

MINUTES

LYMEC Autumn Congress

10th - 12th November 2023

Riga and Online



Day 1 - Friday, 10th November 2023

Congress starts at 16 h 00 EET (Riga time).

Participants are attending in-person but also online.

1. Opening speech by LYMEC President

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) opens the Congress with his speech from the Congress room in Riga (Latvia), at the AC Marriott Hotel.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Dear liberal friends, welcome to Riga for our Autumn Congress! It's so good to see so many of you here, especially before elections. We have a packed agenda, but I am happy to share all the things we have worked on and that we will continue to work on. Why are we here? We are here to discuss liberal ideas and values, but especially to make sure things we believe in become reality. The path is long, as we see in Ukraine. We should not forget that even if a lot of things are happening, we need to be at full steam with supporting Ukraine as long as it takes and until its victory. We will push for it further. Since the last time we spoke, there have been even more tragedies happening in the world. We have seen how the horrific attack of Hamas has led to a war. When we are debating issues like this one, people get emotional and passionate, but it is also important to understand that we are here because we want to find solutions and we want to respect each other. I want to ask you all to bear the same respect, principles and standards. In less than one year now there will be the European Parliament elections. We have been working very much on finding the topics we would like to bring up, encouraging young people to vote and participate. We will see liberalism prevail in Europe if we continue this way. The difference between us liberals and others, is that we know that it is important to discuss issues for the present, but also for the future we would like to see. With this said, thank you very much for being here, the LYMEC Riga Congress 2023 is officially open.

2. Guest speeches

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I give the floor to our hosts, **Artis Pabriks (Latvijas Attīstībai Party President)**.

Artis Pabriks (Latvijas Attīstībai Party President): I would like to welcome all of you here in Riga. From tomorrow, we are celebrating the week of patriotism, and tomorrow is the anniversary of one of the most important independence wars in European history. Society is going through dramatic changes.

We are living in times of war. War has been going on for one year and nine months in Ukraine. In the meantime, another war has sparked in the Middle East, due to the actions of the Hamas terrorist group. Who would have believed twenty years ago there would have been such a wave of antisemitism as the one we see now? We must differentiate between primary and secondary issues. When it comes to Ukraine, there have been important delays. If we let Ukraine down, no liberals will be able to live freely and make societies work. The totalitarian Russian regime will not stop. Have a nice Congress and all the best!

Inese Voika (Par! Party Co-Chair): Hello everyone! I am very happy to welcome you here. I remember the first time I met a political youth activist was 30 years ago. It had taken me 25 years to truly join politics. As you discuss during these days, I hope you can see how you can contribute to Europe from wherever you are. There are times in politics when society can't afford to stay ambivalent or be indifferent. Sometimes it's important to take a stand. Life is not only about power. Finding balance in power and life is what we try to find in our policies too. Thank you and good luck.

Stéphane Séjourné (Renew Europe Group President - ONLINE VIDEO MESSAGE): Dear LYMEC members, I unfortunately couldn't be with you in Riga today. The next elections will be a unique opportunity for our political family to block the extremists, set sanctions to those who breach the rule of law, and increase the budget to help Ukraine even more. I ask everyone to fight for our own Europe. We will not accept any coalition in the European Parliament with extremist parties. I am sure I can count on you all to join forces ahead of the EU Elections. See you soon and good luck!

Mats Lofstrom (European Liberal Forum Treasurer - ONLINE VIDEO MESSAGE): Dear LYMEC Congress, my first LYMEC event was the Young Leaders' Meeting in 2004, where I met people from all over Europe that would go on to become close friends and colleagues of mine. Remember, you are the future of Europe and we must invest in human capital. I am certain that you will have many inspiring conversations in Riga and beyond.

Kristiāns Vasiļevskis (Attīstībai Youth President): Welcome to Riga. Regarding the European Parliament elections, unfortunately you see that the European Union is facing a barrage of attacks by the ideological extremes. The axis of evil is back and it is now centred in Russia where liberal values and fundamental freedoms are under attack. This begs the question: what should we do? Liberalism in the previous three decades was in a slow decline. We too often make compromises or give up on our values. Maybe the European Parliament elections are the perfect opportunity to talk about these issues, all while using the values of liberalism to counter the political extremities offered by socialism, conservatism and ethnic nationalism. To finish up my speech, welcome to Riga! Today we have a formal

arrangement, but tomorrow we will also celebrate Latvia's patriotism week. I hope you will enjoy tomorrow's celebration. It is a pleasure to have you here!

Viesturs Romka (For Youth! Chair): I am truly honoured to stand before you today. Every Congress marks a crucial moment in the life of our vibrant platform. Together, we share the vision of a more open and inclusive Europe. Tomorrow is the day when the Latvian people commemorate all those that have fallen for our country in the war of Latvian Independence. Tomorrow, we will mark this by lighting thousands of candles by the Riga castle. In 2024, challenges await us liberals across Europe. During times of war, we must stand firm in our continuous support for colleagues and friends. I look forward to the productive days ahead.

Sergio Medina Hernandez (Young Democrats of Europe Treasurer): Thank you so much for the invitation. It is always a pleasure working with our friends and partners at LYMEC. We are facing a very difficult situation in Europe, that is why we have to strengthen the ties between liberals and democrats. We have worked together actively on the Manifesto in Renew. As a part of YDE, one of our targets is to bring EU policy-making to the local level and to the daily lives of young people. We are all part of the same European community and we deserve to feel close to our European decision-makers. I wish you a very fruitful Congress!

Sam Hudis (IFLRY Treasurer): Hello everyone! We wish all battles for freedom were through elections, but that is not the case. Support for Ukraine has been a joint focus for LYMEC and IFLRY. Russia and China are expanding the crisis on disinformation. Their aim is to socially and politically undermine the Western alliance upholding the values of liberal democracy. Recent electoral losses in Turkey and Hungary have happened, but coming from the United States, I know that it is possible for us liberals to fight back and win. In recent weeks, Poland has also proven that liberal forces are able to mount a winning campaign in difficult political terrain. Thank you very much for having me!

Nolwenn Pelven (Les JAM European Spokesperson - ONLINE VIDEO MESSAGE): First of all, I apologise for not being in-person in Riga with you all. I remember that when we met a few months ago at the Budapest Congress, I was announcing the 'Road to Europe' project by Les JAM. I am hereby happy to say that, through that project, we have gathered 21 proposals. These proposals speak of independence, resilience and transition. We can't wait to share them with you! I wish you all a good Congress.

3. Roll call and voting rights



Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to perform the first roll call.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) states that if delegates have any technical problems they should contact **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**. Should they encounter any non-technical issue, they can also reach out to our ombudspersons for this Congress: **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)** or our Trustees persons **Joy Kamel (FEL)**, **Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)** and **Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (RU)**.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) reminds all the participants to check the communications received about the Congress technicalities, registrations and hotel check-in. He reminds participants that only the head of delegation has voting rights for each Full Member Organisation. Associate Member Organisations have no votes according to the LYMEC Statutes.

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place. No organisation will get a second chance if they miss the calling of their name, they will have to wait until the next roll call. The goal is to be more efficient to allow more time for discussions.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members		Votes	Roll Call 1
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD		5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		8	8
Bulgaria	YMRF		10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka		3	3
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	0
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth		3	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	0
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom		4	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth		8	8
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth		6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret		6	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL		3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)		5	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)		10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Hungary	TizenX		3	3
Iceland	Uppreisn		4	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil		8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth		3	3
Latvia	For! Youth		3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)		6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg		3	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie		6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL		6	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)		3	
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)		3	0
Norway	Unge Venstre		4	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth		3	3
Romania	USR Tineret		4	0
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement		3	3
Slovakia	Mladi Progresivci - Young Progressives		3	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos		5	5
Serbia	Forum Mladih Nove Stranke		3	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter		4	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)		6	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)		5	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)		7	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland		6	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)		3	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)		3	3
Ukraine	Zemolodizhka (ZM)		7	
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK		6	6
IMS	Tim Robinson		2	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz		1	1

TOTAL 223 193

Simple majority of those present 111.5 96.5

Two thirds of present 148.6666 128.666666

Simple majority of those present without abstentions



There were 193 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)
- Venstres Ungdom
- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)
- USR Tineret

4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

Election of chairs

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Emils Dobrajs, Ida-Maria Skytte and Gaspar Shabad** as Congress Chairs.

The Congress accepted the Chairs.

Election of secretaries

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)** and **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)**, together with **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** as Congress Secretaries.

The Congress accepted the Secretaries.

Election of scrutineers

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)** and **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** as the Congress Scrutineers.

The Congress accepted the Scrutineers.

5. Adoption of the agenda

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): I am very happy to see you all. We are already behind schedule so we will be efficient. **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** already pointed out some important things. If you

want to be on the speakers' list, please use Openslides. You can address a point of order through Openslides too. Make sure you give a brief explanation to justify it.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): We are now going to move to the adoption of the agenda. It has been sent to you ahead of the Congress. If no one is against, we can adopt the agenda.

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

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest. No one expressed any disapproval.

The minutes from the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest are therefore adopted by the Congress without changes.

POINT OF ORDER

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): I resigned a few minutes ago from my Treasurer position because of me making the mistake of connecting my 'Apple Pay' app on my iPhone to my LYMEC card at the beginning of 2023 when we created the account. The misuse continued until I corrected it in June 2023. I think this is an unfortunate mistake, and being a senior auditor in the field of fraud detection this is simply not acceptable. This is also the view of many of you and our Internal Auditors as I understand - I thoroughly agree with them. I want to thank the whole Bureau and Secretariat, it has been an amazing ride: we have achieved a lot in the field of risk management and fundraising. From next year, we will start collecting money from corporate partners as well, if that aligns with our goals. We have also digitised our bookkeeping. I am very grateful to the whole Bureau, my Member Organisation, and the Eastern Europeans that always supported me and saw me as an ally. I personally hope some of the resolutions can pass at this Congress. Now I am free. Thank you all. This is a step that I had to take to clear the name of the Bureau. I thank you a lot and wish you an amazing Congress. Let's liberalise Europe together!

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): Thank you **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)**. I embrace the point of order. As we now lack a Treasurer, as per our Statutes, the Bureau would like to open the call and reopen the agenda to have an Interim Treasurer elected until the mandate ends next Spring.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): clarifies that since no one is opposing the suggestion from the Bureau, the agenda is open and a new Treasurer should be elected.

Extraordinary agenda point on the election of an interim Treasurer

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): You can understand that this is not an easy situation. Now we have no Treasurer, but that doesn't mean that the work does not continue. Therefore, we propose an election for an (interim) Treasurer, and a recommendation from the Bureau is to have **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative)**, previous LYMEC Treasurer, to cover this position until the elections in Spring 2024.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): He has experience with our internal systems, he knows how the organisation runs, and in a few months it is complicated to teach everything from scratch to a new person. I hope you welcome our recommendation.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): As per rules, is there anyone who would like to put forward their candidacy for LYMEC Treasurer? I see there is none. The speakers' list is empty. I therefore welcome **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative)** to take the floor to defend his candidacy.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): I was the former Treasurer of LYMEC. I stand here with a heavy heart. It must have been tough for the Bureau, Office and for **Tuuli Helind (ERP)** to arrive at this decision, of course. I hope you all trust me in taking over for the last few months of this mandate. I do want to emphasise that I recognise that this is a caretaker position. I mainly want to help **Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to make sure all the finances keep on running. I have no other plans or motivations - this is my only goal.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): Add your names on Openslides if you want to take the floor.

Olena Dudko (EYU): I think this is a question many delegates have on their minds. Did you plan to combine your current position as IFLRY Representative with the interim Treasurer role? Is this something you feel you could handle, time-wise?

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): In response to your first question, the Bureau and I have not had much of a discussion about that, it's an extraordinary situation. My only answer would be that it will not be such a burden, given that there will be no more IFLRY Congresses before this mandate ends. Adding to this, the two positions are not mutually-exclusive posts under the Statutes so it's feasible.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): There are no more speakers. Please go on Openslides, the vote is open on this extraordinary item.

Extraordinary vote on the appointment of Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative) as LYMEC Treasurer (only candidate):

For - 139

Against - 18

Abstain - 7

Marten Porte is therefore elected as the interim LYMEC Treasurer.

7. Urgency of resolutions (in case of urgency resolutions handed in)

Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh submitted by JuLis and JNC.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): There is one Urgency Resolutions submitted. I invite the movers to take the floor.

Julius Graack (JuLis): If you attended LYMEC Working Groups last weekend, then you know why we are putting forward this resolution. This is an important topic we need policy on and we had to merge the two resolutions initially proposed. I hope you vote in favour.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The Bureau issues a positive recommendation. We recommend that you vote in favour of the urgency attached to this resolution. Thank you.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): The vote is open on this Urgency Resolution on Openslides.

Vote on the Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh submitted by JuLis and JNC:

For - 158

Against - 7

Abstain - 12

The Urgency Resolution is carried by the Congress and added to the agenda on the snap vote on the order of resolutions.

8. Snap vote on the order of resolutions

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): We are moving onto a snap vote on the order of resolutions. You have 5 votes for each delegation, 5 resolutions to select. The vote is open now until the end of the next agenda point. We will end the day with showing the results of the snap vote. The results will also be sent out to you via email later tonight but you will also be able to check it directly on your Openslides account.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): The Head of Delegations will vote on the order in which the resolutions will be discussed in this Congress tomorrow. We already had the Working Groups one week ago where you could discuss the resolutions and the content, so you probably had the chance to check them already.

The vote is now open for the delegates. The vote will stay open for 30 minutes only. The results will be shown at a later stage when voting will be closed after the Bureau reports point.

Results of the snap vote on the order of resolutions:

Candidates	Votes
1. The heinous terror attacks by Hamas against Israel	(43.956 %) 80
2. More Efficient EU Railways Through Stronger Cooperation	(35.714 %) 65
3. Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh	(31.868 %) 58
4. European Menstruation Equity	(29.121 %) 53

5.	A Stable Future for Northern Ireland: Addressing the unique challenges facing the European Peace Project since Brexit	(26.374 %) 48
6.	An EU Energy Security Policy	(24.176 %) 44
7.	Stop the Gas (It's Probably Russian)	(21.429 %) 39
8.	Resolution on strengthening liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern Partnership	(20.330 %) 37
9.	The European Union Needs a Single Sanctions Coordinator	(19.780 %) 36
10.	Ban Imports from Chinese Regions and Market Sectors Tainted by Forced Labour	(18.132 %) 33
11.	Non dica gay - a resolution concerning the situation for LGBTQ+ people in Italy	(18.132 %) 33
12.	Better Safe Than Sorry - Establishing a European Crisis Mitigation and Resilience Framework	(17.582 %) 32
13.	Food Security Starts on the Farm	(16.484 %) 30

14.	Parental leave in the European Parliament	(15.934 %) 29
15.	Phase Out Fossil Fuel Subsidies	(15.934 %) 29
16.	The Role of the European Union in the Recovery of Ukraine and Development	(15.385 %) 28
17.	No 2024 Olympic Games in Paris with Russia and Belarus!	(14.835 %) 27
18.	Necessary measures to protect the rule of law in the European Union	(13.187 %) 24
19.	A resolution to change the EU Commissions agreement with Tunisia	(12.637 %) 23
20.	Resolution on the Continued Oppression of Eritreans in Exile	(12.088 %) 22
21.	Cut farming support	(12.088 %) 22
22.	Breaking Down Borders: Empowering European Educators	(9.341 %) 17
23.	Unifying European Defence Procurement	(8.242 %) 15

24.	For the international protection of Russian conscientious objectors and deserters	(7.692 %) 14
25.	Reduced recidivism thanks to the better standards in prisons	(6.593 %) 12
26.	On Common EU Foreign Policy towards Russia	(6.593 %) 12
27.	ACCELERATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF A COMMON EU GRID	(5.495 %) 10
28.	Preparing for a Post-Russian Federation Era	(5.495 %) 10
29.	No to a nationalisation of educational institutions	(3.846 %) 7
30.	Electromobility: A sustainable journey towards transformation of transportation	(3.297 %) 6
31.	Resolution of European Disaster Relief and Evacuation Programmes	(3.297 %) 6
32.	Decarbonizing buildings resolutions	(3.297 %) 6
33.	EU Space Law: Setting a common regulatory framework for the resilience, sustainability and protection of EU Space systems and services	(1.648 %) 3

34.	Tame the EU Bureaucracy Monster!	(0 %) 0
	Valid votes	(100 %) 182

9. Bureau Reports and debate about the reports

Emils Dobrajs (Chair): **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** and **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**, please take the floor. After that, we will have the other Bureau Members say something and then you can ask questions.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I have been told to keep my intervention as short as possible. Since the last time we met, we of course worked on several Bureau priorities. We are working on the delegation system further, we are trying to influence the policies of our partners, such as Renew Europe, ALDE and others. Our policies have given new inspiration and common ground to them. We are very vocal when we have opinions and policies, and we have the luxury of putting them forward, which is a move that has allowed us to be well heard.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): Thank you. Recently, we hired a new Policy and Campaign Intern - **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy and Campaign Intern)**. Say hello to him if you haven't already! Another thing that I would like to highlight here and today - as a first time trial - is the new Trustees' system. We implemented this because we want everyone to feel heard, welcome and safe at LYMEC Congresses.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): Since the last time we met, we have worked with the LYMEC Communications Team. All is going smoothly. In fact, last month, we met with members of the Liberal Communicators' Network, Communications Team and Libertas Team in Sofia for an exclusive meeting on digital communication strategies and political campaigning. We have also been working hard to improve our accessibility, implementing things like 'ALT text' to simplify our messaging. We also have started drafting our future campaigns for the EU Elections 2024. Thank you **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy and Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)** for your invaluable work on communications. Feel free to ask me if you have any more questions.

Tanzer Yuseinov (LYMEC Bureau): Since our last Congress, I have worked on many events including the Liberal Hack in Cyprus and the follow-up events with MEPs on this project. I have also been involved in organising the Communications Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, working with young liberal parties and delivering a successful training on communications.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): I want to stress three things. Firstly, we have finished the clean-up of our Policy Book renewal process after 5 long years. I look forward to many more resolutions. Since I took over, we have been stressing missing gaps within the Policy Book. The second point that I want to stress is the ALDE Congress. As you may know, we have elections for the LYMEC delegation that will take place at this Congress. With the reflections from previous Congresses, I hope that, together, the new delegation will take stock, do things better and more efficiently. The final point that I would like to highlight is that I have been working with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy and Campaign Intern)** on advocating our resolutions and policies to decision-makers. On this note, we will hold the first advocacy meeting with an MEP soon. I hope this is the first of many and I look forward to seeing LYMEC continue to grow its influence.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau): I want to start by thanking the **European Liberal Forum (ELF)** for all their help and support. We would not be doing as many projects as we are now without them. A special thank you to **Even Diot (European Liberal Forum)** who, as our main contact point, has proven an invaluable help. In October, we had our last event in Brussels for the Young Changemakers' Academy 2023. It was a big moment, marking the final session of a massive project. I also want to give a big shout out to **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)** for all her support and good collaboration, especially all those times where I came to her with yet more new ideas to shape the Young Changemakers' Academy. I also want to talk about another event that was made possible because of the EC grant, namely the Digital Skills Hub Training. We had an opportunity to present a new feature and online training tools for our Member Organisations to use. We want to be able to bring this knowledge directly to you. International Officers should have received emails already about this initiative. Hopefully we will be launching the platform in the first trimester of next year.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair) opens the floor for questions from the delegates.

Roelof Dik (JOVD): We were wondering, **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** what advocacy meeting you will be having next week and on which resolution that will be on?

Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail): How do you, Bureau Members, manage your personal commitments and work at LYMEC? What can Member Organisations do to help when there is too much on your plate?

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): There is a lot of pressure on Bureau members handling full time jobs and our positions within LYMEC. We try to find ways to reduce individual burdens - especially during particularly busy periods - by working as a united team. On what Member Organisations can do, first, please answer emails and calls. This is not just better for the Bureau, but for all of you as well, as in LYMEC you have quite a lot of opportunities to engage. As **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** and the others mentioned, we have an extensive Policy Book, but there's still plenty of areas where we could expand our policy and we require your cooperation and help to do this as well.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The MEP in question is **Charles Goerens (Renew Europe MEP)** from Luxembourg. We plan to have at least three more policy advocacy meetings before the end of this mandate, and I hope my successor will continue this practice. I would also like to stress that it is very difficult to arrange these meetings with the elections looming. Lastly, I know foreign policy is a big topic of discussion at the moment, but I would urge you all to try and find other thematic areas where we can make our impact known.

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): We have seen that LYMEC is getting good. A question for **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau)** is if LYMEC is considering enhancing its outreach capabilities by reaching to the press? A question for **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**: it looks like the Young Leaders' Meeting was a lot of fun, but unfortunately **JOVD** can never attend on those dates in September. We would appreciate it if you could look at alternative dates to host those sessions?

Finally, on a different note, what are the explicit measures regarding the LYMEC Secretariat that you are keen to take to implement a framework to disseminate information and avoid late night communications?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): To address the first question, it is great that we can promote our ideas, but we are not a national party that can easily sell a story or get the attention of a well-known press establishment like Politico or Euractiv. Politico would be a good platform to promote our ideas, but it comes with a 1000 EUR fee attached, so this is not financially feasible.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): On the other two questions, we have very strict guidelines and frameworks from ELF on dates that we can set to host events. Our calendar for 2024 is already very packed. It's very very thin what we can offer with all of the events we have planned. We hope to provide

quite a few days for other events, so we can compensate. When it comes to staff, you are right, this is something I have been attesting to for a long time. We have already been discussing ways to mitigate this (e.g. company phones and strict email timeline limitations - scheduling emails etc.).

Julius Graack (JuLis): I have three questions. **JuLis** is very happy with the communications work that the LYMEC Bureau and Secretariat are doing. One question about this for **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau)**: we are keen to know whether the dissemination related to the Renew4Youth Manifesto is always double-checked so that it remains in line with LYMEC's own policies. I am referring to the Culture Pass called by the Renew4Youth Manifesto, as we can actually not find anything similar in LYMEC policies. My second question is about the Congress representation. Are we planning to discuss the delegation system? Lastly, I want to thank you for your transparency and the whole process that led to **Tuuli Helind (ERP)**'s resignation. I would just like to ask **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** what you think the lessons learned are from this ordeal?

David Grasveld (LHG): Question for **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** about the Digital Assembly in September 2023. Back then, we had to cut short on the Bureau reports point. Why did the Bureau choose to host the meeting in the Estonian Parliament, where they knew there would have been a hard deadline under which they would have to vacate the premises?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I appreciate your question **David Grasveld (LHG)**, but I would like to inform everyone that this point was communicated clearly well ahead of the meeting with the detailed programme sent out. It is my Bureau's understanding that everyone was informed that we had to keep to a tight schedule and that there would be not much time left for questions.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): On the same question, as you know, the Digital Assembly was created by the previous Bureau to discuss resolutions of our Policy Book that were being cleaned up. We are now working on a new concept as the Policy Book renewal process has come to an end. We will try to find a new attractive proposal for you guys.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Replying to **Julius Graack (JuLis)**, this Bureau has indeed been working on transparency. I want to emphasise that since the misuse issues were identified, there have been no other issues of this kind. Measures have also been taken to mitigate potential future breaches.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I want to address the question about the LYMEC Working Group on the delegation system. On the delegation sizes, yes, there is no point in how many delegates every MO will be able to send. It is more important to have a discussion on finances. We were very clear

at the call for the Working Group on delegations by stating that, as a Bureau, we will evaluate the outcomes. But the final decision will be anyways taken by the future Bureau.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): About the social media campaign on the Renew4Youth Manifesto, not everything is LYMEC policy, but most of it is. Our guiding principle with regards to this is that if there are any deviations from the LYMEC Policy Book, those will be our red lines.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair) clarifies that there are no more questions, we move then to the last report from **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative)**.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): I will keep it very short. In the last few months, we did a campaign on Belarussian youth activists. I have also recently attended an IFLRY Congress in Colombia, where I worked with our Latin American counterparts on sharing liberal best practice. As you will all know, the IFLRY Congress that was due to take place later this month in Beirut, Lebanon, has been cancelled due to the ongoing war in the Middle East and will be postponed until next Spring. Despite this, the work continues.

Emils Dobrajs (Chair) thanks the Bureau and moves on to the next agenda point.

The results of the snap vote on the order of the resolutions are announced and shown to Congress (available above at point 8).

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Thank you. We are done for today. We will continue tomorrow.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): states that the first day of the Congress is now closed at 18 h 00 EET. He invites delegates to meet at 19 h 00 EET in the hotel restaurant for the ALDE Party Manifesto Town Hall before having dinner all together. We also expect you back in the Congress room at 21 h 00 EET for the projection of the Alliance of Her movie. There will be refreshments too. If you did not sign the signature list, please make sure to sign it right now. We restart the Congress tomorrow morning at 9 h 00 EET sharp to continue with the agenda. We will first have a roll call so be on time.

Day 2: Saturday, 11th November 2023

Day 2 starts at 09 h 00 EET (Riga time).

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they

hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 2 - Saturday morning
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	0
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	0
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	8
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	0
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jong Demokraten Luxembourg	0
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	0
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	4
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladí Progresivci - Young Progressives	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	5
Serbia	Forum Mladih Nove Stranke	0
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	Zemolodzhka (ZM)	0
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1

188

Simple majority of those present

94

Two thirds of present

125.3333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 71

There were 188 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Youth Forum of Naša stranka**
- **Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)**
- **Istrian Democratic Youth**
- **Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students)- KOL**
- **JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg**
- **Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)**
- **Forum Mladih Nove Stranke**

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): We have another dear guest today addressing this Congress. I give the floor to **Timmy Dooley (ALDE Party Co-President)**.

Timmy Dooley (ALDE Party Co-President): I don't see a lot of blurry eyed people, but I have been assured that tonight is the night for all the celebrations. Jokes aside, it is a great honour to be here to listen, recognise and thank you for all the work that you do, on behalf of the ALDE Party. I have always thought that listening to youth politics was important and not because it is nice to do so, but because it is important to listen to the voices of the future. Our next Congress will be hosted in March, and will cement the work that we have been doing for various months. It's often said in politics that you have no friends, just allies, competitors and rivals. I don't share this assessment. LYMEC is as much about friendships as it is about the policies you work on. Those of you that studied history will understand the significance of European history. I believe in dialogue, connection, friendships - all of that - is an important part of how life should arrange itself. These are issues that we, as a political bloc, must be part of, and find liberal solutions to. It has been more difficult in recent years to hold the centre ground and find a response to populist leaders, and it's important that as the next generation of leaders, you fight for the values we hold dear. In the melting pot that is ALDE and the melting point that is LYMEC, we are much better at discussing these ideas and finding common solutions. Thank you for the tremendous energy and for all your hard work.

10. Secretary General report and debate about the report

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) moves on with the agenda and asks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take the floor and tell more about his report.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you everyone. I have one point before moving to my report to all the associate members, observer and guest: please sit there where you find your nametags in the middle of the room. It will make it easier for the membership points when you will have to leave the Congress room to enter the closed session. Thank you in advance!

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): It has been a couple of hectic months since the LYMEC Spring Congress in Budapest. This is a special moment for me, because Latvia is the last of the 27 EU Member States that I have not been to yet. Beyond underscoring my extensive travels, this also shows the engagement of LYMEC and its efforts to host activities all over Europe. I hope you had time to read my report, but I would still like to mention a few things. As **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** announced yesterday, we indeed have the chance to have a new member in our team, **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy and Campaign Intern)**. The first week saw him ask a lot of questions, already showing an incredible sense of picking up the work at LYMEC quickly. I hope you read with attention the LYMEC Policy Briefings that you receive and that you share them internally within your membership. **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy and Campaign Intern)** is behind them. On a different note, as it was also discussed yesterday, financial matters were quite challenging and a lot of work was put into that in the past months. We have been having very fruitful cooperations with FNF Europe, and we are discussing and working on various upcoming events with them ahead of the EU Elections. Moreover, the European Commission Grant application to secure structural funds for 2024 was finally submitted, and I want to thank the whole team for contributing. Yesterday, the office working arrangements came out during the Bureau reports point. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** has been very supportive of that. We are trying to adopt new practices and strengthen our work regulation. I have a comment for you members: this issue not only depends on how the Bureau interacts with the Secretariat, but also on the way LYMEC members reach out to the office. Please look into better practices within your organisation. Be mindful of our working hours too. From our perspective, there is a clear willingness to improve the situation. I come to my last point, which is a bit of frustration I must share with the membership. We have been working a lot on new concepts and events, along with the European Commission grant. When it comes to our online events like the 'Policy Debates' and 'Voices from Ukraine' formats, there is a lot of work put into those. **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy and Campaign Intern)** worked a lot on that as soon as he started in LYMEC, but we are a bit disappointed to see such a low turnout level. Especially with 'Voices from Ukraine', where you get the opportunity to hear first hand about what is happening on the field and show them support. Please, International Officers, do reshare those initiatives internally. It is a pity we only have 10 to 15 people joining those meetings, and most of them from Ukraine. To end, I would like to thank the Bureau a lot, and my biggest thanks is to **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy and Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. This is not only the Secretary General report,

but also an office report, and on that line I want to thank **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**, as without her, many of the things we are discussing today would not be possible. She is the one in charge of making all of these events happen all over Europe.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the Secretary General report.

Florentyna Martynska (Nowoczesna Youth): Thank you **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for your report. I am impressed by your level of professionalism. As you know, I have been participating in almost all online LYMEC events. Have you considered strategies LYMEC could implement to increase participant turnout?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you. I can indeed confirm you have been there every time. Indeed, there has been a lot of engagement from our Eastern European members. Originally, our 'Voices from Ukraine' events were designed to give our on-the-ground members an opportunity to provide reports and insight first hand. Since then, we have improved the format focusing on creating a more professional dynamic with expert guest speakers at every session. Despite this effort, turnout has not increased - a disappointing result, we were expecting an increase. We can communicate more about those events, through special newsletters on the topic, email reminders, social media channels, and the International Officers Facebook group, although the latter does not generate the same levels of interaction. We can think of new ways to communicate about it. But when you see the email landing in your inbox, please share it with your members - it really does make a difference.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): You raised a point about engagement. I get those emails, but sometimes it is complicated to redirect them to the membership. I don't know if you, the Bureau, or the Secretariat have thoughts of ways to amplify outreach without going through International Officers?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): I understand it is complicated for you too. But if we count LYMEC members it is around 150,000 people. We work with you, we are increasing the amount of communication, and that is an easier way to reach out to you members. All the events, all the news are on the **LYMEC Newsletter**, the best way to get information on upcoming events. If you wonder who is behind it, it is **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**, again. Getting newsletter subscription numbers up is the way to amplify outreach and solve this issue. It is very easy to subscribe through our website directly.

Olena Dudko (EYU): I have two questions. Firstly, I understand concerns about receiving messages late at night. There was once an event where all the IOs met online to know about all the upcoming events and call openings. Did the Bureau think of making that happen again in the future? My second question is about membership. We have debates, for example about the LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Congress or the working groups. When we receive applications for membership at Congresses, we unfortunately do not have enough time to discuss them and ask as many questions as we wish. What do you think about creating an online working group to discuss membership applications ahead of Congresses?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): We are working on something that improves our work-life balance. You might have noticed this Congress is in many ways a trial. For example, you joined a community on WhatsApp. If there will be another trial, it will be concerning International Officers first. On the second question, working groups on membership are definitely something we can create. When we are at the Congress, it is true we have limited time. We can think about that with **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** and adapt the online formats accordingly for the next Congress. Maybe adding those discussions at the end of the Working Groups for resolutions on the Saturday before Congresses might not work, as people tend to leave the meeting towards the end, after the resolutions are discussed. We could find another slot online.

Johannes Brill (LHG): I have a question about credit card misuse since in your position you have a good oversight on these matters. Which measures can be implemented in the future to make sure this does not happen again? Is there a process enacted when the misuse of the LYMEC card is made?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you for the question, it is a very important one. As we have seen, there have been cases where the Secretary General role was very important as it has responded to early warnings. It is important to start a discussion with the person. If that's not enough, the Secretary General goes to the Bureau and then to the Internal Auditors. In this recent instance, I was the one giving the early warning following this process. The end of this process resulted in a card use protocol which clarifies which kind of expenses can be made, the validation of the bank statement, who can have the card and so on. This was done to help root out misuse and make sure that it was almost impossible to have the same situation happen again. Since starting this role, I have worked with many Treasurers, and - as you can also ask my other colleagues - I have always been very strict on the spending point. On this particular incident, I want to thank **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** and **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** as well as the Internal Auditors for their help and support, because it was truly a joint effort.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I think it is also important to clarify that this document did prevent the action of misuse after the early warning. No misuse has happened after the card protocol was adopted in the summer.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): This card protocol must be signed by all the people that can use the card. For example, **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative)** will sign the document as well on Tuesday before he gets access to the card. In case something happens, we are covered. This is serious business.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you very much. If you have any comments that would be relevant for us, we are happy to take them on board anytime.

11. European Elections Campaign 2024 - discussion

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) gives the floor to **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** to present what LYMEC has done as part of the European Elections Campaign 2024.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): As you know, the European elections are coming soon. Yesterday, **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau Member)** presented to you our ideas for the EP Elections Campaign, but we know there is opportunity to improve. In a moment we will be turning to **Slido.com**, an online tool where we hope to gather your feedback and inputs about the upcoming campaign.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau Member): We will take your ideas into account when adapting our campaign to the ever-changing political agenda. You should see a QR code soon. Let your ideas vote!

Gaspar Shabad (Chair): Thank you **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** and **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau Member)** for your overview. There are no questions. We are now moving on.

12. Membership Issues

a. Applications for Associate Membership

- **PSG Youth - Serbia applies for associate membership.**

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) explains that there is only one application for Associate Membership at this Congress. **Gaspar Shabad (Chair)** invites **Mateja Nikolic (PSG Youth)** to present the application of his organisation for Associate Membership.

Mateja Nikolic (PSG Youth): I want to present my organisation even if we can only attend online this time. PSG Youth has about 80 members and is part of the joint parliamentary group 'Forward to Europe' together with 'Stranka slobode i pravde'. PSG Youth has signed a document on regional cooperation with **Mladi Nasa stranka** from Bosnia and Herzegovina and **LiDem** from North Macedonia. PSG Youth are financed from donations, membership fees and public funds that are intended for parliamentary organisations. At first, back in October of 2022, there were five of us. We were doing everything we could to find young people interested in politics. It was exhausting, but slowly, people started recognising us. After one month, we gained two new members. For us, that was a significant milestone. We began holding meetings and promoting our values through social media. Shortly after that, we received invitations from our sister parties in **North Macedonia (LDP)** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina (NS)** to create a document that would strengthen our relations and support each other. We also produced a video highlighting how young people in the Western Balkans are not being heard and demanded a solution to this issue. During this time, we worked tirelessly, day and night, to gather as many people as possible. People came, and they stayed. They felt welcomed and comfortable with us. We organised hangouts at bars, pubs, and even our homes, because we felt like one big liberal family. All our efforts over the past few months have finally shown results. In collaboration with FNF, this year, we organised the first assembly of PSG youth, held a vote, and elected **Jelena Banjac (PSG Youth)** as the president of the youth wing of our political party. The primary purpose behind organising this event was to officially support the declaration and statutes of the youth wing of the Free Citizen's Movement, through which we have now officially formalised our youth wing, PSG Youth. Our mission is deeply rooted in the idea of empowering and strengthening the younger generation. We are committed to providing them with the tools, knowledge, and opportunities they need to thrive and become leaders of tomorrow. Additionally, we are resolute in our dedication to ensuring social justice for all members of our society. This means actively working towards a fair and inclusive society where every individual's rights and dignity are protected and respected. We are passionate about advocating for an ecologically responsible country. Our vision is to see our nation transform into a beacon of environmental responsibility. In the future, every citizen, regardless of their background, will enjoy the fundamental rights of freedom and equality. Our vision represents a society where ecological consciousness is deeply embedded in the fabric of our citizens, where our environment is cherished and protected, and where every person has the opportunity to live a life free from discrimination, with equal access to resources and opportunities. Then, tragic events occurred. At the start of May this year, two mass murder shootings happened in just two days, shaking us to the core. Huge street demonstrations began, and Serbia woke up. Hundreds of thousands of people came to the streets demanding accountability. The government did nothing and unjustly blamed us in the opposition for promoting violence in the mass media. During the protests, our youth was actively involved in securing the routes, assisting people who needed help, and promoting the mass gatherings on all social media channels. The slogan

"Serbia: against violence" was everywhere and has now evolved into the name of our pre-electoral coalition, bringing together all pro-European and pro-democracy parties in Serbia under one roof to contest the parliamentary and local elections on December 17. Last but not least, an important event that PSG youth is very proud to be part of is the Belgrade Pride. Given the previous experiences, especially of EuroPride last year, we were anxious about this one. However, it turned out to be a pleasant surprise. Belgrade Pride 2023 became the largest pride event in Serbia's history with no incidents, provocations, or violence - just love! We continue to fight for LGBTQ rights, as they are under constant attack in Serbia and we are very happy that a lot of young members of the community are part of PSG youth and consider this a safe and open space for everyone. Thank you for your attention.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks **Mateja Nikolic (PSG Youth)** and opens the floor for questions. He reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides' list.

Milana Shesterikova (YDM Vesna): First of all, thank you for the presentation, it was really good. I am here with a controversial question. I was wondering if your organisation has a specific position on the Kosovo conflict?

Mateja Nikolic (PSG Youth): We care about people, not just territory. It is our belief that we must work together to fix the issues between Albanians and Serbians in the region. My party believes the normalisation of those two ethnic groups should be rooted in a common belief in peace, alongside a shared desire for EU membership. I would just like to highlight that we care about people and not just territory.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **PSG Youth**. He invites all associate members, observers and guests to leave the room. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Riga. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of PSG Youth.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for associate membership.

Vote on PSG Youth membership:

For- 179

Against- 0

Abstain- 9

PSG Youth is therefore accepted as an Associate Member Organisation of LYMEC.

Welcome!

b. Applications for Full Membership

- **Alliance Youth - Northern Ireland applies for full membership.**

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) explains that there are two applications for Full membership at this Congress.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) invites the first organisation to present their application. **Rowan Fitton & Tommy Monahan (Alliance Youth)** present the application of the organisation for Full membership.

Rowan Fitton & Tommy Monahan (Alliance Youth): We are here to apply for full membership at LYMEC. Alliance Youth is the youth wing of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, the third largest political party in Northern Ireland. Any Alliance Party member aged 25 years or younger is automatically registered as a member of Alliance Youth. We exist to provide a young person's perspective on the Alliance Party's vision of a liberal and shared society for the people of Northern Ireland. Our central mission is to provide a voice for young people within our mother party and support its political goals. We are especially prominent within our mother party on LGBTQ+ rights, environmental policy and green issues, and support for integrated education within Northern Ireland. Rather than define ourselves by arbitrary designations, we choose to focus on building a tolerant, inclusive, and liberal society and a functional political system that works for everyone in Northern Ireland. We currently hold 17 seats in the Northern Irish Assembly, 67 seats across 9 of the 11 councils in Northern Ireland, and we are represented in the UK Parliament by our deputy Leader Stephen Farry, who is MP for the North Down constituency. We recognise the key role that the EU played in enabling the Good Friday Agreement to be negotiated. As well as being active participants within LYMEC, we have strong bilateral cooperation with several sister organisations. This is especially true for our neighbours from Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland, and we have a strong partnership with both Young Liberals and Ógra Fianna Fáil. Through our full membership, we hope to build stronger links with all our sister organisations across Europe. We are especially keen to establish stronger links with organisations who share our experience of bridging social and political divides, and those who are striving to rebuild tolerant, inclusive, and liberal societies following periods of violence. Our Mother Party massively increased its share of the votes, winning 13.5% overall, and more than doubled our representation in the Northern Irish Assembly by winning 17 seats. For the first time in history, our mother party was entitled to hold a seat within Northern Ireland's power-sharing executive. Alliance Youth played a key role in this fantastic election success,

campaigning in key target constituencies and supporting our members to get involved. Our organisation ran an organised campaign, moving young activists across Northern Ireland to help in areas that needed the most support. We are especially focused on how we can expand our organisation's presence in the North-West areas of Northern Ireland, where our mother party has been historically weaker. Currently, our independent policy development is limited, and we share a manifesto and policy platform with our mother party with almost no significant differences. Our incoming Policy Officer is looking to establish a working group which will undertake an audit of our mother party's recent manifestos and policy documents. We hope this will lead to our own 'Youth Manifesto' for future elections.

Our organisation, at time of submission of this membership application, has two active university branches based at Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University - Belfast Campus respectively. Alliance Youth has especially strong and historical indirect links with our sister organisation in Great Britain, the Young Liberals, in the form of cooperation and engagement. As evidenced by our International Officer's attendance at the 2023 Young Liberals Conference last August. Our organisation's Membership currently stands at around 150 members. Under the current constitution of Alliance Youth, we have two categories of members - Youth Members and Student Members. Within our organisation there is no differentiation between these two membership categories, as well as a significant overlap, and the distinction is not recorded within our membership numbers. A Youth Member is defined as any member of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland who is aged 31 or under. A Student Member is defined as any member of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland who is a student. The Executive committee is planning to submit a constitutional amendment at our next statutory meeting to change the definition of Youth Members to any member of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland who is aged 25 or under, based on advice from our mother party.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks **Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth)** and opens the floor for questions.

Elin Söderholm (LUF): I am curious about your policies on the EU and visions for the future of Europe. Could you please elaborate?

Roelof Dik (JOVD): What is your most liberal household application?

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): On **Roelof Dik (JOVD)**'s question, the answer is my Espresso machine. To answer the question on EU policy, we campaigned against leaving the EU. Our policy is focusing on the integration issues. We would love to rejoin the EU tomorrow if that was possible, but rebuilding trust is the immediate role we need to take. We are seeing, just in Northern Ireland alone, the pressure on peace and trade that Brexit has caused. Aligning ourselves on policies such as common health

standards, would reduce a lot of these pressures. **Alliance Youth** has been at the forefront of pressuring the UK Government to drop the rhetoric and move towards these common sense, European-oriented solutions.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress to a closed session to discuss the membership application. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Riga. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the full membership of Alliance Youth - Northern Ireland.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for full membership. The necessary majority is 2/3 of the votes present at the Congress.

Vote on the full membership of Alliance Youth Northern Ireland:

For- 183

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

Alliance Youth is therefore accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC.

Congratulations!

----- **COFFEE BREAK** -----

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 3 - After 1st coffee break
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	8
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskusto opiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomien Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ogra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstības Youth	3
Latvia	FoR! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonge Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	6
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	4
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladi Progressivci - Young Progressives	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	5
Serbia	Forum Mladih Nove Stranke	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund - Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	Zemobudivka (ZM)	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
		213
	Simple majority of those present	108.5
	Two thirds of present	142
	Simple majority of those present without abstentions	
	1/3 = 71	

There were 213 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)**

Membership Issues – agenda point continues.

- **ZeMolodizhka - Ukraine applies for full membership.**

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) invites ZeMolodizhka to present their application. **Alina Piddubna & Marta Lesko (ZeMolodizhka)** present the application of the organisation for Full membership.

Alina Piddubna & Marta Lesko (ZeMolodizhka): We are here to apply for full membership at LYMEC. ZeMolodizhka is the youth wing of the presidential political party “Servants of the People”. We want to be a full member of LYMEC to have the right to vote on resolutions and to have more members at your events to show them what LYMEC is. For us it is important to show our members what European liberals are doing and what we as ZeMolodizhka can do there. Also, we can pay the full fee annually without reducing it. We are members of the public union “National Youth Council of Ukraine” and together organise events for youth. Also, members of the cross-political Ukrainian-Danish network where we are learning new democracy things and trying to implement them in Ukraine. We are a platform for development and opportunities, and a new environment and community of like-minded people. Our community structure comprehends a big national team, 25 active regional teams and smaller teams in united territorial communities. For example, I represent the Lviv Region, with 73 territorial communities and their respective leaders. After 2 years of work, we have 5900 participants, 27 regional teams (including Crimea) and 556 representatives in territorial communities. Through our #BraveYouth Campaign, we have been telling stories of our brave ukrainian youth every week, as well as those who have been helping with humanitarian work. In March, we had our Statutory meeting on the occasion of the second anniversary of ZeMolodizhka where more than 150 members were having training and networking sessions, also about LYMEC and liberal values. When it comes to our international involvement, since the beginning of the war ZeMolodizhka has participated in more than 40 international events to support Ukraine throughout Europe. We also organised 800 events in 2023 which included debates, training and campaigns. They can be very big events for up to 600 people or smaller, local ones for up to 15 people. FNF Ukraine is helping us implement all those events. We also have many campaigns together with FNF Ukraine and the Renew Europe Group. After a long time of campaigning on it, the draft law on medical cannabis received the required number of votes in the first

round of voting ballots. Our president **Oleksander Sanchenko (ZeMolodizhka)** has been advocating for this in the Ukrainian Parliament. For next year, we also discussed future cooperation with FNF Ukraine. Thank you.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks **Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka)** and opens the floor for questions and interventions.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I first want to address the Congress. Since this is the second time that **ZeMolodizhka** is applying for full membership, I think it's very important to ask all the questions we have. My question would be: how did you approach the general communication with LYMEC Member Organisations that were not convinced about your membership application last time ahead of this Congress?

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): We have been reaching out to all the sceptical Member Organisation of LYMEC and held multiple meetings with them. As a result, we now have more support from the Western countries. I can also add that we have received various questions, including from yourself, about our political status and our independence from the mother party. I can confirm we are an independent NGO and are not directly linked to the party.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): Thank you for reapplying. How do you see the format of the 'Voices from Ukraine' and how do you think turnout can be increased?

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): I think this is something to discuss in bilateral with the Bureau. We can discuss what format can benefit both Ukraine and the well-informed LYMEC members.

Kateryna Ryzhak (LDLU): I have two questions. First one, in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of Ukraine ("*The legal order in Ukraine is based on the principles according to which no one shall be forced to do what is not envisaged by legislation. Bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government and their officials are obliged to act only on the grounds, within the limits of authority, and in the manner envisaged by the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine*"), my question is: what did you do against this legislation? Second, what is your influence over your party and what did you do to discuss and promote liberal values other than your talks?

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): Our President, who is also a member of the Parliament, is actively trying to introduce amendments to correct illiberal laws. Beyond this, I can't say much more about my mother party on this specific matter, other than we are working with them and other international

partners like Renew Europe on various policy issues such as medical cannabis legalisations, civil unions and LGBTQ Rights. We are not just talking, we are actively hosting events, reacting to public opinions and pushing for liberal values.

Ulysse Abbate (Young Liberals): I am curious if you could speak a bit more about your relationship between you and the Holos Party, another ALDE member party? Cheers.

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): When the war started, all the political parties signed an agreement of solidarity as we stand together during the war time. At the ALDE Congress in Stockholm we also approached **Kira Rudik (ALDE Party Vice-President)**, this also shows the good relations we have with Holos.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress to a closed session to discuss the membership application. He gives the floor to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for practicalities.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that observers, associate members and guests will have to leave the room in Riga. Online participants will be moved to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the full membership of ZeMolodizhka.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks the Congress and reminds that the vote will now be for full membership. The necessary majority is 2/3 of the votes present at the Congress.

Vote on the full membership of ZeMolodizhka:

For- 189

Against- 3

Abstain- 21

ZeMolodizhka is therefore accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC. Congratulations!

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) explains that ZeMolodizhka is directly added to the Roll Call. They have 7 votes; we therefore have 220 votes present at the Congress to move forward.

	Full Members	Roll Call 3 - After 1st coffee break
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	8
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	4
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladi Progresivci - Young Progressives	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	5
Serbia	Forum Mladih Nove Stranke	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsforbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	Zemlovidzhika (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1

220

Simple majority of those present

110

Two thirds of present

146.6666667

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 71

c. Suspensions



Gaspar Shabad (Chair) explains that there is no suspension proposed at this Congress. We move therefore to the next point.

d. Disaffiliations

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) explains that there are a few disaffiliations and gives the floor back to **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative)** and **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

Disaffiliations:

- **Mladi Liberali - Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Liberal Youth of Moldova**

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) & **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative)**: Both Member Organisations have been previously suspended due to outstanding debt with the goal of avoiding further acquisition of debt. Neither of the organisations have contacted LYMEC since their suspension. The LYMEC Bureau has no knowledge of whether the organisations exist nor their political goals or current standing. We saw high risk in non-liberal structures that have no contact with us and have also been accumulating debts. These are the reasons why these two are proposed for disaffiliation. We are aware that most of the **Mladi Liberali - Bosnia and Herzegovina** members actually joined **Nasa Stranka Youth**.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) asks if anyone is against the disaffiliations of **Mladi Liberali - Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Liberal Youth of Moldova**. No one takes the floor. We move to an Openslides vote. The necessary majority is 2/3 of the votes present at the Congress

Vote on the disaffiliation of Mladi Liberali - Bosnia and Herzegovina:

For- 191

Against- 3

Abstain- 7

Vote on the disaffiliation of the Liberal Youth of Moldova:

For- 173

Against- 7

Abstain- 14

The Congress accepted the disaffiliation of Mladi Liberali - Bosnia and Herzegovina and Liberal Youth of Moldova.

12. Finances

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) states that the Congress will now move on to discuss finances. He invites **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative)** to present the state of LYMEC Finances.

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

- **Debt forgiveness (for decision)**

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): The Bureau hereby proposes forgiving some debt towards LYMEC prior to 2020 for the following MOs, as their invoices are unlikely to ever be paid. The current and previous Bureau have taken all the necessary measures to recover the debt.

- **Mladi LDP - Serbia**
 - Total debt towards LYMEC: **431 EUR**.
 - Debt is from an unpaid invoice for the MO fee of 2021.
 - The organisation has already been disaffiliated, therefore there is a low possibility of the organisation paying back the debt.
- **Mladi Liberali Bosnia and Herzegovina**
 - Total debt towards LYMEC: **10 EUR**.
 - Debt is from an unpaid invoice for the MO fee of 2021.
 - Debt has already been reduced from 206 EUR to 10 EUR as per a Spring Congress decision in 2021. The Congress has just disaffiliated the organisation, therefore there is a low possibility of the organisation paying back the debt.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair): We will proceed with the "anyone against" system. If anyone is against the proposal, this is your chance to object.

No one objects. The debt forgiveness for Mladi LDP - Serbia and Mladi Liberali Bosnia and Herzegovina is therefore carried by the Congress.

b) Interim Financial report 2023 (for information)

Gaspar Shabad (Chair): invites **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative)** to present the Interim Financial report 2023 for information.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): Please find the Interim financial report 2023. There is a surplus of **29 242.68 EUR**. This is about the 12th of October 2023. This is looking better than the actual situation. There will be quite a few expenses coming up towards the end of the year that are not included here, for example on staff related expenses. Thanks to the previous treasurer, the fundraising activity has been going well with the donations to LYMEC.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. No one is taking the floor, so we move to the next point.

c) Revised Budget 2023 (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative) presents the revised budget 2023 for information.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): This is a clearer picture of LYMEC finances. The previous point did not include matters such as staff costs for the end of the year. On top of that, there have been changes made to membership fees expectations to have a more realistic view. Part of the European Commission grant will be received next year; this is why that amount was moved to 2024, that's the biggest amount difference we can notice.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I was on the speakers' list for the previous point. This is just a short question on the Interim Financial Report 2023. How much of the European Commission grant is going to be paid next year? This way we will understand more about the LYMEC deficit for 2023.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): The outstanding part of the European Commission Grant 2023 to be received in 2024 is 15.000 EUR. This means the deficit for this year corresponds to 15.000 EUR. At the same time, it means we will receive an additional 15.000 EUR in 2024 under a different budget line.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): As the European Commission Grant was drafted with a different framework in 2023, the funding system was new to us. And at the moment of drafting the budget, we were not aware of that. There is a final reporting of our actions under the European Commission Grant money received between 1 January and 28 February. Once that is complete, the European Commission unlocks the last bit of the yearly grant corresponding to 15.000 EUR. That therefore goes to 2024.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) asks if there are any questions. No questions received. We move to the Interim Internal Audit Report for 2023.

d) Interim Internal audit report (for information)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative) gives the floor to **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)**.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): Welcome to your favourite part of the LYMEC Congress, the Audit report! I am very pleased to bring this report to you. On 9th September 2023, we performed an interim audit for the first 8 months of the 2023 financial year. During our audit, we analysed relevant accounting data, including the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement, and gave feedback on the budget for 2024. Based on the provided accounting information, we compiled a risk-based sample of transactions and payments evaluated based on materiality assessment. Items listed in the sample were more thoroughly checked for correct documentation. During our audit, we only made procedure and cost related observations. We did not note any significant errors in the accounting of LYMEC.

Elsie Gisslegard and Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditors): The Recommendations that we made after the last audit are the following:

New observations for remaining 2023:

- 2023-8: Misuse of corporate card (pending) - addressed with the card protocol adopted
- 2023-9: Costly foreign currency transactions: (pending)
- 2023-10: Petty Cash - reduce the amount in cash in the office (pending) - being implemented

Pending advices:

- 2023-4: Accounting tool change consideration because of high increase in fees

Implemented advice since last audit:

- 2022-6: Implemented - Travel reimbursement costs
- 2023-1: Implemented - Consider changing bank (wise was added)
- 2023-3: Implemented - Donations (fundraising actions)
- 2023-5: Implemented - Taxi costs and risks (use of online platforms)
- 2023-6: Implemented - Alternative sources of income/sponsoring
- 2023-7: Implemented - Internal policies regarding safeguarding practices (updated code of conduct)

We want to thank you to **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and **Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer)** for this, we know that our organisation is in safe hands with them.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. He thanks **Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor)** and **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)** for the internal audit report.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): When do you expect these recommended policies will be implemented?

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): Things change between when we hand in the report and the reaction time for the Bureau. They have been very dynamic and supportive in all regards. Some of the mentioned points have been taken on board.

Daniel Ruiz (Internal Auditor): Sponsorship decisions have been standing there for a long time but the Bureau took a decision on it at the end of the summer so we can proceed.

Phillip Eng (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz): If you want our advice on corporate sponsorships, please get in touch, we can provide relevant experience on the matter!

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) thanks the Internal Auditors and moves onto the next agenda item since there are no additional questions.

e) Proposed membership fee 2024 (for decision)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): The LYMEC Bureau proposes the following:

- **The Bureau proposes continuing with the following membership fees for Member Organisations (MOs):**
 - For full members: 230 euros base fee + 0.06 euros as per member.
 - The total yearly membership fee cannot exceed 1200 euros; therefore, MO which exceeds the amount will be invoiced the ceiling fee.
 - For associate members: 205 euros
- **The Bureau proposes an increase for the membership fees for Individual Members (Members part of the Individual Members' Section). The proposed increase concerns the first and second type of fee as highlighted below:**
 - One year of Membership: **18 euros (from 15 to 18 EUR)**
 - Five years of Membership: **60 euros (from 50 to 60 EUR)**
 - Permanent Membership: 100 euros

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. We will proceed with the "anyone against" system if there is no opposition to that.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I have a question about the 2500 EUR membership fee cap for Member Organisations. I would propose you to scrap the cap next time.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): I would have to see what the impact is on bigger organisations than yours, especially one that will be hit hard. We will take your comment on board for the future.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): The IMS fee is increasing by 20%. IMS pay all of their own cost to travel for Congresses. IMS did not have any in-person event this year. But even then, it has been paid by ELF rather than LYMEC funds. I have been approached by IMS members who have expressed concern and frustration, many who also stated that they are currently reconsidering renewing their membership because they don't see the added value. What can I tell them and how does this increase fit with the bigger picture of the LYMEC IMS section for the Bureau?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): IMS fees have not been increased as far as I know for many years now. We did it for the MO fees last year.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): I think there are two levels of discussions to this question. On the first, LYMEC increased the MO fees following inflation; they haven't been updated for years. Now we have a similar logic for the IMS fees. Last time this happened was the 2018 Autumn Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania. The second level of discussion is how to make the IMS section more attractive and make sure IMS members get a return on their investment. You join an organisation, you have delegates, you have a Steering Committee that should work together to organise the life of the IMS members in the organisation, high priority should be put on providing members meaningful participation. However, this has little to do with fee increase, it's about activating the membership and providing them with meaningful engagement.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): Some are lucky to pay and fund these activities but lets not forget that there are also MOs that fund their activities from their own pockets.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Referring to that comment, reduced participation fees and freedom fund are also tools that are available to the IMS to get financial help and support to be at the event.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau): We have a Steering Committee for the IMS members. The Steering Committee should be responsible for that. I will also touch upon that in our next meeting. When it comes to what IMS can have, as all MO members, they can take part in all European Liberal Forum funded events. We have also talked about the European Commission grant. We had two events thanks to that, and there was at least one person from the IMS section being part of the Digital Skills Hub Training in

Berlin. I think you do have a return on investment by being involved in LYMEC. I do however agree with you that we can work together on the further visibility of the section.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): Adding to what **Julius Graack (JuLis)** said, if organisations have a higher number of members, they also have higher membership fees and money. They can pay a bit more. And if not, they can apply for reduced membership.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer): I take your point. I will look into it. I don't know what the exact numbers are.

Fabian Grepper (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz): I would like to support **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** on the IMS membership fees. You should not raise fees unless it is needed for the organisation to survive, prove me wrong that this is changing much in LYMEC. This just makes the IMS section less attractive. I am strongly against that.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) invites delegates to vote through Openslides since we had a discussion on this matter. The necessary majority is 2/3 of the votes present at the Congress.

Vote on the proposed membership fee 2024:

For- 137

Abstain- 39

Against- 28

The proposed membership fee 2024 is carried by the Congress.

f) Draft Budget 2024 (for decision)

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): As you know, I did not have a lot of time to dive into the draft budget proposal for 2024. I must admit, I have a few open questions myself on how realistic this budget is. I am going to ask you to approve the budget because we need it, but I promise to come back to you with an updated one at the Spring Congress in 2024. I would have felt more comfortable with a higher operating profit for next year. There are some concerns for 2024, such as Renew Europe money to LYMEC and the impact the European Parliament elections are going to have on our budget. There is a 10,000 EUR budget line for corporate fundraising. I am not entirely aware how far this discourse has gone so far. I think it's a very optimistic estimate, so I am not sure we will be able to achieve it. So yes, please vote in favour of the budget and I will promise to keep you informed.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. We will proceed with the "anyone against" system.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): I have questions on the structure of how we actually do it. You are saying that we should vote on the budget because we need one. Is there an alternative to this budget in case we vote against?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): This is a valid point, but the structure we have is quite rigid. We should look into the statutes. As an MO, feel free to come up with a proposal.

Felix Schulz (IMS delegate): You were talking about corporate fundraising. Can you please explain how we can achieve the 10,000 EUR target? I would also like to address the people in this room who work and have a decent salary. In case you have 10 EUR to spare, please donate at the merch table during the coffee break.

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): I don't know how we will achieve this 10,000 EUR target from corporate sponsorship as already stated, it has to be re-evaluated.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): The participation fees are particularly different between Spring and Autumn Congress for 2024? Why?

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative): The plan is to have a bigger Congress with more participants, therefore the received participation fees will be higher.

Point of order

Marten Porte (LYMEC Treasurer and IFLRY Representative):

If the Congress wishes, we can repeat the vote on the IMS fees. We stated it did not acquire the 2/3 majority, while it did instead. It was a mistake from the chairs so membership fees for IMS are in fact higher next year as per 2/3 majority obtained.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) asks if anyone wishes to repeat that vote, no one takes the floor, we therefore stick to the decision of the vote (see point above).

Gaspar Shabad (Chair) moves on and asks if anyone is against the draft budget 2024 that was just presented.

No one is against. The draft budget 2024 is therefore carried by the Congress.

14. Elections - LYMEC Delegation to the ALDE Party Congress 2024

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): takes over the chairing. We have 13 candidates for 9 spots. **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** is by default part of the delegation as the Policy Officer. I want to ask the candidates to line up. There was already an online discussion earlier, so we will see if we have any questions. You only have 90 seconds to make your point, we will be strict on time. We will proceed in the following order:

Silvia Fernandez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): I started my political activism in the ALDE Party as the head of the Congress delegation from Spain. Given my roles, I think I can offer a special insight to the LYMEC delegation and its policy work. I want to see youth voices actually heard. Thank you!

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF): Hi everyone! I am nominated by both **CUF** and the **Young Liberals**. I hope to have your confidence again. We do so much amazing work at Congresses. The experience, the skills and the passion that I have are ideally suited to the work for the ALDE Party Congress delegation. I am really passionate about the work that we do and I want to be able to further contribute to the values that we have.

Bowi Ockerse (JOVD): I did a lot for women's rights in **JOVD**. The reason I want to be part of the delegation is to put this issue on the Congress agenda.

Fabian Grepper (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz): I am already part of this beautiful community and I have already been part of the LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Party Congress. For me it's very important to point out that Europe and LYMEC are very much more than just the European Union states. All the decisions decided on at ALDE Congresses also have a big impact on parties outside of the EU. This is what I want to highlight.

Elias Olsson (LUF): The reason I want to run is because this is a key Congress and I want us to be as active as possible and drive our policy up the decision chain.

Stefanía Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): You may already know me since this is the third time that I am running for the ALDE Congress Delegation. I want to run again so that we can work to improve our current strategy for the ALDE Congress.

Daniel Ruiz Viejobueno (Jonk Demokraten): I am very used to pushing boomers on policy ideas. We have a housing crisis in Luxembourg, and I have been working on that. The only thing I can do without having a conflict of interest with my Internal Auditor role is to run for this delegation.

David Grasveld (LHG): I believe that running for the LYMEC Delegation to the ALDE Congress is an opportunity for us to bring our ideas to the ALDE decision-making arena. We have to bring them where we can voice the impact of youth. I bring a set of diplomatic, policy and mediation skills to the table and this is what I hope to push for within the ALDE Party Congress delegation.

Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail): I have been involved in my mother party for 7 years, where I have had the opportunity to see how things get done. My priority is that we need to get our voices and policies across and work must start now.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): I have gathered a lot of experiences in protesting and advocating for liberal values in Poland. This is the most effective tool we have - going to the ALDE Congress and pushing our radical agenda points. I am keen to specifically highlight rule of law issues and the topic of democratic backsliding.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I am a dual national from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UK. Unfortunately, neither of my nationalities gives me European citizenship. Political involvement is about the European project. I have lots of experiences from my past mandates on the delegation. There were strategic mistakes at the last ALDE Congress and I am keen to remedy this.

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): I want to run again to apply the experience I gained last time. The new delegation should bring policies that stand out at the ALDE Party Congress. Our resolutions to ALDE should be strategically chosen. We should continue lobbying for human rights and fighting disinformation.

Martina Barrés (JNC)-online: I am honoured to stand in front of you as a candidate. My primary goal is clear: to maximise our input and craft more substantive and timely resolutions. I also advocate for a constructive approach and fundamentally believe that ALDE can learn a lot from LYMEC and its innovative practices.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): The floor is open for questions. Please put yourself on the list.

Olena Dudko (EYU): I don't know the process through which the resolutions for ALDE are chosen. However, my question is: what are the 3 topics you would like to bring to the ALDE Party Congress?

Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF): Energy, European Union Enlargement, young people in politics.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): Tax policy and the economy, defence and security and the EU neighbourhood.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): Rule of law, war in Ukraine and youth participation in democratic processes (vote at 16).

David Grasveld (LHG): Security and defence, education to invest in our future and transport to increase mobility in Europe.

Daniel Ruiz (Jonk Demokraten): Defence as a big topic and pension reform should be added, I have two.

Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail): Education as teacher, pension reform also important and healthcare.

Stefanía Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn): Pension reform, women's rights and the inclusion of LGBTQ+ and other minorities.

Fabian Grepper (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz): Climate change, resilience and infrastructure (physical and cyber) and self-determination.

Elias Olsson (LUF): Security, climate and infrastructure.

Bowi Ockerse (JOVD): Women's rights, youth participation and digital connection.

Silvia Fernandez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos): Security and defence, equal access to healthcare and contraception, and the impact of digitalisation on the environment.

Elsie Gisslegard (CUF): Generational justice in climate, women's rights and pension reform

Martina Barrés (JNC)-online: Support for Ukraine, EU internal reform and the fight against authoritarianism.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Since we don't have more questions, we continue. As you heard, you have exactly 9 votes to put on candidates. You have to select 9 people out of the 13 applications. The 10th spot is by default the head of delegation, namely **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)**. If you have issues with the voting, please tell us. The voting will be open now and stay open until 13:50 pm EET, so that you have plenty of time to decide who to vote for during the lunch break. The results will be announced after the lunch break when we are back for the roll call.

Balint Gyevai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you for being so active in your participation. The vote is open until the end of the lunch hour.

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

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau): you should all have signed the signature lists (two signatures needed). I ask each of you whose name is called out to come see me in the back of the room at the registration desk to sign the list as soon as possible.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) presents the results of the newly elected LYMEC Delegation to the next ALDE Party Congress and reminds that only 9 people are elected. **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** is by default part of the delegation of 10.

Congratulations to the 9 elected delegates in blue below! The results are displayed on the screen and available on OpenSlides for all delegates. The first 2 non-elected candidates are *substitutes* in case any of the elected delegates would resign before the event(s) (in orange).

VOTING COUNT ✓

Stefania Reynisdóttir (Uppreisn) - 199 (90.455 %)
Martina Barres (JNC) - 175 (79.545 %)
Fabian Grepper (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz) - 173 (78.636 %)
Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail) - 171 (77.727 %)
Bowi Ockerse (JOVD) - 165 (75 %)
David Grasveld (LHG) - 161 (73.182 %)
Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth) - 160 (72.727 %)
Silvia Fernandez (Jóvenes Ciudadanos) - 147 (66.818 %)
Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate) - 143 (65 %)
Konstantsa Gyurova (YMRF) - 142 (64.545 %)
Daniel Ruiz (Jonk Demokraten) - 131 (59.545 %)
Elias Olsson (LUF) - 122 (55.455 %)
Elsie Gisslegard (CUF) - 91 (41.364 %)

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 4 - After lunch
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	3
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	0
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	3
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	4
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladi Progresivci - Young Progressives	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	5
Serbia	Forum Mladih Nove Stranke	3
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	Zemolodizhka (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1

215

Simple majority of those present

107.5

Two thirds of present

143.333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 71



There were 215 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Estonian Center Party Youth**

Point of Order

Stefan Cikovsky (Mladi Progresivci): I would like to raise a point of order, which has nothing to do with the Congress Rules. I am sorry I didn't mention this yesterday at the Bureau reports point. While LYMEC was having its Spring Congress in Budapest, Andrej Babis, the leader of ANO, was attending the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) at the same time in Budapest. I know that the ALDE Party sent a mission to the Czech Republic to investigate Andrej Babis' conservative inclinations. Does the LYMEC Bureau happen to have any information on the status of this mission?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): It is true that several parties brought Babis' illiberal inclinations up to the ALDE Party. They are indeed the ones leading the mission. Two weeks ago, they had a Council Meeting in Bucharest, Romania, where they stated that the investigation launched by ALDE Party is based on several dialogues with ANO Party representatives. At the moment, this remains an ongoing process, and there are 3 people from the ALDE Bureau travelling to Czechia regularly to keep track of this issue. The investigation is not over yet so let's wait for its conclusion.

15. Changes to the Congress Rules

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** to present the amendments to the LYMEC Congress Rules.

Tim Robinson (IMS): This is a rather straightforward change to the Congress Rules. We recently noticed that there have been more and more resolutions on similar topics put forward at the same Congress. As of now, we don't have a procedure for resolutions to be merged ahead of Congresses in a timely manner. The solution is to put those resolutions forward through an urgency resolution, which usually happens last minute. Hopefully, these changes will save some time for all actors involved.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): On behalf of the Bureau, we are strongly in favour of this change. It has already become a form of informal practice within LYMEC, through which similar resolutions can be merged before the Congress. We can therefore formalise it now.

The proposed changes are as follows:

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment to Article 16**

Under Article 16 – Motions and Resolutions, add the following sections:

(6) Where two or more resolutions or two or more motions are submitted to the same congress and cover the same or similar topics, a merged proposed resolution/motion may be submitted:

- *The Bureau shall contact Member Organisations and/or Individual Members who have submitted resolutions/motions on the same or similar topics shortly after the deadline for submission to ask them to consider a merger.*
- *Member Organisations/Individual Members who submitted the original proposed resolutions/motions may agree to submit a merged proposed resolution/motion to the LYMEC Secretariat, which replaces the original proposed resolutions/motions submitted.*
- *Submission of a merged proposed resolution/motion automatically results in the withdrawal of the original resolutions/motions that were merged.*
- *A merged proposed resolution/motion should not deviate significantly from the content of the original proposed resolutions/motions.*
- *The deadline for mergers of proposed resolutions/motions are laid out in the appendices to the Congress Rules.*

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment to Article 17**

In Section 2.5 of Article 17 – Reading of Motions and Resolutions, amend the point to read as follows (inserted text in red):

- *Amendments or amendments to amendments pertaining to a resolution deemed urgent, **and amendments to amendments to merged proposed resolutions or motions** are not subject to the statutory deadlines as set in the appendix of these Congress Rules, and may be proposed at any time before or during the second reading*

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 1 to Appendix I to the Congress Rules:**

In Appendix I to the Congress Rules, under “1 week before the Congress”, add:

- *Mergers of Proposed Motions & Resolutions*

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 2 to Appendix I to the Congress Rules:**

In Appendix I to the Congress Rules, under “Before the start of the Congress”, add:

- *Amendments to Merged Proposed Motions & Resolutions*

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) states that the floor is open for discussion. No one takes the floor.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We need a 2/3 majority for this amendment to pass, since it is changing the Congress Rules. It is time to open the vote on Openslides.

Vote on the changes to the Congress Rules: ✓

For - 193

Against - 7

Abstain - 3

The changes to the Congress Rules are accepted by the Congress.

16. Presentation and vote on the outcomes of the Policy Book renewal.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): With this Working Group, we updated the last part of Chapter 9 on international and external relations of the EU. As the Policy Book renewal was already discussed during the Digital Assembly, we can directly move to a vote on the matter.

❖ **Chapter 9.2 - Updated resolutions (as outcome of the Policy Book Renewal process)**

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): For those of you who don't know about it, we discussed all of the archival and updates of the resolutions at the last Digital Assembly. We will now vote on the outcomes of the Policy Book Renewal.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the renewal of the resolutions of the second part of Chapter 9 and opens the vote.

Vote on the updates of the Policy Book renewal of the second half of Chapter 9: ✓

For - 195

Against - 0

Abstentions - 5

The outcomes of the second half of Chapter 9 of the Policy Book renewal were accepted by the Congress.

❖ **Chapter 9.2 - Resolutions to archive (as outcome of the Policy Book Renewal process)**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the archival of the resolutions of Chapter 9 and opens the vote.

Vote on the archival proposal of the Policy Book renewal of second half of Chapter 9: ✓

For - 188

Against - 0

Abstentions - 5

The archival proposal of the Policy Book renewal of the second half of Chapter 9 was accepted by the Congress.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Thank you for the hard work on the Policy Book. We made it!

17. Motions

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) states that no motions were received for this Congress. We therefore move on to the resolutions.

18. Resolutions

General discussion on resolution processes:

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Just before I open the first resolution for discussion, I would like to state that we have a lot of resolutions and amendments today. If the Congress agrees with me, I would like to propose to limit the speaking time to one minute per delegate in order to move as quickly as possible. If anyone is against this decision, please put your name on the speakers' list.

Johannes Brill (LHG): There are some resolutions that require more time than others. Although I agree we should discuss them quickly, some of them need more discussion time in order to give every opinion the time to be heard as well as to be able to make a concise argument on controversial matters. I would propose two minutes' speaking time.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): You don't need two minutes to make a concise point.

Izide Marcinkute (LLJ): I want to suggest limiting the discussion to one speaker per organisation.

Olena Dudko (EYU): I would like to eliminate speakers that have already taken the floor from the speakers' list, so we avoid hearing the same points over and over again.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (RU): I just want to say that, as a Congress, we need to be careful. We call ourselves liberals and democrats. This means we have to respect each other. Limiting the speaking time is not at all democratic.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): It is a common procedure to adopt a speaking time. That was my proposal, but I get that the Congress does not approve it. It is up to the Congress to decide.

Gaspar Shabad (Chair): Please be mindful of time constraints and be respectful of each other's opinions. Can you please note your point of order on Openslides, in case you have one? The tool is also made for that.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Although I agree to move quickly in order to discuss as many resolutions as possible, 1 minute is simply not enough. 2 minutes would be fine, I think everyone could agree to this. The goal is to have a respectful discussion and give each argument the time it deserves.

Point of Order

Johannes Brill (LHG): I would like to limit the speaking time to 2 minutes.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) asks if anyone is against **Johannes Brill (LHG)**'s proposal. No one is against it. The Congress agrees with limiting the speaking time to 2 minutes. We can proceed.

➤ **Resolution 1: The heinous terror attacks by Hamas against Israel**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution. You have two minutes.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): October 7, 2023, is a turning point. The attack by Hamas must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. We had babies kidnapped, as well as senior citizens and women raped. We cannot tolerate this in any way. Our only duty as liberals is to support them to defend themselves against terrorism. The resolution we prepared tackles this topic. We hope all the LYMEC member organisations can agree with it. Thank you to all the members that helped us write this resolution and that contributed to it. The discussions we had so far were thoughtful and honest - we want to continue the debate in the same spirit today.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We are moving now to the amendments for this resolution. Amendments are limited to two speakers in favour and two against, as stated in the Congress Rules. Amendments that have had a positive or negative recommendation in the working group will not be discussed again, unless a delegate challenges that decision.

❖ **Amendments 59, 84, 151, 86, 88, 53, 90**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendments 59, 84, 151, 85, 86, 88, 53 and 90 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendments 59, 84, 151, 85, 86, 88, 53 and 90 are carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

❖ Amendment 65

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment 65. Amendment 65 also received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. However, we have some delegates on the speakers' list.

Julius Graack (JuLis): We would like to reopen this point. The result could turn out to be different with the voting rights of the new members we welcomed today. We have an urge for international and humanitarian law to be upheld. We even included it in an amendment to amendment that will come later, and that we hope you will adopt. Please vote against this amendment.

Amanda Fagerstrom (SU): This is an amendment that we submitted. This is a very difficult topic in my youth organisation. This is the least that we wanted from this resolution: to include humanitarian law and responsibility of both sides. This point should stay, as it really shows there are responsibilities on both sides to crimes that have been committed.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): JuLis said there will be an amendment to amendment coming later that involves humanitarian law and that calls on the EU to commit to what is happening there. In that case, noting there is a humanitarian crisis, sounds like the logical and right thing to do. The amendment does not cover the situation as it is today, as it changed since JuLis wrote this resolution. However, I would urge everyone to support this, otherwise we won't have any context to understand what JuLis is going to present with their amendment to amendment coming later on.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): closes the list and proposes to move to a vote on the amendment.

Vote on Amendment 65:

For- 117

Against- 71

Abstain- 21

Amendment 65 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 91 would fall as a result of amendment 65 being accepted.

Point of Order

Julius Graack (JuLis): I want to promote the line **Young Liberals** have focused on in this resolution. It makes sense for coherence. Even though **amendment 91** has been voted down, I think it makes sense

to implement the changes by not saying 'Palestinian terrorist groups', but ' Hamas and other terrorist Groups'. The **Young Liberals** did not want to include the word 'Palestinian'.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The word '*Palestinian*' is not included in amendment 65.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I am sorry, I take everything back.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): I see Sean on the speakers' list for amendment 91.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): I am obviously aware that this amendment has been overruled. The issue is not only the word '*Palestinian*'; we would prefer to have the wording '*and other terrorist groups*', as there are also other terrorist groups operating in that area. For consistency, the rest of the policy says '*Hamas and other*', therefore I would suggest accepting this as well.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Since the amendment is carried by the mover, we will include it as an editing of the text and we will carry it together with amendment 65.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will open a vote on whether to include a language revision on Amendment 91 by including the wording '*Hamas and other*'. The vote is open, please vote.

Vote on Amendment 91:

For- 171

Against- 11

Abstain- 10

Amendment 91 is carried by the Congress and it will be therefore added to amendment 65 as follows:

'That Hamas and other terrorist groups commit...'

❖ **Amendment to Amendment 54**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment 54.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Amendment 54 falls because we just adopted amendment 65. However, in amendment 65, the same phrasing that was in amendment 54 appears. This is something we have taken on board already throughout the resolution.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Procedurally it would not fall, as it is an addition, but if **Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth)** withdraws it, it is not up for discussion anymore. We need him to confirm whether this is already part of amendment 65 and therefore withdrawn.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): He clarifies that the movers of amendment 65 are accepting the change from '*Israeli*' to '*Israeli Government*' and therefore carrying this amendment to amendment.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): If I understand correctly, amendment to amendment 54 is withdrawn, because the mover of amendment 65 agrees to include the content of this amendment to amendment in their amendment.

Lia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We need to vote on this. Procedurally, it is not possible to do what you propose. We will vote on amendment to amendment 54. If it is adopted, it will be added to the previous amendment 65 already accepted.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 54:

For- 160

Against- 12

Abstain- 6

Amendment to amendment 54 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 54 therefore falls.

This amendment to amendment 54 will be added to amendment 65 as follows: 'That the Israeli government's response to the terror attacks...'

❖ Amendments 92, 93

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendments 92 and 93 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendments 92 and 93 are carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

❖ Amendment to Amendment 95

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 95.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Amendment 95 from the **Young Liberals** wanted to delete the sentence '*Palestinian terrorist groups*'. The working group gave a negative recommendation to that. In the spirit of compromise, we talked about proposing a change to have the sentence included.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): We had a discussion about this. **Young Liberals** have agreed. Please vote in favour of the compromise proposal.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 95:

For- 158

Against- 30

Abstain- 6

Amendment to amendment 95 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 95 therefore falls.

❖ Amendment to Amendment 55

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 55.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): The logic behind this is to clarify responsibility. The government of Israel is doing what we are seeing in Gaza, rather than the population as a whole. There are very diverse opinions within the population.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 55:

For- 165

Against- 13

Abstain- 18

Amendment to amendment 55 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 55 therefore falls.

❖ Amendment to Amendment 96

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 96.

Julius Graack (JuLis): This amendment to amendment was drafted with the authors of the original amendment. It talks about Israel's right to existence and the one of existence of Palestinian people. It states that LYMEC should politically support the Palestinian people to form a democratic state under the two state solution to fulfil their right of existence. There were additional points coming up from **Ogra Fianna Fail**, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Geneva Convention. I hope all of you can support it.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 96:

For- 163

Against- 3

Abstain- 23

Amendment to amendment 96 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 96 therefore falls.

❖ Amendment 97

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 97 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendment 97 is carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

❖ Amendment to Amendment 72

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 72.

Julius Graack (JuLis): We tried to find a compromise with **JOVD** and **Ogra Fianna Fail** without losing any of the content of the original amendment. I hope you can vote in favour of it.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 72:

For- 177

Against- 5

Abstain- 0

Amendment to amendment 72 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 72 therefore falls.

❖ **Amendment to Amendment 50 & 73**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 50 & 73. Amendments 50 & 73 initially submitted by NUV and JOVD.

Julius Graack (JuLis): This is an amendment to amendment as a compromise on the lines 60 to 61. All things were included, only the amendment 99 from **Young Liberals** is not because it was about the humanitarian cause, while we had another line talking about a ceasefire as a different type of compromise to stop the war. One amendment cannot propose two different solutions.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 50 & 73:

For- 183

Against- 8

Abstain- 12

Amendment to Amendment 50 & 73 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 50 and 73 therefore both fall.

❖ **Amendment to Amendment 99**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 99.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I would like to clarify that by this, we also cover amendments 52, 74 and 103 coming later.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): You are referring to the wrong amendment to amendment.

Julius Graack (JuLis): You are right. What is included in there was supposed to be in lines 71 to 74. It might have been that there is the same amendment twice in the system. It would be important to have

this amendment adopted and put in the right place of the resolution: it is not in the “call for”, where it should be.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The amendment you will see on Openslides under the name **Amendment 52, 74 and 103 is withdrawn**. Instead, we will discuss **amendment to amendment 99, that will go in the same place of the resolution where amendment 52 was supposed to go, namely lines 71 to 74**.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Basically, the problem was that amendment 99 was focusing on the humanitarian response that was covered by other amendments that were in different lines, namely amendment 52, 74 and 103. Because we thought it would be contradictory for one line to call for two different solutions - one humanitarian cause and a ceasefire - we had a compromise to move this part to the “calls for” of the resolution. I can quickly introduce what amendment to amendment 99 entails. We came up with a compromise calling for “*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 lives*”. I know this is a red line for many people. **This amendment will also change the title of the resolution to “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”**. This would all be put together in a carefully crafted compromise, and I hope you can vote in favour.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): clarifies that the last point in this amendment to amendment is not a bullet point that is going to be accepted if the amendment to amendment is accepted; it is only saying that the title of the resolution should be changed if this amendment to amendment is accepted. As there was no possibility to only amend the title, here is the solution with the amended title as a bullet point of this amendment to amendment.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): This point might sound pedantic, but in the second bullet point there is a reference to the “*Palestinian Authorities*”, which is an incorrect text according to the proper name of the Palestinian Authority, which is the “*Palestinian National Authority*”. For it to be correct, the text should be reworded by replacing the capital ‘A’ with small ‘a’.

Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail): This is partly my fault. The reason we didn’t define it is that it was confusing to understand who was elected in 2006 and whose responsibility it was. Sorry for the confusion.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Just to bring up the point of **Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten)**, I see the problem with this ambiguity. I would be fine with the change to *"Palestinian National Authority"*. However, I am not sure about the content. Maybe you can explain it again.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): I wasn't sure which option you meant. Now it seems that you meant *"Palestinian Authorities"* in general. In that case, **I would suggest changing capital 'A' with small 'a'**.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): This is a matter of editing, there is no need to have an amendment. We will change this as suggested by **Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten)** before the resolution is added to the Policy Book.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Capital 'A' will be changed with small 'a'. That solves the issue and the movers are fine with that. We move to a vote.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 99:

For- 161

Against- 14

Abstain- 8

Amendment to Amendment 99 is carried by the Congress. Amendment 99 therefore falls. Amendment to amendment 52, 74 and 103 is withdrawn and amendments 52, 74 and 103 are replaced by amendment to amendment 99 at lines 71-74 and therefore fall.

The resolution now has a new title: '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.'

❖ **Amendment to Amendment 101 & 102**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 101 & 102.

Julius Graack (JuLis): One thing important to note: you might say amendment 101 is not reflected in this. However, it is. We already adopted other amendments that reflected the content of amendment 101. This point goes in the direction of giving the right to existence to Palestine and Israel, as well as creating a humanitarian corridor to Gaza. I think this is something we can all agree on.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 101 & 102:

For- 166

Against- 0

Abstain- 15

Amendment to amendment 101 & 102 is carried by the Congress. Amendments 101 and 102 therefore both fall.

❖ **Amendment 105**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 105 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendment 105 is carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

❖ **Amendment 106**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 106 received no recommendation from the Working Group. It is therefore open for discussion.

Point of order

Johannes Brill (LHG): I would suggest having more than 4 speakers on this amendment, as this is a rather controversial point. More people might want to speak about this amendment.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) asks if anyone is against. No one is against **Johannes Brill (LHG)**'s point of order. It is therefore carried.

Point of order to increase the number of speakers on amendment 106 is carried by the Congress.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): I open the floor for discussion on amendment 106.

Kristians Vasilevskis (Attistibai Youth): I am in favour of this amendment. I don't understand how we can support an organisation that clearly does not fall under LYMEC or European values.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): I don't think anyone here disagrees with the fact that public money should not fund antisemitism. I think the reason why people are opposing this amendment is simply because the last point is defining that boycotting Israeli companies in itself can be classified as antisemitism. Boycotting is a legitimate way of political action. Especially if the companies are located in illegit sites, boycotting is a valid form of political expression. This doesn't mean that it is antisemitic. The only thing that is problematic for us is the fact that it is defining all the Israeli companies antisemitic. This is not necessarily the case. The rest is fine.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): reminds the room to be quiet while others are speaking to remain polite.

Gabriel Paulus (JUNOS): I appreciate the previous point of you but I'm wondering which kind of understanding of democracy are you implying? There is a certain degree where the state is not able to accept what goes against the value of the state, for example to give funds to antisemitism. I don't see this criticism in the text.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): I want to remind everybody who is opposing this amendment that this way you will also oppose current LYMEC policies and its definition of antisemitism according to the IHRA definition. This includes that antisemitism is applying double standards to the state of Israel. So, if you oppose this amendment, know you are also opposing current LYMEC policies.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (RU): I want to give some context to people. In Denmark, our Social Democrat Prime Minister has proposed banning all demonstrations for Palestine and Gaza, defining them "*approval of terrorism*". This is where we liberals have to be in the forefront. We should never send money to terrorists, but we should be able to fight words with words and let everyone support what they wish.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I totally would object to all that Social Democrats are proposing in Denmark right now, but this is not what we call for here. What we want is calling for antisemitism to no longer receive public funds. Receiving public funds would lead to more antisemitism.

Point of Order

Julius Graack (JuLis): There has been a request to make a separate vote. One until the word "*existence*" (Vote 1) and the second until where "*boycott*" is included (Vote 2). I urge you for both votes to vote in favour.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We take note of this request and we will implement it when we get to the vote. We continue with the list of speakers in the meantime.

Johannes Brill (LHG): When we look at this we should look at the chain of antisemitism. This is how it started historically: with the start of boycotts of Jewish companies and stores. I urge the Congress to vote in favour of the whole amendment, not only its separate parts.

Point of Order

Florentyna Martynska (Nowoczesna Youth): Where can we find this policy you are referring to?

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Clarifying other people's points is not a point of order.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): We had many debates on how the text should look like. During the Working Group, there weren't many arguments for or against. Everybody wanted to reach a

compromise. That is what I encourage you to do here too. Looking at the resolution as a whole, it is not bad for us in LYMEC to fight against antisemitism within Europe.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): Many of our MOs run on public funds. This is related to free speech, because many of our organisations couldn't even function without those funds. This amendment sets a dangerous precedent and deserves serious consideration.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): On the point about organisations being state-funded, of course we are. The difference is that we are stating we are not antisemitic. On top of that, boycotting Jewish companies is antisemitic - it is not only history, it is already happening, as it recently happened in many Starbucks shops with antisemitic attacks. Please people don't repeat the mistakes of the past.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): I welcome some of the comments that were addressed. This amendment has fundamentally been drafted badly. Because someone is boycotting a company that is based in the West Bank and takes advantage of illegal settlement policies to build a factory, that does not make them antisemitic. If a person boycotts a Jewish firm based in Europe because of their views on Israel, then that is antisemitic. I would urge people to consider what is said here, this is simply a badly drafted aspect of this amendment.

David Grasveld (LHG): If we go to the gist of this amendment, which is to cut the public funding of antisemitist organisations, I see no reason to go against it. Funding antisemitist organisations with public funds goes against liberal values and those values of the European Union. I urge you to vote in favour of the whole amendment.

Point of Order

Julius Graack (JuLis): We discussed it would be better to have 3 sets of votes instead of 2, we propose to have it as follows:

First vote until 'existence':

- 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

Second vote until 'Jewish companies':

- 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

Third vote on 'Israeli companies':

- 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 or Israeli companies

Vote on the first sentence until 'existence': ✓

For- 140

Against- 20

Abstain- 33

The first sentence until 'existence' is carried by the Congress.

Vote on the second sentence until 'Jewish companies': ✓

For- 135

Against- 49

Abstain- 22

The second sentence until Jewish companies is carried by the Congress

Vote on the third sentence part on 'Israeli companies': ✗

For- 55

Against- 118

Abstain- 24

The third sentence on 'Israeli companies' is not carried by the Congress. 'Israeli Companies' is to be removed from the amendment as it was not accepted.

❖ **Amendment 107**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 107 received a negative recommendation from the Working Group. I open the floor for a discussion on this amendment.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): This is an important policy for us. It was not in the original resolution as it was drafted in a spirit of compromise. Antisemitic problems in UNRWA have been there for a long time. Many UNRWA employees in Gaza have been criticised for openly calling for the destruction of the Israeli state and making blatant antisemitic statements. We should not support people like that.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): We have not actually narrowed down the discussion since the original discussion in the Working Groups. The only high-level official that has tried to push for this line is Trump's Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley. If LYMEC is taking the same geopolitical stance as the Trump Administration, then I think we need to reassess the logic behind that decision. On a different

note, I strongly feel that dissolving the refugee organisation in Gaza would cause significant damage to the UN's ability to respond to this growing crisis.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): It is fair to point out individual and structural issues with the UN. They should be addressed. However, dissolving the body responsible to deal with refugees in Israel and Palestine is not the way to address those issues. We are against this.

Vote on Amendment 107: ✖

For- 54

Against- 102

Abstain- 28

Amendment 107 is not carried by the Congress.

❖ Amendment 108

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 108 also received a negative recommendation from the Working Group. I open the floor for a discussion on this amendment.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): I think the current situation in Israel shows Israel is surrounded by countries which are hostile to it. Who should be Israel's partner if not us? This is why we should reach out to them. It is also important for Israel to increase security as it raises concerns at the European level too.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): Think about the concrete impact of this. We would effectively move the external border of the EU to the entire region. Is that what we want to do from the geopolitical point of view? Think about the concrete effects this would have on freedom of movement too. I urge you to vote against this amendment for all the consequences that come with that.

Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (Jeunes MR): The European Union is not the Eurovision. I completely agree with what **Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten)** said. My issue with this amendment is that it is too theoretical and there are too many 'ifs'. This topic should have been a resolution of its own, not an amendment. As such, it is far too vague. It does not even meet the Copenhagen Criteria. In doing this, the movers are effectively saying '*let's see what happens later*' with all their 'ifs'.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis): The context has to be clarified. The European Union is not just about geography, but also values. Georgia, for example, is a very important partner and one we consider part of a political Europe. Overseas territories also go beyond the EU geopolitical borders, but they are still part of the

European Union. What I hope is that the democratic roots of Israel will be highlighted, so that they will see the possibility of being part of the European Union. Let's give them the vision to be part of us.

Vote on Amendment 108: ✘

For- 31

Against- 133

Abstain- 14

Amendment 108 is not carried by the Congress.

❖ Amendment 6

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment 6, the discussion is open.

Julius Graack (JuLis): We can all agree that LYMEC Congresses are great places to have decent conversations and debates on what we can do, especially when there is a conflict. Please go against the amendment to delete the phrase *'invite liberal political allies in Israel, such as Yesh Atid and Young Yesh Atid to congresses of LYMEC'*.

Louis-Suliac Ruffier d'Epenoux (Jeunes MR): This again comes back to the issue of geography. I would agree with working with liberal youth parties in Israel, but only when it is relevant. We don't need to invite non-European organisations to every single LYMEC Congress simply to show support. After all, there is already an organisation which allows this - it is called IFLRY. Please support this amendment.

Vote on Amendment 6: ✔

For- 109

Against- 58

Abstain- 7

Amendment 6 is carried by the Congress.

❖ Amendment to Amendment 7

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): We will now move to amendment to amendment 7.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): This amendment to amendment had some issues that the Bureau identified. **Julius Graack (JuLis)** will present the content since we work together on the compromise.

Julius Graack (JuLis): We had the discussion already. Both the mentions of IFLRY and LYMEC are not things the membership would be in favour of. Even if they cannot be invited to our Congresses, we can initiate cooperation. I hope everyone is in favour.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 7: 

For- 143

Against- 37

Abstain- 11

Amendment to amendment 7 is carried by the congress. Amendment 7 therefore falls.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak on the resolution as amended.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I really want to thank you, this has been incredibly hard. One of the best things of being an International Officer is that I am above and beyond the mandate that **JuLis** has given me. If we cannot pass this resolution together, I would lose a bit of hope today on how we tackle issues in general.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): This has been one of the greatest examples of cooperation I have seen. **Julius Graack (JuLis)** deserves a round of applause for the huge work he has done to get to a compromise. We should be proud of that.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): I can only agree with what was said. I would also urge you to vote in favour, because this is also a policy that LYMEC can use in the future. Unfortunately, the situation in Gaza might develop in unexpected ways and the situation might change dramatically.

Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (RU): this resolution as amended is not the position of **RU**, yet I urge everyone to vote in favour. I admire the coordination and work that was done to reach a compromise. This is groundbreaking. This is democracy in action.

Amanda Fagerstrom (SU): We came here with different visions on this resolution. But after all the discussion, I am happy to support it. In case things change, we will be able to adapt our policy too.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Thank you so much for the cooperation and your support. This has been great. I hope this passes. **Rasmus Festerling Sorensen (RU)**, I can say this is also not in line with **JuLis'** position.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Thank you everyone for keeping the discussion respectful and showing your ability to compromise. We move to a vote on the resolution as amended as a whole.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 173

Against- 0

Abstain- 26

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

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

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Maurizio Cuttin (LYMEC Policy & Campaign Intern)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary General)** takes the floor to explain the procedure. Organisations will be called one by one, when they hear the name of their organisation, delegation leaders will let their presence know in the room or unmute themselves online and say "PRESENT". Only organisations present at roll calls can vote until the following roll call takes place, this should be the last one of this Congress.

The roll call was executed as follows:

	Full Members	Roll Call 5 - after last break
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)	3
Belgium	Jong VLD	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR	8
Bulgaria	YMRF	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka	0
Catalonia	Juventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Croatia	Istrian Democratic Youth	3
Czechia	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	4
Estonia	Estonian Center Party Youth	0
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party Youth	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom / RKP-nuoret	6
Finland	Keskustaopiskelijat (Finnish Centre Students) KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	5
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Iceland	Uppreisn	4
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Latvia	For! Youth	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg	3
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL	6
Northern Ireland	Alliance Youth (AY)	3
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)	0
Norway	Unge Venstre	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth	3
Romania	USR Tineret	4
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement	3
Slovakia	Mladi Progressivci - Young Progressives	3
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	5
Serbia	Forum Mladih Nove Stranke	0
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF)	6
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund- Centre Party Youth (CUF)	5
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz (JFS)	7
Switzerland	Young Green Liberals Switzerland	6
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine (LDLU)	3
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)	3
Ukraine	ZemOiodizhka (ZM)	7
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	2
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1

206

Simple majority of those present

103

Two thirds of present

137.3333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 71



There were 206 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Youth Forum of Naša stranka
- Estonian Center Party Youth
- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)
- Forum Mladih Nove Stranke

➤ **Resolution 2: More Efficient EU Railways Through Stronger Cooperation**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover(s) to speak about the resolution.

Levente Takacs (Momentum TizenX): We believe this resolution is key to increasing further cooperation on infrastructure issues.

Marius Gobet (Young Green Liberals): The purpose of this resolution is to strengthen competition within the railway market.

❖ **Amendments 1, 80, 81, 82**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendments 1, 80, 81 and 82 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections so we adopt them.

Amendments 1, 80, 81 and 82 are carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

❖ **Amendment 20**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 20 received no recommendation from the Working Group. I open the floor for discussion.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): We are the mover of Amendment 20. Based on the feedback we received plus the lack of time, I would move to withdraw our amendment.

Amendment 20 is withdrawn by the mover.

❖ **Amendment 44**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 44 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendment 44 is carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): calls for a call on the resolution as amended.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 181

Against- 0

Abstain- 7

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 3: Urgency Resolution on the recent developments of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Pau Vico (JNC): In cooperation with **JuLis**, we have submitted this resolution aimed at gathering all our different points of view about this key security issue which is raging on in Europe. I urge you to vote in favour due to the worsening situation on the ground.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) opens the speakers' list. There are no amendments to this resolution.

Christopher Johnson (Young Liberals)-online: I just wanted to say that I really support this motion. Things are getting really bad at this moment. Please do vote for this motion because this is an issue that is not well covered but deserves to be.

Vote on the Resolution as a whole:

For- 179

Against- 3

Abstain- 0

The Resolution is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 4: European Menstruation Equity**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Joy Kamel (FEL): It's not just equality, it's equity. Structural funding is needed to make European Menstruation Equity true. All associations in Europe need structural funding to support access to menstruation equity.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): Recently, in the UK, the Liberal Democrats had to fight tooth and nail to ensure that this issue was voted on and highlighted to effectively convey that this is an issue that not only affects women but various people. I applaud this effort.

❖ **Amendment 114**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 14 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendment 14 is carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

❖ **Amendment 29**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 29 received a negative recommendation from the Working Group. No one takes the floor to oppose.

Amendment 29 is not carried by the Congress as the Working Group recommendation is followed.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 168

Against- 24

Abstain- 8

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 5: A Stable Future for Northern Ireland: Addressing the unique challenges facing the European Peace Project since Brexit**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail): For those of you that don't know much about Northern Ireland, 25 years ago Ireland and Northern Ireland entered a new era: one of peace. Unfortunately, due to Brexit, this peace project is now at risk. LYMEC's previous policy on this matter was 30 years out of date and given the importance of this issue, it is crucial we propose a new resolution.

Tommy Monahan (Alliance Youth): I have been living through the chaos of Northern Ireland's government. Everyone in Northern Ireland is fed up. Supporting this motion would help bring some clarity.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): There are very specific aspects to this. What many of you may not know is that Northern Ireland is currently governed via power-sharing. Let me get a bit philosophical now. I

went to Northern Ireland 3 years ago, and as a very disenchanted liberal I have always been motivated by **Alliance Youth's** values on tolerance, reform and inclusion. It is these ideas in this motion that relight my liberal values.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): We don't expect people to have an in-depth understanding of Northern Ireland. However, if you're in doubt, I would encourage you to remember that this is supported by parties in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK.

❖ **Amendment 133**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 133 received a negative recommendation from the Working Group. No one takes the floor to challenge that.

Amendment 133 is therefore not carried by the Congress.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 174

Against- 0

Abstain- 14

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 6: An EU Energy Security Policy**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I would like to start by thanking everyone who has been involved in the process of drafting this resolution. The last two years have shown us how precarious energy security can be and how energy is not just a matter relating to climate change, but also one on foreign policy. We are heavily rejecting the European Commission's decision to classify gas as a green energy source.

Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (Ogra Fianna Fail): I just want to note the importance of this. It's unfortunate that there are not more co-signatories of this resolution, given how it consolidates LYMEC's policies on energy, climate and trade security.

Vote on the Resolution as submitted:

For- 183

Against- 9

Abstain- 7

The Resolution as submitted is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 7: Stop the Gas (It's Probably Russian)**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Emelie Franzen (LUF): We want to go a little bit further and put an end to the import of gas from Azerbaijan. Continuing to get supply from Azerbaijan fails to align with our values. The only point that matters is that this gas is owned, extracted and supplied by Russia. Since this gas deal was signed, Azerbaijan has imported more gas from Russia.

Point of Order

Willemijn Krans (JOVD): I want to propose one minute speaking time to be able to pass more resolutions.

The point of order is adopted as no one opposed it.

Christopher Johnson (Young Liberals)-online: I think this is a really good motion. I remember thinking a little while ago "what is the EU doing refusing to buy gas from one dictatorship and then turning to a new dictatorship for oil and gas?". For this reason, I am strongly supportive of this resolution.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites delegates to discuss the amendment received.

❖ **Amendment 39**

Olena Dudko (EYU): I urge you all to vote for this amendment because there are no alternatives put forward. If the EU suspends all gas from this source, there is a high risk that the EU will be returning to Russia. I therefore urge you to vote for this resolution too as a second action even if this amendment doesn't pass.

Jaroslav Ambroz (Mlade ANO): We, as a delegation, support this resolution because it is a very good piece of work. We want to keep assessing other sources to help find a suitable replacement. Therefore we urge you to vote for this amendment.

Vote on Amendment 39:

For- 110

Against- 54

Abstain- 17

Amendment 39 is carried by the Congress.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 159

Against- 3

Abstain- 8

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): According to the agenda we should now move to Reports from MOs, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage and LYMEC Working Groups. Do you want to move on to that Agenda point or keep discussing resolutions?

Congress decides to postpone the reports from MOs, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage and LYMEC Working Groups point, to rather spend time on resolutions. No one objects.

➤ **Resolution 8: Resolution on strengthening liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern Partnership**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): We wrote this resolution because we really wanted LYMEC to have a specific topic addressing liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova. I would like to thank all of my colleagues that supported this effort. Please support this resolution.

❖ **Amendment 9**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover of the amendment to take the floor as this had a negative recommendation from the Working Group.

Gabriel Paulus (JUNOS): There is no reason why Ukraine and Moldova's EU accession journeys should be linked. They are two separate countries and deserve their own evaluations and merits. Having both together is not in their own interests.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I would like to speak against this amendment. Ukraine and Moldova are linked. We have a common threat: Putin. I think it's highly problematic if we do vote for this amendment. It would give a sign that we aren't in full support of Ukraine.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): We had two opposite amendments in the Working Group. Our position is that we should be as inclusive as possible.

Olena Dudko (EYU): Look at the title of the resolution: "*Resolution on strengthening liberal democracy in the Republic of Moldova and the Eastern Partnership*". With the reference to the Eastern Partnership, we should include mention of Ukraine and Georgia. I am against this amendment and the deletion it carries.

Vote on Amendment 9: ❌

For- 42

Against- 121

Abstain- 36

Amendment 9 is not carried by the Congress.

❖ **Amendment 117**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 117 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendment 117 is carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole: ✅

For- 176

Against- 0

Abstain- 7

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 9: The European Union Needs a Single Sanctions Coordinator**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Izide Marcinkute (LLJ): Sanctions play a crucial role in responding to foreign policy crises. Sanctions have proven themselves to be limited. We believe that with the introduction of a new, direct mechanism, the role of sanctions will be more targeted.

❖ **Amendment 60**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 60 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendment 60 is therefore carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole: ✅

For- 185

Against- 3

Abstain- 8

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 10: Ban Imports from Chinese Regions and Market Sectors Tainted by Forced Labour**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Emelie Franzen (LUF): The EU needs to be more like the US. The US has specific legislation banning trade with Chinese market sectors which use forced labour - the EU doesn't. While the EU Parliament has proposed some legislation on this, it remains limited.

Arthur Wu (Young Liberals): Foreign Policy is not separate from human rights. What is happening in China regarding forced labour is appalling. Over 1000 regions are facing their citizens being part of a degrading forced labour effort.

❖ **Amendment 63**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendment 63 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendment 63 is therefore carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 173

Against- 0

Abstain- 8

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 11: Non dica gay - a resolution concerning the situation for LGBTQ+ people in Italy**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

Maya Kastlander (CUF): Through Florida's Don't Say Gay bill, educators and teachers are prevented from speaking about LBGT issues in school. This is not only a reality in the US, but also in some European countries like Italy. With the coming to power of neo-fascist Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, LGBTQ+ minorities face growing challenges. For this, I urge you to vote for this motion and, remember: *Stay human, stay antifascist!*

❖ Amendments 119, 118, 121, 123

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair): Amendments 119, 118, 121, 123 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. There are no objections.

Amendments 119, 118, 121, 123 are therefore carried by the Congress as no one reopens the discussion.

Vote on the Resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 183

Against- 3

Abstain- 0

The Resolution as amended as a whole is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Resolution 12: Better Safe Than Sorry - Establishing a European Crisis Mitigation and Resilience Framework**

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) invites the mover to speak about the resolution.

David Grasveld (LHG): The European Union has been faced with various crises. There are no mechanisms in place to analyse or learn from past crises. We need preventative measures and institutional thinking to find quick solutions to future crises.

Vote on the Resolution as submitted:

For- 182

Against- 3

Abstain- 11

The Resolution as submitted is carried by the Congress.

19. Reports from MOs, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage and LYMEC Working Groups

Congress decides to postpone this point as time was rather spent on resolutions.

20-21. Closing from LYMEC President and Any other business

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) gives the floor to **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau)**.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): As you have noticed, we have had an addition to our Communications Team for this Congress. **Vincent Oheme (Attistibai Youth/JuLis)** has been taking pictures along the whole Congress. He deserves a round of applause. I know you are waiting for pictures, you will get the link on Monday at the latest. In case you don't feel comfortable with having your pictures in the shared drive, you can send me an email and your pictures will be removed. Thank you.

Ida-Maria Skytte (Chair) gives the floor for the conclusions to **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): What a Congress this has been! Let's admit, this Congress was filled with unexpected elements. Thank you for ensuring consistency and for making sure that our core work continues. I think we should be very proud of our work, especially on policy. I am also glad that we have elected 9 delegates whose task will be to carry these policies forward to the ALDE Congress. But friends, this Congress would not have been possible without all of you here. A special thanks goes to the Chairs for keeping everyone on time and to the Secretariat for all their hard work. Although I do not see our friends from ALDE, Renew Europe and ELF in the room, I would also like to thank them for all their help in offering us a space to debate our creative liberal solutions. Last but not least, I want to thank **Kristians Vasilevskis (Attistibai Youth)** for all his logistical support and planning for this amazing Congress. I hereby close the Congress. Thank you so much for all your efforts!

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) stresses that the Congress is now closed at 18 h 00 EET (Riga time) and gives some practical information for the dinner arrangements. Thank you everyone!

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