uphold the need for a shared asylum system and work towards scrapping the Dublin system and for ALDE representatives in Member States to make sure Member States adhere to the refugee quotas assigned to them.
- See to a shared Border Agency and **quick** steps towards a Defense Union. Albeit respecting the self-determination and integrity of Member States.
- Focus shared efforts to recognize degrees and other barriers to a free EU labour market.
- Focus shared spending and cooperation on innovation and digitalization, trade, crime prevention, migration, labour market, the management of borders and defense and Energy Union - thus reducing areas of cooperation, but deepening cooperation in some areas.
- Advocate for a Single Seat and ensure that the President of the European Commission is directly elected.
- Maintain 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, by initiating a European Convent to reshape the institutions.
- Increase the powers of the EU Parliament as the advocate for the rights of EU citizen and the development of the single market.
- Fight against climate change and speaking up for it on the international scene.

1.18 Resolution on the integration of migrants in the European Union

(Former 1.46 prior to London 2019)

Whereas:

- Europe continues to face the greatest migration wave since the end of World War II;
- According to Eurostat data, extracted in March 2017, there were an estimated 2.4 million citizens of non-member countries who immigrated to one of the EU-28 Member States during 2015[1];

- In 2016 the number of first time applicants for international protection accounted to 1.20 million, and there were almost 1.26 million in 2015;
- this followed on from an increase of 694 thousand first time applicants between 2014 and 2015[2];
- In 2016, 61 % of EU-28 first instance asylum decisions resulted in positive outcomes, granting a refugee or subsidiary protection status, or an authorization to stay for humanitarian reasons;
- In its Resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration, the European Parliament stressed the need for integration measures, calling for full participation and early integration of all third-country nationals, including refugees;
- On 7 June 2016, the European Commission presented an Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals, which provides a framework to support Member States' efforts in developing and strengthening their integration policies, and the measures the Commission intends to implement in this regard. While it targets all third-country nationals in the EU, it contains actions to address the specific challenges faced by refugees;
- In its Conclusions of 9 December 2016 on the integration of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU, the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States acknowledged the Commission's Action Plan and the New Skills Agenda for Europe;
- The lack of adequate integration measures on the ground in the European Member States still persists.

Underlines that:

- The need of thorough integration and inclusion policies for third-country nationals, and specifically for refugees has already been recognised by the EU institutions;
- Points out in that regard, that even though it was recognized that the "building of inclusive, cohesive and prosperous societies...is of a common interest to all Member States"[3], there's little practical progress made;
- The continuous refugee influx makes it urgent to quickly find practical solutions for the integration into society, educational system, cultural setting and labour market of refugees;

- The European Union has a supporting role to play, both in terms of coordination and of financial support to the Member States;
- Integration policies would counter the phenomenon of a "lost generation" of migrants who did not have proper access to schooling and vocational training and as a result could end up in a viscous circle of unemployment and social exclusion;
- Many Member States are experiencing demographic challenges and labour shortages;
- According to Eurostat statistical data extracted in June 2015[4] - by 2080 there will be only two persons of working-age for each elderly person and the share of the working-age population will fall in each of the EU Member States;
- Therefore, points out that the migration influx could be beneficial for overcoming those shortages;
- Integration schemes would make migrants self-sustainable and would counter the populist narrative that they are overburdening the social systems;
- Integration policies should also work on changing the negative societal perceptions of migrants;
- Digital skills and skills of the 21st century for individuals of migrant origin will make the EU as a whole better prepared and more competitive on the global scene;
- Integration is essential to countering marginalisation of third country nationals, and specifically refugees;
- Points out in that regard that young people who grow up in social exclusion and are feeling like outcasts of society are specifically vulnerable to radicalisation and sociopathic tendencies.

LYMEC calls on:

- The European institutions and the Member States to allocate more budget resources for integration and inclusion programs, especially programs for the integration of children, whose participation in the educational system is particularly time-sensitive;
- The European Commission to ensure better coordination and exchange of best practices between national and EU authorities and closely and regularly monitor the development of the National integration programs and schemes;

- The Member States to ensure that children of migrant origin are enlisted in the national schooling systems and to monitor their drop-out rate;
- Urges that specific attention is to be paid to refugee children with a view of the best interest of the child;
- Member States and European agencies dealing with refugees to ensure children of school age housed temporarily in refugee camps also receive education throughout their stay in said camps;
- The Commission and the Member States to establish swift procedures for the recognition of training and qualifications of migrants with a view of harnessing the full potential of experts of migrant origin;
- The Member States to work with civil society and national labour or commercial chambers in order to prevent discrimination of migrants and to identify the existing gaps and labour force shortages in the national labour markets. Emphasizes that vocational training of migrants could help reduce the existing gaps and shortages
- The European Commission and the Member States to provide support for innovative solutions that bring together migrants, the host society and employers (such as the German platform Welcome2Work, or the app Setelin targeting to help newly arrivals settle in Sweden)
- The European Commission and the Member States to provide support for initiatives encouraging entrepreneurship for young people of migrant and refugee origin (such as Start-up Refugee in Finland)
- Calls on the European institutions together with the Member States to swiftly develop and implement actions, avoiding segregation, ghettos and second-class citizenship.
- Cohesion policy tools to be better used in order to maximize the potential of the integration of migrants in Europe's rural and urban communities.
- The Member States to enable the entry of young and/or student refugees into the national education systems with as few barriers as possible and as quickly as possible.

[1] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics

[2] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics

[3] Council Conclusions of 9 December 2016 on the integration of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU

[4] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/People_in_the_EU_%E2%80%93_population_projections

1.19 On Reducing the European Commission

(Former 1.47 prior to London 2019)

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

Considering that:

- The Treaty of Rome (1957) states in article 17 that the European Commission shall
- 'promote the general interest of the Union' and 'be completely independent', meaning without ties to national governments;
- The Treaty on European Union (2007), article 17(5), provides that 'the Commission shall consist of a number of members, including its President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, corresponding to two thirds of the number of Member States' ;
- Since its decision of 2013 to overrule article 17(5), the European Union has made considerable steps towards a closer Union, allowing a reconsideration of the vote in the European Council that has counteracted the implementation of above mentioned article ;
- According to the EU 2017 annual budget on administration, roughly €3.5 Billion went to administrative expenditure of the Commission and it consists of a staff of 33,000 people, making it by far the largest of the three European main institutions ;
- The current delegation of portfolios has overlap in their responsibilities, meaning that several posts could be merged or have their responsibilities distributed amongst others.

Examples include:

- The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security, European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement, and International Cooperation & Development;

- Agriculture, and Health & Food Safety
- Digital Single Market, and Digital Economy

Believing that:

- The elections for the European parliament of 2019 present a unique opportunity to streamline and improve the institutions of the EU, amongst which the Commission;
- The European Commission ought to be continuously evaluating and improving itself to the benefit of the Union, thus calling for a reconsideration of the Council's decision to overrule the Treaty on European Union regarding the size of the Commission;
- The responsibility of the European Commission lies with the entire European Union and not its members, therefore the argument that it should continuously consist of nationals of every Member State is not sustainable. However, a well-organized rotation system would allow all member states to still be represented by a national for ten years over three five-year terms or, alternatively, for five years over three two-and-a-half-year terms. The latter option would require a rotation in between Parliamentary elections of (at least) half the Commission to allow the 'not represented' members to take seat sooner in the earliest phase of the smaller Commission;
- Reducing the European Commission is a next logical step towards professionalizing the European institutions and a closer European Union as a whole, because national representation on a permanent basis moves towards a temporary or rotary one, leading by example towards a future in which it will not play a decisive role in European society anymore;
- Brexit calls for a reconsideration of all budgets and a smaller Commission would require less resources, translating to considerable cutbacks due to less salaries for Commissioners and additional expenses.

LYMEC calls for:

- A task force to be invoked by the President of the European Commission in order to research the possibilities of merging posts as well as the practicality of a shorter terms to allow more frequent rotations;
- The European Commissioner for Budget and HR to research the financial consequences of a smaller Commission;

- The European Council to open up the discussion on art. 17(5) and vote again on the reduction of the Commission to two thirds of the number of member states for the term that follows the 2019 Parliamentary elections. The Treaty on European Union should be used as the basis of this vote, requiring a unanimous vote to sustain the Commission in its current size that includes nationals of all EU members.

1.20 On the appointment of Martin Selmayr as Secretary General of the European Commission

(Former 1.48 prior to London 2019)

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

LYMEC Congress,

- Taking note of the appointment of Martin Selmayr (previously Chief of Staff to the President of the Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker) as Secretary General of the European Commission;
- Alarmed by the criticism expressed by numerous MEPs and civil servants regarding Martin Selmayr's appointment;
- Having examined the circumstances surrounding the aforementioned appointment;
- Taking note of the important media coverage on this case;
- Deeply concerned by the European Commission distorted description of events;
- Recognising that the letter of the law seemed to have been followed;
- Convinced that no actual intent to consider alternative candidates existed and that the spirit of the law was not respected;
- Considering that European Union civil service positions should be awarded on the basis of capability, assessed through a proper procedure;
- Considering that clear criteria for such positions shall be set prior the actual selection (elections, objective nomination,...);
- Affirming that favoritism should not happen in the European Union civil service whatsoever;

- Believing that European civil servant should be politically neutral, especially at the highest level;
 - Expecting the European Commission, as the common executive organ of the European Union, to act exemplarily and in a transparent manner which has not been the case so far, neither with the appointment of Selmayr, nor strikingly with the subsequent response to legitimate concerns raised by the press and Commission officials;
 - Noting that in its Draft motion for a resolution on the integrity policy of the Commission, in particular the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Commission, the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament stated that 'the two-steps nomination of the Secretary-General constitutes a coup-like action which stretched and possibly even overstretched the limits of the law';
 - Strongly agreeing with the position expressed by ALDE MEP Sophie in't Veld on March 12, 2018 during the European Parliament plenary session especially that the Commissioners enabling favouritism in the European Commission, whether through action or omission, seriously harms their credibility as workers for the European interest;
 - Declaring that by keeping Selmayr in place, the European Commission will harm its credibility when advocating for the rule of law and the application of best practices;
 - Taking notes that Jean-Claude Juncker stands by the appointment of Mr. Selmayr despite the criticism and purportedly declared 'if [Selmayr] goes, I go.'
-
- Strongly condemns the appointment of Martin Selmayr as Secretary General of the European Commission in such ways;
 - Deplores the behaviour of the Commission towards journalists in the wake of the revelations. Condemns the substantial influence Jean-Claude Juncker and other officials on the Commission allowed Martin Selmayr to wield on the supposedly independent inquiry into his own appointment;
 - Calls upon the European Commission to withdraw Martin Selmayr as Secretary General of the European Commission and show good example of transparency and accountability in its action;
 - Calls upon ALDE Party, its member parties and its MEPs to publicly condemn this appointment and exert pressure on the Commission;

- Reminds that in the absence of the prompt withdrawal or resignation of Martin Selmayr as Secretary General of the European Commission, he could be replaced when the Commission changes;
- Requests the creation and implementation of mechanisms preventing such moves in the future in order to preserve the credibility of the European Commission.
- Supports the conclusions of the Draft motion for a resolution on the Integrity policy of the Commission, in particular the appointment of the Secretary-General of the European Commission of the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament ;
- Encourages ALDE Group and its MEPs to vote in favour of the resolution

1.21 Shame on you President Juncker!

(Former 1.50 prior to London 2019)

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

Considering:

- The elections in Russia in 2018 were conducted in an undemocratic way and that extensive electoral rigging took place.
- The opposition was pursued and oppressed by the Russian state.
- the illegal annexation of Crimea and other parts of Ukraine.
- Vladimir Putin has abolished Russian democracy and prevented human rights.
- That the Russian state ordered the neurotoxin attack on Sergei Skripal and Juliet Skripal.

Believing that:

- the EU stands for freedom and democracy.
- the EU should have a clear foreign policy.
- the EU should have solidarity with all its member states.
- the EU should work for free elections in Russia.

- That the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker should not legitimize the Russian elections in 2018.
- the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker should not have congratulated President Valdemir Putin on his election victory.
- the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker's action splits the EU's foreign policy.

LYMEC calls for:

- Calls upon ALDE Party, its member parties and its MEPs to publicly condemn the statement from the President of European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, about the Russian election and congratulations to Vladimir Putin
- Calls upon the President of European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker to explain and clarify the EU's position on the Russian elections in 2018 and to clarify the Union's foreign policy on the subject.

1.22 LYMEC Electoral Manifesto: The Future is Europe (2019)

(Former 1.51 prior to London 2019)

LYMEC Manifesto/ Future of Europe/ Migration/ Security and Defence /Climate Change, Environment, Energy/ Digitalisation, Innovation and Markets /Education, Labour, Youth Unemployment/ Future of the EU / Copyright Law/ Human Rights/ Equality

Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Events in the last years have clearly shown that Europe is experiencing a crisis of solidarity, a crisis of togetherness and a crisis of short-sighted visions. It has been a time of rising national egoism, populist agendas and hate-speech. Recent geopolitical shifts have made it clear that we can no longer rely on some of our default allies in solving conflicts in the European neighbourhood.

We are living in a time of post-truth news realities, and challenges to personal data and cyber security. It is more than evident that to protect our Union of freedom, justice and democracy, we need to reform it. For that, we need all pro-European,

progressive voices to actively involve citizens to bring about change in the European Union and the way we think about Europe.

We need the energy and optimism of young people; only together can we turn the European Union into one that better delivers upon our concerns. There is no other way forward - the future is Europe.

LYMEC, European Liberal Youth, is a pan-European youth organisation dedicated to the promotion and strengthening of liberal values in Europe. LYMEC aims to strengthen the cooperation of young liberals and to unite the efforts of young people in building a better and more liberal political, social and economic environment for all Europeans.

We strive to ensure more youth engagement and civil participation; we are guided by the principles of individual freedoms, coupled with responsibilities. Only in a state of freedom are people able to realise their true potential, and only by taking our fair share of responsibilities can we form an ever-perfect, inclusive, merit-based society.

The upcoming European elections present a perfect opportunity for young people to get our voices heard and to influence the decision making. We call on all political leaders to listen to the voices of young liberals from across Europe, and to consider these LYMEC priorities for the upcoming mandate of the European Parliament:

1. A working framework on legal migration and asylum, and tackling the refugee crisis – a call for a liberal Europe

The Commission proposed to revise the Common European Asylum System in 2016 when it became clear that the existing EU rules were not fit for purpose. In the meantime, we have seen a drastic decrease in the latest numbers of migrant arrivals compared to 2015, yet populists are still using migration to spread a narrative based on fear and hate. Disappointingly, driven by populist rhetoric, Member States are resisting taking up the needed actions of solidarity. This leaves the European Union in a permanent state of incapability to deal with the current realities.

A proper framework for safe, orderly and legal access to the EU, including to its labour market and effective integration measures for those already in Europe, are lacking. This makes it difficult for migration in Europe to be successful.

Western societies are immensely divided by issues related to asylum and migration. This results in a renaissance of nationalism, populism, protectionism. Populist politicians are taking advantage of fear. They favour a closed society. Open society is in decay. The challenge for young liberals today is to defend the core values of open society and liberal democracy. While others advocate for a "Fortress Europe", LYMEC advocates for a liberal Europe.

LYMEC calls for:

- a harmonised immigration and refugee policy. The EU should further strengthen the role of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). In an area with common borders and freedom of movement, there is no need for twenty-seven different asylum agency practices and procedures.
- the EU to revise the Dublin System, which establishes a country responsible for asylum application, and work towards a balanced common asylum policy based on solidarity and justice. This should take into account asylum seekers' individual needs and situation (for example their language, education connections, family members or contacts willing to support them), as well as the capacity and resources of potential host states. We need to make sure the burden no longer only lies on countries at the European borders.
- a legal and safe alternative to irregular migration, which would prevent smuggling, human trafficking and fatal accidents at sea. We need the ability to start the asylum procedure outside of the EU and to apply for humanitarian visas at all EU embassies. We also need a functioning, common immigration system, which encourages workers and professionals highly needed by the European labour market to come to Europe, the immediate launch of integration measures, including proper access to schooling, vocational training, and labour market access for young migrants.
- liberals to tap the potential of jobs as an integration engine and work to speed up the allocation of work permits to legal migrants and refugees who

arrive on EU soil, eliminate legal limbos that stop migrants or refugees who are eager to work from doing so, facilitate the recognition of educational degrees from third countries, and extend the availability of language courses, especially in the case of migrants or refugees whose professional background enables them to plug critical skill gaps in the host country's economy.

- liberals to stand up and defend Migration as a phenomenon which can be economically and socially beneficial when appropriate measures are taken by both the immigrants and the receiving society.
- removing obstacles within the EU to free trade and the free movement of labour, private capital and service. Workers should have fully transferable employment rights across Europe. This can be done through strengthening EU citizenship.

2. Security and defence – stronger Europe through stronger capabilities

Europe is facing internal and external threats to its peace and security, by organised terrorist groups, regional conflicts in its vicinity and continuous threats of cyber-attacks.

The geopolitical situation is becoming increasingly complicated. The individual capacities of Member States are not enough to meet those challenges. LYMEC firmly believes that the European Union needs to increase its common defence capabilities. While the European Common Security and Defence Policy is already in place, it is not efficient due to different national security strategies and interests. This weakens Europe's role on the global stage and leads to unproductive double spending on defence equipment and infrastructure.

LYMEC calls for strengthening the common EU defence alongside that of NATO, targeting the EU defence spending deficiencies through a common EU defence budget, the development of European capabilities and an integrated defence market, including defence research and innovation. LYMEC also calls for a forward-looking approach to tackling cyber-security, ensuring proper information

sharing and pan European efforts to protecting Europe's critical infrastructure from future cyber-attacks.

LYMEC calls for:

- closer cooperation between member states in the field of security and defence in view of finding efficient solutions such as the PESCO project, a common defence intelligence body under the authority of the Commission and accountable to the European Parliament, and common border control.
- the focus of security strategies to be prevention of conflict and conflict resolution. We insist on cooperation in the field of development aid, diplomacy, police, justice, sanctions, cyber security and defence since working together as EU is crucial. Member States must work towards intensifying the Common Security and Defence Policy and move towards the creation of a functioning "Defence Union" and the creation of a European defence force.
- Member States to work more together on border security matters and even out the differences in financial and capacity responsibilities between member states, especially those managing external borders.
- introducing common security standards for EU Identity Cards in order to improve the mutual trust of Member States in the field of border security.
- common spending in the MFF post 2020 to be focused more on the management of borders and on common defence. Investing in common defence and security capabilities would lead to reducing resources needed, accelerating information exchange and improved EU response. Furthermore, after Brexit, the collective military potential for EU States will decrease.
- an integrated defence market to be created, funding improved for defence research and innovation, and to foster the EU's cyber-security capabilities.
- EU security and defence decisions to be taken by a qualified majority, as defined by the Lisbon treaty, in order for the EU to participate effectively on the global forum. A strong Europe needs a common foreign policy, whereas the European response currently is often too little too late.

3. Climate change, environment and energy

LYMEC firmly insists on more measures for tackling climate change. New, creative solutions and innovations should be sought in order to save our environment. Therefore, we want to strengthen the European Emission Trading System (ETS) by expanding it to all carbon-emitting sector. Prospectively, we want to reach a global emission trading system. In addition, Europe should invest more in green and alternative energy sources as the uncompetitive energy prices and extreme dependency on unreliable third country suppliers are making Europe's energy system vulnerable.

LYMEC calls for continuing EU's leadership and further progressing under the Paris Agreement, for the diversification of energy sources and improving energy security and for striving for more affordable energy prices as means to boosting the competitiveness of industrial start-ups. We support innovative measures for ensuring sustainable development and restoring the environment. In order to ensure a safe future without life threatening epidemic, food security has to be considered in the security policy of the Union. We want the food produced in the EU to be sustainable and safe for the environment and the individual.

LYMEC calls for:

- European countries to prioritise the sustainable use of natural resources, e.g. by reducing food and water wastage.
- Europe to do their best to keep the planet as clean as possible, restoring the world for future generations.
- new creative solutions and innovations to be researched and a promotion of universities and Research Centres, researching in that field to be established.
- increased awareness of sustainable development and climate issues, not just to young people but across generations. We must stay in line with the agreement made in Paris, and Member States should stay united in the effort to prevent climate change.

- the EU's leaders to come up with a consensus and contingency plan on how to act on the consequences of climate change, such as natural disasters and climate migration.
- more attention to the importance of Arctic areas, which will grow in the upcoming years. Europe needs to focus more on preserving its unique nature and wildlife.
- more structural support in finding innovative energy solutions and ensuring that the European energy supply is steadier and more affordable, as means to boosting the competitiveness of industrial start-ups. We must diversify our energy sources and improve energy security. We must also ensure that the European energy grids overcome the existing infrastructure bottlenecks within the Single Energy Market.

4. Digitalization, innovation and markets

The world is turning increasingly digital; and sadly, Europe is lagging behind compared to Asia and the US. It is important to overcome the digital deficiencies through proper high-speed internet infrastructure, but also through securing the openness of the internet. The open internet is vital to promoting innovative ideas and digital economic productivity, which develops pioneering solutions.

We firmly insist on the principles of net neutrality, transparency and freedom of expression in the digital field. In addition, we believe in the pursuit of new technologies and robotics. It is essential that we boost competitiveness in the field of digitalization by increasing EU funding for research and innovation. At the same time, we must complete the digital single market and look for new global trade partners. It is also important that Member States invest in e-government whilst protecting citizens' privacy.

LYMEC calls for keeping Europe's internet open, ensuring net neutrality and a copyright reform fit for the needs of the 21st century. We highlight the need for promoting digital solutions, innovative creations, and improving the functionality of the single market whilst exploring new international trade opportunities.

LYMEC calls for:

- the protection of freedom of expression as a basic human right, at all times and in all its forms. All censorship of the internet should be opposed. Actions, such as website or content blocks, should only happen as a result of a thorough judicial review by means of a court order and not by order of a government or automatic filtering.
- the safeguarding of Net neutrality to ensure a fair and equal access to information, easily available to everyone. The use of modern technologies must be widely instructed and promoted.
- a copyright reform which does justice to the needs of the 21st century. Such a reform should ensure broad accessibility of information and data and should not hamper innovation.
- the media market to be open to competition.
- the support of additional E-government projects through which governments should deliver better, more efficient public services via internet and be more responsive to the needs and interests of the citizens.
- citizens' privacy to be protected in the information society. Special attention must be given to the personal privacy in the digital era and that citizens' right to privacy could be waived only under special, extreme circumstances and only after a judicial review. An increasing number of decisions are made through automated algorithms and decision support systems. Where such algorithmic decisions affect citizens' lives, non-discrimination should be the core value upon which such decision support systems are built.
- the perception of digitalisation as an opportunity and not a threat. The coherent development of digitalisation will advance our society. It would dramatically transform the European industry, services, markets and labour. Hence, special policy prioritization on the EU level is needed.

- a digital-friendly regulatory framework, which would encourage innovation and global competitiveness.
- innovation to be encouraged and not curbed, with exceptions to innovation based on unethical research.
- tax cuts for European companies investing in innovative products and solutions to support innovation in Europe. We oppose any taxes on innovation or scientific research.
- improving the functionality within the internal market and for further free trade agreements not only with all the European community, e.g. Switzerland, but also with Canada and the US.
- a free market based on competition that can guarantee a long-term growth and economic stability.
- the European Union and their member states to gradually reduce the EU agricultural subsidies and to eventually completely abandon them within the next 20 years

5. Education, labour market, youth unemployment

Innovation is important in EU's education systems. Europe needs to predict future skill needs and adapt education better to the jobs available on the labour market, while bridging the generational digital skills gap. LYMEC welcomes the increase of funding for Erasmus+ under the multiannual financial framework post 2020. We believe that the ability to study, train or learn abroad while broadening the experiences and awareness of Europe significantly increases young people's competitiveness on the labour market.

We further ask for improved capacities of the European vocational training programs and for flexible opportunities-based measures for fighting youth unemployment. We demand improvement of EU-wide labour mobility as it tackles Europe's skills mismatch across borders and improves the dissemination of innovation and knowledge across the EU.

LYMEC calls for ensuring appropriate digital education, in order to equip the young people of Europe with competitive skillsets of the 21st century, and insists on more flexible opportunities for first-time labour market entrees. In addition, LYMEC calls for removing the remaining intangible barriers to free movement, thus addressing Europe's mismatch of labour supply and demand.

LYMEC calls for:

- the reconnection of the labour market and education sector and adapting both to the digital realities of the 21st century as means to tackle youth unemployment. For too long, education, the labour market and youth unemployment were treated as three separate subjects.
- the free movement of workers to be encouraged as an answer to the mismatch between supply and demand of skilled labour. This will also strengthen European identity.
- the creation of a Common European Job Bank, which would lead the way to a real single European Job Market under the authority of the European Commission of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.
- European countries to create a common framework for recognising upper secondary qualifications, similar to the one that exists today for higher education, under the proposed Sorbonne Process.
- students to have a student status all around Europe, the educational institutions to be allowed to found branches in other Member States and work with other institutions and faculties in a European University Network. We should further aim at establishing a European University.
- the EU to support and respect the freedom of ethically acceptable research.
- more support for education scholarships, additional public-private partnerships, and a needs-based funding system for students.
- the ERASMUS+ programme to have more funding and based even more on an international level. The UK and EU relationship should continue to collaborate on an ERASMUS+ level. We also believe Erasmus+ should evolve

by further including and fostering joint degrees programs within the frame of its possibilities.

- digitalisation to be used more in the field of education, and that Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) have to be established and spread as an option.
- the European Commission to officially recognize the "student-entrepreneur" status and inscribe this system in its Youth and Job Strategies. More entrepreneurs are needed across Europe, an opportunity should be given to students who want to develop their own companies with the opportunity to take a semester off to develop/found the start-up.
- a harmonized time frame for spring and fall terms determining the earliest possible starting date and latest possible ending date in order to facilitate European wide exchange and cooperation.
- a European Digital University that is coordinated, financed and implemented as a pan-European concept. It includes online learning tools and works under best practice, together with already existing universities in Europe.

6. Future of the EU, institutional reform, ensuring the respect of human rights and equality

As the European Liberal Youth, it is clear to us that Europe is not the problem, Europe is the solution. It is extremely important to us however, that Europe is properly explained to all young people, by providing concrete reminders and examples of the peace and prosperity that it brought about and reminding that "Brussels" is where the national leaders take decisions too. It is important that Europe reforms profoundly, reinventing the values on which it was founded, striking down any attempt of infringements on the rule of law on its territory, fostering that Member States are doing more together – but not only on paper – and ensuring that turning a blind eye on cases of human rights and equality challenges is not accepted in Europe.

LYMEC believes that the future of Europe depends on the youth, which is why we want to see more young candidates for the upcoming European elections, as well as

an electoral approach targeted at young people, explaining concretely what the EU is and has done for each and every one of us. We want to see institutional reforms, putting the citizens at the centre of the European construction. We want European decision-making to be more resilient, more accountable and less prone to stagnation by its individual member states. We insist on ensuring that the rule of law, equality and human rights are respected in our Union of values and in the global field.

LYMEC calls for:

- the Commission to evolve and become the executive branch of the European Union under a parliamentary system, and to take a more proactive stance in defending the interests of the European citizens. This includes better monitoring and improved enforcement of EU legislation.
- the Spitzenkandidaten system for the election of the President of the European Commission to be kept in place. It should be maintained but improved. However, in the future, the candidate of the party with the most votes should not necessarily become Commission President, but rather the candidate who is able to unite a majority in Parliament. They should then be able to nominate their Commissioners regardless of their nationality.
- the number of European Commissioners to be reduced, rendering the European Commission more concentrated in its portfolios and therefore more efficient.
- increasing the transparency of the deliberations in Council in line with the European voters' expectations. We further insist on the gradual abolishment of the unanimity requirement in the Council proceedings and replacing it with qualified majority voting, as the current system has often proven to lead to decision-making paralysis and national protectionism.
- the powers of the European Parliament to be strengthened, providing it with proper legislative initiative powers, so that it can fully carry out its duties.
- the relevant regulations to be amended so that EU languages other than the official ones can be used in the proceedings of the European Parliament.

- EU nationals living in states other than the one where they hold citizenship of for a longer period of time to be allowed to vote and stand as candidates in regional and national elections, other than the currently existing passive and active electoral rights only for local and European elections, as means of creating a truly European populous.
- Issues of self-determination to be resolved through peaceful and democratic means and bona fide dialogue that respects the rule of law and fundamental human rights (including the rights of national minorities and regional entities) between the parties involved.
- transnational lists that allow citizens to vote for candidates from across the EU to be introduced. They should be equipped with the legal frameworks for pan-European campaigns and budgeting.
- the powers of the European Union in the field of human rights to be increased, and its ability to enforce them to be bolstered. We call for the human rights perspective to be an imperative part of future free-trade agreements.
- full civil equality without exception. We believe that in our union of values, there's no place for second class citizenship and persisting lack of gender equality.
- the European Court of Justice to have the resources necessary to speed up cases concerning the violation of human rights.
- the principle of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and personal diversity, which constitutes an invaluable asset to the European society, is upheld. We insist that diversity, minority and indigenous peoples' rights must be defended and safeguarded.
- The European Union is founded on the values of freedom, democracy, respect for the rule of law, and respect for human rights. We insist that those values should be upheld by the introduction of an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, applicable to all member states. Countries, which do not support these principles and share these values, cannot be part of the European Union.

1.23 Open and Free Internet

(Former 1.52 prior to London 2019)

Movers: JNC

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Considering that:

- Last 26th of March, 2019, the European Parliament voted 348-274 (with 36 abstentions) in favour of the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market.
- This Directive keeps Article 13, which requires that nearly all for-profit web platforms get a license so as to be able to share content with copyright for each user that uploads or installs filters of content or censors content; if they do not have it, they have to make whatever they can to avoid this content from being uploaded if they do not want to be subject of infraction.
- Article 11, which was also approved, forces content aggregators or compilers to pay editors if they want to link their stories.

Noting that:

- The Directive could have been approved excluding these two controversial articles, but that the preliminary voting of the amendments was turned down by a margin of 5 votes, forcing the Parliament to vote on the entire package;
- According to a TechDirt report, several MEPs – thirteen, specifically – who voted against the amendment vote declared to have voted mistakenly, believing they were voting on something else.
- There was a large popular movement through a campaign against the Directive that got more than 5 million firms, a significant amount of e-mails and calls to MEPs, demonstrations with more than 170,000 participants, web pages and communities blackouts, warning by academics, consumer groups, start-ups and companies, and by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the UN;
- The scientific community considers that the Directive poses too many restrictions on the use of TDM techniques, which also have applications for artificial intelligence research;

- Spain and Germany tried to approve a similar piece of legislation in 2014 and failed;
- 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.

Considering that:

- For the application of Article 13 the use of content filters was required from nearly all digital platforms, which consist on programs that detect content with copyright, similar to contented, the one used by YOUTUBE. These algorithms have provenly shown a significant number of false positive, and current technology is not yet ready to assure that exceptions to Article 13 (educative content, comedy, etc.) will not be equally censored;
- This Directive not only is applicable to Internet giants, but also to medium platforms. These webs of smaller size do not have the negotiating power required to get good deals with the holders of copyright licenses, nor the economic capacity to implement content filters. Therefore, these would cause an increase in the polarization of the Internet market, leading us towards an oligopoly even more severe.

LYMEC:

- Considers that Article 13 poses a danger to competition, creativity and freedom of expression in the digital environment, on top of favouring large right-holders, harming online communities, lowering or even stopping innovation and entrenching established big tech actors;
- Fears that Article 13 may give platforms the capacity to act as a filter to prevent user of uploading any content that may potentially violate copyrights or even arbitrarily block user-generated content that re-uses perfectly legal content to make a parody, for instance, forcing thus the removal of totally innocent content;
- Warns that the Directive acts against small competitors in favour of big companies such as Facebook or Google, as the former will not be capable of deploying the technology Article 13 requires;

- Warns that Article 13 may also lead towards a greater marginalization of specific groups and voices that are often under-represented on the media;
- Esteems that Article 11 could harm the users' capacity to share content through the web;
- Believes that the Directive begins a dangerous path towards the increase of control in the web for the sole benefit of big right-holders to the expense of users' rights and public interest;
- Asks Member States to apply and interpret the Directive in a way that minimizes the potential risks it encloses, thus making the best use of the ambiguity in its writing;
- Calls for the legitimate challenges related to a fair remuneration of content creators to be addressed via innovative solutions instead of excessive restrictions to the common Internet and the associated fundamental rights and freedoms of expression and information;
- The LYMEC Bureau to forward this resolution to the ALDE Party and to the ALDE 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.

1.24 Democracy at the Doorstep

(Former 1.53 prior to London 2019)

Keywords: Democracy

Movers: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux, Jonge Democraten.

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Considering that:

- In early summer 2018, the European Parliament green-lighted the first reform of European electoral law in decades, which included several interesting changes such as the promotion of electronic voting or making it easier for EU citizens residing abroad to vote in European elections;

- disaffection with politics, particularly but by no means exclusively among young people, is one of the driving forces behind falling turnout and the rise of extreme forces in many parts of Europe, while politicians are increasingly viewed as distant and out of touch with voters;
- the geographic and demographic size of European constituencies has a real impact on these perceptions and the closeness between politicians and their voters; constituencies that are too large deprive people of any meaningful connection to their politicians, whereas constituencies that are too small result in extremely high effective electoral thresholds that also harm European democracy;
- some EU Member States are looking at importing certain voter registration requirements from the United States; while ostensibly done to prevent voter fraud, in practice these measures can be used to reduce turnout among certain demographic segments; and
- a true European political sphere is a *conditio sine qua non* for the rise of a European demos.

Recalling that:

- the 2018 LYMEC Spring Congress passed a resolution calling for increased democratic rights for EU citizens living in EU Member States other than the one in which they hold citizenship.

LYMEC:

- reiterates its determination to fight apathy towards politics among young people;
- calls on EU Member States to ensure that the 2024 and subsequent European elections are held using constituencies whose geographic and demographic size ensures a meaningful connection between voters and their representatives, while avoiding excessively small constituencies that lead to very high effective electoral thresholds except in cases this is done to protect language minorities;
- rejects any attempt to reduce voter turnout among certain demographic segments under the pretence of fighting voter fraud; and

- emphasises the importance of transnational lists in European elections for the rise of a European demos.

Striking down other resolutions

1.27 Resolution on the European electoral system

1.25 The European Council. A impetus, not an obstacle

(Former 1.54 prior to London 2019)

Movers: Svensk Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund.

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Considering that:

Since 2015, when the Members of the European Union experienced an unprecedented increase in arrival of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, the European Council has become an increasingly central actor in the decision-making process with regard to asylum and migration.

- This role was openly expressed at the October 2017 European Council, where it was underlined that “the European Council will seek to reach a consensus during the first half of 2018” with regard to the revision of the Common European Asylum System. At the June 2018 European Council, it was again agreed upon that “A consensus needs to be found on the Dublin Regulation to reform it based on a balance of responsibility and solidarity”.
- Legally, such approach is not in line with the rules set by the Lisbon Treaty. According to the Treaty, the European Council provides the EU with the necessary impetus for its development and defines the general political directions and priorities thereof. The Treaty does not confer any legislative power to the European Council or the possibility to interfere with the institutional balance and the voting rules set in the Treaty. In this sense, asylum and migration policies are included in the area of freedom, security and justice. Such area is subject to the ordinary legislative procedure, where the

European Commission has the power to propose new legislation and where the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers codecide. In this regard, the European Parliament decides with simple majority and the Council of Ministers qualified majority voting.

- Politically, consensus voting in a polarized area such as asylum and migration is likely to either reach a weak and unambitious agreement or to block the decision-making process through veto. This was the case in the 18 October European Council, where a vague and unambitious agreement on migration was produced after the Italian government's threat to veto all agreements.

Believing that:

- The wording and approach entailing that reform within the field of asylum and migration is subject to the unanimity rule within the European Council is problematic for both legal and political reasons.
- The Lisbon treaty attributes the European Council the role of an impetus and not of an obstacle for further European integration.
- Formal trilogue meetings between Commission, Parliament and the European Council should be limited and become more transparent.
- The European Council has an important function as an agenda-setting institution aiming at providing the union with the necessary impetus for its development.

Calls for:

- Migration and asylum policies to continue being subject to the ordinary legislative procedure as set in the Lisbon Treaty.
- The European Council to stop appropriating competences that are not conferred to it by the Lisbon Treaty.
- The Commission, Parliament and Council of Ministers, i.e the institutions invested with the legislative power, shall also address this issue.
- The European Council to stop being an obstacle for further European integration and instead be an impetus for further development as prescribed in the Lisbon Treaty.

1.26 Sunset clause on EU legislation

Movers: Venstres Ungdom (VU), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD) and Junge Liberale Neos (JUNOS).

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019.

Considering that:

- EU legislation grows with hundreds of new statutory instruments, laws, and directions every year, upon lots of already existing legislation.
- In this moment there are no stimuli for the parliamentarians to review existing legislation.
- Sunset clauses already exist on part of the EU legislation, namely in the branch of medicine.
- We recognise that Ursula Von Der Leyen, has proposed the "One-in, one-out" principle, but we believe that a sunset clause will create a better flow and work environment in the EU.

Believing that:

- Old legislation is often outdated and no longer relevant for the member states.
- Tons of old and irrelevant legislation makes the European Parliament more complex and difficult for the European citizens to understand.
- Relevant and updated legislation give the politicians better opportunities to change existing legislation, which secures a national anchoring in the European system.
- To ensure growing support for the EU, its legislation must be updated and reflect the time we live in.
- A true democracy is transparent for its citizens.

Calls for:

- An expiration date for every EU-legislation, proposed by the legislator and voted by the parliament, at which there will be a mandatory review of the legislation by the relevant parliamentary committee. The expiration date can't exceed 20 years.

- Member organisations of LYMEC to campaign for a sunset clause in EU legislation both nationally and internationally.

1.27 Resolution on the Future of the European Unity

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019.

This resolution archives R. 1.01 on the future of European Unity, R. 1.04 on the Post-Nice process, 1.07 on the Brussels-Laeken Declaration, R. 1.14 on the Future of Europe

We have to proceed to new ways

- The European Communities (the ECSC, EEC, and Euratom) were created in the aftermath of the devastation of World War II with the vision of a united Europe free of the taint of nationalism and populism.
- The founders of the ECSC were clear about their intentions for the Treaty, namely that it was merely the first step towards a 'European Federation'. The common coal and steel market was to be an experiment that could gradually be extended to other economic spheres, culminating in a political Europe.
- LYMEC has always been calling for such evolution and for further unification of Europe. We insist that European integration is not there for the interests of the member states but in the citizens' interest.
- While we welcome the announcement by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen that she will launch a Conference on the Future of Europe, as demanded by the Renew Europe group in the EP, we also acknowledge that previously, during the process for establishing a European constitution, Commission lacked the political leadership while the European Council has failed to give a clear focus to the period of reflection, and has been considered to lack both the political will and the capacity to stimulate and manage the European dialogue.
- We consider that the lack of information about the further steps towards the European unity, the insufficient participation of the citizens at the elaboration

of the reform processes, the propensity of many EC-countries to dump their unsolved problems at Brussels and divert from their own incapability by blaming the EU as well as the national egoism of governments stand in the way of the needed through reform of the functioning of the EU and the deeper unification of Europe.

- In order to secure the process of the European unification LYMEC therefore 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. We stress that there is a need to thoroughly go further rather than just do simple reforms by opening a wider debate on the future of the European Union and want to see in this process leadership by the European Commission in effectively bringing on board the insights of the European citizens' views during the Conference for the Future of Europe and a new energy in the evolution of European democracy. In addition, 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 also supports strongly a free European media initiative in order to develop an European public opinion. Further, LYMEC confirms its wish to see a constitutional settlement of the future of Europe: a fully-fledged political union cannot emerge without a prior agreement on a common constitutional framework.

How to develop the participation of citizens

- The economic unification is inseparably linked to the political unification. LYMEC criticises the insufficient specifications on the shape of the political union in the current Treaties and calls for an in-debt reform of the European institutions and more accountability and transparency of the Council in the European decision-making processes.
- An unequivocal and transparent assignation 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.

Political union as target

- LYMEC calls that the platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe be used to formulate together with the EU citizens the aim of the political union, and ultimately developing a proposal of a European constitution.
- LYMEC maintains its long-term vision of a European Federation, with a European government and strengthened European Parliament. The European Parliament needs to be provided with full legislative powers. The regional diversity should be secured and emphasised by a decentralised administration. All European Council and Council of the European Union decisions should be made using the Qualified Majority Voting (QMV), abolishing unanimity voting. The European Commission should be replaced by a European Government elected by and responsible to the European Parliament. Until a political union is established it is vital that the EU aggressively protects democracy in its member states, recent democratic backsliding in some member states should not be tolerated, and so called "Illiberal Democracies" have no place in the EU, and their governments certainly should not benefit from any EU funding.

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. The convergence criteria of the Maastricht Treaty must be adhered 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 the 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 role of Europe in the world in favour of free trade

- LYMEC strongly rejects the tendency to rise trade barriers against non-EC countries. 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 unilateral reduction of European trade barriers on Goods and Services.
- In this regard LYMEC strongly supports concluding international trade agreements and calls for better information campaigns on their positive impact for the European citizens. On the other hand, LYMEC rejects the attempts of the USA to pressurise the EC by rising tariffs and waging traders.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/PERI/2018/618969/IPOL_PERI\(2018\)618969_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/PERI/2018/618969/IPOL_PERI(2018)618969_EN.pdf)

[2] R. 1.07

[3] R.1.14

[4] R. 1.07

[5] R. 1.14

[6] The idea of moving forward to more united and federal Europe is imported also from R. 1.04 and R. 1.07

[7] R. 1.14

1.28 Resolution on the vision for the future of the Council of Europe

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, YMRF
 Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019.

This resolution archives R. 1.16 on the Young liberals' vision for the future of the Council of Europe

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, sustainable development 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 28 Member States and 5 candidate countries. With the exception of Belarus, Kosovo and the Vatican, all countries in Europe have now acceded to the Council of Europe.
- 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
- 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.
- EU's neighbours, notably in the south of the Mediterranean and Western Asia, the Middle East and West 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 relevant bodies in the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe should have a reinforced cooperation on issues related to human rights, the rule of law, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development, holding periodic joint sessions if necessary.
- The EU should take all the necessary legal steps in order to adhere to the European Convention on Human Rights.
- The hierarchy in legal system resulting from EU adhesion to the ECHR should be transparent for all EU citizens. The EU should ensure that rulings from the ECHR are implement in both member-states and aspiring-member states.
- The Council of Europe should consider the possibility of opening adhesion to the European Convention on Human Rights to non-European EU neighbours that could be willing to do so, such as Southern Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and Asian 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.

1.29 Resolution on the Council of the European Union

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, YMRF

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019.

This resolution archives R. 1.18 on the Presidency of the European Council

Considering that:

- the Council of the European Union is a vital legislative institution of the Union.
- the Council of the European Union is one of the two institutional bodies where member states can be directly represented.
- transparency of the EU has been a stated goal multiple times by the Parliament, the Council of the EU and the Commission.

- during the Council of the EU meetings, the position of each member state is not recorded and thus cannot be referred to.
- unanimous voting allows one member state to hold back the entire Union on matters such as foreign affairs.

LYMEC calls for:

- Calls on the Council of the European Union to become more transparent, so the citizens of each member state can hold their own government responsible for the positions taken during the council meetings.
- Calls on the Council of the European Union to abandon the use of unanimous voting and switch to the qualified majority voting system that the Council uses for most matters.

1.30 Resolution on the European integration of Iceland

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019.

This resolution archives R. 1.19 on the European integration of Iceland.

Considering that:

- Iceland is already deeply integrated in the European Union thanks to the Schengen Agreement and the European Economic Area.
- Iceland has links to member states of the EU through the membership of the Nordic Council.
- The EU is Iceland's most important trading partner.

Stating that:

- 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;
- The European Liberal Youth shows support for potential future negotiations to come between Iceland and the European Union

- The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for defining a comprehensive path towards EU integration for Iceland once the Icelandic people has expressed such a will.

1.31 Bringing the youth ideas in the European elections' agenda

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, IMS delegates

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

This resolution archives resolution 1.29 - Internal motion of European Parliament elections of June 2009: European liberal Youth's top 3 issues and resolution 1.39 on Bringing the youth part in agenda for the European elections 2014

Considering that:

- More and more people feel alienated from European institutions (1);
- Youth unemployment is a major issue for all EU member states and EU candidates and potential candidates;
- A political organization needs to make clear its priorities if it wishes to be 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 ALDE Party in EP elections [2].

Regretting that:

- EU institutions decisions tend not to meet the transparency expectancy of EU citizens;
- The outcome of this is the rising mistrust in the European idea as a whole;
- 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 labor markets;
- Only a liberal approach, which takes into account all of the aforementioned problems, can solve these issues and prevent the stigmatization of certain groups, as well as the use of hate speech in elections' and referendums. Thus, contributing to diminish the effects of populists' propaganda.
- Many young and qualified people are looking for a job that best fits their education and qualification outside their homelands;

The European Liberal Youth calls:

- The European Parliament, European Commission, Council of EU and other respective stakeholders to bring the European agenda closer to young people and introduce measures to include the youth voice in the election's agenda, as this will help in our fight against populist propaganda;
- ALDE Party and its respective Member organizations to encourage its candidate MEPs regardless their age to be engaged with more youth issues during their work in the European Parliament;
- For promoting civil rights, which are high on youth agenda, across Europe: promote individual rights (minorities, abortion, gay rights, cultural/linguistic rights etc) across borders and strengthening the EU data protection policy[3]
- Upon advocating for a strong and credible EU trade policy[4].

[1] R. 1.29

[2] R. 1.29

[3] R. 1.29

[4] R. 1.29

1.32 For an independent ECB – monetary stability instead of economic steering

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, YMRF
Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

This resolution archives resolution 1.42 For an independent ECB – monetary stability instead of economic steering.

Observing that:

- the European Central Bank has lowered their interest rates to 0%
- the ECB has introduced a negative interest rate of 0,50% on its deposit facility.

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 Calls for:

- an independent ECB, which focuses on its prime goal of monetary stability, on safeguarding the value and integrity of the Euro, and does not abuse it's power for economic or fiscal influence on public and private debt.

1.33 A Better European Response to Health Crisis Management

Movers: Jeunes MR, Jong VLD, Jovenes Ciudadanos, Jonge Democraten, Uppreisn

Noting that:

- Per article 168 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union:
“Union action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing physical and mental illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to physical and mental health. Such action shall cover the fight against the major health scourges, by promoting research into their causes, their transmission and their prevention, as well as health information and education, and monitoring, early warning of and combating serious cross-border threats to health. »
- One of the three strategic objectives of the EU health policy is: “to improve surveillance and preparedness for epidemics and bioterrorism and increase capacity to respond to new health challenges such as climate change”
- The EU Parliament has pointed as “essential for the EU to have a rapid response capacity to enable it to react to major health threats in a coordinated manner, especially given the threat of bioterrorism and the potential for worldwide epidemics in an age in which rapid global transport makes it easier for diseases to spread.
- “Monitoring and assessing threats to public health in Europe from infectious diseases” and “providing technical support to the EU-level response to such threats” are already core missions of the ECDC.
- European coordination has been of the biggest challenges in dealing with the Coronavirus crisis while Member States chose different strategies to tackle the health crisis

Considering that:

- A harmonized, strong and fast answer is required to face current and future pandemics and major public health challenges
- The EU has an important role to play in improving public health, preventing and managing diseases, mitigating sources of danger to human health, and harmonizing health strategies between Member States.

- Institutions such as the European Center for Disease protection and Control (ECDC), the Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC) or the Consumers, Health, Agricultural and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAEA) already exists
- The Covid-19 crisis is a reminder of how slowly paced the EU institution aforementioned were to intervene.
- The EU Institutions have a key role to play and a leadership position to take to support Member States and EU citizens to overcome pandemic related challenges

LYMEC calls for:

- New competencies to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The following competencies are ought to be implemented:
- To grant the power to the ECDC and/or the ERCC to intervene rapidly and efficiently in times of severe health crisis such as the COVID-19 crisis
- The creation of an EU Infection Protection Regulation which empowers the European Commission to implement travel restrictions regarding the entry into the European Union including mandatory health checks, mandatory quarantine and for non-EU/EFTA/AND/MCO/SMR-citizens without resident status or asylum demand also travel bans if necessary to repel a concrete danger for the public health. As this prerogative would enhance greatly the competence of the Commission, it should be limited by the necessity for the Commission to ask for special powers to the Parliament. Then, and only then, could the Commission activate the EU Infection Protection Program.
- the European Commission to take a role of coordination in times of pandemics to ensure a coherence of measures and solidarity between all Member States
- The Member States to grant each other unlimited support in times of health emergencies by taking care of patients who cannot get hospital treatment in their respective home country and the EU to enforce this solidarity among the Member States if necessary.
- the promotion by the European Commission of international coordinated measures and solidarity to fight against pandemics in WHO and other relevant fora.

- The creation of centralized and easily deployable multidisciplinary teams of health professionals able to work together in and outside Europe attached to the ERCC: the “health corps”.
- The creation and management of decentralized stocks of materials such as masks, EPI's, gloves, essential medicines and medical devices managed by the ECD.
- Coordination and implementation of a vaccine strategy to ensure a equal access to vaccination to every EU citizen.
- To ensure the diversification of sourcing for imports of medicines, vaccines and medical products essential to the health infrastructure of the EU. It is of critical importance to ensure that the EU and its member states are not dependent on imports of pharmaceutical products and medical supplies from autocratic states.

1.34 Officiality and Promotion of Regional and Minority Languages in Europe

Movers: Jeunes MR, Jong VLD, Jovenes Ciudadanos, Jonge Democraten, Uppreisn
 Adopted at LYMEC Paris Autumn Congress, on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- The protection of minorities in Europe is a relatively recent phenomenon. When the EEC was founded the authorities avoided approving regulations specifically aimed at protecting minority rights, the objectives were mainly of an economic nature, later moving on to achieve purely political goals, in these circumstances issues relating to minorities were very much of secondary importance;
- It was not until the adoption of the 1992 Maastricht Treaty when attention was drawn to the fact that there existed within the Union a multitude of minorities who were unprotected, in the light of which the community institutions have become increasingly aware of the need to adopt measures to foster care for the existing diversity;

- 1979 United Nations Subcommittee stated that: *“A minority is a group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a state whose members --despite being nationals of the State-- possess distinct ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics that are distinct from the rest of the population and who, even if only implicitly, maintain a sense of solidarity, directed towards preserving their culture, traditions, religion or language.”*;
- Subsequently in 1993, the Presidential Conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council determined that any State seeking admission into the Union was under an obligation to demonstrate its commitment to protecting minority rights in its territory; this requirement has since become a sine qua non of EU membership;

Noting that:

- The current EU comprises a territory in which linguistic diversity is a defining feature, with 23 officially recognized languages in addition to various regional languages. The EUROMOSAICO report states that the number of minority languages (RMLs) used within the European Union amounts to 36, and these comprise some 60 language groups, each receiving different degrees of constitutional recognition;
- Official linguistic status guarantees two rights, namely the right to send documents to the Community institutions and to be answered in the same language, and that regulations and other legislative documents-- in addition to the EU's Official Journal.. be published in these languages;
- In the European Union, some 20 million people speak one of these languages, in addition to the official language of the state in which they have citizenship. Almost 50% live in Spain and 23% in France, with the rest being found mainly in Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands;
- RMLs are in competition with the dominant languages and under pressure from the population's assimilation tendency. As long as a language is used by speakers of all ages and in all domains, there is no danger to it. Once the scope of its use shrinks and becomes limited to certain domains and age groups, the risk level of extinction rises. A diminishing population of speakers leads to the extinction of the linguistic community and the disappearance of the language;

Recalling that:

- RMLs account for linguistic diversity and belong to humanity's intangible cultural heritage. International organisations, such as UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, are concerned with the risk that RMLs face and undertake actions to protect their linguistic rights. Non-respect for regional or minority communities' linguistic rights is qualified as racial discrimination, a breach of human rights;
- Both the **Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM)** and The **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)** consist in multilateral treaties of the Council of Europe aimed at protecting minority rights, the former, and minority linguistic rights the later. These conventions have come under some criticism. First of all, not all member states of the Council of Europe have signed and ratified them. Furthermore, they are hedged around with many phrases including 'as far as possible'. The conventions do not define "national minority" and several countries set their own definition of the term when they ratified the treaty. Saying that, both treaties lack the power and the influence needed to conduct their respective duties;
- Also, there is no official studies/reports conducted on a European level analysing the health of the RMLs within Europe, making it hard to monitor the effectiveness of all policies aimed to their protection or promotion;
- After all efforts, many languages that fall under the description of RML have seen their amount of speakers decreasing over the years due to many reasons other than demographical;
- Many European RML find themselves in one of the five-level scale of endangerment by UNESCO's Atlas of World Languages, being them;

'vulnerable': still used by children, but restricted to certain domains (for example, in the home);

'definitely endangered' : no longer spoken as mother tongue;

'severely endangered' : spoken by older generations; parents understand it but do not speak to their children in it;

'critically endangered' : infrequently spoken by the elderly in a limited scope;

'extinct': no speakers left.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Council to revise the FCNM and ECRML treaties, updating their parameters and promoting the ratification of all Member States;
- the European Commission to promote the establishment of a research body to conduct annual or biannual analysis of the state of RMLs in Europe in order to measure the impact of policies at all levels of administrations in the EU;
- the LYMEC member Organizations to condemn any type of policy that seeks to harm the health of minority languages, be it the reduction of teaching hours in the said language, the non-guarantee of the use of said language in all levels of administration, or the imposition of the state language for political reasons, while keeping the situation and opinions of the community that uses these RMLs in mind;
- the LYMEC Member Organizations to support measures to protect minority languages within Europe and prevent them from disappearing;
- all Member States to promote the usage of these languages and to stop any policies that seek to harm the health of RMLs and to seek out representative organisations for RMLs in their territories, so that the effects of policies on these RMLs is not forgotten in cases where an effect on them is not the intended effect.

1.35 European funds for European values!

Mover: Momentum TizenX

Co-signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, USR Tineret, Mladí progresívci, European Youth of Ukraine, Liberal Democratic Youth of Ukraine, Centre Party Youth

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Believing that:

- The European Union needs to actively protect its values laid down in the Treaty on the European Union and subsequent treaties, such as respect for human rights and the rule of law (TEU, Preamble) [1];
- European funding should not contribute to the establishment and sustenance of an antidemocratic regime;
- The malevolent actors, rather than the population should be punished for the mishandling of funding;

- The European Union is committed to the well-being of all of its citizens equally (Article 3 of the TEU);

Considering that:

- The Hungarian government has been found in violation of European values on multiple occasions and declared an electoral autocracy by the European Parliament;
- The party of Viktor Orbán consolidated absolute power over the Hungarian state apparatus, the media market, and a substantial section of private enterprises by systematically funnelling European funding into their own pockets;
- Hungarian municipalities have been stripped of their funding and autonomy to implement local taxes, and further considering that the Fidesz government has used the withholding of European and state funding from projects as leverage;
- The social- and energy crises of this winter caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and gas manipulations could further impoverish the most economically and socially marginalised groups, and European funding is indispensable for the prevention of a humanitarian catastrophe therefore it is important to make sure that there are ways for funds to reach the people who need them even if they are withheld from national governments;
- The European Union's answer to these crises will determine the extent of Euroscepticism and pro-European attitudes in Hungary and throughout the continent;
- Directly accessible EU funding is in line with Renew Europe's policy on the Conditionality Mechanism;

LYMEC calls for:

- Recognizing the fact that the prolonged inaction of European institutions allowed Fidesz to consolidate power over large parts of the media and the economy, transforming Hungary from a democracy, where people can easily remove the government into an "electoral autocracy";
- The vigilance of liberal and democratic actors throughout Europe to be on guard concerning the early signs of democratic backsliding;

- Passing European legislation to allow municipalities, NGOs, and local citizen's initiatives to access the Cohesion Fund and the Recovery and Resilience Facility;
- European institutions to set access criteria for this funding that prohibits the mishandling of the resources and ensures that the projects are in line with the values of sustainability, social inclusion, and free competition.

1.36 A fight against the far-right is a fight for liberalism and democracy

Mover: JuLis (Germany)

Co-signers: Jonge Democraten (Netherlands), Mladé Progresívne Slovensko (Slovakia), ZeMolodizhka (Ukraine), Young Liberals (United Kingdom), LUF (Sweden), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (Ukraine), USR Tineret (Romania), Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland), Unge Venstre (Norway), European Youth of Ukraine (Ukraine), Jungfreisinnige (Switzerland), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania), Liberale Hochschulgruppen (Germany), CUF (Sweden), Centerstudenter (Sweden), Fédération des Etudiantes Liberaux (Belgium), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), YMRF (Bulgaria), Sorcha Ní Chonghaile (IMS), JUNOS (Austria).

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress 2024 in Brussels, Belgium on 24 March 2024

Considering that:

- the European elections 2024 come at a crucial moment for the European Union and the future of European integration;
- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly shown their true selves as antidemocratic and anti-European parties riddled with racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, romaphobia, misogyny, and homophobia;
- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly tried to use their mandates to incite violence and hate;
- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly shown unambiguous hostility against liberal values and the open society;

- far-right parties in the European Parliament have repeatedly tried to undermine democracy by staging their parliamentary appearances as pro-democratic;
- Standing for and winning elections does not equal support for democracy, and the electoral tactics, rhetoric, and policies of many far-right parties threaten to undermine the democratic processes of Europe from within

Believing that:

- liberals stand unequivocally against any form of extremism;
- democrats stand unequivocally against any form of fascism;
- the rise of the far-right is the greatest internal threat to liberal and European democracy;
- the fight against the far-right is inherently a fight for liberal values, democratic principles, and the open society;

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to explicitly exclude any coalition with far-right parties in the European Parliament;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to not prepare and submit any resolutions, motions or amendments together with the far-right;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to vote against any resolutions, motions or amendments submitted by the far-right;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to not organise any meetings or events with the far-right;
- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to continue to vote against any far-right candidates for electoral offices in the European Union;
- the ALDE Party's and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament's Members to continue to reject any electoral offices in the European Union which they achieve only through the help of votes by the far-right;
- the ALDE Party's Members of the European Parliament to ensure these rules are upheld by the Renew Europe Group;

- the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to debunk the seemingly simple but populist solutions by the far-right through innovative, liberal policy solutions tackling the societal issues which may lead people to vote for the far-right;

The LYMEC Congress instructs the LYMEC Bureau:

- to closely monitor the behaviour of the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament regarding the far-right;
- to call out any deviation by the ALDE Party's Members of the European Parliament in this regard;
- to call out any attempts of other democratic groups in the European Parliament to cooperate with the far-right in any of the ways mentioned above;
- to reach out to other democratic, pan-European youth organisations to give a common pledge against the far-right before the European elections 2024.

Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens rights

2.01 Resolution on Conscription in Europe

(Former 2.02 prior to London 2019)

Civil Liberties, Conscription

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

Referring to the 1930 manifesto "Against Conscription and the Military Training of Youth" signed by Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, Selma Lagerlöf, Emanuel Rádl, Stefan Zweig and others stating that "*Conscription subjects individual personalities to militarism. It is a form of servitude. (...) Military training is schooling of body and spirit in the art of killing. Military training is education for war. (...) It hinders the development of the desire for peace.*"

Considering that

- the concept of conscription is incompatible with liberal values and a number of principles enshrined by several conventions as human rights, e.g. the right of free choice of employment, non-discrimination between the genders, the principle that no one shall be held in servitude, the right to freedom of conscience;
- conscription reduces the economic potential of a country that enforces it since the time spent in the military or the time spent performing alternative service cannot be used in a productive way as the entry of a young person into the workforce or into higher education is delayed or interrupted;
- similarly, conscription is costly. Any notion that this is not the case is a great example of the broken window fallacy as described by Frédéric Bastiat;
- young people in countries where conscription is enforced suffer from indirect discrimination compared to young people in countries where it is not enforced;
- 14 CoE countries have abolished conscription since the year 2000 or have agreed on abolishing it by 2010 at latest;
- only a minority of EU Member States (8 out of 27: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Sweden) and a minority of other CoE Member States (16 out of 47: EU countries mentioned plus Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Moldova, Russia) still enforce conscription and have no concrete plans to abolish it in the near future;
- a number of countries, although having no concrete plan yet, are considering to abolish conscription (e.g. Serbia, Sweden);
- some countries that in practice abolished conscription still retain a legal possibility to enforce it (e.g. Belgium, France, Netherlands);
- conscript armies do not meet the levels of professional training required by today's militaries;
- this issue should be of considerable important for LYMEC in its function as both a liberal and a youth organisation.

LYMEC calls for

- The abolishment of mandatory military service or any other form of mandatory alternative public service in all European Countries;

- The removal of the possibility to enforce conscription in countries that have merely suspended and not abolished it;
- The European Union and the Council of Europe to define mandatory military or alternative service as incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

2.02 Resolution on Organized Crime in Europe

(Former 2.04 prior to London 2019)

Organized Crime, Human Trafficking, Corruption

Having noted, as by the Report on Organised Crime In The European Union(2010/2309(INI)) approved by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the 6th October 2011, that:

- It is one of the primary objectives of the European Union to create an area of freedom, security and justice without internal borders, in which crime is prevented and combated;
- Organised crime has a substantial cost, in that it violates human rights, undermines democratic principles, diverts and wastes financial, human and other resources, the free internal market, contaminating businesses and legitimate economic activities, encouraging corruption and polluting and destroying the environment;
- Alarming evidence that has emerged from the courts and from investigations by police and journalists indicates that, in some Member States of the European Union, organised crime has infiltrated, and become solidly entrenched in, political circles, the public sector and legitimate economic activities; and it is conceivable that similar inroads have also been made, thereby strengthening the position of organised crime, in the rest of the European Union;
- The purpose and basis of organised crime is to make an economic profit and consequently if action to prevent and combat the problem is to be effective, it must focus on identifying, freezing, and seizing the proceeds of crime;
- Corruption is the standard means by which organised criminals employ blackmail or dispense rewards in order to divert public resources and worm their way into local politics, government and the private sector;

Having also considered that:

- Organized crime's activities undermine all values liberals believe in. It violates the liberties of citizen in many ways, from extortion to human trafficking. It tampers with the free market by recycling money in seemingly honest activities connected to the criminal groups. It favours and practices corruption of the political representations, slowly eroding away democracy;
- Organized crime's influence extends to every European country. This has been proven by many journalistic and judiciary investigations in different European countries. Consequently, it is a transnational threat even to those European countries apparently least affected.

It resolves to:

- Support both the European and national Institutions in EU Member Countries in their fight of organized crime, by raising awareness on the issue and supporting initiatives and legislations promoting such an activity, considering that the pursuit of this activity must be guaranteed with due respect for the fundamental rights to personal dignity and privacy.
- Promote awareness and knowledge of the issue among European citizens and, in general, public opinion; highlights, in this regard, the fundamental role of the press, free from all outside influences, enabling it to investigate and publicise the links between organised crime and vested interests.
- Lobby European institutions and Member States to take a holistic approach in the legislations against organized crime so to move forward in the fight against organized crime at an international level;
- Promote the vital importance of public sector transparency in the fight against organised crime and calls on the European Commission to take action to lay down the necessary rules that the allocation and use of EU funds is fully traceable and monitored both by the competent institutions and the citizens and press, with particular reference to local authorities, which are more liable to infiltration by organised crime;
- Lobby, with respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, for the introduction of an appropriate system of penalties and suitable detention provisions for offences relating to organised crime, both to discourage the commission of offences and to prevent prisoners from continuing to lead organisations during their sentences or from helping them to achieve their aims by committing further crimes

2.03 On the Right of Privacy Concerning Agreements on Passenger Name Record

(Former 2.06 prior to London 2019)

Civil Liberties, Privacy

Submitted by: JOVD, JD

Considering that:

- The European Parliament approved on the EU-US Passenger Name Record (PNR) on 19 April 2012;
- The PNR agreement creates a violation of fundamental rights for citizens of the European Union;
- Other countries such as Canada are negotiating with the European Union for another PNR agreement;

Recognizing that:

- Necessity and proportionality are key principles without which the fight against terrorism will never be effective and specific towards those who are a risk to society;
- Personal rights and the right to privacy have become values that play an ever increasing role and must therefore be protected with special care, whereas in our world in which mobility and communication is an essential characteristic, security and combating crime must also be more effective and focused by appreciating the faster exchange of data at a global level;
- The global community should be based on the rule of law and that all transfers of personal data from one country to another for security purposes should be based on international agreements with the status of legislative acts considering fundamental right of privacy, in order to provide necessary safeguards for us all as global citizens;
- Liberals are convinced that privacy provides the ideal circumstances in which individuals can implement their ideals, without fearing prosecution for their thoughts and opinions;

- Liberals are determined to fight international terrorism and organised and transnational crime and has a firm belief in the need to protect civil liberties and fundamental rights, while ensuring the utmost respect for privacy, self-determination with regards to information and data protection;

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

- A coherent approach on the use of PNR as well as all other personal data for law enforcement and security purposes, establishing a single set of principles to serve as a basis for international agreements;
- LYMEC Board and its mother organisations to call upon the EU and ALDE to keep fighting for the fundamental right of privacy of its citizens, especially when new PNR agreements or other agreements concerning personal and/or private data on a national and international level are formed.

2.04 Urgent Resolution on Applying the criteria for Humanitarian Visa in all EU Member States

(Former 2.07 prior to London 2019)

EU, refugees, asylum policy, humanitarian visa

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna, Austria on 29-30 April 2016

Noting that

The dramatic increase in refugees and migrants wishing to seek shelter across borders has shocked the whole world during the recent years. This development has also affected the EU. Although only a fraction of the refugees tries to reach Europe, it has become one of the deadliest routes. It is far noted that the European Union has been paralyzed in combatting this humanitarian catastrophe that is the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War.

Considering that

Currently, asylum applications can only be filed on the territory of the recipient state, forcing asylum seekers to risk their lives in the hands of criminal smugglers and traffickers to get to the territories. In order to enter the EU through regular travel routes (such as by plane), non-Schengen nationals are required to carry sufficient ID and travel documents, such as visas to travel to get their case tried. However, EU embassies do not issue visas for travelers assumed to apply for asylum upon arrival. By expanding the possibilities for people in grave humanitarian crisis to legally get to our territories and get their case tried, humans in their most desperate needs would not have to resort to illegal and often dangerous journeys before accessing the protection they deserve and that they are entitled to by international law. Humanitarian visas are already used very modestly in countries such as France and Switzerland as well as some countries outside the EU. In Finland, the humanitarian visas already exist in the law, but are almost never issued. Issuing of humanitarian visas has been promoted by, for example, the Swedish Red Cross and by the Finnish Refugee Council.

Believing that

- Humanitarian visas may offer a remedy by allowing third country nationals to apply in situ for entry to the EU territory on humanitarian grounds, and thus ensuring that all EU member countries meet their international obligations.
- By allowing our European network of embassies in countries in crisis to issue such visas for applicants in danger, it would make it easier for the EU to guarantee that we follow our responsibility to protect them. By having common criteria for these visas, EU Member States could cooperate and share the responsibility better, and contribute to our international obligations and the basic humanitarian values all the EU countries stand for faster and with greater effort.
- While humanitarian visas may require increased resources at embassies and visa administration, they may in turn make the asylum process faster, safer and more just. By streamlining their work, all EU Member States could be even more resource-efficient.
- Humanitarian visas would constitute a humane option to the current catch-22 asylum policy, and help decrease the number of senseless deaths on the path to safety.

LYMEC calls upon

- all EU Member States to commonly introduce a “humanitarian visa system” allowing refugees to enter the EU territory legally, and thus be able to seek asylum on humanitarian grounds upon arrival.
- To adopt common criteria for these visas, and make it possible for asylum seekers to apply to all of the EU countries in any EU embassy by creating a common asylum policy at European level.

2.05 The EU Must Take Leadership on Preventing Human Trafficking

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(Former 2.13 prior to London 2019)

Human Trafficking, Organized Crime

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

Considering that:

- The Schengen agreement has created unrestricted movement of people within the borders of the Schengen countries
- The free movement of people is one of the cornerstones of the European Union
- Promotion of the rights of minorities, enhancement of trade and economic development are core values of the European Union
- Human trafficking is a transnational problem that concerns all EU countries
- Despite the efforts made by the EU and the UN to prevent human trafficking and help the victims, human trafficking remains a problem

Believing that:

- The EU needs a common liberal plan to confront the challenge of human trafficking
- The member states can learn from each other because they have different approaches to combating human trafficking
- A common strategy to counteract human trafficking is pivotal because of the free movement of people in the EU and the Schengen area

LYMEC calls on:

- The member countries of the EU to create national, politically independent rapporteurs on human trafficking to provide insight into best-practices of member countries
- The EU to take an even more active role in preventing human trafficking in origin countries and pay more attention to reasons behind human trafficking, such as poverty, youth unemployment and risk awareness among youth
- The EU to create a common strategy to counteract human trafficking

Calls on the LYMEC Bureau to:

- Put forward a resolution on this topic at the ELDR Congress to be held in October 2010 in Helsinki, Finland
- Promote the campaigns by and corporate with NGOs that work to prevent human trafficking

2.06 Freedom of Movement for All Families in Europe

(Former 2.14 prior to London 2019)

Freedom of movement of persons

Considering

- that throughout the European Union and Schengen Space there is a plurality of legal institutes regarding LGBT rights;
- that such plurality embraces a range of situations going from perfect equality regarding marriage and parenthood down to constitutional blocks on marriage equality and even, in some cases, legal restrictions in the concession of necessary documents to citizens if such documents are to be used in the access to same-sex marriage in other EU countries.

Recognizing

- that equality of rights is desirable as an ideal situation,

- but that imposing from outside evolutions that have to be, at least partially, the product of societal matureness, is impractical,
- and also that it is not in the legal range of European institutions to dictate laws regarding family.

And, thus,

- strictly limiting the action of European institutions to the functions that the treaties explicitly give them,
- while pleading for such functions to be fully performed, with no restrictions due to considerations on “culture” or “tradition” but only in respect for the letter of the law.

Considering, furthermore,

- that in the countries where same-sex marriage is allowed no new legal institute was created, and so that they are marriages in its full legal reach
- and that the refusal of several European countries to recognize such marriages and/or the children of these couples is not a mere refusal of recognition of a specific legal contract
- but in fact a discrimination, given that not all marriages of these countries are considerate invalid abroad (which could arguably be accepted from a formal point of view), but only a part of them, depending on sexual orientation,
- and that finally such type of discrimination is explicitly prohibited in European legislation, hurting both individual fundamental rights of human beings (namely, the right of preservation of one's family life) and the desired mobility of European citizens within the Union,

The European Liberal Youth asks

- ELDR and its members to demand the legal changes needed to accommodate situations of mobility of same-sex families;
- European institutions to evaluate the conformity of existing discriminations to the treaties and to introduce changes where needed.

2.07 Rise of Extreme Right in the European Union and Europe

(Former 2.16 prior to London 2019)

Discrimination and Minorities Rights, Political Rights

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

Considering

- the rise of extreme right parties in the EU and Europe.
- that these extreme right parties are already in government in some country's of the EU.
- that in many country's extreme right parties are gaining power and popularity and might participate in government after the next elections.
- the revival of conservative voices calling for moral values and religion.

Further noticing that

- liberal values are under a lot of pressure
- these extreme parties are conducting a policy of intolerance towards minorities, that they are against equal rights for men and women, that they are opposed to the multicultural society and that they plead for a more closed economic system.
- some of these extreme right parties have youth and hard core wings that are fascists and have neo-Nazi sympathies.
- these extreme right parties capitalise on fear and individual dissatisfaction they continuously nourish through racist propaganda
- these extreme right parties plead for a policy of strict law and order with zero tolerance
- these extreme right parties are generally very nationalistic and do not seek to broaden their boundaries
- in an international context these kinds of policies can become a problem in negotiations concerning economics, environment, justice and so on
- if we are not vigilant with regard to this evolution, it could mean the end of the European idea of a liberal and democratic society

Jong VLD calls upon:

- LYMEC to discuss this subject ASAP in order to have a common point of view on how to deal with extreme right parties and whether any form of collaboration is possible for liberals and whether we will be able to conduct a liberal policy when collaborating.

2.08 Resolution to Condemn Communist Regimes

(Former 2.17 prior to London 2019)

Discrimination and Minorities Rights, Political Rights

Adopted by LYMEC Congress, 7-9 April 2006, Winterthur, Switzerland

WHEREAS the recent discussions from the Council of the Europe concerning the communist regimes have not lead to a full condemnation of communism

WHEREAS communist regimes have produced sufferance to millions of people around the world by systematic killings, physical torture, psychological terror and disrespect of human rights

WHEREAS communist regimes are still powerful in countries around the globe and continue to threat human dignity

LYMEC, as a continuous fighter for human rights

CALLS on its members and all liberal parties part of ELDR to condemn in their own countries the crimes committed by communist regimes and to take this initiative further to the European Parliament

INSISTS that victims of communist regimes should be commemorated in all countries

BELIEVES that all democratic governments should take position against existing communist regimes.

2.09 A Uniform ID Card for a More Effective and Safer Schengen

(Former 2.14 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Considering that

- The European Union has brought us several benefits, which we can enjoy in our daily lives. One of the biggest and most useful benefits is the freedom of movement, originating from the Schengen Agreement signed by the five initial EU states in 1985, and freeing citizens of these countries from border controls and special security controls within the Schengen area. The only criteria is being able to prove one's identity with a valid travel document (EU ID card or passport).
- As of today, there are already 29 European signatory states to the agreement, with Croatia and Romania being added to that number in a near future.
- As the Schengen area has expanded, the Schengen outer border governments carry a large responsibility to ensure effective border control. One of the most recent improvements in internal safety measures employed by the Schengen area was the introduction of biometric passports.

Noting that

- Many people living in the Schengen countries prefer using an ID card as a travel document rather than a passport. In some countries, ID cards are also more affordable than passports.
- The ID cards vary greatly from one state to another, and there are currently numerous types and forms of ID cards used in the Schengen Area.
- The freedom of movement also brings about new challenges and risks. Ensuring that ID cards used inside the Schengen Area are valid and fills the same requirements everywhere is of great importance.

European Liberal Youth (LYMEC), at its Congress in Zagreb, Croatia, calls for

- The introduction of uniform ID cards for Schengen countries, in order to increase the effectiveness of border controls. Such ID cards could carry a uniform design and hold the same information, facilitating travel documentation controls as well as cross border security cooperation and detection of falsified travel documents.

2.10 – Recognising the Armenian Genocide

(Former 2.15 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

LYMEC, gathered in Rotterdam on the 3rd of May 2015.

Considering that:

- there is widespread debate between specific nations over the definition and, or, classification, of the killings of Armenians that took place from the 24th of April 1915 onwards,
- vast majorities of scholars, including those of Turkish origins, have labelled the events of 1915 as genocide,
- the written order of Talaat Pasha of the 23rd of April 1915 mentioned specifically of Armenians, thus aiming at a People which is a key prerequisite for genocide,
- the recognition of mistakes and crimes of the past is a precondition for reconciliation between peoples and that there cannot be peace without justice, either in Armenia or elsewhere.

Noting that:

- there cannot be the slightest doubt over the historical evidence regarding the organized and systematic murder of the Armenians
- the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG) provides a well carried framework regarding the definition of genocide,
- the abovementioned atrocities fall within the framework of the CPPCG and can thus be classified as genocide.

While furthermore stressing that:

- by recognising the atrocities to the Armenian People in 1915, the suffering of the Turkish people in the same timeframe, for example in the Battle of Van, is by no means to be denied or played down.

LYMEC hereby:

- recognises that the Armenian People living in Turkey in 1915 was the victim of a genocide which commenced on the 24th of April, perpetrated by the then government of the Ottoman Empire.
- calls upon the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe to join the European Liberal Youth in doing so.

2.11 – Legal right to euthanasia in the European Union

(Former 2.16 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Approved in the Congress of Rotterdam, May 2015

Keywords: Euthanasia

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

- That thousands of people are suffering from an incurable disease within the borders of the European Union;
- That some of those people do not want to go on fighting a battle they are going to lose in the end;

AWARE OF

- The fact that there is a humane way to allow those people to end their lives in a dignified manner, in the form of euthanasia;

LYMEC PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING:

EU member states to facilitate the legal right to euthanasia for their citizens in accordance with the below mentioned principles.

An adult patient can legally request euthanasia if:

- He/she is legally competent;
- He/she has voluntarily and in sound mind submitted a written or oral request in presence of an independent notary (or in case he/she is not physically capable of doing so, has submitted a legal declaration of their wish to end his/her life in a hopeless situation to a notary no longer than 5 years ago)

- He/she is in a medically hopeless situation;
- His/her physical and/or psychological suffering is persistent and cannot be alleviated;
- The situation of the patient is due to a severe and incurable condition, caused by accident or sickness
- Doctors should have the right to refuse requests for euthanasia

Before a doctor can carry out euthanasia on a patient, he has to:

- Inform the patient of his health condition and life expectancy;
- Discuss the treatment options with his patient and establish, together with his patient, that no other reasonable solution for the patient's situation can be found;
- Be sure the suffering is lasting and the request to end this suffering is well-considered and repeated;
- Consult another doctor about the severe and incurable character of the condition;
- Discuss the request with the relatives of the patient and – if applicable – with the nursing team that has regular contact with the patient;
- Ensure the patient had the chance to consult everybody he wanted to consult;
- Wait at least a month after the written request of the patient to actually carry out euthanasia.

2.12 Resolution on the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD2)

(Former 2.19 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Minor updates made at LYMEC Spring Congress 2021

Tobacco Products Directive, labelling, tar, nicotine, carbon monoxide, menthol cigarettes

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna, Austria on 29-30 April 2016

Noting that:

- the last Tobacco Products Directive (2001/37/EC Article 5.1) stipulates that cigarette packs must be labelled with tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide yields in cigarettes. On 4 April 2014 the EU Parliament and EU Council approved a new directive (2014/40/EU) that excludes the labelling of these substances.
- the new Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU Article II.7.1) aims to ban Member States from making flavoured cigarettes, which contain flavours such as candy, menthol or vanilla.

Considering that:

- regarding labelling procedures: consumers have the right to be informed in a transparent way about ingredients. Therefore article 5.1 of the last directive (2001/37/EC) should be maintained in the current directive (2014/40/EU).
- Regarding a ban on flavoured cigarettes: everyone should be allowed to choose between flavoured cigarettes and traditional cigarettes. This freedom should not be taken away

LYMEC therefore calls upon its member organisations to:

- demand the labelling of tar, nicotine and monoxide yields of cigarettes in their respective European countries in order to allow consumers to make a free, transparent and well-informed choice.
- Oppose the ban on flavoured cigarettes in their respective European countries in order to give consumers the freedom of making their own informed decisions, while recognizing the need to provide the consumers with data on the nature of the risks encountered.

2.13 Resolution on privacy and data protection

(Former 2.20 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Updated at the 2021 LYMEC Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal

This resolution updates 2.20 and archives 2.13

Considering that

- Big Data[1] and Internet of Things[2] have become an inevitable and essential part of our society,
- EU regulations on the use of personal data were recently updated, most notably through Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the General Data Protection Regulation, which became applicable in May 2018,
- the right to privacy protects the personal sphere. Interference with this right requires the freely given consent of the individual concerned.
- only when there is an overriding interest (e.g. national security) may privacy be infringed without consent by a public body,
- this position is in line with the general consensus on the right to privacy found in Art. 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Art. 7 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Appreciating that

- there is continuous research in the EU on new IT developments and corresponding policy challenges,
- the transparency principle is strengthened and guaranteed in European data protection law,

Recalling that

- The revelations made in 2013 by Edward Snowden about the surveillance practices employed by the US National Security Agency shed a troubling light on the consequences of failing to enshrine and protect the individual right to privacy
- The mass surveillance abuses in the United States were facilitated by an imbalance of power between government institutions, which has subsequently led to the inevitable consequence that these actions now form part of American foreign policy;

Believing that

- Big Data and Internet of Things offer potential solutions to some of the defining socio-economic challenges of the modern era, but also bring an increased risk of abuse and fraud,
- data is a fundamental resource in the digitized economy,
- the protection of privacy is recognised as a fundamental human right, and all users of modern technology should have control over their personal data,

Stressing that

- users seldom read privacy notices, do not always comprehend them fully, but consent to the processing of personal data nonetheless[3]
- stronger, explicit consent mechanisms might actually have the effect that users will make less informed decisions about their privacy, or at least, it will not make their decisions more informed than they are now (consent transaction overload may lead to consent fatigue),
- data privacy principles such as purpose binding and data minimisation may be difficult to reconcile with the constant development of big data technologies and softwares;

This LYMEC congress therefore:

- calls upon the LYMEC Board and its member organisations to put pressure on the EU and ALDE to keep fighting for the fundamental right of privacy and data protection of its citizens both in its internal legislation and in its treaties and agreements with third parties;
- calls upon the EU to look towards practical and fair alternatives to the strengthening of consent based the autonomous authorisation model calls for further investment in research in the EU on technological developments in order to find solutions for these challenges posed by the new digital environment in Europe and abroad.
- 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.

[1] Big data is high-volume, high-velocity and/or high-variety information assets that demand cost-effective, innovative forms of information processing that enable enhanced insight, decision making, and process automation.

[2] The Internet of Things (IoT) describes the revolution already under way that is seeing a growing number of internet enabled devices that can network and communicate with each other and with other web-enabled gadgets. IoT refers to a state where Things (e.g. objects, environments, vehicles and clothing) will have more and

more information associated with them and may have the ability to sense, communicate, network and produce new information, becoming an integral part of the Internet

[3]http://consent.law.muni.cz/storage/1365167549_sb_consentonlineprivacyconferencemar_ch20_52_13-consentprojectresultswwhatconsumersthink.pdf

2.14 Urgency resolution on the current situation in Catalonia

(Former 2.21 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Summary

- The Spanish government has refused to negotiate on the subject of a referendum despite an overwhelming majority (80%) of voters in Catalonia wanting a vote and the results of the 2015 Catalan election, in which 59.19% of the votes and 83 out of 135 seats went to parties supporting a referendum.
- The Spanish government has made use of the inadequate separation of powers
- The regional government of Catalonia held a referendum on Catalan independence after their legal framework for the referendum was suspended by a ruling of the Spanish constitutional court. The regional Government of Catalonia reported a result of 90,09% in favour among ballots counted and a ballot turnout of 56.75% including ballots which were seized by the Spanish police and therefore not counted.
- Appalling scenes of police brutality, which were roundly condemned across Europe and the world, unfolded in Catalonia on the date of the referendum as Spanish riot police made use of force against protesters and against voters to take away ballot boxes and ballot papers.

Whereas:

- LYMEC has recognised the right of people in Catalonia to decide their political future in a referendum, both in public statements and in its policy book.
- The current president of the ALDE Party, Hans van Baalen, has called for negotiations between the Spanish national and the Catalan regional government. His predecessor, Sir Graham Watson, has voiced support for a Catalan referendum

- IFLRY has also called for Catalan citizens to express their democratic will freely in a referendum on the political future of Catalonia; and the Liberal International has also stated its support for any decision taken by the Catalan people on their future.

Considering that:

- Whatever their views on independence, 80% of people in Catalonia want the issue put to a referendum;
- The Spanish government has refused **to negotiate** a referendum despite the aforementioned level of popular support and repeated entreaties from international politicians and political movements;
- A referendum was held on 1 October 2017 by the Catalan regional Government, despite the Spanish constitutional court suspending their *Law on a Self-determination Referendum on the Independence of Catalonia*, passed by the Parliament of Catalonia on 6 September;
- The Spanish Constitutional Court has provisionally suspended said law pending its judgement on the case, while the Spanish government claims that it is illegal
- The Spanish government has had beforehand warned it might exert its power to uphold the courts suspension of the referendum law by arresting the arrest of journalists, civil servants and 712 out of 947 mayors in Catalonia for taking part in preparations for the referendum;
- The power exertion by the Spanish national government has prompted 17 members of the Parliament of Denmark, representing seven different parties, to write to the Spanish government expressing their "deep concern for the situation in Catalonia, which has reached a critical point" and urging Madrid to refrain from using threats and repression;
- On 20 September, the Spanish national paramilitary police stormed several Catalan ministries and government buildings and arrested a dozen officials for conducting the referendum, in a move which was roundly condemned throughout the political spectrum, including ALDE national MPs and MEPs;
- The OHCHR issued a statement in which UN rights experts warned that "[t]he measures we are witnessing are worrying because they appear to violate fundamental individual rights, cutting off public information and the possibility of debate at a critical moment for Spain's democracy."

- British MPs and peers also wrote a letter voicing their concerns and calling on the Spanish government to cease repression and allow the referendum;
- On 1 October, scenes of shocking and police violence against voters left 893 people injured and were roundly condemned all over the world;
- The pro-independence drive in Catalonia is, partly a pro-European civic movement with a strong commitment to the values of the European Union.

LYMEC:

- Calls for de-escalation and nonconfrontational approaches from all parties involved in the conflict
- Calls for international mediation between the Spanish national and the Catalan regional government under EU involvement
- Rejects any abuse of the judiciary forces as a means of repression against journalists, elected officials and volunteers taking part in a peaceful referendum in Catalonia;
- Strongly condemns the brutality of Spanish police forces against voters on the date of the referendum
- Takes note of the result of the referendum held on 1 October 2017 in Catalonia; and urges the Spanish government to negotiate in good faith with the Government of Catalonia.

2.15 Women's right over their own body

(Former 2.25 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Notes that:

- Every year ca 20 million illegal abortions are made all over the world, mostly in poor parts of the world and more than 70,000 of the deaths are a consequence of illegal/unsafe abortions;
- These procedures are often made in the later stage of pregnancy, either made by the woman herself or by people lacking sufficient medical education;

- Every year 15,000 women suffer from severe consequences like physical disabilities and infertility as a consequence of illegal abortions;
- The principle of informed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family planning programmes;
- Some countries in the European Union are facing calls for legislation that would severely restrict or even prevent access to reproductive health services, including family planning and safe abortions;
- A ban on abortion, except when there is an immediate and undeniable threat to a woman's life, will mean that victims of rape and incest will be forced to give birth. Doctors will refrain from performing vital pre-natal tests for fear of possible prosecution, and that miscarriages will be met not with care from a medical professional, but questions from a prosecutor;
- Taboos and the lack of availability of measures of planned parenthood inter alia contraception leads to the rise of unplanned pregnancies, abortion and infectious diseases.

Considers that:

- The empowerment and autonomy of girls and women, and improvements in their political, social, economic and health status, are essential to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Sexual and reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the human rights of women's right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their own bodies;
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights are based on four separate notions, namely sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive rights and reproductive health, within the framework of human rights;
- It is crucial for liberals to fight for the right of individuals to take autonomous decisions over their own sexual and reproductive health rights;
- Forcing women to procure illegal abortions jeopardises women's health and potentially threatens their lives;
- Forcing victims of rape and incest to carry pregnancies to term is an assault on their autonomy and dignity, and jeopardises their mental and physical health;

- Criminalising abortions in circumstances where the pregnancy is likely to result in death is an unacceptable violation of reproductive health.

Calls on:

- LYMEC member parties to actively work to uphold the principle that the human rights of girls and women are an inalienable and indivisible part of human rights, to be protected not only in areas of public life but also in the privacy of the home;
- Member parties to recognize reproductive decision-making, including choice in marriage, family formation, and determination of the number, timing and spacing of one's children; and the right to the information and the safe means to exercise those choices;
- LYMEC calls for the advocacy for open discussions between Member States regarding the access to safe abortion and would encourage Member States to seek consensus on this matter
- The EU Member States and the LYMEC Member Organisations to openly support the She Decides Initiative

2.16 For full voting rights of EU citizens in all member states

(Former 2.26 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

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

Whereas:

- democracy is one of the core values of the United Nations;
- the European Union is founded on the principles of liberty, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, and democracy;
- the right to participate in the democratic life of the society one lives in lies at the heart of European and liberal values; and
- millions of Europeans live and pay taxes in EU Member States other than that in which they have citizenship, but many of them do not have the right to vote in regional, parliamentary and/or presidential elections.

Considering that:

- it is unfair and absurd that European citizens are deprived of their right to vote in the countries where they live, have a family, work, pay taxes and have a direct stake in;
- having the right to vote would be a powerful engine of integration for EU citizens residing in another Member State and help to strengthen their engagement with the civil society of the country where they live;
- it is true that Member States offer a path to voting in these elections by acquiring the nationality of the corresponding Member State;
- however, LYMEC, ALDE and many other pro-European forces are trying to build a Europe in which multiple identities are compatible and in no case mutually exclusive, so people should not be forced to choose between one identity and another to get something as basic as the right to vote where they pay their taxes; and
- furthermore, many EU Member States still require very long periods of residence (8 years or more) before people born in other Member States can apply for citizenship, leaving them disenfranchised for a significant part of their adult lives.

Remembering that:

- article 22 of the TFEU already grants EU citizens residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in both municipal and European elections.

LYMEC:

- calls upon all relevant stakeholders (political parties, public authorities, European institutions, etc.) to redouble their efforts to make EU expats aware of their current right to vote in local and European elections in the Member States where they live;
- urges EU Member States to amend their electoral laws and conclude reciprocal agreements so that citizens born in other Member States can vote and stand as candidates in the regional elections of the countries where they

have their main residence (instead of, not in addition to, the countries where they have their nationality), starting from the second election of each type following their arrival; and

- urges the European Commission to launch a review of Directive 94/80/EC of 19 December 1994 with a view to repealing those provisions which allow Member States to reserve certain elected posts in local government to nationals.

2.17 Resolution on the Istanbul Convention

(Former 2.27 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

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

Recognizing that:

- The Council of Europe has undertaken a series of initiatives to promote the protection of women against violence since the 1990s. Resulting from these initiatives and the following processes and negotiations, the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (also known as the Istanbul Convention) was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 7 April 2011.
- The Convention is the first international treaty containing a definition of "gender" as "social roles, behaviours, activities and characteristics that a particular society considers appropriate for women and men" – according to Art. 3 of the Convention.
- The Convention focuses on four aspects, including:
- Prevention - through training of professionals, regular awareness-raising campaigns; including issues such as gender equality in teaching material; set up treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence and for sex offenders, etc.
- Protection - including police intervention and protection as well as specialised support services such as shelters, telephone hotlines etc.
- Prosecution - as the Convention defines and criminalises the various forms of violence against women as well as domestic violence.

- Integrated policies - an effective response to such violence requires concerted action by many different actors, therefore calls for integrated policies involving government agencies, NGOs as well as national, regional and local parliaments and authorities.
- Since the adoption of the Istanbul Convention, 17 EU members have ratified the Convention, along with non-members Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. To those countries which ratify the Convention, it becomes a binding treaty.

Considering that:

- It is necessary to set comprehensive standards to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. 1 in 3 women have reported some form of physical or sexual abuse since the age of 15, according to the survey on "the extent of violence against women across the European Union (EU)" carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2014. Further, most violence is carried out by a current or former partner, with 22% of women in relationships reporting partner abuse.
- Recently a wave of opposition has become visible in Central Europe. Critics of the Convention claim that its definition of "gender" opens the door to legalising gay marriage and promoting homosexuality in school by so-called promoters of "gender ideology".
- These criticisms have led Bulgaria on 15 February 2018, and then Slovakia (22 February) to oppose ratifying the Istanbul Convention. While there is no explicit mention of gay marriage in the treaty, its wording is seen as a threat to the traditional family structure.

Therefore, this resolution calls upon:

- LYMEC to condemn gender-based violence (including sexual harassment and psychological coercion) and domestic violence, and to actively promote and campaign for the Istanbul Convention.
- Member organisations to push the ALDE group and its member organisations to support and promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the national governments.

- Member organisations to set up campaigns to inform and raise awareness on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and where necessary apply fact-checking campaigns.

2.18 Resolution on Minority Rights

(Former 2.28 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

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

Whereas

- Europe is not, and has never been, a continent of homogeneity, and that it is this diversity of human experience that constitutes Europe's greatest wealth;
- Europe contains within its borders a myriad of different cultures, languages, religions, ... beyond the ones officially recognised by the EU and by member states;
- it is estimated that national minorities make up 8% of the EU's population;
- aside from the 24 official languages of the EU, there are a further 60 regional and minority languages, the total speakers of which is estimated to be at 40 million citizens;
- Article 1 of the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities defines a minority as persons belonging to a "national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity";
- the LYMEC Working Group on Minority Rights considers this definition too narrow, and will expand it to include gender, sexuality, and people with disabilities with the possibility to also take into account other factors (as new insights determine new factors);
- the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), while not including a provision specifically referring to minority rights, includes many provisions that nonetheless ensure these rights are protected; these include Article 8 (Right to respect for private and family life), Article 9 (Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion), Article 10 (Freedom of Expression), and importantly Article 14 (Prohibition of Discrimination);

- the ECHR has been signed and ratified by all member states of the European Union and the Council of Europe, and that thereby they have a legal responsibility to protect the rights of minorities;
- Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights prohibits discrimination based many features, including sex, race, colour, language, religion, membership of a national minority, and sexual orientation;
- the Copenhagen Criteria specifically refers to the respect for and protection of minorities;

Aware of

- the fact that the present definition of minority rights might not be shared by all actors; this cannot, however, be used as an excuse to curtail fundamental rights as delineated in the ECHR and in the aforementioned 1992 Declaration;
- the fact that cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic differences can be the source of tension between communities;

Considering

- that identity is a complex and heterogeneous construct that is formed as a result of a myriad of factors, including history, biology, daily experience and personal choice;
- That identity is fluid and can change over time;

Concerned

- by the discrimination being faced by minorities across Europe and beyond;

Believes that

- humans are not born discriminatory, that this behaviour is learned, and that it can therefore be unlearned;
- the defence of the right of the individual, regardless of any natural or constructed differences, is a fundamental liberal value;

- it has always been the duty of the liberal to stand against the tyranny of the majority, and that the protection of the rights of minorities is crucial for the construction of a truly liberal democracy;
- the ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and even personal diversity of Europe constitutes an invaluable asset to European society, that Europe is a product of this diversity;

Stresses that

- any attempt by a state to impose a homogeneous identity on any individual in society to the detriment of otherwise held ethnic, cultural, religious, linguistic, gender and sexual affiliations is a violation of fundamental human and civic rights;
- a democratic system, constructed without any thought to checks and balances, and without being rooted in the principle of minority right protection, has the potential to be just as oppressive of these rights as any other system;
- democratic states in Europe and across the world should not cease their efforts to ensure that all of their citizens have the exact same rights and make sure that such a situation remains overtime;
- differences should not in any context be used to justify the oppression of minorities within minorities, and that the respect for fundamental universal human rights must remain a goal in and of itself. Human rights must always take precedence when cultural norms violate these rights;

Condemns

- the acts of violence and discrimination that are taking place across Europe fueled by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racism; equally condemns acts of violence and discrimination against LGBT individuals, women and people with disabilities;

Calls on

- all member states of the European Union and of the Council of Europe to protect the rights of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious, gender and sexual

minorities, as well as of people with disabilities, thereby ensuring full equality before the law;

- member states of the European Union and Council of Europe to work on establishing a common definition of 'minority';
- the European Union to take more active steps to ensure the protection of minority rights within its borders, and to actively promote the protection of minorities abroad to set an example in the first place to the member states, but even to the rest of the world;
- the Commission of the European Union to develop a mechanism to monitor the respect for minority rights within member states, and to provide recommendations on improvements to be made;
- member states to make topics of human rights in general, and minority rights in particular, an important focus of the primary and secondary school curricula;
- the ALDE Party to make the defence of Minority Rights both in Europe and beyond one of its key banners in the upcoming 2019 European elections;

Proposes

- making the defence of minority rights in Europe and beyond a key banner in LYMEC's work, and to include it in the programme for the upcoming 2019 European elections;
- developing a campaign with member organisations to ensure the protection of minority rights stays on the agenda at both a European and a national level.

2.19 Resolution on the Rights of Linguistic Minorities

(Former 2.29 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

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

Whereas

1. speaking and using one's own language is a basic human right;

2. linguistic diversity makes a society richer, not poorer;
3. this principle is enshrined in article 22 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union;
4. the European Union has 24 official languages and dozens of regional and minority languages;
5. a more multilingual Europe will be a more integrated Europe as language barriers fall serving the creation of a common European sphere; and
6. the benefits of multilingualism on the brain also make it easier for people to acquire other, linguistic and non-linguistic skills, thereby improving the qualifications of the European workforce and its productivity.

Considering that

- the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, a treaty adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe, has been ratified by all EU Member States except France and Italy;
- proceedings in the European Parliament may only be conducted in the official languages of the EU, thereby excluding the languages of millions of European citizens and, in some cases, languages with many more speakers than some of the official ones;
- in the past, countries that now make up the EU used to stigmatise speakers of regional languages as backward, illiterate or unsophisticated; some continue to do so by subtler means, such as repeatedly stressing the differences between these languages and "cosmopolitan" languages such as English, French or Spanish; and
- simply keeping a regional or minority language alive as a folkloric curiosity is not enough; protecting a language also involves ensuring speakers can use it in any sphere of life and without fear of social or class stigma;
- languages, especially at local and regional levels are going beyond borders implying the development of a framework at European level to deal with them;

LYMEC

- reaffirms its view of language diversity as an asset to European society and a tool for European integration;

- invites ALDE to distance itself from the political, cultural and linguistic centralism of the EPP and S&D groups by unambiguously reaffirming its support for regional and minority languages all over the EU and beyond through its member organizations;
- urges France and Italy to carry out the necessary legislative changes to ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- urges the members of the Council of Europe who have not yet signed or ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to do so;
- calls for the relevant regulations to be amended so that EU languages other than the official ones can be used in the proceedings of the European Parliament as long as qualified translators and interpreters can be found and an EU-based [regional] government or organisation bears the translation costs;
- and urges Member States of the European Union to cease painting regional and minority languages as folkloric curiosities, and instead foster a situation in which these languages can be used in any sphere of life without any attached stigma.
- urges the creation of a European framework to protect minority languages and give general overview and assessment in this field.

2.20 Expanding Freedom of Speech

(Former 2.30 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: JnC, FEL, VU, JD, UV, SU, JL

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Considering that:

- freedom of speech is a core liberal value;
- there remain barriers to free speech that are relics of a bygone era in which the ruling class was exempt from any sort of criticism;
- several European countries still have lèse-majesté laws on their books, which can be used to prosecute anyone who insults their heads of state or government or those of third countries

- generic libel laws already exist to protect the rights of people whose reputation has been unfairly tarnished; under the principle of equality before the law, there should not be separate laws for members of the ruling classes;
- several European countries still have blasphemy (or similar) laws on their books, which can be used to prosecute anyone who insults a religious figure or deity; and
- free speech should remain free, and every individual should be protected by the same universal laws, no-one should be more or less protected than others;
- true equality doesn't origin from special laws, but a change of mindset; and
- a liberal conception of the very idea of freedom of speech should include a peculiar tint of philosophical republicanism, meaning that no citizen stands outside the reach of the law, nor the exposure to public opinion and sanction.

LYMEC:

- calls upon all EU Member States that still have lèse-majesté or similar laws to abolish them;
- urges all EU Member States that still have blasphemy or similar laws to abolish them;
- calls upon all EU Member States to make sure that a law on defamation is enforced;
- encourages EU Members States whose legislative procedure makes the simple act of striking down a law intricate to add a “freedom of speech” article to their constitution in order to render the above mentioned norms de facto unlawful; and reiterates its commitment to defending freedom of speech.

2.21 Eliminate Pink and Tampon Taxes

(Former 2.32 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers FEL & IMS John De Coster

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Minor updates to text made at LYMEC Spring Congress, online, 24th April 2021

Referring to:

- Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13.12.2004 implementing the principle of equal 5 treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services, 6 OJ L 373, 21.12.2004;
- Research paper “Gender equality and taxation in the European Union”, requested by the 8 European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and 9 commissioned, overseen and published (2017) by the Policy Department C: Citizens' 10 Rights and Constitutional Affairs (Directorate General for Internal Policies) whose aim 11 was “to evaluate how tax systems and tax policies at EU and Member State level 12 contribute to – or hinder – gender equality”;
- Recommendations listed at the end of the latter research paper, including to:
 - Strengthen policies to promote the equal intra-household distribution of paid and unpaid work
 - Take account of the distributional and allocative impact of tax expenditures
 - Promote and conduct research on gender aspects of taxation, and
 - ensure the availability of appropriate gender-disaggregated data
 - Take legal obligations to prohibit discrimination and ensure substantive gender equality with regard to taxation seriously
 - Ensure political commitment at the European level
 - define targets and indicators to 23 achieve substantive gender equality with regard to taxation
 - Ensure the implementation of gender analyses and compliance with gender equality 25 objectives with respect to taxation at Union and Member State level
- Commissioner Věra Jourová written answer (d.d. September 9, 2015) to MEP Ernest 27 Urtasun (Verts/ALE) written question (d.d. June 26, 2015) reading as follows : "Equality between women and men is a fundamental right and one of the founding principles of the European Union, Directive 2004/113/EC prohibits direct and indirect discrimination between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services. Indirect discrimination occurs where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice would put persons of one sex at a particular disadvantage compared with persons of the other sex, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary”;

Acknowledging that:

- Such things as a “pink tax” and a “tampon tax” really do exist;

Considering that:

- The “Pink Tax” could be defined as followed : “refers to the additional costs for products or services, specifically targeted at women” (“Gender equality and taxation in the European Union”, p14);
- “Overall, women pay 13% more for personal care products, 8% more for clothing, 7% more for girls’ toy, 8% more for health care products”, a study of the NYC Department of Affairs finds;
- The “Tampon Tax” could be defined as levying “VAT on women’s sanitary products” (Collins online);
- The tampon tax has become a source of social and economic unfairness to women given that the “potential regressive effects of VAT on basic needs are also at the heart of the present debate on tampon taxes, which obviously are goods only consumed by women” (“Gender equality and taxation in the European Union”, p44);
- The rate at which women’s hygiene products are levied varies within the EU and thus may reach alarming percentages (5,5% in France, 6% in Portugal and Belgium, 7% in Germany, 10% in Spain, 23% in Greece, 25% in Denmark, Croatia and Sweden, 27% in Hungary);
- Plan International published a study that showed that 45% “of girls in Scotland have had to use alternatives such as toilet paper, socks and newspaper during their periods because they could not afford to buy sanitary products”, a rather saddening established fact which refers to the concept of “periods poverty”, defined as “a phenomenon in which people struggle to pay for basic sanitary products on a monthly basis, resulting in a negative impact on their hygiene, health and well-being” by grassroots group Women for Independence;
- taxation not only unfairly impacts women through VAT on feminine hygiene products, as the above mentioned study states : “there has been a longstanding debate and increasing concern that the burden of VAT falls

disproportionately on women" ("Gender equality and taxation in the European Union", p43);

Further acknowledging:

- Scotland's decision to make sanitary products free for all students in order to "banish the scourge of period poverty";
- Susannah Lane's (Head of Public Affairs at Universities Scotland) way of putting things sound and clear: "Periods are a part of life but they shouldn't be a point of inequality, compromise someone's quality of life or be a distraction from making the very most of time spent at university";
- That measures aiming at doing away with the very existence of a tampon tax have been taken in various not-so-far-away-from-home countries, f.i. Ireland (0% VAT), the United Kingdom (abolished the tax on January 1st 2021), or Canada (removal of the "Goods and Services" tax (GST) on feminine hygiene products);
- The "lack of research based on gender-disaggregated data that can show what impact specific rates and exemptions have in relation to certain consumption patterns" (p43);

LYMEC urges:

- to endorse the previously mentioned recommendations, more distinctively;
- to promote research on gender aspects of taxation and ensure the availability of appropriate gender-disaggregated data;
- to ensure political commitment at the European level and define targets and indicators to achieve substantive gender equality with regard to taxation;
- Member States to follow the Republic of Ireland's example by removing VAT on all feminine hygiene products; and ideally,
- Member States to contemplate the possibility to follow Scotland's footprints by delivering feminine hygiene products for free on campus and to women with lower income.
- To urge member states to make female hygiene products more easily accessible - for example by providing them in public lavatories. against the new wave of xenophobia and racism in the EU.

2.22 Legal Protection for Whistleblowers

(Former 2.34 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: Junge Liberale

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Considering that:

- Democratic society thrives on transparency and openness, which makes it necessary to protect those who draw attention to irregularities which serve the public interest.
- The currently missing legal bases and the unclear jurisdiction make it almost impossible for informants to draw attention towards infringements, corruptions or other wrongdoings in enterprises or authorities.
- The case of Chelsea Manning showed that there can be situations in which single countries have to fear massive economic and political difficulties if they provide asylum to whistleblowers.

Recognizing that:

- In 2011, the European Court of Human Rights determined that the termination without notice of an employee on the basis of the publication of irregularities at her employer's company has been a violation of the Human Rights Convention.

Believing that:

- A fair balance between the public information interest on one side and the protection of commercial interests or possible state secrets on the other side is of crucial importance.

The European Liberal Youth calls for:

A European legal framework regulating how employees or civil servants who witness irregularities can report them while ensuring that they are protected and confidentiality is maintained. Reporting persons should preferably report through

internal channels but should also be able to report externally to the competent authorities. The reporting person should also have the right to make the matter public in cases where:

- 1) He or she reported internally and externally or directly externally and the matter was not addressed;
- 2) The interest of the public prevails considerably in comparison with the interest of the business to keep their matters private;
- 3) There is a significant risk that reporting internally or externally would put him or her at risk or jeopardize evidences.

In specifically difficult cases, the European Union should be enabled to provide asylum to whistleblowers as a representative of the member states. Member states taking whistleblowers into their countries can then be certain to receive solidarity from the other member states.

An international convention for the protection of whistleblowers. Inspired by the United Nations Convention for Refugees, states should be obligated to take whistleblowers under their wing, if they must fear criminal prosecution in their home countries due to their disclosure of relevant irregularities.

2.23 Resolution on condemning the persecution and torture of journalists and activists

(Former 2.35 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Young Liberals (YL), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Ógra Fianna Fáil (OFF), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Jong Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Jong VLD), Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Jonge Democraten (JD), Venstres Ungdom (VU)

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Endorses:

UN resolutions on safety of journalists, in particular Human Rights Council Resolution (A/HRC/RES/33/2) on the Safety of Journalists (2016), the UNGA 3rd Committee Resolution (A/C.3/72/L.35/Rev.1) on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (2017), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on

Civil and Political Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, the European Convention on Human Rights and EU Treaties;

Recognizes that:

- LYMEC has been vocal over the years in defending the rights of young activists (2.43, 2.49).
- over the past decade, according to information of Committee to Protect Journalists, more than 1337 journalists around the world were murdered for bringing news and information related to corruption investigation to the public;
- in reviewing the facts of persecution within and out the EU, Daphne Caruana Galizia, was blown up in her car on Malta (2017); activist Nikolai Andrushchenko from Russia was attacked and afterwards died (2018) for reporting on issues provocative to the Russian regime, including corruption; Slovak journalist Jan Kuciak was shot dead (2018) for investigating probabilistic political corruption; Ukrainian activist and civil servant Kateryna Gandzyuk, was drenched with acid and died (2018) in hospital;

Alarmed:

- that journalists and activists are murdered in fight for truth representing anti-corruption news in violation of international/regional and national provisions on freedom of speech and expression;
- many of the killings are not investigated and the perpetrators are rarely identified;

Concerned:

that journalists and activists have the right to hold opinions and to impart information without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers due to international and European standards on human rights;

LYMEC calls on:

- the ALDE Party and LYMEC Bureau to lobby within the ALDE Group of the European Parliament to support the proposal for a regulation on condemning the persecution and torture of journalists and activists, as well as to monitor the compliance of EU member countries with the provisions of the European

Parliament resolution on media pluralism and media freedom in the European Union (2017/2209(INI)) of 3 May 2018;

- its member organizations to bring the topic into discussion in their respective mother parties, partner organizations and government bodies;
- Member organizations should ensure the implementation of this resolution.
- the EU institutions to defend the legitimate rights of European citizens and to condemn any violation of their freedoms.

If adopted this resolution would archive Resolutions 2.43 and 2.49.

2.24 Liberal Gender Policy

(Former 2.36 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Radikal Ungdom, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Jonge Democraten.

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

Archiving R.2.18 on the Liberal Gender Policy.

Considering that:

- There is a clear need for having fair representation of all genders in different areas of life - research, business, labour market and, last but not least, in decision-making. Gender equality and respect between all genders is a way towards more liberal and open-minded values in our society.
- A truly liberal gender policy should take its starting point at the individual human being and their rights, regardless of gender. A liberal gender policy should cherish the differences between people, thus not try to apply a stereotype of gender on said people.
- 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 and should suggest initiatives to reach said goals.
- Still today, only 13% of mayors and 29% of regional representative in the EU are women and that leads to a lack of awareness on women's issues.
- The ratio of women MEP went up to 39% from 36% in the last elections to the European Parliament, but despite this, men still account for a big majority of MEPs;

- In the business world, in 2017 only 25.3% of the high-level managing positions were occupied by women and their salaries are 16% lower than those of men in the same job roles.
- Women's employment rate is 64% on average in the EU, while it is 76% for men, and that women account for over 75% of part-timers and less than 33% of scientists and engineers across Europe. Also, only 65.6% of women with children under 12 work, as opposed to 90.3% of men.
- At the current pace, it will take 100 years to achieve gender equality.

Noting that:

- Women should have equal legal and political rights and opportunities to men ;
- Promoting equal economic independence for women, closing the gender pay gap, advancing gender balance in decision-making, ending gender-based violence and promoting gender equality beyond the EU are EU policies under the 2017-2019 Action Plan and the Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019;
- The WTO gender declaration approved by the 11th Ministerial Conference calls for a promotion of the access to finance and female entrepreneurship, especially in areas such as public procurement, value chains and trade facilitation;
- 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.
- In some EU countries, tax benefit systems exist that discourage women from taking up work or increasing their working hours. Those tax systems create a disincentive for second earners to work full-time by disproportionately taxing their income;
- In November 2012 the European Commission proposed legislation to increase the number of women on corporate boards by 40% in publicly listed companies, but that this piece of legislation has not yet been enforced.

Defending that:

- The UN Millennium Sustainable Development goals constitute a valuable basis for moving towards a liberal gender policy in the world, especially focusing on

goal 5 and the indicators 5.1 and 5.5 in Europe. We believe that education is 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 and therefore the improvement of SDG5 will play a significant role on SDG1.
- In our view, global gender equality goes hand in hand with the reduction of poverty, a general economic and social development and democratization. Furthermore, it is necessary that the legal framework of many countries are changed before long in order to be based on individuals.
- Female subordination is rooted in a set of customary and legal constraints that block women's access to and success in the public world, thus undermining their intellectual and physical capabilities;
- It is the responsibility of governments at all levels to create the enabling conditions for women to exercise their personal autonomy and ensure that they are adequately represented in the process of democratic self-determination;
- These enabling conditions include: being free of violence and the threat of violence, and being free of the limits set by patriarchal paternalistic and moralistic laws;
- Economic independence is a prerequisite for both women and men to be in control of their lives and to make genuine choices. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an unacceptable violation of the rights of women and girls and it is still present in various EU countries despite being a crime in the EU.
- It is utterly important to have an active presence of all genders in politics. There is a need for the participation and representation of all genders in decision-making bodies in order to ensure well-balanced decisions that reflect the societies that they legislate for.

LYMEC calls for:

- Is committed to equality of opportunities for women, which are key to women's liberation;
- Restates its defence for women's reproductive rights and complete access to abortion, condemns all kinds of sexual harassment, as well as sexual and domestic violence against women;

- Calls for the European Commission to present a draft proposal for an EU-wide Gender Equality Strategy within the first year after taking office, especially aiming at harmonising national legal frameworks to support work-life balance, to promote an equal distribution of family duties between men and women, and to address the gender pay gap;
- Asks the European Parliament and all national Parliaments to promote girls' access to basic and higher education and a fair compensation for their work, breaking at once the "glass ceiling";
- Calls for the European Institutions to meet the objectives under the five priority areas, as well as its 30 concrete actions, laid out under the Strategic Engagement, and specifically to end FGM inside the European Union;
- Asks the EU to engage international stakeholders so as to meet the Gender Equality
- Objective and all its nine specific sub-targets in the adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Believes that gay and lesbian partnerships should be given the same recognition currently available to heterosexuals;
- Believes that sex trade should be made legal so as to ensure women's safety and control over their own working conditions;
- Encourages 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 support increasing the possibility for paternity leave this is another important step and signal on the way towards gender equality.
- Believes that every family should be able to decide how they want to structure their family life. Therefore, there should be no rules against one parent taking the entire leave, and thus the EU shall never force families to share the leave equally between them.
- Defends that we will never be able to achieve humanity's full potential if we leave half of the population behind;
- Praises European leaders for the gender-balanced executive proposed by the Council and approved by the Parliament that nominates Ursula von der Leyen as President of the Commission and Christine Lagarde as President of the European Central Bank;

- Believes that encouragement and tolerance is the best way to ensure an implementation of a liberal gender policy based on equal opportunities and fair representation.
- Urge a promotion of fair representation at all levels of society, as we believe that the encouragement, tolerance, education and the belief from society in any person's ability is more important and successful in the long term than distinct quotas or positive discrimination.
- 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, as well as to put all effort to reach a fair distribution of gender within their organisation and make initiatives to combat any existing gender gap. As well as to put all effort to ensure that each gender has equal opportunities to be represented within their organisation and make initiatives to combat any form of existing gender discrimination.
- Calls member organisations to educate their organisation on LGBTQ+, in order to break down stereotypes towards genders and people of other sexual orientation than the one that they themselves possess.
- 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.

2.25 Resolution on lowering the voting age to 16 in European Parliament elections

(Former 2.37 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: Lithuanian liberal youth (LLY), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Estonian Reform Party Youth (ERPY), Attistibai Youth.

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

Noting that:

- Citizens' involvement in the governance of the state is the key feature of democracy. In most of the European Union (EU) Member States, the highest

sovereignty is exercised through the election of political representatives or the participation in direct democracy procedures such as referendums or participatory budgets.

- Under the current legislation of each EU Member State, all citizens of the state have the right to vote in European Parliament elections from the age of 18 (except Greece, Malta, and Austria), but young people still tend to vote less than other population segments, expressing their views and civic engagement through alternative procedures than that of participatory democracy, being their preferences thus less represented in traditional democratic institutions [1].
- Even though participation in the 2019 European Parliament elections increased compared with 2014 elections (from 42,6% to 50.6%) it is still low in some of the EU Member States [2]. In addition to this, young people's participation in European elections are constantly increasing. 42% of young people from age 16 to 24 voted in 2019 European Parliament elections, while in 2014 elections only 28% [3] voted.
- Demographic trends in the EU show a decline in the number of young people from age 15 to 29 [4]. According to the data of Eurostat, young people made up 17,4% of the EU population in 2016, compared with 21.5 percent in 1996[5]. It is particularly important to ensure that the needs of young people are properly represented, while facing challenges of the aging population.
- European Parliament in 2015 adopted the resolution 2015/2035(INL) on reforming electoral law [6]. One of the suggestions was that EU Member States should consider ways to harmonise the minimum age of voters at 16, in order to further enhance electoral equality among Union citizens.

Believes that:

- By lowering the voting age to 16 years old in the European Parliament elections, young people would gain a stronger voice in the policy-making processes. This would partly offset the diminishing voice of young people in an aging society. Education, youth employment, social affairs, family policy would be given higher priority on the political agenda.
- Young people nowadays have greater knowledge of society and are more informed than was the youth of previous generations due to the achievements of digitalisation and connected society, as well as the practically complete alphabetisation of the EU population and the promotion

of critical thought in the education system. Nevertheless, lowering the voting age to 16 also needs to entail a greater and early educational focus on political education, democracy and critical discourse in order to ensure that everyone knows what their rights are and how to exercise them.

- 16-17 year olds already have a lot of responsibilities in society: they can partially work and pay taxes, however, they cannot decide on how their paid taxes are distributed;
- Young people from 16 years old can also be convicted in most of the EU Member States. However, young people below the age of 18 years are not allowed to vote at elections and thereby influence the decisions that have direct consequences for their everyday life.
- Lowering the voting age could contribute to the development of civic society and creating a voting habit. Studies have shown that political interest of 16 and 17-year-old Austrians have increased more than double after lowering the voting age (21,8% interviewees were very interested in politics in 2008, compared with 7.9% of interviewees in 2004)[7].
- Another example shows that 16 year old Germans tend to vote more than standard-type voters [8].

Therefore LYMEC calls upon:

- The EU to adopt draft legislative acts and legalize voting in European Parliament elections from the age of 16 years old in all EU Member States.
- The EU to promote programs aimed at the strengthening of an EU common identity and training programs that spread knowledge among EU youth about the relevance and day-to-day functioning of the EU, so that they know why should they vote and they are less encouraged to support Eurosceptic parties.

[1] 2019 European elections: National rules

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2018/623556/EPRS_ATA\(2018\)623556_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2018/623556/EPRS_ATA(2018)623556_EN.pdf)

[2] Post-election survey 2019, p.20 -

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/files/be-heard/eurobarometer/2019/post-election-survey-2019-complete-results/report/en-post-election-survey-2019-report.pdf>

[3] Post-election survey 2019, p.22 -

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/files/be-heard/eurobarometer/2019/post-election-survey-2019-complete-results/report/en-post-election-survey-2019-report.pdf>

[4] Europe's demographic challenge -

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Being_young_in_Europe_today_demographic_trends#Europe.27s_demographic_challenge

- [5] Children and young people in the population, EU-28, 1 January 1996, 2006 and 2016 - https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:Children_and_young_people_in_the_population,_EU-28,_1_January_1996,_2006_and_2016_BYIE18.png
- [6] Reform of the electoral law of the European Union, [https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2015/2035\(INL\)](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?lang=en&reference=2015/2035(INL))
- [7] Political interest among young Austrians before and after lowering voting age, p.10 - <https://ecpr.eu/filestore/paperproposal/9e969392-9b14-4c34-b0e7-e23eeffbfb87.pdf>
- [8] German young people in polling booths, p.5 - www.cje.org/descargas/cje4965.pdf

2.26 Towards a sustainable labour migration policy

(Former 2.38 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, JNC

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

This resolution archives resolution 2.08 Towards a Common migration policy

Whereas the demographic situation in the EU is rapidly changing, but in contrast to the overall situation in the world. There is a slowdown in population growth and a rise in the average age of the population and an aging workforce. As pointed out in the European Parliament's Research Service analysis - Demographic outlook for the European Union 2019[1], "the EU represents an ever-shrinking proportion of the world population, at just 6.9 % today (down from 13.5 % in 1960), and is projected to fall further to just 4.1 % by the end of this century....

In both 2015 and 2017, the natural population change (live births minus deaths) was slightly negative, and net inward migration was therefore key to the population growth seen in those years. Combined, these trends result in a dramatically ageing EU-28, whose working population (aged 15 to 64) shrank for the first time in 2010 and is expected to decline every year to 2060. In contrast, the proportion of people aged 80 or over in the EU-28 population is expected to more than double by 2050, reaching 11.4 %. In 2006, there were four people of working age (15-64) for each person aged 65 or over; by 2050, this ratio is projected to be just two people." In that situation, across the EU as a whole, it is migration that has become the principal component for maintaining the EU population.

Stressing the need to focus on a worrying growth in skills shortages and miss-matches in supply and demand for labour, and the fact that immigration can be an effective way to deal with labour market imbalances, including skill shortages;

Noting the thriving practice of human trafficking and exploitation of human beings within the EU;

Reminding that immigration is in most cases beneficial for all parties. The stigma and discrimination on immigrants on the labour market makes them marginalised and trapped by unemployment and dependency on the welfare state.

Noting that according to the European Fundamental rights agency report “Severe labour exploitation in the EU” marks down that “Worker exploitation is not an isolated or marginal phenomenon. But despite its pervasiveness in everyday life, severe labour exploitation and its adverse effects on third-country nationals and EU citizens have to date not received much attention”.

Exploitation of undocumented workers, mostly immigrants, with the aim to obtain cheap labour, violates labour agreements and leaves these people in conditions of chronic poverty, indignity and exploitation, as is the case in the plastic sea in Almería (Spain), where people are significantly underpaid, and are assigned to work without any contract or social security coverage and never offered residence certificates, leaving them in a legal limbo.

Believing that an EU approach to labour migration is crucial for coordinating migration policies and actions which at the moment are carried out by Member States in order to tackle this situation in a holistic way.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Commission to make a thorough impact assessment of the economic (labour demand) and demographic developments within the Union, the trends in the main countries of origin of migrant workers and the cost of no-action in closing the demographic-labour market gap, in order to fight the populist rhetoric and public prejudice to workers of migrant origin.

- EU instruments providing for orderly, legal and safe access to the EU for migrant workers, which would prevent smuggling, ensuring that a functioning common immigration system for migrant workers is put in place which encourages both low skilled workers and professionals, highly needed by the European market to come to the EU and close the labour demand and supply gap.
- Calls on the EU to harmonize the member states' legislation and to extend the Blue card scheme to make it a EU-wide work permit replacing the equivalent national schemes.
- 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 put in place, so that it could be guaranteed their rights and obligations. More measures for enhancing non-discrimination in the economic, social and cultural life of migrants should also be put in place.
- 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 cooperation programmes for local and regional development.
- Calls for further efforts to combat smuggling and trafficking, especially by ensuring the application of labour legislation with respect to the third country nationals.

[1] [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2019/637955/EPRS_IDA\(2019\)637955_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2019/637955/EPRS_IDA(2019)637955_EN.pdf)

2.27 A common approach to asylum policy

(Former 2.39 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, JNC

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

This resolution archives resolution 1.09 and 2.10 on Tear down fortress Europe and resolution 2.11 on Common approach to Asylum policy.

Considering that:

- 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 [1] Thousands of people die each year trying to reach European shores; migrants seeking refuge in Europe are met with walls and [2] burdensome and lengthy procedures.
- We are observing a race to the bottom between nations in introducing more and more strict refugee and immigration rules in order not to receive refugees [3]
- Currently, there are quite different conditions of asylum in EU member states, both in terms of the fundamental aspects of entitlement to seek asylum and refusal rates, as well as in terms of the length of procedures. There are great divergences concerning asylum rights - and the extent to which rights are applied - access to education, healthcare, language training and the labour market. There are still great disparities as well in the physical and psychological environment that asylum seekers are faced with in the different EU member states.
- The European Commission proposed in 2016 and European Parliament adopted a number of reports revising the rules of the Common European Asylum System, which are to this day being blocked by the Council.
- On 16 November 2017 the European Parliament voted in favor of the reform of the Dublin III Regulation [4]. The Dublin III Regulation, which is the cornerstone of the European Asylum Policy provides the rules for determining which member state is responsible for examining an application for international protection [5].
- The current provisions stipulate that asylum can be sought only in the first country of entry of the asylum seeker, making this country the only one responsible for the asylum claim and providing an asylum status. With only a few Member states on the forefront of Europe's borders, that makes the Common European Asylum System designed to failure, with any increased inflow of people.
- As a result, some member states have refused to register refugees according to the first country of entry criterion leading to secondary movements and an unpredictable shift of responsibility.
- Member states have also decided to close their borders due to the disproportionate distribution of applicants. The revised Dublin regulation as

proposed by the European Parliament aims to correct these shortcomings by a distribution based on the population and GDP of each member state.[6]

- The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen stated that Commission would work on a new pact on migration and asylum, replacing the current proposals in order to overcome the deadlock of the files in Council. Including a “relaunch the reform of asylum rules. This should include finding new forms of solidarity [across the bloc] and should ensure that all member states make meaningful contributions to support those countries under the most pressure.”

Believing that:

- Migration is a historical and natural phenomenon, and it is also characteristic of European culture.
- 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 improved as a matter of urgency in the countries where the conditions are worst.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls for:

- A truly common, European approach to migration and asylum[7], including a harmonization of the criteria, acceptance rates and conditions for asylum seekers;
- European Union institutions to consider opening up the possibility of establishing centers to process asylum applications in the regions of origin, providing asylum seekers for alternatives to apply for asylum in the EU without the need to risk their lives physically travelling to the EU and thus reducing their risk of falling prey to human traffickers.
- The European Commission to come up with a proposal under EU law to better coordinate search and rescue (SAR) efforts in the Mediterranean, since Member states have to share their responsibility to host those people that have been rescued at sea, in line with the ad hoc agreement signed by France, Germany, Malta, Italy, Luxembourg, Ireland and Portugal.

- In the case a new proposal is made by the European Commission for a “New pact on migration and asylum” we insist that it is produced without delay and call for a fair, centralised EU distribution system based on solidarity, that would allocate refugees between member states and would be coordinated by an enhanced agency in the place of the European Asylum Support office, instead of the existing rules which proved to not be fit for purpose. For countries which are neglecting this distribution system, there has to be established a graduated sanction system with financial support for refugee reception facilities within the European Union.
- We call in that regard the ALDE Prime ministers to put all efforts and pressure to their counterparts possible to ensure flexibility and putting an end to the blockage at Council of the legislative dossiers reforming the Common European Asylum system.

[1] R. 1.09

[2] R. 2.10

[3] R. 1.09

[4] R. 1.49

[5] R. 1.49

[6] R. 1.49

[7] In its spirit reflects R 1.09 - “Refugee policy as a whole should be a common European issue that should be dealt with on a supranational level. (1.09)”

2.28 Recognition of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as a Policy in LYMEC Gender and Sexual Rights and Civil Liberties

(Former 2.40 prior to Online Spring Congress 2021)

Movers: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, JNC

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in London, United Kingdom, on 9 November 2019

This resolution archives Resolution 2.19 on the Recognition of sexual reproductive health and rights as a policy in LYMEC.

Considering that:

- SDG 3.1 (By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.) is the most off track of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Maternal mortality has fallen by 37% since 2000 - in Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia, maternal mortality has declined by around two-thirds - but maternal mortality ratio – the proportion of mothers that do not survive childbirth compared to those who do – in developing regions is still 14 times higher than in the developed regions.
- According to the World Health Organisation (2019 data) Around 25 million unsafe abortions were estimated to have taken place worldwide each year, almost all in developing countries. Among these, 8 million were carried out in the least- safe or dangerous conditions. Over half of all estimated unsafe abortions globally were in Asia, but also 3 out of 4 abortions that occurred in Africa and Latin America were unsafe. Each year between 4.7% – 13.2% of maternal deaths can be attributed to unsafe abortion. Around 7 million women are admitted to hospitals every year in developing countries, as a result of unsafe abortion. The annual cost of treating major complications from unsafe abortion is estimated at US\$ 553 million, but almost every abortion, death and disability could be prevented through sexuality education, use of effective contraception, provision of safe, legal induced abortion, and timely care for complications.
- There were 36.9 million people globally were living with HIV in 2017, and every year more than 200 million women have unmet needs for contraception, leading to approximately 80 million unintended pregnancies, while a recent global modelling analysis (Stover J. 2014) estimated that condoms have averted around 50 million new HIV infections since the onset of the HIV epidemic.
- 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 this matter 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 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 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 standard of sexual and reproductive health and express his/her sexual identity free from coercion and criminalisation.

Noting that:

- Every year ca 20 million illegal abortions are made all over the world, mostly in poor parts of the world and more than 70,000 of the deaths are a consequence of illegal/unsafe abortions;
- These procedures are often made in the later stage of pregnancy, either made by the woman herself or by people lacking sufficient medical education;
- Every year 15,000 women suffer from severe consequences like physical disabilities and infertility as a consequence of illegal abortions;
- The principle of informed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family planning programmes;
- Some countries in the European Union are facing calls for legislation that would severely restrict or even prevent access to reproductive health services, including family planning and safe abortions;
- A ban on abortion, except when there is an immediate and undeniable threat to a woman's life, will mean that victims of rape and incest will be forced to give birth. Doctors will refrain from performing vital prenatal tests for

fear of possible prosecution, and that miscarriages will be met not with care from a medical professional, but questions from a prosecutor;

- Taboos and the lack of availability of measures of planned parenthood inter alia contraception leads to the rise of unplanned pregnancies, abortion and infectious diseases.

Stating 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;
- The empowerment and autonomy of girls and women, and improvements in their political, social, economic and health status, are essential to the achievement of sustainable development;
- Sexual and reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the human rights of women's right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their own bodies;
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights are based on four separate notions, namely sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive rights and reproductive health, within the framework of human rights;
- It is crucial for liberals to fight for the right of individuals to take autonomous decisions over their own sexual and reproductive health rights;
- Forcing women to procure illegal abortions jeopardises women's health and potentially threatens their lives;
- Forcing victims of rape and incest to carry pregnancies to term is an assault on their autonomy and dignity, and jeopardises their mental and physical health;
- Criminalising abortions in circumstances where the pregnancy is likely to result in death is an unacceptable violation of reproductive health.

Calls upon:

- The LYMEC bureau to publicly promote Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights policies through campaigns LYMEC member parties to actively work to uphold the principle that the human rights of girls and women are an inalienable and indivisible part of human rights, to be protected, not only in areas of public life but also in the privacy of the home.
- Member parties to recognize reproductive decision-making, including choice in marriage, family formation, and determination of the number, timing and spacing of one's children; and the right to the information and the safe means to exercise those choices.
- Member organisations of LYMEC and member parties of ALDE to fight for the introduction of Sexual Education and Information as mandatory part of the school program.
- LYMEC calls on all member states to ensure women with unwanted pregnancies have the possibility of a safe abortion.
- LYMEC encourages all member states to provide its citizens with affordable contraceptives.

2.29 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression as Grounds for International Protection

(Former 2.41 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Policy Book Renewal Working Group, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

This resolution archives Resolution 2.09 on the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression as Causes for International Protection and Asylum in the European Countries

Considering that :

- The attention given to LGBTI rights in the processes connected to international protection and asylum has developed significantly in recent years, as it has been acknowledged that sexual orientation could be considered as grounds for asylum. According to article 2(d) in Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or

stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection 'refugee' means a third-country national (or stateless person) who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons 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.

According to article 10(d) "Depending on the circumstances in the country of origin, a particular social group might include a group based on a common characteristic of sexual orientation...Gender related aspects, including gender identity, shall be given due consideration for the purposes of determining membership of a particular social group"

- there are still considerable differences in the way in which the EU member states examine LGBTI asylum applications.
- homo- bi- and transsexuality is still criminalised in a number of countries in the world and people are persecuted and sentenced to prison or even to death penalty because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- Although the ECJ has ruled out the "discretion requirement" and rejected concealing one's sexual orientation as means to avoid persecution, LGBTI asylum seekers are still facing difficulties in legal and asylum proceedings
- the lack of official statistics on the number of LGBTI asylum claims in Europe is alarming, as it further contributes to the discrepancies in providing protection of LGBTI asylum seekers among the Member states;

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- The Fundamental rights agency to conduct and issue an yearly report containing comparative disaggregated data, and Eurostat to publish statistics on applications on the grounds of sexual orientation and their refusal rates by country.
- EASO to consider the adoption of guidelines on the assessment of LGBTI asylum cases for case handlers and judges in the member states, in accordance with existing UNHCR guidelines.
- the Member states of the European Union to ensure a harmonised application and interpretation of the "Qualification Directive" with view of

the requirements set up in the directive and to ensure equal and adequate protection of LGBTI asylum seekers throughout the Union.

2.30 Recognise Same-Sex Marriages in the EU

(Former 2.44 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, JOVD

This resolution archives Resolution 2.10 on Recognise Same-Sex Marriages in the Entire EU

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Same-sex marriages are still not legal in a number of 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 several member states, but often do not afford the same scope of rights as marriage.
- Some member states do not legally recognize same-sex relationships at all, and in some member states, the constitution limits marriage to different-sex couples.
- 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, there are no legitimate grounds to restrict the freedom to enter into such an agreement on the basis of sexual orientation, and therefore all contractual interpersonal relationships deserve the same respect, recognition, rights and aid in all countries of the European Union.
- The free movement of individuals is at the core of the founding values of the EU.

LYMEC calls for:

- all family legislation and family recognition on a European level shall include same-sex couples, affording 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, cohabitation or similar arrangement in other states, even if the member state does not itself perform such marriages or arrangements. The concerned arrangements should retain the same legal protection in all member states.
- That the European Commission step up its actions in enforcing the existing anti-discrimination policy in case of violations in a Member state or a EU candidate country.
- The EU treaties to be amended to introduce same-sex marriage in every member state thus it would be mandatory for every country joining the EU.

2.31 Freedom of Gender Identity as a Fundamental European Right

(Former 2.43 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

This resolution archives Resolution 2.13 on Freedom of Gender Identity as a Fundamental European Right

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Despite the promising developments in individual countries, trans and intersex people still confront significant levels of inequality across the European Union.
- In recent years increasing attention has been paid to the human rights of trans and intersex people and to discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sex characteristics.
- International and regional protections for trans and intersex populations are currently in a state of flux.
- No international human rights treaty specifically acknowledges trans and intersex individuals;
- EU primary legislation also provides no explicit references to gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, although the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union does list genetic features and sexual orientation in the list of non-discrimination grounds (Art. 21(1)).

- EU secondary law does contain reference to trans identities. Recital 3 of the EU equality directive (2006/54/EC) provides that the Directive also applies to discrimination arising from “gender reassignment”. The baseline obligation for EU Member States in relation to trans non-discrimination has thus mostly been looked at through the lens of “gender reassignment”, resulting in a highly medicalised picture of trans populations, which frames trans equality as contingent upon medical interventions. This calls into question the utility and applicability of EU non-discrimination guarantees for the large population of trans people in Europe who cannot or will not access gender confirmation healthcare.
- No judgments have been issued regarding intersex or non-binary individuals and it remains to be seen whether EU sex equality law – in its current formulation – has the capacity to accommodate and safeguard gender beyond the binary.
- The conditions for legal gender recognition varies greatly in Europe. In some countries, there are still no legislative, administrative or judicial guidelines for acknowledging a preferred gender.
- According the Amnesty International Annual Report 2017/2018, children and adults with variations in sex characteristics continue to face human rights violations, perpetrated in the course of non-emergency, invasive and irreversible medical intervention which often have harmful consequences on physical and psychological health.
- In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights found that the sterilization requirement for legal gender recognition violates human rights.
- that in some countries, a mental health diagnosis is a requirement in order for one to be able to change their gender.

Noting that:

- The freedom of identity and expression is a fundamental human right;
- The availability of non-discriminatory public health care is the foundation of a modern liberal society.
- In states where gender confirmation treatments are not available, obtaining such services abroad can result in national authorities refusing to recognize the medical interventions. This creates a possible breach of the freedom to provide and receive services across the EU

LYMEC calls for:

- Gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics to be added to EU non-discrimination grounds, making discrimination and refusal in the provision of healthcare to trans and intersex individuals illegal.
- Gender confirmation treatments should be made available to all.
- All EU and EFTA member states to adopt legislation that affirms preferred gender through a model of self-determination.

2.32 Urgent Resolution on Harmful Content Online

(Former 2.44 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, YMRF, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD
This resolution archives Resolution 2.15 on The Plan of the EU to Block Websites

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considers:

- that any case of child abuse published on the internet to be deeply disturbing, but that it is important to fight child abuse effectively instead of only making such content invisible when hosted on EU servers;
- that blocking web sites is not the only, nor the most effective instrument to avoid harmful content online. That there effective initiatives in this field - such as INHOPE, a network of hotlines reporting on child abuse online cases that works with representatives of the technology sector, child advocates, and law enforcement, need to be supported;
- that the EU Internet Forum was launched in the EU in 2015 to stop the misuse of the internet by international terrorist groups and that the Forum provides a framework for voluntary cooperation with the internet industry to remove online terrorist content, bringing together governments, EU Agencies, academics, and internet companies such as: Google/YouTube, Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter, Justpaste.it, Snap, WordPress and Yellow;
- That currently the Dissemination of terrorist content online Directive is being negotiated between the European parliament and the Council. That amongst

other sensitive elements, the Directive contains the so called “one hour rule” - a legally binding one hour deadline for content to be removed by platforms and server providers following a removal order from national competent authorities, and also, a “duty of care obligation”, rendering all platforms to ensure they are not misused for the dissemination of terrorist content.

- Considers these provisions, while fully adequate for hosting platforms with significant market power, might put inadequate pressure to smaller platforms, operated by SMEs;
- that Since May 2016, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Microsoft, Google+ and Instagram have committed to combatting the spread of illegal online hate speech in Europe through a Code of Conduct, committing to review and remove content in less than 24 hours. When they receive a request to remove content from their platform, the companies assess the request against their rules and community guidelines, national laws on combating racism and xenophobia. That according to the European Commission this has led to a removal by the signatory platforms of an average 70% of illegal hate speech notified to them and in more than 80% of these cases, the removals took place within 24 hours;
- That despite the broad public outcry on the legal uncertainties and ambiguities of the Directive on the copyright in the digital single with its liability regime for content-sharing platforms, it was adopted by the European Parliament with a narrow majority, and its impact on the way the Internet and its digital market operates is yet to be seen.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC):

- Strongly condemns any form of child abuse and child pornography, calls the European institutions and Member states for a joint effort to fight any kind of child abuse with effective measures inside and outside the internet, and for support to initiatives that fight this phenomenon and provide victim support;
- Reaffirms its stand that the internet is a fundamental right in an age of digitalization and calls for its protection as such;
- Calls the liberal MEPs to oppose censorship of the internet, and insists that actions, such as website or content blocks, shall be subject to transparent, fair, binding and uniform standards and procedures for content moderation, and to ensure accessible and independent recourse to judicial redress.

- Calls the liberal MEPs to foster a future European regulation that does not establish any mandatory form of fully automated ex-ante controls of content for hosting platforms unless otherwise specified in existing Union law, and to ensure that mechanisms voluntarily employed by platforms do not lead to ex-ante control based on automated tools without possibility of a final human review.
- Calls for thorough impact assessment to be provided in any further legislative proposals dealing with the functioning of freedom of speech in the internet and the digital single market.

2.33 Stop Discriminatory Measures Towards Roma People

(Former 2.45 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, YMRF, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD
This resolution archives Resolution 2.16 Stop Discriminatory Measures Regarding Roma People

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Notes:

- the systematic discrimination of Roma minorities on the territory of Europe;
- that Roma children are still frequently taught separately in all-Roma classes or all-Roma schools in some European member states, even after the introduction of the measures against this;
- the gap between the employment rates of Roma people and of the majority population, and the stigmatization and prejudice towards the minority at the labour market in Central and East European countries;
- Roma people in Paris who have been object to a series of vigilante attacks sparked by false reports of attempted child abductions in March 2019;
- the that In July 2017, 150 Roma adults and children were subjected to forced eviction in Naples;

- that many Roma communities in Slovenia as well as in the Balkan parts of Europe often do not have access to sufficient and safe drinking water as they 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 all European citizens, including those belonging to minorities;
- that ethnic registration and ethnically-based measures are objectionable;
- that separate measures could promote further discrimination and isolation, and incentive measures must be incorporated in regular policies, accessible for all people in comparable situations; that affirmative action towards Roma people in particular, could enlarge the tensions with non-Roma citizens.

Calls upon:

- the European Commission, ALDE Party and Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to evaluate integration policies across the European Union to compare strategies, mechanisms and results of exceptional policies concerning Roma people and propose best practises for better integration, labour market and social inclusion;
- the European Commission to ensure that Member States of the European Union respect the rights of minorities as stated in the treaties mentioned above;
- that LYMEC and its Member organisations will take firms and vocal stand condemning any form of violence or hate speech against Roma people.

2.34 Ending Female Genital Mutilation

(Former 2.46 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

This resolution archives Resolution 2.21 Aiming at Ending Female Genital Mutilation

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

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 12 February 2020 on an EU strategy to put an end to female genital mutilation around the world;
- the Sustainable Development Goal, sub-goal 5 (Gender Equality);

Considering:

- that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an irreparable abuse, intentionally causing injury to female genitals for non-medical reasons, with irreversible consequences;
- that according to the WHO it is estimated that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation in the countries where the practice is concentrated. Furthermore, there are an estimated 3 million girls at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation every year.
- that it also happens in European countries; According to the European Parliament, the most recent national data available across Europe, estimates for around 600 000 women and girls in Europe living with lifelong physical and psychological consequences of FGM, and a further 180 000 girls are at a high risk of FGM in 13 European countries alone[1];

- 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; thus any form of FGM is a violation of human rights;
- 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;
- that they are at risk of further infections, sickness and injuries in case of use of rudimentary instruments and the lack of antiseptic precautions;
- the effect FGM can have on their future relations – pain during sexual intercourse, childbirth, and the possible complications (haemorrhaging, shock, infections);
- that FGM is an expression of inequality between women and men;
- that a global approach to fight FGM is a necessary tool in the fight towards gender equality;

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) Congress:

- 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 on the EU member states to urgently ratify the Istanbul Convention, and insists that the ALDE party members and ALDE Prime ministers should also urges for the Convention's ratification[2];
- Calls on the Member state to enforce legal measures to end female genital mutilation, including penalizing offenders;
- Calls on the European Commission to include actions to end FGM in the EU Gender Equality Strategy;
- Calls on the Commission to ensure its full integration into the EU legislative framework to ensure the prevention of FGM, protection of women, prosecution of offenders and adequate provision of services in response to FGM, including providing care for survivors.[3].
- 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;
- Urges the Renew group in the European Parliament to support the European programs on Justice, Health and Development and Cooperation, to insist on providing them with 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;

2.35 Freedom of Belief

(Former 2.47 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

This resolution archives **Resolution 2.23** on "The Liberal-Democrat Attitude Towards Religion" adopted in Sinaia, Romania in March 2002, **Resolution 2.25** on "Stop the Islamophobia and Respect Religious Diversity" adopted in Sinaia, Romania in April 2010, **Resolution 2.26** on "True Religious Freedom in the EU" adopted in Sofia, Bulgaria in October 2012 and **Resolution 2.43** on "Blasphemy is a right, freedom is not a crime!" adopted in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in May 2015

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering:

- the increase in discrimination on the grounds of religion and a rise of islamophobia in Europe[4]
- the legislation passed throughout the European Union on stripping down the right of individuals to wear religious symbols[5]

Believing that:

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and possess rights, regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;[6].
- The freedom to choose one's religion and beliefs is a fundamental human right and the right to carry religious symbols is part of this freedom[7]
- 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;[8]
- No European citizen should be discriminated through prohibitions in the labour market, educational system or in any other way hindered from fully participating in society due to religious reasons;[9]
- the state should be secular and individuals must have the freedom of expression and religious freedom as long as it is not harmful against others[10];
- respect of freedom of thought and religious diversity is a core liberal value, as well as freedom of expression[11];
- criticizing religions, and even using satire towards them, cannot be forbidden in a Liberal society, and that such criticism may never incite violence[12].
- freedom of conscience and freedom of expression are not manifestations of 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[13];
- there cannot be successful coexistence without mutual understanding between religious believers of any confession, as well as between atheists and agnostics[14];
- scapegoating by targeting one specific religion is a highly unacceptable as all religions in Europe should have the same standing before the law[15].

LYMEC calls for:

- countries to respect the religious diversity and be truly secular, therefore refraining from imposing obligatory lessons of religion or religious taxes[16];
- governments and the EU to refrain from institutional display of religious symbols in public schools and universities, while recognising the right of any individual to display their private religious affiliation[17];
- fighting religious intolerance and all religious extremism, regardless of their nature and origins[18]

- The EU Member states and the institutions to respect the religious freedom of the individual and remove the bans on displaying certain religious symbols[19];
- Member states to regard the subject of religion in education as a historical, and cultural phenomenon, free of any preaching, in order to create mutual understanding[20];
- Member 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[21];
- Appeals to European institutions to cease giving a privileged position to certain religious groups and integrate representatives from non-religious international organizations in social dialogue[22].

2.36 Right to Abortion

(Former 2.48 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Uppreisn, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Young Liberals (LY), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Centerstudenter (CS), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Jeunes Radicaux (JR), Junge Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- According to the latest estimates by the WHO and the Guttmacher Institute, 25 million unsafe abortions were performed across the world in 2014. In the same year, about 56 million abortions were performed across the world. Slightly under half were high-risk abortions.
- The right to abortion is still limited in more than two-thirds of all countries.
- Europe has always been at the forefront of the fight to liberalise abortion laws and the legalisation of women's access to safe and legal abortion.
- The WHO specifies that laws should not impose medically unnecessary delays to a requested abortion, such as mandatory waiting periods.

- In some European countries, short time limits for access to abortion on request can have harmful impacts on women and may impede them from obtaining the health care they need. When applied in a restrictive manner short time limits can be particularly harmful for adolescent girls and women belonging to marginalized communities who may not always be able to obtain care within the legal timeframe. This may result in women needing to travel to other jurisdictions to access legal abortion or accessing abortion care at home outside of the scope of the law and under threat of criminal prosecution.

Condemning that:

- Six European countries still do not allow abortion on broad social grounds and two of them, Poland and Malta, are members of the EU.
- Pope Francis, who is known for having a more progressive ideology as compared to his predecessors, declared in 2019 that abortion is always unacceptable, regardless of whether a foetus is fatally ill or has pathological disorders. He also urged doctors to help women bring to term pregnancies likely to end in the death of a child at birth or soon after, thus denying condonement to any Catholic who had carried out such practice. A similar story can be said of the Orthodox Church and other religious institutions that also largely oppose abortion.
- This stance has significant negative consequences for women in countries where religion legitimises doctors not to perform their duty on grounds of conscience.
- Although the general trend has been one of progress towards liberalization, in recent years some countries in Europe have witnessed attempts to roll back existing legal protections for women's access to abortion. At times they have led to the introduction of new regressive preconditions that women must fulfil prior to obtaining abortion care. These include mandatory biased counselling and mandatory waiting periods. There have also been attempts to completely ban abortion or to remove existing legal grounds for abortion. There have also been a number of court challenges contesting the constitutionality of access to abortion and seeking to advance medical professional's entitlements to refuse to legal abortion care.

Believing that:

- Each person has the right over their own body.
- There has been a regression on sexual rights, and we, as liberals, must not allow or stand for these rights being taken away or limited, but instead widen them on grounds of freedom and individual autonomy.
- Measures that roll back reproductive rights, by introducing new barriers or scaling back the legality of abortion care, violate the principle of non-retrogression under international human rights law.
- Third party authorisation procedures, requiring prior permission from parents, guardians, doctors or official committees before a woman can access abortion care, disproportionately impact adolescent girls, women with disabilities, women living in poverty and women belonging to marginalised communities and undermine their human rights and place them at risk.
- Sexual education for teenagers should never be dependent on their parents' beliefs, as it is necessary information for a healthy life and relationships.

Defending that:

- No doctor should be compelled to perform a surgery that goes against their personal beliefs, as freedom of religion is a core liberal value, but, at the same time, this should not prevent a woman from receiving the care she has requested. Another doctor should then perform the surgery in a timely and secure manner.
- Reform processes, such as the ones that Northern Ireland and Gibraltar have gone through in order to repeal highly restrictive abortion laws, are the only way forward in a true liberal and democratic European Union.

LYMEC:

- Rejects any mandatory waiting period for abortions at request, as these waiting periods undermine access to timely and affordable care and restrict women's human rights and autonomous decision-making;
- Believes in providing abortion upon request up to and including the 22 week of pregnancy. Abortions should be performed as soon as possible upon request. However, in circumstances where the pregnancy was caused by rape or other

- condemnable criminal offenses, a woman's life is threatened or a foetus is unlikely to survive, an abortion may be performed after the 22nd week.
- Rejects compulsory counselling for requested abortions, as they compel a woman to wait before she gets to make a decision she has already taken. They should be available but not compulsory.
 - Requests institutions to ensure that all abortion counselling is impartial and factual, regardless of the counsel's personal morals and/or beliefs.
 - Only accepts third-party authorisation procedures for women with mental illnesses or mental disabilities so severe that they are unable to make an informed adult decision about their body and future.
 - Rejects rules requiring women to explain that they are seeking an abortion because of their social or family circumstance or on grounds of distress, as they stigmatize abortion, undermine autonomous decision-making and should be removed.
 - Urges EU countries to remove criminal sanctions for abortion practices, as they can cause significant harm to women's health and wellbeing, can delay or prevent access to post-abortion care, intensify abortion stigma, heighten barriers in access to legal care and create a chilling effect on medical professionals' provision of information and care.
 - Believes sexual education beyond abstinence should be compulsory in schools. This includes comprehensive courses on contraception and the effects of pregnancy on a body
 - Condemns the Catholic Church's and other religious institutions' treatment of members who have abortions.
 - Shall forward this resolution to the ALDE Party as well as the Renew Europe Group and promote it among member organisations and member contacts in EU member states and applicant countries

2.37 Freedom from Rape

(Former 2.49 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Submitted by: Uppreisn, Radikal Ungdom (RU), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Young Liberals (LY), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Centerstudenter (CS), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Jong VLD, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Junge

Liberale NEOS (JUNOS), Jeunes MR, Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)

This resolution archived resolution 2.22

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Sexual violence is widespread and systemic worldwide.
- There are no countries where people live free from its threat, and no gender or group of people are exempt from its destructive effects.
- Rape and other sexual crimes are an attack on the physical and mental integrity and sexual autonomy of the victim. They are violations of human rights and also impair the victim's enjoyment of other human rights such as the right to life, physical and mental health, personal security, freedom and right to be free from discrimination, torture and other ill treatment.
- Sexual assault, including rape, should be defined by the lack of consent to sexual activity. Consent must be given voluntarily and as such can be rescinded at any time. The definition should include a broad range of coercive circumstances where consent cannot be freely given. Outside such circumstances, the evidence should be carefully weighed to ascertain whether the complainant/survivor was consenting.
- All victims of rape should be equally protected by law from violence without any discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, religion, marital status, social status, caste or descent, migration status, employment (including sex work), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or appearance.
- Legislation on rape should include a combination of gender-neutral and gender-specific provisions to reflect the specific experiences and needs of women and girl survivors of violence, while allowing the prosecution of gender-based and sexual violence against men and boys too.

Recalling that:

- In 2011, the Council of Europe adopted the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), which entered into force in 2014.
- The Istanbul Convention requires the criminalization of rape and all other non- consensual acts of sexual nature.
- Out of the 31 EEA states, 23 have ratified the convention and 8 have signed but not yet ratified, the EU signed the convention in 2017.
- Only 6 of those states have a legal definition of rape that is in line with the consent-based standard set out in the convention.
- The majority, or 23 of those countries, have a legal definition of rape based on force, threat of force or coercion - and not on lack of consent.

Noting that:

- Although both men and women are victims of rape, the majority of the victims are women.
- According to the most recent EU-wide prevalence survey, the 2014 Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) survey on violence against women, one in ten women in the EU (11%) has experienced some form of sexual violence from the age of 15. One in 20 women in the EU (5%) has been raped post age 15. The FRA assesses that this corresponds to over 9 million women in the EU who have been raped since they were 15 years old.
- Human rights and equality are considered universal.
- It is clear that inadequate and ineffective legislation criminalizing rape remains a problem in Europe.
- The predominant trend in Europe has been an increase in the number of reported rapes alongside static or falling prosecution and conviction rates. When offences come to light the victim usually only has a small chance of having their case tried by a court of law as cases are often dropped at various stages of the legal process, with alleged perpetrators never being prosecuted or convicted and never held to account for their crimes. This problem is known as attrition. The widespread levels of attrition in Europe suggest that states are failing the due diligence obligations they have under international and regional human rights law.

LYMEC Calls :

- On all European states to ratify and fully implement the Istanbul Convention without delay.
- on European states to bring their legislation on rape in line with international standards and to define rape on the basis of the absence of consent.
- On European states to provide legal, economical and psychological aid to the victims who have suffered rape, in line with the Istanbul Convention.
- For the promotion of changes in social and cultural patterns across the entire sexual spectrum, as to eradicate harmful gender stereotypes and myths around sexual violence.
- On European societies to raise awareness and to play an active part in showing dismay with sexual violence against all genders. We must remove the stigma around sexual violence to facilitate a better, and more meticulous dialogue on the issue.
- For better and more thorough sexual education in the school system, with a strong focus on consent, boundaries and the diversity of sexual and gender identities.
- For a strengthened focus on the education of police officers, both criminological and psychological, in an effort to enhance their capabilities in regards to rape and similar sexual offenses.

2.38 Situation in Belarus

(Former 2.50 Prior to LYMEC Spring Congress, 2021)

Movers: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal, LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD

This resolution archives Resolution 2.17 on Capital punishment in Belarus, resolution 2.32, 2.33, 2.34 and 2.35 on Belarus

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress, 14th November 2020

Considering:

- That Belarus is currently the only country in Europe that is still carrying out the capital punishment;
- That the European institutions have been calling on numerous occasions on Belarus to abolish the death penalty. That after yet another death penalty

was pronounced in 2019, the European External Action Service insisted that “the death penalty is not a factor to decrease crimes, and mistakes inevitable in any justice system become irreversible if capital punishment is practiced.”;

- that there were cases in the past, when capital punishment convictions were performed swiftly, with arguably insufficient time for appeals ;
- that it is often the case that the election campaigns in Belarus are conducted with lack of media access for opposition campaigners;
- that the democratic principles and constitutionally guaranteed rights of freedom of expression, association and assembly continue to be infringed by Belarusian authorities.

Congratulates:

- the Belarus opposition movement for being awarded in October 2020 with the Sakharov Prize, which was proposed by the Renew Europe group;

Calls upon:

- LYMEC and its member organizations to raise awareness on the capital punishment performed in Belarus;
- The European institutions to support the development of a conscious civil society by encouraging and supporting NGOs and pro-democracy activists, and promoting cultural and educational exchange between young people from Belarus and EU, especially with view of supporting young human rights and minority activists;
- calls on the European Commission to support independent media and media organizations in Belarus;
- extensive review of the EU policy towards Belarus, considering possible targeted economic and travel sanctions including Schengen visa restrictions and freezing of bank accounts and assets to be applied to the senior representatives of the regime, chairs of electoral commissions, heads of military, police etc., who are engaged in civil rights violations in Belarus.

2.39 A New European Strategy for Managing the Refugee Crisis

Adopted at the LYMEC Online Congress, 23-24 April 2021

Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal: This resolution merges former 2.11 *Strengthening the European Refugee Fund*, 2.17 *A common European, humanitarian search and rescue mission to the Mediterranean*, 2.18 *Resolution on a harmonized common EU asylum policy* and 2.31 *Establishing a formal definition and a protection system for Climate Refugees*.

Considering 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;
- Hundreds of thousands of people are risking their lives to cross Europe's borders.
- Ongoing global challenges such as climate change, conflicts in the Middle East and rising economic inequality mean the number of refugees trying to access Europe is likely to rise
- 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;
- Refugees face unacceptable living conditions in several member states, as ruled by The European Court of Justice.

Noting 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."
- Every life lost at Europe's borders is one too many, and that the EU countries have a common moral obligation to save as many of these lives as possible.
- 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 failure to tackle this problem effectively 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.

- External border EU states are considering asking for urgent financial aid to deal with the increased workload.

Believing that:

- Every life lost at Europe's borders is one too many, and that the EU countries have a common moral obligation to save as many of these lives as possible.
- Empowered refugees, educated and skilled, can enhance future stability in their countries
- The number of lives lost in the Mediterranean in particular is unacceptably high, and that all European countries have a duty to prevent the death toll from rising higher

LYMEC 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.
- On the EU to eliminate its current 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.
- For the establishment, at least at the European level, of a formal definition of the term climate refugee;
- For the creation, at least at the European level, of a legal instrument recognizing such category of refugees and providing adequate protection
- On the Member States of the European Union to work together 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;

- For the investment 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;
- On the Members States of the European Union to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to the Asylum and Migration Fund,
- For the Renew Europe 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.
- For the Renew Europe group to ensure that the EU external aid priorities and fundings are coherent with the ones of the Asylum and Migration fund.

2.40 Condemning Racism and Xenophobia in the EU

Adopted at the LYMEC Online Congress, 23-24 April 2021

Submitted by: Working Group on Policy Book Renewal

This resolution merges resolution 2.12 'Tougher measures against racism within the EU' and 2.33 'Against the new wave of xenophobia and racism within the EU'

Noting that:

- In 2012, the EU won the Nobel peace prize - a powerful reminder about its founding principles, which include human rights protection.
- 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).

Considering that:

- public figures, including holders of political office, use their platforms to stoke fear and scapegoat migrants, refugees and minority groups

- The consequent fear and hate felt by some citizens in society leads to “witch hunts” and other types of violence that have to be eradicated

Recalling that:

- the LYMEC Policy book currently has several resolutions on the matter
- 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;
- Understands it to be self-evident that the ALDE Party and its Member Organisations as liberal organisations must refrain from making racist or xenophobic comments or discriminatory policies
- Urges the European Union not to overlook violations of human rights and undertake to monitor that the member states comply both international law and EU law, and utilise political tools that are necessary to combat racism within the EU.

2.41 Solidarity with the Polish and Hungarian LGBTQ+ Community

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress, 23-24 April 2021

Presented by Nowoczesna Youth and Momentum TizenX

Movers: Lietuvos Liberalus Jaunimas, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Junge Liberale, Young Liberals Greece, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen, Young Liberals, Jonge Democraten, Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie

Considering that:

- The incumbent President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda claimed that LGBT 'ideology' is worse than communism
- Numerous Polish municipalities enacted resolutions that are aimed to stigmatize LGBTQ+ community (so-called *LGBT-free zones*)
- Members of the LGBTQ+ community experience violence, such as the recent attack in Gdansk on people who were exercising with the rainbow flag or stab of a man who was walking down the street hand-in-hand with his partner in Warsaw
- The Minister of Justice, Zbigniew Ziobro, announced that the government would propose a bill aimed to outlaw the adoption of children by same-sex couples
- The Hungarian Parliament on the 18th of May voted in favour of Section 33, which contains the following: the gender identity of transgender people would not be recognized before the law.
- According to the above-mentioned definition, this will result that the identification documents of the individuals are unchangeable. This applies to transgender and intersex people's sex by birth in the national registry of birth, marriages, and death. After approving the law, all references to sex now will mean "sex assigned at birth" in any form of identity documents and the national registry.
- Section 33 contradicts human rights obligations in relation to several rights both on the international and on the national level. For instance, last year, the World Health Organisation reclassified "gender identity disorder, or identifying as transgender, in terms of sexuality", which is now not considered a mental disorder. Moreover, the European Court of Human Rights establishes "the right to legal gender recognition for transgender people."
- The only possible form of legal union between a couple of the same sex is a registered partnership, which deprives couples of the right to adopt as a couple and to legally take the other person's name. This classification also signals the symbolical disapproval of the Hungarian state.
- The publishing of an inclusive children's book stirred resentment on the far-right, which the Government and the prominent member of Fidesz did not condemn or in some cases even endorsed.

- The Hungarian Government has practically ended the adoption for same-sex couples by tying the adoption of non-married people to the personal approval of the Minister for Family Affairs.

LYMEC calls for:

- A discussion on the enforcement of the protection of the rights of the LGBTQ+ community with special regards to the universal right to marry and to gender self-determination.
- The EPP and YEPP to publish a statement of solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community of Hungary.
- The EU to actively pursue avenues to ensure the rights of LGBTQ+ people within all parts of the union.

2.42 «A liberal drug policy» (JGLP / JFS Schweiz)

Submitter: Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (Young Liberals Switzerland)

Movers: Junge Grünliberale Schweiz (Young Green' Liberals Switzerland)

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Noting that:

- LYMEC has previously called for the implementation of liberal drug reforms;
- LYMEC has previously called for the legalization of soft drugs;
- LYMEC has previously called for the improvement of the Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT).

Considering that:

- LYMEC supports free trade and economic activity;
- The penalization of the production, possession, use and trade of drugs overly burdens the criminal systems, producing a cost for governments while preventing the generation of capital and legal labour;
- The criminal prosecution of drugs creates huge costs, while mobilizing administration and human resources which would be better allocated in prevention or the health system;

- Criminal and illegal activity around the production, use and trade of drugs comes at a cost to human rights and safety;
- Criminal and illegal activity around the production, use and trade of drugs comes at a cost to the environment and cannot be controlled with regards to climate 2030 goals;
- The use of drugs should be perceived as a health issue; There are proven positive results of the use of particular drugs in medical and mental health treatments;

Calling for:

- LYMEC to actively support and campaign for the complete legalization in its production, possession, use and trade of Cannabis and related soft drugs; LYMEC to actively support and campaign for the legalisation of the use of all drugs, plant or chemical based ; LYMEC to work towards the legalisation of all drug related activities; the production of and trade with drugs for commercial purposes should require a license and the sale to consumers must require a mandatory health consultation;
- LYMEC to support harm reducing initiatives which position the use of drugs as a health care issue and invests in user prevention and support;
- LYMEC to support the implementation of trade and commercial legislation around drug activity, which reinvest market profits into the national health system, social services, prevention and information;
- LYMEC to support the use of specific, now illegal, drugs in medical and mental health treatments, in which adequate vocabulary should be used.

2.43 Freedom of Press and Media in Central-Eastern Europe: Attacks on the media, press and journalists

Submitters: JOVD & JD

Movers: Young Liberals, LHG, Jong VLD, Młodzi Nowoczesni, Civil Forum, Momentum TizenX, JUNOS, Centerstudenter, Centre Party Youth (CUF)

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- The Reporters Without Borders Index has reported on the strong decline in the freedom of press and media throughout several countries in Central and Eastern Europe.
- In May, the Belarussian authorities hijacked a flight carrying the independent journalist Raman Pratasevich, an outspoken critic of Lukashenko's regime. After forcing the plane to land in Minsk Pratsevich was arrested. Moreover, many journalists have been detained or physically abused.
- The Belarusian authorities, furthermore, exercise absolute control over the media while independent newspapers and websites are being closed and state-owned media and newspapers adhere to hate speeches, point-blank fake news, and propaganda.
- In August, the Polish parliament passed the new media ownership law banning companies outside of the European Economic Area from holding shares in Polish media companies. As a result, the American company Discovery would have to sell a majority stake of the independent television channel TVN24. It is feared that a state company would then buy TVN24, thus silencing the critique it has towards the Polish government. Even though the Polish president has said he would veto the bill, it is very likely the PiS party will try to introduce another bill in the future.
- Since March 2020, Hungary has enforced emergency legislation criminalising "fake news". In practice the law has given the government authority to decide whether it considers reports true or false, thus, giving the officials the jurisdiction to regulate news outlets that do not follow the government line of thought.
- A less well documented issue that government-critical independent outlets in Hungary face is that they are unable to benefit from governmental advertising, meaning they often face considerably more financial pressure than pro-government newspapers who do benefit from revenues derived from government advertising in their publication.
- Problems related to the freedom of the press also continue to exist in Ukraine, where there have been a number of notable violations of the freedom of the press.
- In June, the Slovakian Supreme Court overruled the not guilty verdicts in the murder case of the journalist Ján Kuciak who was murdered in 2018.

- Since March 2020, the Slovenian government has launched a campaign against the critical media in the country. The Slovenian government has been actively trying to change the media landscape in favour of the government by, among others, draining the Slovenian Press Agency from funding.
- Although Russia has been destabilising media outlets for years now, the new "foreign agents" law introduced in 2017, and amended in December 2020 to include individual journalists and bloggers, has been killing off even more independent media. The last victim of this law was the independent news website VTimes.

Believing that:

- Freedom of expression is essential for the foundation of a democratic society, as established in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- This freedom of expression includes the freedom of press and media and news outlets require a particular protection as defenders of the freedom of expression.
- The freedom and pluralism of the media should be respected and public authorities should not intervene in the media.
- Freedom of press forms one of the cornerstones of the rule of law, as expressed in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.
- Freedom of press should be unconditional.
- Breaches in the freedom of press can result in a lack of coverage concerning EU politics, which in turn causes a lack of democratic involvement of citizens in the European Union;
- A lack of reporting about EU political affairs results in less oversight within the European apparatus, which means that the interests of the European citizens are not always represented;
- Further news coverage concerning the European Union also contributes to the sense of European citizenship and the creation of a European identity;

LYMEC calls for:

- The implementation of the conditionality mechanism in the Member States in breach of the freedom of press, as provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget.

- The implementation of (financial) sanctions towards the States outside of the European Union that are in breach of the freedom of press.
- The implementation of a mechanism designed to increase independence, transparency and freedom of press while simultaneously establishing accountability for actions threatening the freedom of press. An example could be the prospective European Media Freedom Act.
- The facilitation of access to funds provided for by the European Union, to help independent media companies. Within this fund, special attention could be given to ensure funding goes to those outlets who cover European news and news about the breadth and depth of EU institutions, noting the relative scarcity of EU media outlets that actively cover the EU institutions.
- The European Union to offer scholarships and grants to aspiring journalists in order to create a new generation of independent journalists and facilitate the exchange of democratic values.
- The support of civil society organisations, especially in the States breaching the freedom of press.
- The Member States to condemn these developments and take measures on national level, i.e. support of journalists in the respective countries, support of national civil society organisations promoting freedom of press, etcetera.

1: "RSF 2021 Index: EU struggles to defend values at home," Reporters Without Borders, accessed September 12, 2021 <https://rsf.org/en/rsf-2021-index-eu-struggles-defend-values-home>.

2: "Repressions against journalists in Belarus, 2021 (chart)" Belarusian Association of Journalists, June 5, 2021, <https://bai.by/en/analytics/repressions-against-journalists-belarus-2021-chart>

3: Euractiv, "Discovery group threatens legal action over Polish media law" August, 13, 2021, <https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/discovery-group-threatens-legal-action-over-polish-media-law/>.

4: Jakub ukaszewski, "Szef gabinetu Andrzeja Dudy: Prezydent zawetuje "lex TVN" w obecnym kształcie" Wyborcza, September 6, 2021, <https://wyborcza.pl/7,75398,27540922,szef-gabinetuandrzejadudy-prezydent-zawetuje-lex-tvn.html>

5: "Orbán's Orwellian law paves way for "information police state" in Hungary" Reporters Without Borders, accessed September 12, 2021, <https://rsf.org/en/news/orbans-orwellian-law-paves-way-information-police-state-hungary>.

6: "Slovakia: Supreme Court overturned not guilty verdicts in Ján Kuciak murder case" European Federation of Journalists, June 15, 2021, <https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2021/06/15/slovakia-supreme-court-overturned-not-guilty-verdicts-in-jan-kuciak-murder-case/>

7: "Slovenian government eroding media freedom as it takes over EU Presidency" European Federation of Journalists, June 30, 2021, <https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2021/06/30/slovenian-government-eroding-media-freedom-as-it-takes-over-eu-presidency/>

8: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-convention/expression>

9: Luca Bertuzzi, "Commission to propose a European Media Freedom Act, Breton says" Euractiv, April 20, 2021, <https://www.eu>

2.44 Resolutions for the rights of Climate Refugees

Submitter: LUF (Liberala ungdomsförbundet)

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- Climate Refugees do not fit into the current definition of what a refugee is according to the United Nations Refugee Convention.
- Since the industrial revolution, we have used fossil fuels and natural resources for decades despite the harmful consequences it has on the planet. As a result of this, our technology and standard of living improved but so did the need for energy.
- Due to these requirements, we now have the largest amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in over 800,000 years.
- Global warming is human-induced and creates large changes in weather patterns. The result of these changes have led to an increase in earth temperature, causing the rise of sea levels, forest fires, and severe droughts.
- The Climate Vulnerable Forum Summit believes that by the year 2100, 48 of the world's islands will be completely underwater. These are islands with people's homes and livelihoods and they will no longer exist in less than 80 years.
- During 2018, more than 17 million people were forced to flee from their homes due to climate change. According to the World Bank, there will be 143 million climate refugees by 2050.

Believing that:

- All people who need to flee from their homes should have the same rights and that countries responsible for climate change need to take responsibility in the current climate refugee crisis.

Calls for:

- An amendment to the Refugee Convention which guarantees the rights of refugees who flee due to climate change

- The EU to welcome climate refugees and make suitable changes for the betterment of the situation in the countries most affected by climate change.

2.45 Effective legal protection in the European Union

Submitted by: Junge Liberale, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, Centerstudenter, Lietuvos liberalus jaunimas, Junos, JNC.

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- According to Article 51 (1) Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFR) the provisions of the Charter are addressed to the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity and to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law; Since the industrial revolution, we have used fossil fuels and natural resources for decades despite the harmful consequences it has on the planet. As a result of this, our technology and standard of living improved but so did the need for energy.
- According to Article 6 (2) Treaty of the European Union the Union (TEU) shall accede to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR); Global warming is human-induced and creates large changes in weather patterns. The result of these changes have led to an increase in earth temperature, causing the rise of sea levels, forest fires, and severe droughts.
- The EU has to this day not acceded the ECHR;
- According to Article 263 (4) Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) any natural or legal person may, under the conditions laid down in the first and second paragraphs, institute proceedings against an act addressed to that person or which is of direct and individual concern to them, and against a regulatory act which is of direct concern to them and does not entail implementing measures.
- The word "regulatory act" excludes directives and regulations leading to an absence of effective legal protection regarding the aforementioned legal acts insofar as they do not fulfill the strict criteria of "individual concern" (the

contested act must affect the claimant “by reason of certain attributes that are peculiar to them or by reason of circumstances in which they are differentiated from all other persons, and by virtue of these factors distinguishes them individually just as in the case of the addressee”).

Believing that:

- Effective legal protection as well as sufficient and unionwide minimum standards for the protection of fundamental rights are of utmost importance.

Calls for:

- The expansion of the scope of the provisions of the CFR to cases where national law is applicable as a unionwide minimum human rights standard;
- The EU to accede the ECHR as soon as possible, without going against the European Court of Justice's opinions.
- The EU to reform Article 263 TFEU in order to enable natural and legal persons to institute legal proceedings against any legal act of the EU which might infringe their fundamental rights and freedoms.

2.46 Project Pegasus: protecting our privacy

Submitters: Momentum TizenX

Movers: Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Attistibai Youth, USR Tineret, Lithuanian Liberal Youth

Adopted at the Paris Autumn LYMEC Congress on 24th October 2021

Considering that:

- The European Charter of Fundamental Rights gives distinguished importance to the Protection of Privacy and Personal Data in Articles 7 and 8;
- The extra-judicial monitoring of individuals is in breach of these rights;

The illiberal government of Hungary has reportedly used the Pegasus spy program to monitor:

- journalists researching corruption,
- opposition politicians,

- and businessmen,
- refused to answer questions related to the issue, with the Minister of Justice running away from questions,
- classified the verbatim of the Committee of National Security until 2050, following the inquiry of opposition MP;
- Traces of usage of the spy software have been found around the world, for example on the phones of French journalists, Bahraini activists, and Indian deputies.

Recognizing and condemning that:

- The authoritarian, communist government of China uses surveillance to trample and terrorize citizens from Hong Kong to Xinjiang;
- Surveillance is one of the six key tools of digital oppression, alongside censorship, social manipulation and harassment, cyber-attacks, internet shutdowns, and targeted persecution against online users;
- Authoritarian regimes might use these tools in the future to persecute religious, ethnic, or sexual minorities

Realizing the importance of:

- The work of journalists uncovering the abuse of power from renowned newspapers such as The Guardian, Le Monde, or Telex;
- The judicial and well-regulated use of digital monitoring in the special cases of terrorism and child abuse.

LYMEC calls for:

- Passing European legislation to
 - Strictly regulate the production and trade of military-grade technological equipment, prohibiting states with authoritarian tendencies from getting their hands on spying software,
 - Create a clear and strictly limited legal framework to prohibit the usage of surveillance outside the strict scope of national security and child protection,

- Determine a universal judicial authorization process, to make it clear who and why can approve the usage of such technology;
- Founding a study group to determine the extent of these regulations and to further research violations of privacy;
- Organizing a global campaign to raise awareness of the usage of surveillance technology being used to trample democratic movements opposing authoritarian regimes.
- Ensuring the right to encryption and prohibiting the use of backdoors, zero-day exploits and other 'govware', which can potentially harm the cybersecurity of all citizens.

2.47 A Migration Policy Fit for the Future

Submitted by: Centre Party Youth (CUF)

Co-signed by: Unge Venstre, Svensk Ungdom, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals, JOVD, European Youth of Ukraine, Centerstudenter, JUNOS

Adopted at Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Noting that:

- The Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) was activated for the first time since its inception following Russia's brutal war against Ukraine.
- The Temporary Protection Directive has not been activated during previous episodes of mass migration to the EU.
- There is a discrepancy between the TPD and LYMEC core values, as well as the modern realities of migration in Europe.
- The Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management (RAMM), as proposed by the commission, does not abolish the Dublin system as it was meant to, but rather only modifies it slightly through tools supposed to increase the use of criteria other than first country of entry.
- The contents of the RAMM has a stronger emphasis on increasing the number of returns, rather than creating a fair and humane system of migration and asylum.

- The war in Ukraine means the widespread destruction of vital infrastructure and homes, which means Ukrainian refugees will not be able to return immediately after a peace has been reached.
- Refugees from Ukraine are being given refuge primarily in neighbouring countries, which creates a risk of humanitarian crises and logistic problems overtime when they reach their maximum capacity.

Considering that:

- The context of when the TPD was designed impacts the underlying assumptions upon which the TPD is built.
- The temporariness of the TPD assumes that causes of migratory streams are within the control of the EU and thus can be mitigated to ensure swift return migration, something that does not hold up to the reality of the war in Ukraine or other driving factors behind migratory waves in the past or expected future.
- The vagueness of the activation clause regarding the definition of mass displacements and the absence of objective indicators leaves room for member states to act in self interest rather than in the spirit of the TPD and the interests of migrants.
- There is currently a challenge in securing a qualified majority vote in the Council, in the face of an influx situation which only impacts a handful of member states.
- EU member states consider the protections given to migrants as a result of the successful activation of the TPD too high and risk being a "pull factor", and are therefore reluctant to activate the TPD.
- The new RAMM rules and solidarity mechanisms would, in practice, serve to increase the number of returns through incentivising countries to expedite the return process at the cost of the rights of the individual.
- The pre-entry screening would mean automatic detention for all individuals, including children, applying for asylum at the external borders of the EU, which would threaten the right of childrens' access to their guardian, or the right to healthcare and legal assistance.
- The pact would risk excluding access to existing national residence procedures based on medical grounds, for victims of domestic violence, or for children, families and stateless people.

Believing that:

- All EU migration policy needs to be based on a shared responsibility applicable to all EU member states, and all proposals need to uphold the fundamental EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom and human rights.

Calls for:

- The undertaking of a more precisely defined activation clause of the TPD which secures the rights of migrants and leaves less room for member states to act in self interest.
- The possibility of prolonging the TPD, in order to meet the reality of current and future causes of mass migration to the EU.
- Any return policy present in the RAMM or TPD to make sure that the principle of non-refoulement is not violated, that the fundamental rights of the individual is upheld, and to make sure that the best interests of children are taken into account.
- The RAMM to include an improved and less ambiguous solidarity mechanism that introduces a quota system oriented, among other things, to population size, economic strength and unemployment rate to ensure that all EU countries make a meaningful contribution.
- At the same time, this is intended to reduce dependence on the criterion of the first country of entry.
- Any external screening process to exclude those individuals already living inside the EU, and for the process to avoid the usage of detention where it is not necessary or proportional, especially when it comes to unaccompanied children.
- The RAMM to clarify that access to existing permits regulated at the national level will be maintained, and recognize that asylum and return are not the only two options available to an asylum application. An individual who qualifies for a national permit should never be subjected to the return process.
- All EU countries to join in EU-wide migration pacts and directives in the future, as opt-outs undermine the proper functioning of the common systems and the principle of solidarity.
- The EU to aid the Ukrainian people in rebuilding their country after the war, and ensure asylum for all Ukrainian refugees during the process.
- The EU member states to acknowledge that Ukrainian refugees are part of our communities and should be given the right to stay past the end of the war. Emphasising the potential choice to return should be based on free will.

2.48 Human Rights in International Sports Events

Submitted by: Radikal Ungdom, JuLis, Svensk Ungdom, USR Tineret, Centerstudenter, Liberal Youth of Sweden, Centre Party Youth, Unge Venstre, Young Liberals, Uppreisn, JNC

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Considering that:

- International sport events such as the FIFA World Cup or the Olympic Games can have a considerable impact on a variety of human rights, including the rights of citizens in the host countries; the fundamental freedoms of athletes, journalists and spectators; and the rights of workers involved in construction sites and supply chains.
- A culture of corruption has been established in many of the major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC.

Remembering that:

- In the past time numerous major international sport events either have been or are to be held in countries with critical human rights situations, for instance:
 - The 2022 winter Olympics held in the People's Republic of China, a nation currently, among other things, violating the basic human rights of the Uyghur people in Xinjiang, oppressing the populations of Tibet and Hong Kong, as well as silencing regime-critics by the use of force.
 - Russia, a nation lacking basic civil liberties and rights that openly strives to destabilize international rule of law and is currently engaging in an illegal invasion of Ukraine, hosted the 2014 world championships.
 - The 2016 Olympics held in Rio de Janeiro, where countless vulnerable families and members of oppressed population groups were displaced, losing accommodation and livelihood, to make place for the Olympic village
 - The 2022 football World Cup in Qatar, a nation currently violating countless fundamental human rights, where workers preparing the tournament have been and are still forced to work under slave-like conditions.

Believing that:

- International sports have the potential to transcend national borders, reduce prejudices and promote intercultural understanding.

- The independence of sport is a great achievement that must be defended against the desires of national governments to abuse sport events as an instrument of propaganda.
- Without the common values of human dignity, freedom, equality and tolerance a peaceful, fair and respectful sport competition is not possible.

While also noting that:

- Hosting an international sports event works to empower the political regime of the concerned nation, by legitimising its political system and policy decisions including those violating basic human rights.
- International sport events have the potential of stimulating the economy of the hosting nation through the economic effect of increased tourism and international investment, as well as increase the soft power and cultural influence of the nation.

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- FIFA to adopt a legally binding code of ethics prohibiting the hosting of major international sport events in states that are guilty of serious human rights violations.
- The further introduction of an international committee working closely with human rights organisations in monitoring the nation chosen as host, making sure that basic human rights are continuously being respected at all levels of state.
- The establishment of a mandatory implementation of independent anti-corruption institutions in international sport organizations and a comprehensive strengthening of transparency and compliance.
- All attempts of corruption to lead to the withdrawal of an already given commitment and a long-term exclusion from future applications for all major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC.
- The worldwide consistent taxation of major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA, IOC and their activities under the laws applicable to all.
- A reform of the governing bodies of major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC; in particular active and former athletes, must have a stronger influence.
- A reform of Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter and of FIFA Rule 4 to strengthen athletes' rights of expression and participation.
- Binding rules for social and environmental sustainability, in particular compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement and ILO core labour standards in all major international sports umbrella associations such as FIFA and IOC.

- All EU member states (and their corresponding national sports organisations) to boycott additional future sports championships in nations that do not comply with basic human rights standards.
- All EU member states (and their corresponding national sports organisations) to introduce ethical standards of sponsors and financial partners and to evaluate sponsors and financial partners regarding their involvement in disregard of human rights.
- The suspension of states, which show the utmost disregard for international law by conducting unlawful warfare, from participating in all international sporting events.
- LYMEC to publicly condemn not only the 2022 FIFA World Cup held in Qatar but also all participating national governments that continue to take part in the event.

2.49 Towards a more inclusive European Union

Submitted by: LHG

Cosigned by: Ógra Fianna Fáil, Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, JNC, Jungfreisinnige, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, European Youth of Ukraine, Centerstuder, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Recognising that:

- People often suffer from chronic illnesses (psychological and physical).
- People are confronted by physical impairment.
- People are confronted by psychological impairment.
- Impairment may not always be clear to other individuals and may manifest in the format of an invisible disability.
- The Renew Europe Group, European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) and the ALDE Party strive to make Europe more inclusive for all people
- Disabled EU citizens are especially vulnerable to climate change related emergencies, infrastructure failures and violence.
- Access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a key to social participation.

Keeping in mind that:

- Mentally and physically disabled people are often left out in crisis management and not included in emergency planning which can impact representation in policy.
- Some disabled people (visible or invisible disability) may need to rely on assistance

We are able to identify:

- Deficits in the accessibility of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
- A lack of inclusion in crisis management and emergency planning.
- Accessibility barriers to the active participation in the labour market for disabled people.
- A lack of awareness among social stakeholders with regard to the needs of disabled individuals.

Therefore we call for:

Information and technology accessibility

- For a solid and forward looking legal and regulatory framework for ICT accessibility, that standardised the implementation of all EU member states of the EU Directives (EU) 2016/2102, 2018/1808, 2018/1072, 2019/882 in order to harmonise ICT accessibility in the EU.
- Recognizing national sign languages in legislation to guarantee linguistic rights for all deaf persons. Acceptance and facilitation of communication tools such as sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication methods, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions.
- Provision of guidelines for various sectors and situations in which accessible means, modes and formats can be requested and obtained by persons with disabilities, including closed captioning, real-time translation (CART), sign language, Braille, simple language, etc.
- Developing ICT accessibility policies, strategies and action plans, and align organisational structures and processes for effective implementation, by following good practices tailored to national circumstances.
- Provision of equitable access to information by making websites and mobile applications of all public-sector bodies accessible, including those providing services partially or fully financed by public funds.

- Gradually extending the requirements for equitable access to information to the private sector, including the mass media and providers of information over the Internet.
- Provision of digital services that are affordable, secure and accessible to all, regardless of their skills, abilities and economic means.
- Defining accessibility requirements and targets for audiovisual media services and requiring service providers to prepare accessibility action plans and regularly report on their implementation to national regulatory authorities or bodies.
- Increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by using accessible ICT products and services.
- Ensuring equitable access to education and skills through accessible ICTs.
- Developing accessibility curricula to be incorporated in all levels of education and provide ICT accessibility training for teachers.
- Providing ICT accessibility training for bodies and businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in cooperation with academia, including on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities.
- Providing support to persons with disabilities so that they can improve ICT accessibility skills and use accessible ICTs.
- Fostering economic and social development for all.
- Establishing an observatory of national accessibility developments and promote good practices.

Inclusion in crisis management

The disabled individual's needs should be built directly into every possible crisis response strategy, and where possible, consultation with stakeholders associated with disabled people's organisations and representative bodies should take place to ensure appropriate and suitable policy is in place.

Challenges of active labour market participation from disabled people

- European financial support of social enterprises that enable labour market participation for disabled citizens through a European Fund for disabled people.
- Provide financial incentives as tax benefits for impact investing in inclusive industries.
- Provide financial incentives as tax benefits for sustainable social innovative companies that implement and embrace inclusion.

Lack of awareness among stakeholders

- Consult with representative organisations of persons with disabilities and all other relevant stakeholders, but also with those that are not members of national level unions, and involve them in the process of developing accessibility laws, regulations, policies, strategies and action plans.
- A regular exchange between stakeholders that are involved with inclusion (schools, academia, policymakers, industry).

2.50 The EU Shall Contribute to Free Internet in Authoritarian States

Submitted by: Centerstudenter (Sweden)

MO's supporting: Unge Venstre (Norway), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (Germany), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), Keskutan Opiskelijaliitto (Finland), The Centre Party Youth (Sweden), LLY (Lithuania), Liberal Youth of Sweden (Sweden), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark).

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Noting that:

- The internet is today the main source of information. Historically, most people have gathered their information from newspapers, radio and speech. During the cold war the Soviet Union and Sweden for example introduced a prohibition on radio stations and newspapers which were not government owned media. In the free world numerous different news sources are available today, which is favourable in a democracy.
- Noting with deep concern that the crisis in Iran has shed light on the problem of authoritarian states controlling the internet. With a controlled internet the government can choose what information the citizens are admitted to see. The EU should contribute to people in authoritarian states to have a chance of obtaining valuable information.

Considering that:

- One of the EU's global goals is to contribute to sustainability and promote EU's values. One of these values is democracy, and in democracies, one important aspect is that people should be able to acquire solid and diverse information from different sources and be able to create their own opinion.
- It is established that one of the main methods for dictatorships to maintain power is to have control over information and dissent opinions. As mentioned before, most people gather information on the internet today. With the use of

different free discussion forums humans can more easily find social communities and form groups with those with the same values and thereby gain greater power and opportunities to question the oppressing regime. One example of when the internet played a contributing role for civil society when the people wanted to see a liberalization and overthrow dictatorship is the Arab Spring.

- There is a risk that offering uncensored internet can be seen as an attack and a violation of a state's sovereignty. One must then take into account that measures like these are not a real attack, instead we only enhance the possibility for people to gather authentic news. In our liberal democratic societies many see the possibility of taking part in discussion forms and watching different news channels as something we can take for granted. We only plead for people living in authoritarian states to have the same opportunity of receiving legitimate news.

Believing that:

- The EU can make sure that people living under authoritarian regimes have access to the internet by procuring and financing agreements with companies like SpaceX who already have shown that it is possible for an outside actor to guarantee the right to the internet in the example of Ukraine.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- The EU to carry out an inquiry of how it can procure and finance access to free and uncensored internet in authoritarian nations during times of crisis.
- The EU to procure and finance access to free and uncensored internet in Iran until the regime itself opens up the internet access for their citizens again.

2.51 Stop chat control - save our digital privacy!

Mover: Junge Liberale

Co-signer: Jungfreisinnige, LHG, JUNOS, European Youth of Ukraine, Venstres Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Jonge Democraten, JNC, USR Tineret, Attistibai Youth

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Whereas:

- The European Commission presented its proposal for a Regulation laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse on 11 May 2022;
- The Commission's proposal includes severe threats to the right to privacy, including network blocks, upload filters, and mandatory chat control searching for all messenger providers;
- The suggested measures would lead to the end of end-to-end encryption and, thus to the end of privacy in digital communication;
- The proposed measures would require overburdening of the police and public prosecutor's offices, which are already working at maximum capacity throughout Europe;
- a clear majority of citizens and stakeholders opposed the mandatory usage of chat control and similar measures in a consultation initiated by the European Commission;
- LYMEC's position on privacy and data protection, as for example laid out in the Resolution "2.13 Resolution on privacy and data protection" stands firmly in favour of the fundamental right to privacy;

The LYMEC Congress:

- Strongly rejects the proposed infringements on the right to privacy, especially mandatory chat controls;
- Calls instead for a holistic strategy to prevent and prosecute child abuse and depictions of child abuse which does not threaten the right to privacy and especially end-to-end encryption, for example the "notice and take down procedure" based on the US model;
- Calls for better, closer cooperation of national security authorities within the European Union, especially through Europol and Eurojust, and more investments for these agencies through the EU budget, but also with third countries, to successfully tackle the fight against depictions of child abuse across Europe;
- Calls on the Members of the European Parliament within the Renew Europe Group and the Member Parties of the ALDE Party represented in the Council of the European Union to fight for necessary changes in the proposed regulation to uphold the right to privacy;
- Rejects other plans by the EU Commission that disproportionately restrict civil rights in the alleged fight against crime, such as allowing identity determination through AI facial recognition in video surveillance.

2.52 Keep governments out of our underpants, chromosomes and personal identities

Submitted by: Jonge Democraten Co-signatories: JNC, Centerstudenten, Radikal Ungdom, Young Liberals, Jong VLD

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Noting that:

- Travel documents currently need to display a person's sex as a result of document 9303 by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);
- This requirement means that many governments keep gender or sex information of its citizens on file;
- Discrimination on the basis of gender or sex is prohibited by the European Convention on Human Rights as well as by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;

Considering that:

- Displaying someone's sex on their travel document is of negligible value in the identification process since photographs were added;
- It is possible to keep records of relevant medical data separately from general government registries for population screenings, which would also avoid issues like transgender or nonbinary people being called on for irrelevant screenings;
- Different governments use gender identity or biological sex to determine what should be displayed as 'sex' in travel documents;

Believing that:

- Both a person's gender identity and biological sex are highly personal and unnecessary for governments to know;
- Privacy should prevail if a government can not present a valid reason for storing information about their citizens;

Calling for:

- The EU, EU Member States and other European states to lobby the ICAO for the removal of the display requirement for sex from the ICAO's rules on travel documents;

- The subsequent removal of sex from travel documents issued in the future;
- Governments to generally stop keeping record on the gender or sex of their citizens. The only exception should be specific cases where the information is essential for a government's programme, for example to reach beneficiaries in actions tackling discrimination. These exceptions shall be subject to a public necessity assessment by the equivalent Data Protection Supervisor.
- Until governments generally stop keeping record on the gender or sex of their citizens with the exceptions mentioned, they should at least stop having discriminatory administrative documents and forms that only have binary gender options.

2.53 Motion Against the Usage of Spyware among politicians, journalists and activists

Submitted by: JNC

Co-signed by: JUNOS, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Venstres Ungdom, RU

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Considering that:

- The European Charter of Fundamental Rights gives distinguished importance to the Protection of Privacy and Personal Data in Articles 7 and 8 by stating:
 - Article 7: "Everyone has the right to respect for his or her private and family life, home and communications."
 - Article 8: " (1) Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her. (2) Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law. Everyone has the right of access to data which has been collected concerning him or her, and the right to have it rectified. (3) Compliance with these rules shall be subject to control by an independent authority."
- The extra-judicial monitoring of individuals is in breach of these rights;
- Spyware (Spying Software) is software with malicious behaviour that aims to gather information about a person or organisation and send it to another

entity in a way that harms the user. For example, by violating their privacy or endangering their device's security;

- Commercial spyware has grown into an industry estimated to be worth twelve billion dollars in 2022. Such industry is largely unregulated and increasingly controversial;
- In recent years, investigations by the Citizen Lab and Amnesty International have revealed the presence of Pegasus (the most relevant commercial spyware sold by NSO Group) on the phones of politicians, activists, and dissidents not only under repressive regimes but also democracies inside the EU;
- An analysis by Forensic Architecture, a research group at the University of London, has linked Pegasus to three hundred acts of physical violence. i.e. the murder and dismemberment of The Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi human rights activist, in the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey;
- The selling of such technologies is tied to geopolitical interests. On some occasions countries had no legitimate access to such technologies due commercial interference of third countries (an example is the unwillingness by NSO Group to sell Pegasus technologies to countries such as Ukraine to protect themselves from Russian attacks in order to not compromise commercial interests with the Kremlin);

Noting that:

- The usage of such spying software has spread to all continents by many governments;
- In the case of the NSO Group's software, Pegasus isn't just for spying. It can also create contents inside the intervened mobile without it being known whether they are real or not increasing its harmful impact.
- For autocratic regimes, the appeal of digital espionage tools is apparent. Commercial Spyware offers an easy-to-use platform to simultaneously track domestic political dissidents, international activists, and foreign governments;
- Many foreign governments have used such technologies to spy on European leaders on several occasions, mostly during official visits, including that of the French president, Emmanuel Macron, the European Council president,

Charles Michel, and other heads of state and senior government, diplomatic and military officials;

- Many human-right activists in foreign countries have seen their mobile devices hacked using commercial spyware by their own governments;
- Several EU Member States have purchased different forms of spyware tools for reasons such as combating organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism cells. Many scandals have occurred in European countries such as; Hungary, Poland, France, Spain, Finland, Germany, Estonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Belgium, Greece, etc.
- European lawmakers are planning a series of fact-finding missions to EU member countries to investigate how spyware like Pegasus is used and potentially abused across Europe. On the 8th of November, the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware, lead by Renew Europe Group's MEP Sophie in 't Veld, released the Draft report which stated that several European states have purchased and misused spyware technologies on its citizens;
- Hungary was one of the first countries to be embroiled in the European spyware scandal. In 2021, it was revealed by the Pegasus Project that a number of Hungarian phone numbers were listed among the 50,000 identified as potentially hacked by the NSO product. It has since been confirmed by Amnesty International¹⁴⁴ that over 300 Hungarians have fallen victim to Pegasus, including political activists, journalists, lawyers, entrepreneurs and a former government minister.
- Following the investigations of the Associated Press and the Citizen Lab researchers at the University of Toronto, it was revealed that at least three persons had been targeted in Poland in 2019 by the Polish authorities. Those targets were namely opposition Senator Krzysztof Brejza, lawyer Roman Giertych, and prosecutor Ewa Wrzosek, who were hacked with Pegasus spyware that was obtained by the government in 2017. While the government has confirmed the purchase of the software from NSO group, it has not officially acknowledged that any specific persons were targeted.
- On 5 and 6 November, the Greek media revealed a list of 33 people targeted by the Greek authorities, all of whom were high profile personalities. The list – if confirmed - reads like a stunning who is who of politics, business and media in Greece. The impact of this large-scale political use of spyware is infinitely bigger than just the people that appear on the list, as all their respective

contacts and connections are indirectly "caught" in the spying operation as well, including their contacts in EU bodies.

- During April 2022, several digital-rights activists reported what it is considered to be the largest domestic spying campaign in Europe to date by the Spanish authorities. More than 60 Catalan activists and politicians had their mobile devices hacked several times each during the period 2017 - 2021. Among them 3 MEPs, an MEP assistant and up to 11 close associates of another MEP (including his spouse and personal lawyers), which potentially put in danger the privacy of the thousands of persons that daily uses the European Parliament and other European institutions;
- But the single largest country where Pegasus' use has kicked off a major institutional crisis, Spain, has been bumped off the European Parliament's Pegasus Committee official trips for fear of embarrassing Spanish politicians — including a former Spanish interior minister who sits on the Pegasus inquiry committee — three European Parliament members involved in the planning told POLITICO.
- On 19 April 2022, the EU Commission stated that it will not investigate Member States that used Pegasus to spy on politicians, journalists and other individuals, as "this is really something for the national authorities,"

Recalling that:

- LYMEC is convinced that privacy provides the ideal circumstances in which individuals can implement their ideals, without fearing prosecution for their thoughts and opinions; (policy book 2.03)
- LYMEC is determined to fight international terrorism and organised and transnational crime and has a firm belief in the need to protect civil liberties and fundamental rights, while ensuring the utmost respect for privacy, self-determination with regards to information and data protection; (policy book 2.03)
- Surveillance is one of the six key tools of digital oppression, alongside censorship, social manipulation and harassment, cyber-attacks, internet shutdowns, and targeted persecution against online users;
- The European Data Protection Supervisor has called for a ban on the spyware tool Pegasus to protect people's fundamental rights.

LYMEC calls on:

- the LYMEC Bureau and its member organisations to put pressure on the Renew Europe MEP's and ALDE Member parties to keep fighting for the fundamental right of privacy and data protection of its citizens both in its internal legislation and in its treaties and agreements with third parties; (policy book 2.13)
- the LYMEC Bureau and its member organisations to condemn all privacy violations on European citizens, activists or politicians by any EU member government without any justification of fighting terrorism but with the intention to interfere in their legitimate civil activity;
- 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; (policy book 2.13)
- Passing specific European legislation to:
 - Create a clear and strictly limited legal framework surrounding the usage of surveillance.
 - Founding a study group to determine the extent of these regulations and to further research violations of privacy;
 - Organizing a global campaign to raise awareness of the usage of surveillance technology being used to trample democratic movements opposing authoritarian regimes.
 - Ensuring the right to encryption and prohibiting the use of backdoors, zero-day exploits, and other 'govware', which can potentially harm the cybersecurity of all citizens.

2.54 Liberal consolidation needs to be implemented to prevent the spread of authoritarian nationalist tendencies in Europe

Submitted by: Momentum TizenX

Co-signed by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, USR Tineret, LYMEC working group on civil and minority rights, Young Liberals, Nowoczesna Youth

Supported by: Mladí Progresívci

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Considering the fact that:

- Authoritarianism fuelled by nationalism is an existential threat to liberal democracy and international peace, especially in the light of Russia's war of aggression towards Ukraine.
- Several examples like Orban, Netanyahu, Trump, Fico and Babis prove that liberal democracy is endangered by populist leaders with authoritarian tendencies.
- These tendencies create division, polarization, discrimination and are a threat to national security.
- The electoral base for this far-right political wave is nationalism and untreated historical grievances, as demonstrated by the rhetoric of Putin, Trump and Orban.

Believing that:

- As liberal youth, it is our objective to facilitate international cooperation, incentivise tolerance towards all kinds of identity minorities, be that sexual orientation, racial group, ethnicity, religion or nationality.
- As liberal democrats, we strongly oppose any violation of citizens' private property.
- To prevent the further advance of far-right parties in Europe, especially with concern to the nearing European Parliamentary election, we have to treat these problems at the root in a liberal way, offering alternatives to the voters that would otherwise turn to the right.
- As LYMEC, it is our mission to support European cooperation and reinforce member countries' commitment to the European values and agreements.

Recalling that:

- All member countries have committed themselves to respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which include all European

citizens' rights to private property (Article 17) and prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity (Article 21).

- During the accession process of Eastern European countries to the European Union, their governments at the time have made explicit promises to the European institutions that discrimination based on nationality will cease to exist.
- There are still ongoing procedures of land confiscation based on ethnicity in Europe, which goes against liberal and European principles.

Despite all that, acknowledging that:

- Since Slovakia's accession to the European Union, several judges and prosecutors in the country have repeatedly and retrospectively relied on the usage of outdated discriminatory laws to unilaterally confiscate the private property of its citizens on the basis of their ethnicity.
- With that, creating division and sparking nationalist feelings and polarization that serves as the foundation for populism.
- Orban's government has repeatedly relied on these feelings to build support for and control ethnicity-based parties abroad, and with that threatening the doctrine of national sovereignty of Slovakia and Romania.

We call for:

- LYMEC to officially oppose any kinds of discrimination toward ethnic minorities, including but not limited to the forceful confiscation of property.
- The Court of Justice of the European Union to examine if there has been any kind of such discrimination in practice since Slovakia's accession to the European Union in 2004.
- The proper actions to be taken by the Court of Justice of the European Union in case they find proof of the above mentioned discrimination that they might find to be incompatible with European Law and to be infringing on the rights of European citizens.

2.55 Non dica gay - a resolution concerning the situation for LGBTQ+ people in Italy

Submitted by: CUF

Co-signed by: JOVD, Centerstudenter, FCY, Young Liberals, FEL, Junge Liberale, Venstres Ungdom, Mlade ano, Norges Unge Venstre, LUF, Svensk ungdom, FY, Radikal Ungdom, Uppreisn, LHG, Jong VLD, Jonge Democraten

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- According to ILGA-Europe's 2021 report, the status of LGBTQ+ rights in Italy is the worst among Western European countries.
- The country does not allow same-sex marriage and refuses to recognize marriages of its citizens performed abroad between same-sex couples. Instead, the marriages are registered as civil unions, which do not provide the same rights as heterosexual marriage, notably the right to adopt as a couple.
- The Fratelli d'Italia government led by PM Georgia Meloni has pushed policy, opinion and legislation to perpetuate the heterosexual norm in Italian society.
- One of these policies include that in same-sex couples only the biological parent is to be officially recognised as parent.
- Many of these parents have received notice that they are to have their names retroactively removed from their children's birth certificates. This action constitutes such violations as of the child's right to family and private life and poses an obstacle to obtaining identity documents that will lead to a denial of the exercise of the child's rights as an EU citizen, including the right to free movement.
- Furthermore, the Italian government is seeking to ban and severely punish the execution of surrogacy abroad– a severe blow to same-sex couples in a country where domestic surrogacy is already banned.

Believing that:

- All humans are born free and equal.
- Discrimination of same-sex couples is incompatible with liberal values.

- Every individual has the right to be themselves, regardless of sexuality and gender identity, without being limited by the state because of this.
- The recognition of parentage and acquisition of nationality fall within the ambit of protection and fulfilment of children's rights in line with international human rights law.

Recalling that:

- All member countries have committed themselves to respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which include all European citizens' rights to private property (Article 17) and prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity (Article 21).
- During the accession process of Eastern European countries to the European Union, their governments at the time have made explicit promises to the European institutions that discrimination based on nationality will cease to exist.
- There are still ongoing procedures of land confiscation based on ethnicity in Europe, which goes against liberal and European principles.

We therefore:

- Call upon EU member states and representatives to maintain pressure on Italy to back down from these latest queerphobic policies.
- Call upon EU member states and representatives to continue to put pressure on the Italian government to respect the civil liberties and political rights of LGBTQ+ people.
- Call upon the EU to support Italian civil society and activist groups fighting for LGBTQ+ rights.
- Call upon the EU to urge the Italian government to grant the protection of children raised by rainbow families and their right to preserve their identity, including their nationality, name, and family relations.

2.56 Better Safe Than Sorry - Establishing a European Crisis Mitigation and Resilience Framework

Submitted by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)

Co-signed by: Ógra Fianna Fáil (OFF), Centerstudenter (CS), Jungfreisinnige (JFS), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Jovenes Ciudadanos (JCS), Junge Liberale (JULIS), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Felix Schulz (IMS), ZeMolodizhka (ZM), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Noting that:

- In recent years, the European Union has faced various crises in short succession, ranging from economic downturns and migration challenges to health pandemics, energy shortages and armed conflicts at its borders.
- The frequency, rapidity and unpredictability of these crises have demonstrated the necessity to develop robust and adaptable resilience strategies.
- Past crises have had a profound impact on public life in the Union, including the closure of borders, temporary shutdown of educational institutions, and restriction of access to public spaces.
- Many recent crises have shown to be transnational in nature, affecting multiple member states simultaneously and thus requiring cross-border cooperation and supranational coordination in order to be resolved effectively.
- Unforeseen crises have the potential to evolve so rapidly and unpredictable that impromptu decision-making may prove insufficient to adequately tackle the issues at hand.
- Currently existing crisis mitigation measures, such as the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR), are primarily reactionary and not preventive in nature.
- While the EU has historically shown its ability to weather many storms, an evolving global landscape means that new approaches are required to fortify against unforeseen challenges.

Believing that:

- The European Union, as a collective of diverse member states, plays a critical role in ensuring stability, prosperity, peace and unity across the continent.

- Crisis resilience is not only about swift reactions to evolving situations but equally encompasses proactive measures, long-term planning, and the ability to learn from past events.
- The free movement of persons, goods, services and capital are among the fundamental cornerstones of the Union, which should be striven to be upheld at all times.
- The right to education plays a crucial role in attaining the liberal ideals of equality of opportunity and self-reliance.
- The deep integration of the Union in times of stability and prosperity should also extend to mutual assistance in times of crisis.
- A thoroughly designed crisis mitigation and resilience framework can help lessen the otherwise profound impact of crises on the Union.
- A resilient European Union is better equipped to protect its citizens, its economies, and its core values in the face of unforeseen crises.

LYMEC calls for:

- The creation of a European Union Crisis Prevention and Resilience Committee (EUCPRC), dedicated at analyzing potential threats, formulating preventive crisis resilience strategies and coordinating their implementation in the member states and institutions.
- The strengthening of cross-border cooperation mechanisms, ensuring that member states can swiftly share resources, intelligence, and expertise during a crisis.
- A thorough analysis of past crises, with the aim of identifying best practices as well as negative examples in order to devise effective crisis-solving strategies for the future. Additionally, clearer distinctions between crisis and not-just-crisis coordination efforts should be made for a more swift response.
- The formulation of extensive contingency plans for various potential types of crises, so that EU institutions are well-prepared when confronted with unforeseen situations.
- Enhanced intra-EU communication and collaboration to include a broader spectrum of stakeholders, encompassing DGs (HOME, EEAS, DG, INTPA, and DG ECHO), alongside EU agencies, and international organizations, to create a more resilient and coordinated response framework.
- A commitment of the Member States to regard the closure of intra-European borders as an ultima ratio measure, which is to be generally avoided and only

applied as a last resort if all other means of crisis prevention have been exhausted.

- Member States to take the necessary measures to be able to provide unhindered access to education even in times of crisis. This includes the establishment of robust hybrid education facilities that can be drawn upon in case of emergency.
- Encouraging member states to adapt national resilience strategies that align with the broader objectives of the European Union, ensuring a cohesive and united approach to crisis management.
- Continuous education and training programs for policymakers, governmental agencies, and public servants to ensure that best practices in crisis management are widely disseminated and adopted.
- The necessary steps to be taken to establish a dedicated crisis communication faculty, emphasizing the importance of pooling and streamlining information in a centralised repository in order to combat the spread of potentially harmful misinformation in times of crisis.
- A commitment by the Union and all member states to minimise the curtailment of civil rights in terms of severity and duration to the bare minimum necessary to contain a crisis, whilst always respecting the principle of proportionality.

2.57 Can't Pray the Gay Away: Put an End to Conversion Therapy

Submitted by: Unge Venstre (Norway) and Alliance Youth (Northern Ireland)

Co-signed by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (Germany), Centerstudenter (Sweden), EYU (Ukraine), FEL (Belgium), For Youth! (Latvia), Jeunes MR (Belgium), Jóvenes Ciudadanos (Spain), Junge Liberale (Germany), Jungfreisinnige (Switzerland), Keskustanuoret (Finland), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (Lithuania), LUF (Sweden), Mladé ANO (Czech Republic), Mladé Progresívne Slovensko (MPS), Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), The Swedish Center Party Youth (Sweden), Uppreisn (Iceland), Radikal Ungdom (Denmark), Young Green Liberals (Switzerland), JOVD (Netherlands), Young Liberals (United Kingdom), Adam Volf (IMS), Siorcha Ní Chonghaile (IMS).

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2024 in Brussels, Belgium on 24 March 2024.

Defining:

- Conversion therapy, also referred to as conversion practices or reparative therapy, as any practice or intervention that seeks to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression to align with heterosexual and cisgender norms.

Recognising that:

- Conversion therapy can take many forms, including but not limited to medical, psychiatric, psychological, religious, and cultural interventions.
- Such practices are widely discredited by those in the medical field, and rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organisation, as they are ineffective, unethical, and cruel.
- Conversion practices are proven to have devastating and long-term psychological and physical effects on those subjected to them.
- People who experienced conversion therapy are almost twice as likely to consider suicide compared to their peers who hadn't experienced conversion therapy.
- 7% of LGBTQ+ people in the UK have experienced conversion therapy, and that goes up to 13% of trans people. The real numbers are however thought to be much higher.
- Members of the LGBTQ+ community are already among the most vulnerable in our society due to continued social rejection, social exclusion, and lack of acceptance.

Noting that:

- The World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases in 1990 and stopped classifying transgender health issues as mental/behavioural disorders in 2019.
- Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights prohibits subjecting anyone to inhuman or degrading treatment, and Article 8 of the same convention recognises the right to respect for one's family and private life.

- The practice is criticised by international bodies at the UN, Council of Europe and EU level, who all call for bans to be implemented.
- In 2018, the European Parliament voted by 435 votes to 109 to condemn conversion therapy and urged its member states to ban the practice.
- In their 2020 report, the independent expert mandated by the United Nations Human Rights Council recommended that states ban conversion 'therapy'.
- An EU-ban on conversion practices on LGBTQ+ persons may be achieved through anti-discrimination legislation based on Article 19 TFEU.
- Several European countries, such as Malta, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Spain, Portugal and Norway, have already banned conversion therapies, acknowledging the harm that they can cause.

Reminding that:

- A ban does not prohibit the possibility of talking to someone about insecurities around sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Critics argue that bans violate the rights to freedom of religion or expression (Articles 9 & 10 ECHR). However, properly drafted bans should not interfere with the right to hold a belief or express an opinion on LGBTQ+ issues.
- As opposed to the freedom to have a religion and a belief, the right to manifest one's religion or belief may be subjected to limitations, in order to protect the fundamental rights of others.

Believing that:

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and should be allowed to live as their authentic selves, irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.
- The practice of conversion therapy legitimises the view of sexual orientations and gender identities diverging from heterosexual and cisgender norms as something undesirable.
- Pressure and power imbalances make consenting to conversion practices impossible

We conclude that:

- Conversion therapy is a coercive, degrading practice that causes significant harm to and undermines the liberties and freedoms of those who undergo it.
- Members of the LGBTQ+ community need to be protected from these so-called therapies that seek to 'cure' them.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for:

- European governments to ban the advertising, promotion, facilitation, and carrying out of all types of conversion therapy, including medical, psychiatric, psychological, religious, and cultural interventions, where the predetermined purpose is to change, cure, or suppress the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person.
- The EU and CoE to help accelerate the implementation of bans in the remaining European states, as well as advocating for bans globally.
- A clear and universal definition of conversion therapy that covers all practices seeking to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- A proper balance between the right to freedom of religion, belief and expression, and the protection of the fundamental rights of LGBTQ+ persons.
- Strengthening mental health services and making them identifiable and available for those affected by such therapies, reducing long-term trauma and suffering.
- This should include the provision of easily available, confidential, and specialised services for these individuals, such as a dedicated 24/7 toll-free helpline.
- Greater education on LGBTQ+ issues to increase understanding and to better inform wider society of the social exclusion and discrimination that LGBTQ+ persons face.

Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology

3.01 Freedom of Scientific Research

(Former 3.02 Prior to Paris 2021)

Innovation, Technology, Modernization of Society

Noting that:

- Science represents an opportunity to individuals, and to society as a whole.
- Scientific research and development is an occasion for creating new jobs and economic growth.
- Scientific research and development provides 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.

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;

Recognising that:

- The human genome represents underlying unity of all human beings, and is the source of their natural dignity and diversity;

Reaffirming:

Once again the basic liberal principle that human beings must never be discriminated on the basis of their genetic characteristics;

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 fulfil" such rights.

Considering that:

- In many EU countries, scientific research is limited by ideological and moral conditions
- Stem cells and therapeutic cloning research is banned in some EU countries such as Germany, Austria, Ireland, Italy, and Portugal, meaning that there are no investments, public or private, in these sectors;
- General research funds and investments are very low in some EU countries, under 2% of GDP, insufficient to represent a growth potential;

The LYMEC Congress concludes that:

- Science must represent an opportunity for any individual that aims to enhance and improve his or her life, bringing a general benefit that the entire human race could enjoy as a result of his or her work.
- However, research in the field of human genetics must be carefully balanced against strict ethical and social constraints.
- Cloning human cells for reproductive reasons should remain banned, but all restrictions to human-cell cloning for therapeutic reasons should be removed.
- Human beings that may have been born so far as a result of cloning are human beings equal in rights to other human beings, including the right to privacy and protection from unwanted scientific research.
- Cloning techniques in the production of molecules, DNA, cells, tissues, organs and plants should be permitted across the EU

- 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.

3.02 A Liberal Approach to Education in Europe

(Former 3.04 Prior to Paris 2021)

Education, Students' Mobility

Noting that:

- The global health crisis which began in 2020 has led to radical changes in the way education is delivered at all levels and among all age groups
- The crisis has sped up the incorporation of technology into the education system and has led to great innovation among educators and learners
- However, the crisis has also exposed, and in many cases exacerbated, the inequalities which exist in the field of education

Believing that:

- Education is the foundation of a progressive society.
- Although the diversity of education within the European Union is in many ways a strength, the harmonization of some standards as well as common values would serve to strengthen the union and develop cooperation between the EU countries.

LYMEC reiterates its previous calls for the following educational reforms:

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:

- The promotion of more multilingual nurseries and pre-schools.
- The universal guarantee of a high quality first approach in education for young children so that the transition into primary school can easily be executed.
- Improvement in the five main aspects of ECEC: access, workforce (professionalization of ECEC staff), curriculum (developmental care, formative interactions, learning experiences, supportive assessment etc.)
- Pupils to be taught 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, LYMEC calls upon:

All the European countries to establish a pre-school year for 4-year-old children and to follow the goals of the European Commission.

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.
- Secondly, 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 knowledge 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 in order to allow some flexibility
- The general promotion of a balanced 6 years each between primary and secondary education

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 to 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 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 and policies 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.
- The implementation of a mandatory course on the European History, Institutions and main policy areas.

TERTIARY 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.
- 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

around activities such as sports. The Erasmus+ program costs some 2 billion euros yearly.

- 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 heavily influences the curriculum in many European countries.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has vastly accelerated the move towards remote, student-led learning.
- The EU's NextGenerationEU programme places emphasis on the need for adults as well as young people to continue to upskill and develop their skill set.

LYMEC calls for:

- The establishment of a European Digital University (EDU), a European online university. The EDU would allow for online study all around Europe with a pan-European approach.
- A greater supply of a wider array of education providers to fulfil the growing demand of students seeking higher education.
- 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.
- Greater freedom for universities within the EU to establish branches in other EU member states.
- 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.
- Erasmus and Erasmus + to become mandatory and offer suitable programs for higher education.
- Considering more inter-institutional harmonisation instead of bilateral agreements. This would allow students to more freely choose between different educational institutions.
- Greater harmonisation when it comes to grades, semester length, in order to increase mobility between different universities and increase screening of job-seekers
- An expansion of Europe's outreach in education to keep up with globalisation.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Considering:

- In most EU countries, vocational education is still under prioritised compared to 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 vocational training.
- The European Union has taken the 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 training to minimize the differences between the EU-countries.
- Enabling the recognition of all the vocational training from European countries within the EU.
- Erasmus+ programmes are to be extended to students at all educational levels.
- Those enrolled in vocational tertiary education 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.

EU COMPETENCIES IN EDUCATION**Considering:**

- Per Art. 6 TFEU, the EU has supporting competences only in the field of education, meaning that it can support, coordinate or complement the actions of Member States
- Regardless of this limited competence, the EU can do more to promote and support education across the EU, particularly in the context of the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan

LYMEC calls for:

- Creation of a specific budget line for education in the EU budget.
- Increased investment in national educational systems with a new investment plan at European level available in/for the Member States.

- Increased spending at a Member State level in policies related to Education
- Creation of a benchmarking system regarding education with an EU educational scoreboard to highlight financial and structural weaknesses and propose improvements.
- Provide students and teachers with modern hardware and software, and greater training for teachers in how to use these resources effectively.
- The promotion of distance learning and massive open online courses (MOOCs).
- The use of 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.
- The development of digital teaching and research cooperation with European universities.
- EU to support diplomatic efforts with partner countries through bilateral and multilateral engagement in relation to incidents of concern involving threats or attacks on academic freedom.

3.03 Science not Stigma: Ending the Blood Ban

(Former 3.06 Prior to Paris 2021)

Modernization of Society

Proposed by: LY, UK

LYMEC Congress notes that:

- a) In many European countries, men who have had protected sex with men (MSM) face lifetime bans on donating blood
- b) Women who have sex with MSM can often face lesser bans, making bans inconsistent.
- c) Heterosexual men and women who have had unprotected sex in a high-risk HIV country can face lesser bans than MSM 4.
- d) Many European countries currently suffer from low levels of blood stock, particularly for certain blood types.

LYMEC Congress believes that:

- The safety and well-being of those who require blood transfusions should always be paramount.
- Low blood stocks may put future lives at risk.

- The restrictions placed on the MSM group are inconsistent with the restrictions placed on other high risk groups, such as those who have had sexual activity in Sub-Saharan Africa or people who have bought sex.
- The criteria for being eligible to give blood should be based on the risk posed by the sexual behaviour of the individual, not their sexuality.
- Each blood donation should be subject to the most sensitive forms of screening available, regardless of the sexuality of the donor.
- There is no scientific evidence to show the blood of MSM is more likely to be infected than blood of heterosexual sexually active individuals.
- The stigma attached to MSM has no basis in fact.
- Any outright blood donation bans on MSM or Women who have sex with MSM should be removed

LYMEC Congress calls for:

- Blood donations to be subject to thorough and advanced screening available to ensure minimal risk of transfusion-transmitted infections.
- Action to be taken to put pressure on the European Union to urge countries to remove restrictions and allow healthcare institutions to develop their own guidelines.

3.04 Urgent Resolution on Mobility in Europe

(Former 3.12 Prior to Paris 2021)

Social Rights

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress
Assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

Noting that:

- Youth and student mobility is essential for Europe
- Student mobility is still marginal in some areas of Europe
- Workers' mobility across Europe would benefit from being streamlined and simplified
- Service mobility still has not reached its full potential
- Mobility plays an important role in forming a European identity

Acknowledging that:

- Mobility is becoming increasingly important for educational policymaker, universities and colleges, they are also placing more and more emphasis on the importance of internationalisation
- The current iteration of the Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) envisages 10 million participants over the coming six years.
- A lot of students do not have an opportunity to participate in Erasmus for social, financial or other reasons. Also, since the United Kingdom left the European Union, students in Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland will be unable to participate in the Erasmus programme.
- Citizens should be provided the possibility of learning at least two European languages apart from their mother tongue
- Today workers' mobility is limited by bureaucracy and hidden protectionist measures that prevent the citizens from working in other countries

Considering that:

- The cost of mobility is still a limiting factor for citizens. 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.
- 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.
- The Services Directive is not sufficient in providing true cross-border services

Concludes that:

- LYMEC should actively work to find solutions for young people that have not been given the opportunity to participate in Erasmus or other exchange programmes (e.g. virtual Erasmus or virtual mobility schemes)
- LYMEC calls for the European Union and its member states to further facilitate mobility of workers by cutting red tape and ceasing hidden protectionist measures
- LYMEC calls for the immediate abolishment of the transitional periods restricting workers from the new member states to work freely within the Union
- LYMEC strives for affordable mobility within Europe by means of a competitive market for transportation

Also

- LYMEC calls on the European Union to establish a visa category for youth workers and volunteers.
- 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, application procedures should be transparent, fast and according to rules set and published.

3.05 Unified Grading System for Schools and Institutions of Higher Education – Easy, Transparent, Comparable

(Former 3.13 Prior to Paris 2021)

Education, Modernization of Society

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

The LYMEC Congress

Whereas

- There are many different grading systems in the EU member states and the rest of the world.
- Pupils and especially students studying in a foreign country often have to convert their grades into the foreign grade system, which in most cases can't be done without problems.

Considering

- That international mobility is of vital importance for the European Union and its goals in basic and higher education.
- That students' and pupils' international mobility has to be encouraged.
- That the international comparability of grades is getting more and more important.
- That a grading system based on percentages is coherent in all states.

Concludes

- That we need an inter-institutional and international standardization of the grading systems.

- That every performance evaluation should be done based on percentage (Anglo-Saxon model). The maximum outcome is 100 percent.
- Traditional grading systems can be used additionally but should be calculated on the base of the unified system.

3.06 Let Justice Between Generations Prevail!

(Former 3.16 Prior to Paris 2021)

Social Rights

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

Massive changes currently occur in our societies: people get older and older on average, while due to reduced birth rates, less and less young people are entering the labour market. Demographic change will thus be one of the biggest challenges in Europe in the years and decades to come, with European societies shrinking population wise, and citizens on average becoming older.

Considering that

- the share of the total population aged 65 years or older in the European Union is projected to nearly double from the current 17.1% to 30 % by the mid of the century
- costs of pension systems across the Union will therefore sharply rise
- pressure on health care systems will consequently increase
- the working-age population will decline steadily, as will overall population.
- In the coming decades, the population of Bulgaria is projected to decrease by almost 40% from 8 to 5 million, Germany's population will decrease by around 12 million (from 82 to 70 million) and Lithuania's population will shrink from 3,5 million to less than 2,5 million citizens.
- While some other parts of the Union will be able to enjoy more or less stable population levels, everybody will have to find ways to stay innovative and competitive with an aging population. Care for older people will also be one of the top challenges facing us in the nearer future.

Acknowledging that:

- Social security is primarily the competence of the Member States, but keeping in mind that the European Union has a vested interest in developing social security in a sustainable way that is both in line with responsibilities flowing out

of the European Convention on Human Rights and with keeping social security payments within sustainable limits

- Due to the connection through a single currency, there at the same time is a mutual interest in responsible politics regarding the field of social security as to ensure stable budgets across the Union
- A diminishing percentage of young voters means less influence of the younger generations on policy-making in the future
- The gradual shift in society that leads to a reversal of the age pyramid means that it is necessary to make reforms now, as it will become hard to impossible at a later time.

Appalled by

- the unsustainably high and still rising levels of sovereign debt of most Member States
- the worrying tendency to solve each and every political challenge by incurring more sovereign debt, thus seriously depriving coming generations of possibilities
- the irresponsible proposals of some to also allow the EU level to incur debt
- the unsustainable design and setup of pension systems in many member states
- the lack of future-proof long-time care insurance across many member states

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for

- Member States to stop incurring debt which will fall on the shoulders of coming generations and instead aim for balanced and surplus budgets
- self-commitment of governments to add a debt-brake to their respective constitutions in order to safeguard the mid-term process of first shrinking and then vanishing budget deficits
- the European Parliament and national governments to maintain the ban of EU debt-creation enshrined in the Treaties
- a thorough review of pension and healthcare systems in Member States in order to make them demography-proof
- where necessary, a move from pay-as-you-go to capital cover systems in social security
- eliminating subsidies of early retirement and encourage more people to stay active in working life longer
- overall measures to make the average pension age higher, while giving people more flexibility and choice when they as individuals want to enter pension age, thus abolishing mandatory pension ages

- political parties to keep in mind the need to also elect young people into parliament
- the creation of legal possibilities to migrate into the European Union
- increasing the efficiency of healthcare systems across the EU by increased cooperation
- Justice between generations needs to prevail in order to maintain stability, solidarity and peace in society. Only thorough reforms now can ensure that coming generations will be able to enjoy the possibilities to shape their own life-realities as previous generations of Europeans have done.

3.07 A Truly Global Bologna Process

(Former 3.17 Prior to Paris 2021)

Education, Modernization of Society, Future of Europe

Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Congress, 12th – 14th of October 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

By Centerstudenter International

The occurrence of the Grand Tour, a traditional trip of Europe undertaken by upper-class Europeans as an educational rite of passage, can be traced back to the 17th century. Prosperous citizens travelled across the continent to study art, history and bring back their impressions for far away countries, cultures and languages. In this age, travel is easy even for less privileged citizens and educational journeys occur constantly around the world. The introduction of the Bologna Process has enabled students to move between countries and universities for the purpose of study, but the benefits that could come from an enlargement of this process are enormous.

Considering

- that we live in a highly globalized world where prosperity and growth to a great extent depends on the mobility of both citizens and commodities.
- that one of the keys to success in a globalized world is the knowledge and understanding of such a world.
- that language skills and intercultural competencies are of increasing importance among employers, not least within the European Union.

Recognizing

- That despite the obvious benefits of mobility of citizens (especially students and young people) the extent to which European students study, work or do internships abroad varies between countries, cities and universities.
- Furthermore, the current economic instabilities and labour market situation in Europe, as well as an ageing population, makes the case for mobile citizens even more pressing.
- Mobility of students between signatories of the Bologna Accords and non-signatories is impeded.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for

- Further development of cooperation between universities within the EU, but also across the world, in establishing exchange projects and placement projects as the first step in a Global Bologna Process.
- The universities to better and more effectively promote and inform students of the importance of international experience and study abroad programmes.
- Raising the quality of universities in Europe by developing a plan to improve the pedagogical working methods in all institutions.
- The creation of a common European Higher Education Area, where academic degrees and quality of education are comparable in Europe.
- Increased amount of scholarships available for non-Union students for studies within the European Union.
- The promotion of an internationally competitive education area in Europe.
- Making the European universities more attractive to the countries beyond Europe's borders.

3.08 Open your mind with open access

(Former 3.20 Prior to Paris 2021)

Considering that

- In the field of academic literature there are only a few big publishers like „Elsevier“ and there is no competition in the sector,
- Young academics are facing a dilemma: On the one hand they have to publish in high quality journals, on the other hand they lose all rights concerning the publication, which sometimes leads to absurdities (i.e. not being able to present the work on one's own website)
- Publicly financed research is bearing twice the cost: Taxpayers can only access the academic literature they financed by buying the publications

Concluding that

- Open access is a chance for science as a whole: Researchers freely publish their academic works independently from big publishing companies, without enormous costs and accessible for everyone.
- At the same time, university students get free access to academic literature and don't have to rely on licenses bought by universities or libraries.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth demands

- The installation of an independent co-publishing right for researchers to release the post-print version of their works twelve months after the release of the original print. Individual contracts between the researcher and the publisher reducing this time period are appreciated.
- An obligatory open-access-publication of works funded on public finances.
- International contract-cooperation between universities, research facilities and libraries concerning the purchase of licenses from publishers.

3.09 A welcoming student culture – establish language courses for refugees

(Former 3.22 Prior to Paris 2021)

Keywords: refugees, language courses, higher education system, integration

Noting that:

- Demographic and migratory trends mean that Europe will face the challenge of integrating large numbers of refugees in the coming decades.
- 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 27 member states

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.
- Access to higher or further education opportunities for refugees is a crucial step towards ensuring rapid integration and successful long term outcomes for individuals

The European liberal youth:

- Therefore calls for the national governments of the EU-Members to offer 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 in 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 sufficient access to language courses without any disadvantages due to the support provided to refugees. Online or face-to-face classes must be included.

LYMEC additionally proposes:

An innovative four-stage plan aimed at tackling these issues: The SETL Program's four key pillars endeavour 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. 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

3.10 Youth Employment in Europe

(Former 3.23 Prior to Paris 2021)

This resolution merges 3.23 Resolution on Youth Unemployment and 3.24 The role of Education in the Fight against Youth unemployment

Noting that:

- In April 2021, the youth unemployment rate across the EU was 17.1%, more than double the general unemployment rate of 7.3%. In some EU Member States, the rate of youth unemployment reached nearly 40%.
- Although unemployment levels are usually largely related to the general business cycle, the global recession associated with the Covid-19 pandemic has hit young people the hardest and has had long term consequences for this cohort, especially those without proper vocational education or those that are unable to compete due to discrimination or limitations. In particular, the COVID 19 pandemic has increased youth unemployment in low paid and already unstable sectors such as retail and hospitality.
- The European commission has called on Member States to draw up national plans to combat youth unemployment.
- European government investments are currently being encouraged to create state sponsored jobs for youth.

Considering:

- Unemployment at a young age is a predictor for unemployment and welfare dependence later in life. The cycle of unemployment or precarious employment can pass generation to generation if interventions are not made or opportunities made available to access work.
- 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 has a tangible negative impact on wider society, leading to social exclusion and underproductivity
- That pan-European internship and training possibilities are lacking.

Acknowledging:

- Record youth unemployment from the long term impacts of pandemic and global recession threaten the long-term future of our communities.
- The current young generation is the best educated and highest skilled youth ever.
- There is a widespread disparity in youth unemployment within Europe, with over 50 percent in Spain and Greece and less than 10 percent in 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 those in the LGBTQIA+ community, immigrants, ethnic minorities, those with disabilities 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 back the creation of more internship possibilities connecting young people all over Europe and offering them new opportunities.
- LYMEC to advocate for networks of start-up 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.
- LYMEC to advocate in favour of 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

3.11 Resolution on Countering Radicalisation of Youth in Europe

(Former 3.25 Prior to Paris 2021)

Keywords: radicalisation, youth, exclusion

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna; Austria on April 29-30 2016

Considering:

- The recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels and the rise of extreme ideologies in Europe.
- The rise of radical movements is a severe security threat in Europe.
- Young people are an important group to focus on in the battle against radicalisation.
- That the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security laid great emphasis on the role played by young people in promoting peace and development and countering the spread of radicalisation

Believing:

- Radicalisation is defined as the ideological struggle in which individuals and groups adopt increasingly extreme views against - and intention to overthrow - the European model (focused on fundamental rights and minority rights) in favor of their own views.
- Among other key actors, youth can play a positive role in preventing and fighting against radicalisation and violent extremism.
- Young people are an important group to focus on in the battle against radicalisation.
- Preventing radicalisation is a key in preventing violent extremism and terrorism
- Factors that provide fertile ground for radicalisation, starting with racism and discrimination, but also consisting of lawlessness and areas with widespread organized crime, should be a focus of counter radicalisation efforts.
- Radicalisation does not occur only within a single religion or ideology.
- Social, cultural and economic integration plays a key role in preventing extremism and especially violent extremism.
- Radicalisation and extremism cannot be solved solely with better border control
- That radicalisation is an international phenomenon and that lessons can be drawn from the experiences of many other parts of the world;

LYMEC calls for:

- More attention to be paid to preventative measures against social, economic and cultural exclusion.
- European and national investments in building capabilities and skills of young people through education in order to meet labour demand.
- Cooperation between non-governmental actors, private sector and public sector to facilitate and innovate inclusive projects and formulas for young people.
- Political leadership promoting a culture of respect, tolerance and acceptance.
- The implementation of measures to prevent ghettoisation in the EU
- The root causes of radicalisation to be better understood so that the international community can take appropriate measures to prevent young populations from being attracted by extreme religious speeches.

3.12 Joint degree Programs integration in Erasmus

(Former 3.27 Prior to Paris 2021)

Noting that:

- Joint degrees are often the product of a bilateral contract between two institutions. It provides the students from the concerned institutions with the possibility of studying abroad within the framework of one and only one studying program elaborated by the student and both universities they shall attend during a full academic year.
- A select number of joint master degrees ("Erasmus Mundus degrees") are currently being funded by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 cycle. These degrees can be the product of cooperation between both European and International universities. However, the list of bilaterally elaborated joint degrees is quite short (around 110).
- Greater synergies exist when it comes to PhDs or joint academic research programmes led bilaterally or multilaterally.
- We already have lists of Universities involved in the Erasmus + program.

Considering that:

- Many MEPs now believe the Erasmus+ program (as it is constructed today) has reached the initial goals its founding fathers had expected from it in the past. It must evolve and meet the current challenges our Union faces.
- If we are to debate on the principles underlying Erasmus+ as a whole, it was Erasmus' very goal to undertake thorough and exhaustive studies within particular philosophical domains conducted across several European universities. A joint degree program is much more valuable in the labour market than an exchange program.
- Future cycles of the Erasmus+ programme could be used to further develop and entrench the joint degree programme model

LYMEC calls for:

- Transforming our current "exchange program" into a real and ambitious European academic framework.
- The widening of possibilities for joint degree programs, and greater funding in support of this aim
- The effective establishment of two options within the Erasmus+ framework for following courses an institution established in another Member State:
- Further measures to promote multilingualism, both in official and non-official EU languages, to ensure the number of young people who can take an Erasmus+ opportunity continues to grow.
- Launching a platform to facilitate the access of students to the joint degrees, which would give easy access to relevant information for students and prospective students
- EU agreements with third countries regulating the non-discriminatory access of EU students to their education facilities, effectively replacing existing bilateral agreements

3.13 License to Heal

(Former 3.30 Prior to Paris 2021)

Considering that:

- A third of the world's population has limited access to essential medicines.

- Costs of new expensive medicines cause problems of accessibility also in developed European countries.
- According to research there is no correlation between the innovative power and profitability of a pharmaceutical company.
- The pharmaceutical industry is a billion-dollar business operating on an international level.
- The high prices of drugs threaten patients' right to treatment, and put health budgets under unsustainable pressure.
- About a quarter of the available drugs were discovered by knowledge institutions such as universities. The government finances medical scientific research, but sets no conditions on the price and accessibility of the discovered medication.
- Pharmaceutical companies are often left free to ask high prices which cannot be accounted for by research and development costs, which are often covered majorly by the nation states
- The UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, provides valuable recommendations for governments and international institutions to address inexpedient inconsistencies between public health, medical innovation and the current research investment incentives and legal framework.
- The UN Human Rights Panel (A/HRC/32/L.23/Rev.1) recognizes access to medicines as a fundamental human right.
- The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution ((2016/2057(INI)) on how to improve access to medicines in Europe, highlighting numerous areas where member states can take immediate action.
- The European Union invests 1.6 billion euros in the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a partnership of the EU with the pharmaceutical industry, without requiring conditions directed at access to the resulting drugs.

Believing that:

- The human right to health and appropriate medical care is essential in sustaining societies.
- European Member States do not work sufficiently together, nor do they have the proper policies to handle this situation causing the international operating pharmaceutical industry to have a huge advantage in selling drugs for a certain price putting unnecessary strain on the accessibility of drugs.
- To achieve affordability and accessibility, all stakeholders in the development and purchasing of medicine need to take responsibility.

- It is necessary for countries to implement policies and collaborate with other countries to safeguard the accessibility of drugs.

Calls upon LYMEC and its MOs to:

- Stimulate European Member States to implement measures to better the accessibility of medicine.
- Stimulate European Member States to require research institutions to responsibly license new active pharmaceutical ingredients which are discovered by these institutions using public funding. Preferably by incorporating the following criteria in the license agreements:
- Require the licensee to be transparent about the added value and cost structure of a drug (including marketing costs, public R&D investments and tax rebates).
- To require the licensee to ensure access to the drug originating from such institutions by asking a responsible price
- Stimulate collaboration between different countries to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies regarding the pricing of innovative drugs to gain bargaining power and ensure their accessibility of medicine and the sustainability of healthcare systems.
- Stimulate the European Commission to take the following measures:
- Promote the accessibility of medicines in low- and middle-income countries by making market competition possible through non-exclusive licenses of European
- public research in these countries;
- Implement criteria for funding the Innovative Medicines Initiative. The Innovative
- Medicines Initiative should safeguard the access to the resulting drugs of this public-private partnership.
- Set stricter rules for the fair and balanced sale of drugs throughout the European Union without allowing artificial pricing-gaps and loopholes on a national level

3.14 5G wireless – let's start the future

(Former 3.32 Prior to Paris 2021)

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

Noting that:

- Digitisation is the mega-topic of the 21st century. Thanks to mobile networks, people are not only connected throughout Europe but also worldwide.
- The successor of 4G (LTE) is called 5G. It enables completely new possibilities of connectivity between people and machines and will change our daily life in a positive way.
- The main intention in the development of 4G was to massively increase the bandwidth (up to 600Mbps). This enables the users to send high-resolution images and videos, among other things, in the shortest possible time.
- The focus of the 5G development is on low latency of under 1ms and fast-reaction data transfer of up to 10G/bits.

Considering that:

- Fast data transmission is important for many fields of the future. This is the only way to ensure that consecutive processes in automation in industry 4.0 and 5.0 can function in a coordinated manner.
- Thanks to 5G, hospital operations can be performed remotely, cars communicate with each other and warning of traffic jams, dangers or other obstacles, robots in the industry can be better and faster controlled and linked, interactive 360-degree live broadcasts can be streamed on VR glasses, and so on.
- The connection quality of 5G is the same as that of fiber optics - and this is achieved via wireless transmission.
- With the introduction of 5G, 500 billion devices are now available instead of 7 billion devices. This will be connected to mass Internet of Things devices.

Believing that:

- Network operators do their business primarily with high data rates. But the industry needs short latency times, high reliability, high security and high availability.
- The new mobile communications standard will drastically change the way we deal with technical products in the future.

LYMEC calls for:

- 5G must become the new mobile phone standard and its research and upcoming expansion from 2020 should become the goal of the countries in Europe.

- The expansion must be performed much more quickly and comprehensively than with previous mobile phone standards.
- Europe's competitiveness depends heavily on digitalisation. European countries must continue to invest in research and become pioneers in new technologies such as 5G.

3.15 Industry 5.0 – A European Initiative

(Former 3.33 Prior to Paris 2021)

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

Noting that:

- The European Institutions, especially the national states, are interested in promoting digitization. However, there are over 30 regional and national initiatives to the fourth industrial revolution. The European Commission only took action on this topic in April 2016, with the aim of presenting an attractive location for the digitized industry. The EU serves as a networking platform for national initiatives that meet twice a year in Brussels for a pan-European exchange, with the aim of creating a single digital single market.
- The Member States of the European Union have failed to realize economies of scale and economies of scope advantages as a result of the large number of initiatives. Moreover, the limited exchange of experiences between member states causes a fragmented and inefficient European digital market. As a result, the potential of digitization is only partially exploited by the European Union.
- Digitization would have been much more successful and much more effective for the digital economy of all Member States, if there was one single European initiative, this mistake should be avoided for future developments.

Considering that:

- Digitization is accelerating and bringing Industry 5.0 closer, a European initiative is essential, as it creates challenges that the European Union must prepare to take on a pioneering role.
- Artificial intelligence, which is the cornerstone of the move to Industry 5.0, is creating new privacy requirements, European standards will become necessary.

- It is highly questionable whether further national initiatives can form these indispensable European standards, much more will this be possible through a single initiative of the European Union.

Believing that:

- Due to increasing global competition, higher pressures are needed on the digital single market.
- The privacy of EU citizens must be a top priority. The European Union is the right contact when it comes to the digital rights of citizens.
- The European Union must work out solutions for global challenges for and with the member states.
- Europe needs an Industry 5.0 strategy. These include future challenges, but also eliminating omissions. This requires stronger support for the creation of a sound digital infrastructure, not only in major cities, but especially in rural areas.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Institutions to establish a joint initiative to tackle the challenges of Industry 5.0.
- Among other things, the nation states should provide more money for the expansion of the digital infrastructure. The promotion of private initiatives must be a conceivable option. The promotion of private-public partnerships should be encouraged as a sustainable option in the long-run.
- The European Commission should create a cell of intelligence that keeps an eye on opportunities and risks for the creation of a European digital market. In addition to the joint initiative of the European institutions, Member States should agree on a joint roadmap to be followed in the EU regarding digitization order to give substance to the 'European initiative – Industry 5.0'.

3.16 Taking responsibility on protecting our health with vaccinations

(Former 3.37 Prior to Paris 2021)

Movers: FCY

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Considering that:

- Vaccinations are an easy and affordable way of securing the health of EU citizens;
- The number of measles cases has been on the rise for the past few years in Europe;
- In a report published in 2011 The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control states that more effort should be put to ensuring the coverage of vaccinations among the EU citizens.

Believing that:

- Citizens all around Europe should commit to preventing contagious diseases
- All nations of the EU should encourage their populations to vaccinate
- The opposition against vaccinations is higher than before due to misleading information in the media.
- Failing to vaccinate one's children is a form of child neglect.
- It is highly important to use vaccinations as a preventive measure to tackle different kinds of diseases
- The population should be well informed on the risks of not having enough vaccinated people in our society

LYMEC calls for:

- Actions to be made to prevent any further damage and spreading of diseases
- Tackling false information relating to vaccinations
- The EU member states and commission to take action on making sure that sufficient coverage is met in the percentage of vaccinated individuals in the EU area
- All individuals living in the EU area to take responsibility for vaccinating themselves and their children.

3.17 Recognition of upper secondary qualifications across Europe

(Former 3.38 Prior to Paris 2021)

Movers: ELSN, CS

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Notes that:

- While the Bologna Process has greatly facilitated student mobility across Europe, several obstacles remain;
- To date, a process for mutual recognition of diplomas only exists for higher education (bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees);
- It is particularly difficult for students to have their upper secondary diplomas recognised, and the time it takes to get qualifications recognised varies widely between universities.
- The European Commission published a proposal for a Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education diplomas and the outcomes of learning periods abroad. The Recommendation was adopted by the Council in November 2018.

Considers that:

- Studying abroad is of great value to students as it e.g. increases students' cross-cultural awareness, improves foreign language proficiency and enhances career prospects;
- A common framework for recognising upper secondary diplomas would facilitate student mobility.

Calls upon:

- European countries to improve procedures for the mutual recognition of qualifications in EU Member States by establishing a European Education Area by 2025.

3.18 Secure Innovation, how to secure smart devices

(Former 3.40 Prior to Paris 2021)

Movers: JOVD

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Noting that:

- Innovation is occurring at a fast and ever-increasing pace
- Many devices have become smart and part of the so-called 'internet of things', including televisions, watches, toothbrushes, and cars
- These devices have access to the internet in some way, and cybercriminals can thus gain access to these devices
- No firewalls or other security measures are generally installed on these devices to keep hackers out
- Vendors oftentimes do not update these devices after they have been sold, only offer updates for a very limited time, or only at additional cost or effort to the consumer

Considering that:

- These devices are therefore vulnerable to cyberattacks
- Consumers generally seem to be unaware of this fact
- The hacking of internet-connected devices can bring serious disruptions in the day-to-day lives of citizens, or even wider dangerous situations, such as causing grave accidents with automobiles.
- Hacking into devices such as cars can cause grave accidents to happen
- Digital security should be just as much of a consideration in product safety as the various other aspects covered under European regulation

LYMEC calls

- for the European Union to implement European product regulations to require producers to update internet-connected devices for their expected economic lifetime with no charge for the customer when the update is compulsory and related with cybersecurity matters and to take appropriate steps such as the installation of firewalls and the use of randomised default passwords to increase cybersecurity.

3.19 Tackling Cyber Attacks

(Former 3.41 Prior to Paris 2021)

Movers: Policy Book Working Group

Adopted at LYMEC Online Autumn Congress on 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- Continuous cyber-attacks against states, public institutions, political parties, are conducted in order to change the political heading of EU countries
- Non-governmental organizations can also be vulnerable targets, be it for relations with a given member state, economic influence, political stances, etc.
- Outrageous cyber-attacks are conducted on a critical infrastructure such as communication networks, power plants, hospitals, water distribution facilities etc. in order to destabilize EU Member States
- Insidious attempts to steal intellectual property are conducted by foreign governments and entities
- Cyber attacks are increasingly undermining free, fair and transparent elections within the EU and abroad
- Individual EU Member States have limited legal, operational, economic and technical resources to protect their cyber-space
- There is no universal convention on Cyber Warfare in International Law.
- Modern cyber warfare can be asymmetrical and the pace of innovation and change is growing precipitously each year.

Believing that:

- The EU is to play a key role in the field of cyber-security in the world
- EU countries shall cooperate, fully explore and take advantage of combined resources
- Cyber attacks pose a serious threat to the integrity of democracy and economy.
- Critical infrastructure, like power grids, and the health care systems must stay in place uninterrupted at all times
- Ensuring cyber security requires a robust and operational international legal framework adopted by as many countries as possible
- Legislation addressing this issue should be concerned with the nature of existing and potential cyber-warfare: The EU should maintain constant

vigilance towards innovative cyber-attacks and have a forward-looking approach.

LYMEC calls for:

- Close and continuous cooperation among EU Member States fighting cyber attacks expansion of competence for the European Union for Cyber Security (ENISA), to enable it to secure the EU cyber space and critical infrastructure.
- ENISA being fully funded by the EU budget.
- Creation of Units under ENISA focusing on cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism and cyber-security, equipped with the appropriate resources and mandate to fulfill these goals, as well as research units
- Regular and comprehensive cooperation between ENISA and its counterparts around the globe
- Building up resilience of Member States and private entities in the EU against cyber attacks under the support of ENISA by providing advisory support for public and private entities on how to make their systems less vulnerable.
- Regular support, increased funding and coordination of Anti-cyber-attacks workshops, hackathons, and training sessions for entities and individuals
- Start the expansion of the Tallinn Manual 2.0 and lobby for Cyber Warfare to become an additional protocol in the Geneva Conventions.
- Member states to assist private entities in developing more robust cyber-security as improving their cyber-security infrastructure will act as a deterrent.

3.20 Combating Antisemitism in Europe

(Former 3.42 Prior to Paris 2021)

Movers: Junge Liberale

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Co-signers: Junge Liberale, LHG, Vesna, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, Jcs, Centerstudenter, Young Liberals Greece, JOVD, LDLU and LYMEC's Working Group on Civil & Minority Rights

Considering that:

- Antisemitism and antisemitic attacks against Jews and Jewish property have increased significantly in the European Union, according to several polls and

statistics. As of now, a majority of Europeans see antisemitism as a problem in their country which is a concern not only for Jews in Europe but also the European Union itself.[1]

- According to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, 83% of Jewish Europeans aged 16-34 believe that antisemitism has increased in their country in the past five years, and moreover a worrying 45% of young Jewish Europeans have personally been a victim of or experienced at least one antisemitic incident in the past year.[2]

Recognizing that:

- In order to ally with Jewish communities in Europe in the fight against antisemitism, we must be able to identify this form of hatred and define it, in order to effectively work against and combat all antisemitic incidents wherever they occur in our societies.
- As liberals organized in a pan-European youth organisation with a focus on the topics of anti-discrimination, anti-racism and minority inclusion, LYMEC has a responsibility to be an ally of Jewish youth in Europe and, thus, should be at the forefront of pushing for the identification of antisemitism in Europe and promoting exchanges with Jewish youth organisations to help address injustices being faced, including antisemitism.

Believing that:

- Antisemitism is not only a "Jewish problem", but hatred that erodes the foundations of Europe and attacks core democratic values. In this fight, nothing less than the future of an open and liberal Europe is at stake.
- In order to combat antisemitism, one must first define this specific form of hatred, to fully comprehend what constitutes antisemitism. It is only once LYMEC effectively defines the concept when we can identify it fully and ultimately work towards eradicating it from our society.
- The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism is universally the most widely accepted framework of its kind and serves as an effective definition of antisemitism.
- That adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism will be a step towards highlighting LYMEC as a true ally to Jewish communities in Europe and grant LYMEC greater credibility in speaking on topics related to antisemitism and broader anti-discrimination topics as well.

The European Liberal Youth calls for:

- Fortifying its own commitment to tackle antisemitism in all of its forms.
- Adopting and applying the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, including all stated examples, in full (see Annex 1).
- Encouraging all our member organizations to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition of antisemitism within their own organisations.
- Promoting opportunities for training sessions provided by Jewish youth organisations on combating antisemitism in Europe among our leadership and LYMEC Individual Members, and work to promote such training sessions to be undertaken by the leadership of our member organisations.
- Publicly denouncing actions that are antisemitic.
- Recognising that the adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism merely represents a first step in the fight against antisemitism and should, thus, be viewed as a tool to continue our work towards achieving our collective goal of eradicating antisemitism from our society.
- Encouraging the Renew Europe Group and the ALDE Party to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in its fullest.
- Encouraging EU member states to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism in its fullest.

ANNEX 1

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Non-Legally Binding Working **Definition of Antisemitism:**

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non- Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

[1] Special Eurobarometer 484 – Wave EB90.4 – Kantar Public Brussels

[2] EU FRA (2019), Young Jewish Europeans: Perceptions and Experiences of Antisemitism, <

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/young-jewish-europeans-perceptions-and-experiences-antisemitism>>, accessed 4th March 2021

3.21 Defending Academic Freedom

(Former 3.43 Prior to Paris 2021)

Movers: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Co-Signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLJ), JuLis, Centerstudenter, Junos, Radikal Ungdom, Nova Stranka, Istrian Democratic Youth, Nowoczesna Youth, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Movement For! Youth, Momentum TizenX, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals, JOVD, Joves Liberals d'Andorra (JLA), JNC, Attistibai Youth, Jonge Demokraten, Mladé Ano

Considering that:

- Confucius Institutes are establishments located at universities controlled by the People's Republic of China, which serve the foreign policy goals of the People's Republic of China under the cover of cultural exchange and language teaching.
- There is a chair of Azerbaijani history at the HU Berlin financed by the Embassy of Azerbaijan and thus indirectly by the authoritarian regime of Ilham Aliyev.

Believing that:

- Science is global. It thrives on the transnational exchange of ideas and knowledge. Scientific exchange not only contributes to scientific success, but also to international understanding.
- Science as an institution is inseparable from the liberal rule of law
- Science that places itself at the service of a totalitarian power loses its credibility
- If the aim of scientific cooperation is unilateral influence, the dissemination of ideology and the proclamation of supposed political truths, science as an institution is threatened.

LYMEC calls

- On governments to increasingly gather intelligence on infiltration strategies of foreign powers in the higher education sector.
- On universities to scrupulously record and transparently publish direct or indirect funding from non-European countries:

A prerequisite for the establishment of cooperation financed by non-European countries are:

- the full disclosure of all financial circumstances to the university
- employment relationships that offer sufficient guarantee for the independence of researchers and teachers
- the exclusion of the transfer of sensitive information
- continuous proof of serious research and teaching.

3.22 Enabling Educational Mobility in Pandemic Times

(Former 3.44 Prior to Paris 2021)

Movers: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Co-Signers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLJ), USR Tineret, JuLis, Centerstudenter, Junos, Radikal Ungdom, Nova Stranka, Young Liberals, Istrian Democratic Youth, Nowoczesna Youth, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Movement For! Youth, Momentum TizenX, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Young Liberals Greece, Joves Liberals d'Andorra (JLA), JNC, Attistibai Youth, Jonge Demokraten, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Jeunes MR, Mladé Ano

Considering that educational mobility has a profound impact on students' careers and, in turn, on their professional future and personal development, it must remain possible.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for

- universities to communicate at an early stage whether an Erasmus stay on site (or at least online) is possible or not.
- universities to provide all students - local and exchange - the same standards of teaching. If face-to-face teaching or hybrid teaching is accessible to students on site, then it must also be for Erasmus students.

- universities to issue certificates for their students which clearly state their study status and the indispensability of their presence, in order to enable them to enter the host country (keyword: visa application) or to apply for financial support.
- visa application centres to provide clear information on their public channels about application modalities, if necessary, indicate changed processing times by Covid 19.
- universities to offer alternative recognition options in the case of compulsory stays abroad, in order to ensure that students can adhere to the standard period of study, e.g. internships, traineeship, volunteer service with international connection.
- the home universities to offer the possibility to register for courses and, if necessary, to move up during the semester; formally speaking, there would be no problems, as you would remain enrolled at your home university and pay the tuition fees there.
- universities to offer the possibility to register for a semester of leave of absence at a later date.

3.23 Mental Health Matters for Europe's Students!

Movers: LHG, USR Tineret, Young Liberals Greece, FEL, Norges Liberale Studenter, LLJ, LDLU, Momentum TizenX, LiDeM, JD, Uppreisn, IMS delegates, SU, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, JuLis, JUNOS, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, ERPY, YMRF, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Nowoczesna Youth, Young Liberals UK, JOVD, Nova Stranka Youth, Istrian Democratic Youth, Attistibai Youth, NUV, Mladé Ano, Young Green Liberals Switzerland, EYU, KOL, VU, JDL, RU, Jeunes Radicaux, JNC, Jeunes MR, Finnish Center Youth, LUF

Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Mental health is a prerequisite for a self-determined and self-reliant life. At the same time, people with mental illnesses are often stigmatised and assistance is difficult to obtain or even completely lacking. The moment you have a broken hand, it's clearly visible that you cannot carry out certain activities, but with emotional pain, it's not so visible - but it's still there. Anxiety, depression, the lack of motivation to wake up in the morning, the lack of motivation to study, the feeling of nonsense in everything that you have to do, are clear signs of mental health problems, but because they are not talked about, you end up blaming other things. This gives you low productivity and

makes the problems worse - and that should not happen in the period you have to be the most productive and learn the information you will use your entire life.

LYMEC is committed to breaking down stigmas, counter prejudices, and improve care for those affected. Regardless of whether there is a physical or mental impairment, everyone should have the opportunity to achieve as much as they can and want to. To ensure this, prevention is an important part of promoting mental health.

Considering that:

- Mental health patients should have the same rights as physical health patients.
- Access to mental healthcare is equally important as access to physical healthcare.
- Several European states include mental healthcare in their health coverage.
- Although increases in the coverage of primary and specialist mental health services lead to growing costs for health systems, treatment and prevention of mental disorders result in net economic savings which accrue to both health and other sectors even in the short term.
- Significant efforts have been made by the countries in Europe and the European Union, in collaboration with other international organizations such as the WHO and the OECD, to improve the mental health of their populations, efforts recognised by the Health at a Glance: Europe 2020 report and the European Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020.

Noting that:

- The European Commission has established a Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases to provide advice and expertise to the Commission on developing and implementing activities in the field of health promotion, disease prevention, and the management of non-communicable diseases. It also fosters exchanges of relevant experience, policies, and practices between the Member States.
- Especially for young people who do not have access to a local psychological outpatient clinic, it is difficult to take the first step and seek and find professional help.

- To this day there are a lot of prejudices about the validity and relevance of mental disorders. Often problems are diminished or not taken seriously. People still have to reckon with a stigma or negative consequences.
- Mental health must have a firm place in the view of the leadership at educational facilities.
- Prevention programmes are of great importance in order to be able to detect disorders and to develop individual strategies for dealing with them. Early childhood stress can greatly increase the likelihood of developing depression, diabetes, and other diseases later on. Attention should be paid to the mental health of children and adolescents already during their school years.
- Particularly for students who are prone to stress, part-time study programmes offer a better opportunity to manage their time independently and thus be able to master their studies safely and independently.
- Students with disabilities or chronic illnesses often cannot study as they would like. Compensation for disadvantages is an important instrument to ensure equal opportunities in studies and to avoid discrimination.
- Certain forms of examinations can be a strong stress factor for many students with mental illnesses
- The right to a semester or a year off is an individual right that must not be questioned or disregarded by any higher education facility. Students should be given the opportunity through this regulation to better adapt their studies to their current life realities.

LYMEC calls for:

- The EU Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Noncommunicable Diseases to put a further emphasis on the situation of young people.
- Offers of psychosocial help at education facilities to be extended
- Education facilities to have a psychologist on staff for, at least, a day a week, to whom students can turn to on an occasional basis, and who can refer them, if the need arises, to a specialist.
- Further training opportunities for the staff of education facilities to prevent mental health issues and counter stigmatization, thereby supporting the staff as role models Incentives for young people to become mental health professionals as there is a lack of personnel
- An increased availability of study programs in the field of psychology as well as a higher number of professorships in the field in European states with a lack thereof
- Efforts to harmonize the requirements for study programs in the field of psychology in Europe

- Education facilities to provide access to online psychological counselling offers for all students and staff members who want to seek. Data protection and the anonymity of the individual must be guaranteed at all times.
- Education facilities to make available material on how to take care of one's mental health and where to find help. Offers on exam anxiety, stress, or overwork should be well-communicated throughout the institution.
- Decision-makers to integrate mental health issues (like bullying, sexual harassment, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, stress resilience, suicidal thoughts) into school curricula and into the curricula of all relevant courses of study (teachers, social workers, etc.)
- A consistent expansion of part-time as well as distant study programmes and their financial security to ensure the greatest possible choice and flexibility for all students.
- Education facilities to open up entitlements to compensate for disadvantages to students with a diagnosed mental disorder or aggravation in order to give all students the best chance to succeed in their studies. To simplify the use of disadvantage compensation, we demand that once approved, it can be automatically applied to all exams of a comparable nature.
- For the possibility of changing the examination form for students with disadvantage compensation for examinations, for example, but not limited to, examinations in separate rooms, switching from written to oral and vice versa or an extended examination period for those affected. To prevent abuse, a psychological evaluation and recommendation is required. Student teachers should not be able to convert an oral examination into a written one because of the importance of public speaking.
- For a special status to be created in universities for people with diagnosed mental health disabilities that allows them the same rights as physically disabled people
- Registration and deregistration for examinations at universities to be facilitated to enable students to take examinations only if they feel able to do so at the time. Deadlines for deregistration for taking part in an examination must be abolished and general attendance requirements must be abolished.
- The abolition of certificates of incapacity for examinations at all universities without replacement. We also advocate that a digital submission of medical certificates should be sufficient.
- Higher education facilities to grant the possibility to apply for semesters or years of leave without giving a reason and to approve these as quickly as possible, whether online or physically. It also ensures greater data protection for students. The semester fee for semesters on leave of absence is to be waived as a matter of principle.

3.24 Freedom of expression and Campus Police

Movers: Young Liberals Greece, Liberalno Demokratska Mladina (LiDeM), JNC, LHG, USR Tineret, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Youth Forum of Naša stranka, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU), Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Forum mladih Naša stranka, Momentum TizenX, Nova Stranka Youth, Nowoczesna Youth

Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Considering that:

- Human Rights in Southeast Europe face severe challenges. Several governments have chosen illiberal and authoritarian policies, targeting certain social groups, such as women and the LGBTQ+ community or/and principles like freedom of expression. Nonetheless, the area of Southeast Europe is in a critical position concerning conservative policies and violations of human rights. The conservative governments of Hungary, Poland, Turkey and Greece promote more and more conservative policies, with limitations and restrictions for their population.
- The pandemic and lockdown were used by these governments to promote unpopular laws, having in mind that people do not have many options to resist or oppose to them. COVID-19 and the respective lockdown policies provided a great "social space" for many governments to expand their power over society. The examples of Poland, Hungary and Turkey are now accompanied by Greece, and its conservative government.

Noting that:

- During the past years, Greek universities have turned into dangerous spaces for students to study, due to high crime rates and lack of proper security. Over the years, unsolicited squatting, vandalism, and stealing took place inside universities. Moreover, a significant number of acts of violence have also been recorded, mainly involving politically motivated acts of violence, either among students, or violence and harassment against professors and members of the university's administration. University education in Greece faces challenges related to underfunding, political interventions (especially from the neoconservative party), and institutional deficit. Nevertheless, the University remained a land of freedom of expression.
- Last year, the conservative Greek Government passed a new law, namely combating illegal actions on campus they established a new Campus Police at the expense of university research funds.

- These few days of its function, Campus Police have clashed with students and faculty in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- The research and operational funds of Greek universities are significantly low, (4.3% of the GDP, lower than the EU average 4.9%) in comparison with other EU countries, and the government is their sole financier.
- Campus Police intervention is anyway acceptable in Greek university campuses when illegal incidents take place, in order to combat unlawful actions. In principle, the police were always allowed to intervene -on campus- if illegal activities take place provided they are called by the University authorities.

Recognizing that:

- Universities are places where students can openly and freely exchange ideas, discuss and focus on how we can improve our lives and our societies.
- The use of Covid-19 restrictions should be an instrument that helps reduce contagion risks for the population and not a tool for governments to use for control of the population or against political opposition. The presence of police forces in the universities polarises the environment and increases the incidents of violence and brutality
- Over the previous year Greek Government tried to station police forces inside the campus and with full authority to exert violence, but took the law back.
- Police brutality is apparent in every part of social life in our region; the police have been hitting civilians, families and individuals, in squares and streets because, as it was displayed on the news, they were identified as “anarchists”.
- Police suppression is used by the neoconservative Governments through the region of South-eastern Europe as a panacea for every problem.
- That the law in question offers no new solution to the deeper education problems of Greece.
- The conservative party in Greece runs its own student youth organization on campus as a propaganda group, recruiting new members in exchange for the exams topics and other benefits. Now, they will be operating under the full protection of the police.

LYMEC calls for:

- The condemnation of government policies that act against human and civil rights, such as the freedom of research, the freedom of speech and the freedom of the Press.
- The condemnation of violence and practices against freedom of speech and expression within university campuses.
- The Greek state to repeal the law and all EU Member States to recognize the repercussions of what similar legislations can have.
- The withdrawal of police forces from universities and their substitution with security staff, employed by and accountable to the Administration of the University.
- The guarantee of research and opinion freedom in all European Universities. The students are expected to share their opinions freely and openly exchange ideas without fear of punishment by the government.
- The reallocation of the funds to fill the gaps and the deficiencies of the universities towards the research and new scientific personnel.
- Reshaping and reforming the legal framework, in order to clearly define the cases that police can enter into the campus (needed to follow the general legal procedures and justify their actions).
- In exceptional situations of conflicts, the limiting of the access on university campuses only to students having student cards and authorized guests and personnel, in order to reduce insecurity and prevent illegal acts.

3.25 Inclusive education for an equal society

Movers: Svensk Ungdom, Jonge Democraten, Uppreisn, Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen, IMS Delegates, Radikal Ungdom, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund
Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Considering that

- Education should promote equal treatment and gender equality, and everyone in the school environment should be heard, seen and treated on an equal basis and that together we should strive to create an atmosphere characterised by justice, security and acceptance.
- Teaching can encourage the development of an open and inclusive approach, where gender awareness, accessibility and acceptance are emphasised.

- The importance of looking beyond traditional gender roles should be emphasised.
- Gender-conscious teaching and the importance of understanding the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities are often only present in the upper stages of compulsory education, if at all, when emphasis on LGBTQIA+ issues should already have taken place from primary school .
- One of the core objectives of compulsory education is to teach young people about sexual development and human reproduction. Students should learn about sexuality, different areas of sexual health and varied experiences of sexual development.
- there are still several groups in society that are overlooked in sex education such as sexual minorities and people with physical or mental disabilities.
- It is important that diversity is taken into account in teaching. It should be clear in the curriculum that students must learn about different sexual orientations.
- Sex education in schools is characterised by a largely heteronormative perspective and, put simply, heterosexuality is often seen as normal, while sexual minorities are othered .
- Sex education frequently neglects people living with a disability, their sexuality, and sexual rights.

Noting that

- Heteronormativity contributes to ongoing inequality, and nowhere is this more true than in sex education. To promote sexual and gender equality, we should teach young people to be more critical of established social norms ,and steer them away from heteronormative perspective.
- In 2018, Scotland became the first country in the world to include LGBTQIA+ topics in the country's state school curriculum, which will help the school system support more young people in reaching their full potential and ensuring that education respects diversity, which is something that we should also strive towards.
- We all need to understand LGBTQIA + issues and history, so we can create an inclusive society, free from prejudice and discrimination.
- Achieving gender equality requires measures at all levels in terms of critique of norms and gender awareness. Contributing factors to inequality include gender segregation and heteronormativity, inclusion and understanding of LGBTQIA + people is required to overcome these.
- Knowledge of LGBTQIA + history would contribute to inclusion. It would not only improve the learning experience of LGBTQIA + people themselves; all

students will learn to celebrate differences, gain understanding and include their peers.

- LGBTQIA + people's rights and inclusion are important issues and we should actively work to combat discrimination against LGBTQIA + people and further their rights, whether it concerns legislation or access to care.
- It is important that young people understand LGBTQIA + issues and their struggle for rights throughout our history. This increases the likelihood that people who identify as LGBTQIA+ will feel included, and would have a positive social impact in the long run. This is another area in which we can become more active in terms of safeguarding the rights and inclusion of LGBTQIA + people in society.
- Prejudices and ignorance in our society leads people to falsely assume that people with disabilities are not sexually active, and have neither the ability nor the interest to engage in sexual activity.
- A broader sex education syllabus from a more inclusive perspective would contribute to inclusion, acceptance and understanding of sexual gender minorities, as well as people with disabilities. In addition to inclusion and acceptance, more inclusive sex education would provide important information about the right to one's own sexuality and sexual health for people at a crucial stage in their physical, social and sexual development. The foundations for sexual health, the right to one's own sexuality and information for all must be laid as early as possible.

Therefore, LYMEC calls for

- MOs to work for LGBTQIA + history to be introduced as part of the compulsory school curriculum.
- MOs to work for sex education to be broadened, and to include sexual minorities to a greater extent, as well as including people who live with a functional variation and information about their equal rights to their own sexuality, to sexual health and enlightenment.
- MOs to ensure that sex education syllabi include information about contraceptives, consent, safe sex and the pleasure of sex, including from an LGBTQIA+ perspective, to ensure that young people are protected when they begin to explore their own sexuality.

3.26 Mandatory Provision of National Electronic Identification within the EU

Submitted by: Centerstuderter

MO's supporting: Venstres Ungdom (VU), Radikal Ungdom (RU), Svensk Ungdom (Finland), Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot (IMS), Christine Khomyk (IMS), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Liberale Studenter (NLSF), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)

Approved at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

Noting that:

- The covid 19-pandemic has radically changed the role of digitalization in society and has exposed the need to accelerate digital development. It has led to the European commission developing a vision for the EU's path towards a digital transition until the year of 2030, named "Communication 2030 Digital Compass: The European Way for the Digital Decade". The digital strategy contains several milestones regarding electronic identification (eID). For instance, all key public services should be available online and 80% of all EU citizens should use eID's in 2030. A compulsory implementation of national electronic identification within all of the EU's Member States would be a step in the right direction and corresponds well with the purpose of the strategy.
- Since 2018, an EU regulation called eIDAS, which forces all Member States to accept foreign eID's in their online governmental services, has been in effect. The aim of eIDAS is to make it easier to use eID's to carry out errands in other EU Member States' online services. However, there is no obligation on EU Member States to offer a national eID for their own citizens or make it compatible with services in other Member States. In reality, this has resulted in a limited number of business cases and a low take up. This leads to a big discrepancy between different countries, whereas some offer highly digitalized services to their citizens and others don't. We should work for a more unified EU when it comes to digitalisation and support the countries that are lagging behind in development. A mandatory implementation of national eID's would contribute to that development.
- The commission has presented a new proposal for a Regulation on digital identity which will complement eIDAS. In this proposal, focus lies on securing access to trustworthy electronic identity solutions, making sure that these solutions are linked to a variety of attributes, build an acceptance of qualified trust services in the EU and guarantee equal conditions for their provision. This

regulation would be a solid foundation to lean back to and use as a support pillar if the EU also introduces a mandatory provision of national eID's in all Member States.

- Offering electronic national ID cards in all Member States would minimize the frequency of credit card fraud. eID's create a security barrier that can be used as a requirement for the use of credit cards during online shopping, thus an effective way to hinder unauthorized use of other people's credit cards.
- There are also economic benefits by using eID's, as it facilitates online transactions. If you have an eID it only takes a few clicks with your thumb to carry through with a business transaction. Before this technology existed you often had to show up in person to identify yourself before the transaction could be made, which could take days in comparison with a few seconds which is the case now. Besides online shopping, eID's can be used to make it easier to use essential government services. An example is simplifying the use of online healthcare. It is a great step in the direction of a fully digitalized union.
- Cybersecurity is of great importance when implementing eID's. The EU must work to guarantee that every Member State takes the necessary measures to ensure cyber security and personal integrity. This can be guaranteed by the help of the new Regulation on digital identity that has been presented by the Commission.
- eID hijackings are a common phenomenon in several countries within and outside the EU. Perpetrators of such crimes focus on non-digitally skilled groups in society, and elderly people in particular. We must ensure that these demographic groups are protected against cyber threats when developing eID's. An important part of this process is to do information campaigns and ensure that everyone who obtains eID's are well aware of both the possibilities as well as the risks.
- eID minimizes the risks of ID hijacking that is committed through postal mail. With an eID, the personal information is stored online in a secure, substantial space which prevents criminals from gaining access to it. The owner of the eID is the only one who can approve and gain access to his or her information through an eID.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Union to adopt a mandatory provision of national electronic identification in every Member State.
- The European Union to ensure that electronic identification used within the union are highly secure and trustworthy digital solutions.

- The European Union to integrate the requirement for provision of national electronic identification in the EU regulation titled as eIDAS.

3.27 Reform the concept of NEET

Submitted by: Venstres Ungdom (VU)

MO's supporting: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals, USR Tineret Cluj, Movement For! Youth, Radikal Ungdom, Centerstuderter, Svensk Ungdom (SU), IMS delegates, Young Democrats of Netherlands, Uppreisn, Libearal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24 October 2021

- Throughout the EU, it is vital to help and encourage young people to get an education, a job and in general obtain great opportunities despite and regardless of preconditions. Those people are defined as the NEETs, which stands for Not in Education, Employment, or Training. They are both the unemployed (individuals without a job and seeking one), as well as individuals outside the labour force (without a job and not seeking one).
- However, the initiative does not take into consideration that all EU member states have great differences in the way of implementing both education and initiatives for NEETs. Knowing that, it does not make sense to just invest money in a system hoping it will do the job. Rather the main focus should be on implementing and encouraging platforms and forums to share knowledge.

Considering that:

- The total budget of the Youth Implementation System is €8.8 billion from the period 2014-2020.
- Over the 2014-2020 programming period, the European Social Fund— in addition to the Youth Employment Initiative — directly invests at least €6.3 billion to support the integration of young people into the labour market across Europe.
- In December 2016, the Commission launched the initiative 'Investing in Europe's Youth', a renewed effort to support young people. Given the positive impact of the Youth Guarantee up to that point, the Commission increased

the finances available for the Youth Employment Initiative until 2020 to encourage more effective outreach to young people.

- NEETs are not a homogeneous group and knowledge about them remains limited – understanding the profile of the NEET cohort and providing services to meet their varying needs is therefore difficult.

Believing that:

- EU member states have a responsibility to their own national youth in making sustainable and long-term solutions in order to ensure their education and transition into the job-market.
- Knowledge of employments initiatives and outreach strategies have and had been available for every EU member state to commit themselves to nationally driven programs e.g.
- As liberals, we believe in the saying: "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime" Meaning that we should make long-term solutions instead of just paying for the problems to go away.
- We do not believe that the countries will develop a sustainable solution for themselves to solve this problem, if they do not have to, because the EU will pay for it anyways.
- In 2018, the Commission put forward a proposal to the Council on extending the age range from 15-24 years old to include 24-29 years old as well. This broad definition of NEET is problematic given the comparative differences of the EU members states in terms of educational systems and job initiatives.
- We do not believe that it makes sense for the EU to define how the EU member states should educate their population, noting the broad age range as mentioned above.
- Considering the fact that only 38.5 % of all NEETs aged 15-24 in the EU were registered with a Youth Guarantee provider in 2016 shows that even though the intentions have been great, increased efforts to support young people don't equal more money to the Youth Guarantee.

Calls for:

- LYMEC calls upon all EU member states to generally take care of the education of their own youth population and job-market initiatives. As it never can be a responsibility that you leave to the EU alone.
- LYMEC to support that the share of knowledge across EU member states is useful for future development

- LYMEC to acknowledge that since there is no single method that works best to reach out to young people, the EU should focus on providing each EU member states ideas for long-term outreach initiatives instead of just investing
- LYMEC to call for the Council to continue its work on highlighting effective outreach work as an essential ingredient for early activation. However, the Council should rather encourage the EU member states to “develop outreach strategies and introduce mechanisms to identify and activate those furthest away from the labour market” by establishing a platform to encourage sharing of knowledge within the EU member states of the EU, and thus emphasizing the importance of local decisions instead of just investing.

3.28 Time To Act Against Healthcare Associated Infections

Submitted by: Centre Party Youth (CUF)

Co-signed by: Venstres Ungdom, JOVD, Nowoczesna Youth, Ogra Fianna Fáil, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Svensk Ungdom, Jong VLD, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Centerstudenter, Jonge Democraten, Radikal Ungdom, LUF, ERPY, NUV, Young Liberals, JGS, LHG, Momentum TizenX, FEL

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Noting that:

- Approximately 4,1 million patients are estimated to acquire a healthcare associated infection (HAI) in the EU each year of which around 37 000 die as a direct consequence of the infection.
- About 50-100% of the healthcare associated infections can be prevented by basic hygiene routines.
- Healthcare associated infections are the most common healthcare injuries in the EU.
- 15% of the healthcare budgets in OECD countries are used to treat healthcare injuries. Money that could be used to treat more patients and investing in research.
- The lengthened time of care for patients acquiring HAIs prevents others from their necessary care and treatments.

- The continuous increase of health-care associated infections caused by antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms that are difficult to treat, contributes to the morbidity and mortality of HAIs as well as higher healthcare costs.
- The number of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms in Europe is increasing rapidly and is the cause of death for 33 000 people yearly.
- Effective HAI prevention and control in healthcare organisations relies on specialised healthcare specialities in charge of elaborating, implementing, and monitoring preventive measures.

Considering that:

- Not all EU/EEA Member States have national recommendations for the management of infection control and hospital hygiene. In even fewer member states are they defined by law.
- 63% of doctors and 77% of nurses in EU/EEA Member states report having a professional profile for infection control and hospital hygiene doctors and nurses. However, approximately half of the Member States do not have a curriculum or programme for training doctors and nurses as infection control and hospital hygiene professionals.
- Basic training in infection control and hospital hygiene is only mandatory in 58% of medical schools and 66% of nursing schools in the EU.
- A high percentage of EU/EEA Member States seek EU-cooperation in managing a surveillance system and investigating healthcare-associated infections.
- The lack of funding for infection control and hospital hygiene training programmes are perceived as one of the main constraints to battling HAIs.
- The definition of good hygiene is very vague. It is of great value to have a standardised hygiene protocol for EU/EEA Member States to prevent local discrepancy.
- A higher percentage of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms are present in hospitals compared to other parts of society.

Believing that:

- No patient nor healthcare professional should risk mortality or morbidity caused by an acquired healthcare associated infection that could have been prevented.
- One of the most effective ways to tackle the growing problem of antimicrobial-resistance is to stop the spread of microorganisms in hospitals.

Calls for:

- The undertaking of regulatory documents enforcing basic hygiene routines and infection control in EU healthcare to prevent healthcare associated infections and thus minimising hospital acquired injuries and the spread of antimicrobial resistance.
- All EU/EEA Member States to offer a curriculum or programme for training doctors and nurses as infection control and hospital hygiene professionals.
- All medical- and nursing schools in the EU to have basic hygiene routines and infection control as a mandatory part of the education.
- EU-cooperation in designing and managing a European surveillance system to evaluate infection control and hygiene routines to prevent healthcare associated infections.

Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies

4.01 Liberal ideas on the Future of the Single Market

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic (archived several previous)

Considering that:

- 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 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 benefit 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:

- **Expansion**: The internal market must not be used as a protectionist tool in trade with third countries. Instead, Europe needs to focus on standards pertaining to human rights and production methods.
- LYMEC reaffirms its commitment to support enlargement of the EU to its maximum viable boundaries. Maximum extension also refers to current EU/EEA Member States, which we urge to comply with implementation of existing directives. Infringement procedures need to be more efficient and a proper mechanism for the penalisation of non-compliance should be introduced. Furthermore, derogations, exceptions and opt-outs are often additional obstacles and should be re-evaluated and removed.

Harmonisation and adaptation: especially the harmonisation of standards is an important part of the realisation of freedoms, it should not be self-serving. The EU needs to improve the new legislative framework to combat overregulation.

- LYMEC calls for the establishment of a common EU patent system (excluding computing- implemented inventions) in order to better protect intellectual property rights at European level.
- 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.
- **Digital market**: Believing that a more integrated Digital Single Market can enhance growth to the benefit of all Europeans, and that 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, LYMEC calls for 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 member states to eliminate copyright levies.

In light of this, LYMEC also:

- 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.
 - 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 the creation of new types of enterprises which make it easier to do digital business across the Union; 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 digitalisation of Europe and the promotion of R&I activities in the digital sphere.
 - 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
- **Environment:** Environmental concerns need to be taken more seriously and integrated into Internal Market policy and they must be reconciled with free market principles that we are committed to. We especially advocate the inclusion of environmental aspects in public procurement to ensure sustainability and work towards reaching ambitious emission reduction targets.
 - **Liberalising state services:**
 - As a matter of priority, railway operations between EU Member States should be liberalised. The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) should regulate operators as regards such traffic.
 - the Internal Market for energy provision services should be fully 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.

Cross-border services: finally, LYMEC wants to point out the lack of liberalisation of cross-border services in Europe and calls for a new comprehensive Services Directive encompassing also many services of general interest that are not excluded as well as the principle of origin. The EU should also promote Europass as a tool to make the European labour market more open and dynamic. LYMEC proposes a central organisation harmonising banking requirements to free mobility for all EU citizens regarding banking services. This should lead to a single, free European banking market.

4.02 No to EU Tobin Tax

Tax, Debt Crisis

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress 30th April – 1st May 2010, Sinaia, Romania
(Former 4.06 prior to Prague 2022)

- Since 2010, the European Commission has come up with proposals in order to introduce a tax on financial transactions (EU FTT), never being able to find a majority. However, in 2019, Germany and France came to the consensus that the EU FTT should be negotiated using a proposal they submitted based on the french tax on financial transactions. Since then, the introduction of an EU FTT is discussed.

Noting that:

- The EU today does not have competence to levy taxes, and is restricted by the Lisbon Treaty to enacting legislation regarding direct taxation,

Believing that:

- Most taxes are harmful for the efficient functioning of the market economy,

- a tax on financial transactions (formerly known as "Tobin tax") would most certainly severely hamper the free flow of capital, one of the four freedoms upon which the EU is founded,
- The Tobin tax is an idea generally associated with socialist and anti-globalization political groups,
- An EU tax on financial transactions would drive capital out of EU countries, to the disbenefit of the European economy,

LYMEC:

- urges the Member States, the Commission and the Council to reject the idea of a tax on financial transactions.

4.03 On the Completion of the Single Market for Pharmaceuticals

Industry, Business, Tax

(Former 4.10 prior to Prague 2022)

Considering that:

- For new drugs, the authorization process is quite complex. Currently manufacturers have the option of choosing between two different procedures of authorization.
- The directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare clarifies the principle of recognition of medical prescriptions across national borders.

Believing that:

- In order for the single market for pharmaceuticals to function properly, the authorization of new pharmaceuticals should be based on uniform application of uniform rules in order to secure a transparent, smooth, and fair process. Pharmaceuticals are not different from other goods and should not be excluded from the single market by national regulation
- Subsidies from public and/or private health insurance must not favour certain manufacturers and/or retailers and thereby distort the market.

LYMEC Calls on:

- ALDE and the Renew Europe Group to work for complete harmonization of the procedures by which new medicines are authorized in the EU. These

authorizations should be granted only by the European Medicines Agency based on objective, scientific criteria that are uniformly applicable.

- The European Commission to make sure that insurance subsidies can be granted for drugs regardless of the place of purchase as long as the following criteria are met:

1. that the drug would normally be covered by the insurance;
2. that these drugs are bought within the single market

4.04 Enhancing the Single Market for Retail Financial Services

Industry, ECB

(Former 4.12 prior to Prague 2022)

Proposed by RU, Denmark

Considering that:

- Financial services are a crucial part of any modern economy.
- The process, when opening a bank account or procuring other financial services, is often more complicated for an EU citizen living in another EU country than it is for a national citizens.
- The costs of withdrawing money from and transferring money to a bank account in another EU country are often higher than the costs of withdrawing money from or transferring money to a bank account in the same country.

Believing that:

- There is no reason why financial services should be exempt from vision of the single market.
- In order for the single market for retail financial services to function properly, the technical barriers that currently exist must be eliminated. This means that the process for procuring financial services e.g. opening a bank account in another EU country should be identical for all EU citizens regardless of your national citizenship.
- Transaction fees levied against consumers should be the same for bank activities across member state borders as for cross bank activities within member states.

The LYMEC Congress calls on:

- ALDE to work for the implementation of non-discrimination based on nationality in the field of retail financial services in order to achieve identical procedures for all EU citizens within this area.
- The European Commission to establish an expert group on technical barriers in the area of the single market for retail financial services. It shall be the task of this group to map the technical barriers within this area and to recommend to the Commission measures in order to eliminate these barriers.
- The LYMEC Bureau to advance this position through ALDE and Renew Europe Group.

4.05 Resolution on Bank Reform

(Former 4.14 prior to Prague 2022)

Debt Crisis, Tax

Alarmed by the recent economic developments in certain European member states such as Cyprus,

Noting with concern that banks in certain member states are bigger than the national economy of those member states,

Keeping in mind that the 2008 financial crisis and the 2008-2012 global recession have triggered the European sovereign-debt crisis,

Taking into account that the crises were essentially triggered by the collapse of large banks,

Fully aware of the fragile state of Europe's economy,

Realizing that further rises of sovereign debt by bailing-out large banks would be disastrous for the European economy,

Having further considered that at the same time many banks are too large for countries to allow them to fail,

Recognizing that a system in which profits are private, while losses are public and burden the taxpayer is not liberal,

Believing that organisationally separating the high-risk investment activities of banks from their private-saving activities creates more stable banks which cause less damage to the economy when collapsing,

LYMEC, gathered in Tallinn on 27 April 2013:

Endorses the reforms proposed by the Liikanen group to split high-risk investment-activities of banks from from the rest of their business;

Urges the European Commission to hasten the implementation of these reforms at a European level;

Strongly condemns any further bail-outs for banks involved in high-risk activities.

4.06 Resolution on Competition in the European Community

Free Trade, EMU, Greece

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

LYMEC supports an economic policy of the EC commission that is based on a consequent application of the principles of a competitive market economy. Only an economic policy that thrives for true competition will be able to provide a healthy economic structure, a pluralistic offer of goods and services to consumers, a good chance for future development and thus a continuing ability to compete on the world market. Considering the principles, LYMEC requests that anti-trust decisions by the EC commission concerning mergers, acquisitions, fusion's and take overs between companies have to be ultimately judged in the light of maintaining and guarding competition rather than in the light of industrial policies. In this context LYMEC expresses grave concerns on a tendency in the EC commission to give aspects of industrial policy priority over principals of policy of competition. Thus, the danger exists that the coming European Union will rather be a union of big companies than a union with a pluralistic economic mixture in which small and medium-sized businesses find their place. LYMEC rejects the harsh criticism of the prohibition of a take over of Canadian aircraft manufacturer De Havilland by Aerospatiale and Alenia expressed by the governments of France and Italy and the conservative opposition in France. LYMEC turns against any attempt to provide for special authorities of the EC commission on industrial policy in the treaties of Rome.

4.07 Globalisation is an Opportunity, Not a Threat!

Free Trade, Tax

Resolution adopted by LYMEC Congress, 7-9 April 2006, Winterthur, Switzerland
(Former 4.19 prior to Prague 2022)

Whereas:

- The world is moving from an industrial age to an information age in which geographic distance is becoming less important in building cross border relations.

- Trade allows the production of goods and services by those who are most efficient, thus maximising their availability at the best price.
- Trade barriers serve to fund state budgets and protect otherwise unviable economic activities. As such, they are not in the interest of the consumers and in the long run, they harm the economy by giving it a false protection.

Noting that:

- There is clear danger in the gathering strength of opposition to globalisation.
- The campaigns by trade unions are often less concerned with supporting worker rights in poor countries than they are with protecting declining industries in rich ones.
- It is argued that globalisation ends cultural diversity and affects our environment.

Considering that:

- International trade and investment have been the engines of world growth over the past 50 years. The consequences of a decline in world trade would immediately be felt with rising unemployment throughout the trading world and a fall in development aid.
- World prosperity and environmental protection are enhanced by greater exchange between nations and that this is made possible by everyone agreeing to abide by rules.
- Companies moving to developing countries often export higher wages and working conditions compared with those in domestic companies. While wages are often lower in developing countries, they also reflect lower levels of education and productivity.

The European Liberal Youth – LYMEC believes that:

- The EU has to increase its competitive capacity by fully launching the Lisbon Agenda and develop into a dynamic knowledge-based economy that emphasises entrepreneurship and flexible labour, which will make emerging low-wage based economies around the world not a threat for EU's position, but an opportunity.
- Wealthy countries must accept risk losing labour intensive activities due to relocation to low-wage countries and that it would be condemning developing countries to even greater poverty to restrict their ability to compete in the world market.

- The EU should continue to use the WTO as the prime instrument in the attempt to reach global free trade and accompany this by development assistance to counter a digital divide and let developing countries reap the benefits of globalisation.
- The strength, democracy and transparency of the major multilateral institutions have to improve to successfully address the major global challenges of our time such as the environment, global free trade and the promotion of democracy and human rights.
- New global media and free trade have proven powerful means of projecting traditional culture, thereby opening up the world to all its citizens and thus enriching our lives.
- The growing gathering strength of opposition to globalisation calls for a LYMEC campaign arguing that "globalisation offers you a world of opportunities".

4.08 Telecommunication in Europe

Considering that:

- Freedom of movement should be extended to telecommunication operations.
- Removing barriers in telecommunication is elementary in a united Europe
- People living near border areas can inadvertently be switched to another network in case of low coverage.

The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) calls for:

- Study the implementation of Free Roaming to other European states that are not part of the European Union
- All EU-internal mobile phone calls should be considered as domestic and priced the same, whether national or cross-border.
- 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

4.09 Resolution on Free Market in developing countries

Business, Free Trade, developing countries

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

(Adopted at Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic, archived several previous)

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 developing countries' peoples).
- Lower European market protection in relation to developing 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 developing countries' 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 a free market in Europe (because artificial mechanisms that influence agriculture would be destroyed) and in the developing countries.
- We call on developed countries to sincerely consider ways of reducing the debt burden of developing countries by cancellation and or rescheduling of debts. Foreign aid from developed countries is an especially important key not only to immediate relief in the developing countries 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 is not so much as needed.

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 developing countries in sectors of production that permit this kind of aid, for example: exporting farmers and clean farming techniques, the rural areas of the developing countries could be vitalised, reducing the problems of great cities.
- Pay attention to the NIC (Newly Industrialised Countries) the relations between the developed and developing countries should not permit the NIC to spoil developing countries indirectly damaging the 1st world too. (for example through the international global state of law).
- Begin a policy of convincing and actively supporting developing 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 EU should try to have only one common voice, with regard to these problems.
- The EU should contribute to the creation of the international state of law, in an international way of administration by the UN.
- LYMEC 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.
- Call 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.
- Stress 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 an EP committee

LYMEC calls upon all developed countries and international organisms to increase their aid to the developing countries.

4.10 Audit Market reform

(Former 4.26 prior to Prague 2022)

Noting that:

- the role of an audit is to contribute to the credibility and reliability of financial statements;
- auditing is an integral part of the financial reporting environment and its importance is reflected in only registered auditors undertaking these statutory audits¹;

Considering that:

- Former financial crises have shown weaknesses of the current audit function being performed and it should be left to market forces to improve audit functions;
- increasing trust in the market is important to obtain trust in market functions and open enterprise;
- financial statements should be a statements of facts, considering the risk of future investments and cash-flows, reflecting the best current knowledge;
- auditors have an important function in building trust and should therefore be completely independent;
- auditors should adhere to the rules of the market and not be hindered by current regulations, preventing the audit industry to develop with new market insights;
- audit firms should have an open structure and adhere to best current compliance and audit practice;
- Government cannot impose trust on auditors, it can prosecute offenders of good audit practice;

Concluding that:

- EU regulations, create a new market for exchanging clients between big auditing firms;
- The goal of regulations should be to oversee a level playing field for all auditors and clients, without personal preferences;
- **LYMEC hereby calls** the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament to revoke legislation that hinders the level playing field and market discipline to take effect.

4.11 European Financial Sector

(Former 4.27 prior to Prague 2022)

Noting that...

- The financial industry is seen as one of the most important sectors within the European economy
- The Financial Sector has seen its worst performance since the great depression in the 1930's.
- 325 billion EUR was injected in the European financial sector by national governments and the European Central Bank to regain financial stability and to restore capital-asset ratios of financial institutions to the average level before the crisis.

Believing that...

- The financial sector is very important for further growth and recovery of the European economy.
- Systemic risk of large financial institutions should be limited both on the national level as well on the European Level to prevent financial and debt crises in the future.
- The financial sector itself should carry the risks of financial distress or going bankrupt instead of the European taxpayer.

Resolving that...

- LYMEC calls upon the introduction of the liquidity requirements of the Basel III package for banks, preferably at an international level, but at least at European level. The implementation should be done as soon as possible, but should not harm the early recovery of the European economy. Banks will be required to hold a significant higher capital conservation buffer of to withstand
- future periods of financial distress.
- Thereby not only banks should comply with these requirements but also other important financial institutions such as large insurance companies, hedge funds, structured investment vehicles (SIVs) and private equity funds should meet these requirements as well and have to prepare a "living will".
- Banks in the European Union must present a so-called "living will" spelling out how they would survive a crisis of financial distress without taxpayer aid. In this plan a bank states how to react in case of financial distress or in a situation of liquidation.

4.12– Seize the possibilities of the sharing economy

Approved in the Rotterdam Congress of May 2015

(Former 4.28 prior to Prague 2022)

Considering that:

- New technology and devices are changing our consumption behavior the possibilities of offering services, also making peer-to-peer services or so called *sharing economy* services more accessible than ever before

Believing that:

- Such new innovative platforms for services increase the exchange of services, and offer new possibilities to both users and consumers
- The sharing economy lowers the threshold to entrepreneurship and boosts innovation and competition, which are cornerstones of a free market
- Such sharing economy platforms do not make traditional professional services redundant, but rather fill their own niche in the service sector and help diversify the market
- Increased use of sharing economy services may also have positive environmental and socioeconomic effects

Noting that:

- In Europe, such sharing economy services have not always been received well by policy makers and competing traditional businesses and have, for instance, faced office raids, bans and fines

Calls for:

- Regulators to address the sharing economy models on the European market constructively, in order to ensure room for innovation in the economy as a whole
- Clear and comprehensive information by sharing economy services to customers about the services provided and their quality standards

- A thorough evaluation of existing regulation and, wherever possible, a process of deregulation to ensure competition and innovation on a level playing field

4.13 Urgent resolution in defence of CETA and free trade

(Former 4.30 prior to Prague 2022)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Considering that:

- Europe's prosperity was built to a great extent on free trade with countries all over the world;
- the creation and negotiation of trade agreements between the European Union and 6 other parties is a cornerstone of the European Union;
- a sustainable economic recovery for European countries, businesses and workers can only be achieved by boosting growth throughout the continent;
- the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada can contribute to this growth by removing 99% of customs duties,[1] saving European exporters approximately €500 mln a year, opening Canadian public procurement to European SMEs, creating a more favourable environment for job creation, and making Europe wealthier by €5.8 bn a year.[2]
- Besides economic aspects, CETA is setting the new world standards for future negotiations.

Noting that:

- the Government of Wallonia refused to grant the Belgian government full powers to sign CETA following a vote on 14 October and subsequent negotiations with the EU and Canada;
- a tentative deal to provisionally implement CETA. was struck on 27 October;
- the "mixed-agreement" system chosen for signing CETA is an unwieldy process under which any single one of 38 national or regional parliaments can hold a treaty to ransom even if almost everyone else supports it;

- and failure to ratify the treaty with Canada would cast serious doubt on the EU's ability to formalise deals with other important trade partners such as Japan and the United States.

Believing that:

- the Parliament of Wallonia's reasons for rejecting CETA were hard to understand and, as highlighted by the ALDE member party in Wallonia, appeared to privilege party politics over good economic governance;^[4]
- in light of Wallonia nearly sinking the free trade agreement with Canada, and as such 52 holding 500 million European citizens hostage, there should be a change in the approach for approving free trade agreements between EU and other parties;
- Canada and the EU have issued binding declarations to address previously raised concerns;^[5] and there seems to have been no clear-cut legal requirement for the Commission to label CETA a mixed agreement.^[6]

LYMEC therefore calls for:

- the European Commission and EU Member States to fight for the ratification of CETA; European institutions to put food and safety standards at the heart of their negotiation strategy for future free trade agreements;
- LYMEC Board to call upon the EU, ALDE and ALDE member parties to mount a vigorous defence of free trade in words and action;
- LYMEC calls for the EU to follow the opinion of the Court of Justice of the European Union on whether the comprehensive free trade agreement between the European Union and Singapore is a mixed agreement or not. That will create a precedent for the ratification of free trade agreements by the EU.
- Communication on free trade agreements to be improved, to allow stronger transparency throughout the stages of the negotiation process. The content to be explained in a clear language.

[1] "Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)", European Commission, 2016 59 60 61

[2] "Wallonia is adamantly blocking the EU's trade deal with Canada", The Economist, 62 22 October 2016 63 64 65 68

[4] "CETA: quand le jeu politique prime sur l'économie", Mouvement Réformateur, 19

October 69 2016 70 53 71 72

[5] "EU and Canada move to allay concerns over free trade deal", Financial Times, 73
23 September 2016. 74 75 76

[6] As noted by Folkert Graafsma, a leading trade and customs lawyer at the VVGB
law firm

4.14 A proposal for the withdrawal of small-denomination euro coins

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

(Former 4.31 prior to Prague 2022)

Summary (optional)

- Rising production, productivity and handling costs associated with small-denomination coins have turned them into a liability rather than an asset to the Eurozone economy.
- Consumers who receive small-denomination coins as change tend to hoard them instead of recirculating them —as a result, these coins no longer fulfil their role as a medium of payment.
- The resolution proposes ending the minting of 1- and 2-euro cent coins.
- It urges the Eurozone to implement cash rounding as several Member States have already done successfully.
- It addresses some common concerns about small-denomination coin withdrawal and cash rounding.
- It sets out the legal basis for the Eurozone and its Member States to achieve this goal.

Believing that:

- Coins and banknotes of money exist to serve as an effective medium of payment.
- Small-denomination euro coins no longer fulfil this role and, furthermore, they impose significant costs on central banks and private businesses.
- Empirical data and practical experience in countries inside and outside the Eurozone prove that cash rounding solves this problem by enabling the withdrawal of small-denomination coins while safeguarding retailers' ability to make use of price optimization strategies and avoiding inflationary effects.

Considering that:

- The cost of minting small-denomination euro coins exceeds their face value and the cumulative difference since the introduction of euro coins in 2002 has risen to €1.4 billion.
- They make up about a half of all euro coins minted, but they disappear rapidly from circulation due to wear and the fact that consumers do not consider them a useful medium of exchange.
- The impact on productivity is even greater — European workers are estimated to waste tens of millions of hours every year looking for 1- and 2-euro cent coins as change in transactions.
- Handling charges for these coins (which can reach up to 80% of their face value) are ultimately passed on to consumers in the shape of fees or price increases.

Considering further that:

- Belgium, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and non-euro members such as Sweden, Denmark and Hungary have successfully tackled this problem by instituting rounding in all cash transactions.
- Under this system, prices are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of 5 cents.
- Individual items may continue to be priced at any amount (e.g. €0.99), and only the final tally is rounded up or down, so retailers can continue to use price optimization strategies.
- Theoretical studies and practical experience in countries which have already switched to this system agree that the inflationary impact would be negligible to non-existent.
- Minting of small-denomination coins would cease and, while they would remain legal tender for as long as they stayed in circulation, usual wear would eventually remove them.
- Polls show a sizeable majority of Eurozone citizens in favour of withdrawing 1- and 2-cent coins, with popular support growing even in previously reluctant countries such as Germany.
- The European Union has the power to discontinue the minting of small-denomination coins under Art. 128 [2], sentence 2 of the TFEU.

LYMEC calls:

To keep ensuring the possibility to electronically pay unrounded figures, LYMEC calls on the European Commission to make a formal proposal to the European Council to:

- Discontinue the production of small-denomination coins by amending the Regulation on denominations and technical specifications of euro coins.
- Issue a Recommendation for harmonized rounding rules under article 292 of the TFEU.

4.15 A step forward for digital entrepreneurship in Europe

(Former 4.32 prior to Prague 2022)

Summary

1. The growth of innovative start-ups in Europe is often hindered by the Byzantine patchwork of digital laws of our States.
2. The ability of digital services companies to operate
3. under the same conditions throughout Europe would also bring a much-needed dose of free-market competition to certain Member States.
4. Streamlining the regulatory landscape has the potential to add €415 bn and hundreds of thousands of jobs to the European economy.
5. This resolution urges the EU institutions to move forward in the completion of the Digital Single Market, to tear down regulatory walls that only make it more difficult for digital entrepreneurs to succeed, and to make sure digital consumer rights are protected.

Considering that:

- The goals of the European Single Act in 1986 were explicitly to remove barriers between Member States in order to create the Single Market. This included the digital sector to allow entrepreneurs to thrive on the European market.
- The 2012 LYMEC Congress in Copenhagen approved a resolution on "Completing the Digital Single Market", which dealt essentially with digital infrastructure and copyright harmonisation.
- A true Digital Single Market is much more than that: it means that an innovative start-up can easily grow from a garage in one Member State to become a company active throughout the European Union, without an unnecessary regulatory burden.
- However, growing digital start-ups in Europe have more trouble expanding than their American counterparts because they have to ensure compliance

with a different patchwork of digital laws every time they cross a Member State border.

- Completing the Digital Single Market has the potential to add about €415 bn to the European GDP and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.
- Some Member States have taken advantage of the lack of an integrated Single Digital Market to favor domestic companies over those based in other states. Such protectionist actions go directly against existing competition regulations in the European Union.
- There remains a substantial degree of fragmentation in the field of patents, with two pan-European patent offices, plus one in each Member State.

Believing that:

- The fact that distributors of digital content can have the rights to sell the exact same content in some Member States, but not in others, constitutes an unacceptable fragmentation and clear barrier to the completion of the European single market.
- Making it easier for digital services companies to expand into other Member States would increase competition, shaking up sclerotic markets and thereby resulting in better prices and services for consumers under free-market conditions.
- The European patent with unitary effect (EPUE) and the harmonisation of patent offices have the potential to slash patent costs for innovators across the continent, as well as making it easier for them to secure their products with less bureaucracy.
- Greater unity and transparency is required in the field of patents.

LYMEC urges European Member States to:

Participate in the unitary patent regulation and/or ratify the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court if they have yet to do so.

Calls on the European institutions to:

- Maintain the momentum for integration of the Digital Single Market despite the withdrawal of the United Kingdom, hitherto one of its leading proponents;
- Take steps towards closer unity and greater transparency over European patent policy, laying the groundwork for the European Patent Office to grant

truly European patents with unitary effect instead of the bundles of national patents it currently grants;

- Move towards a streamlined legislative framework that enables digital companies to operate in other Member States just as easily as in their home states; and
- To do so while keeping in mind consumer rights such as personal data protection, warranties, a wide range of choice (free-market competition) and the availability of digital products and services all over Europe.

4.16 From an economic and monetary union (EMU) to an economic, budgetary, fiscal and monetary union (EBFMU)

(Former 4.33 prior to Prague 2022)

Considering that:

- The European Union is a supranational organisation where unanimity rule still prevails for several decisions; the economic and monetary union is part of these areas.
- The current decision-making process regarding economic governance and the management of the single currency is lacking efficiency and forces member states to push for national interests, leaving the common interest on the side.
- The Economic and Monetary Union is still lacking a real economic, fiscal and budgetary policy. Member states retain autonomy in these key areas.
- In the crisis situation and beyond, the lack of coordination in terms of fiscal and budgetary policies especially in the Eurozone have been proven destructive on the economic performances of the countries concerned.

Noting that:

- For example, the Quantitative Easing has been launched in 2010 by the Federal Reserve System in the USA to tackle the sovereign debt crisis after the financial crisis of 2007 while it has only been launched in 2015 by the European Central Bank, in other words almost ten years later...
- One another relevant example might be the issue of fiscal dumping and the fact that some countries have very attractive tax rates for enterprises and

represent an unfair competition towards the other members states. This is in fact possible because of the lack of common policies.

- Even though the EU establishes the legal framework for the macroeconomic indicators that are the government budget balance (max 3% of GDP) and the government debt rate (max 60% of GDP), it is strictly up to the Members States to define their policies. Hence, some states choose for fiscal austerity, others for public investment.
- Since all Member States of the Eurozone do have the same currency, this lead us to a quite schizophrenic and inconsistent system where some decisions enter in conflict with other decisions in the Eurozone and beyond.
- The actual executive body of the Eurozone is the Eurogroup, the regular meeting of the Eurozone's ministers for Economy and Finance, whereas the Council of Economy and Finance (ECOFIN) deals with economic and financial issues of all 28 Member States and takes into account the decisions of the Eurogroup, resulting in a two-speed approach. This often translates into inefficient decision-making dynamics.
- Some States, for example France but also Germany and Spain are in favour of a deep reform regarding the economic field in order to path the way towards a European Economic and Fiscal Union.
- The Single currency was designed at the Maastricht treaty as a goal to reach for all the Members States of the Union after complying with the criteria to apply for a membership.

Calls for:

- The creation of a European government, provided with its own budget, a common taxation policy and more to the point, a common strategy of economic growth in order to avoid the consequences of the current situation.
- A transfer of competences and sovereignty in order to allow this government to take all the decisions that might be needed to manage financial, budgetary and fiscal policies.
- The creation of an EU finance minister who will be responsible for the Euro and financial stability, and who will be democratically accountable to the European Parliament. If relevant, consultations might be carried out with the national counterparts.
- The democratization and the increase of transparency of the EMU (becoming EBFMU). In other words, strengthening the role of the European Parliament in economic, monetary and financial affairs.
- Urging all Members States to accelerate talks and reforms aiming at integrating the Eurozone in the near future.

- The creation therefore of the "Euro accession assistance structure" as presented by Jean-Claude Juncker in his "State of the European Union 2017" to help catching-up with the 19 on the short-term and unify the 28 in the field of economic and monetary policies on the long-term.
- In return for reforms and with the empowerment of the Commission to sanction Member States
- The creation of a system of Eurobonds, with one interest rate for the entire Eurozone, and therefore banning the current acts of speculation caused by fluctuations in interest rates between member states.
- We ought to make sure that the Member States keep the freedom to choose which specific policies better suit them to meet the objectives set by the EU.

4.17 Motion for a resolution against new taxes on innovation (especially taxes on automation)

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

(Former 4.34 prior to Prague 2022)

Having regard to:

The Europe 2020 Strategy where: "[...] R&D/innovation and more efficient energy use makes us more competitive and creates jobs"

The propositions from more and more political parties to implement taxes on robots and therefore on the potential of innovation which they represent

LYMEC supports the freedom of Scientific Research and underlines that:

- Science represents an opportunity to individuals, enhancing their economic and social conditions
- Science is an occasion for creating new jobs and economic growth.

And LYMEC 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 result of his or her work.

Considering that:

- Digital revolution is the 4th industrial revolution.
- Like every other industrial revolution, it is driven by progress and new technologies. These technologies are deeply disruptive. They affect every aspect of our society and our economy.
- If the benefits brought by the digital technologies are innumerable, they also have controversial impacts, as it is the case for any other industrial revolutions,
- The role of politics is always to deal with these negative impacts, i.e. try to contain them but also and foremost anticipate them.
- The negative impacts on jobs are real, especially for the jobs that can be automated or replaced by Artificial Intelligence.

Believing that:

- Progress cannot be impeded with taxes.
- It is costly to implement taxes and subsidies designed specifically to help condemned economic sectors survive. More than the economic cost, it is devastating for the human workforce concerned. For example, in Belgium, the different government subsidized coal mines and the heavy steel industries for decades. It did not prevent the industries from finally closing, with the consequence that thousands of workers were put out of their jobs.
- The Creative destruction concept, developed by Schumpeter, has proved to be true with the previous industrial revolutions.
- Various studies indicate that up to 85% of the jobs in 2030 do not even exist yet
- Innovation will be the key of new jobs creation
- To be able to fulfill these new jobs the EU will need, not to tax robots, but invest in Education to create a skillful workforce for the digital industry

Calls on:

- The European institutions to discourage Members State to implement fiscal barriers that would go against innovations and could put the EU at an economic disadvantage.
- The European Institutions and the Member States to invest in Education, to develop the skills needed to cope with the Digital Revolution.
- The European Institutions and Member States to promote and encourage technological progress, and to remove any barriers to the development of new, sustainable technologies.
- The Member States to actively invest in R&D, especially when it comes to green technologies.

4.18 Menstruation: Breaking the taboo

Movers: JUNOS, JuLis

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

(Former 4.36 prior to Prague 2022)

In many societies, menstruation is viewed as unclean and talking about it is still considered a taboo. Therefore, a lot of women feel ashamed and embarrassed during their periods. This often stems from a lack of education and misinformation of society on the topic.

Furthermore, even if education on menstruation is provided, sustainability may not be a part of it. However, female hygiene products pose a great challenge to the environment, not only due to the vast amount of waste that is accumulated, but also because they sometimes are not or cannot be disposed properly.

Considering that:

- Ireland already has 0% VAT on female hygiene products. This however, is not possible in many other EU states;
- A sustainable use of resources is important to guarantee a liveable world for future generations. Therefore, sustainability needs to be part of these measures of education on menstruation. Innovative and sustainable female hygiene products should be promoted as alternatives to regular products like tampons.

LYMEC Calls on:

- The EU to take measures and work on policies in order to ensure the removal of all taboos connected with menstruation with use of education;
- The EU to encourage education on sustainable use of hygiene products, especially on topic of disposal of waste.

4.19 Standing behind our SMEs

Movers: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Venstres Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019
(Former 4.37 prior to Prague 2022)

Stressing that:

- SMEs are affected by EU legislation in various fields, such as competition (Articles 101 to 109 TFEU), taxation (Articles 110 to 113 TFEU) and company law (right of establishment – Articles 49 to 54 TFEU).

Noting that:

- The existing 23 million SMEs represent 99% of all business in the EU;
- In the past five years, they have created around 85% of new jobs and provided two-thirds of the total private sector employment in the EU;
- The SMEs are particularly a well-known source of entrepreneurship within the European economy, which is the foundation to ensure economic growth, innovation, job creation and social integration in the EU;
- After the economic crisis, as reported by the SME Envoy Network, there has been a strong recuperation and an increase in production and occupation in the SME sector, but that they are still losing export potential due to the existing cross-border barriers within the EU;
- The current SME Instrument will not exist under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027).

Considering that:

- The survey carried out to evaluate the performance of the Small Business Act (2008) as the overarching framework acknowledges the need for a renewed strategy for SMEs with a special focus on the five priority areas identified by the SME Envoy Network;
- The administrative and legislative burden remains the top concern for stakeholders;
- Access to finance remains difficult despite the actions taken both at the EU and member states' level;

- Six Member States still generated SME value added in 2017 which was still below their respective levels of 2008;
- The SME Instrument was particularly useful because it was self-beneficiary for the participating company.

LYMEC welcomes:

- The European Commission's decision to include a similar program to the SME Instrument under the European Innovation Council for incremental innovation, called the accelerator programme, which will help SMEs to grow through grants with no budgetary limit;
- The SBA and the Commission's intention to work for the continuous improvement of the framework conditions for SMEs in the single market, as expressed in the "Towards a Single Market Act – For a highly competitive social market economy" (COM(2010) 0608) and the "Single Market Act II (COM(2012) 0573);
- The European Parliament's proposal that 70% of the European Innovation Council will be reserved to SMEs and start-ups.

LYMEC urges:

- The EU to take steps to remove cross-border barriers within its frontiers to facilitate the export of products and services by SMEs, paying special attention to administrative and legislative burdens;
- The EU to make a more efficient use of the existing instruments, particularly of COSME financial instruments;
- The EU to keep on improving access to new markets and the internationalisation of SMEs as an opportunity to grow, increase revenue and gain business experience, since currently only 20% of SME exports go outside the Single Market;
- To create synergies between existing programmes to promote "early stage" entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education and support youth start-ups and SMEs;
- The EU to provide educational support to SMEs, especially when it comes to the growing digitalisation of the economy and the spread of new technologies;

- To take into account the energy transition, which has to be fair and sustainable and be carried out in a proportional manner, for what the SMEs need to prepare themselves beforehand. In this regard, an incentives scheme would be a policy to consider
- The EU to go beyond research funding and innovation funding programmes and consider the unification of EU's fewer requirements or reduced fees policies for administrative compliance across member states;
- The EU to provide appropriate assistance to the SMEs in order to help them keep their commercial relations with the UK in light of the possibility of a so-called hard BREXIT.
- The member states to create similar national support programmes that could create synergies with the new EU funding programmes, respecting the principle of subsidiarity and avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy;
- The LYMEC Bureau to forward this resolution to the ALDE Party and to the ALDE 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.

4.20 A Liberal Tax System for Europe: Simpler, Smarter, Fairer

Submitted by: LYMEC Individual Members, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, Jeunes MR, Mladí Progresívci, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Jonge Democraten, Young Liberals

Outcome of the IMS-led working group on Taxation.

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022

Noting That

1. Although there are some common EU rules, particularly around VAT, taxation is still largely a member-state affair in the EU, with significant differences in tax rules and regulations between member states.
2. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS), the practice whereby accounting methods are used to 'shift' profits from high tax to low tax jurisdictions in order to avoid taxation, has been widely used by transnational companies in the early 2000s.

3. In October 2021, the OECD and all G20 countries agreed a landmark international tax deal, that will aim to prevent the use of BEPS and reduce international tax avoidance. The deal consists of two pillars:

1. The First Pillar is a set of profit-allocation rules that specifies where profits from a business should be taxed. It establishes the standard of territorial taxation, where profits should be taxed in the jurisdiction in which they were generated, with 25% of the profit from crossborder sales reallocated to jurisdictions in which the sales occurred.
2. The Second Pillar introduces a minimum agreed corporate tax rate for large multinational businesses of 15%.

5. Many individuals have to pay taxes, or at least file tax forms, in multiple EU member states. This requires completely separate forms to be filed in each state. States also commonly have differing tax calendars, and use different terminology, and many states still rely on paper tax forms.

6. Cryptocurrency is a reality: companies trade or make use of cryptocurrency, but often there are no tax regulations to define how cryptocurrency should be accounted for.

7. Tax rules have often 'evolved' over a long period of time rather than having been conceived of as a holistic package: as a result, there are often unintended loopholes or rules that advantage some and penalise others for seemingly arbitrary reasons.

8. Many EU member states require taxpayers to submit long forms containing information that tax authorities are already aware of.

9. The EU has long discussed a 'Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base', but there is still little progress towards this goal. A CCCTB would entail every EU member state using the same rules and formula for calculating a corporation's taxable profit, regardless of the tax rate that is then actually charged.

Believing In

Simpler Taxes:

1. Taxation and government services should be as simple, accessible and transparent as possible, to increase public confidence and reduce administrative burdens on businesses and citizens.

2. Nobody should be taxed twice on the same income stream by two different states, nor should anyone avoid taxation altogether due to differences between tax laws in different states.
3. The filing of tax should be easy and unbureaucratic. Individuals who have to file taxes in multiple EU member states should not face bureaucratic hurdles from differing tax years, terminology or mountains of paperwork.
4. Measures should be taken to make cross-border tax administration easier for EU citizens and companies, whilst allowing Member States to retain their autonomy in the field of tax.

Smarter Taxes:

1. Every European will pay taxes, and so every European should be taught the skills necessary to file and pay their taxes.
2. More cross-border interaction and data sharing between tax authorities in different EU countries is needed, not only to prevent tax evasion, but also to protect taxpayers against double taxation and needless bureaucracy, whilst also protecting data privacy.
3. Better mechanisms are needed to ensure transfer pricing is not manipulated by transnational companies in order to engage in BEPS.
4. Taxes should be paperless in the 21st century: there should be a move towards faster, more efficient and more secure digital tax filing throughout Europe.
5. Where there is fiscal room for tax cuts, they should be 'smart' tax cuts that directly incentivise research & development, green practices, and investment in deprived regions.
6. Cryptocurrency is here, whether governments like it or not. States should regulate the tax treatment cryptocurrency to prevent abuse, rather than counterproductively pretending it doesn't exist.
7. The tedious and pointless bureaucratic procedure of filling in forms for tax authorities with information they already know must end: tax filing procedures should be as simple and user friendly as possible for the taxpayer.

Fairer Taxes

1. EU and International tax agreements should enshrine the 'single taxation principle': the same assets and income streams should never be taxed twice in different states, nor should they escape taxation altogether because of differences in tax rules.

2. Profits should be taxed in the jurisdiction in which they are generated, rather than being shifted to other jurisdictions.
3. It should not be possible to avoid taxation due to differences in the tax bases (i.e. how 'profit' or 'income' is calculated) in different states. All EU member states should use the same Corporate Tax Base. This does not necessarily prevent states from deciding what the rate of tax itself should be.
4. Many European tax systems have unfair rules that defy common-sense principles of fairness, such as:
 - Effective penalties for marrying one's domestic partner;
 - 'Cold progression', whereby tax brackets are not adjusted for inflation;
 - Inexplicable differences in the overall amount of tax paid by a trader if they are self employed, versus if they set up a company and pay themselves through dividends, versus if they set up a company and pay themselves a salary;
 - Inadvertent tax advantages for 'personal service companies' (where an "employee" is instructed to form a company and the "employer" then contracts services from this company rather than employing the individual directly);
 - Inadvertent tax advantages for employing individuals on a 'gig' basis, whereby they are theoretically self-employed and payments are theoretically a payment for services rather than a salary;
 - Taxes that are regressive, meaning those on a higher income or of higher wealth pay less tax overall relative to the tax base than those on lower incomes.
5. It should not be possible for foreign companies to operate in the EU without having to declare their beneficial owners (i.e. who ultimately controls the company) or publish global financial statements.

LYMEC Calls For

Simpler Taxes:

1. The implementation of a common EU-wide tax year for personal taxation, that aligns with the calendar year (1st Jan - 31st Dec).
2. The use of common terminology and definitions in national regulations around taxation to avoid situations where tax jargon has different meanings in different jurisdictions.

3. The use of a common EU tax residency test, designed such that an individual is always a tax resident of precisely one country: never multiple and never zero.
4. A harmonised tax hierarchy in all EU countries for double-taxation, whereby it is clearly defined which state has first rights to tax an income stream or asset (e.g. first the country in which the stream was earned/paid, second the country of tax residence, third the country of nationality etc)
5. The introduction of an EU-wide digital value added tax (VAT) administration platform to complement national systems, allowing SMEs to more easily administer cross-border VAT.
6. An EU-format electronic personal income tax form with standardised, numbered fields (similar to the EU format driving licence), in addition to member state-specific forms, for individuals who have to submit tax forms in multiple EU member states.

Smarter Taxes:

1. An introductory education programme on the practicalities of taxation by member states to be made available to students reaching taxation age and any other citizen that needs resources on taxation.
2. The implementation of an EU wide database of individual taxpayers to streamline cross-border tax administration and avoid both tax evasion and double taxation . This can be done on an opt-in basis, for protection of personal data rights.
3. Common EU rules for calculating fair market value for transfer pricing, using the 'arms-length' principle (i.e. transfer prices should be set at the reasonable market price that would be charged to a third party)
4. An EU-wide 'transfer pricing ledger' so tax authorities can keep track of transfer pricing and ensure that the same transfer prices have been reported to authorities in different member states.
5. The implementation of paperless/online filing systems by EU member states for personal taxation to ensure efficiency and enhance the user experience in filing their tax returns.
6. The use of targeted tax incentives over blanket tax cuts to encourage sustainable business enterprises, ensure there is a link between the level of investment and the tax incentive being offered, and attract international corporations to the European market, including :
 - Green energy & insulation incentives
 - 'Super-deductions' for qualifying Research & Development
 - Tax credits for creating jobs in economically deprived areas

7. Measures to regulate, rather than ban, cryptocurrency from a tax perspective, such as the ECB determining spot-rates for the most common cryptocurrencies.
8. An end to the widespread bureaucratic practice of taxpayers being required to fill in tax forms to provide tax authorities with information that they already possess. Pay-As-You-Earn should eliminate the need for many individuals to file tax returns.
9. A uniform, simplified procedure for reclaiming withholding taxes on dividend payments in all EU member states. This can be integrated into the proposed EU common-format digital tax form.

Fairer Taxes:

1. The EU-wide introduction of double taxation agreements which ensure a 'single taxation principle'.
2. The rejection of the OECD tax deal.
3. The implementation of the EU Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base, which would mean that every EU country uses the same rules and formulae to calculate the Corporate Tax Base, whilst still ensuring that member states have the discretion to set their own tax rates and establish tax credits/incentives in line with domestic needs.
4. Common-sense principles of fair taxation to be practised by all European states, including:
 - Non-discrimination against families and double-income households;
 - Automatic adjustment of tax brackets for inflation to avoid 'cold progression';
 - Equalisation of the overall amount tax paid by small businesses and traders regardless of the form of incorporation (e.g. self-employed vs incorporated);
 - Eliminating any tax benefit from the use of 'personal service companies', where rather than being employed directly, an individual is instructed to set up a single-person company, which is then contracted for services;
 - Eliminating any tax benefit from contracting work out on a 'gig' basis, versus employing an individual directly;
 - Non-regressive taxation.
5. A requirement for any company/limited liability entity (other than those below the EU audit exemption thresholds) to declare its beneficial owners and publish global financial statements as a condition of being able to operate in the EU, regardless of where the company is incorporated.
6. An adherence to the principle of always maximising efficient use of public money, bearing in mind that governments are spending the taxpayers' money. Maximising

value for money allows governments to lower the tax burden or provide more public services.

Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights

5.01 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market

Merger of former 5.02 Make Labour Markets more flexible, former 5.04 End all restrictions on the free movement of Labour and former 5.05 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market

Noting that:

- Globalisation and removal of trade barriers have made markets in goods and services more flexible.
- 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.
- Hiring and firing procedures are rather complex and expensive in many EU Member States, resulting in labour market segmentation.
- Rigid labour markets lead to a higher share of long-term unemployment and youth unemployment.
- Wages are often not adjusted to workers' individual productivity and business cost structures.

Believing that:

- Free movement of labour is a core element of the European Union and free movement of labour has a positive impact on the European economy, both for the countries importing labour and for the countries exporting labour.
- Mobility in Europe should be increased, between different regions and countries, but also between different economic sectors.;
- Wages are often not adjusted to workers' individual productivity and business cost structures.

- The role of government in employer-employee relations should be limited to the protection of contract, property and human rights.
- 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.
- Flexicurity combines worker security with a high degree of labour market flexibility.

LYMEC calls for:

- ALDE to work for bringing the concept of transitional agreements for labour from new member states to an end.
- LYMEC member organisations promote organisations to promote free movement of labour on all levels.

Further, 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.
- Consider flexicurity as a possible compromise between employment and labour market flexibility.
- 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 incentivise employers who enable employees to combine their careers with obtaining further education.
- Encourage labour unions to shift their focus from protection of jobs to protection of workers.

5.02 Resolution on the Pension Systems

(Former 5.03 prior to Bucharest 2022)

Employment, Aging Population, Social Rights

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

Considering that:

- the European population is ageing,
- current pension systems are fiscally unsustainable,

Believing that:

- the costs of pensions will be a drain on a state's finances,
- it's the member state's responsibility to take appropriate action,
- each country is different in terms of their ageing population, demography and social policy,

Calls:

- on the European Union to respect the principle of subsidiarity and the exclusive competences of the Member States,
- to recommend the Member States informational campaigns to raise the citizen's knowledge and awareness of their pension rights and choices in the pension system,
- on the European Union institutions to supervise the transparency and safeguard the free movement of people with a guarantee of their pension rights to enjoy the free movement of labour,

- on the European Union to issue a directive enabling European Union citizens to work longer and eliminate maximum retirement ages,
- retirement age needs to be increased just as fast as required, to keep a country's pension system sustainable,
- to recommend the Member States to keep the first pillar as a minimal income, while strengthening the second pillar by involving free market principles and encouraging private saving in the third pillar,
- After the official retirement age, both employers and employees do not pay contributions for the pension on the wage so that firms are encouraged to employ older workers, taking into account part-time opportunities.

5.03 Liberal approach to the sex industry

Merger of former 5.07 Effective approach prostitution and former 5.10 Liberalise the sex industry

Considering that:

- Every individual has the right to decide over their own body;
- All individuals should be tolerant and respectful of different life choices, even if they do not personally agree with them;
- Self-determination is one of the most important rights of an individual;
- 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 commits a crime when interacting with a prostitute.

Noting that:

- Human trafficking is illegal and can never be justified;
- Prostitution should not be legal for anyone below the age of 18.

Whereas:

- In some countries prostitution is illegal;
- In some countries prostitution is legal, but it is illegal to buy sex;
- In some countries prostitution and the buying of sex are decriminalized, so prostitution is not legal, but it is not recognized as a profession either;
- In some countries, prostitution and the buying of sex are legal but procuring and the running of brothels are not;

- 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 complicate the free movement of services.

Believing that:

- Voluntary prostitution should not be disrupted by the approach to fighting forced prostitution;
- The EU is working on an effective method that looks out for forced sex workers, and their exploiters and fights these exploiters;
- 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 recognized, meaning sex workers cannot be members of the unemployment insurance fund, do not obtain fair working rights, etc.;
- Legalizing prostitution without legalizing 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 of 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.

LYMEC calls for:

- All EU member states to legalize prostitution and the buying of sex as well as make prostitution a recognized profession, giving prostitutes access to health care, unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance funds, etc. on equal terms with people in other professions;
- 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 ramp up their efforts to combat human trafficking;
- All EU member states recognize prostitution as a service that should be able to move freely across the EU;
- 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 their job if they wish to do so. Otherwise, it is no longer voluntary prostitution;
- All EU member states Instead of criminalizing clients of sex workers, encourage them to help fight crime, by notifying authorities when they become aware of possible sex trafficking and labor rights violations in the industry.

5.04 Creation of a “student-entrepreneur” status in all European countries

(Former 5.08 prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

With regard to:

- the *EU Youth Strategy, Europe 2020 growth and jobs strategy*
- The French initiative from November 2013 establishing a national status of
 - "étudiant-entrepreneur";
- The Belgian legislation from 30 December 2016 implementing a specific social and fiscal status for students engaged in self-employment in Belgium;

Considering that:

- More and more entrepreneurs are needed across Europe.
- In some countries, there is already a legal status for students doing summer jobs, but none for students setting up their own business.
- The European Union needs to promote both the achievement of higher studies and the setting up of new businesses.
- The creative mindset of young people is an asset to be exploited throughout Europe.
- Positive speech around running one's own business is not sufficient and should be supported by practical measures.
- Young people need advice in setting up their own business as well as a clear legal status to be able to achieve their studies and work as an entrepreneur simultaneously
- Non-formal learning is of equal importance in comparison with traditional education and skills leading to a job cannot be acquired by theoretical learning only.
- Promoting and supporting youth entrepreneurship with structural tools is not a short-term and costly initiative.

LYMEC Calls on:

- European Commission, to officially recognise the "student-entrepreneur" status and inscribe this system in its Youth and Job Strategies.
- The European Union, to use all available instruments to support the creation of the "student entrepreneur" in respecting its legal obligations.

- All European states to create better legal frameworks so as to encourage young people to set up their own businesses and startups by setting positive incentives (i.e. less taxes, less bureaucracy, more available information, etc.).

LYMEC Asks:

The European Commission to actively suggest to all European countries which do not yet have such a system in place, to adopt the following system with the following conditions:

- High school and university students should be able to combine a student status with a professional activity as an entrepreneur;
- Each country will have the right to define their own age limit, in accordance with their own education system.
- Every European country should grant this status to students coming from all backgrounds and specialties, with the right mentorship.
- Students who apply for this status should automatically receive an EU VAT number to facilitate their business dealings with customers in other EU Member States.
- The following infrastructure should be set up in at least one high school and/or university of each country, depending on the overall student population and proportion of young entrepreneurs: young entrepreneurship incubator, with business angels and advisors, so that candidates to young entrepreneurship can receive the best advice possible in terms of business plan and contacts.
- That exhibitions of and competitions for companies built by youth-entrepreneurs be held at the local, national and European level, where possible.

LYMEC Suggests:

This system would be supported by the following incentives:

- The student will keep the right to earn a certain amount (dependent on each country) without any taxation (1st threshold) or with a reduced taxation (2nd threshold). Only beyond a certain threshold to be determined by each country will the student entrepreneur be taxed as a regular self-employed person.
- The student should have the opportunity to gain an assigned number of ECTS for setting up and running a student-business, especially in those education programs where it is relevant to the course content.

- In any case, the limit of turnover and benefits should be adapted so that a student entrepreneur does not have fewer rights than a student doing a summer job.
- The student will keep the same social rights as a regular student.
- The student's parents will keep the same rights as they would for a regular student.

5.05 Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families

(Former 5.11 prior to Bucharest 2022)

Submitters: : Venstres Ungdom (VU), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Liberala ungdomsförbundet (LUF) and Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), and Radikal Ungdom (RU), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, on 24 October 2021

- Today the freedom of surrogate mothers and families is under pressure in many European countries. It creates insecurities and lowered quality of life for the surrogates and the intended families. As a liberal organisation preserving and ensuring freedom amongst all people, we cannot ignore this lack of freedom and the arbitrary legal status of all implicated parties of surrogacy. It is unacceptable to neglect the inherent human need of giving life through one's own DNA, and in that matter also to ignore the lawlessness of the surrogate mothers. We need to secure the freedom for all family-kinds to found a family, and in addition to ensure the security of the surrogate mother.

Considering that:

- Surrogate motherhood and altruistic surrogate motherhood are highly complex ethical dilemmas with no easy solutions.
- Today, the legal status of surrogate maternity is chaotic.
- By creating a clear legal framework in the EU, we can stop the exploitation of poor women in e.g. Russia and India which exist today.
- Having a biologically related child is not a human right. However, this should not undermine the parental rights of individuals who have to go through surrogacy in order to have a child biologically related to them or their life partner, e.g. couples where one of both partners are infertile or men in same-sex relationships. By legalising surrogacy, we can remove the legal limbo in which these individuals and their child (ren) are situated regarding

their parental rights and reduce malicious practices. The fertility, possibility to carry a child or the sexual orientation of a person should not be a deterrent for someone to become a parent.

- The legalisation of surrogacy will help with the acceptance and destigmatisation of rainbow families (same-sex couples who have children). Same-sex couples are still often questioned about the validity of their legality of their parenthood and are easy preys for malicious people."
- In several member states, mothers who have made use of a surrogate are not recognised as mothers, whether or not they share a biological bond with their child. This issue is even more prevalent with co-fathers, where the parental rights of the non-biological father are often never recognised. This disparity leaves these individuals with no legal say on their child(ren)'s live(s), often leaving these rights with the surrogate."

Believing that:

- As liberals, we are fighting to uphold liberties for all individuals.
- Women's right to bear a child should not be governed by the government but only by themselves.
- Families and surrogate mothers deserve a clear legal position.

Calls for:

- LYMEC to call on the Commission to provide legal protection at EU level for individuals who are already or will be born to a surrogate mother in the future. 2.
- LYMEC to call on the Commission to verify that existing legislation on surrogate motherhood - in those Member States where this is not allowed - does not contravene the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights article 7.
- LYMEC to support a movement towards non-criminalisation of surrogate motherhood agreements and for such agreements to have legally binding effects to safeguard the rights of the parties involved, guaranteeing the free will of the pregnant person as well as the necessary economic aid to have a safe pregnancy process. This practice should be coupled with the necessary guarantees in terms of health coverage of the pregnant person and the juridical and economic security of both parts.
- LYMEC condemns the discrimination that surrogate mothers and families still suffer across the European Union, sometimes even being criminalised by members of governments and thus rendering them

unprotected and vulnerable to harassment, degrading treatment and other types of aggression.

- Finally, LYMEC urges not to criminalize families in good faith for the desire to have a child

5.06 Generationally fair and sustainable European pension policy

Movers: Jungfreisinnige

Co-Signers: Ógra Fianna Fáil, JOVD, JuLis

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Noting that:

- People in Europe are getting older and older, life expectancy is increasing and the time we live in retirement is also increasing.
- People are living longer and longer which means that the time in retirement is increasing, while the duration of employment remains unchanged.
- This change has a direct impact on the financing of our social services.
- Almost all national state pension funds in Europe operate on the 'Pay-as-you-go' (PAYG) model, whereby current pension benefits are paid from the contributions received by current taxpayers. This model was implemented at a time when the dependency ratio was far lower, and does not effectively future-proof against demographic changes. The ageing of Europe means many of these funds now risk becoming insolvent in the near-future.
- Many state pension funds in Europe exclusively hold cash and cash-equivalents, which represents a missed opportunity to benefit from the compounding of investment returns. Even a low-risk portfolio of investments suitable for a pension scheme can still deliver returns significantly above inflation in the long-run.
- In 1998, Canada restructured its state pension scheme (the Canada Pension Plan), moving away from the PAYG model towards the "steady-state" model, whereby the value of the fund is frequently assessed by actuaries in order to

ensure that there is no risk to solvency in the long-term. Although the Canadian model resulted in an increase in contributions rates in 1998, the contribution rate has been stable since then and will not require any significant increase in the foreseeable future to fund benefits already accrued. The Canada Pension Plan is the only major contributory state pension scheme in the developed world to be long-term solvent.

Believing that:

- States have a duty to enact sustainable and generationally equitable regulations and to organise and finance their social systems in such a way that structural problems do not lead to a mountain of debt being built up and passed on for those generations who follow.
- Politicians have a responsibility to find intergenerational solutions that are not one-sidedly at the expense of the young.
- The significant increase in life expectancy and quality of life makes it possible to work longer than 50 years ago. Also, the significantly improved working conditions and individual industry solutions for early retirement in physically demanding work ensure that we increase the retirement age.
- Financing our social security systems through the pay-as-you-go model, without any attempt to calculate the true cost of pension benefits through actuarial methods, leads to passing on debt to future generations, and establishes negative incentives, and is therefore an unsuitable way to finance our old-age provision in a sustainable manner.
- Permitting state pension funds to invest their assets in a portfolio of non-liquid assets, subject to appropriate liquidity levels and risk appetite, would be beneficial to all parties concerned, as it would not only increase investment, but also reduce the contributions that employees, employers and the government must pay into the scheme.

LYMEC calls for:

- The sustainable restructuring of the pension funds and remediation of structural problems due to demographic developments.

- The preservation of intergenerational justice in the adjustment of pension structures in order to ensure sustainable old-age provision for today's young and working people, without creating negative incentives.
- The restructuring of the pension schemes with generation-appropriate solutions such as the adjustment or flexibilisation of the retirement age as well as the linking to life expectancy.

5.07 European Menstruation Equity

Movers: FEL

Co-Signers: Momentum TizenX, IMS Delegate (Tim Robinson), LLY, UP, LHG, JMR, ZeMolodizhka, Jung Libérale, JCS, Mladé ANO,JD, NUV, Junge Liberale

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Knowing that menstrual equity is affordability, accessibility, and security of menstrual products and that menstrual security is finding menstrual products and a safe place as needed, whether or not you are in a precarious menstrual situation.
- Noting that associations such as "BruZelle" set up activities in schools and at festivals, such as educational, situational, playful, and creative modules to raise awareness of health and menstrual poverty.
- Considering that the Walloon Minister of Health had launched an operation to fight period poverty part of Women's Day. Distributors were set up and over 40 partner associations distributed almost 200,000 sanitary pads. However, according to the BruZelle association the number of distributors is insufficient but new initiatives are on the way. By the way, on 08/03/23 (one year after the 200,000 pads were distributed), Wallonia granted authorization to distribute almost 1.5 million menstrual pads free of charge.
- Acknowledging that a factory belonging to the Procter & Gamble Company as already partnered with BruZelle and donated several batches of menstrual products to the association.

- Knowing that France allocates a budget of 5 million euros to support the fight against period poverty.
- The Scottish Government allowed, on 24/11/2020, anyone who needs tampons or menstrual products anywhere in Scotland to obtain them free of charge. Schools, colleges, universities and libraries, will have to provide a range of menstrual pads in their toilets for free.

Believing that:

- The importance of menstrual equity and hygiene are fundamental rights of gender equity and menstruating people well-being.
- By addressing menstrual poverty we contribute to the empowerment and dignity of menstruating people.
- Access to menstrual products in public and private spaces is essential for promoting gender equality and offering peace of mind for menstruating people.
- Partnerships between organizations fighting against period poverty and sector industries are possible to implant in each member state.
- Period poverty is a multifaceted issue that requires a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach.
- Menstrual health is an integral part of gender equity and reproductive health and period poverty is proportionately affects marginalized communities.
- Many individuals across Europe face significant challenges related to menstrual health, including but not limited to access to menstrual products, education, and support.
- Having equal access to menstrual products and education is a basic human right and a prerequisite for achieving gender equality.
- Comprehensive menstrual education is vital to eradicating the stigma surrounding menstruation.

Concludes that:

- Raising awareness about period poverty in Europe and its social and economic impact.

- The increased cooperation between member organizations, governmental bodies, and civil society to develop and implement programs to fight against period poverty is a step toward creating menstrual security that can lead to menstrual equity.
- Recommends the collection of data on period poverty and its impact on marginalized communities via the organizations that are already implemented in European countries to inform evidence-based policies and interventions.
- Ensuring comprehensive menstrual education, by integrating it into school curricula to be able to foster awareness and reduce stigma.
- The urges European governments to allocate resources and implement policies that ensure accessible menstrual products, education, and support services, by providing specifications towards organizations that are already implemented in the different European countries and take into consideration their expertise for any changes in the law.

LYMEC calls upon:

- European governments to provide structural funding and support for initiatives aimed at addressing period poverty, including research, awareness campaigns, and sustainable solutions.
- Set up a faster, simpler procedure for accessing European subsidies.
- Associations fighting against this period poverty should be one of the Members State's priorities.
- The creation of strict European specifications defining the competencies of the organizations and the deadlines involved. Each member state will be able to adapt these specifications to suit its situation.
- The institutionalization of a board to ensure the sustainability of each Member State's organization and compliance with the specifications. This council should be made up of organization presidents as well as people from outside the organization, which will enable us to understand this precarious situation that knows no borders.
- Partial tax exemption for companies producing menstrual health products when partnering with organizations fighting menstrual poverty.
- Guarantee free access to menstrual products for menstruating people in precarious situations, accessibility and safety of menstrual products.

- Ensure education on menstrual health and breaking stigma, as well as inclusive and welcoming sanitary facilities.
- Installation of free sanitary product dispensers in public places accessible to menstruating people ("restrooms") to guarantee menstrual insecurity.

Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources

6.01 Reforming the EU Emission Trading System (ETS)

Tax, Energy Security, Future of Europe

Whereas:

- In 2013 the EU-ETS (Emission Trading System) entered the third stage, where 40% of all allowances will be up for auction.
- The 16th of April, The European Parliament voted against a proposal from the European Commission on raising the price of the ETS allowances up for auction.

Building on

- The resolution 1.6.2 "Resolution on Basic Principles and Goals for an EC Environmental Policy" adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Paris, France, January 1992.
- The resolution 1.6.3 "Resolution on Sustainable Development" adopted at the LYMEC seminar in Goteborg, Sweden, June 2001.
- The resolution 1.6.5 "Reducing the Use of Fossil Fuel" adopted at the annual Congress of LYMEC in Amsterdam, The Netherlands April 2005.

Considering that:

- The ETS is a market-based method and is an alternative to a European carbon tax.
- Today the market has too many allowances on auction in relation to the principle of supply and demands, as also stressed by the EC.
- In 2011 the IMF found that the allowances on the European Market would raise revenue of 89.3 billion €.
- The ETS system could include more areas such as shipping, methane and nitrous oxide.
- Today the revenue goes to the national member states and not the European Union.

Believing that:

- The ETS is a great way to achieve the goals set in the Paris climate agreement
- The voting on the proposal from the EC by the European Parliament where the result was to send it back to the ENVI Committee shows a willingness Among the EP to work towards a compromise on a change of the ETS.

Urges

- The European Parliament to change the system to a market with fewer allowances.

LYMEC gathered at the Congress in Tallinn, Estonia calls upon

- The LYMEC Bureau and LYMEC MOs to express their mortification upon the result of the last voting on the EC proposal among the ALDE.
- The LYMEC Bureau and LYMEC MOs to raise awareness among the ALDE to work towards a new ambitious compromise with initiatives, such as fewer allowances, making the ETS contain allowances on more areas

6.02 Reducing the Use of Fossil Fuels

Renewable Energies, Nuclear

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

Following COP26, nearly 200 countries pledged to speed up the ending of fossil fuel subsidies. Nevertheless, these pledges will still see the world heat up 2.4°C degrees by the end of the century. Therefore, unless dramatic policy decisions are made and implemented, the already record demand for fossil fuel sources will continue to rise. LYMEC believes that a conscious decision of the world community to implement a drastic reduction of polluting fossil fuel technologies and replace them with clean, non-emitting technologies, is essential. This should be combined with other policy decisions such as reassessing the role of fossil fuel subsidies and incentivising changes in energy use habits for both the public and private sector.

Background

Natural gas, petroleum and coal are all examples of fossil fuels. Present analysis shows that petroleum will continue to become a more difficult and expensive source of energy supply. Natural gas and coal will be more scarce as the 21st century continues its course due to increased utilisation as well as continuing instability in the global fossil fuels market. As fossil fuel sources are not renewable, alternatives must be found. Although we recognise the possibility of a more efficient use of available fossil fuel sources, this will only allow us to delay the inevitable and drastic measures that must be taken.

Health example

In October 2004 satellite pictures revealed that the concentration of nitrogen oxide in the air is alarmingly high in large parts of Europe. A study by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air discovered that reliance on fossil fuels in the EU and the UK cost 8.7 billion EUR in health costs for 2019 alone. Sources of this gas are: energy plants, (heavy) industry, transport and the use of biomass. Direct consequences of this pollution for inhabitants include lung damage and respiratory damage. It is to be expected that not only people but the entire environment are influenced. Reducing the use of fossil fuel sources would allow us to tackle these threats to social health.

Environmental impact

When fossil fuels are combusted, a large number of materials like sulphur-oxide, carbon-dioxide and nitrogen-oxide are discharged. The discharge of a large quantity of these polluting compounds have consequences for the global environment. Excessive carbon-dioxide has possible unnatural influences on climate change. The scope of environmental degradation goes further as the extraction of fossil fuels similarly damages the environment. Examples of this range from Deepwater Horizon 2010 or the more recent Sanchi oil tanker collision in 2018. The extent of the impact of extraction and use of fossil fuels has been a source of endless discussion but there is overwhelming consensus in the scientific community that fossil fuels negatively influence both the local environment and the world's climate. Depending on which research sources you refer to, you can find support for the opinion that human influence is minimal or significant. Regardless of the above, Therefore, LYMEC believes that industry should limit the emittance of pollutants and carbon-dioxide.

Economic

The demand of new energy supplies will increase substantially owing to the:

- Continued development of China and Southeast Asia
- Rapid development of the African continent, India, and other developing countries.
- Continued rising demand for energy sources internationally.
- Supply of oil is reaching its limit.

Thus, the price of fossil fuels will continue to rise, which will have its economic consequences. The price of raw materials has increased by 10% (compared to 2020) due to stronger demand and energy prices. This is only set to be worse in It is to be expected that the price of raw materials will rise strongly, especially those materials that are manufactured in energy intensive processes (such as steel). The great economic dependence on fossil energy sources can have enormous negative consequences for the European economy as witnessed with the current energy crisis following Russia's heinous invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent gas disruptions to Poland and Bulgaria.

A critical way to increase the competitiveness of the European economy isto increase the efficiency of the use of fossil fuels, and to stimulate the inevitable transition to renewable energy sources. LYMEC welcomes the increased focus on the transition away from fossil fuels in the REPowerEU plan. However, it cautions against replacing LNG supplies from Russia with alternatives from other countries. It should

focus on reducing the usage of fossil fuels, specifically coal, and ramping up renewables through initiatives such as the EU Solar Strategy, hydrogen projects and the Biomethane Plan. While this transition should have taken place a while ago, LYMEC hopes that this impetus will ensure Europe has a renewable future.

Transition to other energy sources is inevitable. Nowadays transition also seems to be the key word regarding the hot topic for fossil fuels. First we have to gradually reduce the usage of fossil fuels beginning with coal which is the oldest source for electricity production. We cannot immediately eradicate fossil fuels and move to renewable sources. Unfortunately, the process of transition was not efficiently planned and today we do not have good results.

Next steps in the transition away from fossil fuels

Short term

In the short term, it is not possible to change the entire demand and supply structure of energy sources. However, the use of fossil fuels can be reduced. Current technology allows gasoline to contain 5% ethanol without any problems. With some adaptations, it may even be possible to let cars work on 100% ethanol. Research on renewable energy sources is taking place, but investments have to increase. The focus of this research has to be on a wide range of technologies and a combination of energy sources. Moreover, policy initiatives have to take shape that will encourage industry to shift to renewable energy sources. Policies such as Fit for 55 take a step in the right direction but goals need to be more ambitious to reach the 2015 Paris agreement goals of keeping temperature differences to 2 degrees. Thus, governments should substantially increase their efforts to create more awareness among their citizens concerning energy issues in general, and sustainable technologies in particular.

Medium term

In the medium term, power plants that use fossil fuels should be replaced by other cleaner sources. This does not mean an early decommissioning of existing power plants. The mix of different ways of producing energy, like clean fossil fuels and nuclear power, will change. Sources of energy that decrease the emissions of greenhouse-gases and carbon-dioxide should provide a larger portion of the energy supply. Using this mix of technologies and producing hydrogen would also ensure that the hydrogen economy is viable. The use of fossil fuels for transport can then be drastically reduced. The medium term the investments made under the Recovery

Resilience Facility (RRF) should also start to show dividends in moving the EU towards a sustainable economy.

Long term

In the long term the mix of technologies should be replaced by renewable energy sources. The investments in such alternative technologies must advance sufficiently to guarantee limited emissions and to provide sufficient power in the near future. The EU has taken welcome steps to ensure this by enshrining its goals in law through the Climate law and the EU Green Deal. However, all must be done to bring timelines forward as 2050 might be too late.

Role of government

The role of governments is to support countries worldwide participation in finding solutions for sustainable energy sources. This can be both through sharing technology as well as material resources to ensure less developed countries (who might require major energy investments) do not develop unsustainable energy mixtures. The government should not subsidise large scale implementation of a certain technology. In the process towards sustainable technology the government is allowed to subsidise sustainable research by taxing polluting energy sources but only if there is an actual choice between polluting and non-polluting sources. Since transitions in energy supply will take longer than a single term of government, this decision should be based on a broad-based agreement within a country. The government needs to be a trustworthy partner in the search for new energy sources, especially for the long term.

LYMEC Calls for:

1. Choices of sustainable technology solutions shall be a competence of the states of the European Union.
2. Implementation of existing sustainable technologies and increasing energy efficiency cannot wait.
3. Governments should invest in research that focuses on efficient and cost-effective alternatives to either polluting or scarce energy sources.
4. The primacy of the implementation of new technologies for the winning and distribution of energy lies with trade and industry.
5. EU countries will work together to create an integrated electric grid to ensure distribution of excess renewable energy across the European power grid.
6. All nations should do their utmost to push forward deadlines relating to fossil fuel reduction.

6.03 The future is Nuclear

This resolution merges former 6.03 Increase security of Nuclear Power in Europe and former 6.08 The future is Nuclear.

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

Considering that:

- According to the United Nations climate panel, the world's average temperature has increased by 2-4 degrees (Celsius) in the last 100 years and energy demands will continue to grow along with the world's population.
- Counter to its reputation, nuclear energy is one of the most effective, clean and safe ways to produce big amounts of energy.
- Newer reactors all over Europe are running on nuclear waste from other reactors instead of new raw materials, and we are able to store the rest of the waste in depots.
- There is a highly unlikely but nonetheless potentially catastrophic risk in the operation of nuclear energy installations as witnessed with the Fukushima disaster 2011 and the current Russian threat to the installations in east Ukraine.
- Nuclear energy continues to be a controversial topic in public opinion.

Believing that:

- The EU is building upon its justified desire to lead the global transition towards more sustainable sources of energy such as through REPower EU.
- During this period of transition, nuclear energy remains an essential provider of CO2 free energy for Europe.
- Nuclear power is historically as safe as other renewables. Between 1990-2014, nuclear power caused 0.03 deaths per TWh of electricity which is less than wind at 0.04 deaths per TWh.
- Alternative safer and more environmentally conscious nuclear technology will be available in the near future such as fusion reactors and thorium reactors.
- The safety of nuclear power plants remains of utmost importance.
- We, as liberals, have to be frontrunners on openness to facts and science.

LYMEC calls on:

- The removal of legislation that restricts scientific investigation in nuclear energy unnecessarily. Any legislative issue regarding this should be solved before 2030.

- More international collaboration in nuclear science (such as ITER), so we together, in the most effective, clean and safe way, can produce enough energy to meet the needs of the growing population.
- The EU to continue to take steps to accept nuclear power as well as making it the safest energy source taking into account threats from natural disasters, terrorism and procedural mishaps.
- The EU to continue broader energy policy to interconnect the European electricity grid and the transition to renewable energy.
- The need to build a platform for liberal organisations to share facts on energy solutions.
- "EU member states to constantly increase the 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 that the safety of the European people is ensured against calamities comparable to the one being witnessed in Japan in 2011
- 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."

6.04 Resolution on the Protection of Arctic Area

Natural Resources, Arctic

The interest and activity in the Arctic area are rapidly increasing, both within the EU and on a global level. Minerals, forests, fish and tourism opportunities constitute significant renewable and non-renewable resources of high economic interest. Moreover, it is estimated that about a fifth of the remaining undiscovered hydrocarbon resources are located in the Arctic.

The EU is already a main consumer of Arctic natural resources. The EU includes three Arctic States: Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The large Arctic areas of Finland and Sweden are also inhabited by the Samis, the only indigenous population group of the EU. Iceland's application to join the EU will make the Arctic area even more significant within the EU, along with the existing EEA Agreement between EU and Norway.

At the same time, Norway has already experience in offshore oil exploration at Snøhvitfeltet; Greenland has approved drilling in the Disko Bay and the U.S. has allowed offshore oil exploration in Alaska. Russia is planning to open an oil rig located in the Arctic seas shortly, about 60 km off-coast – however, the security arrangements surrounding this are yet unclear. Canada has been drilling along the coast of the Arctic, and while not yet approved offshore drilling, it has been stressed that any emissions caused by such procedure need to be controlled within reasonable time. Furthermore, several non-Arctic states are showing increasing interest in the area, for example by South Korea, China, Italy, Japan and Singapore applying alongside the EU for status as permanent observers at the Arctic Council.

Considering that:

- The Arctic is an extremely challenging environment because of its climate, ice, distance to urban areas as well as the recurring lack of daylight.
- possible accidents in the area would affect multiple parties, the Arctic question is hardly limited by national borders and calls for a broad-minded approach.
- The Arctic not only is a preserve, but also provides the homes and livelihood for four million people, of which ten percent identify as part of some indigenous people. The inhabitants need to be included in the decision-making process regarding the Arctic, emphasising mutual understanding and dialogue. Preserving the possibility for the indigenous peoples to pursue their traditional livelihoods and way of life must be taken into account in accordance with the internationally recognized rights of indigenous peoples.

Believing that:

- minimum standards for ships and oil rigs should be established in order to avoid accidents. Safer technologies and processes also need to be developed, as well as significant improvements in terms of capacity and infrastructure in the case of an accident.
- However big the economic significance of the area, and the interests of several parties involved, the activity in the Arctic cannot be based solely on economic visions. Environmental issues need to be taken into account and prioritized over the interests of the oil industry or possible economic benefits from the Arctic.
- The role of the Arctic Council should not be overlooked and disregarded in favour of national interests, yet underlining the importance of the EU as an actor in the Arctic question. Co-Operation between the EU and Russia should

be more effective in the Arctic issues.

The LYMEC Congress calls for:

- a comprehensive risk analysis and Environmental Impact Assessment to be conducted as a prerequisite to any extraction of oil, gas or minerals in the Arctic areas. This should include a strategic and social impact assessment, and a thorough examination of particularly sensitive areas.
- a safe guard for the protection of the rights of the indigenous peoples when exploiting natural resources of the Arctic, *inter alia* by implementing the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the United Nations, along with the guidelines set up by OECD.
- the Arctic cooperation to be intensified, in terms of capacity-building, developing new technology and managing emissions, as well as setting up requirements for using the safest technology available and the development towards legally binding agreements on clearing up oil emissions.
- measures to be most appropriately taken through closer cooperation between the member parties of the Arctic Council, due to the multilateral character of the Arctic question as well as the number of interests at stake.
- efforts to further develop and strengthen the common EU Arctic policy, in order to facilitate the cooperation and decision-making progress in the Arctic Council. The EU could play a prominent role in promoting research and initiatives; constructive dialogue and cooperation between the Arctic States; the respect for and development of international law norms and agreements applicable on the Arctic area and in highlighting human rights as well as environmental protection and sustainable development.

6.05 EmPOWERing Europe – The Single European Energy Market of the future

Tags: Energy, Climate, Single Market, Environment

LYMEC Congress, Berlin, Germany 23-25 October 2014

Noting that:

- The single market has not been fully realised in the energy sector so far. The national markets are mostly sealed. Only some countries have implemented some bilateral regional sub-markets. But it is the Single European Energy Market that will strengthen the EU's global competitiveness

Considering that:

- The Single European Energy Market will raise the level of competition between producers and increase the supply security. The dependence on non EU-imports will drop and consumers and companies will benefit from stable prices over the long term.
- To prevent that only national interest will be pursued, the conditions in the member states need to be harmonised by an European legal framework. Two third of the member states regulate their prices and their industries receive granted subsidies. A regulation for the EU as a whole will establish fair conditions. Therefore the different subsidies for sufficiently mature renewable energy technologies need to be cut down step by step.

That is why LYMEC calls for:

The complementation of the Single European Energy Market by laying focus on these important points: grid expansion, renewable energy and climate protection as well as the supply security.

Renewable energy and climate protection

- The support of renewable energies shall be regulated by a European wide quota system. The quota system will define the share of renewable energies in the European energy mix
- In the long term the European energy supply shall consist of 100% renewable energies. Regional particularities need to be considered.
- A mandatory scheme aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020 needs to be created as a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. In this way, limiting global warming to 2 ° C by 2050 must be achieved. To achieve this goal, it is imperative to get more states involved in the certificate trading system.
- The emissions trading system, by allocating 40% emission rights based on existing CO2 output, favours existing companies and puts - new - smaller renewable energy initiatives at a disadvantage. Therefore the current system needs to be reviewed. The goal being the actual reduction of CO2 emissions while stimulating renewable innovations at the same time - without the quantity of certificates rising accordingly. This could be achieved by lowering the cap and withdrawing rights from the market, pooling them and making them available for new players through auction. Future distribution of emission

rights should be by auctioning, ending allocation all together. And finally exemptions for energy intensive industries must be eliminated

Grid expansion

- With a high priority the electricity and gas grids should be developed as smart grids to efficiently meet the physical conditions for the single market.
- The EU's support via the European Investment Bank for cross-border grid expansion needs to be increased
- In the short term the process of implementing conversion technologies needs to be accelerated. In the long term technical issues can be avoided by switching to a common European wide system

Security of supply

- Grid expansion and the development of new storage technologies are essential to provide cost-efficiency and supply security
- The single market will increase the level of supply security and will provide regional bottlenecks
- In the long term the EU need to support the development of new technologies considering the criteria of supply and the protection of the environment

6.06 Precautionary principle on shale gas extraction

Shale gas – hydraulic fracturing – energy dependence – lack of a common European position – environmental and sanitary impact of shale gas extraction

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vienna, Austria on 29-30 April 2016

Noting that:

- The EU is the largest energy market in the world.
- The EU suffers from great energy dependence, importing 57% of its gas and 82% of its oil.

- Energy suppliers of Europe such as Russia, several Caucasus countries or other members of the OPEC might be subject to unstable regime, frequently violate human rights and might use the EU energy dependence to establish a position of strength on a geopolitical level.
- The Cambridge Energy Research Associated estimated the shale gas reserves in Europe between 3.000 and 12.000 billions of m³ even if those estimations are imprecise.
- Many experts have been recently warning politics against the speculation bubble that shale gas extraction has created in the United States, showing that shale gas acreages are less reliable and profitable than planned.
- The only efficient method developed so far to extract shale gas is hydraulic fracturing.
- Hydraulic fracturing method consists in injecting around 15 000 m³ of water with sand and various chemical additives in the ground, what may represent important ecological and sanitary consequences including waste of water, pollution of groundwater tables, impacts on local population.
- European countries are divided on the question of the exploitation of shale gas and more specifically on the position to adopt as regards the potential ecological and sanitary danger of the extraction method of this gas.
- Several European countries are considering exploiting shale gas, have begun doing so or are setting up the adequate infrastructure to exploit shale gas (United Kingdom, Poland, Denmark).
- Several European countries have either banned the exploitation of shale gas (France, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria) or adopted a precautionary principle not to resort to hydraulic fracturing and, accordingly, to the exploitation of shale gas (Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria).
- In January 2014, the European Commission allowed the exploitation of shale gas and restrained itself to encouraging the exploiting countries to be careful and to respect some 'minimal common principles' despite the opposition of liberal Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potocnik and a majority of MEP.

Considering that:

- Each European country is legitimate to choose its own energy mix as a principle of subsidiarity.
- The EU is a territory two and half times smaller than the United States where environmental decisions taken in one Member State can have an impact on another one.
- Energetic security and independence should be obtained in the future through the development of renewable energy, to a lesser extent, through 'traditional' energy (carbon-based fuels), and, when necessary, through an appropriate cooperation between European countries, for example in the field of technological researches, but it should not be a priority to the detriment of ecological aspects.
- The real solution to energetic independence lies in a European policy that respects the natural environment and the health of European citizens.

Calls upon:

- Ban on shale gas extraction in each Member State until a clean alternative to hydraulic fracturing is developed, even if we need affordable energy with lower carbon emission. This ban does not concern the purchasing of gas issued from shale gas from other countries than EU countries (i.e. from the USA) as long as it does not go against international treaties targets that fight against climate change.
- Appropriate researches to be conducted in true transparency on the ecological and sanitary consequences of extraction of shale gas through hydraulic fracturing, and the potential alternatives to this mode of extraction, before any actual extraction can happen.
- Further negotiations at the European level to establish as soon as possible a true Energy Union that might ensure more energy independence to the EU while providing secure, affordable and sustainable energy to all Europeans.
- Better promoting and financing energy efficiency considering that it represents a real alternative in terms of saving energy and money.
- Continuing European efforts to reduce greenhouse gases emissions and to include a bigger part for renewables in our energy mixes.

6.07 Resolution on LULUCF sector regulation

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Noting that:

- The target of the Paris Agreement is ambitious: to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees.
- The EU has agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to the 1990s' level.
- The role of forests in part of climate strategy is well recognized in the Paris Agreement. LULUCF and forests are the only sector having its own article in the Paris Agreement.

Considering that:

- To achieve the long-term goal, emissions and removals need to be in balance in the second half of this century.
- Transport represents almost a quarter of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions and road transport is by far the biggest emitter in the transport sector. Advanced clean fuels are one important part of long-term renewable energy solution for transportation.
- In countries like Finland, wood-based fuels come from side-products of the forest industry. In general, forests in Finland are not grown and cut for bioenergy, but instead logging waste and harvest residues are utilized. In the Nordic countries, sustainability in forestry is ensured with legislation, voluntary measures, incentives, monitoring and forest certification that is market based-instrument.

Believing that:

- While reducing emissions, we need to continue the work to maintain and enhance forest carbon sinks and stocks of forest and wood products. While reducing emissions, we need to continue the work to maintain and enhance forest carbon sinks and stocks of forest and wood products. At the same time,

to reduce emissions from fossil energy, we need to increase the use of renewable energy.

- If a country generates significant climate benefit through their land use sector and in particular in forest, it should not be penalized. The Commission proposal on LULUCF does not have sufficient incentives and it will not lead to stimulate maximum long term action in the forest sector.

LYMEC calls for:

- The Commission to base the assessment of sinks of greenhouse gases within the LULUCF sector on current data and not on the levels of 2009.
- The main emphasis in LULUCF to be on reducing emissions with some limited flexibility for the agricultural sector in order for it to be able to meet emissions targets.
- The assessments of the land use sector to better reflect the real impact on the climate.

6.08 Resolution for a common container deposit scheme in the European Union

(Former 6.09 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

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

Notes that:

- A deposit scheme will increase the number of beverage containers being recycled each year.
- large amounts of aluminium cans and plastic bottles are disappearing from national deposit schemes as they are purchased in a different country than the intended country for consumption;
- beverage cans and bottles imported have a much lower recycling rate and generally becomes residual waste instead;
- the energy needed for manufacturing a new aluminium can is 20 times higher than using aluminium from a recycled can;
- the environment, industry and trade would benefit from a common beverage container deposit scheme in the European Union;

- all the European Union increasing the level of recycling of beverage cans, and with more cross border trade the need for a common deposit scheme will only grow.

Considers that:

- Movement between the European Union is at record high and therefore the need for a common container deposit scheme is increasing.
- In order to work for a less polluted world, new and innovative solutions that cross borders are very much needed.
- A common deposit scheme will make the production and labelling of beverage containers used throughout the European Union easier.
- The amount of aluminium and plastics being recycled will increase when the containers are included in a deposit scheme.

Calls on:

- LYMEC member parties to actively work to unite the different deposit schemes in the European countries into one common scheme and to spread this scheme to countries that currently lack one.
- Prohibiting exports to countries with more unregulated waste disposal systems.

6.09 Stop Nord Stream 2

(Former 6.10 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Movers: RU

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 13 October 2018

Considering that:

- The relationship between Europe and Russia is marked by historically remarkable tensions which have reached a historic peak in 2022;
- The Danish government has asked for a common standing statement from the EU;
- Russia historically and currently has used its natural gas to increase political pressure on other countries;
- The tariffs gained by Ukraine by the current pipeline make up 3 pct. of Ukraine's GDP;

- There is enough capacity in the current European gas network for the current demand;
- Natural gas as a fossil fuel needs to be phased out during the next decades;
- Germany has suspended certification of Nord Stream 2 as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The EU has mentioned energy supplies from middle east countries in the REPowerEU plan for 2022.

Concerned that:

- Russia has shown blatant disregard for the energy needs of Ukraine and other Russian energy dependent nations.
- The war in Ukraine highlights the volatile nature of energy dependence through the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.
- If certification continues, Russia will use the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to put economic and political pressure on Ukraine and the rest of Europe;
- This will give Russia more power in Europe by increasing the reliance of Russian gas; and
- Russia can cut off Ukraine's gas supply deliberately.

LYMEC calls for:

- The demounting of all the pipelines of Nord Stream 2.
- Member states to find alternative access to various sources of energy, e.g. the building of LNG-terminals in Northern Europe.

6.10 Resolution on the future of our environment: climate change, pollution and looking forward to sustainability.

(Former 6.11 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

LYMEC – Bureau

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Archiving Resolutions 6.02, 6.03, 6.05, 6.09

Noting with grave concern the alarming trends of climate change and environmental deterioration in the last couple of decades;

Regretting that despite the international discussions and commitments taken, the Rio Summit, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, efforts in achieving sustainability and halting the impact of climate change continue to constitute mainly paper promises; The protection of our basis of living can only be achieved by joint efforts of the world and fullest efforts by every single: nation, region, municipality, company, and individual.

Acknowledging:

- that according to the European Environment Agency, EU greenhouse gas emissions increased by 0.6% in 2017, following a 0.4.% decrease in 2016^[1], and by estimates of the Agency a 32 % reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions could be achieved by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. These projected reductions fall short of the 40 % target for 2030.
- that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels and Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.
- that maritime transport alone emits around 1000 million tonnes of CO₂ annually and is responsible for about 2.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, shipping emissions are predicted to increase between 50% and 250% by 2050, depending on future economic and energy developments and direct emissions from aviation account for about 3% of the EU's total greenhouse gas emissions and more than 2% of global emissions. By 2020, the global international aviation emissions are projected to be around 70% higher than in 2005 and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) forecasts that by 2050 they could grow by a further 300-700%.
- that according to analyses by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (UN FAO) , the total contribution of GHG from all agricultural activities on the planet is between 14% to 18%.
- that Global warming is a phenomenon witnessed in most land and ocean regions, causing hot extremes in most inhabited regions, heavy precipitation in several regions and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions. That this poses the rising concern of access to water and food security and climate migration.
- that a publication of the World economic forum reaches the conclusion that policy delays in climate action leads to higher ultimate CO₂ concentrations and produces persistent economic damages. A “delay that results in warming of 3° Celsius above pre industrial levels, instead of 2°, could increase

economic damages by approximately 0.9% of global output. To put this percentage in perspective, 0.9% of estimated 2014 US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is approximately \$150 billion". These costs would not be incurred as one-time losses but are rather year after year because of the permanent damage caused by increased climate change resulting from the delay in climate action. That the matter of the economic impact of climate change lack of action was already the subject matter of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change published in 2006, which estimated that the costs and risks of climate change inaction will be equivalent to losing from 5% to 20% or more of the global GDP each year, at the same time the estimate for the annual cost of achieving stabilization of the levels of CO2 emissions is amounting to around 2% of global GDP per year.

- that as a consequence of Global warming, the oceans have absorbed much of the increased heat, with the top 700 metres of ocean showing warming of more than 17.5 Celsius since 1969. The increasing ocean temperatures affect marine species and ecosystems, causing coral bleaching and the loss of breeding grounds for fish and marine mammals. This also causes more extreme weather events and the loss of coastal protection.
- that the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass. Data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment show Greenland lost an average of 286 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016, while Antarctica lost about 127 billion tons of ice per year during the same time period. The rate of Antarctica ice mass loss has tripled in the last decade.
- that recent research indicates that global sea level rose about 8 inches (20.32 cm) in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double of that of the last century and is accelerating every year
- that since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This increase is the result of emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and hence more being absorbed into the oceans. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the upper layer of the oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year.
- that recent research findings indicate that Annual global production of plastics has increased more than 200-fold since 1950. By 2015 cumulative plastic production was more than 7.8 billion tonnes. This is equivalent to more than one tonne of plastic for every person alive today. Of the global plastic produced over the period from 1950 to 2015: 55% straight to landfill, 30% was still in use, 8% was incinerated, 6-7% was recycled. Of 5.8 billion tonnes of plastic no longer in use approximately only 9% was recycled, whereas the global plastic waste in 2010 was 275 million tonnes. Whereas this leads to severe impact on ecosystems and wildlife.

- that around 90 % of Europeans living in cities are exposed to pollutants at concentrations higher than the air quality levels deemed harmful, having been estimated to reduce life expectancy in the EU by more than eight months.
- Only market-based solutions will be able to deliver the rapid change required without going against the liberal-democratic base structure of the European society.

Whereas:

- The EU committed itself to play a global leadership role in tackling climate change, but needs now more than ever to step up its commitment and lead by example in order to address its impact, as well as marine pollution and sustainable development.
- free individual choices on a functioning market and international cooperation are fundamental for reaching sustainable development.
- the EU has developed the world's largest company-level scheme for trading in emissions of CO₂, creating business opportunities for EU companies for low-carbon goods and services.
- Youth engagement plays an essential role in climate policy, as it is the youth that will have to face the results of the decisions of today.
- insisting on guaranteeing a stronger environmental protection is a long-standing priority for LYMEC.
- Often technological progress is hindered by hasty over-regulation and pseudo-solutions which cause more harm than they do good
- Currently tax systems contain many incentives which harm the environment
- The public is often misinformed on the consequences of climate change and pollution

LYMEC calls its Member organisations, and the ALDE Party, ALDE Group members of the European Parliament and Liberal Prime ministers to insist on:

- an **urgent global response, to address climate change with more tangible actions**, research and investment to match the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. Europe's leaders should ensure increased international cooperation, diplomatic pressure and staying united on the efforts to tackle climate change, by achieving the targets of the Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially as regards to the world's major industrialised countries.
- **ensuring a smooth transition to the EU's carbon neutral economy by 2050**, as envisaged by the European Commission in its strategic plan "A Clean planet

for all". We insist on a firm commitment and immediate practical steps to reducing the EU's greenhouse emissions by 55% by 2030, compared to the 1990 levels, and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

- making sure that **all transport models contribute to the de-carbonization strategy**. We need a smart organisation of the mobility network, increase in Europe's rail capacity, support for the transition to low and zero-emissions vehicles and the appropriate infrastructure for that. Municipalities, cities, and regions need to promote alternative forms of mobility over individual motorised transport; this means investing in public transportation and extensive bicycle networks.
- working towards **ending the 65 billion USD (57.5 billion Euro) fuel tax exemption for international aviation** and a revision of the Chicago Convention as an essential step towards decarbonization.
- promoting **sustainable agriculture** and targeted investment in alternative farming such as rotations, soil building practices, crop-livestock diversification. Farmers should be encouraged to prevent and control pests with minimal use of chemicals.
- introducing realistic, yet **high environmental standards as an engine for new technology and innovations**. Member states need to **increase the public and private investment for research and development** in support of sustainable development and environment-friendly technologies, renewable energy (wind power, solar energy, hydropower), the use of alternative fuels, hydrogen, nuclear power, waste management and fusion energy. In order to adapt to the new realities and required action, it is an imperative for the European Union to support research centres, Universities and business initiatives developing innovations not only in the field of introducing more green energy sources, but also resource-effective circular economy and new, creative solutions to tackle air, sea and land pollution. It is important in that regard, that funding supporting low-carbon research is efficiently allocated under the NER 300 program, and actions under the Strategic Energy Technology Plan and Horizon 2020.
- providing design appropriate **incentives to promote green public procurement** for the private sector and private **individuals to engage in climate-friendly technologies**;
- **strengthening the European Emission Trading System (ETS)** as an investment driver by expanding it to all carbon-emitting sectors, increasing the pace of annual reductions in allowances to 2.2% as of 2021 and reinforcing the Market Stability Reserve. We need to provide support for the industry and the energy sector to meet the innovation and investment challenges of the low-carbon transition through low-carbon funding mechanisms. In addition we want to

strengthen the Clean Development Mechanism and prospectively, reach a global emission trading system and a halt in high-carbon investment.

- **strive for more ambition in the field of energy efficiency.** While we welcome the recent revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive, as part of the Clean Energy package, we insist on a 40 % binding EU energy efficiency target for 2030, annual savings requirement at least 2% to reach the 40% target, and less exemptions provided, in order to achieve EU's climate goals.
- the **prioritisation of food security and access to water in EU's global agenda** and even considering it as an aspect of the security policy of the Union.
- the food produced in the EU to be sustainable and safe for the environment and the individual. We should also invest in **information campaigns on the environmental impact of food production**, including energy, water waste and long-distance transportation earlier than 2050, as envisaged by the European Commission in its strategic plan "A clean planet for all", as currently is a real and probably attained goal in some EU member states and in line with a clear need to accelerate Economic decarbonisation.
- the EU member states should also prioritise the sustainable use of natural resources, by reducing **food and water wastage**. Innovative solutions, for example applications and campaigns such as "Too Good to Go", "Zu gut für die tonne" etc., which tackle food waste need to be incentivised and supported both on national and EU level.
- a tangible **plan on reducing the use of plastic** wrappings and single-use plastics as and transition to a minimized-plastics economy, while taking into account that market prices have a powerful influence on the behaviour of individuals and businesses. In order to achieve this transition, a joint effort across industry, NGOs, local, national governments, EU institutions, and our Global counterparts will be necessary. The plastics and plastic-wrapping manufacturing businesses, enjoying access to the free single market of the EU, the municipalities, controlling the after-use and disposal of plastics, the waste collection and processing facilities and consumer organisations should all be involved in the development of standards and incentives schemes for plastics use reduction. The EU should further insist in its international communications and trade negotiations for global standards on decreasing the use of plastics, in favour of the development of new sustainable markets for plastics alternatives.
- that as a matter of urgency, the EU member states focus more on **preserving Europe's unique nature and wildlife**, and Commission respond in cases of severe pressures to environmental conservation such as excessive deforestation and industrial-scale logging, large-scale infrastructure in the vicinity of protected areas, and the encroachment of reserves and national

parks by vast tourist facilities. In addition, **more attention** needs to be paid **to the Arctic areas**, as their economic importance will grow in the upcoming years.

- **increased awareness** of sustainable development and climate issues, not just to young people but **across generations**, as the matter is already high in the agenda for the youth;
- finally, we insist that the EU's leaders come up with a consensus and **contingency plan on how to act on the consequences of climate change**, including natural disasters, climate migration and the projections of its impact, as it is not really in the future, it's already happening.

6.11 The Adoption of CO2 Taxes and Tariffs by the EU

(Former 6.12 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Submitted by Radikal Ungdom, Venstre Ungdom, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Jong VLD, Unge Venstre, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Centerstudenter, Young Liberals, JUNOS, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Mladé ANO, Jonge Demokraten

Considering that:

- Climate change is already inflicting costs upon our society as a whole and in the future may risk becoming a threat to the very existence of human life on this planet.
- All EU-member states have committed themselves through the Paris Climate Agreement to *"Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels"*.
- The EU has taken and must take an important role in developing solutions to the problems humanity faces
- Canada has recently introduced an annual "Climate Action Incentive Payment" funded by carbon tax revenues. The payment is revenue-neutral, and has served to dramatically increase the popularity of the carbon tax, and the government estimates that for most households, the payment will exceed the burden of the carbon tax, since higher-income households are responsible for a disproportionate share of emissions.

Believing that:

- The EU must become a global leader when it comes to the research, development, and adaptation of sustainable technologies.
- The release of greenhouse gases constitutes an externality which at the moment is not reflected in the price system that is the foundation of a well-functioning market economy.
- The transition from our current economic system based on emissions to one that is based upon sustainable production and a way of life that does not risk undermining our future must be facilitated through the correction of the market mechanism;
- This correction will facilitate the continued development of the EU's capabilities when it comes to sustainable growth.
- The transition to sustainable growth must be inclusive, progressive and improve the wellbeing of the most vulnerable, whilst preventing the great harms of climate change.
- Depending on carbon taxes to fund day-to-day government expenditure is inherently unsustainable, as the entire intention of the carbon tax is to eliminate its own tax base.
- Lower-to-middle income households - who already have lower carbon footprints than higher income, higher-consumption households - should not be punished with an increase in living costs brought about by carbon taxation. Carbon taxation should modify economic incentives, but without increasing costs across the board.

LYMEC calls for:

- An EU-wide standardisation of a minimum tax administered by the member states on all products based upon the amount of CO₂-emissions created during their production. The size of this tax shall be increased in accordance with a medium- long term schedule in order to enable long term investment decision-making, taking into account the accumulated costs society bears as a result of the expanding amount of gas in the atmosphere, and eventually expand to include all Greenhouse gas emissions by taxing CO₂ equivalents to suppress all forms of carbon.
- The introduction of a tariff to be applied to all products that enter the EU based upon the amount of CO₂(e)-emissions. This tariff shall be calculated the same way as the abovementioned tax in order not to harm European products compared to products produced outside of the EU and international agreements on carbon pricing shall be sought to avoid the imposition of trade barriers.
- Sectors that are already under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) shall not be subject to the CO₂ tax to avoid a double tax. The ETS shall provide the same amount of incentives for the transition to a green and more sustainable

Europe as the CO2 tax, to ensure that all sectors have equal incentives to take part in the transition.

- An EU-wide policy to encourage and invest in the development of new buildings and the retrofitting of old buildings with the lowest carbon footprint possible.
- The CO2 tax to be used as a green tax shift, in order not to further increase the tax burden on European citizens. To avoid a tax lift, member states should compensate with lower taxes.
- Member states to use CO2 tax revenues solely to fund greening activities, and a Canada-style Climate Action Incentive Payment, so that the tax modifies economic incentives, but without negatively impacting household incomes for lower-to-middle income Europeans.

6.12 Making 'Fit For 55' fit for purpose

(Former 6.13 Prior to Riga 2023)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, on 24th October 2021

Movers: Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot, Tim Robinson and Christine Khomyk (IMS Delegates), Young Liberals Greece, LDLU, Ogra Fianna Fail, Venstre Ungdom, CUF (Centerstudenter), JNC, Joves Liberals d'Andorra.

Submitters: Clara Puig de Torres-Solanot, Tim Robinson and Christine Khomyk (IMS Delegates).
Co-written by Pascal Stefan Bührig (IMS).

Considering that:

- LYMEC welcomes the holistic approach to tackling climate changes that is presented by the Commission in the Fit for 55 proposal
- the Fit For 55 package has the potential to increase the share of European CO2 emissions regulated under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) from approx. 40% to an estimated 70%
- Around 20% of European CO2 emissions can be attributed indirectly to imports from outside the EU, which are not adequately covered by EU climate policy.
- Recent reforms of the ETS have proven successful, with a decrease in emissions of 9% in 2019 for the energy sector while reduction efforts in previously uncovered sectors (e.g. transport or sectors benefiting from high allocation of free emission allowances, like aviation and steel production) have continuously failed, or have been cancelled out by rebound effects.
- There is overwhelming scientific consensus, including from the IPCC reports since 2018, that achievement of the net-zero goal by 2050 would require

negative emissions, e.g. through carbon dioxide removal (CRD) from the atmosphere

Believing that:

- collective management of carbon budgets to stay within the 1.5-degree goal, based on rigorous scientific analysis and regulated through comprehensive emission pricing, must become the primary objective of European climate policy
- compliance with the current regulatory approach envisaged by the Fit For 55 package - replete with endless industry-specific rule changes - will be costly, bureaucratic and ultimately ineffective, and prone to erosion through lobbying by a sectoral and regional interests
- the inclusion of the transport and building sector in the Fit For 55 package, risks disproportionately raising the cost of living for middle-and-low-income Europeans if not compensated for with an ecological tax shift
- all Europeans bear the same responsibility for guaranteeing energy transition, and so the illiberal practices of emission-pricing exemptions, free emission allowances for particular sectors and corporations, and compensating those for emission-pricing expenditures with public funds are unfair
- emission pricing will enable Europe to build a technology-neutral Carbon Cycle Economy, in which citizens and businesses can generate revenues from certified negative emissions by selling them to emitters

LYMEC calls for:

- the introduction of a WTO-compliant carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) on fuels, electricity and emission-intensive industrial goods by 2023
- To expand the ETS to all sectors of the economy without exemptions as the main instrument of climate protection.
- the European Commission to gradually phase out free ETS allowances and any other compensation for emission pricing for particular businesses alongside the introduction of the CBAM; any future form of emission-pricing subsidy by member states must be made conditional on decarbonisation efforts, e.g. through carbon contracts for difference (CCFDs).
- the European Commission to remodel the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD) to the point that member states may levy taxes on energy carriers based solely on their green-house gas (GHG) content
- the European Commission and member states to use proceeds from emission pricing solely for ecological tax shifts through "climate dividends", e.g.

following the example of the Canadian or Swiss rebate models, and pre-defined climate mitigation efforts, with the latter being capped at 50%

- the European Commission implement equally stringent conditions for disbursements from the Just Transition Fund as for the use of emission-pricing proceeds or granting of decarbonisation subsidies
- the European Commission to develop a technology-neutral certification system for verified negative emissions that allows for exchange in the EU ETS, voluntary marketplaces and rebates on European CO2 taxes where applicable

6.13 Cutting the European dependence on energy resources from the Russian Federation

(Former 6.14 Prior to Riga 2023)

Movers: Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, EYU, Svensk Ungdom, JOVD, JuLis, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Young Liberals, USR Tineret, Uppreisn, Jong VLD, JNC, IMS Delegates, NUV.

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic on 21 May 2022.

Considering that:

- On February 24, 2022, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin started an all-out military attack on the Republic of Ukraine and its peaceful people. 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;
- The Russian-Ukrainian war has reportedly caused 4.2 million refugees to flee Ukraine, and according to Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, the damage amounts to 35% to 50% of Ukraine's GDP, the budget is losing about \$2 billion a day, and infrastructure \$4.25 billion a day;
* It is not possible for the currency to be in dollars. Therefore it should be hryvnias.
- The War has severely affected many young people in Ukraine, both physically and mentally. The ongoing War has displaced more than half of Ukraine's children.
- The barbarism of the Russian Federation has had tragic and dire consequences, jeopardising the well-being of future generations;

- The Kremlin has repeatedly launched similar attacks in the past: two wars in Chechnya from 1994 to 1996 and 1999 to 2009, occupying territories of Georgia in 2008, and annexing the Crimean Peninsula in Ukraine in 2014, etc;
- There have been warnings that Russia has created a “kill list” of people to be attacked or detained, which includes opponents of Putin’s regime, LGBTQ+ rights advocates, and human rights activists;
- Russia relies heavily on revenues from oil and natural gas, which in 2021 made up 45 per cent of Russia’s federal budget. It allocates a great part of its budget on army expenditures.

Whereas:

- The European Union aims to cut its gas dependency on Russia entirely by 2030;
- There are threats from Moscow to impose an embargo on gas deliveries through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline in response to Germany’s decision to hold on the Nord Stream 2 project;
- In 2021 Russia was one of the largest EU trading partners - the total trade in goods between the EU and Russia accounted for EUR 257.5 billion and EU exports to Russia were worth EUR 99 billion;
- The European Union pays Russia \$ 850 million a day for oil and gas;
- The European Union gets about 40 per cent of its natural gas from Russia, which is used to heat homes, generate electricity, and supply industry with both energy and key raw material for products such as fertilizer;
- The European Union purchases about 25 percent of oil from Russia, most of which goes toward gasoline and diesel for vehicles. Russia supplies about 14 percent of diesel, S&P Global analysts said, and a cutoff could send already high prices for truck and tractor fuel through the roof;
- There are still countries in Europe that are highly dependent on Russian fossil fuels and that don’t intend to change their main supplier, even paying them in roubles, such as Hungary, Germany, Italy and other countries.

Noting that:

- Putin’s war in Ukraine illustrates the urgency of accelerating the need for the European Union to use its own energy resources and switching to alternative supplies, and expanding clean energy;
- Russian energy supplies remain essential for daily life in Europe. Russia is the main supplier of gas to the European Union, regulating energy prices has pushed inflation in the 19 Eurozone countries to a record 7.5%;
- A ban on Russian coal imports would only cost Russia EUR 4 billion a year, which means that banning coal is not enough for stopping Putin’s regime. Oil

and gas imports, which represent far bigger imports from Moscow, are still untouched.

Believing that:

- The Russian Federation is a supplier that "explicitly threatens" the European Union and cannot be relied on;
- Energy resources and trade are closely intertwined with policy and values; when millions of people experience the atrocities of war, face death, and lose their homes, such trade which supports criminal regimes is a policy to be reversed at once;
- European leaders must be united, cooperative and should accelerate the clean- energy transition — an action that will be required if they are to achieve the goal set out in the Paris Climate Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial temperatures;
- The Russian Federation has waged this war not only against Ukraine as a country, but also in an existential struggle against ideals at the core of our understanding of a democratic society: the sanctity of life, the rule of law, human rights, liberal democratic principles.
- Being cognizant of the fact that the Russian military has repeatedly violated International humanitarian law, resorted to torture, rape, deportations, and such other acts that violate international law, we should stop supporting the Russian Federation through international trade;

Calls for:

- Temporary and intensive international cooperation to boost imports of natural gas and oil from other countries in order to reduce losses;
- The replacement of fossil fuels that power national and regional electricity systems with renewable alternatives in countries dependent on energy resources from the Russian Federation. Also deploying vehicles that run on electricity or renewably sourced hydrogen and retrofitting homes and businesses to use less and produce more clean energy;
- The launch of a burst of clean-energy projects and the introduction of a host of energy conservation and efficiency measures, including energy rationing in countries dependent on energy resources from the Russian Federation;
- The governments of the European Union to shift investments to renewable and clean energy sectors as the world begins to move away from fossil fuels. It means that more opportunities will arise in areas ranging from eMobility to power generation and storage at a more expedient pace;
- Immediate European Union ban on oil and gas imports from Russia, a boycott of Russian goods, with an implementation of a prompt EU gas exchange

mechanism, a boycott of Russian goods, and the severance of contacts with organisations and entities that support or do not disapprove of the Russian war in Ukraine;

- The Governments of the European Union to reverse the policies that have helped the Russian Federation strengthen its power;
- LYMEC and its member organisations create awareness that cutting the dependence of energy resources on the Russian Federation is the answer to issues relating to both the environment and security in the region and the world.

*We have to keep in mind that the green transformation should happen gradually. We cannot just leave off gas and start using only renewable resources for electricity production, etc. Existence of households and production firms will be put to a test. We as liberals should answer aggression with conversation. We in Europe should be initiators of summits for the cessation of the war and negotiating peace. Russia is a European neighbouring country and we cannot change that. We have to adjust and fight for peace. We have to fight for the environment as well but not at the expense of people and their existence.

6.14 Resolution on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Restoration

(Former 6.15 Prior to Riga 2023)

Mover: Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund

Co-signed by: Radikal Ungdom, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Centerstudenter, European Youth of Ukraine, Uppreisn, LDLU, Svensk Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals, Venstres Ungdom, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, Jeunes MR, Jonk Demokraten, Attistibai Youth, Liberal Youth of Sweden, Jeunes Radicaux

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

Noting that:

- There is a high likelihood that humanity has overstepped, or is in the process of overstepping, the planetary boundaries for biosphere integrity and land system change.
- During the last fifty years, the major animal populations of the world have decreased by an average of 68% across all regions, mostly due to habitat destruction, as well as unsustainable logging and agriculture.

- The European population of pollinators has seen a steady decline in recent years, owing to reasons ranging from environmental pollution and climate change to habitat loss, intensive use of pesticides, and invasive species.
- In 2018 the European Commission created the EU Pollinators initiative to deal with the issue of pollinator decline. However the European Court of Auditors noted in their 2020 report that the initiative has not yet contributed significantly to stopping the decline of pollinator populations.
- The strength of aquatic ecosystems in the EU have for a long time been challenged, both by the construction of dams and hydropower stations in several countries, as well as eutrophication created by excess nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture and untreated wastewater. Freshwater migratory fish populations have for example decreased by 93% in Europe since 1970.

Considering that:

- There are very few financial incentives for companies or landowners to include biodiversity as a factor in their land exploitation projects, forestry or farming enterprises, except for what is mandated by law.
- The EU is already a pioneer when it comes to measures on preventing a biodiversity collapse and restoring what already was destroyed. But our trade partners around the globe often do not have the same regulations. That is not only bad for the planet, it gives those countries an unfair competitive advantage.
- Strong and healthy populations of pollinators are essential for our ecosystems and for maintaining food security in Europe. A further population decrease would mean losses in agricultural output, and an increased risk of ecosystem collapse.
- Retaining the energy output from both small- and large-scale hydropower generation is necessary for the EU to reach its own climate goals as well as those laid out in the Paris Agreement.

Believing that:

- Truly liberal solutions to sustainability and biodiversity issues include the protection of property rights, taking the knowledge of landowners and individuals into account, and focuses on the creation of incentives rather than prohibition.
- The environmental policies of the EU need to be considerate of regional differences. For example, a forest in rural areas is vastly different from a forest in more populated areas of the EU, and needs to be treated with different views and methods.

- Landowners, for example farmers and forest owners, often know better than governments what kinds of natural values their land contains, and play a key role in conserving biodiversity.
- Keeping production costs low by using methods that destroy the environment or have a significantly negative impact on biodiversity should never be rewarded with a competitiveness advantage.

Calls for:

- The extension of Natura 2000-areas, nature reserves, national parks and other protected areas in the EU to at least 30% of the total land and sea area, whilst taking into account contextual factors such as population density, urbanisation, etc.
- The strengthening of the EU Pollinator Initiative, by continuing to adopt stronger legislation on pesticide use, stronger protections for the most threatened pollinator species, encouraging and incentivising agricultural businesses and similar sectors to take action, and including protection of pollinators in the biodiversity and agricultural policies of the European Union.
- All EU Member states to work towards implementing systems for valuing ecosystem services and biodiversity, and to create incentives for landowners based on the ecological value they provide by increasing biodiversity on their land. Member states should also work towards creating legislation requiring the usage of ecological compensation during land exploitation projects and similar actions that significantly damage the environment.
- The EU to push for high standards on biodiversity and ecological protection in all major trade agreements;
- The EU and its member states to support aquatic biodiversity in their rivers by removing unnecessary dams that are not being used for hydropower, and increasing investments in technical solutions like fish ladders and alternative waterways, to make sure hydropower generation can be maintained while restoration of vital river ecosystems can still happen.
- The strengthening of the EU directives on wastewater treatment, through implementing stricter standards for urban and industrial waste water treatment, the removal and recycling of excess phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as stricter standards on circularity and emerging pollutants.

6.15 Create a European market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

(Former 6.16 Prior to Riga 2023)

Submitter: LUF (Liberala ungdomsförbundet)

Co-signed by: CUF, Centerstudenter, Radikal Ungdom, European Youth of Ukraine, Young Liberals, Lithuanian Liberal Youth

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

Noting that:

- The EU aims to become climate neutral by 2050, that is, to have a net zero emission of greenhouse gases.
- Today the EU does not have a market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in the same way the EU has for emissions.

Considering that:

- The IPCC report acknowledges Carbon Capture and Storage as a critical technology for mitigating climate change, especially when it comes to the most expensive emission reductions.
- As we approach the year of zero emissions, it is likely that there are residual emissions that are very costly to reduce (e.g. in aviation and some industrial emissions). CCS can then be a way to compensate for the remaining emissions in the emissions trading system (ETS).

Believing that:

- The ETS is a positive step towards achieving climate goals.
- A market for CCS is an important step and a complement to the ETS in achieving the EU's climate goals.
- By including CCS-credits in the EU ETS financing is ensured for companies that want to start with CCS.
- Broadening the funding base could mean a large demand for CCS and can, in the longer term, contribute to reducing costs for participants in the EU ETS.
- A larger demand for CCS is desirable to create a market where companies will be able to buy the service to make up for their emissions.

Calls for:

- Creating an EU market for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).
- Include credits for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)

6.16 Climate justice

(Former 6.17 Prior to Riga 2023)

Signed by: Radikal Ungdom (RU), Unge Venstre (NUV), Jonge Democraten (JD), Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF), Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Svensk Ungdom (SU)

Adopted at the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Considering that:

- European countries have a historical responsibility for the climate crisis, as the large amounts of greenhouse gases we have emitted affect developing countries disproportionately much and European citizens disproportionately little.
- Many EU member countries, like Greece and the Netherlands, did not deliver their fair share of financing goals in the Copenhagen Accord by 2020.

Noting that:

- EU-28 has emitted 22 percent of cumulative global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Definitions used for mobilising funding have been used loosely, with significant examples of double counting of development assistance (ODA) and the use of loans.
- Among the 37 most climate vulnerable nations, nearly half did not receive UN climate funding.

Believing that:

- All individuals have the right to live a safe and secure life, and be recognized as citizens with rights and duties.
- The EU has a role in promoting and preventing loss of economic and social development of developing countries.
- Climate financing should be solely for the benefit of the people affected by climate change.

LYMEC calls for:

- Increased international climate funding through the EIB to match the bloc's fair share in the Copenhagen Accord.

- Focus on strengthening loss and damage, and adaptation funding EU should lead a green TRIPS agreement through WTO, improving LDC's access to the most essential technologies for mitigation.
- The EU to impose strict streamlined definitions for climate financing for member states to comply with the definition in the Copenhagen Accord of 'new and additional funding'.
- Climate funding to be directed to the nations most vulnerable and affected by climate change.

6.17 More Efficient EU Railways Through Stronger Cooperation

Movers: Momentum TizenX, Young Green Liberals Switzerland

Signed by: Junge Liberale, Attīstībai Youth, Young Progressives (MPS), Lithuanian liberal youth, FEL, Svensk Ungdom, Radikal Ungdom, Ógra Fianna Fáil & Jungfreisinnige

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

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;
- There exists a lack of coordination in the European train market for international train travel, and in many cases, it has actually become harder to purchase cross-border train tickets in recent years, as competing national rail companies have stopped offering through-tickets;
- Public transportation needs to be accessible for people of all ages;
- Currently, the market is segmented across national borders in a matter contravening the spirit of a single market;

- The European Railway Agency has a proven expertise in technical standardisation and is a credible partner to industry partners in member states;
- Many EU member states don't recognize and accept student cards issued by other member states for student discounts on public transportation
- This leads to a discrimination between EU citizens based on their nationality
- In Liberal Solutions for a Sustainable Europe LYMEC and the European Liberal Forum have recommended software based approaches as an efficient and inexpensive improvement to rail transportation.

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;
- To make travelling in general more sustainable, a switch from CO₂-polluting travel means to electrically powered travel means is required
- Free and accurate information are vital prerequisites for a smoothly functioning markets;
- A more efficient market is a liberal mean to encourage increased use of railways for international travel in the union;
- A central and standardised exchange hub for passenger rail traffic schedules is needed to allow citizens to take full advantage of rail mobility in the union and to allow companies to tailor services according to market needs;
- Students and young people undergoing professional education often have limited financial resources;
- Every EU citizen who has a valid student card from any EU country should be able to use the student card for student discount on public transportation in every EU member state.

LYMEC calls for:

- 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;
- The promotion of a unified market for train tickets leveraging private entrepreneurship;
- Requiring any rail operator in the Union to provide non-discriminatory access to all travel information including real time operational information on timetables and traffics data;
- This Database be made available to the public and private industry actors to enable a unified market for EU-wide rail travel;
- Requiring railway operators to offer through-tickets with other operators, in order to allow travel between any two connected rail stations in the EU on a single ticket, where the traveller is protected against delays and missed connections.
- An agreement between all EU member states to recognize and accept each other's national student cards for student discount on public transportation;
- A promotion of widespread use of the ISIC (International Student Identity Card) and the student travel discounts it provides, both within the EU and beyond;
- Reasonable discount on public transportation for students who take part in formal education in any country that is part of the Erasmus+ program;
- To have a comprehensive approach when designing such policies taking into account the geographical situations and particularities of countries with insular and overseas territories.

6.18 An EU Energy Security Policy

Movers: IMS Delegates & Outcome of the IMS Mini-Working Group on Energy Security

Signed by: Ógra Fianna Fáil

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- According to Eurostat, in 2020, just 41.7% of the total EU energy supply was produced domestically, while 24.4% was imported from Russia (mainly in the form of oil & gas).
- In 2021, the EU imported 83% of natural gas from Russia. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine which began in February 2022, imports from Russia have been reduced significantly, but still lied at 16% of all gas imports between January and July 2023.
- While the cost of new renewables is lower than it has ever been, there are still serious technological limitations to a total transition to renewable electricity in much of Europe:
 - Solar power provides no output overnight;
 - Wind power provides a varied output depending on weather conditions;
 - Geothermal and hydroelectric power can provide a consistent supply, but these forms of electricity generation are unsuitable to the local geography in much of Europe;
 - Storage technologies are not yet advanced enough or widespread enough to solve the problem of varying output from renewable sources of electricity.
- The Trans-European Networks for Energy allow European countries, including both EU and non-EU states, to trade electrical production, meaning it is no longer necessary for each individual state to fully meet its own production needs all throughout the day. This has the potential to provide a pan-European solution to the problem of fluctuations in renewable electricity production.
- Recent innovations in nuclear recycling mean that nuclear energy produces significantly less waste than in the past: modern recycling techniques can reduce nuclear waste by up to 99.5%. Nuclear energy, while not strictly renewable, still produces negligible carbon emissions and manageable levels of waste.
- The decision made by Germany to phase-out nuclear energy from 2000 onwards resulted in an increase in the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity.

- In many parts of Europe, planning laws make difficult the task of building renewable energy projects. In England, planning laws mean that even a single objection from a local resident can prevent the construction of an onshore wind power installation, despite the local geography being ideally suited to wind power.
- The Merit Order used in most European countries bases the wholesale price for electricity off the “lowest common denominator” of production, which is usually gas or coal, as these are the sources of electricity of last resort.
- The European Energy crisis of 2022-23 resulted in significant increases in the wholesale cost of gas, resulting in a higher price being paid to producers of renewables.

Believing that:

- Total Self-Sufficiency in the field of energy is not practicably achievable in the short-term, but safeguards can be put in place around energy imports to ensure that threats to energy supply are minimised in the event of conflict or natural disaster. The threats to supplies from other liberal democracies can be reduced to an acceptable minimum through careful vetting of supply chains and stress testing.
- For the energy supply to be secure, it must be diverse. There should not be an over-reliance on methods of renewable energy production, or on sources from particular areas. Different regions of Europe should seize their geographic advantages by specialising in the most appropriate forms of renewable energy, as the Common EU grid can be used to balance out fluctuations in production between member states based on weather conditions or time of day.
- Green energy is electricity that can be produced sustainably: without depleting natural resources and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By this definition, Nuclear power, bio-fuels and e-fuels generated with sustainable electricity should be considered forms of green energy. Conversely, no form of fossil fuels should ever be considered a form of Green energy.
- Planning and approvals processes should encourage the growth of renewable electricity, recognising the need to create attractive financial incentives for the private sector to invest in renewable energy. The greater environmental purpose served by renewable energy must be reflected in

consideration of the local environmental impacts of any renewable energy project.

- Producers of renewable energy should never be paid a lower wholesale price than fossil fuel based producers, in order to ensure that investors in green energy are not penalised.

LYMEC Calls For an EU Energy Security Policy that embraces the following tenets:

Pragmatic Self Sufficiency

- The EU should implement a “Red-Amber-Green” (RAG) system for classifying countries based on their friendliness and security of supplies from those countries:
 - Green for EEA/NATO countries and other liberal democracies, who are reliable partners and share close security relationships with the EU. Energy imports from Green list countries should be deemed generally secure, but there should still not be a critical reliance on any single partner.
 - Amber for countries that are generally friendly to the EU and where risks to supply can be managed. While energy imports can be accepted from Amber list countries, they should be minimised wherever possible, and contingency should be made for a sudden loss of supply.
 - Red for countries that are not considered to be reliable partners of the EU. There should be no energy imports from Red list countries.
- The EU should pursue multilateral energy security partnerships with other liberal democracies, and produce a common import strategy for raw materials, fossil fuels, direct import of electricity, and renewable hydrogen.
- The EU should establish a stringent stress test for the EU energy grid in order to ensure that the energy supply is secure against shocks in the event that any single source of energy is lost due to conflict or natural disaster.
- All EU member states should legislate for common minimum fuel reserves to be stored for contingency, with strict regulation around the ownership and management of the reserves to ensure against foreign interference.

Programmed Diversification of the Energy Supply

- The EU should entrench the principle of comparative advantage in energy production, with member states specialising in the forms of renewable energy

best suited to their geographic advantages (e.g. Wind in Ireland, Solar in Greece, Hydroelectric in Sweden).

- Member States should invest heavily in energy storage, such as pumped storage hydropower, in order to protect the reliability of the energy supply amid fluctuations in renewable electricity supplies. This should include significant investment in research & development of newer, more efficient methods of energy storage.
- EU Member states should embrace the use of nuclear power as a tool that can accelerate decarbonisation by reducing reliance on gas, oil & coal power.

A Practical Definition of Green Energy

- LYMEC welcomes the decision of the EU commission in 2022 to include nuclear energy within the definition of green energy, while strongly rejecting the inclusion of natural gas under this definition.
- The EU should embrace e-fuels and biofuels as a method of further reducing carbon emissions and solving the problem of inconsistent supply of renewable electricity.
- LYMEC, ALDE Party & Renew Europe should promote the view of Nuclear energy as a greener and safer alternative to oil, gas and coal power, for which there are often no feasible renewable alternatives in the short-term.

A Planning and Approvals Process that Encourages Green Energy

- EU Member States should reduce the bureaucratic burdens for renewable energy projects in order to increase their attractiveness as an investment.
- EU Member States should ensure that planning structures recognise the beneficial impact of renewable energy projects over local objections rooted in aesthetics. Assessments of environmental impact should take into account the beneficial impact of renewable energy projects on the wider environment and ecosystems instead of focusing narrowly on the local environmental.

A Merit Order that Ensures Energy Security

- The European Union should resist attempts to introduce wholesale price discrimination between different forms of electricity production, or attempts to place a cap on revenues for renewable electricity producers. Producers of

renewable electricity should never be paid a lower price than fossil fuel based electricity, to avoid creating perverse incentives.

- LYMEC, the ALDE Party and Renew Europe should publicly oppose attempts by member states to introduce price discrimination for electricity between different economic sectors.

Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Animal Welfare

7.01 On the Common Fisheries Policy

Common Agricultural Policy, Subsidies

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

The state of most fish stocks in the European waters is alarming. Although the EU has had de-jure exclusive competence in the area of conservation of biological resources of the sea under Article 3 of Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the Community's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has apparently not been a viable tool to conserve the resource it seeks to govern. Taking this into account, the failure of the Common Fisheries Policy can be explained by:

- 1) The dominance of national interests in negotiations on TACs (Total Allowable Catches) and quotas in the Council has repeatedly resulted in ignoring scientific recommendations;
- 2) For proper resource conservation, a reduction of overcapacity in fishing fleets would be necessary. Subsidies and withdrawal prices regulated by the market organisation policy of the CFP, however, often actually lead to an increase in overcapacity;
- 3) The same provisions in the Treaties that authorise the CAP also authorise the CFP. These provisions do not pay any respect to the nature of fish as a common-pool resource and the problems inevitably posed by the Tragedy of the Commons. Also, when the first CFP was adopted in the 1970s, the situation in the sector was a totally different one;
- 4) Although the CFP has been revised every ten years, it has failed to keep up with the challenges posed ever since. As such, it has ignored the trend to structural policies based on well-defined property rights.

Also noting that:

- 1) In the new institutional environment under the Lisbon treaty, directives and

regulations on the CFP are adopted by the ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision) under the Trilogue of the European Commission, Council and Parliament;

2) The European Commission's Fisheries Policy Framework has been in place since 2013. has already launched a reform process that aims at the reform of the CFP to be completed by 2012. Hence, there is no better time to raise a liberal voice than now.

3) The UK and The Netherlands, in conflict with the EU line, voted in favour of increased protection of the bluefin tuna at the CITES conference in March

Therefore, LYMEC calls for the next reform of the CFP to include:

1) A mechanism that allows multi-annual TACs to be set up by the Commission at levels close to the biological advice from ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) and other marine biological institutions, thereby bypassing the Council and eliminating the danger of inflating TACs over biologically precarious levels.

2) The introduction of an EU-wide system of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) replacing the current quota system and its implementation schemes on a national level. In such a system, rights in an amount relative to the total TAC are granted to members of a fishery;

3) The elimination of all subsidies and unnecessary market regulation for fish and fishing products. This point is seen also as complementing LYMEC's "Scrap the CAP " campaign since the mechanisms are similar.

4) A change in the common EU external position on this matter, in favour of increased protection, on the global stage.

7.02 Securing our rural economies

(Former 7.03 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Helsinki, October 2015

Keywords: Food Security, Rural Development, Environmental Practices, Young Farmers, Agri-Tourism

Whereas:

- The CAP was first established in the early 1960s to provide guaranteeing fair prices to European farmers and encourage them to produce more and stabilise markets.
- The CAP was improved over the following decades and introduced production limits to help reduce surpluses, incentives to encourage environmentally sound farming and included a rural development policy to help manage natural resources and promote economic growth in rural communities.

Acknowledges that:

- Article 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union outlines the objectives of the CAP. Among them being to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of persons engaged in agriculture; to stabilise markets; to ensure the availability of supplies and to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.
- The European Union is the world's largest agricultural importer and exporter
- 77% of the EU's territory is classified as rural and that there are over 12 million full time farmers which provide supplies that support 46 million jobs.
- The CAP provides incentives to produce high quality food for consumers and encourages them to seek new development opportunities, such as renewable 'green' energy sources and diversify into new forms of employment such as Agri-Tourism.
- With little room left for expanding agricultural land in Europe, productivity growth in the future has to come through innovation and research.
- An ever growing World population needs a larger food base to feed it.
- Rural communities across Europe have experienced great social and economic change as a result of the recent economic crash.
- The CAP to date has caused millions of farmers to farm more sustainably than previously and supported the upgrade of farm technologies and infrastructure.
- Recent reforms of the CAP have already seen a reduction in the overall EU spend on agriculture.
- While food prices may increase producers' incomes may not increase or be the cause of it.
- The rush to the bottom by some supermarkets on certain products is making farming more unsustainable and putting food safety and quality in jeopardy.

Calls on this LYMEC Congress:

- To support the principle of creating balanced regional and rural development that allows communities to help shape their own destiny in providing resources and contributing to their own member states and the EU which is outlined in the CAP Pillar 2.
- To support technological researches, cooperation and innovation in the field of farming all over the European Union. Achieve it mainly by giving farmers new tools, namely better access to available information and capabilities in which they can invest.
- To assist farmers to diversify their trades and skills so as to make the reliance on direct provisions as minimal as possible.
- To support the expansion of farming into new environmentally friendly practices that enhance local habitats and generation of unique produce
- To support the EU's initiative to help encourage younger people to get involved in farming.
- To appeal to the European Commission to develop and implement a safeguard system to make sure that the effects of the CAP do not mitigate any positive effects of the EU's development policy.

7.03. Resolution on the matter of antimicrobial resistance in Europe

(Former 7.04 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Noting that:

The discovery of antimicrobial drugs has been a major socio-economic driving force in the twentieth century. Since the eve of the twenty-first century, however, humankind has suffered setbacks in the battle against bacteria, viruses and other parasites due to antimicrobial resistance. Almost 25 000 Europeans lose this battle each year, mainly because of the misuse of antibiotics in human medicine. Therefore, the apt response of the European Union after the Microbial Threat Conference in 1998 via the creation of the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (EARSS) and later the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net) should be deepened.

With this background we call on:

- An expansion of EARS-Net with new laboratoria, especially in southern Europe.
- A harmonisation of the criteria for antimicrobial resistance within EARS-Net.
- LYMEC to support the European Parliament in its stance that only certified veterinaries are to be allowed to prescribe antibiotics to animals, and that such prescriptions are only to be granted when medically warranted, not as a preventative measure.
- The insertion of antimicrobial resistance goals and regulations in future trade agreements like TTIP.

7.04. More bzzz in the food!

(Former 7.05 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Key words: food security, insects, environmental practices

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Summary

It is a fact that meat production causes all kinds of pollution. There is an interesting and protein rich alternative, that LYMEC should call upon the EU to accept as provisions. There is an interesting and protein rich alternative, that LYMEC should call upon the EU to accept as provisions.

Noting that:

- People think about their eating habits because of the big impact on the ecological footprint it causes. For a long time it has been known that meat production results in serious pollution which leads to a bigger ecological footprint. One less polluting alternative source of protein is insects. One less polluting alternative source of protein is insects. Considering that Insects contain a large amount of protein at the same time as the production of these requires less resources. One kilogram of grasshoppers requires only two

kilograms of fodder, which is 12 times less than what cattle require. Outside the EU there are long traditions of eating insects, in about 80% of the countries in the world the insects belong to the national cuisine. The same can not be said about the countries in the EU. Most of the countries in the EU follow a recommendation by the European Commission. The European Commission categorises insects as new provisions and therefore they have to go through a security assessment and get permission of the Commission before they can be introduced and enter the market. The European Commission supports a research project that investigates risks in allowing insects as provisions. This research lean on the risk analysis that was made by the European Food Safety Authority in October 2015.

Concludes:

- Tackling climate change requires not only decreased use of fossil fuels and new ways of producing energy. We need to think about more environmentally friendly solutions for everything in our day to day life. All the economic sectors that lead to the production of greenhouse gas emissions are affected by food production and consumption. Meat production is one of the most polluting food industries, but if we in Europe start consuming alternative sources of protein such as insects, we can reduce the consumption of meat. Thereby the greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. Therefore, the EU needs to consider insects as provisions.

LYMEC calls upon:

- The EU to accept the production of insects as provisions when scientific quality controls are made.
- The selling, branding and distribution of insects as provisions to be allowed in the single market.

7.05 On the need for a blue economy

(Former 7.06 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

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

Considering that:

- Oceans, seas, lakes and rivers cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface, generate an increasing share of economic growth and development and are at the heart of globalisation, as 90% of global trade is conducted via seas and oceans and 95% of global communications use submarine cable networks;
- OECD is expecting sustained growth in maritime tourism, which, by 2030, is expected to account for 26% of the blue economy;
- one fifth of the annual fishing worldwide is illegal overfishing, which compromises the regeneration of fish stocks and leads to significant economic losses;
- marine pollution comes in large part from terrestrial sources, such as the accumulation of nutrients from agriculture, industrial and plastic waste, and marine pollution from hydrocarbons endangers economic activities, biodiversity and human health;
- Climate change and the acidification of the oceans are causing a rise in sea levels and disrupting ocean ecosystems.

Believing that:

- the blue economy makes a significant contribution to economic growth in many areas of the world, such as Africa or Asia;
- fishing is of strategic importance in terms of economic development, participation in international trade and food and supply;
- the desire for an energy transition offers new prospects for the development of marine energy and offshore wind power;
- Blue economy must be sustainable and take into account ecological environmental concerns, the fragile nature of the marine environment and the exhaustible or limited nature of available resources.

LYMEC calls for:

- Protection and assistance to be provided by the United Nations to less developed countries (LDC), insular as well as coastal, in Africa, Asia, America and the Pacific, stamping out unsustainable overfishing practices by either domestic or foreign vessels;

- the International Development Association (IDA) and the Green Climate Fund to fully deploy their programmes with the help of the UN;
- the United Nations to review the status of fish stocks in international waters and promote measures that ensure their sustainability for the years to come;
- the responsible development of aquaculture to provide an alternative to overfishing and respond to the growing demand for food;
- the conditions to be put into place for people living in places with severely depleted fish stocks to be able to transition towards other sources of income, such as maritime tourism;
- The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to embrace the blue economy as part of its programmes for economic and societal development.
- Call on EU institutions and Member States to set new priorities regarding fisheries and maritime policies including the blue economy.

7.06 Legalisation of snus and tobacco products with flavours or certain additives

(Former 7.07 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Movers: Junge Liberale, Centerstudenter, JUNOS – Junge Liberale NEOS.

Adopted at LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, on 6 April 2019

Considering that:

- Article 7 paragraphs 1 and 7 European Tobacco Product Directive (EUTPD) obliges Member States to prohibit the placing on the market of tobacco products with a characterising flavour.
- Article 7 paragraph 6 EUTPD obliges Member States to prohibit the placing on the market of tobacco products with
 - (a) vitamins or other additives that create the impression that a tobacco product has a health benefit or presents reduced health risks,
 - (b) caffeine or taurine or other additives and stimulant compounds that are associated with energy and vitality and
 - (c) additives having colouring properties for emissions.
- Article 17 EUTPD obliges Member States to prohibit the placing on the market of tobacco for oral use (e.g. Snus).

Recognizing that:

- Tobacco products and nicotine present a severe health issue.
- An EU-Directive for tobacco products is essential to ensure the functioning of the internal market in regard to those products.
- Snus is not more harmful than the consumption of cigarettes or cigars.
- Flavour or the before-mentioned additives do not make cigarettes more harmful either.

Believing that:

- Every person of age is free to choose the products they consume.
- No state has the right to patronise their citizens.
- Consumer protection requires easily accessible information and reasonable warnings for products that contain nicotine, but no prohibition.
- The legalisation of Snus would remove one obstacle for Norway to join the EU.
- The existence of truthful information about additive-containing products towards consumers in order to ensure an informed decision in their consuming behaviour of snus and tobacco products.

The European Liberal Youth calls for:

- A reform of the EUTPD in order to legalise tobacco for oral use and tobacco products that contain flavours or additives currently prohibited by Article 7 paragraph 6 letters a), b) and c) EUTPD.

7.07 A Ban on Wild Animals in Circuses Within the EU

(Former 7.08 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at LYMEC Online Spring Congress on 24th April 2021

Submitters: Centerstudenter, Jonge Democraten, Radikal Ungdom, Uppreisn, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Julis, Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF), Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF), Jong VLD, Keskusta Opiskelijat, Svensk Ungdom, Venstres Ungdom

Noting that:

- Eurogroup for Animals commissioned an opinion poll to Savanta ComRes which confirms that 68% of Europeans living in countries where a ban is not yet a reality, are asking for a ban on wild animals in circuses. Wild animals that are often used in circuses include bears, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, monkeys, parrots, reptiles, tigers and zebras.
- To this day, there are 23 member states that have some legislation in place to limit or outright ban the practice of using wild animals in circuses. This reflects the position of the European public with respect to animal rights and welfare. Yet, there are still four member states without any national restrictions, and three countries of the 23 previously mentioned member states have only adopted restrictions on the use of some species of wild animals.
 - National bans may prohibit the exploitation of wild animals within a single European country, but they do not prevent the transportation of wild animals within the circus business through the regulated countries. Particularly long transits pose a serious risk to the health of these animals as they are shipped from one unregulated country to the other. A single Europe-wide ban is therefore much more effective in protecting the rights of wild animals, than national bans.
 - Circuses are travelling entertainment services where wild animals, ripped from their natural habitats, suffer substantial strain and often physical abuse. The animals are coerced into performing circus routines that deviate from their natural behaviour, and which place the animals in stressful situations before trainers and audiences. The processes of training, performing and travelling inflict harm upon creatures whose capability to cope with constant pressure is far diminished compared with our own, and humans would have found the same conditions intolerable.
 - In order for the EU to be the world leader of animal welfare, the Commission should listen to its citizens and use its powers to end wild animal husbandry in circuses.

LYMEC calls for:

- The European Union to acknowledge that wild animals should not be kept captive solely for our entertainment.
- The European Union to ban circuses from using wild animals (including bears, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, monkeys, parrots, reptiles, tigers and

zebras), and to only feature domestic animals when the health of the animal is granted.

- “Animal welfare” to be added to the name of Chapter 7 in the LYMEC Policy Book.

7.08 A CAP fit for the 21st century

(Former 7.09 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, on 24th October 2021

Outcome of IMS-led working group on CAP Submitted by: IMS Delegates, Young Liberals Greece, Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Venstres Ungdom, CUF, Centerstuderter, JNC, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, Young Liberals, Svensk Ungdom

Considering that:

1. remote-sensing satellites and other space-based technologies have the potential to significantly boost agricultural yields and profits and make farming more efficient and less resource-intensive, for example, by monitoring soil conditions, weather and climate patterns, crop development and agricultural pests, as well as providing an early estimate of crop yields and enabling precision agriculture;
2. space-based technologies are therefore an invaluable aid for tackling the twin challenge of making European farming more productive and at the same time more sustainable;
3. artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies that leverage the power of computing show even more promise in the quest for greater yields and a lower environmental impact, for example, through the use of AI to plan and monitor production and the Internet of Things to boost the capabilities of the tools and equipment that farmers use;
4. however, the successful implementation of a truly liberal agricultural policy also depends on preventing the emergence of anti-competitive practices and oligopolistic scenarios that have been seen in other applications of AI and NTIC and end up distorting the free market;

5. in the future, food shortages may be even more common than today due to demographic growth and the resulting increased demand for food as well as the impact of climate change on agriculture; and
6. the EU has a very strict policy regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and gene editing (GE) for both partially and totally genetically GMOs, which makes it very expensive and ineffective to get approval for GMO or GE products/strains.

Recalling that:

1. while the European Union and its Member States have made great strides in the implementation of space-based technologies for agriculture, there remain a great deal of fields to be explored and a lot of untapped potential, especially when it comes to making public data available to farmers and implementing the latest and most promising applications;
2. the European Commission has set itself high goals for the future of AI research and utilisation including in the agricultural sector in its 2021 Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence; achieving these goals is important in order to avoid fragmentation of the European digital and agricultural space;
3. certain companies are abusing laws that were originally designed to fight software piracy to stop farmers from repairing their own tractors and other pieces of equipment or choosing a technical provider to do so, instead enforcing anti-competitive practices far removed from what a free market should be;
4. European agriculture should be well equipped to rise to the many challenges it faces or will soon face;
5. GMO and GE techniques, which merely accelerate the processes seen over many centuries with selective breeding and growing, can be a boon in this regard.

LYMEC Calls For:

1. all non-confidential agricultural data gathered by European satellites operated by the EU and/ or the governments of its Member States to be released into the public domain for the benefit of farmers across the continent, on the principle that Europeans should not have to pay again for something they have already funded with their taxes;

2. the creation of a real European agricultural data space, enabling the sharing of agricultural data to facilitate better targeted production with less environmental impact;
3. the EU and its Member States to step up their investments in the areas of agriculture and space and agriculture and AI/NTIC through public and public/private initiatives, as well as to create a favourable environment for purely private initiatives, with a focus on sharing good practices and raising awareness on new or emerging technologies such as AI and the Internet of Things;
4. the EU Member States to facilitate training and education in working with new technologies in the agricultural sector, ensuring accessibility for communities and groups most concerned and the needed funding for the training institutions.;
5. the right for farmers to repair their own equipment and tools or choose whichever technical provider they prefer for this task to be fully protected from any attempt to distort the free market by abusing laws originally developed to fight software piracy;
6. the European regulatory framework to be made nimbler and more capable of dealing with the rapid pace of change in science and technology, including eliminating its built-in prejudice against GMOs and GE, setting up a streamlined and affordable approval process, and simplifying the existing bureaucracy, which at the time can only be successfully navigated by the biggest and wealthiest companies and therefore leads to a de facto oligopoly; while updating food standards to reflect the current state of scientific knowledge on the matter

7.09 Better, stronger, faster – Food for the EU

Adopted at LYMEC Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania
18 November 2022

Mover: JOVD

Co-signers: EYU, VU, JuLis

LYMEC Congress, assembled in Bucharest,

- Over the last 20 years, modern biotechnology has made enormous advances. In recent years, researchers have developed new techniques that enable a faster, more specific and more efficient breeding process than via conventional breeding or genetic modification. Often referred to as “New Genomic Techniques” (“NGTs”), these new techniques have been defined as “techniques that are capable of altering

the genetic material of an organism and that have emerged or have been mainly developed since 2001" (Joint Research Centre). Examples of these techniques include Site Directed Nuclease Technology (SDN), Oligonucleotide-directed Mutagenesis (ODM), RNA-dependent DNA methylation (RdDm), cisgenesis, intragenesis, grafting on GM rootstock and reverse breeding.

- Until recently, the EU had not addressed the regulatory questions linked to NGTs. This was largely due to an ongoing political and legal discussion on the regulatory status of the organisms obtained through NGTs. Key questions are whether these organisms are "GMOs" as originally defined in 1990, and whether they are to be regulated by the existing EU GMO framework which predates the emergence of NGTs.

Whereas:

- Widespread use of GM crops in Europe could, due to their inherent potential, contribute to improving public health, increasing food safety, lowering food prices, protecting the environment, and reducing waste. This is especially the case in the South of Europe, where agriculture is especially threatened by the unfavourable changing climate.
- NGTs are a heterogeneous group of techniques and many differ in their own way from conventional genetic modification. Some techniques involve the use of a technique of genetic modification, but do not result in a transfer of genetic material; instead, they result in a targeted mutation of the genetic material of the host organism. (e.g. SDN, ODM). Other techniques involve the use of a technique of genetic modification, but do not necessarily result in a new genetic sequence that can be distinguished from a naturally occurring sequence. (e.g. RdDm) Other techniques merely transfer genetic material from a sexually compatible organism to the host organism, resulting in a sequence that cannot be distinguished from a conventionally bred genetic combination either (e.g. cisgenesis, intragenesis).
- NGT developed fungus eliminates the production of compounds that are toxic to livestock. NGTs helped develop microorganisms to produce enzymes for hydrogen peroxide production from plant sugar, currently in precommercial stage. NGTs today also find application in the development of therapeutic molecules used to treat cancer and chronic diseases.
- Denying European farmers access to 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.

- NGTs could play an important role in achieving the objectives of the Green Deal, Renew Europe believes it is important to lead an open and science-based discussion on NGTs, and that legal clarity is urgent and necessary, to ensure that also SMEs can be competitive in this highly technological field.
- NGTs are indeed capable of altering the genetic material in a target organism. However, these alterations in some cases merely result in genetic combinations that also occur in nature or through conventional breeding, while other alterations are more unlikely to occur naturally.

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.
- NGTs hold the potential to make a positive contribution to the objectives of the Green Deal, the "Farm to Fork " Strategy and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but acknowledges that possible negative effects should be thoroughly assessed.
- 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:

- The current GMO framework is no longer fit for purpose. The EU therefore must adopt a balanced and effective regulatory approach that adequately protects human health and environment, provides fair information for farmers, consumers and retailers, but also allows to gather benefits from these NGTs.
- 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.
- LYMEC calls therefore on the Commission to propose legislation to properly regulate NGTs outside of the existing GMO framework, with due respect to the precautionary

principle and the objectives stemming from the Green Deal. This initiative should enable proportionate regulatory oversight for organisms obtained through NGTs. This could be achieved through a regulatory framework through which organisms obtained from NGTs are re-categorized based on their properties and the degree of risk involved in their intended use. This would allow, without ever abandoning the case-by-case risk assessment linked to the properties of each product, to define distinct requirements in terms of authorisation and marketing conditions for each category. The categorization should always be done in a transparent manner and on the basis of the best available science, while preventing any delays in authorization. This should allow gathering the benefits from innovation while maintaining a high level of protection of human and animal health and the environment and address traceability, liability and consumer concerns.

Asks the LYMEC Bureau to:

- Send this resolution to the EU Commissioner for agriculture and to the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament.

Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development, Transport and Travel

8.01 Connecting European Regions

(Former 8.01 & 8.02 Prior to Bucharest 2022)

This resolution merges former 8.01 Resolution on Europe of the Regions and former 8.02 Connecting regions

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

We believe 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 cooperate with and recognise the regions/historic nations of Europe (such as Catalonia and Scotland).

Considering that:

- Lymec values the importance of tackling Regional Disparities.
- Regional transport infrastructure varies greatly throughout Europe.
- The task of synchronising 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 organisational 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.

- European Countries to lift the ban (if existing) on private railway companies operating on an international and national level.

8.02 Resolution on the phase out of combustion engines by 2035 and the use of sustainable fuels

Submitted by: Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate)

Cosigned by: Ógra Fianna Fáil, Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, JNC, Jungfreisinnige, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, European Youth of Ukraine, Centerstudenter, JUNOS, Venstres Ungdom, Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Young Liberals

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania. 18 November 2022.

Notes:

- Climate change and global warming are real threats to the livelihood of millions of people and all sectors have to contribute to the decarbonization process.
- The transport sector remains difficult to decarbonize because of rebound effects and contributed little to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- We should make use of every technology reducing GHG and therefore remain agnostic about possible solutions for decarbonizing the transport sector.
- Market mechanisms are an effective tool to reduce GHG emissions and only work properly if competition drives alternatives to coexist.

Highlights:

- Many OEMs have already decided to focus on the production of electric vehicles in the near future and will phase out combustion engines in their feet.
- After 2035 there will still be hundreds of millions of cars in Europe that are powered by combustion engines because feet renewal is slow.
- Low income households will have difficulties affording electric vehicles in the future, unless production prices go down drastically.
- E-fuels or synthetic fuels are manufactured using captured carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide, together with hydrogen and therefore do not add CO₂ to the atmosphere during their combustion within the engine.
- Modern biofuels are manufactured from second generation feedstock, such as the organic fraction of municipal waste, to obtain CO₂ and biomethan.

- E-fuels or synthetic fuels can help to decarbonize the fleet by 2035, this is especially important given that electric vehicles might not achieve a wide market penetration.
- E-fuels can help to decarbonize the transport sector and at the same time increase the market ramp-up of hydrogen, which is also important for the green production of steel, as well as green shipping and aviation.

Therefore questions:

- The decision of the European Parliament to ban the registration of cars with combustion engines as of 2035 and only allow the registration of vehicles emitting zero CO₂ during their use.
- Limiting the scope of sustainable alternatives through a ban of cars with combustion engines, even in cases when these are demonstrably using sustainable and therefore CO₂.

Calls on:

- EU member states to acknowledge a possibly significant contribution of synthetic and e-fuels to the reduction of GHG in the transport sector.
- EU member states to exempt from the phase out combustion engines, vehicles that run with sustainable fuels, where this can be verified and controlled to ensure against a back-door for new fossil fuel-run vehicles.
- EU member states as well as all European states to advocate for general technology neutrality in the field of climate policies and environmental politics.

Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs

9.01 Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996

NATO, Security, Transatlantic Relations

Adopted at the 20th Anniversary Congress of LYMEC, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the 29-31st. of March 1996. Result of the IGC-seminar in Maastricht, Brussels on 23- 27 June 1995. Preliminary adopted at the Executive Committee meeting in Mainz, Germany in September 1995.

Introduction

In the same weekend as the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996 was held in Turin, the 29-31 March 1996, the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union adopted during its 20th anniversary Congress in Il Ciocco, not far from Turin, its resolution on this conference. With this resolution LYMEC takes an active position in the discussion on the future of Europe and the European integration subject.

The resolution is the result of a well prepared discussion. In June 1995 a seminar took place in Maastricht and Brussels, almost "symbolic cities" in the history of the European integration, about this subject. A first discussion paper was discussed and amended. In September 1995, the LYMEC Executive Committee meeting in Mainz adopted the resolution preliminary and in March 1996 the LYMEC Congress officially adopted the LYMEC position on the IGC-issues.

The enclosed resolution will give an overview of the results of the discussion about this important issue that took place amongst the various member organisation of LYMEC.

It gives a clear point of view of how young liberals and radicals in Europe think about the future of Europe.

I. Core tasks

The European Union has but a few tasks that need co-operation to be achieved. We will call these tasks core-tasks. Core-tasks are those problems and issues, which can only be dealt with better on a higher level than national level.

The core-tasks of the European Union should be:

- Guarantee freedom, democracy, peace and human and minority rights
- Guarantee economic and social stability
- Fulfil the aims of the internal market by realising its four freedoms
- Implement the Aquis Communautaire
- Define a foreign and security policy to co-ordinate national foreign and security policies
- Provide and take care of a healthy environment
- Guarantee the member states no interference by the European Union in other matters than described in the core-tasks
- Develop a common justice and home affairs policy
- Create more transparency and efficiency in the whole process of policy-making
- Create a framework in which all European countries that subscribe to the core tasks of the European Union are welcome.

II. Structure

The structure of the European Union should be as follows:

The Commission

- One of the ways to achieve a better controlling system is to have a Commission whose members are independent of their national background. The members of the. The Commission should have a European way of thinking, in other words: the European Commissioners should be independent people.
- The Commission should have a minimum of 15 members and one chair, and exist of no more than 18 members (maximum because of workable situation) and one chair.

- Every commission member candidate must be approved by the European Parliament. If the European Parliament does not approve, a new candidate should be proposed.
- The European Parliament should have the power to dismiss every individual Commission member during their term in office, for every member is individually responsible for his or her own policy
- The Commission should report to the European Parliament and to the Council.

The European Parliament

- European parties are to be created in a more efficient and democratic way. The members should feel that they are European representatives and party-bound as well as representatives for their regions. A common election-system should be adopted on the basis of the 'De Gucht-report' to include an element of proportionality.
- The European Parliament must have the right to choose its own single seat. The economic and ecological inefficiency of having meetings in different cities should be terminated as soon as possible.
- Elections for the European Parliament should be held every five years. As a symbol for Europe, the elections for the European Parliament are held on 'the Robert Schuman day' (May 9th).

The Council

- At least every three years, the Council should trigger the Ordinary Revision. Procedure to control the effectiveness of all Treaties so far.
- Every member state should have one seat in the Council of Ministers. The Chairmanship rotates every half a year.
- For a European Union of 25-30 members innovative formulae could be envisaged. The existing comitology procedures should be simplified and reduced in number.

The Court of Justice

- The powers of the Court of Justice shall be extended to all areas covered by the Treaty, including the provisions on Justice and Internal affairs. The procedures of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance shall be accelerated, together with the introduction of an urgent procedure for particularly important cases.
- Each Member State should have at least one Judge in the Court of Justice, and at least two Judges in the General Court.

III. Policy-making and legislation

- The diversity and linguistic pluralism which has characterised the operation of the European Union institutions to date should be respected and retained..b To ensure a balance between the Institutions, the Council should clearly distinguish between its legislative and executive functions through a well defined hierarchy between legislative and regulatory norms.
- Before new policy at European level is made, policy-makers should respect the principle of subsidiarity; things that can be better arranged at a local or national level, should not be arranged in Brussels, in order to enhance the effectiveness.
- The European Parliament should approve all legislative decisions of the Council.
- Unanimity must be replaced by a qualified majority voting. Double qualified majority voting should be used for amendments to the Treaty, own resources and enlargement.
- Democratic legitimacy demands a new balancing of the Council's votes. We should avoid a situation in which a qualified majority could be undermined by a coalition of States representing a minority of the population.
- Before new Member States enter the European Union a thorough evaluation and adaptation of the Maastricht Treaty should take place.
- The Directives and Regulations should be implemented faster in national legislation and the Commission should take more effective action against Member States that do not implement correctly.
- The direct working of European Union law must be introduced as far as possible; direct working (regulation) is the rule, indirect (directives) the exception.
- Per policy-area, a fixed legislation-framework is to be created. The principle of subsidiarity does not apply to this legislation-framework. The frameworks exist of sub-laws that take care of the achievements of the goals set. After the phased fixed goals the sub-law should be replaced by a new sub-law or not. The principle of subsidiarity should apply the sub-laws.
- There should be a better way of controlling the way the budget of the European Union is spent within the European Union. The reports of the Court of Auditors should be used more as a guideline in fighting against fraud. The rules for fighting against fraud should be changed, in order to make it more attractive for the Member States to report fraud. National Governments should be more helpful with fighting fraud in relation to European Union budgets.

- If a member State wants to appeal on the principle of subsidiarity the Member State should pass this on to the Council before final decisions are made. After the final decision appeal it is not possible.
- Policy-making must be more open. Every citizen has to have the right to know how decisions have been made and how his/her country's representative has acted.
- Equality between men and women must be taken into consideration while nominating new instances and new EU officials.

IV. Core Group

Thus if a multi-speed Europe is to be established, the following demands must be met:

- A differentiated integration must be compatible with the objectives of the European Union, although modified integration should not to be encouraged,
- Each member should be free to join the core group if it is capable to do so and if it has the will to satisfy the requirements put down for a faster integration,
- A differentiated integration must not compromise the Community's legal order, nor undermine the cohesion of the internal market,
- Member States who choose to renounce to this participation will not be allowed to oppose the institution of a chief group.

V. Regions

The existing Committee of the Regions should be abolished. All tasks given to the contemporary Committee of the Regions should be handed over to the European Parliament and the European Commission.

VI. Enlargement of the European Union

The most important challenge facing Europe today is how to continue the process towards integration in the European Union while securing peace, democracy, human rights, environment, social stability and sustainable economic development in the rest of Europe and to avoid a return towards aggressive nationalism. In this context, the question of enlargement of the European Union and EU's relations to non-members is central. The European Union must develop a comprehensive strategy for co-operation with, and accession of, the European countries which are not member of the European Union yet. In this way the vision of the founders of the European Union about a peaceful and prosperous Europe will be fulfilled.

- The task is to integrate the democratic countries in Europe that wish to become Member of the European Union without slowing down the process of integration or diluting progress already made.
- Co-operation-Treaties should be strengthened with the countries, which are important to the European Union member states as a whole.
- The important criteria for entering the European Union should be a stable democracy, the respect of human and minority rights and a sustainable market economy.
- For the new Member States, it will be very difficult to adapt to the present level of implementing legislation of the European Union. However, every country that wants to be a Member State has to acknowledge the "*Aquis Communautaire*".
- In order to obtain a full membership of the Union the country has to submit a plan of action. In this plan the country sets out how, in what way and within what period of time they intend to meet the membership requirements.
- The European Commission has to monitor and support the correct and full implementation of the '*Aquis Communautaire*' into the national legislation of a potential Member State, especially regarding environmental, economic and judicial standards.

Propositions

- All members of the European Union should become members, either full or associated, of the European defence-structure, and thereby members of NATO. A country that accedes to the European Union should automatically accede to NATO.
- The EU should develop to a full Pan-European defence structure on its way to a European military.
- NATO must be transformed into a bilateral organisation with a North American and European pillar.
- The European pillar of NATO should be made more self-supporting than it is today.
- 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 controlled in an European democratic way, that means by the European Parliament. We propose that the EU set up a Common European Task Force, which could be used by the United Nations or the OSCE for peace-keeping and peace- making or humanitarian actions, environmental catastrophes and terrorism.

- The European Defence Pillar should be controlled in a European democratic way.
- All members of the European Union which qualify to be members of the Schengen Area and express their willingness to join should benefit from the border-less freedom of movement.

9.02. Future of relations between EU and the European Neighborhood

Keywords: eastern partnership, rule of law, democracy

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Tallinn, Estonia on November 11-12 2016

Summary:

The European Neighborhood Policy aims to support democracy, free market economy and rule of law in the countries surrounding the European Union. Over the past years it has become clear that hesitation among EU member states to honor the ENP and consequently the disappointment among EaP countries failing to benefit from EaP reforms, directly counteract the continued implementation of the ENP. This resolution calls upon the member states prioritize a coherent ENP that focuses on adding value for citizens of partnership countries thereby encouraging sustainable implementation of further reforms.

Taking into account Lymec Resolutions:

- 1.12 on the Future of Europe
- 1.16 on the Young liberals' vision for the future of the Council of Europe (2008)
- 1.21 Towards a more transparent and accountable Europe,
- 1.22 Urgent resolution on the Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to the European Union (2012)
- 1.26 A True European Customs Union (2012)
- 2.45 Urgent Resolution on the Presidential Elections in Belarus (2006)
- 9.22 Revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East (2011)
- 9.36 Towards a Stronger Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (2008)

Noting that:

- Since 2004 the European Union has formulated its relations to countries surrounding it as the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). The ENP has been focussed on promoting democracy, the rule of law and the free market. The exchange of goods and ideas increases cohesion between the EU and partnership countries and are at the core of the ENP
- The review of the ENP carried out in 2015 is a step in the right direction with regards to the formulation of a more ideologically sound neighbourhood policy, and that many of the reforms introduced have the potential to deliver positive results.

Considering that:

- Neighbouring countries are facing similar challenges (eg. corruption, stagnating economic development or human rights violations) in different ways. Therefore their relations with the European Union are different and the EU's approach to them should be different too. Before specific benefits of the ENP, association treaties or bilateral agreements with partnership countries such as visa liberalization or provisions for a customs union can come into effect, partnership countries have to meet strict criteria that bring them up to level with the EU's internal market and Schengen regulations.
- With the notable exception of some, most partnership countries have tried, but are failing to implement liberal democracy, free market economy and institutions to support the rule of law.
- Until today the ENP has failed to sufficiently encourage democratic development in most of the partnership countries or to deliver a relevant degree of economic development.
- Over the past two decades there have been attempts by the EU to adjust the ENP and make it more effective. This has led to contradiction, excessive bureaucracy and budgetary constraints on the European side, and disappointment in the promise of democracy, the rule of law and the free market in the partnership countries.
- There is reluctance in the European Council to enact agreements that are related, or perceived to be related, to the ENP and institute visa liberalization

and encourage free trade with partnership countries. This leads to mutual disappointment and disillusionment. Such disappointment makes nations vulnerable to anti-democratic sentiments.

Concludes that:

- The reluctance to enact promises made in the ENP leads to increasing disappointment and distrust among partnership countries in the values of the European Union
- new policies regarding the relations between the EU and the European Neighborhood should focus on rebooting and supporting democratic reforms, while at the same time making sure that the benefits of democracy and free market are obvious for citizens of the partnership countries
- Based on geographical similarities between partnership countries a distinction between a Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and an Eastern Partnership (EaP) remains desirable.

LYMEC welcomes:

- a New Neighbourhood policy with specific programs aimed at promoting democracy, the rule of law and free market. We consider it vital that appropriate amounts of funds are distributed for these programs to include:
- student exchange
- cultural exchange (folk singing and accordeon, dance; sports, arts)
- A comprehensive program of twinning of government agencies of neighbouring countries
- investments in infrastructure to join neighbouring countries with EU infrastructure
- removal of trade barriers and facilitation of economic exchanges
- The increased funding envisaged in the ENP for local authorities in partnership countries rather than for central governments
- More dialogue between the academia of partnership countries and that of the EU

LYMEC Calls upon:

- the European Commission and the European Council to be consistent in the enactment of policies and agreements. Negotiations with partnership countries that rollback on reforms (implemented under the ENP or to gain access to the Enlargement Agenda) should be frozen until that country shows real commitment to adhere to the norms and principles that grant access to the schemes, projects and the accession process as a whole. be removed from the Enlargement Agenda if such reforms are undone. Similarly, if the agreed standards are met by partnership countries, benefits should become available without delay or hesitation. The relevant bodies to make the dialogue process between the EU and the governments of Neighbourhood countries more visible The access to mechanisms encompassed in the ENP to be simplified and made more accessible. The civil society of Neighbourhood countries and that of EU member states to increase exchange and dialogue between them. The EU and Neighbourhood civil society to increase dialogue between them, focusing particularly on the implementation of specific projects within the framework of the ENP, with a particular aim to avoid duplication.
- This position will be communicated to and discussed with ALDE.

9.03 Political Map of Europe Must Match Geographical Map of Europe

EU Enlargement, Fortress Europe & Borders Policy, European Integration

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

LYMEC firmly believes that:

- the process of enlargement of the European Union should be pursued by all possible means;
- the vision of the EU should be to achieve democracy, market economy, protection of minorities and political stability throughout the European continent;
- ALDE and liberals across Europe need to remain at the forefront of advocacy for future enlargements of the EU.
- all European countries which are now outside of the EU must be invited to join the Union without delay as soon as they fulfil the Copenhagen criteria.

9.04 Mutual Energy Assistance Pact

Bilateral Agreements, Energy Security, Future of Europe

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

Taking into account that:

- Europe heavily relies on external energy supplies,
- energy is vital for our economy
- even with the continued development of renewables, energy independence for Europe will not be achievable in the next decades,
- Europe's energy crisis has further been exaggerated by Russia's war against Ukraine

Noting that:

- in the distant (OPEC) and not so distant (Russia) past the cut-off of energy supplies has been used for political blackmail,
- the Treaty of Lisbon mentions „energy solidarity“ but remains ambiguous on the topic,
- at the same time 4 out of 5 EU citizens want true energy assistance [1]

LYMEC calls on all EU member states to sign a Mutual Energy Assistance Pact. In the case of natural disasters, terrorist attacks, sabotage or the suspension of deliveries by third parties this pact shall facilitate mutual access to energy providers, networks and strategic reserves. Not only is Mutual Energy Assistance expected by EU citizens, it is also of fundamental importance to safeguard the heavily interwoven European economy

LYMEC calls on all EU members to obtain a normal amount of reserves.

[1] „In case there is a sudden shortage of gas or oil in an EU Member State, what would you personally favor?

The affected Member State should be able to rely on the reserves of other EU Member States as well – 79 %

The affected Member State has to rely on its own reserves only – 17 %

DK / NA – 5 %“

Flash Eurobarometer 206a, April 2007, The Gallup Organization

9.05 Resolution on EU-U.S. Economic Relations: Free Trade and Economic Integration

Transatlantic Relations, Economy, United States

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

Considering that:

- Free trade ensures the lowest possible prices for consumers.
- Free trade ensures that the resources are utilized as efficiently as possible.
- Political commitment thus far has fallen far behind economic realities when it comes to transatlantic economic integration.
- Negotiations for a new United States-European Union Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership have previously failed.

Believing that:

- The U.S. is the most important ally of the EU when it comes to fighting for a society that is, and in the future continues to be, characterized by liberty, democracy and a free market economy.
- Economic integration between the U.S. and the EU will enhance world economic growth.
- Global free trade is our ultimate goal.

LYMEC calls for:

- An EU-U.S. free trade agreement that could and must take effective measures to facilitate market access for third countries.
- An EU-U.S. free trade agreement characterized by no tariffs on goods is established within the framework of the Transatlantic Economic Council.
- A transatlantic regulatory regime on the basis of mutual recognition of domestic standards should be established.
- An EU-U.S. single market for financial services should be established.
- The EU and the U.S. make a serious commitment in order to achieve a new WTO agreement within the framework of the Doha round.
- Further convergence of accounting standards, intellectual property rights and patent law is required in order to achieve further EU-U.S. economic integration.

9.06 Resolution on Europe in Change

(Former 9.07 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

EU's Foreign Affairs, Security, Military

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

Main thoughts for a European security policy

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has shown the unpreparedness and insufficiency of the EU's common security structures and their coordination with the military structures of Member States and allies. Furthermore, economic differences pose an additional threat to European security.

LYMEC therefore demands:

- The establishment of the European Union must be organised in a federal structure with complete democratic and constitutional institutions.
- Consequences for the alliance due to the changes in the foreign and security policy in Europe.
- An intensive recovering programme to reduce the enormous economic differences.
- In particular, even after the Maastricht meeting the development of the economic, social and environmental integration must be continued. Consequently national sovereignty has to be given over to European institutions, following the principle of subsidiarity.

"European operative Force"

The European Union with its own foreign and security policy needs a European operative force. LYMEC thinks that this army should consist of volunteers. Furthermore LYMEC is of the opinion that this army has to be controlled by a democratically legitimated European institution for defence.

Its tasks will consist of:

- Participation in military missions by order of the United Nations (UN) security council in accordance with chapter VII of the Geneva charter.
- Participation in the UN peacekeeping force.
- Every activity for the UN must be approved by the European Parliament.

Obviously there will be difficulties in translating these demands into practice straight away. Therefore LYMEC asks for:

- The establishment of a special purpose unit which can also be used together with the UN peacekeeping force (blue berets);
- The creation of multi-national units in all EU member states.

LYMEC supports the strengthening of the UN and its sub organisations. With membership in the UN the states oblige themselves to observe and enforce human rights. In order to achieve this the UN needs to have the international monopoly of force.

In case of violation the world society should react differentiated with suitable sanctions, which include in an extreme situation like aggressive war or genocide also the use of military power against the aggressor. The decision making process in the UN has to be reformed too.

"Export of military goods"

In order to introduce and practice a common European foreign and security policy it is necessary to agree on common standards of export control of weapons. Only a common policy on these issues may stop the competition of the armament industries between the European states, which has been possible in the past due to different national laws. In general the export of military goods produced in the EC should only be allowed to NATO members, member states of the Council of Europe and the pacific OECD members. It has to be assured that there will be no exports from these countries to third parties.

The most important step is effective transparency. Any exclusions must be authorised by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. An annual report should be published including the "dual use" products, too.

The Common Position 2008/944/CFSP establishing common criteria for export controls has resolved many of these issues and must be adhered to by all member states.

"Institutions"

In retrospect concerning the East - West conflict, the attitudes and positions of NATO have been proven true. After the end of this conflict NATO has to find a new character and should offer access to East European states.

A new European - American relationship should be established based on the NATO treaties of 1949. LYMEC does not want a "fortress Europe", the will for a constructive dialogue with the rest of the world has to be put into practice any time. Each of us

has to be open minded for Eastern European opinions and interests based on democratic principles.

LYMEC calls for the foundation of a UN agency, which supervises the export of military equipment all over the world. Special rights to enable effective control have to be given to such an agency. In case of illegal exports the UN must be legitimated to impose sanctions against the country in question.

9.07 Motion for a Resolution Demanding the Immediate Release of Political Opponents in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Burma)

(Former 9.09 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Human Rights, Democracy, Myanmar
Autumn Congress of European Liberal Youth (Lymec)
Ljubljana (Slovenia), November 26-28, 2010.

The Military coup on February 1, 2021, effectively ended the democratic transition in Myanmar. The military junta seized power by claiming widespread election and voter irregularities, although international and domestic observers found the election result credible and in reflection of the will of a majority of voters. Millions participated in peaceful protests and the opposition formed the National Unity Government (NUG). The security forces answered with brutal violence against the civilian population. The offences committed by the security forces amount to crimes against humanity, according to Human Right Watch. Journalists, lawyers, medical personnel, anti-junta protesters, civil society activists, and women continue to be at high risk of arbitrary arrest. Myanmar has long defied international calls for accountability and the human rights situation is further deteriorating.

Defending:

- democracy and Human Rights as liberal values;
- that legal and fair elections are needed to develop democracy;

Considering:

- that Human Rights are universal and, thus, should be protected wherever in the world, including the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- that the right to liberty is ensured by the Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

- that Article 9 of the same Declaration says “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.”;
- that Article 19 of the same Declaration defends freedom of opinion and expression;
- the European Parliament resolution on Burma adopted on May 2010, 18;
- the draft resolution whereby the General Assembly of the United Nations would strongly condemn “the ongoing systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar” as approved by the third committee;

The European Liberal Youth:

- condemns the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar;
- urges Burmese government to release all arbitrarily imprisoned political prisoners;
- asks Burmese authorities to abolish restrictions on freedom of assembly, association, movement and expression in Burma, including those imposed on the free and independent media;
- appeals the current Burmese government to organise fair and legal elections as soon as possible;
- invites the European institutions – as well the Council of Europe that the bodies of the European Union – to maintain international pressure on Myanmar;
- encourages liberal and democrats in Myanmar not to stop their efforts in favour of supporting democracy and human rights in their country;
- calls upon LYMEC instances to work closely with the European Liberal Democrats and the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe to achieve the goal of this resolution.

9.08 Resolution on Middle East Relations

(Former 9.11 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International Conflicts, Past Events, Israel

Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Congress assembled in Plovdiv, 7 - 8 of April, 2001

Considering:

- That the continued expansion of Israeli Settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territories constitutes one of the most serious obstacles to reaching peace
- That Israeli border closures have seriously hampered international development assistance and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people

LYMEC CALLS on the European Commission:

- to recognise that violation of human rights and exportation of products from settlements in occupied territories under preferential tariffs are not in line with the association agreement between Israel and the EU
- to place regular import duties on exports from territories beyond the green line - including the Golan and East Jerusalem as well as the West Bank and Gaza
- to keep the Palestinian production duty-free under the Interim Association Agreement between the Palestinians authority and the European Union

Deploring:

- the practice of extra-judicial killings of Palestinians carried out by the IDF
- the Palestinian acts of terrorism against Israelis

LYMEC CALLS on the European Commission:

- to pressure Israel to return to the rule of law
- to pressure the Palestinian leadership to publicly denounce all acts of terrorism

RECOGNIZING:

- the basic right of the state of Israel to guard and defend itself against external threats
- the establishment of a viable Palestinian state as a precondition for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East

LYMEC CALLS:

- on both parties to renew their efforts for a peaceful solution for the conflicts in the Middle East

9.09 Fight against Terrorism

(Merger Former 9.14 and 9.16 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Terrorism, International Law, International Transparency

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Concerned by the rising tide of terrorism in the 21st Century

Noting that terrorist attacks affect all people around the world

Saddened by the recent July terrorist attacks in London,

Troubled by European governments' responses that have sought to curtail hard-won civil rights and ancient liberties

Recognises that this assault on individual rights has been done in the name of protecting citizens

Deeply concerned by new efforts to invade privacy, to erode the principle of habeas corpus, to increase the powers of detention and to limit the powers of judicial and parliamentary oversight

Recalling our belief that to curtail liberty is to let the terrorists be victorious

Believing that our freedom and liberty are the greatest protection from terrorist acts

Saluting the resolve of our fellow citizens in the face of terror and stand firm and resolute in our defence of freedom

Considering:

- Terrorism being an important issue on the international agenda since September 11th
- Many countries are introducing the "fight against terror" in their domestic policy
- The fight against terror is sometimes being abused in order to strengthen positions of power, to oppress minority groups and to restrain civil and political rights.

Believing:

- that anti-terrorism measures should not exceed what is strictly necessary to protect the state against terrorism
- that anti-terrorism measures should never be used to strengthen positions of power, oppress minorities or to restrain civil or political rights.

Emphasizing that:

- The fight against terror cannot restrict the freedom of speech or the freedom of religion. It cannot cut down the right of moral, physical, mental or sexual integrity.
- The fight against terror cannot cut down the prohibition of torture, inhuman punishments or degrading treatment.
- The fight against terror cannot impose restrictions on the injunction of slavery or forced labor.

- The fight against terror cannot violate the freedom of the press or introduce censorship. It cannot impose limits on the right of demonstration.
- The fight against terror cannot demarcate the right of peaceful and unarmed meeting or association.
- The fight against terror cannot detract the respect of private life or family life, unless explicitly predetermined by a legal act.

LYMEC:

- **Condemns** all terrorist outrages throughout the world – whether they be in London, Baghdad, Madrid, Bali or elsewhere
- **Declares** our fundamental belief that strength and safety are found in liberty and freedom
- **Affirms** our opposition to the curtailment of hard-won civil rights and ancient liberties in the name of anti-terrorism and only take those measures to enhance our safety which are truly effective and thus not use symbol politics
- **Calls upon** all governments to respect civil liberties in their quest to prevent terrorism
- **Expresses** our solidarity with all victims of terrorism and our resolve to seek a move to peaceful, political reconciliation of differences rather than indiscriminate violence

9.10 Problems in the Middle East

(Former 9.15 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International Conflicts, International Transparency, Israel

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

Considering:

- The Middle-East conflict is a problem known from time immemorial
- The Israeli people are confronted with Palestinian terrorist assaults on a daily basis
- The Middle-East conflict is not a regional problem, but affects the entire (Western) World
- The Middle-East conflict causes worldwide acts of terrorism to occur

LYMEC calls upon:

- Palestine, the state of the Palestinian people, and Israel, the state of the Jewish people should exist side by side.
- The boundaries of the two states should be based on the UN-resolutions, the Saudi peace plan and the boundaries of 1967. Land can be exchanged on a one-to-one basis, so there will be no colonists left in Palestine. All Jewish settlements on Palestinian land have to be dismantled and the colonists must receive fair financial reimbursements.
- Jerusalem must be an open city, capital of two states. All Jewish areas must resort under Israeli sovereignty and all Arab areas must resort under Palestinian sovereignty. No sovereignty on the Sacred places
- Recurrence-right for the refugees: Israel must acknowledge the suffering of the Palestinian people and must set up a fund, in cooperation with Palestine and the international community, to reimburse all refugees.
- Palestine has to be demilitarized and the International community should watch over its safety.

9.11 Urgent Resolution on Darfur Crisis

(Former 9.18 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

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

Since winter 2003, more than 300,000 civilians have died in the North-Western region of Darfur in Sudan, as a result of a political and economical conflict. Janjawid militias, allied with the Sudanese government of Khartoum and supported by the Muslim tribes from Arabic influence, keep on perpetrating massacres against contesting Africanised Muslim tribes from the western part of the country. Today 3 million people have been displaced from this region of 6 million inhabitants causing a massive exodus of refugees inside the country and abroad in neighbouring Chad. We cannot ignore anymore this humanitarian disaster. The United Nations have qualified this crisis as an ethnic cleansing.

In 2023, the conflict in Darfur remains. Colder than the years before, but has the potential to reignite depending on the circumstances due its complexity and the lack of real solutions provided to fix the core problems which started the crisis.

Considering that:

- Since 2003, Darfur region has been wrecked by a civilian war opposing rebels to the Sudanese government;
- On the 6 million people of Darfur, more than 3 million have been displaced in refugee camps, 360.000 civilians have found refuge in 13 refugee camps in Chad;
- Massacres have been perpetrated causing the deaths of several tenths of thousands of people.
- Women and children, are continually victims of rape while, in addition, the Janjawid commit kidnappings and murders on the civilian population;
- There is humanitarian and health crisis in refugee camps;
- NGOs face increasing difficulties in shipping the aid ;
- UN Security Council has ordered through its 30th July 2004 resolution the Sudanese government to disarm the Janjawid militias who terrorise the civil population in Darfur within 30 days;
- By the expiration of the above mentioned ultimatum no significant improvement to the humanitarian situation could be observed;
- The US former Secretary of State Collin Powell on the basis of a thorough investigation in the refugee camps asserted that a genocide was perpetrated and could extend;
- The Sudanese government refused the implementation of resolution 1706 of the UN Security Council;
- The African Union has deployed armed forces in the Darfur region at the end of 2006 but despite these efforts the situation remains deeply worrying;
- The Sudanese Government has eventually accepted to send 3,000 UN Blue Helmets and 6 helicopters on his territory as a support to the African Union forces;
- The option described in L is welcome but not sufficient;
- The US President George W. Bush has not excluded a military intervention in case the UN Security Council did not accept any sanction in order to end the Sudanese genocide;
- The European Union is competent to intervene in this type of matter according to the Petersberg missions;
- In 2018, the UNAMID forces started to exit Darfur due to the reduction of the violence in the region and the increase of stability.
- In 2022, the Russian "Wagner Group" has intervened and is pulling profits from the local resources while spreading terror among the civilians and inflaming the crisis.

Regretting that:

- In the early days, Russia and China comforted the position of the Sudanese government by refusing any armed intervention from the UN;
- Russia and China did not agree to formally consider the situation in Darfur as a genocide and consequently are not calling for further sanction;

LYMEC Congress asks:

- In order to bring an immediate end to the genocide, the European Council and its Member States to:
 - Remain vigilant against the possible deterioration of the situation that could occur in the region.
 - If necessary, exercise its duty to intervene in order to help the victims and put an end to human rights violations in line with articles from 52 to 54 of the UN Charter and in the spirit of the TEU;

The European Institutions to:

Promote a common position between the member countries regarding the conflict and increase collaboration in different areas to improve the situation in the area and prevent the conflict from escalating;

The LYMEC Bureau to:

- Present these ideas to the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group in the European Parliament, and in particular to the ALDE Prime Ministers and Leaders;
- Send this resolution to all EU27 national governments and parliamentary assemblies;

LYMEC Member Organisations to:

- Reflect these ideas in their national media;
- Ask their mother parties to submit motions at national parliamentary assemblies on Darfur along the lines of this resolution.

9.12 Urgency Resolution on Action against Piracy

(Former 9.20 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Terrorism, International Transparency, International Law

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress

Assembled in Brussels, Belgium, on 21st and 22nd November 2008

According to data from the International Maritime Bureau (International Chamber of Commerce) in 2022, the global number of piracy incidents is the lowest since 1994.

Despite the global decrease of piracy incidents in recent years, thanks in part for different national and supranational efforts such as EU NAVFOR Somalia, there are areas like the Callao Anchorage or Singapore Straits in which piracy has increased.

LYMEC remains concerned by the threat piracy always represents for commerce and hence for all liberal societies across the world.

LYMEC is aware that, without adequate and coordinated international vigilance, piracy actions may increase and encourage pirates and/or other groups around the world to thrive through criminal actions.

LYMEC wants to draw the attention to the fact that Cicero already described pirates as “enemies of the human race” and that, throughout history, piracy has always been considered as a deeply condemnable act against which anybody was entitled to take action, forming the only clear and undisputed example of universal jurisdiction in international law.

LYMEC hence calls governments around the world to take immediate and controlled action against identified pirates and pirate strongholds. This should include the use of military action on the sea and social action on the ground to prevent and deter crime. LYMEC recognizes that, to be effective, such an account might necessitate the use of force in an intelligent and reasonable manner.

LYMEC further calls upon governments around the world to find an enduring solution for the problem in Somalia.

9.13 Improving the Coordination of Security Policy in Europe

(Former 9.21 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

European Integration, International Transparency, International Law

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

The European Union is based on the values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. It is our common interest to support these ideals not only within Europe but beyond our borders. Therefore, the European Union should make use of the measures provided by the Lisbon Treaty and the members should aim at coordinating their national policies.

Particularly the democratic movements in the Middle East and Northern Africa require this right now. This should include the idea of confiscation of property.

9.14 E.U. Must Maintain the Weapons Embargo Against China

(Former 9.23 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International Law, International Transparency, China

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

LYMEC supports a continued intensive dialogue between the European Union and The People's Republic of China (China) to the benefit of all the parties involved. This cooperation has already resulted in economic benefits for the EU and China as well as improvements in the lives of the Chinese population.

However, LYMEC does not feel that this is the appropriate time to lift the weapons embargo.

The embargo was introduced in 1989 as a reaction to China's grave violations of human rights, symbolized by the Tian An Men massacre. Since then there have been some improvements in the area of human rights but they are far from sufficient. A suspension of the embargo at this time would be a wrong signal to send to the Chinese leadership.

Furthermore, relations between China and Taiwan are currently very tense. Regardless of whether China intends to purchase weapons from the EU to use against Taiwan, lifting the embargo could be interpreted as approval of military intervention by China in democratic Taiwan, which would be extremely unfortunate.

The possibility of lifting the embargo at a later date is still present. However, such an action should be conditioned upon further improvements in political and personal freedoms and a stabilization of relations between China and Taiwan.

9.15 Resolution on Gibraltar

(Merger Former 9.30, 9.31 and 9.32 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

International conflicts, Security, Bilateral Agreements, Gibraltar, Spain

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Recalling its previous resolution on Gibraltar adopted by the LYMEC seminar on European Borders held in Dublin in 1992, Noting the resolutions on Gibraltar adopted by IFLRY in 1991 and 1993, 1994, 2001 and 2002.

Noting the consensus achieved in this matter by the LYMEC member organisations of both the United Kingdom and Spain,

Noting that Gibraltar was a full part of the European Union from 1973 to 2020

Noting that the Spanish territorial claim over Gibraltar and the permanent harassment to Gibraltar, strongly rejected by the People of Gibraltar, still persists,

Noting that Spain continues to impose restrictions and conscious obstacles in its border with Gibraltar,

Noting that Gibraltar has been British territory since 1704, was ceded to the Crown of Great Britain in perpetuity in 1713, and that a referendum held in Gibraltar on 10 September 1967 resulted in an overwhelming desire on the part of its inhabitants to remain linked to the United Kingdom, as well as the 2002 referendum to the same effect.

Further notes, that on 4 October 2001 all the elected members of the Parliament of Gibraltar (the House of Assembly) signed a declaration which says that: "The people of Gibraltar will not compromise our right to self-determination, still less our sovereignty, in exchange for respect for rights which are ours anyway, and which others should be made to respect unconditionally";

Recalls, the resolution unanimously adopted by Liberal International in March 1999 at its Congress in Brussels which "expresses its commitment to the cause of self-determination for all remaining colonial countries.

Notes that the EU Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio (from Spain) presented her draft proposals on the EU Single European Sky measures relating to Eurocontrol and the creation of a single European airspace on Wednesday 10 October 2001,

Further notes that these measures do not apply to Gibraltar.

Also notes the Spanish Government's sustained campaign to veto important measures affecting all Europeans if these include Gibraltar.

9.16 Resolution on Cyprus

(Former 9.34 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Stockholm, Sweden 12 - 14 May 2017.

Noting:

- The situation in Cyprus, where the northern part has been occupied by Turkish military forces since 1974;
- That Cyprus is a member of the European Union since 2004;
- That negotiations for a Turkish membership in the EU have been on-going since 1987 but has been stalled due to infringements on human rights and democratic rights in Turkey as well as its failure to fulfil its obligations for the Republic of Cyprus and to contribute constructively towards the solution on the Cyprus problem.
- That the UN Secretary General started negotiations on behalf of the UN to solve the problem over twenty years ago;
- That the first two rounds of negotiations did not result in any progress towards finding a solution;
- That negotiations started again in May 2015, hosted by United Nations special envoy for Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, involving Mustafa Akinci and Nikos Anastasiades, to create a Bi-zonal, Bi-communal Federation without any involvement from a third state;
- That for the first time in the history of the negotiations, the leaders of both Communities swapped maps indicating the territory of each constituent state if a solution is found. However, the map from the T/c side has been withdrawn during the negotiations.
- That not only the two communities, but also the guarantors (Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom) sat down at one table to initiate the discussion on the chapter of security which is one of the biggest issues on the table;
- That the Conference on Cyprus at Crans Montana (Switzerland), ended in July 2017 without any results, due to the Turkish side's persistence, inter alia, on maintaining guarantor rights over the Republic of Cyprus and on the continuation of its unilateral intervention rights, not to mention Turkish insistence to perpetuate its military presence in Cyprus.
- The election of Ersin Tatar, the favoured candidate by Turkey and Erdogan, is now strongly projecting the narrative that they are not in favour of finding a solution on the basis of a Bi-zonal, Bi-communal Federation but rather one of two states solution.

- The fenced-off city of Varoshia, in violation of all the relevant UN Security Council's resolution, are an extremely negative development that is putting in danger the prospects for a comprehensive solution.

Considering:

- That because of the imposed separation and division, a whole generation of Cypriots has not been giving a chance of living together;
- That the humanitarian issue of ascertaining the fate of missing persons is of paramount importance, more pressure should be exerted on Turkey to allow access of the Committee on Missing Persons to Turkish archives and provide more information on possible burial sites, particularly for opening so-called military areas, both in the occupied areas of Cyprus and in Turkey itself;
- 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 heated relations between the EU and Turkey due to reforms leading to lesser democratic institutions in Turkey as well as the refugee crisis, has also reflected onto the dialogue on the reconciliation of 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 based on all UN resolutions for a just and viable solution;
- That politicians on the island must maintain a language of reciprocal respect.

LYMEC Supports:

- The renewed efforts of the United Nations special envoy for Cyprus in promoting a solution through direct negotiations between the two sides.
- The settlement of the Cyprus problem should be viable and lasting, that will ensure respect of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the whole people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike.

- The settlement should be based on the relevant UN Resolutions, the European Acquis and European values and principles. A settlement without foreign troops and the anachronistic system of guarantees.

LYMEC Urges:

- The two sides to adopt bold confidence building measures that would help build trust between the two communities and thus serve as a catalyst for the efforts to restart the negotiations.
- The UN Secretary General to appoint an Envoy for Cyprus in order to push things forward and restart the negotiations from the point they were suspended in Crans Montana in 2018, **based on the agreed six points** of the UN General Secretary.

LYMEC Welcomes:

- The contacts between LYMEC and the youth organization of the Democratic Alignment (NEO.DEPA) to empower youth in the negotiation process and in party politics on Cyprus;
- A peaceful, viable and lasting solution to the Cyprus issue will post a vigorous sign to the world that diverse societies, with people from different religions, cultures and backgrounds can live and work together in unity and peace, especially since the region around Cyprus is faced with many tensions and problems.

LYMEC Hopes:

- To establish further co-operation with this organization and other liberal political youth organizations;
- 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 organization in Cyprus;
- To support youth representatives as participants in the reunification negotiation process and as positive change agents on both sides of the now divided island;
- For Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot authorities to remain level-headed and refrain from pushing through provocative measures that may jeopardize reunification negotiations;
- To see the negotiations resumed and give full support for the achievement of a peace plan and fair reunification as soon as possible;
- To advocate for EU member states to make the struggle to reunify Cyprus a top priority on the agenda in the European Union, since for many Cypriots, full

membership of the European Union is the greatest opportunity for both communities.

9.17 Towards a Stronger Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

(Former 9.36 Prior to Budapest 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

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress in Berlin, 2007 and revised by LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

The Barcelona Process emerged during the Spanish Presidency in 1995 from the decision of the European Union and twelve neighbouring countries from the South and East of the Mediterranean region to establish a perspective of partnership and association. After more than twenty-five years of implementation, the outcome of this space for a deeper dialogue between both shores of the Mediterranean Sea has shown contradictions, excessive bureaucracy and budgetary constraints.

The latest EU enlargements constituted an important growth of former Mediterranean Partners, with Cyprus and Malta joining the EU in 2004 followed by Croatia in 2013. As of now, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership includes 43 states.

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 address the political and economic challenges and to work to get rid of certain prejudices existing on both sides of the Mediterranean.

A number of external factors have also delayed the implementation of the partnership launched in Barcelona, notably the instability in some countries of the region and the enduring violence in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, there is a need for a clear reformulation of the strategy for cooperation regarding the EU Mediterranean policy. Indeed, the first stage of the Barcelona

Process did not allow the involved countries to reach a relevant degree of economic development and did not sufficiently encourage political democratisation in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean. In fact, the balance of reforms carried out is disappointing. Indeed, the War on Terror that followed 9/11 as well as the Arab Spring both led to unforeseen dynamics across the region which have arguably delayed this process.

In order to consolidate channels of dialogue and association between the European Union and these Southern neighbour countries, the Barcelona process is more necessary than ever and therefore it demands a political concern in the EU agenda.

Taking all these elements into consideration and looking at the current state of art of the process, European Liberal Youth calls upon the partners of the Barcelona process:

1. To move towards the creation of a EuroMediterranean free trade area as soon as possible, and as a matter of priority for agricultural products, as a basic objective of the Barcelona process as a tool to encourage economic development and human rights. This process has to be accompanied by a clear strategy on energy supply.
2. to strongly advocate for the rule of law, based on good governance, and the respect for human rights, as well as the promotion of individual freedom, free market and the respect for the environment. These deep reforms must not only be the result of the cooperation with the EU, but also the result of the internal reforms performed by these countries. The creation of a *Human Rights Observatory* in one of the Southern neighbour countries would contribute to the achievement of these goals.
3. To condition EU aid to the respect of human rights by EU partner countries. In those countries which are still ruled by authoritarian regimes, the aid should instead be channelled through NGOs and civil society.
4. to establish a privileged status membership, as a fixed intermediate step between the association and the full membership in the EU.
5. to appoint a high-representative in order to make the partnership more visible and accountable.

9.18 Urgency Resolution on the Situation in BiH

(Merger Former 9.38, 9.39, 9.40 and 9.41 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Noting that:

- As liberals and radicals we turn against the term "internal ethnic conflict". We will not accept discrimination on ethnic minorities in conflicts with political, economic or even military means.
- All European countries have a common responsibility to protect the refugees and open their countries for the victims of the war.
- What has happened in this part of Europe, war, killing, destruction, ethnic cleaning and chaos, was a human tragedy.
- The Dayton agreement has started the peace process.
- We recognise this from before. The echo from Munich 1938 - "Peace in our time" sounds over Europe. Giving in to an aggressive dictatorship - a criminal - did not lead to peace but to a devastating war. It did not lead to peace then, and it will not today.
- The historical number of victims in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina:
 - About 200.000 persons killed, at least 10 percent of them were children.
 - About 30000 women have been raped.
 - One third of the Bosnian population has lost their homes. The refugees are now approximately 2.3 millions.
 - Sarajevo has been beleaguered since April 1992, like Gorazde, Bihac and Tuzla and these cities are like prisons for thousands of persons. -Since the war started millions of grenades have been dropped over Sarajevo.
 - The Many people who have suffered from starvation.
- Some information sources say that there have been more than one hundred concentration-camps (running by the Serbian side) in the area. All war criminals must be prosecuted.

Considering:

- the horrible atrocities committed in the wars in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo.
- that many of the perpetrators and instigators of these crimes have not been brought to justice.
- that the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia was established by the United Nations for the purpose of trying these war criminals.
- that all countries of the Former Yugoslavia are obliged to cooperate with this tribunal by international law and their national laws.
- that the judiciaries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, and Montenegro have not by their own initiative tried individuals on their side responsible

for committing war crimes, or in rare cases when they have, the course of justice has often been seriously flawed.

- that the basic principle of any state is the respect of law and human rights of all its citizens, and that this is also a vital prerequisite for joining the European Union, which is a goal all the countries of the Former Yugoslavia declared as theirs to achieve.

We Resolve:

- We strongly condemn all ethnic cleaning, all crimes against civilians made by any part. To divide the country in ethnical areas is the same as accepting military aggression and the ethnic cleansing. Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially the capital, has been a multicultural society for hundreds of years.
- That the responsibility for democratic European countries is to support the democratic opposition in Serbia, Montenegro and in Kosovo, which fight for peace and democracy in the area.
- That peace should last and the situation must improve, so that different ethnic groups can live together again in the future.
- We, the member organisations of LYMEC, will never accept that Bosnia-Herzegovina, a country recognised by the UN and most countries in the world, is extinguished and its people killed or driven away.
- We condemn the historical use of concentration camps

We Support:

- The democratic forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which work for democracy and tolerance.

The Congress Demands:

- All war criminals to be prosecuted and judged by the UN Court on war crimes.
- To help people with injuries sustained in war (mentally and physically).
- To create special programmes to help female victims.
- A common responsibility on a policy for the various refugees in the Member State of the European Union and guarantee nobody is sent back against her or his wish.
- Full freedom of movement of all citizens.
- Full freedom of media.
- Full voting rights for refugees.
- Refuse ethnic dividing of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- That Help be provided to people with injuries sustained in war (mentally and physically).
- The creation of special programmes to help and counsel women victims.
- That refugees are protected and to take a common responsibility.

- To call upon the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, and Montenegro to cooperate fully and unconditionally with the ICTY and its successive bodies.
- To further call upon the political parties, media, religious groups, NGO's and all individuals in SEE interested in the welfare and prosperity of their home countries and the region as a whole, to promote the cooperation with this tribunal and the need for all war criminals and their investigators indicted by the ICTY and its successive bodies to be tried before it.

9.19 Resolution on Transnistria

(Merger Former 9.44, 9.45 and 9.46 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

EU's Foreign Affairs, International Conflicts, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Romania

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

On 29 March 2011, Russia's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov agreed with his Moldovan colleague on the goal of a special status of Transnistria within the territorial integrity of Moldova and also announced that its country was ready to empty, dismantle and destroy three munitions depots in the breakaway region. This event marks a significant step as it points towards an end of a two-decade-long stalemate over the conflict and could lead to bringing Moldova closer to the EU. Therefore...

Having regard to:

- The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Moldova which entered into force on 1 July 1998, as amended;
- The EU-Moldova European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan, adopted on 22 February 2005;

Whereas:

- Since 2007 the European Union has shared a border with Moldova;
- The 1992 war in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova led to the establishment of the de facto independent Republic of Transnistria within the internationally recognised borders of the Republic of Moldova;
- Human rights violations by the authoritarian regime, as well as human trafficking and drug dealing, continue to occur in the Transnistrian region;
- Moldova's efforts to overcome its frozen conflict with the breakaway region have not been successful;
- the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has adopted in 1998 and 2001 resolutions that bound RUSSIA to retreat its troops from the Transnistrian region that has already been broken by Russia;

- Russia financially supports the Transnistrian region and has taken punitive economic measures against Moldova;
- Russia still refuses to withdraw troops based in the Transnistrian region, which it is legally obliged to do and is a threat to the independence of Republic of Moldova;
- the Russian troops staying on Moldovan territory legitimate through their presence the Transnistrian regime;
- Many young Moldovans, due to a lack of domestic opportunities, leave their country to find work abroad;
- The EU has intensified its engagement in Moldova, for example by establishing the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine and by appointing a EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova;
- Ukraine has proved to be willing to find a solution for the Transnistrian region by blocking Transnistrian trucks without official Moldovan customs papers from crossing into Ukraine.

Resolves that:

- Moldova should become a solid, stable and prosperous part of the EU's neighbourhood, attractive to its citizens and with a long-term perspective to join the European Union;
- This cannot be achieved without liberal reforms in Moldova and a final settlement to the frozen conflict in the Transnistrian region;
- Such settlement to the conflict necessitates an even greater involvement of the EU, as well as compromise and cooperation on all sides;
- Peace can be achieved only through compromise and respect for one another.

Calls on Moldova to:

- Strongly commit to implementing the EU-Moldova Action Plan and carry out radical domestic reforms in areas such as sustainability of the social security system, rule of law and anti-corruption, thereby creating a better environment for business;
- Start earnest negotiations with the Transnistrian authorities without up-front conditions;

Calls on the Transnistrian authorities to:

- Work constructively with Moldova and the international mediators on reaching a settlement to the conflict;

Calls on the European Union to:

- Move the relations with Moldova to the DG Enlargement and the country to be recognised by the EU as a potential candidate country and committing to a speedy and ambitious negotiation;
- Resume the 5+2 party talks, with the goal of clarifying the status of Transnistria as soon as possible, once the Russian invasion of Ukraine is over;
- Increase investment in campaigns in Moldova to make civil society aware of the benefits of European integration;
- Closely cooperate with the Moldovan government to improve the situation on minority rights and civil liberties in the country;
- ALDE to commit to work towards a realisation of the above goals and closer cooperation with Moldovan liberal parties;
- Give more technical aid for reforms in Moldova;
- Provide greater financial assistance to the customs and border services of Ukraine and Moldova;
- Devise incentives for the Transnistrian business community to work constructively with Chisinau;
- Impose diplomatic and financial sanctions against the Transnistrian leadership;
- Increase its profile, appeal and visibility in Moldova by, inter alia, negotiating a visa facilitation agreement with Moldova and increasing funding for exchange programmes;
- Strengthen cooperation between Moldova and the Transnistrian region at non-official levels by, inter alia, organising educational exchange and business clinics with participation from both sides;
- Provide greater funding and support to Transnistrian civil society and independent media;
- Prepare to provide troops for a new international peacekeeping force in Moldova.

Calls on Russia to:

- Retreat its troops from Transnistria and support the peace process from this region;
- Agree with Moldova, the EU, the OSCE and other parties on the deployment of an international peacekeeping and policing operation, and withdraw all remaining troops; and
- Exert influence on the Transnistrian leadership to start negotiations with Moldova and accept a reasonable political settlement of the conflict.

9.20 Resolution on the Situation in Kosova

(Former 9.20, 9.25 and 9.26 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

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, citizens of Kosovo will 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 the EU 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 to this regard;
- 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
- The Republic of Kosovo and Serbia to align fully with international standards regarding Human Rights in generally and especially towards its minorities; (9.26)
- Kosovo and Serbia to continue developing their economic relations and transport connections commenced in 2020.
- Kosovo's and Serbia's representatives to meet and discuss a roadmap for implementation of "Agreement on the path to normalisation between Kosovo and Serbia"

9.21 In defence of freedom and fundamental rights in Cuba

(Merger Former 9.97, 9.27 and 9.29 Prior to Budapest May 2023)

Submitted by: Jovenes Ciudadanos

Co-signed by: Jeunes MR, Mlodzi Nowoczesna, Jong VLD, Svenska Ungdom, Mlade ANO, Joves Liberals d'Andorra, JUNOS, JDL, USR Tineret, Attistibai Youth, Lithuanian Liberal Youth

Adopted at Spring Congress 2023 Budapest, Hungary on 6 May 2023.

Background:

- The Cuban dictatorship has subdued its own citizenship for more than 60 years to a continuous violation of human rights and constitutional guarantees, leading Cuban people to poverty and misery for several generations. Due to international alliances between the Castro brothers, tyranny and powers such as Russia, China or even Venezuela, any opening attempt towards a market economy and a liberal democracy based on the Rule of Law has been heavily repressed through violence and torture.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the poverty and misery Cuban citizens suffer. In July 2021, a rise in infections and deaths motivated the Cuban people to go on the streets, claiming liberty and the end of the communist regime, as well as asking for access to vaccination and economic support measures.
- For the first time in decades, thousands of Cubans joined the protests that have reached an unprecedented scale in the previous years, especially since such protests were not authorized by the Díaz Canel regime, the generational renewal of the Castro tyranny. In contrast, Díaz Canel openly asked, through the official regime media, to employ violence against protesters, stating that *"The combat order is given, revolutionaries, to the streets"*, which entails both a call for military and police repression and civil confrontation.
- Cuba has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Nevertheless, dissidents for many years are threatened with expulsion, imprisonment and torture due to their activism and involvement in demonstrations against the Cuban government.
- Berta Mexidor and Ramón Humberto Colás initiated in 1998 the Independent Libraries project with the purpose of contributing to ideological diversity and to non-dogmatic civic education. In order to achieve this objective within the Cuban democratic movement, many dissidents transformed their homes into free spaces of debates. They also organized workshops, lectures, youth

activities, different performances, book presentations, debates, among other activities.

- Since 1998 many librarians have been victims of threat and violence.
- The United States has already declared itself on this situation, demanding the Díaz Canel regime to respect fundamental rights and liberties of Cuban citizens, who have peacefully protested throughout the whole country, gaining the support of Cuban leading figures such as Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, as well as the Cuban exile, mainly located in Miami.

Considerations:

- In 2016, the The European Union, its Member States and Cuba signed the “Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba”, which came into force in 2017 to enhance bilateral cooperation and mutual engagement in order to strengthen human rights and democracy.
- On the 16th September 2021, the European Parliament passed, with 426 votes in favour, a resolution condemning the violence and repression at the Cuban dictatorship after the protests that begun on July 11th. In this resolution, the Parliament has urged the application of measures provided by the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba, in order to suspend political dialogue with the Díaz Canel government until every political detainee is released, on the basis of serious violations of human rights.
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has only worsened the situation. After both Vladimir Putin and Díaz-Canel had expressed their will to deepen strategic cooperation and to strengthen bilateral relations on January 24th, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba stated its complete alignment with Moscow and its “right to self defence” with regards to the current crisis. After such statement, Chairman of the State Duma Viacheslav Voloding, announced that Russia would restructure the Cuban debt with Russia, worth 2,3 billion dollars.
- The Cuban dictatorship must take back its call to civil conflict and guarantee the fundamental right of Cuban citizens to show their dissatisfaction in a peaceful way, as well as implementing the necessary measures to alleviate the effect of both the sanitary and economic crisis that are hitting Cuba.

Conclusions:

- The European Union has the capacity to influence other States' national policies around the globe, supporting liberty, democracy, and human rights and cooperation, having the citizens' interests at heart.
- The situation is critical and demands a solution. It is necessary to rebuild the relations of understanding, dialogue and respect of the EU with Cuba. 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 Díaz Canel.

- LYMEC has previously defended the need to put an end to tyranny and authoritarian governments and has always been in favour of citizens who demand protection for their fundamental rights and liberties. Thus, LYMEC must urge the European Union to lead the support to Cuban citizens who peacefully protest in defence of freedom and against the communist regime.

As a consequence, LYMEC stands for:

- Supporting the initiation of a pacific transition to a solid democracy in Cuba 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 the young Cuban citizens who live and work in the EU and to their associations that reclaim such pacific transition.
- Taking position in international conflicts and crises in Latin America.

Calls: On the EU Commission, EU institutions and all Member States:

- To guarantee compliance with human rights in Cuba and all Latin American countries, using the commercial and political influence over these regions.
- To take Cuba into consideration within the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, establishing stronger links and relations, and foreseeing the relevant actions
- Taking a position to support the Independent Libraries in order to promote civic and political freedom in Cuba.
- Respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Cuba
- Release of political dissidents condemned for the exercise of free expression, association, and assembly or on the basis of membership of political organisations.
- Condemning the systematic crackdown by the Cuban regime on individual freedom, in particular against dissidents, journalists, cyber activists, independent trade unionists and human rights defenders.

9.22 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 approved 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 of self-determination and independence as a sovereign state, in accordance with the principles of international law and the UN Charter.
- Trade agreements between the EU and Morocco can have a positive impact on Morocco's growth and economy. Yet, such agreements should only apply to the territory internationally recognized as Moroccan, but not to the Western Sahara; as it is a non-self-governing region that is still in the process of decolonization.
- 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.
- The UN-led peace process should be respected and backed by the international community in order to settle the Western Sahara dispute in a way that is fair, long-lasting, and acceptable to all parties.

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.
- Reaffirming its adherence to the concepts of self-determination and decolonization, the international community should support the Sahrawi people's right to choose their own destiny through a free and impartial referendum.

9.23 – 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.
- Occupied some territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in the east of Ukraine, financing DPR and LPR terrorist organisations. 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 the east of Eastern Ukraine
- Is causing increasing instability in Europe and intimidating countries bordering Russia and with Russian minorities.

Calls on LYMEC:

- To keep the Russian-Ukrainian war 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 organisations prepare to educate the future liberal politicians.
- To inform individual members and member organisations on facts and fiction about the situation in Ukraine.

9.24 - Resolution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

(Former 9.38 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

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;
- The USA was the largest partner for EU exports of goods (19.8 %) and the second largest partner for EU imports of goods (11.9 %); 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.

9.25 – 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 EuropeAid

Believing that:

- Development policy is an important area of European foreign policy, requiring a comprehensive and ambitious approach to solve global challenges effectively.
EuropeAid can play a relevant role in streamlining and strengthening EU development policy, by ensuring coherence and coordinated action.
- The EU and its policies should actively promote prosperity, equality of opportunity, and global freedom, enabling individuals all over the world to flourish.
- The aim of EU development policy should be to ensure: social and economic development, peace and reconciliation, and sustainable and good governance.

Also considering that:

Tax loopholes, EU trade barriers and agricultural policies potentially negate the fruits of development aids

The 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 and promotes a more prosperous developing and secure global environment.
- 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, in order to maximise its positive impact.
- To effectively address poverty, comprehensive EU development aid programs can be a useful complement to national efforts.

LYMEC therefore calls 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:
 - 1. Demonstrable economies of scale
 - 2. Plausible elimination of conflicting or competing policies of individual member states
 - 3. Significant increase of effectiveness
- Further enabling European citizens to take part in volunteer work abroad with focus on capacity building,
- Granting EuropeAid the resources needed to strengthen the common development policy
- Making the 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 and are phased out in order to reach the full potential of liberal development policy
- 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.

9.26 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 maximise 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 of Aggression in Ukraine

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 globalising 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));

Noting:

- 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 neighbouring 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 defence.
- 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 neighbouring 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.
- Similarly, in the aftermath of the 2022 full-scale war invasion of Ukraine, alarming content of Russian propaganda with anti-European and/or anti-Ukrainian sentiments, frequently incorporating hate speech, xenophobia, historical falsifications, and nuclear threats has been more actively and widely disseminated on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as in European states using a variety of tools listed above. The indicated content is largely aimed at the decrease or complete elimination of the local guerrilla fighters in the occupied areas. In the case of the aforementioned propaganda dissemination in the EU member states, the estimated goal is to cause significant delays, cuts, and cancellations of military and humanitarian aid programs to be provided to Ukraine.
- 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.
- A range of Russian TV, radio, and social media channels are still broadcasted on the territories of EU member states and other countries, including, for instance, International Television and Radio Company "Mir" operating on the territories of some Baltic states such as Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, in addition to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, despite the fact of being under the leadership of Putin's spokesman Dmitriy Peskov as the chairman of the board of the channel's directors.
- Similarly concerned that an allegedly liberal Russian TV Rain channel involved in a series of scandals over the openly pro-war rhetoric of some of its reporters and a range of controversial broadcasts, with its licence revoked in Baltic countries due to a threat to national security and public order, is still operating in Georgia, Moldova, and Israel, and getting new broadcasting licences in the EU member states, such as in the case of Netherlands.
- Taking into consideration that Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine itself have blocked Russian TV channels, to prevent them from exerting similar influence on their minorities. Furthermore, Russian propaganda TV channels such as RT (Russia Today) and Sputnik have been blocked in all EU member states and in the UK.
- 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 publicised 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 448500 million
- Russia's GDP is around 2.24 trillion1300 billion US dollars, while the EU's is about 16.64 trillion US dollars16500 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 defence 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 organisation 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.

9.27 Resolution on the Western Balkans Enlargement Process

(Former 9.43, 9.52 & 9.68 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

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 liberation for citizens of Kosovo, amid continued opposition from several EU member states.
- 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.

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.
- Efforts of Western Balkan states integrating onto the core of European Union.

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 resolving bilateral issues with neighbouring countries needs to continue in the name of the shared European future

of the region.

- 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 share a common goal in joining the European Union
- The European Union and the Western Balkan states share a vision of a common future, and that EU integration needs to remain a 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 the Union's values and norms as well as for the consolidation of 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 in the Balkans are in the 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 neighbouring countries and incomplete reconciliation processes.

Believing that:

- The overwhelming majority of young people supporting EU integration in affected countries.
- 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 identify as

Europeans, hoping to have a future based upon EU values – they rightfully feel that they are Europe, too.

- The EU motto “United in Diversity” perfectly describes the values upon which the idea of European Union is established - therefore the diversity should be supported;
- 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, membership perspective of the Western Balkan states and shift to the western standard
- 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.
- 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 concerned 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.
- Liberal political parties and liberal politicians to consider the impact their political decisions and public statements make on the political work of liberal partner organisations in the Western Balkans;
- Liberal political parties and liberal politicians to consider the impact their political decisions and public statements make on the political work of liberal partner organisations in 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 further emphasising 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.

- 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 organisations (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.

9.28 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 45th 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 spectres 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.
- Mr. Trump has an ongoing 2024 presidential election campaign and is leading in polling to be the republican candidate.
- The indictment by the four-court indictment of Mr. Trump concluding that he had attempted to overturn the results of the 2020 election and block the transfer of power.

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 and his subsequent presidential campaign 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.

9.29 Transparency and human rights led approach to EU deals with other countries on irregular migration

(Former 9.46 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

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.

9.30 Support student activism internationally

(Former 9.47 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

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 activists get a degree at a Norwegian university.
- Notable democratic backsliding and autocratisation in European Union countries such as Hungary and Poland and corresponding declines in academic freedom.

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

- The European Union and appropriate European countries and institutions to adopt the students at risk program from Norway by giving a certain number 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 organisational 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 organisations 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 throughout the EU, insofar as the relevant country and institution offers an academic safe haven, whereby a substantial number of student activists can come to various parts of Europe to better themselves. However, until this can be realised we urge European countries that are able to, to adopt the program nationally to support the fight for academic freedom and human rights.

9.31 EU support for sustainability and democracy in Tunisia

(Former 9.48 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: JNC, FEL, RU, VU, SU, JD

Considering that:

- The Republic of Tunisia was the only country to make a successful democratic transition following the Arab Spring, but a democratic backslide is currently occurring;
- The European Union (EU) should support Tunisia's road to 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 the State of 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 of America 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.

Recognizing that:

- Enabling and supporting an authoritarian regime will haunt both the EU and its Member States, and the Tunisian people;
- Paying an authoritarian regime will not discourage others to dismantle democratic institutions as long as there is a cash for migrant scheme with the EU;
- It's troubling to rely on authoritarian states for the delivery of energy;
- The EU has the aim to contribute to peace and security and the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights, and the strict observance of international law;
- Human dignity is an important value that must be respected, protected and constitute the basis of fundamental rights;
- Lessons must be learnt from previous European investments in the fields of energy and the resulting threats arising from our dependency on authoritarian states.

LYMEC:

- Urges the EU and its Member States to reorient its foreign policy on Tunisia to ensure the re-emergence of the development of a democratic Tunisia;
- Calls upon the EU and its Member States to cease any aid, photo-ops and other measures that (seem to) reward democratic backsliding and legitimise an autocratic regime;
- Urges the EU and its Member States to firmly condemn the human rights violations in Tunisia, the democratic backsliding that's occurring and the racist rhetoric against migrants by the incumbent regime;
- 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 the Republic of Malta, Tunisia and the Italian Republic, and Tunisia and French Republic 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 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.

9.32 The relationship with Turkey under assessment

(Former 9.49 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Movers: Junge Liberale - JuLis

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 the 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.

9.33 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)

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 leveraged, 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 utilised 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 missions 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.

9.34 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)

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 fulfil 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 disproportionately 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 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 their 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 personalised sanctions like freezing of monetary assets and entry bans to the EU.

9.35 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, 14th November 2020

Considering that:

- The conflict 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.
- Wars have been 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;
- Azerbaijan regained partial control of the Karabakh region through the latest peace deal, which was signed by Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan;
- Russia has increased its influence through mediating a peace deal and deployment of almost 2,000 peacekeepers.
- Because of the deployment of Russian peacekeepers due to the signing of a peace deal by the Russian Federation, Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Armenia, Russia has increased its regional influence through force;
- Turkish influence in the region has increased through the deployment of Turkish 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;
- Modern weaponry was sent by third countries to escalate the situation.

LYMEC calls for:

- The EU to work for deploying peacekeepers from a third-party; being countries or multilateral organisations that do not have major political interests in the region;
- EU to be a third-party for the sake of human rights, minorities, and condemnner 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.

9.36 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 legitimise 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.
- Freedom of Navigation is a fundamental principle of the law of the sea, as codified by Article 87 1(a) of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- In April 2023, Josep Borrell referred to the Taiwan Strait as "the most strategic strait in the world, in particular for our [EU] trade."

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.
- The recent military exercises conducted around Taiwan, by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the PRC, in 2022 and 2023 represent a major escalation of hostilities.
- These military exercises crossed international shipping lines and the PLA's use of "patrols" within the Taiwan Strait undermines Freedom of Navigation within these waters.

LYMEC calls:

- For the EU to end its "One-China-Policy".
- For the EU to work multilaterally with allies to ensure that a recognition materialises 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 organisations 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;

9.37 A New Chapter for EU-UK Relations

(Former 9.55 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

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, 24th 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;
- The Windsor Framework was agreed by the United Kingdom and the European Union and was formally adopted in March 2023.

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;
- The Windsor Framework Agreement represents significant and positive progress within discussions between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the complex issues arising from the Northern Ireland Protocol.
- The provision of the “Stormont Brake” within the Windsor Framework is only a partial solution to the democratic deficit within Northern Ireland, and that there are some concerns around its implementation.

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.

9.38 Arctic Trade Routes: Addressing Growing Geoeconomic and Geopolitical Factors in the Arctic

(Former 9.56 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by Uppreisn

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, 24th 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.
- Russia is restoring ports along the Northeast Passage, investing in state-of-the-art icebreakers and developing nearby oilfields to ensure that the passage will be open year-round within this decade. This is in part aiming to supplement the income Russia lost after sanctions were imposed due to their invasion of Ukraine.
- China is planning a trans-polar shipping route, the Polar Silk Road and

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.

9.39 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, Centerstudenten, 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, 24th April 2021

Considering that:

- In a globalised world, viruses do not adhere to borders and a local outbreak can speedily become a global pandemic
- The more rapidly that a virus spreads, the faster that the mutations can become a hindrance to development of a vaccination programme, which was seen in the case of COVID-19
- Developing countries are assumed to first have fully vaccinated their populations four years after the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic based on 2022 WHO data
- The unchecked spread of COVID-19 has hindered the global economic recovery and has undermined the health security of governments and people worldwide
- China and Russia have disregarded the scientific efficacy of their own vaccination programmes over using potential soft power through offering these vaccines globally
- 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 European 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.

- Statistically, it has been shown that a vastly smaller percentage of lower income nations' citizens have been vaccinated
- Low-income countries have been shown to struggle with vaccine shortages and therefore vulnerable citizens are rendered unable to vaccinate or become dependent on vaccine supplies from China and Russia;
- 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;
- Vaccine costs and the continued COVID-related measures are pushing low-income countries further into debt;
- 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.

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 preventable diseases including, COVID-19
- High income countries ought to show solidarity and work tirelessly for equal distribution of and access to vaccines globally
- It is the EU's strategic interest to have the strongest soft power in the world to encourage liberal democracy as a governmental system.

Calls on LYMEC to:

- To ensure global effective prevention methods against rapid spread of viruses through international political cooperation
- To commit fully to the COVAX scheme and end the practice of making bilateral deals with pharmaceutical companies and secure excess vaccines, while considering the lessons learned for future health crises
- To prioritise the vaccination of the elderly, health care workers and other people of significant risk globally
- Encourage EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Council, to release excess vaccine doses, once a designated critical mass coverage (as defined by WHO) has been met, 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 where 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.

9.40 For the Democratic Transition and Future of Belarus

(Former 9.58 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

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.

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. By the end of 2022, there were 1,446 political prisoners in Belarus;
- 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. As of latest data from June 2021 Belarusian Students' Association and Student Initiative Group have collected evidence of 492 detained, 160 expelled students on political grounds and, 51 people became suspects in criminal cases investigation 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 have been 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, at least 23 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 organise a peaceful transition of power, as seen by the unwillingness demonstrated by Lukashenka in many instances, for instance 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, re-legitimize and bolster the image of the dictatorship in the eyes of the Belarusian people;

- The actions of Lukashenka and the state apparatus are worrying, chiefly among these, the circumstance that Lukashenka has been obviously turning towards the Russian Federation as a guarantor of his power and illegitimate rule, for example by allowing Belarusian territory to be used by Russia's army to launch attacks into Ukraine as part of Russian war in Ukraine.

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, and are still protesting the injustice that it has brought upon them;

- The current situation in Belarus is still very volatile – after the beginning of the Russian war in Ukraine peaceful demonstrations took place across the country protesting Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. Police detained hundreds of protesters and subjected them to beatings and other ill-treatment. Authorities opened dozens of criminal cases for “aiding extremist activity” against people who shared photos and videos of Russian troops’ movement;

- 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 visa issuance to victims of the regime and to provide medical and psychological help for those who may need it.

9.41 EU United Against the Communist Party of China

(Former 9.59 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Submitted by: Junge Liberale, Nowoczesna Youth, LHG, Radikal Ungdom, Vesna, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, JOVD, LDLU

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th 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 order 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 maneuvers 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.

9.42 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)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021
Submitted by: Jeunes MR, Jong VLD, Uppreish and JD

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.
- As of June 2022, the European Parliament has adopted a text condemning the systemic oppression of the Uyghur community by the People's Republic of China, acknowledging birth prevention measures which it describes as representing "a serious risk of genocide".

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 (Netherlands). 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 explicitly 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.

9.43 For Freedom and Democracy in Russia

(Former 9.61 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

Submitted by: Junge Liberale, LHG, Vesna, Radical Ungdom, Nowoczesna Youth, JUNOS, JNC, LLY, TizenX, Jcs, Centerstudenter, Young Liberals Greece, LDU

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 Crimean peninsula 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 territories in cities of Donetsk and Luhansk region;
- Russia commenced a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 and illegally occupied Ukraine's south-east territories, violating numerous fundamental international law provisions, and since then has been committing grave war crimes and crimes against humanity including but not limited to targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure, deliberate killings of civilians, torture and deliberate murder of POWs, ecocide, destruction of cultural heritage;
- Russia is responsible for atrocities in Bucha, Irpin, numerous towns and settlements in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, and other regions;
- Russia is responsible for abduction, deportation and forced resettlement of Ukrainian children, establishment of filtration camps for detention and illegal imprisonment of civilians;
- 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. Furthermore, during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine Russia has actively referred to its nuclear capabilities in progressively anti-western rhetoric, drastically increased the threat to the EU and NATO member states by moving Russian state-funded PMC Wagner paramilitary group to Belarus, presenting a direct threat to Poland and Baltic countries, and along with Belarus has several times violated airspace of a range of countries, including Poland, an EU member state, with missiles and military aircrafts;
- In February 2023, Russia's President Vladimir Putin has threatened to suspend Russia's participation in the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty with the United States, imperilling the last remaining pact that regulates the world's two largest nuclear arsenals;
- 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 Nemtsov, as well as the recent attempt to poison Alexei Navalny with Novichok and his consequent politically motivated imprisonment conducted upon arrival to Russia in 2021;
- 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, freedom of belief and religion and freedom from state interference in the aforementioned rights;
- 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 favour of the Russian language; persecuting the leaders of spiritual or ethno-political minorities' organisations, prompting some of those leaders to seek political asylum in other states; violating the rights of the representatives of such organisations 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 has been consistently disseminating misinformation regarding the spread and effects of COVID-19 in Europe, deliberately spreading and Russian media spreads unfounded accusations concerning social distancing measures, lack of European solidarity, vaccines;
- Russian has been consistently providing financial and logistical support to the national and international media outlets that were suspected of spreading

conspiracy theories concerning COVID-19 around Europe 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), its Member States, and the world peace and security by launching and conducting an unprovoked and unjustified full-scale war against Ukraine in the heart of Europe, using banned weapons including cluster munitions and vacuum bombs, violating EU Member States' airspace with missiles; 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, with its imperialistic ambitions best demonstrated by its ongoing unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine. EU-Russia partnership currently could not be regarded as a feasible option. Therefore the only possible way to preserve peace and freedom in Europe is to secure Ukraine's victory against Russian imperialism through active provision of military and humanitarian aids to Ukraine followed by intensification of sanctions imposed on 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 share of daily internet users in the European Union increased by 24.5 percentage points from 2013 to 2022;The internet daily usage among the member states has risen by 30% between 2009 and 2019
- 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 further increase them in response to the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, meanwhile simultaneously strengthening to increase them in case of further Russian aggression and strengthen responsibility for EU-based companies and EU citizens for the violation of the sanctions imposed on 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 licensing and launching 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 liberal civil society through Erasmus+ and other educational and youth exchanges as well as visa liberalisations for ordinary citizens;
- The EU to prolong visa suspensions for Russian citizens in response to the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and the overwhelming support of the war among Russian 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 within internationally recognized borders;
- 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 while maintaining sanctions on Belarus in response to Belarus's cooperation with Russia in launching and conducting full-scale war against Ukraine;
- 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. However, for the time being of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, the EU should also take caution when granting asylum to the members of allegedly democratic opposition considering the history of the individual opposition members in supporting the war in Ukraine;

- The EU should be granting political asylum to any opposition member to the government considering the reasons specified above;
- The EU and its member states to develop and 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 signalling 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 and strengthen sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation in response to the ongoing aggression against Ukraine in order to discourage any further aggressions;
- The Renew Europe parliamentary group to foster the above mentioned points.

9.44 Urgency Resolution on Czech Out the Russian Influence

(Former 9.62 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC 2021 Online Spring Congress, 24th April 2021

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

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 an 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.

9.45 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, 24th 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.
- 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.
- On 26 June 2023 the court of first instance found the former head of Kherson region office Vladyslav Manher and his deputy Oleksii Levin guilty in ordering and executing the murder of Handziuk. Appellation and cassation trials may be held

and the cases are expected to be considered for a long time.

- 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 Odesa.
- During his anti-corruption activity, Serhii Sternenko became an assassination target at least 3 times, during one of which he killed his attacker. Subsequently, several criminal cases with lack of transparency have been opened against Serhii. As a result of one of them, the activist was falsely found guilty of stealing and rebellion and sentenced to 7 years in prison which violated the Ukrainian national law and international legal standards, including decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. Sternenko believes that the physical attacks were ordered by the Odesa mayor as a result of the disclosure of the alleged corrupt activities.
- Trials subject to Sternenko being accused of murder are still ongoing. One of the attackers has been found guilty and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

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 former Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova and top-advisor to Volodymyr Zelensky's presidential campaign and member of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine from the "Servant of the People" party, now the Ambassador of Ukraine in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, 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 non-interference in the justice system and the presumption of innocence (among them were Alexander Dubinsky, Maxim Buzhansky, Daniil Hetmantsev, etc.).
- 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 favour (214 - "Servant of the People" Party) 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 organising the protests and to ensure that accused activists are brought to justice, even though their guilt has not been proven.
- In November 2022, the Verkhovna Rada passed a law exempting volunteers from paying taxes. The law applies to goods for the army specified in Resolution No.

112 of February 24, 2016 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The Cabinet of Ministers should have updated this document after the adoption taxes on volunteers but has not yet done so. That caused a problem for volunteers, who have to pay taxes on products, which are not included in the list (in Resolution No. 112 of February 24, 2016 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine). That action has slowed down volunteer activities which are of vital importance for Ukraine now.

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 prosecution 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 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.
- Calls on the "Servant of the People" party to cease obstruction of 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 member organisations to share the raised concerns with their mother parties and other liberal stakeholders at the national level.

9.46 The Future of EU – Afghan Relations

(Former 9.64 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24th October 2021

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.

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.
- More than 1.6 million people have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, according to the UNHCR
- 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 Member States of the EU to refrain from recognizing the Taliban government unilaterally.
- The EU Member State countries to only engage in dialogue with the Taliban to help humanitarian organisations in creating a safe havens in Afghanistan.
- The EU Member States 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 legitimise 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 counterparts in 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 Member States 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 Member States to aid the relevant NGO's and the UN efforts regarding immediate famine relief and humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. The EU Member States 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 States 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 Member States should accept refugees from Afghanistan as a part of that responsibility.
- EU Member States 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 and its Member States 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 Council of the European Union 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.

9.47 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)

Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24th October 2021

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.

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.

9.48 Political Situation in Venezuela

(Former 9.67 Prior to Riga, November 2023)

Adopted at the LYMEC Autumn Congress in Paris, France, 24th October 2021

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

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. According to the report of the United Nations the most common examples of human rights violations are repression of dissidents using various types of torture and defiance of property laws in areas, where expensive metals or oil can be extracted. This will continue as long as Nicolás Maduro is recognised as the leader of the country.

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 organised 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, in 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 on 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 democratisation of their regimes.
- To sanction Venezuelan officials in case of human rights violations.

9.49 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 nine 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 acts of aggression 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 Moldova's Transnistria, and Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia are illegal and illegitimate;
- Through the use of force, Russia is trying to promote 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 and cultural diplomacy institutions as a means of spreading war propaganda internally and to consciously spread favourable to the Kremlin narratives, disinformation and fake news among foreign audiences;
- 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. What is more, sanctions cannot be revoked until Russia pays reparations to Ukraine.

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 the problematic areas;
- Russia's war against Ukraine is causing a global food crisis, a field of instability and inflation in the whole region;
- Protecting Ukraine is to protect a border of the western democracy standing 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 22,000 civilians have been killed by the Russian army in the city of Mariupol, while more than 100,000 residents of Mariupol suffer from water shortages and are starving. Furthermore, Mariupol became an epicentre of the Russian army's crimes against humanity.
- The Russian army has used prohibited types of weapons on the territory of Ukraine at least 24 times, including phosphorus ammunition.
- The prosecutor's office is investigating 175 cases of sexual violence against Ukrainians by the Russian military. Among the injured are 40 men, 13 children

aged from 4 to 17. At least 3000 Ukrainian women reported to the Police that they were raped by Russian soldiers.

- As of January 18, 2023, 160,000 infrastructure objects and residential buildings have been damaged due to constant attacks by Russian troops, including: 702 objects of critical infrastructure; 652 attacks on educational institutions, resulting in the deaths of 12 civilians, complete destruction of 159 schools, and partial damage of 493 and 707 brutal attacks on the healthcare system of Ukraine. 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.

- Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Russia has damaged or destroyed more than 623 cultural objects in Ukraine including monuments, historical buildings, churches and museums that represent Ukraine's rich cultural heritage, which dates back thousands of years.

- The 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. Despite diplomatic efforts being taken by Ukraine and its partners, Russia has refused to withdraw its troops from ZNPP and continues to launch missile attacks near the NPP. Russia is planning a terrorist attack at the ZNPP and has mined the nuclear facility. In case of a nuclear incident, 300,000 people from four oblasts of Ukraine have to be evacuated. The scale and risk of a nuclear disaster is extremely high.

- On June 6, 2023, Russian troops blew up the Kakhovka HPP, located in the temporarily occupied part of Kherson region, causing an ecological disaster and humanitarian crisis. More than 80 cities and villages and at least 42 000 people remained at risk of flooding. Many unique historical sites went underwater.

- At least 27,000 Ukrainian civilians are being held hostage by Russians, more than a few hundreds of them are confirmed to be women.

- According to the report of the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, more than 1,200,000 Ukrainian citizens have been forcibly relocated to Russia, including 240,000 children.

- The war crimes of Russia in Kyiv region, in particular in Bucha, Irpin, Hostomel, and Borodianka, as well as in the cities of Mariupol, Kherson, Nova Kakhovka, Kharkiv, Izium, Kremenchuk, Vinnytsia, Chernihiv, Mykolayiv, Sumy, Okhtyrka, Trostianets, Olenivka, and other Ukrainian cities are the bloodiest and the most 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 visa-less 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 their 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 its nuclear capabilities.
- 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.

9.50 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)

Keywords: genocide; Ukraine; the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation; atrocities; massacre; UN Genocide Convention (1948); intent to destroy; forcibly transfer children and civilians; war crimes; prosecution.

Adopted at the Spring Electoral Congress 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic

The Congress may decide:

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 June 30 April 21, 2023, 9,177,345 civilians were killed, including 531,777 children, 15,993,919 wounded, including 1,905,285 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).
- The number of forcibly displaced children from Ukraine to Russia is at least 19, 5002389 persons as of March 19, however, the Ombudsman of Ukraine says the number is approximately 200exceeds 100,000 children, some of whom are not orphans. Committing such war crimes shall not be left unpunished: in March 2023, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Putin and Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population and that of unlawful transfer of population from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

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.

9.51 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 institutionalised 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, etc.
- 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:
 - Stop the violence against and brutal repression of the Iranian people, and particularly Iranian women.

- Release all of the peaceful protestors who have been arrested.
- Independently investigate the death of Mahsa Amini and prosecute the perpetrators.
- Terminate the mandatory covering for women demanded by the regime;
- Dissolve the Guidance Control.
- End internet censorship and instead enable free and universal access to independent information channels for the entire population.
- Refrain from executing the death penalty and torture, as well as other human rights violations.
- 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.

9.52 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;
- there is no indication that the missile strike was intentionally targeting Polish soil;
- 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, and that in situations as such it is crucial to emphasise European cooperation and prioritise execution of unbiased investigation;
- the blame for the incident lies solely with the Russian Federation, responsible for the ongoing aggression between Ukraine and Russia and the circumstances leading to the accident;
- the incident clearly shows that the continued Russian war of aggression on Ukraine 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 media to place the full responsibility for wide-spread consequences of Russian aggression and the resulting military actions of parties engaged in the conflict on Russian Federation

9.53 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)

Keywords: nuclear security; nuclear terrorism; Russian war in Ukraine; Russia's invasion of Ukraine; International Atomic Energy Agency; nuclear facility; control seizure; security zone; violation of international law; energy crisis.

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest, Romania on 18 November 2022.

Bearing in mind that:

- 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 Chernobyl 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.

- 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.
- System costs for nuclear power are much lower than for intermittent renewables.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- Renewable power and energy savings promote peace by building energy security and resiliency for all European citizens, including Ukraine.
- 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.
- 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.
- Nuclear security is crucial, and the respective policy shall be further developed to tackle the possible risks of nuclear explosions at NPPs.
- 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 Chornobyl and Zaporizhzhia NPPs.
- The Russian troops took control of the Chornobyl 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 Chornobyl 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 Zaporizhzhia 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:

- 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.

- 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. 424
- Establishing security zones around nuclear power plants in Ukraine to minimise the risk of nuclear catastrophes, further terrorist attacks, and contingencies.
- 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.
- 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.
- Supporting the establishment of nuclear security zones as such around the nuclear facilities of the EU Member States.

9.54 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 Ukrainian-Russian war 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 organisations, 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 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 organised 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 organisation 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 criminalise economic dealings with agents in enemy states;

Believing that:

- If in any part of the world any organisation 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 organisations 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 etc;
- Russia has been declared a terrorist state by Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia a number of countries 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.

9.55 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 Ukrain

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 fertiliser 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.

9.56 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.

9.57 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 (ERP), 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 harmonise 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.

9.58 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, Atfistibai 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 organisations 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 organisations 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 organisations by:
 - pursuing strategic member recruitment from Georgia regarding Individual Members and Member Organizations
 - inviting the Georgian liberal youth organisations 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 organisations.

9.59 The heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel, Israel's right to defend itself within the lines of humanitarian and international law, and the humanitarian situation in Gaza

Co-signed by: Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), ERPY, Mladé ANO, USR Tineret, Momentum TizenX, Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF), FEL, Junge Grünliberale (JGL), Felix Schulz (IMS)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Deploring

- The heinous terrorist attacks by Hamas against the state of Israel which started on October 7th 2023;
- The killing of the highest number of civilian jews on a single day since the Holocaust, including women, children and Holocaust survivors;
- The rape, torture, murder and kidnappings of Israeli civilians and especially young women by Hamas terrorists;
- Antisemitic hatred incited by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the main financial and political sponsors of the terrorist organisations Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ);

- the growing number of antisemitic hate crimes in Europe since the heinous attacks by Hamas against Israel, reaching levels unseen in decades;
- The exploitation of these terrorist attacks to incite Anti-Muslim and Anti-Palestinian hatred;
- The abasement of the Palestinian people, including peaceful civilians, and Anti-Muslim and Anti-Palestinian racism, as seen in some statements from the current right-wing Israeli government;
- The Israeli government's settlement expansion in occupied West Bank.

Recognising

- That Hamas and other terrorist groups have repeatedly demonstrated to show no interest in a two-state solution;
- That the declared goal of Hamas and other terrorist groups is to wipe out the state of Israel and Judaism;
- That Israel's survival and persistence as a sovereign state depends on its ability to protect its territorial integrity against incursions by terrorist groups like Hamas who seek to annihilate it;
- That the Gaza-Strip is a territory controlled by terrorists;
- That Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas and with one of the greatest shares of children;
- The basic right of the state of Israel to guard and defend itself against external threat;
- That Israel must act to save kidnapped Israeli citizens, held hostage in Gaza by Hamas;
- That Hamas and other terrorist groups commit war crimes and crimes against humanity by deliberately sheltering their bases of attack in civilian areas;
- That the Israeli response to the terror attacks by Hamas has led to a humanitarian crisis in Gaza;

- That international humanitarian law has been breached by both sides in the conflict, for which the responsible parties should be held accountable;
- That there can be no peace with Hamas;
- Iran's sinister support and influence of Hamas and PIJ by providing financial and military help.

Believing that

- Some of the aspired plans of the current right-wing administration in Israel, such as the settlement expansion in the West Bank, represent a hindrance to a lasting peace with the Palestinian people;
- The Palestinian people need to have a democratic political representation in accordance with international standards of human rights which is interested in a lasting peace with Israel and the Jewish people;
- Only with such a political representation for the Palestinian people is a successful and realistic way forward to a hypothetical two-state solution possible;
- Terrorist groups like Hamas are a threat to the security and well-being of Palestinian civilians who want to live in peaceful conditions;
- No peace in Israel and Palestine is possible, until terrorist groups in Palestine lay down their arms;
- It is not contradictory to both condemn the terror attacks committed by Hamas and simultaneously being critical to the response of the Israeli government and the right-wing administration of Binyamin Netanyahu.

Emphasising that

- Israel's right to existence is in no way negotiable for LYMEC, as LYMEC is fully committed to supporting Israel politically against anybody who agitates against Israel's right to existence;
- The Palestinian people have their own right of existence, which is – without Hamas rule – not detrimental to Israel's existence and therefore also not negotiable for LYMEC, as LYMEC is fully committed to politically supporting the Palestinian people to form a democratic state under the two-state solution to fulfil their right of existence;

- Both the key fundamental rights of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which protect the right of each individual to liberty, survival and security, and the Geneva Conventions which regulate the conduct of active, armed conflict to limit its effects, must be upheld;
- LYMEC deplores any kind of terrorist attacks against Israel by Hamas or other terrorist groups;
- LYMEC deplores any kind of Anti-Muslim and Anti-Palestinian racism;
- All parties must act in accordance with international law, particularly humanitarian rules and the laws of armed conflict;
- Israel has the right to defend itself;
- The high number of killed Israeli and Palestinian civil victims with a significant portion being children under 18 cannot be ignored by the international community.

LYMEC thus calls for

- An immediate humanitarian truce in hostilities between the current Israeli government and Hamas in order to allow the release of the hostages, humanitarian aid entering Gaza and prevent suffering and losses of civilian life;
- An international peacekeeping force to be stationed in Gaza, under the leadership of Arab Nations which exercise diplomatic relations with Israel, which shall prepare the return of Gaza to the rule of the Palestinian Authorities and allow the Israeli government to withdraw its armed forces;
- The EU to pressure Binyamin Netanyahu and the Israeli government to respect international law and the law of war when defending Israel;
- The release of all Israeli and international hostages held in Gaza;
- The EU and European countries to resolutely oppose all forces that reject Israel's right to existence;
- The EU and European countries to resolutely support the Palestinian people in their efforts to form a democratic state under the two-state solution to fulfil their right of existence;

- The Continuation of United Nations Peacekeeping in the region to allow humanitarian aid provision throughout the war;
- Building a humanitarian corridor by exerting pressure on Egypt for the country to establish such a corridor to Gaza in order to minimize civilian casualties: The corridor must be established under strict conditions and be subject to constant review by the international community and Israel. At the same time, we demand that the UN conduct border controls at the border between Egypt and Gaza to significantly reduce the illegal import of weapons and other war materials;
- The EU and European countries to support the security of Israel and its population;
- Disarming the Gaza-Strip and withdrawing any development assistance to the Palestinian Authorities, until it stops to incentivize terrorism, as for example by means of martyr pensions;
- The classification of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization in the EU and its Member States, and for the EU to advocate for the disarmament of the terror militia that is Hezbollah, including through international sanctions against those responsible for terror attacks;
- The dissolution of Hamas and PIJ;
- An international peacekeeping force to be stationed in Gaza, under the leadership of Arab Nations which exercise diplomatic relations with Israel, which shall prepare the return of Gaza to the rule of the Palestinian Authorities;
- The EU and its Member States to fight antisemitism within Europe, including by denying public funds to any organisations advocating for antisemitism by denying the state of Israel's right to existence and or calling for the boycott of Jewish companies.

The Congress calls on LYMEC to

- Commit for an enlarged cooperation including a regular exchange with liberal political allies in Israel, such as Yesh Atid and Youth for Yesh Atid;
- Initiate cooperation between Youth for Yesh Atid and LYMEC unless Youth for Yesh Atid explicitly would reject a political partnership with LYMEC.

9.60 Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh

Submitted by JuLis and JNC

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

The ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan is facing ethnic cleansing at a breakneck pace. Nearly all of the estimated 120,000 ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh have been forcefully displaced to Armenia in the last weeks. Following skirmishes with the Azeri army that reportedly resulted in over 400 deaths, including some civilians, there has been an exodus.

The Armenian government has accused Azerbaijan of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh. The United Nations defines "ethnic cleansing" as "a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent and terror-inspiring means the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas".

The use of starvation techniques against ethnic Armenians during the months-long closure of the so-called Lachin Corridor between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, along with Azeri army intimidation, resulted in an Armenian exodus, prompting accusations of ethnic cleansing.

Considering

- On 19 September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a pre-planned, unjustified military attack against Nagorno-Karabakh, leading to significant loss of life.
- A ceasefire was agreed on 20 September 2023, but the security situation of civilians remaining in Nagorno-Karabakh is not guaranteed.
- There are reports that hundreds of Armenian civilians were killed and wounded during Azerbaijan's military operation against Nagorno-Karabakh.
- On 28 September 2023, the de facto president of Nagorno-Karabakh, Samvel Shahramanyan, was forced to sign a decree dissolving all structures and institutions of the self-proclaimed republic as of 1 January 2024, with the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh ceasing to exist.

Recognising

- The historic implications of ethnically motivated persecutions against Armenians in the context of the Armenian genocide.
- The fragile relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan due to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The history of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, due to which both ethnic Armenians and Azeris have lost their lives.
- The power imbalance between the ethnically Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azeri military.
- The blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh by the Azeri military in the lead-up to the invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh by the Azeri military.
- The attack represents a gross violation of international law and human rights and a clear infringement of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020 and of the commitments that Azerbaijan made in the negotiations mediated by the EU.
- The inaction of the peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation stationed in Armenia.
- The inaction of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation.
- The successful development of Armenia from an autocracy to a democracy since the Armenian revolution in 2018.
- The close cultural and religious bond of Armenia to Europe and the western community of liberal democracies.
- The yearning of the Armenian people and current Armenian government to work more closely with the European Union and western democracies.

Deploing the

- Unprovoked Azerbaijani invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Mass expulsions of ethnic Armenians initiated by the Azerbaijani government.
- Cultural desecration of Armenian cultural heritage, Christian heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh and destruction of Armenian churches.

- The desecration of Armenian grave sites and cemeteries by Azeri militants.

Concerned by

- The humanitarian implications of the Azeri attacks on Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The failure of the international community to prevent ethnic cleansing of Armenians.
- The Use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems by Azerbaijan.
- The Comments by the Azeri government and Azerbaijan's president Ilham Aliyev, declaring the aim to conquer parts of southern Armenia.
- The occupation of various parts of the sovereign territory of Armenia by the Azeri army and the bombing of civilian targets on the territory of Armenia.
- Azerbaijan's influence on western and European nations by means of its oil and gas diplomacy, as well as its sports diplomacy.
- Regional implications of the conflict, including the role of the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Iran.
- The slow response by the EU institutions, with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy only releasing a statement two days after Azerbaijan launched its attack against Nagorno-Karabakh.
- That regular alerts by the European Parliament regarding the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the risks of a catastrophic outcome have been disregarded by the Commission and the Council.

LYMEC Calls for

- A UN peacekeeping mission to be implemented in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The UN and the major regional powers, namely the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Iran, to ensure that no ethnical cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh will take place.
- Azeri authorities to allow the safe return of the Armenian population to Nagorno-Karabakh, to offer solid guarantees regarding the protection of their rights and to refrain from any inflammatory rhetoric that could incite discrimination against Armenians.

- Increased EU economic aid to Armenia to support refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Azerbaijan to be punished for the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.
- To demonstrate its respect for R2P, Azerbaijan should prohibit the ethnic cleansing of ethnic Armenians, including their incitement.
- The Council of Europe to consider establishing a truth and reconciliation commission that brings together government officials and ordinary citizens to address grievances and aspirations.
- Investigations into the abuses committed by Azeri forces that could constitute war crimes.
- Nagorno-Karabakh to receive the status of an autonomous region within Azerbaijan's sovereign borders in which ethnic Armenians can live in peace, embrace their culture and follow their religion without facing persecution and violence.
- The European Union to impose Magnitsky sanctions legislation against members of the government of Azerbaijan, until such an agreement on the autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh has been reached.
- A halt of Azeri oil and gas imports, until such an agreement on the autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh has been reached.
- A travel ban on members of the Azeri government, until such an agreement on the autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh has been reached.
- Increased economic assistance by the European Union to Armenia to support Armenian refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The EU civilian mission in Armenia (EUMA) to closely monitor the evolving security situation on the ground, provide transparent reporting to Parliament and actively contribute to conflict resolution efforts.
- Azerbaijan to allow EUMA's presence on its side of the border and in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- The EEAS to reconsider its action in the South Caucasus and replace dedicated staff.

- The European Union and its Member States to urgently reassess the EU's diplomatic and security architecture and the geopolitical configurations in the wider South Caucasus region in the light of the new facts on the ground and the interests of countries like Russia, Türkiye and Iran, but also to develop a strategy in response to the growing trend of autocratic regimes pushing aside diplomatic efforts in favour of violent military force.
- A comprehensive review of the EU's relations with Azerbaijan, taking into account recent developments and the worsening human rights situation in the country.
- Condemning the inflammatory statements made by the Azerbaijani President and other Azerbaijani officials, threatening the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Armenia, including those in connection with the 'Zangezur corridor'.
- Prohibiting hatred and ethnic cleansing of Armenians by Azerbaijan.
- Prohibiting the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh. An intensified political and diplomatic cooperation of the EU with Armenia in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.
- The European Union to open a path for EU-membership for Armenia.

9.61 A Stable Future for Northern Ireland: Addressing the unique challenges facing the European Peace Project since Brexit

Proposers: Ógra Fianna Fáil (Ireland), Young Liberals (UK),

Co-Signatories: Alliance Youth (NI), Ze! Molodizhka (Ua), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Mladé Ano (Czechia), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, LHG, Nowoczesna Youth (Poland), Junge Liberale, Young Green liberals Switzerland, TIm Robinson (IMS), Lithuanian Liberal Youth, Liberal Alliance Ungdom

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Congress recalls:

Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain have a profound, shared history both with camaraderie and tensions.

The Troubles were the most recent instance of conflict within the countries, taking place from the late 60s until 1998, and concluded with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).

Ending decades of violence, terrorism and militarisation from both sides, the GFA was a major milestone in achieving peace in the British and Irish isles.

The GFA's had as one of its pillars the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), enforced by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

The particular relationship between Northern Ireland, Ireland and Great Britain has been cultivated over years, with specific economic, cultural and political ties between the countries.

Conference notes:

Whilst the Good Friday Agreement has been greatly successful, institutional instability continues between the countries.

As a result of the political agreement in Northern Ireland, institutional imbalances and asymmetries now exist, including:

- Northern Ireland, as a country under the UK's devolved system, only having law-making power in a selection of policy areas, with remaining powers being held by Westminster.
- Power-sharing difficulties, with the requirement of having a government made up of both Unionist and Nationalist parties with opposing ideological differences on issues of governance, has led to many failures to form government in Northern Ireland.
- As a result of the geographical, historical and cultural characteristics of the British Isles, Northern Ireland has unique socio-economic relationships with its neighbouring countries. These socio-economic relationships have been challenged and put under tension by Brexit, including through:
- The Northern Ireland Protocol, and joint solutions under the Windsor Framework, include arrangements that allow Northern Ireland to operate within the UK market and the EU Single Market. Companies trading between Northern Ireland and the EU must be identified as operating under the Northern Ireland Protocol.

- Comprehensive trading systems between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland have been designed to not only promote open trade, but also to fulfil the requirement of avoiding a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as was set out in the GFA.
- With many cultural identities in the British Isles (notably English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish and Irish, as well as significant immigrant populations), work must continue to make sure that cultural tolerance prevails, and that culture wars do not resume, as they have previously between certain elements of the Protestant-Unionist-Loyalist (PUL) communities and Republican-Nationalist-Catholic (RNC) communities.
- Periods of cultural and institutional instability have caused intermittent episodes of unrest. Whilst nowhere near the scale of The Troubles, the use of violence and the threat of force in the modern era are both causes for concern.
- The cultural divide in Northern Ireland can be seen through the incongruity of its education system, where children are demarcated along ethno-religious and social class lines from an early age.

Cultural divides include:

- Differences in academic selection perpetuate class divisions and disadvantage certain social groups.
- The segregation of the schools system by religious denomination leads to social inefficiencies and funding inequalities that can perpetuate existing communal divides and leave certain communities and students behind.
- In fields including healthcare, infrastructure, education and tourism, challenges remain, for instance through duplication of services, but these have been partially overcome by cross-border cooperation.
- Rights of movement between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are at risk, for instance from the UK's Electronic Travel Authorisation, but have been protected in part by the *2019 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland concerning the Common Travel Area and associated reciprocal rights and privileges*.
- The peace process, built on reconciliation and forgiveness, has been challenged by the UK's Legacy Bill, which could undermine the granting of amnesties and is opposed, as of 2023, by all Northern Irish political parties.

Congress reaffirms:

- LYMEC's commitment to the rule of law, human rights and international cooperation all of which are embedded in the centre of the European Project.
- That the ECHR and the Good Friday Agreement have been successful international agreements, in promoting the above aims, and ensuring stability for all levels of UK government, especially the Northern Irish government, and the Irish government.
- That the ECHR provides the foundation for the Good Friday Agreement and withdrawing from it would have grave ramifications for peace and stability on the island of Ireland.
- LYMEC's commitment to policy paper 9.55 (A New Chapter for EU-UK Relations), which aims to advocate for rapprochement between the EU and the UK.
- That the quickest and simplest way to resolve inter-communal disagreements over borders and trade access is for the UK to rejoin the European Single Market as soon as is reasonable and possible.

Congress calls for:

- The current cross-community voting system in the Northern Irish Assembly, to be replaced with a weighted majority system as it depends on an outdated system of binary ethno-national designation,
- Changes to the cross community voting system to be extended to the Northern Ireland Executive, to increase transparency and government accountability
- The Northern Irish Executive to be formed by voluntary coalition, decided through negotiation between parties and confirmed by a vote in the Northern Irish Assembly.
- The First Minister and deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland to be renamed as "Joint First Ministers".
- Arrangements within the Northern Irish Assembly to be strengthened in order to facilitate an effective opposition of parties who do not wish to join a voluntary coalition.

- The Common Travel Area to be respected and fully implemented by both the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and supported by the European Union in so far that it does not undermine the integrity of the single market, so as to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland or in the Irish Sea.
- The expansion of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding to extend reciprocal rights and privileges of the Common Travel Area to those who have been granted asylum in either country, as well as the mutual recognition of visit visas.
- Implementation of Northern Ireland Protocol, under Windsor Framework, and full meaningful protection of these arrangements in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement review due in 2025 (for implementation in 2026).
- Support of all-island strategies (e.g. Shared Island Initiative, New Decade New Approach etc.) to promote a shared future with better outcomes for all communities North and South post-GFA.
- Support for Integrated Education in Northern Ireland so that it is encouraged and facilitated where there is sufficient demand, as well as for Integrated Education to be held in the same esteem as other models of education in Northern Ireland with regard to its funding.
- The abolition of academic selection in Northern Ireland to better outcomes for those who are already disadvantaged and to promote social cohesion.
- Protection and promotion of the use of Gaeilge and Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland.
- A guarantee that Northern Ireland and its citizens can continue to benefit from EU initiatives (e.g. the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive, Erasmus+, PeacePlus etc.)
- All parts of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to stay in both ECHR and ECtHR to ensure that all the legislation in Northern Ireland is subjected to the convention.
- LYMEC and member organisations to rebuff and reject calls from populist governments to recklessly leave or unilaterally reform the ECHR.

- For holistic education on the value of the ECHR to take place across the signatory countries of the ECHR, especially in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, fighting disinformation on the Convention.

9.62 Stop the Gas (It's Probably Russian)

Mover: LUF

Co-signed by: Radikal Ungdom, ERPY, Unge Venstre, Venstres Ungdom, Centerstudenter, JOVD, USR Tineret, Svensk Ungdom, Junge Liberale, CUF

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- The European Commission's REPowerEU initiative entails efforts to diversify the Union's energy supplies.
- The EU has imported natural gas from Azerbaijan since late 2020. In an effort to phase out dependence on Russian gas after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission in July 2022 signed a memorandum of understanding to double the gas flows from Azerbaijan by 2027, despite warnings from the European Parliament.
- Azerbaijan is deeply authoritarian.
- Azerbaijan in September 2023 launched an unprovoked military attack on Nagorno-Karabakh. The attack represents a gross violation of international and humanitarian law, having caused Nagorno-Karabakh's dissolution and a mass exodus of the autonomous enclave's Armenian population, which amounts to ethnic cleansing. Genocide Watch issued a genocide warning a year prior.
- Three decades of diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts failed to deter the attack.
- In order to meet European demand, Azerbaijan has increased imports of Russian gas. Concerns have been raised that Azerbaijan may, in fact, be exporting Russian gas to Europe. In addition, Russian oil giant Lukoil is a part-owner in the infrastructure that is used to extract and export the gas. Lukoil pays ~200 billion dollars annually in tax to the Russian state, further padding the country's war chest.

- Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union states that: “The Union’s actions on the international scene shall be guided by [...] democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms [...]. The Union shall seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries [...] which share” these principles.

Whereas:

- International cooperation, free trade and commitment to the opening up of global trade are some of the Union’s founding principles and should continue to be cornerstones of the EU’s international engagement as they are today.

Believing that:

- The importation of Azerbaijani gas undermines European efforts to substantially reduce Russia’s capacity to continue its onslaught against Ukraine by targeting Russian revenues from oil and gas exports. It also financially contributes to Azerbaijan’s own human rights abuses, at home and in its immediate neighbourhood.
- The EU’s ‘strategic partnership’ with Azerbaijan, and any other authoritarian regimes committing similar abuses, is in direct violation of Article 21 TEU.
- It is not sustainable for the EU to, once crises arise, transfer (energy) dependencies from one dictator onto the next.
- Authoritarian leaders are unreliable. They do not make trustworthy partners. Energy deals legitimize them, financially contribute to human rights abuses, and make the Union vulnerable to extortion while restricting political manoeuvrability.
- The EU should avoid indulging in new strategic partnerships with authoritarian regimes and should end any such cooperation already in existence.
- The EU’s energy policy should be guided by the concept of friend shoring, which entails the focusing of supply chains on countries regarded as political and economic allies, or at least those not seen to be in direct violation of our fundamental principles.

Noting that:

- The European Parliament on October 4, 2023, adopted a resolution (2023/2879(RSP)) calling on the EU to reduce dependency on gas

exports from Azerbaijan but to suspend all imports only “in the event of military aggression against Armenian territorial integrity or significant hybrid attacks against Armenia's constitutional order and democratic institutions”.

Calls upon:

- The EU to keep assessing sources of imports of oil and gas other than from Azerbaijan and work on arranging them as soon as possible;
- The European Commission not to enter into new strategic partnerships with authoritarian regimes without the explicit approval of the European Parliament.

9.63 Resolution on strengthening liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern Partnership

Submitted by: USR Tineret, JOVD, CUB Junior

Co-signers: VU, Mladé ANO, JNC, Attīstībai Youth, ERPY, LHG, LLY, Momentum TizenX, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Junge Liberale, ZeMolodizhka, European Youth of Ukraine (Ukraine), Young Progressives (MPS), LUF, FEL, CUF, Unge Venstre,

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Considering the crucial importance of upholding and promoting liberal democratic values in Europe;
- Recognizing the challenges faced by the Republic of Moldova in its journey towards political stability, economic prosperity, and European Union integration;
- Acknowledging the potential of the Republic of Moldova to serve as a model for liberal democracy in the Eastern Partnership region;
- Emphasizing the need for active engagement and support from LYMEC and its member organizations to support liberal values and reforms in Moldova and the Eastern partnership;

Recognizing that:

- the Republic of Moldova shares the values of the European Union;
- the EU's role was very important from the initial stage as the Republic has been guided and monitored by the EU since the partnership and Cooperation Agreement came into effect in 1998;
- the Association Agreement that was signed between the EU and the Republic of Moldova on the 27th June 2014 established a new judicial framework for the advancement of the relations between Republic of Moldova and EU to a new level of political association and economic integration between the EU and Eastern Europe;
- the Republic of Moldova has taken considerable steps to become a solid, stable and prosperous part of the EU's neighborhood in the past years through various reform processes;
- the Russian Federation continues to exert pressure on the Moldovan authorities and citizens by keeping "peacekeeper" soldiers on its Eastern occupied territory (region of Transnistria);
- the Russian Federation brutally and illegally started a war of aggression in Ukraine, permanently disrupting the balance in Europe,

Believing that:

- it is essential to have a democratic and amicable relationship as well as for having long-standing prosperity and stability at the borders of the EU;
- the citizens of the Republic of Moldova have a right to live a prosperous life in accordance to their desire to join the European Union;
- this is the beginning of a new period, which requires considerable efforts directed to the achievement of the objective of integration into the EU;
- there should be zero tolerance for the Russian Federation's aggression that has continuously tried to sabotage the Republic of Moldova's path towards becoming a consolidated, European democracy;
- it is vitally important to educate young people in the Republic of Moldova and its Eastern occupied territory (region of Transnistria) about their shared past and to improve communication between both sides through broad social projects to benefit future reintegration and educational opportunities such as the Erasmus+ program.

LYMEC calls on the Republic of Moldova to:

- continue being invested in achieving statal reforms needed to comply with the Copenhagen criteria and to be focused on helping public institutions, citizens and the business community to benefit from the opportunities;
- continue investment in peaceful and diplomatic ways of reaching a resolution to the Transnistrian conflict;
- improve the knowledge and understanding of Moldovan citizens about the European path of the Republic of Moldova and to articulate that accession to the European community is not only the responsibility of the government, but also of the society itself.

LYMEC calls on the European Union to:

- treat the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine candidate status to join the Union with the utmost importance and offer them the possibility of gradual rapprochement to the European family while bolstering European aspirations of Georgian people but not tolerating the pro-Russian course of the current Georgian authorities, so that impose sanctions on local officials who help to evade actual regime of sanctions, imposed on Russia;
- be committed towards finding the best solutions to support the Chisinau government to overcome threats posed by the Russian Federation via disinformation, economic pressures or any other type of malevolent action;
- support the Republic of Moldova's set path towards energy independence, and help them build sustainable sources of energy;
- provide a straightforward approach to the EU and the Republic of Moldova when it comes to international trade. In order to bring the Republic Moldova closer to the European Union, the EU should gradually eliminate as many taxes of the trade between them in order to facilitate the integration through market forces;
- to ensure the fact that the process of European integration is not only a process of collaboration with the government, but with all relevant political and civic forces.

LYMEC calls on its MOs to:

- raise awareness in their organizations about the need to expand the EU with other states, such as the ones in the Eastern Partnership and the Balkans;

- continue lobbying their mother-parties and governments for financial and logistical resources to help the Eastern Partnership countries realize reforms and break loose from the Russian Federation;
- organize study visits and on-the ground events that will help to better understanding the region.

9.64 The European Union Needs a Single Sanctions Coordinator

Submitted by: Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Momentum TizenX, Unge Venstre (NUV), Nowoczesna Youth, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Young Liberals, Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms (YMRF), Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL), Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie (JOVD), Jóvenes Ciudadanos (JC), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG), Jonk Demokraten (JDL), Svensk Ungdom (SU), Liberala ungdomsförbundet (LUF), Centerstudenten, IMS Delegates, Jonge Democraten (JD), Jong VLD, Centre Party Youth, Venstres Ungdom (VU), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), USR Tineret, Young Progressives (MPS), Atfistibai Youth (AY), Radikale Ungdom (RU), Mladé ANO, Junge Liberale (JuLis), ZeMolodizhka, Young Greenliberals Switzerland (YGL)

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Sanctions play a major role in response to terrorism, nuclear proliferation, military conflicts, and other foreign policy crises;
- The European Union (EU) sanctions regime is managed by different bodies and actors, including the European Council, the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and national governments. The multiplicity of actors can often lead to fragmentation, inconsistency, and confusion in the implementation and enforcement of sanctions across the EU;
- Despite the adoption of sanctions at the EU level, the lack of sanctions coordination in the bloc due to disjointed action by national authorities and differing judicial practices has resulted in inconsistent and unequal enforcement of sanctions by individual Member States;
- The lack of legal framework governing cooperation between the EU and major partners like the United States (US) hinders the effectiveness and transparency of the sanction process: informal cooperation behind closed

doors is not sufficient to ensure a coordinated and effective approach on sanctions;

- The ongoing Russian war against Ukraine has highlighted the need for the EU to have a single sanctions coordinator, as the current system has proven to be ineffective: despite numerous rounds of sanctions imposed by the EU on Russia in the form of sanction packages, the process has been slow and the impact of these sanctions has been limited.

Whereas:

- Currently the Member States of the EU still continue trading with Russia by bypassing already imposed sanctions even with the new sanctions on Russia being implemented due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Officials identified the UAE, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan as potential circumvention routes;
- The inconsistent enforcement of EU sanctions by individual Member States can lead to uneven consequences for those targeted by the sanctions: e.g., in 2017, the European Court of Justice ruled that Hungary had not properly enforced EU sanctions against Iran and that Hungary's failure to freeze the assets of an Iranian bank constituted a breach of EU law;
- The lack of cooperation between the EU and its partners creates difficulties for businesses operating across multiple Member States: e.g., in 2018, the French oil company "Total" was forced to withdraw from a major gas project in Iran after the US withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions. However, the withdrawal of "Total" was complicated by the fact that it was also subject to EU sanctions, which meant that it had to navigate differing enforcement regimes in individual Member States to comply with the sanctions;
- The lack of unified sanctions coordination undermines the ability to leverage political pressure against specific entities effectively: e.g., in 2019, it was reported that Italy had been blocking EU sanctions against Russia, citing concerns about the impact on Italian businesses. This illustrates the influence of political considerations in individual Member States on the enforcement of EU sanctions, which can undermine the unity and effectiveness of EU sanctions policy;
- Insufficient cooperation also leads to the fragmentation of the EU sanctions regime. Some EU Member States hesitated to enforce EU sanctions

against Russia over its occupation of Crimea and a full-scale invasion of Ukraine due to concerns about the impact on their own economies. This created a fragmentation of the EU sanctions regime, with different Member States enforcing the sanctions differently and potentially even adopting conflicting policies.

Recalling that:

- The European Parliament's resolution of 13 March 2019 on the implementation of common foreign and security policy (annual report (2018/2157(INI))) contains a crucial section addressing the need for a single EU sanctions coordinator. This document highlights the urgent need for a more streamlined and coherent approach to the sanctions policy of the EU, which would be facilitated by appointing a dedicated coordinator to oversee and manage the implementation of sanctions across all EU Member States.

Believing that:

- With the EU rapidly expanding the breadth and depth of its sanctions, it has become increasingly necessary to establish a unified system for their implementation, monitoring, and enforcement. This would ensure a more consistent and effective approach to sanctions, reducing the risk of violations and creating a more level playing field for economic actors;
- Sanction efforts are most effective when coordinated and implemented multilaterally with allies, and poor design and implementation of sanctions policies often lead to them falling short of the desired effects.

Noting that:

- Sanctions can take a variety of forms, such as trade restrictions, asset freezes, or travel bans, and they can be targeted at individuals, companies, or entire countries. Given the complexity of the external relations of the EU and the diversity of its Member States' foreign policy priorities, having a centralized authority to coordinate and harmonize sanctions policies could help ensure that the actions of the EU are more effective, coherent, consistent and transparent.

Calls upon:

- The establishment of a single EU sanctions coordinator would streamline the process of implementing sanctions against countries or entities that violate international law or human rights. The coordinator would be responsible for coordinating the efforts of various legal structures, ensuring that the sanctions are consistent with the foreign and security policy goals of the EU, and taking into account the needs and capabilities of individual EU Member States;
- The EU to establish a structure or mechanism similar to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the US, but specific to the EU, with the purpose of more effectively and efficiently managing sanctions and ensuring consistent enforcement across EU Member States. This structure or mechanism should work in tandem with the single EU sanctions coordinator and other relevant EU bodies as well as partners and should include provisions for regular reviews and updates to ensure that the sanctions policy remains effective and targeted;
- The EU to adopt a flexible and adaptive approach to sanctions policy, which would include regular reviews and updates to ensure that it remains effective and targeted in the context of a constantly evolving political and geopolitical landscape;
- The EU and its Member States to adopt a transparent approach to sanctions policy, by providing regular updates and reports on the implementation and effectiveness of sanctions;
- The EU to establish a communication mechanism with the EEA and EFTA states to coordinate their joining of the sanctions' regime and devise a harmonisation scheme to make sure the sanctions imposed reach their target;
- The EU to collaborate with other regional international and intergovernmental international organizations, such as the United Nations, to strengthen the effectiveness of sanctions and promote respect for human rights and international law.

9.65 Ban Imports from Chinese Regions and Market Sectors Tainted by Forced Labour

Mover: LUF

Co-signed by: ERPY, Unge Venstre, Venstres Ungdom, Centerstudenter, JOVD, Svensk Ungdom, Junge Liberale, Lithuanian Liberal Youth (LLY), Jungfreisinnige Schweiz, JUNOS, CUF, Young Greenliberals Switzerland

Adopted at the Autumn Congress 2023 in Riga, Latvia on 11 November 2023.

Considering that:

- Per United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, the international community has committed to eradicating forced labour—which remains widespread—by 2030.
The eradication of forced labour is also a stated priority of the European Union.
- In late 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution (2020/2913(RSP)) acknowledging and condemning China's government-led system of forced labour and exploitation of Uyghur Muslims while recognising that “the promotion of and respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law should remain at the centre of the long-standing relationship between the EU and China”.
- Resolution 2020/2913(RSP) noted credible reports of the occurrence of forced labour in the clothing, technology and automotive sectors, stating also that Chinese cotton, 84 percent of which originates from the Xinjiang province, is at particularly high risk of being tainted by forced labour.
- In 2020, at least 80 international brand-name corporations had been reported to profit, directly or indirectly, from Uyghur forced labour within their supply chains, including many European multinational companies.
- The European Commission in 2022 proposed legislation prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market (COM/2022/453 final). The proposal empowers Member States' authorities to seize and dispose of products made with forced labour. However, its point-of-departure is ILO's definition, which addresses commercially motivated cases of forced labour. It does not effectively target politically motivated forced labour, such as that of the Uyghur population in China.
- COM/2022/453 is complemented by a proposal on corporate sustainability due diligence (COM/2022/71 final). It requires companies to account for and

mitigate any adverse impact on human rights within their supply chains. However, the lack of transparency in China, particularly in the Xinjiang province, prevents independent investigations and audits, meaning that there are no reliable means of verifying the absence of forced labour. In addition, regulations would only cover large enterprises over a certain threshold in terms of number of employees and net turnover, and SMEs over a certain threshold only in “high-impact sectors”.

Believing that:

- The European Commission's proposals are insufficient to effectively address the entry of products made with forced labour on the Union market.
- All imports from certain regions and market sectors in China should be presumed to be tainted by forced labour unless proven otherwise.
- Neither EU Member States nor their citizens should, knowingly or unknowingly, contribute to systematic human rights abuses in China or elsewhere.
- Per commitments to action set out in its Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy, the EU and its Member States have a responsibility to promote human rights and to prioritize compliance with human rights regulations in all dealings with strategic partners and third countries.
- A blanket ban would serve to reduce processing times and encourage companies to redirect supply chains to where compliance with human rights regulations can be more effectively ensured.

Noting that:

- In 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA; Public Law No. 117-78), which included a rebuttable ban on imports from the Xinjiang province. The ban has successfully forced companies to reroute their supply chains, and imports from Xinjiang to the U.S. have decreased significantly. However, as a result, imports from the region to the European Union in 2022 jumped by nearly 30 percent, underlining the need for sanction regimes to be consistent in order to be effective.

Calls upon:

- The EU to establish a presumption that products produced wholly or partly in the Xinjiang province of China are tainted by forced labour and thus should be denied entry into the European Union unless evidence is presented to the contrary;
- The EU to consider imposing a rebuttable blanket ban on individual market sectors where forced labour is deemed to occur, including but not limited to the clothing, technology and automotive sectors in China as well as those utilizing Chinese cotton, and to be ready to expand said ban should credible reports of additional regions and sectors tainted by forced labour surface.



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