

LYMEC Digital Assembly (Online) 27 August 2022 Minutes

Session A

Introduction and outline of the latest and future Bureau actions

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)

❖ He explains what the Digital Assembly is about and how it will proceed. In session A, he will explain what the Bureau has been doing since the last Congress, and what the plans for the coming months are, especially in light of the next Congress (November 2022 in Bucharest). Then, Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President) will complement that and there will be a Q&A session. Session B will be dedicated to the clean-up of Chapters 5 to 8 of the Policy Book with Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer).

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)

- ❖ As a reminder, after the last Congress (Prague, May 2022), a few events have been finalised.
- One of the things we have been focusing on is being political. We have done that. Ukraine has been our main topic. We had a fundraising campaign with the ALDE Party. That one has gone quite well and thank you to those who contributed. We want to make sure the Ukrainian people will get out of the war soon. We have also used LYMEC policies with our communications on Taiwan. We have worked strongly on the European Year of Youth (EYY). We are trying to use these few months left in the year to stay active and make sure our policies are visible. Again, our priority is to act swiftly not only by highlighting problems, but also by demanding changes.
- We want to enhance the cooperation with our partners. I am trying to come to Belgium every now and then to meet them in-person. We saw ways to cooperate further in the liberal family with the ALDE Party and Renew Europe. When it comes to events, we work a lot with the European Liberal Forum (ELF). We have also been talking to the Greens and Social Democrats about debating hot political topics in Europe in the framework of the EYY. We might not find common ground, but we want to discuss and state our policies. We have a Communications Draft Plan and a plan on how to progress with this mandate.



We do also have a European Parliament (EP) election ahead, which is going to involve a lot of resources. ALDE and Renew Europe are also going to develop a strategy for the EP elections. Now we have the unique opportunity to shape that strategy.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) opens the floor for further questions and comments. No one asks for the floor. He gives the floor to **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President):

For the past months, the President and Vice-President were busy with defining the new tasks of the Bureau. I am working with the Bureau on building good staff relationships with the Secretariat. We have started to hold regular meetings to strengthen our relationship and find synergies. We have a lot to do for the EU elections. We have to come up with an internal plan. If you have any questions, you know how to reach me.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer):

I would like to bring up that me and **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary-General)** have drafted a new financial protocol, where we have outlined new processes and made different points to ensure our finances are well-kept. We are working towards accuracy and our accounting being clearer.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Communications Officer):

For the last few months, I have been updating the Communications Strategy. We will open a call for a Working Group on Communications, following the motion adopted at the last Congress. This will be created by the end of September. I will also work on campaign strategies for the EP elections with Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President) and Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President).

Tanzer Yuseinov (LYMEC Training and Outreach Officer)

I've been working on our projects for 2023 and cooperating with ELF. We will also work on the development of LYMEC. I will also be involved in the relations with the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and interview all candidates for the elections they will hold in November.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Events and Project Officer):

We've been working on ELF projects for 2023. This has been intense work right after our Congress. I am working on a call to involve you in the EYY and make LYMEC have a greater impact on young people. I am also the Bureau Member in charge of the Individual Members Section (IMS). We have been working on the engagement of our members and on the new Communications Strategy to get new members involved.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer):

These months have been quite busy. We jumped into the ALDE Congress right after the Prague Congress with a successful delegation from LYMEC attending and putting forward our



resolutions. We had the second edition of the Alliance of Her Youth Edition and I participated in a training in Sarajevo after that. Then I started working on this Digital Assembly and renewing the Policy Book. I am still responsible for Libertas. Also during the holidays, I tried to have continuity and keep posting articles thanks to the work of the Editor In Chief.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): We are back with a Q&A. Are there any questions you would like to ask before we go ahead?

The floor is now open for questions and comments from the membership:

Alice Schmidt (JuLis):

You had a great start as a Bureau. I am thankful for you being more vocal on policies and reacting fast. I only want to point out one position you don't have in the Policy Book. I am personally unsure about the topic of the ban on tourist visas for Russians. Should we talk about it now or should we have talked about it during the Congress in Prague? Could the Bureau address this and give an explanation for their decision?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President):

This is a unanimous Bureau decision. We do believe that if you want to be more political and react fast, you have to take standpoints on issues that perhaps are not exactly written in the Policy Book. We will not go against topics that we clearly state in our Policy Book. In the Policy Book, we have a point saying all EU countries should restrict/reinforce sanctions if need be (Resolution 9.95 in the Policy Book). The second point is that we do also believe that not everyone agrees on everything in the LYMEC Policy Book. But we do understand there is major support to our standpoint on tourist visas for Russians. We have members supporting this. We felt there was room for issuing such a call to action. This does not mean everyone should agree with it. It would be nice to discuss it with all of you to understand your stances.

Felix Barenthein (JuLis):

This is my first LYMEC event. I have been following your events for many years. They are very good. They connect different members and countries. I have found that many young members do not engage with LYMEC enough. It is not using its potential to give them the chance to engage on a European level.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President):

Thanks for your remark. We in LYMEC want to have as many active people as possible. You heard my colleagues when they said we are developing new projects for the EYY. Of course they are limited when it comes to resources and participation. We want to work on more inclusive events. For example there will be an inclusive event in November with Renew Europe. We have increased the amount of participants in the YLM and we are confident that we will extend the participation in our future projects too.



Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé Ano):

I firstly wanted to thank you for your work and for being here. About Libertas, I wanted to ask you if you receive enough articles or proposals. Would you consider some kind of competition for members to participate more?

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer):

We have both contributions from general writers (Members) and from the editorial board, where our main source of articles comes from. We very rarely discard articles. Writers come from our MOs. We are very careful when checking if the articles comply with the Policy Book. The general writers' contributions are not working that well. A competition is a great idea, but right now, I would ask you IOs to encourage your Members to become more engaged and present them with the possibility of writing a Libertas article.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth):

The steps you take are towards putting pressure on the Russian government. I am happy to see you are calling for the ban. We are calling for a union ban too. Following up on previous comments, we still stand with Ukraine. The time to stop the war is now and we cannot wait for the next Congress to come up with such an urgent statement. We stand hand in hand with you.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Thanks, Nowoczesna Youth and the members active in helping Ukraine.

Peter Douglas Banks (Young Liberals UK):

I wanted to pick up on the same point - the Ukraine policy. I also agree with having a debate about that, but maybe we should have had it before the statement was made public? How did you measure the approval rates about that statement?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Thank you Peter. We can't have a poll every time we come up with a statement. You all asked us to be more political. We can't read into the literal words of our Policy Book because the specific events are so different. Of course, our statements must be anchored in the Policy Book. Bearing that in mind, the Bureau, representing eight different EU countries, made the judgement to release the statement. I want to emphasise that we understand there are issues that not everyone agrees on. Our priority is to check if these policy statements are anchored in our policies. We didn't have any calls with MOs because we wanted to react fast.

Johannes Brill (LHG):

I am also very happy with your work. In Prague, we passed a resolution on setting up a Communications Team. What kind of progress has been made on this file?



Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Communications Officer):

We decided to call the team a Working Group on Communications. I am working on the Communications Strategy, of which the Working Group will be part of. The call will be open in September.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer):

Thanks to **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Communications Officer)** for the updated Communications Strategy. The Taiwan communication was a direct result of that.

Felix Schulz (IMS):

Thank you and good morning, everyone. Regarding the Libertas writers, it has been hard to get people to submit their articles on time during the summer. I want to broaden the outreach of Libertas. We are trying to contact MEPs to ask them for interviews. In doing so, we hope to strengthen the relationship between LYMEC and Renew Europe. My second point is to motivate people outside the Editorial Team to send out articles. It is always interesting to hear what's going on in other parts of Europe. We are always looking for articles. Our benchmark is 2 articles per week, but we're not there yet. Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer) was talking about the article on the Spanish stolen babies, which was also on the news the day after the article was published. It means that we always try to cover what's going on in the EU.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I don't see any other speaker on the speakers' list. Thank you for taking the time to comment on what we're doing. We will continue to listen to you and work on the remarks you have made.

There is a short break of 5 minutes

Session B

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)

Amendments table:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IoHDrVXs1MNM6mBzClQJEqUBmDoOTBwR09 CCD82AGDo/edit?usp=sharing

- The Policy Book renewal process is an ongoing project of cleaning up the Policy Book. We are today discussing Chapters 5 to 8. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10 have already been reviewed.
- All the Members have had the chance to submit their amendments before the Digital Assembly (DA). They still have the possibility to submit amendments and take the floor if they wish.



- As a reminder, only Heads of Delegations should vote in the chat (and only once per amendment), but all delegates can speak in the debate. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** will open the vote in the chat and count the votes. Heads of Delegation need to have a '1' in front of their name.
- The amendments submitted today will have to be resubmitted before the Autumn Congress on Openslides.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer) displays the outcomes of the renewal process of Chapters 5 to 8 on the screen.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The green text is the text taken from other resolutions and the red text is the new text. We will not change the policy, only update it.

Comments made by participants on each resolution and amendment are as follows:

CHAPTER 5

Resolutions and amendments	WG Recommenda tion	DA Outcome on the resolution	Comments by participants
5.01 Establishment of a Common European Job-bank	Archive	Positive Recommendation	/
NEW 5.02 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market. (Merger of 5.02, 5.04 and 5.05)	Merger of 5.02, 5.04 and 5.05	Positive Recommendation	/



OLD 5.02 Make labour markets more flexible	Archive (merged in new 5.02)	Positive Recommendation	
5.03 Resolution on the Pension Systems	Archive	Negative recommendation - resolution to be kept	JuLis was against the archival of this resolution. Alice Schmidt (JuLis): I feel that the whole goal of the renewal process should not be about discussing individual topics. We need to have a reform, and not abolish the big challenge of pensions. If there's something that is concretely outdated, please state the specific reason for why you believe it is outdated. You are there to update it concretely and not to say if you like it or not. Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We cannot create new policies from the WGs on the Policy Book Renewal. New resolutions can only be proposed by the Congress. Philip Eng (JFS): I completely agree with what Alice Schmidt (JuLis) said. Pensions are an important point for young people too. It is a very current problem and you should not cut it out. Kristians Vasilevskis (Attistibai Youth): I also agree with them. In Latvia the demographic crisis is pressing. The problem is persistent and does not exist solely in a few Member States. I don't understand why you call it a redundant resolution. It is very realistic and I support it. POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE AMENDMENT



5.04 End all Restrictions on the Free Movement of Labour	Archive (merged in new 5.02)	Positive Recommendation	
5.05 Flexicurity and the European Labour Market	Archive (merged in new 5.02)	Positive Recommendation	
5.06 Urgency Motion on YFJ GA	Archive	Positive Recommendation	/



NEW 5.07 Liberal approach to the sex industry	Merger of 5.07 and 5.10	Positive Recommendation	Willemijn Krans (JOVD) suggested an amendment to the "Calls For" section of the amendment to include the words "whilst being cautions of human trafficking". This was a compromise between JD and JOVD.
			Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I do have a question. I cannot find a sentence in the old resolution. It is a bit harsh to read it like that.
			Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): It still is in 5.10. We are not editing the content of the resolution. If you like, you may amend it.
			Amine Sbai (JMR): First, do you consider sex workers as self employed people or employees?
			Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The resolution does not clarify, but it is not people who are enslaved. We are speaking about those who exercise the profession willingly. We are not referring to women who have been trafficked. This is not the scope of this resolution. We will proceed to the discussion of JOVD's amendment on adding the sentence "whilst being cautious of human trafficking and installing measurements to tackle these like targeted border controls" to the resolution.
			Maarten Tollenaar (JD): The first part of the amendment immediately goes into border control. We should let people move freely.
			Willemijn Krans (JOVD): It is fine to move border control to some other point and include human trafficking in another resolution. JOVD will submit an amendment.



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OLD 5.07 Effective approach prostitution	Archive (merged in new 5.07)	Positive Recommendation	/
5.08 Creation of a "student- entrepreneur" status in all European countries	Update	Positive Recommendation	Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): I just want to know if old resolutions get compacted into a new resolution, is the original text kept? Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Yes, there is no new text.



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5.09 Social Union	Archive	Positive Recommendation (tight majority)	Maarten Tollenaar (JD): Is there something to replace it with? Otherwise it creates the same issue as the resolution on pensions. It calls for quite a lot of measures. We are against archiving.
			Jaroslav Ambroz (Mladé ANO): I am curious. What specific parts made you think this is outdated?
			Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We believe that there are two approaches. This resolution contributes to the Policy Book.
			Philipp Eng (JFS): I wanted to help because it was me and my group who proposed to archive the resolution because we think many important parts of this one are already part of other resolutions in our Policy Book.
			Maarten Lemstra (JD): We talked about a Social Union in 2021. It is important for a lot of people these days. As a principle, we cannot archive resolutions just to delete important parts of well written resolutions. I would be against archiving this.
			Rasmus Festerling (RU): This resolution can be quite controversial. A real physical Congress would be a better way to come up with a concrete outcome on this resolution. Which other resolution contains the points that this resolution is covering?
			Alice Schmidt (JuLis): It comes from a time when we did not have a war and saw this as a way to stop a war. I think it is outdated. That situation in the resolution is not the situation we have today. It is not the right time to create a Social Union.



			Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I just want to add a point on digitalisation and remote work. This is outdated. We should come up with another resolution on that. It is not LYMEC's priority to deal with a Social Union. Maarten Tollenaar (JD): It is not the case of archiving even if our priorities are different. We should have a different approach to it. Balint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) reminds participants that Heads of Delegation should include 1 in their name so their votes can be counted in the chat. POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION TO ARCHIVE AFTER A VOTE.
5.10 Liberalise the sex industry	Archive (merged in new 5.07)	Positive Recommendation	/
5.11 Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families	Кеер	Positive Recommendation	/



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Resolutions and amendments	WG Recommenda tion	DA Outcome on the resolution	Comments by participants
6.01 Reforming the EU Emission Trading System (ETS)	Update	Positive Recommendation	/
6.02 Reducing the Use of Fossil Fuels	Update	Positive recommendation	
NEW 6.03 The future is Nuclear	Merger of 6.03 and 6.08	Positive recommendation	Alice Schmidt (JuLis) wants to add to the "Calls For" section of the resolution. - These points are not new, but from 6.03, because security is one of the main issues if you want to use nuclear powers. I think security should be one of the highest priorities. These points are not included in the new version, but still they are very important to keep. POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE AMENDMENT Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): A catastrophe is unlikely, but it would be significant. I would suggest a possible different wording. Something like, "There is a highly unlikely but nonetheless potentially catastrophic". The new wording proposed by the Young Liberals will be kept. POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE AMENDMENT



OLD 6.03 Increase Security of Nuclear Power in Europe the world	Archive (merged in new 6.03)	Positive recommendation	/
6.04 Resolution on the Protection of Arctic Area	Keep	Positive recommendation	/
6.05 EmPOWERing Europe - The Single European Energy Market of the future	Кеер	Positive recommendation	/
6.06 Precautionary principle on shale gas extraction	Keep	Positive recommendation	/
	Keep	Positive recommendation	
6.07 Resolution on LULUCF sector regulation			/
		Positive recommendation	
6.08 The future is nuclear	Archive (merged in new 6.03)		/



6.09 Resolution for a common container deposit scheme in the	Keep	Positive recommendation	JuLis puts forward an amendment.
European Union			Felix Barenthien (JuLis): The problem was that we didn't see concrete ways of tackling the issue. I just want to add a small point to the amendment. 33 million tonnes of waste goes to third countries from the EU every year. It means no matter how good the countries are at recycling, there will always be the issue of some countries exporting their trash and litter. It is a problem and I think with these points we can tackle the problem at its root.
			Felix Barenthien's (JuLis) point should be added in 'Calls For' rather than 'Notes In' in the resolution.
			Jaroslav Ambroz (Mlade ANO): The debate is in countries such as Indonesia. You can bypass it by regulating the countries' disposal systems, but I don't think it will ever work. I am not convinced to vote in favour of this amendment.
			Felix Barenthien (JuLis): Thanks for your point. There are many policies on a national and European level which can be absolutely loopholed and bypassed at any time. The problem is that we have to be on the same page in Europe. For the time being, something we can do is to try and get to that level. It is very easy to export goods. It is the same thing for trash and litter.
			POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE AMENDMENT



6.10 Stop Nord Stream 2	Update	Positive recommendation	Olena Dudko (EYU): The first sentence is outdated. According to what I know, Nord Stream 2 (NS2) has been fully built. It is not about building, but since LYMEC wants to reduce the dependence of the EU on Russian gas in the future, I would propose an alternative to that point. Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We can't discuss two amendments in one. We can open the debate and then vote separately. Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): If we disagree with the radical proposal on that, we can vote on the less extended suggestion on making it stop working. The vote on demounting all the pipelines occurs. POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE AMENDMENT Sean Bennet (Young Liberals): I would suggest a small change in the first point of the 'Considering That' section. It is just a small linguistic change with 'peak' instead of 'low point'. POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE AMENDMENT
6.11 Resolution on the future of our environment: climate change, pollution and looking forward to sustainability.	Keep	Positive recommendation	/
6.12 European Railway Authority	Update	Positive recommendation	/



6.13 The Adoption of CO2 Taxes and Tariffs by the EU	Update	Positive recommendation	/
6.14 Making 'Fit For 55' ft for purpose	Keep	Positive recommendation	/
6.15 Cutting the European dependence on energy resources from the Russian Federation	Кеер	Positive recommendation	/

CHAPTER 7



Resolutions and amendments	WG Recommenda tion	DA Outcome on the resolution	Comments by participants
7.01 On the Common Fisheries Policy	Update		
		Positive recommendation	1
7.02 EU Should Bring Down Barriers for the Use of GM Crops	Archive	Positive recommendation	1
7.03 Securing our rural economies	Keep	Positive recommendation	/
7.04. Resolution on the matter of antimicrobial resistance in Europe	Кеер	Positive recommendation	/



7.05. More bzzz in the food!	Update	Positive recommendation	Willemijn Krans (JOVD): How would we encourage it? Through campaigns? The EU or State intervention? Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): It is LYMEC calling for changing consumption. Encouragement would be brought about by local governments. If you would like to rephrase it, delete it, or make it more specific, you can propose it. Maarten Lemstra (JD): I would like to make a more administrative point. A moment ago I saw some comments in that Google Doc that I did not receive in the PDF file attached to the email. For next time, it would be better to give us the Google Doc updated file. As a general remark, it is not easy to keep track this way also with amendments on the spot. Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): When the Working Groups completed the work, the document was sent both as a PDF and Google Doc with comments. It is true that there were only 3 amendments by JuLis on the Excel file. The others are being added on the spot now. Philipp Eng (JFS): Liberals never tell someone what to consume or what to eat. This is my understanding of liberal values. Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): You can come up with
			Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): I do not fundamentally disagree, but I think this does constitute a slight change of what policies try to achieve. I am not sure this is the appropriate way to discuss it. It should go to the Congress instead. This resolution also



	seems a bit impositional as the update is not that relevant to the whole resolution. Kristians Vasilevskis (Attistibai Youth): I have some problems with this. If we read the whole resolution, it first encourages insect-based food, and then it talks about vegetables and greens.
	Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We proceed to the vote on the amendment for deleting or keeping the text in red.
	Vote on the addition from the Renewal Working Group is rejected by the DA and therefore taken out at the end.



7.06 On the need for a blue economy	Keep	Positive recommendation	
7.07 Legalisation of snus and tobacco products with flavours or certain additives	Кеер	Positive recommendation	Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): I would encourage all the MOs to think whether liberalising snus and tobacco would be compatible with the liberal values. We know it has a massive impact on public health. Tobacco products with flavouring do pose a threat to young people's health. We should consider if all this has an impact on people's freedoms. We should take it into account. Rasmus Festerling (Radikal Ungdom): I would like to recognise the points made by the previous speaker. We are just renewing the Policy Book, not discussing the policy direction of LYMEC. I would discourage other MOs in trying to achieve personal political points. Alice Schmidt (JuLis): I wanted to say that snus prevents you from taking something that is more unhealthy than that, such as normal cigarettes. We are here to discuss our Policy Book. We are not here for a political discussion.
7.08 A Ban on Wild Animals in Circuses Within the EU	Keep	Positive recommendation	/
7.09 A CAP fit for the 21st century	Keep	Positive recommendation	1



CHAPTER 8

Resolutions and amendments	WG Recommenda tion	DA Outcome on the resolution	Comments by participants
NEW 8.01 Connecting European Regions (Merger of 8.01 & 8.02)	Merger of 8.01 and 8.02	Positive recommendation	Maarten Tollenaar (JD): The text starts out with 'we believe believes' - why so? Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): I kept it as an intentional faithfulness to the original text, as it was already there. Maarten Tollenaar (JD): I think it makes more sense to correct it to have proper English wording that makes sense. The wording is corrected.
OLD 8.01 Resolution on Europe of the Regions	Archive (merged with 8.02)	Positive recommendation	/
8.02 Connecting Regions	Archive (merged with 8.01)	Positive recommendation	/

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer):

- There are no more comments.
- Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer) closes the session on the Policy Book Renewal. She will come up with some solutions for the unclear resolutions, so as to have a formal vote on them at the next Congress in Bucharest.
- She thanks everyone for participating. Each point that was discussed today can be reopened at the next Congress. It is participants' right to do so, even if the scope of the DA is to streamline this process.



- ❖ Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer) encourages all the MOs to present people to take part in the next Working Group on chapter 9. She hopes to finish this process during this mandate. This cannot be done without participants wanting to stay as close to the original purpose of the resolutions as possible.
- ❖ A special thank you to those who participated in the last Working Group of the Policy Book renewal.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Thanks everyone for the great work. There is still a need to have more diverse views, that is why we need you to contribute to the renewal of our Policy Book. It is clear that there are perspectives that are really needed. Aside from that, thank you for the time you took today to participate in this Bureau's first Digital Assembly. It is great to keep you updated on what we are doing, to have you contribute to our job and to figure out together where we are heading. We are always striving to improve our work. Thank you once more! We will now close the Digital Assembly. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the next Congress in Bucharest.