

MINUTES
LYMEC Spring Congress
5th - 7th May 2023
Budapest and Online



Day 1 - Friday, 5th May 2023

Congress starts at 15 h 30 CEST (Budapest 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 Budapest at the European Youth Center.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Dear liberal friends, it's good to see you all here. We have so much to discuss these two days. I was thinking about the last LYMEC Congress. I remember opening my speech saying we are living in hectic times, that there is a war going on, and that we are having a hard time in Europe as in the rest of the world. I hoped the situation in Europe at the time of this Spring Congress would be different, but unfortunately this is not the case. We still have a bloody war going on in Ukraine where lives are being lost. We also experience its consequences here in Europe: people have it harder to pay their bills, it's difficult to get a job, and lives are getting harsher. We thought the time of liberalism and freedom was back, but what we see is populism in the Nordic countries, in Hungary, in Europe, and also outside of Europe. We are here not only to share our experiences, but also to see how we can tackle these current issues. Let's be honest, us liberals have a hard time tackling issues like inflation. We have a hard time proving why populists are wrong and why we are right. We should discuss these issues, gather ideas and find solutions. This is why we will see many discussions today. We will see people getting passionate and emotional and some might even get a bit over-emotional. It happens, politics is like that. We all want the same thing. We want to make our organisation more prosperous and better. Many of us have travelled for more than 30 hours to Budapest. This shows that we are committed to finding solutions, especially with one year left until the 2024 European elections. If we don't come up with solutions and visions, who will? Should we give it to the conservatives? Or to the socialists? It's us liberals who should take the lead on shaping the future of Europe. This is what we will do this weekend and I am looking forward to it. Before we start with the guest speeches, I would like to give a big thanks to our Hungarian friends, without whom this Congress would not have been possible.

2. Guest speeches

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I give the floor to **Stéphane Séjourné, (Président, Renew Europe Group)** who was not able to join us here in-person in Budapest but please see his video-message.

Stéphane Séjourné (Renew Europe Group President- ONLINE VIDEO MESSAGE): Renew Europe is still the only political family that prioritises young people and the fight for the future generations. I encourage you to vote for the upcoming European elections 2024 and bring young people to vote. I am sure that your President and the whole organisation have prepared a fantastic Congress for you all. Good luck and enjoy the Congress.

Ferenc Gelencsér (Momentum Mozgalom President): I want to speak from the heart, to talk about liberalism and about your future. Here in Hungary, we are living in an illiberal state. To be part of the opposition, you must be liberal. We have seen how populism spoils our values, the values on which we want to build the future of Europe, and the one of Hungary. Many people do not understand these values. How do we fight illiberalism in Hungary? The road where our Prime Minister lives has been blocked by a fence because of the latest protests on the reforms against the education system. Us liberals want to destroy that fence. The most important thing is that whatever other people tell you, you should always fight for your rights, for your future, communities and for people's rights. Enjoy your stay, and welcome to Hungary!

Katalin Cseh (Renew Europe Vice-President and ELF Board Member): It's very hard for me to put into words how much it means to me to see the LYMEC Congress in Budapest, organised by the amazing **TizenX**. I want to tell you a story about me. I was 19, in University, hopeful for my country and for its future. Then a political earthquake happened, and the populists won. We saw all our rights that we took for granted disappear. As a young liberal, it was a very hopeless place to be in Hungary at that moment. Then I got invited to a LYMEC event, and I became an IMS. With LYMEC, I travelled, participated in protests and took part in campaigns and trainings. You and your parties inspired me. I found how powerful a community could be and decided to found the Momentum Movement. Over time, our party grew and now Hungarians are represented by us at the European, national, district and local level. As a Millennial, I would like to give Gen Z some advice. Firstly, appreciate your community. Secondly, there is still much to do. Young people are still underrepresented in politics. Fight, be active, and be loud. Thirdly, the liberal battle is very complicated. There is a global trend of populist extremism. Stand up for your rights, and the rights of others. Let's dominate the European elections, and make European laws fit for the future and for the youth. It is always young people who start revolutions. Make changes, wherever you are from.

Daniel Berg (ALDE Party Vice-President and Deputy-Mayor II district Budapest): As Deputy-Mayor of the second district of Budapest, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Buda. You have certainly chosen interesting times to visit Hungary. Students protest against new laws that limit academic freedom. This

was pushed down harshly by the government and this proves that authoritarians are the most frightened by youth, particularly youth in action. Keep up the good work. We, at the ALDE Party, are counting on you to ensure a successful campaign during the next European elections. You push us to do more, to do better and to find innovative solutions to our challenges. I look forward to us working together for a stronger, more liberal future.

Kira Rudik (ALDE Party Vice-President): It has been 14 months since the invasion of my country started. It has been painful, but we also learned some lessons. I am here to share these lessons with you. The first one is the lesson of unity: on day 1 of the full-scale invasion, we knew that we needed to gather forces and get the necessary military equipment. We made a vow between political parties to stand united as "Team Ukraine". Second lesson: unpunished evil always returns. The only way to fight is to be united, and to fight till the end. I became a politician because I had one simple idea: I wanted a generation of kids that are free in their choices. Now we are robbed of that. The third lesson is to learn that you can do much more than what you expect of yourself. The last lesson is that 'impossible' does not exist. So many people did not believe we would become a candidate for the EU. So many did not believe we would take back Kherson or that we would be able to receive the Leopard 2 tanks. The most important thing was that we believed that we could make the impossible possible. For this Congress, I wish you to empower one another, learn to act as a team, and grow up as a generation of liberal politicians, we are all looking forward to being proud of.

Barna Bíró (Momentum TizenX Vice-President): For me it is not just a Congress or a gathering of fellow liberals. This Congress means a lot to me as it sends the message that Hungary should be open, diverse and liberal. Go home, fight for your values, for your democracy. You will not notice that democracy dies slowly. Learn that we have to fight for our values, because no one else will.

Magdalena Ilg (Young Democrats of Europe): Young Democrats of Europe is the youth wing of the EDP, and was originally founded by 7 of its members. We cannot take the achievements of the EU for granted. We must stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. This conflict is a representation of a fight against rule of law, human rights, and democracy. We need to give the youth a voice, and listen to their concerns. We need to protect and strengthen our European Democracy. We all have a role to play in shaping the future of the EU. I look forward to continuing this conversation with you this weekend.

Nolwenn Pelven (European Spokesperson, Les JAM): Even with our differences, we can find a compromise for a liberal future of Europe. We are grateful for your work. You carry our victories, values and ambition all over Europe. In Les JAM, our priority is to formulate concrete proposals, and to create a project that speaks to each young person.

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) 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. Associate member organisations have no votes according to the LYMEC Statutes. Heads of Delegation of Associate Member Organisations receive a request to vote, but they have 0 votes assigned, which means their vote will have no impact on the ballot.

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)** 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		Votes	Roll Call 1 - Friday Opening
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra - JLA		3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS		5	5
Belgium	Fédération des étudiants libéraux (FEL)		3	3
Belgium	Jong VLD		5	5
Belgium	Jeunes MR		8	0
Bulgaria	YMRF		10	10
Bosnia/Herzegovina	Youth Forum of Naša stranka		3	0
Catalonia	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)		7	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO		3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom		6	6
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		5	5
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)		3	3
France	Jeunes Radicaux			
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)		10	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)		5	5
Hungary	TizenX		3	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil		8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth		3	3
Lithuania	Lithuanian liberal youth (LLJ)		6	6
Luxembourg	JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg		3	0
The Netherlands	JOVD - Jongerenorganisatie Vrijheid en Democratie		6	6
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten NL		6	6
North Macedonia	Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)		3	3
Norway	Unge Venstre		4	4
Poland	Nowoczesna Youth		3	3
Romania	USR Tineret		4	4
Russia	Vesna Democratic Youth Movement		3	3
Slovakia	Mladi Progressivci - Young Progressives		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
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK		6	6
IMS	Tim Robinson		1	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz		1	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk		1	0

TOTAL 203 188

Simple majority of those present

101.5 94

Two thirds of present

135.3333 125.333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 70

There were 188 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- JDL - Jonk Demokraten Luxembourg
- Youth Forum of Naša stranka
- Jeunes MR
- Christine Khomyk IMS Delegate

One organisation was taken out of the Congress roll calls:

Jeunes Radicaux from France won't have voting rights at this Congress since the membership fee for 2023 remained unpaid at the Congress opening.

4. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

Election of secretaries

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes the Congress secretaries, proposing **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)** and **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)**, together with **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**.

The Congress accepted the Secretaries.

Election of chairs

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President) proposes **Alistair Spearing, Marina Sedlo and Barnabás Gádor** as Congress Chairs.

The Congress accepted the Chairs.

Election of scrutineers

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

The Congress accepted the Scrutineers.

5. Adoption of the agenda

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): I am very happy to see you all. I would like to call out the two people celebrating their birthdays today **Charel Bollig (Jonk Demokraten)** and **Anđela Todorović (Forum Mladih Nove Stranke)**. Happy Birthday to both of you! I would like to remind you to keep your badges all the time to make sure you are recognizable in the European Youth Center of Budapest (EYCB) and to get dinner on Saturday night.. For tonight's dinner, we will meet in the parking lot of the EYCB and walk there all together. You can address a point of order through Openslides. If you have any technical problems you can refer to **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**. Should you encounter any issue, please reach out to our ombudspersons for this Congress **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** or **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)**.

Barnabás Gádor (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.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) suggests moving to the next point on the agenda.

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) asks if there are any comments about the minutes from the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest. No one expressed any disapproval.

The minutes from the Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest are therefore adopted by the Congress.

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

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): There were no Urgency Resolutions submitted so we move on to the next agenda point.

8. Snap vote on the order of resolutions

Barnabás Gádor (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.

Results of the snap vote on the order of resolutions:

Candidates		Votes
1.	Stop Russian Imperialism in Eastern Europe	(31.765 %) 54
	Resolution	
2.	Time To Act Against Healthcare Associated Infections	(28.235 %) 48
	Resolution	
3.	Liberal consolidation needs to be implemented to prevent the spread of authoritarian nationalist tendencies in Europe	(27.059 %) 46
	Resolution	
4.	Towards Stricter Screening of Foreign Direct Investments Into Critical EU Infrastructure	(27.059 %) 46

Resolution

5. **Closing Putin's gates means welcoming allies - Extending an invitation to Georgia** **(26.471 %) 45**

Resolution

6. **Generationally fair and sustainable European pension policy** **(25.294 %) 43**

Resolution

7. **Climate Justice** **(24.706 %) 42**

Resolution

8. **It is time for a Code of Conduct on Arms Exports 3.0** **(20.588 %) 35**

Resolution

9. Necessary measures to protect the rule of law in the European Union (20 %) 34

Resolution

10. The European Union needs a single sanctions coordinator (17.647 %) 30

Resolution

11. Improving youth mobility beyond the EU borders (16.471 %) 28

Resolution

12. MLM Companies are covering up Pyramid Schemes (15.882 %) 27

Resolution

13. The Windsor Framework and the Future of EU-UK Relations (15.294 %) 26

Resolution

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| 14. | Food security starts on the farm | (14.706 %) 25 |
| | Resolution | |
| 15. | Restoring Ukraine's Agricultural sector | (14.706 %) 25 |
| | Resolution | |
| 16. | Artificial Intelligence for Europe | (14.118 %) 24 |
| | Resolution | |
| 17. | Education matters - a collective European effort for helping persecuted students | (14.118 %) 24 |
| | Resolution | |
| 18. | Liberal principles to deal with take-overs by state owned companies | (14.118 %) 24 |

Resolution

19. **ACCELERATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF A COMMON EU GRID** (9.412 %) 16

Resolution

20. **Enabling a true European rail network and the role of the European Rail Authority** (9.412 %) 16

Resolution

21. **European civil protection - for an intact European siren infrastructure** (8.824 %) 15

Resolution

22. **Opposing the Degradation of Global LGBTQ+ Rights** (8.824 %) 15

Resolution

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------------------|
| 23. | Promoting local youth councils
in all European Cities | (8.824 %) 15 |
| | Resolution | |
| 24. | THE EU SHOULD NOT
SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS
BREACHES IN EUROPEAN AND
GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS | (8.824 %) 15 |
| | Resolution | |
| 25. | Boycott the 2024 Olympic
Games | (8.235 %) 14 |
| | Resolution | |
| 26. | Parental leave in the European
Parliament | (8.235 %) 14 |
| | Resolution | |
| 27. | Women's rights and European
asylum policies | (8.235 %) 14 |

Resolution

28. Adequate care for refugees (7.647 %) 13

Resolution

29. Critical communications infrastructure in 21st century (7.059 %) 12

Resolution

30. Artificial Intelligence: balancing innovation and human rights (6.471 %) 11

Resolution

31. Interdisciplinary, up-to-date skills in Erasmus: leading to mobility, employability, and combating EU-crises (6.471 %) 11

Resolution

32. Animals have intrinsic value (5.882 %) 10

Resolution

33. Ban non-consensual, non-medical circumcision (5.294 %) 9

Resolution

34. Reinforcing European Defence Industry in times of Geopolitical Instability (5.294 %) 9

Resolution

35. Union-wide e-voting system (4.706 %) 8

Resolution

36. WATER: Water Access to all European Residents (2.353 %) 4

Resolution

37. Ensuring Productive and Human-centric Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Europe **(1.765 %) 3**

Resolution

Valid votes (100 %) 170

9. Secretary General report and debate about the report

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) invites **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to take the floor and tell more about his report.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you. The past weeks have been quite focused on this Congress, but not only. There have been quite a lot of different events, and we were happy to host many delegations from your MOs to our office in Brussels. If you have members visiting Brussels, either for tourism or not, do not hesitate to let us know so that we can organise a visit to the LYMEC and ALDE Party offices! I would also strongly emphasise the importance of the work that was done together with our Treasurer on the grant that we have successfully obtained. Huge work was put into this. We finally signed the European Commission Erasmus+ grant for the framework 2023-2025 and the agreement specifically for this year too. This is very important for the organisation as we were a bit struggling with our finances in the past. I would really like to thank our two colleagues here. **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)** joined us as Policy Resident as part of her studies. We have to thank her for the policy briefings. She is ending her time with the LYMEC Secretariat. I would also very much like to thank **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. We now have two full time employees in the office. She is always bringing new ideas, mastering the different projects and bringing a sparkle in our communications with her innovative designs. These are my main points and should you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to me in private or ask questions now, about the report as well.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) states that the floor is now open for questions about the report.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Thank you. First of all, I want to thank **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** for the amazing work that he has done since the last Congress, I think your report really speaks for itself. I have a question about strategy. What is something you would like to change in your work and what are the flagship projects you would like to implement in order to bring LYMEC forward?

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): Thank you **Julius Graack (JuLis)**. Since the beginning of my first mandate as Secretary General of LYMEC, I have been putting the emphasis on professionalising the organisation. One of the very important points to take into consideration to turn this into a reality is to strengthen the Secretariat. Thanks to the current new structure, with the Project Officer as a full-time employee, we see that we can do more, we are more professional and more available for the members. Now that we have obtained the EC grant, we can finally conclude that process. You will see an opening for a policy intern position soon to strengthen the Secretariat even more. I want to continue on that path and be able to propose more opportunities for you, members. As you know, it is usually the Bureau that takes the initiative, but at the same time if the LYMEC Secretariat is more equipped, we can concretely offer more to the members. These two points are key for me. We of course also have an important role to play during the EU elections 2024, that can be flagged as the main flagship project.

Roelof Dik (JOVD): Is **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** aware that **JOVD** is very happy with the work he has done on professionalising the office?

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. The comments that you made on the membership survey at the beginning of the year have already been taken on board when possible to implement.

10. European Year of the Skills 2023: presentation outcomes + discussion with the membership

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) gives the floor to **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** to present what LYMEC has done as part of the European Year of the Skills 2023.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): As you know, it is currently the European Year of the Skills 2023. For this special year, we invite you all to discuss and advocate for banning unpaid internships. We see a momentum on this matter, but it has not been set in motion yet. Our policies have made it all the way

to the European Parliament. We have proposed our suggestions and we hope those suggestions will become a European reality to make the job market align with the current needs in Europe. One reason why the labour market is not as strong as it could be is because of the lack of digitalisation. We want to focus on a process that makes it faster. We focus a lot on diversity and the need for practical skills. Although the labour market and youth unemployment is seen as a "left issue", we will also campaign on this. Last Autumn, we drafted a brief Manifesto on youth unemployment to minimise discrimination, maximise practical skills, and promote vocational training. We want to have a diversified labour market in line with the needs of the companies to make a bigger impact and promote economic growth.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): Technical information point: we had to restart the vote on the snap vote on the order of resolutions due to an issue on Openslides. If you haven't already, make sure to vote (results available above under point 8). On top of that, if you want to comment on **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**'s intervention, please put yourself on the speakers' list.

Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth): I had a general question on the European Year of Youth 2022. While it was clear that many entities were engaged in helping the youth, we have to be very clear: what can we actually do to offer more opportunities to the liberal youth career wise?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): We should look at organisations and companies that are creating jobs. When I said we should align needs and solutions, it means looking at best practices from organisations and companies more. Many countries have associations and organisations good at knowing what is needed in the labour market.

Brian O'Connor (Ogra Fianna Fáil): I'd like to ask a question about the 'Conference on the Future of Europe'. Is there any update on that?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): I would say that concretely, when we talk about the CoFoE, things didn't go as we hoped for. It established a closer connection between us, you and our partners. It set a workflow and made us find common ground on what us young people deem important. However, in terms of implementation, we have seen pledges but not much legislation. The topic of treaty change is a sensitive one.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): Thank you **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** for your overview.

11. Finances

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) states that the Congress will now move on to discuss finances. He invites **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the state of LYMEC Finances.

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

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) states that there are three requests for reduced membership fees for this Congress.

- **Alliance Youth NI**

- Current fee: 205 EUR - Requested fee: 100 EUR. As per our statutes and financial protocol they have to pay the requested fee before they can be considered for a reduced membership fee.
- **Alliance Youth NI** has already paid the requested fee to LYMEC. The organisation faces financial difficulties as per limited financing from their mother party. They still need self-fundraising.
- The Bureau recommendation is positive.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): Alliance Youth NI (online) wants to present their overview.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth NI): It's been an expensive few years in **Alliance Youth NI**. The labour party is winning. This political reality does cost money and we are a youth wing still financially dependent from the mother party. If we pay the LYMEC fee, it means we cut money from our own activities. This reduced membership would be a massive help to develop financial independence.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): We will proceed with the "anyone against" system. If anyone is against the proposal, this is your chance to object. If you do not object, we will proceed with the next member organisation on the list.

No one objects. Since no one is against it, the Congress grants a reduced membership fee of 100 EUR to Alliance Youth NI.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer):

- **Nowoczesna Youth**

- Current fee: 254 EUR - Requested fee: 100 EUR
- Nowoczesna Youth has paid the requested fee amount to LYMEC, they are facing financial difficulties. We are all aware of the financial situation in Poland.
- The Bureau recommendation is positive.

Florentyna Martynyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): I think it is really important that we are meeting here in Budapest where liberal values are not taken for granted. This is also the reality in Poland and this is why our financial situation looks like this and we cannot afford our membership fee. We, as a youth organisation, finance actions and activities from our own pocket. We were thinking about how to contribute to this fee on behalf of my organisation, and we could maybe organise a volunteer fundraising for that. So far, we managed to collect 100 EUR. Our board members and International Committee members also contributed to this. I also want to say I am very grateful to the Bureau and especially to **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** for being so generous.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): There are 10 minutes left for the vote on the order of resolutions. For the fee reduction, we will proceed with the "anyone against" system. If anyone is against the proposal, this is your chance to object. If you do not object, we will proceed with the next member organisation on the list. Since the Bureau gave this a positive recommendation.

No one objects. Since no one is against it, the Congress grants a reduced membership fee of 100 EUR to Nowoczesna Youth.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer):

- **European Youth of Ukraine**
 - Current fee: 234.80 EUR - Requested fee: 120 EUR
 - EYU has paid the requested fee amount to LYMEC, the organisation is located in a country at war. We have to help our friends in Ukraine as it is our moral and civic duty.
 - The Bureau recommendation is therefore positive.

Olena Dudko (European Youth of Ukraine): I believe many of you have seen the document that I have sent to the Bureau. I will just emphasise that we are an NGO, we don't belong to any political party and the only financing source is the membership fee that equals to around 11 dollars each year per member. We will still come to LYMEC Congresses and travel there, although our organisation does not finance our trips. When we have the chance to finance someone new, the Congress is financed for the new delegates only, so that they can learn what it means to be a liberal in the international arena. We get grants, but they don't cover everything. We also do fundraising to cover other things. The war is ongoing but we don't want to use the war as an argument for the following years. It is not only about war, but also about other processes connected to it. Taking into account the fees, members, activities online and offline of **European Youth of Ukraine**, I am asking for your understanding.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): We will proceed with the "anyone against" system. If anyone is against the proposal, this is your chance to object. If you do not object, we will proceed with the next member organisation on the list. Since the Bureau gave this a positive recommendation. I also want to close the

vote on the order of resolutions, the results will be published after the finances point (available above at point 8).

No one objects. Since no one is against it, the Congress grants a reduced membership fee of 120 EUR to the European Youth of Ukraine.

Tuuli Helind (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. The Bureau has also proposed to disaffiliate all the following debtor members listed below. Many of us haven't even met the representatives of these organisations at Congresses so we don't know what they stand for anymore.

- **Armenian National Congress Youth**
 - 2018 MO fee - total debt of 211.64 eur
- **Mladi LDP**
 - 2018 MO fee - the total was 433.22 eur, already reduced by 283.22 eur in October 2018).
 - 2016 MO fee - the total was 882.96 eur, already reduced by 182.96 and MO has paid 200 eur in April 2020.
 - With the 2018 and 2016 MO fee, they have accumulated a total debt of 650 eur.
- **LiFT - Liberalis Fiatalok Tarsasaga**
 - 2018 MO fee (associate member organisation)
 - 2017 MO fee (associate member organisation)
 - With the 2018 and 2017 MO fee, they have accumulated a total debt of 350 eur.

Barnabás Gábor (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. He asks if anyone is against it.

No one is against. The debt forgiveness for Armenian National Congress Youth, Mladi LDP and LiFT - Liberalis Fiatalok Tarsasaga is therefore carried by the Congress.

b) Financial report 2022 (for decision)

Barnabás Gábor (Chair) invites **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** to present the Financial report for 2022.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): Please find the final financial report of 2022. It includes a new, improved format which follows the Statutes and the Financial Protocol per chapter with additional information listed in Annex. The chapters give a comparative overview of our financial situation overall.

There is a deficit of 22 637.19 euros, covered from our savings for 2022. We still have quite a lot of savings left over from previous years. We count on the continuing support from the ALDE Party, Renew Europe, ELF and FNF. We are very thankful for all their support, their leadership and employees. The large deficit is due to the fact that we now have two full time employees and that Belgian taxes are very high, although it was a wise investment to get an additional full-time employee. A more detailed overview can be found in the report.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): I apologise if this is a very boring financial question. Looking at the balance sheet on page 14, I noticed that there is a quite significant accrual of holiday pay. It seems to be nearly 10% of the overall staff cost. Why is the accrual so large?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): The calculation is based on last year's holiday pay, a number provided by our Social Secretariat. It is due to the two full-time employees and it was advised also by our auditors to increase the amount. In Belgium, if you go from trainee contract to full time contract your holiday pay rises. It is legislation from 2001, the provision is owed to be paid out to the employees every year in May. Thank you for your financial question.

Julius Graack (JuLis): On donations, there is a significantly lower amount that the Bureau accumulated during the year. I know you have a new strategy for next year, but I have a question on participation fees for Congresses. When it comes to Congress expenses, we see that the actual performance is significantly lower than the budget as planned. Did the Bureau consider reimbursing part of the participation fees to the delegates? If not, why?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): For the donation part, in August we started talking about what to do to bring in more funds. Any person donating funds wants to see something in exchange. This is why, right outside of this room, there is a merch table to step up our donations game. When it comes to participation fees, we have discussed it at previous Congresses and at the Digital Assembly too. The profit on Congresses is not inherently wrong, also looking at our former deficit. We did not discuss any reimbursement on participation fees, as they take into account planned costs, additional costs for staff work for example (as stressed in the call to register) and unexpected costs. These unexpected costs, for example, came up in Bucharest during our previous Congress. I don't see anything wrong on our participation fee. I think that what our delegates get back is not that bad. We really work hard on Congresses and the profit that we make goes into our general budget and gives us the opportunity to do more. Don't forget that the Bureau has always allowed reduced participation fees and freedom fund requests. You are always able to request these two options, please check the deadline and apply.

Guido von Backer (JOVD): Seeing the budgets, there seems to be high staff expenses. I am very happy to see that the EC grant has been obtained to cover that. Do you have a roadmap outlined for further actions?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): You should ask the question about the grant when we tackle the budget point, but I will answer your question on staff expenses. The salary costs went up from trainee position to full-time employee, this resulted in more taxes than we first imagined. We also count the 13th, which is compulsory in Belgium. As it concerns salaries, I don't want to expand on the point as it goes into the privacy of our employees.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair): I give **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth)** the floor, and the speakers' list is now closed.

Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth): This is the second time that we have been hearing questions about the participation fees. If you have ever organised an event, you know that having such funds is important. Secondly, regarding donations, I want to point out that there is a war going on and people are donating money to Ukraine. I think that LYMEC has the best interest towards you, members. My question is: how do you want to proceed and how will finances look in the future due to war and inflation?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): Thank you **Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth)**. There is a slight deficit of 3000 EUR as we plan. It is the year before elections and we have to make the most out of it just in case we face hard situations in the future. We will definitely go down in the deficit in the future due to the new funding.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) states that the vote is now open on Openslides as there are no further inputs from the Congress. In the meantime, we will debate the Interim Financial report for January-April 2023. He states that there will be no vote on that.

The result of the vote on the 2022 Financial report:

For- 131

Against- 20

Abstain- 17

The Financial Report 2022 is carried by the Congress.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) comments on the results. To vote against or abstain is not a good sign. I have worked hours and hours to compile this report and to make it easy to read. I have trouble understanding this voting behaviour. Please come to me, I don't bite. Ask questions, and let's talk about these issues. Approving this report is a formal, legal step to take.

c) Interim Financial report January-April 2023 (for information)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) presents the Interim Financial report January - April 2023. We have put most of the work towards fulfilling the budget in its entirety. There are no significant changes compared to the original budget. A more detailed overview can be found in the report. We have taken on a new payment method called 'stripe', which is very popular among our members. We have gotten over 7000 EUR from stripe for MO fees. This shows how convenient this solution is for our members. The same applies to the goodies you can find out of this room, you can pay by stripe easily.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) asks if there are any questions on the Interim Financial Report 2023. There is none. We move to the Internal Audit Report for 2022.

d) Internal audit report (for information)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer) gives the floor to **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)**.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): I am very pleased to bring this report to you. Besides that, I want to highlight that I am also ombudsperson for this Congress. Should you feel unsafe, unsatisfied, or unhappy, my number is in the group chats and practical guide. Please do not hesitate to reach out. Now, let's move to finances. We changed the scope of the audit compared to previous years, taking into account a more holistic approach. The approach was a risk-based sample of transactions and payments to make sure we are not overspending and to ensure quality of costs. We have conducted staff interviews with **Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**, and **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** to make sure we have a well managed office. We checked internal documents and shared informal suggestions with the Treasurer and Secretary General on the 2023 budget.

Daniel Ruiz Viejobueno (Internal Auditor): The Recommendations that we made after the audit are the following:

New recommendations for 2023:

- 2023-1: Consider changing bank to reduce fees (pending)
- 2023-2: Setting up professional accounts for Uber and Bolt (discussed)

- 2023-3: Develop strategy to increase small donations (pending). I encourage you to scan the QR codes next to the goodies to donate to LYMEC. We also ensure the yearly target by reaching out to the LYMEC Alumni.
- 2023-4: Monitor the price evolution of XERO accounting tool (pending). We have to keep an eye on that as, if it gets more expensive, we might get rid of that.
- 2023-5: Encourage use of ride-sharing apps to reduce taxi costs for Bureau and Staff (discussed).

More recommendations and pending advices:

- 2023-6: Consider sponsorships from alternative sources (pending). This is a more delicate topic, because we are not as flexible on that as ALDE. They have trainings performed by these companies.
- 2023-7: Review internal policies on safeguarding practices (pending). Policies from different years are not always super coherent (being implemented with Code of Conduct).
- 2022-6: Investigate centralising travel bookings through a travel agency (pending). We do have significant travel costs, also due to the fact that people book quite late. Turns out: they are out for profit, so it is more expensive than to just go to the airline website. It's difficult and costly to change this system.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): I also want to mention all the recommendations that have actually been implemented.

Implemented advice since last audit:

- 2022-3: Implemented - Clarification of Internal Auditor role and policies, which we are very grateful for.
- 2022-4: Implemented - Addressing Paypal transaction costs (managed by **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)**).
- 2022-5: Implemented - Reducing broadband costs. All of you, give **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** a big hug, because this was very challenging. But we saved money, so we are happy.
- 2022-7: Implemented - Adding GDPR disclaimer for Google Workspace use

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

Roelof Dik (JOVD): I was happy to read the report. What do you think the biggest opportunity for LYMEC to stay a healthy organisation is? And what's the best solution for LYMEC not to book expensive flights? Could installing penalties for booking later than the proposed deadline be a solution?

Daniel Ruiz Viejobueno (Internal Auditor): The biggest risk was not to get the grant, but now we don't have to worry too much. Regarding the penalties, you don't have to worry because flights are always booked on time. In case of extreme delays, we can say that a percentage can be paid by the person who takes the flight.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): You mentioned that the ALDE Party has it easier to accumulate sponsorship. Would we also do that?

Daniel Ruiz Viejobueno (Internal Auditor): They have more long standing relationships with private organisations. For LYMEC to do it, we need a full agreement. I know that some people in the room don't want weird logos next to the LYMEC one. If we can avoid it, I would prefer alumni and current members donate to us.

Jessica Brestel (Jungfreisinnige Schweiz): I want to suggest looking further into fundraising. For such an organisation, the donation rate is extremely low. There are a couple of strategies you can pursue for people to donate more. Many people in many organisations share these liberal values and want to be involved. There is a huge amount of money out there.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): Yes, I agree. We put advice in the report to create a strategy on private funding. We have been focussing on getting the structural grants to ensure our existence. These kinds of strategies on private funding come into play. I am sure you have great knowledge. This is a perfect example of how we should use your brilliant minds for a fundraising strategy.

Barnabás Gádor (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 and moves on to the Revised Budget 2023 for information.

e) Revised Budget 2023 (for information)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): Thank you to the internal auditors for their great work. We have succeeded with the grant application of the European Commission, implying a conditional financing for 3 years with a support of 75 000 euros per year. I would like to thank **Bálint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)**, **Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative)** as former Treasurer, and **Danica Vihinen (Alumni Network, President)**, our Bureau and our Alumni Network for helping us out on documents that were hard to understand. With ALDE, we have their maximum contribution of 100 000 EUR by existing rules.

This means that now we have the possibility to organise new events like the LYMEC Skills Hub and the LYMEC Communication Meeting; we could also re-establish a LYMEC Project Fund, employ a policy trainee as **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** explained earlier and invest more funds towards statutory events. All of us are working at full capacity and employing a new intern would be a great help.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Guido von Backer (JOVD): Thank you for your explanation. I want to congratulate you for the successful application. Next time you will have to apply for the grant, would you be willing to work together with the same people that helped you this time? It is not as easy as it may seem. How will you repeat in the future the success that you have had this year?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): As far as the grant application goes, after I became Treasurer a year ago, we started thinking about what we could have done differently last time. We utilised our connections at Renew Europe. I am thankful for the Policy Officers in the CULT committee of Renew Europe in the European Parliament as well as to the European Youth Forum. We need to use the network that we already have and that can give us a better understanding.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): I have a point to add on the result of the Commission grant. It is something that we and other organisations in Europe try to understand, because it is difficult. The content on the assessment was not precise on what was missing or what could be done differently. Together with the European Youth Forum we are trying to bring this to the Commission to get a more transparent assessment in the future. We got less points than last year, but the envelope had more money. The quality was higher. We do not know why we got this number of points. The European Commission should be more transparent, that is something we are working on. I hope to update you at the next Congress on this point, since this is a continuous effort.

Result of the snap vote on the order of the resolutions - available at point 8 above.

- **Guest Speech to close - Day 1**

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): We will postpone the other matters for tomorrow. I would like to welcome a very dear friend of LYMEC, a firm believer of the impact that young people have on European politics, **Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE Party Co-President)**.

Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE Party Co-President): We have to empower young people when it comes to European elections. We hope to see many people from this crowd and outside this room at the ALDE Party Congress in Stockholm to unite forces for the 2024 elections. We should have more young people engaged in politics and influencing politics. LYMEC is doing a great job with this. Every year should be the European Year of Youth. The future of the EU is not going to be decided by my generation, but by

your generation. It is time to implement LYMEC's ideas. I am looking forward to continuing the great cooperation.

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

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): states that the first day of the Congress is now closed at 18 h 00 CEST.

Day 2: Saturday, 6th May 2023

Day starts at 09 h 00 CEST (Budapest time).

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) opens the day and welcomes everyone back to the Congress. He gives the floor to **Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor)** for an important note.

Elsie Gisslegard (Internal Auditor): I am very sorry to come here with some bad news. Last night one of our delegates was attacked on their way home and had to take an ambulance to go to the hospital. This person is doing very well given the circumstances. Do not walk alone at night. If you feel like you have to talk to anyone, you can find me here. Please take care of yourself.

Roll Call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)** 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 unmute themselves 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
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra - JLA	3
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
Czech Republic	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	5
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	3
France	Jeunes Radicaux	
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai 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
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	
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
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1

197

Simple majority of those present

98.5

Two thirds of present

131.3333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 70

There were 197 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Youth Forum of Naša stranka
- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)

- **Jeunes Radicaux taken out - unpaid membership fee 2023**

- **Finances (agenda point continues)**

f) External Audit Report (for information)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): I would bring your attention to the External Audit Report for information. Our External auditor has confirmed the validity of LYMEC accounts for 2022. They were very pleased with the audit. They liked that we propose a change to the financial protocol, and that we are moving more digital, no longer keeping documents on paper if you don't have to by law.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions. No one intervenes.

g) Financial Protocol 2023 - updated (for decision)

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): Here is the updated Financial Protocol for 2023 for decision. The proposed changes are:

- Determination of Fixed Assets with the value of 1000 euros (net price)
- Cancellation fees:
 - starting from 3 weeks before the event - 50 euros
 - starting from 2 weeks before the event up to 48 hours - 75 euros.

This is a cautionary measure. We want to extend the time that we issue the cancellation fees: if the cancellation takes place 3 weeks before the event, 50 EUR will be requested. And we also have a no show fee if you do not show up at all. We see this time again, we had issues with this, rules need to be strengthened.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) invites the delegates to take the floor for questions.

Barnabás Gádor (Chair) asks if anyone is against.

No one is against. The updated Financial Protocol 2023 is therefore carried by the Congress.

12. Bureau Reports and debate about the reports

Marina Sedlo (Chair) takes on the chairing of the Congress.

Marina Sedlo (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): One thing that has been taking time for the LYMEC Bureau is the EC grant. It also involved shifting priority order and managing internal and external resources. In addition to that, I want to stress how LYMEC is becoming more and more political. We have Renew Europe and the ALDE Party always asking for help and advice when it comes to committees and Working Groups. They often invite us there so that we can also contribute with our ideas. To wrap it up, the Programme of Action of this Bureau includes the Manifesto, the delegation system and communicating our policies to make ourselves more relevant in the political debate.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): To add to what **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** said, I have been invited to the ALDE Party International Officers Meeting. We keep pushing to be invited, be present and be heard. What I have been working on a lot is how to make LYMEC more secure, from passwords to offline security. It is still an ongoing process, but we are getting there. In terms of what I will be working on in the future is additional tasks in light of the EC grant. As a consequence of the grant, we have to deliver a few assets. For this reason, I am happy to have feedback rounds with the staff, as we have to be aware of the resources we have. On another note, we also worked on reinforcing digital and physical security around the office in the past months.

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We already spent last evening on finances. In addition to that, I have been helping **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** on some policy issues and supported **Willemijn Krans (Policy Resident)** with the policy briefings that were sent to you all members.

Tanzer Yuseinov (LYMEC Bureau): Together with IFLRY, we nominated a candidate for the YFJ Advisory Council, **Yevheniia Fedotova (LDLU)**. She got elected with a lot of support. And it is the first time ever a Ukrainian has been elected for this position.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): We have been working on a draft manifesto in light of the European Elections 2024. The ALDE Party Congress is also coming up and I would like to thank the LYMEC delegation for submitting 3 very important resolutions. We have organised a new policy debate on who should be the next Spitzenkandidat. We will organise a new policy debate very soon, probably on the Turkish, Cypriot and Greek elections. This is a region that is increasingly relevant for and within LYMEC. Thank you all.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): We are trying to step up our game on political communication. We have monthly meetings with the Communications Team. Together with them, we did a workshop to establish the mission and vision for the LYMEC communication. We have also implemented a brand book that

presents the guidelines for our outreach. On this topic, I want to give a special thanks to **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**, she is amazing and did great work. On top of that, the Liberal Communicators' Network is coming up soon in June in Warsaw: with our partners ELF, Projekt: Polska and FNF, we are working on the youth edition of that event. In addition, with **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)** we are working on how to make LYMEC more diverse and inclusive. We have also updated the LYMEC Code of Conduct together.

Alexandre Servais (LYMEC Bureau): I am the Events and Projects Officer in LYMEC. There are two elements I would like to give feedback on. Last year, we had an EYY event right before the Autumn Congress. I am happy to tell you that a lot of the elements you worked on have now been included in the Renew Manifesto. Secondly, I want to highlight this year's Young Changemakers' Academy. Some Changemakers are also here in the room. What we have launched this year is an Alumni Network to support the YCA participants in every step of the journey. I really want to thank them all.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): I have been trying to coordinate LYMEC and IFLRY. I have brought the two leadership together after that the IFLRY leadership was elected. As for the upcoming IFLRY GA in Colombia, I know that the prices for flights are extremely expensive for those travelling from Europe. This is why I will be the only one to travel there on behalf of LYMEC. I will make sure to make your voice heard. Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you can't make it, I can bring your voice there in my position.

Marina Sedlo (Chair): opens the floor for questions from the delegates. She clarifies that there is also a microphone on the other side of the room.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I would like to start to thank you for your reports. I want to start by saying that during the past year what LYMEC has shown is that we are becoming stronger in political communication. **Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau)**, you are really showing the world what our policies are. Thank you also for the events that you offer to the members, they have become much more professional. I have got some negative things to say as well, the original manifesto proposal and the process behind that, was a joke. I am happy that you were open to making us work on it to make it presentable. Since this is the most important resolution that the Bureau puts forward every 5 years, I want to ask each Bureau Member what was their contribution to the manifesto. On the delegation system, you know it has been a very important topic over the last years, a lot of MOs spent time trying to find a compromise. And then, after all these hours of preparation, we receive an email right before the Congress stating the withdrawal of the proposal on the Congress rules. I think it is cowardly and disrespectful to all the MOs that put work in there. How can we trust the Bureau to resubmit the proposal and not withdraw it again? I have 3 more questions on **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**'s report.

Within the Manifesto group, are we also promoting policies that do not necessarily have a youth focus? What have you achieved in the LYMEC Manifest Group so far? How do you ensure that the work on the ALDE manifesto is properly done?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): To address your point on the delegation system, it is true that work was coming on every part. We were already in talks with some MOs and we tried to reach a compromise together. It shows that even if we tried, we did not manage. Our current idea is just to postpone the delegation proposal and not to cancel it. We want to review it to make sure that everyone is included. We know that there were some mistakes, therefore it is better to step back.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): We are all humans. We try to do what we can. We saw there was a lot of interest in this proposal, then we realised that the discussion on this topic takes a lot of time and that the Congress cannot revolve around this issue only. We want to include all of your voices and next time we will make it even more official. We are very sorry for all the work that has been put in it without a decision at this Congress.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): I was there when the Congress in 2019 passed the last electoral manifesto. It was criticised because it was too long. We decided to go on with a decalogue for you to have common points and influence policy, something easy to use in practice. I take it that we could have included more content. I am just one person, I know this is not an excuse, but we had the ALDE Party Congress delegation, Digital Assembly, Policy Book Renewal and I am doing this in my free time on a voluntary basis. When you reached out, I took the criticism and tried to work with you. Not that many MOs cooperated anyways. But I want to thank **JuLis** and **JOVD** for all their work. I am happy even if there was controversy: LYMEC is about finding a compromise among all of your colours of liberalism. I hope this will be reflected in the final version of the manifesto later today.

Roelof Dik (JOVD): You are working really hard. What do you appreciate the most about working with each other as a team? What is the relationship between LYMEC and IFLRY? I don't want to mistake kindness for weakness on the delegation system. I also have some questions for **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)**. I really liked the policy briefings, can we get them again in the future? Regarding the manifesto, what could have been done better and what was done very well?

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): We are a great team, like a family. We are working very well. After one year you notice what people are good at. I really appreciate the proactivity in the Bureau. Even if I have a certain responsibility, we always try to jump in when someone else needs it, always taking into account our capacities, limits and personal situations. As for IFLRY, we try to improve our relationship. We arranged calls and coordinated our calendars so that we won't have overlapping events in the future.

We are cooperating well and our two Secretary Generals live in the same country, which makes communication easier. They are meeting regularly.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): As for the next steps of the delegation system, we want to make it fair for all of you. To give an example, we are not fully booked here and this is because we had many last minute cancellations. This is not fair for all of you who might have sent an additional delegate. The next step will be to find a way to improve direct communication towards our members. Remember that this is a long term plan, which means that the system will only be implemented in 2024, the Congress after we change the rules.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Thank you. Regarding your first question, everyone standing behind me is outstanding. Every time it gets too much I can reach out and they are there to help. On your 3 questions, I am happy that you like the Policy Briefings. I think it is a very good addition to our work. We hope to fix the office situation very soon and once we have a new policy person we will resume the policy briefings too. Since **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)** got an applause, I would like to thank **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)** now, as she was the one sending out the Policy Briefings the past few months. Moreover, if you ask me what the best resolution that the LYMEC delegation has submitted to the ALDE Party Congress is, I cannot answer as each of them brings a very new perspective to the ALDE Party. The one on inclusivity puts forward some very progressive points on diversity that are not part of the ALDE policy now. The one on climate change is also very important. The one on digitalisation really addresses new ways to arrange governments. This is what we wanted to focus on. On the manifesto, it is very difficult to find the balance on how much to reach out to you not to make it too much. But I take this criticism and I appreciate your involvement. The final product will be a good one for all of us. With **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**, we have participated on several manifesto Working Groups organised by the ALDE Party. This is a joint exercise, but the manifesto will help us give a framework to our policies for the upcoming elections.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): Regarding reinforcing physical and digital security measures mentioned earlier briefly by **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)**, is it a cautious measure or was there a specific incident?

Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom): The level of work you put into this is something that we see and feel. Communication has never been better, and you have my admiration for that. **Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President)** you asked that you hope you still have our trust. And although you still have the trust of our organisation, it has been severely hurt. The Bureau is taking such an active stance on such a divisive issue as the delegation system. We voted on this several times, we even voted against this, and now you think it is a good idea to put your name on it. I don't see how I can look at you

and think that you are representing every member of LYMEC anymore. We will see what the Congress has to say.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): As we said before on the delegation system, this is not something that every Bureau does. You know the background of it. Given this, things could have been different. However, we still have enough data to create a plan. We see that a lot of members have different opinions and feelings on that. The voices of your organisation will be more included. It is impossible to have it fair for everyone, but I hope you still have trust in us.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I will address the question of **Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten)**. We took some precautionary measures as security is getting more and more in the focus of political organisation. When I started in the Bureau a few years back, we had no CRM System. That has changed now. At the same time, we started using more and more digital tools that made us more vulnerable. Now we have time and space in the office to focus on security. We are now quite secure when it comes to passwords, documents and files that might be sensitive. **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** can give some context.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General): We invested in a safe box in the office to keep the most important material safe. We depend a lot on the ALDE Party as we share offices, so new cameras were put at the entrance of the office to make sure there is no bad surprise. It is important to be aware of physical and digital security.

Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth): The elephant in the room has been addressed already. I would like to commend the Bureau for seeing how the debate between member organisations went. The procedure on the delegation system worked in the wrong way. That is why I think it is a good thing to withdraw the proposal just before the Congress. This withdrawal was not cowardly but brave, as you made a step back because you decided to listen to us, members. My question would be: what is the opinion of the Bureau on organising a Working Group on this? As regards travels, I have heard that some members had to cancel their trips because they were too expensive. This means they cannot come to the specific venues that we choose. Can you expand on this matter that is close to MOs' heart? Thank you again for your work.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Thank you for your remarks. As for the delegation system, we will have our next Bureau Meeting tomorrow, but I can already tell you what our thoughts are. The Bureau will have a crucial part in reshaping the proposal. We want Working Groups where member organisations have representatives along with the Bureau. The official process starts tomorrow.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): We are aware of the trips being expensive, but it is out of our hands. The only thing we can do is to set the 8 weeks deadline. You get the confirmation to the Congress very early on and we can only make calculations for the people who are registered. When someone is unsure about their participation, we cannot confirm the delegates right away. People can still book their travels well in advance. Maybe next time we can practise this. We ask you to book your flight soon. We know that the travels are too expensive, it is the case for everyone.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): When I mention different colours of liberalism, it means that I understand we disagree on many things. We have to keep in mind we are here to have important discussions, listen to each other, be kind and respectful. At the end of the day we should be able to walk together out of the Congress door as friends.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks the Bureau and moves on to the next agenda point.

13. Membership issues

a. Applications for Associate Membership

- **Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark applies for associate membership.**

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there are several applications for Associate Membership at this Congress. **Marina Sedlo (Chair)** invites **William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark)** to present the application of his organisation for Associate Membership.

William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark): I want to present my organisation. We stand with the Classic Liberalism Ideology, as we mainly advocate for lower taxes, more freedom, and less state power. At this moment last year we were 800 members. This year we have almost tripled our size, to around 2000 members split in 18 local departments all over the country. It is structured in a National Assembly once a year, the highest authority in our organisation. This Assembly elects the Executive Committee, as a VP I am part of the Executive Committee. We also have a Board of representatives. When it comes to administration, our main office is located in Copenhagen, we have a highly optimised administration with one student employee working there who does the payments and accounting. The rest are all volunteers. We have a lot of fundraising and grants from the government. Our mother party is Liberal Alliance, led by Alex Vanopslagh. They have gained a lot of popularity. Before we were 2%, now we are 9% since the last election. We are doing well in the polls, last week we hit 12.6%. **Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark** has previously been in LYMEC, I think back in 2014. We had to leave because of internal struggles we had to focus on. But now we are back in force, and want to become a member. We are also members of Ungdommens Nordiske Råd (NLU), the Danish-Ukrainian Political Network.

Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark has worked with the ALDE Party and the Renew Europe Group, but doesn't currently have a member of the EU parliament. We hope to get one next time as part of the momentum we have at the moment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks **William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark)** and opens the floor for questions. She reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides' list.

Roelof Dik (JOVD): We already have 2 organisations in Denmark. What are the key differences between you and the other organisations?

William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark): The main difference is the ideology. **Radikal Ungdom** is social liberalism. **Venstres Ungdom** is classical liberalism, but they just went into coalition with the social democrats.

Olena Dudko (EYU): Two questions. You mentioned you were a member of LYMEC, why did you decide to reapply? Secondly, when dealing with your policy and social media, what is your position on 'Dexit' and the EU?

William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark): The two main factors are time and energy, but we also changed our policy. Last year we wanted to have a Dexit, but now we want to be a member of the EU, while changing it from the inside.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): Before, you rejected federalism. LYMEC is very federalist. How does this gel with your position on European federalism?

William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark): In general, our manifesto is very basic, because internally we are very divided. Personally, I am very federal minded. To uphold the many views in our organisation, the manifesto is basic and doesn't include that view.

Katharine Macy (Young Liberals): We were wondering what your policies on LGBT and Trans-rights are and what are the actions you have taken in Denmark so far.

William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark): We were one of the first movers of gay rights and trans rights in Denmark. We have done a lot on this topic.

Julius Lajtha (JUNOS): How about gender balance in the organisation? What do you intend to do about it?

William Darboe (Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark): It is a big problem in our organisation, we are not diverse, there are mainly white men in suits. We have started a new women's network in our organisation to embrace diversity. We are trying to take an extra chance to change this and motivate female members to apply for leadership positions.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) Thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark**. She invites all associate members and guests to leave the room. She 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 Budapest. Online participants will have to move to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark.

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

Vote on Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark membership:

For- 119

Against- 35

Abstain- 30

Liberal Alliance Ungdom Denmark is therefore accepted as an associate member organisation of LYMEC. Welcome!

-----**Coffee Break**-----

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)** 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 unmute themselves 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
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra - JLA	3
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	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)	7
Czech Republic	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	5
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	3
France	Jeunes Radicaux	
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai 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
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 Progresívci - Young Progressives	
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
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1

197

Simple majority of those present

98.5

Two thirds of present

131.3333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 70

There were 197 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Youth Forum of Naša stranka**
- **Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)**
- **Jeunes Radicaux taken out - unpaid membership fee 2023**

Membership Issues

➤ **Project Neon applies for associate membership.**

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there is another application for Associate Membership at this Congress. **Marina Sedlo (Chair)** invites **Vassilis Apostolopoulos (Project Neon)** to present the application of his organisation for Associate Membership.

Vassilis Apostolopoulos (Project Neon): Thank you for letting me have this experience with you. It is important for us, because it is for us the first time that we are participating in LYMEC. The present business plan aims to illustrate and provide an in-depth description of N.E.O.N., the main Liberal Civics Hub, focused on Greek youth. There is no political party, so we are on our own. We are a liberal think tank. The main action pillars are identifying, training and developing the youth civic engagement, and electing NEON members. We now have 7 members elected in student bodies. NEON envisions the liberal youth to lead the battle of ideas in Greece. The organisation consists of passionate young individuals, who strongly believe in the ideas of open society, free economy, rule of law and sustainability. Its mission is the empowerment and enlargement of the Greek liberal youth through activism, educational activities, and local electoral successes. To this aspect, the document aims to map the organisation's strategy towards expansion and identify the required financial resources. The organisational structure is based on a mixed system. The board of directors is elected by the members. The three trustees are **Odyseas Vlachonikolos**, Secretary General; **Vasilis Apostolopoulos**, Director; **Christos Zervas**, Communications Officer. NEON has established communication with media organisations, journalists, civil society organisations and prominent academics that communicate to significant audiences in Greece and are open to NEON's ideas. Let's move to our activities: in 2020, we have protested for freedom of expression in our academic institutions, after a brutal attack from anarchist thugs against the rector of Athens University. In 2021, we protested in Taksim Square, during the IFLRY event "BootCamp Civic Activism" in Istanbul, against the Turkish withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. The same year, we also participated in Athens Pride 2021, supporting the LGBTIQ+ agenda

for equal rights. The problem is that we have a political landscape with far-left and far-right. The disappointment of the voters from the current political status quo in the country created two significant problems: the increase of abstention and the rise of extreme political parties. Abstention from national elections has increased significantly in the last decade. While in the parliamentary elections of 1996, 2000 and 2004 the abstention ranged at 24%, since 2007 a significant increase in abstention has been recorded, peaking at 44% in the elections of September 2015. The best example of an extreme political party is the far right and racist party of Golden Dawn, which was almost non-existent (highest percentage achieved was 0,3%) until the elections of 2009. Although, in the elections of 2012, they utilised the political instability created by the financial crisis and achieved around 7%. As polarisation still prevails in the Greek political scene, many voters (mainly the youth) feel that they are not expressed by the existing political parties. Competitive landscape is a tricky part because there is no tradition for non-profits in political or civil society in Greece. Therefore, the only political civic engagement activities that we have identified as competitive are the ones organised by some political parties. We have a problem with attracting women too. We have a goal of attracting female leaders. This has been successful by finding female leaders and entrepreneurs that are liberal and hopefully will encourage other women to also become liberal.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks **Vassilis Apostolopoulos (Project Neon)** and opens the floor for questions. She reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides list.

Fabian Grepper (JFS): Your organisation was just founded a few months ago. There are rumours that there are disagreements with IFLRY and that you are about to split your organisation. How do you keep your organisation together, so we do not have the same problem as with our last Greek member organisation?

Vassilis Apostolopoulos (Project Neon): To address the elephant in the room, we are a different organisation. We started as a student group. We have existed for three years. The second point is that we do have experience, because Greek universities are far more difficult than the ones in the normal world. It's the most extreme way of politics. The third point is the fundraising, we do not have a political party, we raise funds on our own. I met the founder of Students For Liberty, he has raised millions. We unfortunately do not raise millions, but he taught us how to fundraise. We found a way to be sustainable and independent from Greek parties.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): Firstly, could you elaborate further on the environment you operate in? What is your plan to attract more members? What is your long term plan?

Vassilis Apostolopoulos (Project Neon): We believe that everything starts online. We started a social media campaign, we collaborated with a huge media outlet. We did the protest 'OK Boomer', on young people talking about politics. We attract attention, this has worked, we collaborated with influencers.

Now we try to create our own brand on social media such as TikTok and Instagram. This is working. We attract new followers. Then, we ask them to join our events through open calls. After social media, we use protests and symbolic stuff as well. Greek parties voted against the statement that Russia is a war criminal. So we made a 'Little Putin' and we took photos with him saying "thank you for your vote". This is how we increase the engagement of members and get to the streets instead of remaining in our offices.

Guido Von Backer (JOVD): What are your stances on responsible taxation in Greece and their debt in the European Union?

Vassilis Apostolopoulos (Project Neon): About the European stance: we are pro-European for many reasons. We do not have enough checks and balances in our society, we need the EU for this. Too many people voted for Brexit. The second thing is taxation. I pay 44% of my income to taxes. Also, I have to pay one year before for the year after, even if I don't know if I will have income or not. The tax system is messed up in Greece because of corruption. We have doubled the amount of public servants that we had before the crisis. We hire people to do nothing, do it badly, and in a non-ethical way. High taxes and corruption: I am fully against that. I hate taxes too.

Makar Navitski (Estonian Center Party Youth): It is nice to see a growing liberal movement. What are your future plans when the students who are active in your organisation now won't be students anymore? Will you become a political party? I would also like to ask about your number of members now and when you were created?

Vassilis Apostolopoulos (Project Neon): We have 100 members. Our legal entity was founded 6 months ago. The informal part is the student party. We are 3 years old, started as students, but now we are bigger and include more millennials. We want to train students, but in a real-life environment: university. Our organisation is a good way to become more political. In NEON, we have the three pillars that I mentioned before, and we have to follow all three. The third one is to get NEON members elected, but we are not there yet. We need to start with the grassroots work, and then create an electorate.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) Thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Project Neon**. She invites all associate members and guests to leave the room. She 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 Budapest. Online participants will have to move to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of Project Neon.

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

Vote on Project Neon membership:

For- 157

Against- 8

Abstain- 18

Project Neon is therefore accepted as an associate member organisation of LYMEC.

Welcome!

➤ **Democratic Youth of Kosovo applies for associate membership.**

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there is another application for Associate Membership at this Congress. **Marina Sedlo (Chair)** invites **Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo)** to present the application of her organisation for Associate Membership.

Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo): I want to congratulate LYMEC for this wonderful organisation. We are against the Russian aggression; we stand with Ukraine and understand them. Who is PDK? The Democratic Party of Kosovo is a party founded on values of liberty, human rights and freedom. It is the centre-right party. We share our political and programmatic goals with them. The democratic youth work as a catalyst of PDK. The PDK operates on the principle of internal democracy, on the basis of the principle of equal vote of all members. Each member has the right to defend their own view, but the decision of the majority. It is open for citizens of 16-25 years. We have a youth office where we work and organise awareness campaigns and various activities, both social and political. We are a small country, but we have a record number of young people who want to work to increase the quality of life in Kosovo. We just finished the youth elections, and we have 7000 young people registered. We, the young democrats of Kosovo, would be very grateful if you would accept us in the European liberal family. Young people deserve to have a space to promote their ideas.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks **Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo)** and opens the floor for questions. She reminds that we only take questions from the Openslides list.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): Could you share with us what your main political topics of the year are and the way you plan to incorporate them in LYMEC?

Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo): We have just been elected. We want to be involved in youth opportunities to join the trainings on soft skills and get opportunities to work.

Gertjan Roels (Jong VLD): I am very happy that an organisation from the youngest country in Europe wants to play an active role in LYMEC. Do you find it important to have some independence from the mother party? With regards to European integration, how is the dialogue between Sarajevo and Pristina going? Do you have contact with the 2 Serbian organisations that we have?

Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo): We are independent and the party gives us a space for our offices and meetings. We are free to decide what we want to do. As for our policies, we focus on regional cooperation. During the summer we will have a summer academy that we will participate in.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): What are your ideas for cooperation with Balkan organisations and how do you see this cooperation?

Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo): We want to cooperate with other organisations at LYMEC. We want to be part of the decisions. LYMEC is a big opportunity, because we are isolated. We do not have the freedom to move freely in Europe. Because our country has had a conflict before, it does not mean we cannot enact change.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): Thank you for being here, if there is one region in Europe that needs more liberalism, it is Southeast Europe. The PDK is known for ongoing problems with corruption. Many PDK mayors have been arrested for corruption and embezzlement. What does your organisation do to tackle corruption and campaign for more transparency? The former PDK leader - Hashim Thaçi is currently on trial for war crimes in front of the International Criminal Tribunal. Do you support the International Criminal Tribunal process and has your organisation distanced itself from Mr. Thaçi?

Ramona Goga (USR Tineret): Could you elaborate on the fact that in some articles you are judged as being close to the liberation army of Kosovo?

Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo): About Mr. Thaçi, we are with the party, we believe in the incidents of the PDK. Everything they have done was for our country. We believe they are right. Our party is working to decrease corruption.

Marius Gobet (Young Green Liberals Switzerland): Multilateralism and the rule of law are extremely important. Would your party support and recognize, or at least reject the legal decision of the chamber of Kosovo? Second question, there is not a lot of talk about energy or green development in your program. Can you elaborate on that?

Makar Navitski (Estonian Center Party Youth): I have a simple question: was the preparation to this Congress done only within the youth organisation, or was it discussed with the mother party? Because this answer shows a connection. Second question: travelling. Now we can only see you online, but would you be able to attend LYMEC events in-person in the future? The communication in-person is always better and easier.

Arbnoraa Salihu (Democratic Youth of Kosovo): Sometimes we cannot hear the questions very well, due to the connection. We want to be part of your organisation, to be there in-person, of course it is different. We are going to prepare our political plans and propose resolutions at the Congress with all of you. Answering to the first question, we believe that the liberation army is going to be back here in Kosovo. We have been doing this work for many years, we discussed it with the mother party, and we took steps together. We are young and new. We are working to get more freedom to make decisions in our way.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) Thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Democratic Youth of Kosovo**. She invites all associate members and guests to leave the room. She 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 Budapest. Online participants will have to move to a breakout room.

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

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

Vote on Democratic Youth of Kosovo membership:

For- 18

Against- 157

Abstain- 17

Democratic Youth of Kosovo is not accepted as an associate member organisation of LYMEC.

➤ **CUB Junior applies for associate membership.**

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there is yet another application for Associate Membership at this Congress. **Marina Sedlo (Chair)** invites **Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior)** to present the application of his organisation for Associate Membership.

Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior): I come from the Republic of Moldova. I want to present **CUB Junior**. **CUB Junior** is the youth organisation of the only existing and relevant liberal party in Moldova - Coalition for Unity and Prosperity (CUB). **CUB Junior** was formed on January 23, 2023 and has over 100 members,

with local organisations in the most important cities of the country. We want to extend our network in the whole country. We were born free, in a country that our parents and grandparents managed to break away from the Soviet empire. Now is the time for us, young people, to break our grandparents and parents out from the communist mentality. Joining LYMEC is one of the top priorities for our organisation. Here people do real politics and you are for sure going to rule in some years. Thank you.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks **Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior)** and opens the floor for questions. She reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides list.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): Can you tell us more about your struggles as liberals in Moldova? What are your current impressions on Transnistria?

Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior): People in Moldova take things for granted and are not ready to assume their responsibility. We have social questions because many people are not open minded, therefore we try to promote liberal messages in Moldova. These messages might be unpopular, but they are liberal. As for Transnistria, it should resist the continuous blackmail of the Russian government: the Transnistrian territory is part of the Republic of Moldova, all international organisations affirm that. The government's actions towards this issue are not brave enough and we should not succumb to the mentioned pressure.

Olena Dudko (European Youth of Ukraine): You want to expand on the Moldovan territory. How do you want to do that? What is the project you are the most proud of and why?

Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior): Even today, the team is having meetings in other cities of my country. Moldova is hard to convince and engage. Having limited resources, it is important to use them wisely. We work hard on things that we consider as a priority. A big project we are preparing for this summer is to go around the country and give people opportunities that we take for granted but that they don't have, such as cultural trainings for example. We are also working hard on policy in cooperation with our mother party.

Gertjan Roels (Jong VLD): Your mother party was only founded in December. You are applying very soon for LYMEC membership. Don't you need to consolidate your work more? In addition to that, LYMEC has already a member organisation, which is the **Liberal Youth of Moldova** linked to President Sandu's party. Even if the party is in EPP, they also consider themselves as liberals, so how do you relate to that since you say you are the only true liberal party in Moldova?

Tatu Pernu (Finnish Center Youth): Where do you stand on gender balance issues? Are you economically liberal?

Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior): On the first two, I don't think we should wait more before applying for LYMEC. It's ok to learn by doing. At the Stockholm Congress of the ALDE Party, CUB is going to join ALDE too.

This way we can learn best practices from other countries and implement them in ours. On the second question, our current government came to power by promising things that they did not implement. Their policies are very leftist. The President's party would be in ALDE if they were to be that liberal, yet they are in EPP. We have informed the Bureau about this. We are the only party that is publicly liberal, with serious statements about the economy too. On gender equality, we are trying to keep it as a standard. We have a good balance now. My Vice-President is a woman and she's very brave. We want to be part of a civilised world. Whatever the majority of the people here vote on, is going to be considered by our party.

Sean Bennet (Young Liberals): You mention structural changes in your presentation, but there's not much on social policies and campaigns. What is your position on that?

Ion Bulgac (CUB Junior): We are not going to invent anything new here. What I can assure is that we respect what you respect. At the same time, on social policies, we deem it important to make as many people in the Republic of Moldova think freely and feel free. We do share your values.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) Thanks the speakers for the questions and proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **CUB Junior**. She invites all associate members and guests to leave the room. She 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 Budapest. Online participants will have to move to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of CUB Junior.

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

Vote on CUB Junior membership:

For- 177

Against- 8

Abstain- 6

CUB Junior is therefore accepted as an associate member organisation of LYMEC.

Welcome!

- **Mladi Gibanje Sloboda applies for associate membership.**

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there is one last application for Associate Membership at this Congress. **Marina Sedlo (Chair)** invites **Ivan Pokorn (Mladi Gibanje Svoboda)** to present the application of his organisation for Associate Membership.

Ivan Pokorn (Mladi Gibanje Svoboda): As the International Secretary of **Mladi Gibanje Svoboda**, I would like to present my organisation. The mother party, Gibanje Svoboda was founded on 26th of January, 2022 and our organisation was founded on the 9th of June, 2022. We strive for freedom, dialogue between generations, green transition, improving the quality of life in rural areas, empowerment of liberal values. We want young people to have a say in national and local politics. We have 3 young members of parliament under the age of 30. We work closely with our mother party. We actively prepare policy papers, communicate with young people regarding current issues, and organise talks, events, and summer schools. We share our core values with LYMEC and we are eager to organise international events and projects together, such as the Summer school in late August that we are currently planning. We don't just write manifestos. We take action. Thank you for your attention! Feel free to contact me via email for the summer school taking place in late August and early September at ivan.pokorn@gibanjesvoboda.si.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks **Ivan Pokorn (Mladi Gibanje Svoboda)** and opens the floor for questions. She reminds that we only take questions from the OpenSlides list. There are no people on the speakers' list.

Marina Sedlo (Chair): Since there are no questions, she proposes to move to a closed session about the membership application of **Mladi Gibanje Svoboda**. She invites all associate members and guests to leave the room. She 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 Budapest. Online participants will have to move to a breakout room.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the associate membership of Mladi Gibanje Svoboda.

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

Vote on Mladi Gibanje Svoboda membership:

For- 165

Against- 0

Abstain- 11

Mladi Gibanje Svoboda is therefore accepted as an associate member organisation of LYMEC. Welcome!

b. Applications for Full Membership

- **Mladi Progresivci Slovakia applies for full membership.**

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there are two applications for Full membership at this Congress. **Marina Sedlo (Chair)** invites the first organisation to present. **Stefan Cikovsky (Mladi Progresivci Slovakia)** and **Khaled Elbaz (Mladi Progresivci Slovakia)** to present the application of their organisation for Full membership.

Stefan Cikovsky (Mladi Progresivci Slovakia): We are here to apply for full membership at LYMEC. Our organisation is Liberal, Green and European and is the youth branch of Progresivne Slovensko. Mladi Progresivci Slovakia was founded in 2018, and then applied for associate membership to LYMEC the same year. Our first official Congress was held in 2019, followed by the one in 2020. In 2021, Mladi SPOLU joined our party and the year after David Dej, our former Co-President, became a board member of the mother party. Although our latest Congress took place in 2022, we are looking forward to many more to come! In the last years and months, we have been cooperating with several organisations, both on the national and international level, not only LYMEC but also NDI, FNF.

Khaled Elbaz (Mladi Progresivci Slovakia): We were very active in the last campaign ahead of the Slovakian Presidential elections and EU elections 2019 and we aim to be even more present for the 2024 upcoming elections. During the Communal Elections of 2022, 6 out of 10 candidates were elected from **Mladi Progresivci Slovakia!**

Stefan Cikovsky (Mladi Progresivci Slovakia): One of our biggest achievements is 'We listen to the youth', our very own podcast. We have also been very active in campaigning and supporting Ukraine ever since the beginning of the Russian invasion.

Khaled Elbaz (Mladi Progresivci Slovakia): We strongly believe in bringing ahead youth perspectives and ideas within our mother party; we are confident in a liberal future of Slovakia as well as in a liberal future of **Mladi Progresivci Slovakia** in LYMEC! We need to be fully integrated in LYMEC and fully able to represent the liberal voice of the youth in Slovakia. Maybe today you get to play a role in Slovakia's first liberal government!

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks **Stefan Cikovsky** and **Khaled Elbaz (Mladi Progressivci Slovakia)** and opens the floor for questions. She reminds that we only take questions from OpenSlides. There are no questions from members.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress to a closed session to discuss the membership application. She 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 Bucharest and move to a breakout room online.

Congress enters into a closed session to discuss the full membership of Mladi Progressivci Slovakia.

Marina Sedlo (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 Mladi Progressivci Slovakia:

For- 191

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

Mladi Progressivci Slovakia is therefore accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC.

Congratulations!

Marina Sedlo (Chair): Since it is almost lunch time, we do not have enough time to discuss the full membership application from **ZeMolodizhka**. We would like to propose to now discuss suspensions, and if we have time, also disaffiliations. We will move the discussion about the full membership application from **ZeMolodizhka** after lunch. No one is opposing this proceeding.

c. Suspensions

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there is one proposed suspension and gives the floor to **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)**.

Suspension:

- **Youth Forum AKR – Kosovo**

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We are currently proposing to suspend the organisation **Youth Forum AKR – Kosovo** as they have not paid the 2022 MO fee of 175 euros. LYMEC has no contact with the organisation, therefore we are proposing their suspension to avoid accumulation of debt.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) opens the floor for questions.

Erik Ruslajev (Estonian Center Party Youth): Do you have any contact with them?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): This is the point of the suspension, we have zero contact with them.

Marten Porte (IFLRY Representative): This has been the case for many years, why didn't we vote on their disaffiliation instead of suspension?

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): It is better to vote on suspension and then disaffiliation as they might get active again. This is the process.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) asks if anyone is against.

No one is against it, the suspension was carried. The Congress accepted the suspension of Youth Forum AKR – Kosovo.

d. Disaffiliations

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there are a few disaffiliations and gives the floor back to **Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer)**.

Disaffiliations:

- **Armenian National Congress Youth**

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We are currently proposing to suspend the organisation **Armenian National Congress Youth** as LYMEC hasn't had any contact with the organisation for years. The LYMEC Bureau no longer has information regarding the political stance or situation of the organisation. **Armenian National Congress Youth** has been suspended for four years, there has been no contact since then. Their current debt amounts to 211.64 euros for the 2018 MO fee.

- **Musavat Youth Organisation - Azerbaijan**

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We are currently proposing to suspend the organisation **Musavat Youth Organisation** as the LYMEC hasn't had any contact with the organisation for years. The LYMEC Bureau no longer has information regarding the political stance or situation of the organisation. The

organisation has been suspended for three years, there has been no contact since then. For 7 years (2013-2019), they only issued a symbolic MO yearly fee of 1 EUR; their debt was written off in 2020.

- **LIFT Hungary**

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We are currently proposing to suspend the organisation **LIFT** as the last contact with the organisation was in 2019 (pre-pandemic). We have had no contact since then and the youth organisation of the party has ceased its activities. The organisation has been suspended for four years. Their current debt amounts to 350 euros for the 2017 and 2018 MO fees.

- **Mladi LDP Serbia**

Tuuli Helind (LYMEC Treasurer): We are currently proposing to disaffiliate the organisation **Mladi LDP Serbia** as LYMEC hasn't had any contact with them for years. The organisation has been suspended for two years, we have had no contact since then. They also have accumulated a large debt; at present, there is no sign of the existence of the organisation. Their current debt amounts to 1499.88 EUR for 2021, 2019, 2018 and 2016 MO fees. There has been a debt reduction of 511.80 euros issued in 2020 for previously accumulated debt.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) No one takes the floor. She asks if anyone is against the disaffiliations of **Mladi LDP Serbia, LIFT, Musavat Youth Organisation, and Armenian National Congress Youth.**

No one is against. The Congress accepted the disaffiliation of Mladi LDP Serbia, LIFT, Musavat Youth Organisation, and Armenian National Congress Youth.

-----**LUNCH BREAK**-----

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)** 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 unmute themselves 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
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra - JLA	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale NEOS	0
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
Czech Republic	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	5
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	3
France	Jeunes Radicaux	
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai 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
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	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
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1

195

Simple majority of those present 97.5

Two thirds of present 130

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 70

There were 195 votes present at the Congress.

Mladi Progressivci Slovakia was added to the roll call.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- **Youth Forum of Naša stranka**
- **JUNOS**
- **Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)**
- **Jeunes Radicaux taken out - unpaid membership fee 2023**

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

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that there is a second application for Full membership at this Congress.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) invites **Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka)** to present the application of her organisation for Full membership.

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): **ZeMolodizhka** is the youth wing of the presidential political party "Servant of the People" led by Ukraine's President Zelenskyy. For us, **ZeMolodizhka** is a platform of development and opportunities, a tool to realise our ideas and a new environment and community of like-minded individuals. We are a powerful community of active and creative people united by ideas and principles of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. **ZeMolodizhka** was founded on 13 March 2021 and has a pyramidal structure. At the top, there is a national team, which coordinates regional and district teams, as well as united territorial communities. Let me share our biggest results so far: after only one year of hard work, we have reached 5000 members, 26 regional teams, 109 district leaders and 103 leaders in united territorial communities. Through our daily activities, we strive to engage in youth policy, implement educational, cultural, environmental and sport initiatives, unite supporters in social and community activities, we generate content and talk out loud about who we are. In one year only, we are proud to have implemented a total of 1000 projects throughout Ukraine, within the education, sport, street culture, ecology and social responsibility sectors. On the international level, several meetings were held with more than 15 Embassies in Ukraine, including the United States, Great Britain, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Denmark, Lithuania and Hungary. We have participated in the Ukrainian Diaspora Youth Forum which was attended by representatives of 24 countries. In October 2021, we took part in the school elections in Denmark and we also became participants of the Lublin Youth Triangle. For our biggest event, members of parliament, high-ranking officials from Ministries and the most active participants of **ZeMolodizhka** from all regions of the country gathered in Skadovsk from 5 to 8 of August. Supporters took part in educational activities, worked on project ideas and talked to MPs. This is the first event that united youth and deputies so strongly with common ideas. As we all know, 24 February 2022 marked the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Our leaders are actively involved in the war, both in the ranks of the Armed Forces and in the organisation of humanitarian headquarters throughout the country. Every member of the community is working for the victory of Ukraine. As you can see from these slides, ever since the beginning of the war, we have been volunteering for

humanitarian aid to victims in Kyiv; help with necessary medicines in Odesa; weaving camouflage nets in Volyn; territory cleaning and assistance to refugees in Zhytomyr; distribution of drinking water in Mykolaiv; car transfer for the Armed Forces of Ukraine; blood donation in Kherson. **ZeMolodizhka** members are also active in defence of Ukraine, such as Danylo Smetan fighting in Kharkiv; Ihor Novosadskyi in Odesa; Mykhaylo Romas in Zhytomyr. **ZeMolodizhka's** great dream is to unite young people from all regions, "sew together" the country and create a powerful youth community that would be a powerful force for constructive change. We want to do everything possible for the earliest possible victory of Ukraine, its restoration and development! And look at us, anything is possible! This picture was taken when Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the former USSR countries after an impressive victory in the democratic Presidential elections in April 2019! Thank you all for your attention. We are planning a big event, where you can join. A forum in Ukraine, if you are not too scared to come.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks **Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka)** and opens the floor for questions. She reminds that we only take questions from OpenSlides.

Anastasiia Zaiets (LDLU): Thank you. Do you agree that street activism is crucial to liberalism, also in the Ukrainian case?

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): Our President is very open to street culture. We strive to let everyone enter our community, and we are open to everyone.

Olena Dudko (EYU): Since you are the youth wing of the Servant of the People's party of Ukraine, is there anything you disagree with or condemn within the mother party?

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): Of course, we are independent. We don't have a budget from the party. We do not agree with some things done by some MPs. We are so huge, with so many different members. It was our idea to start a youth wing to enter LYMEC, only after that our mother party wanted to join the ALDE Party.

Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth): Hypothetical question: the situation in youth councils in Ukraine is complicated, there may be some politisation of it. As a youth wing, what do you think about this? Young people should be able to have their own opinions, and not be deployed by politicians.

Alina Piddubna (ZeMolodizhka): Before the war, President Zelenskyy and our youth president **Oleksander Sanchenko (ZeMolodizhka)** established a Youth Council. Anyone can join it, even people from embassies, as it is not a political entity.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) thanks the speakers and proposes to move the Congress to a closed session to discuss the membership application. She 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 Bucharest and move to a breakout room online.

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

Marina Sedlo (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- 115

Against- 35

Abstain- 37

ZeMolodizhka is not accepted as a full member organisation of LYMEC as the 2/3 majority of those present was not reached (130 votes were needed).

14. Changes to the Congress rules

Marina Sedlo (Chair) explains that the Bureau has withdrawn before the beginning of the Congress on Friday, the proposal of a change for the delegation system so that isn't on the agenda anymore at this point. She further explains that the first four amendments have gotten a positive recommendation from the Working Group. She asks if anyone is against them. No one is against, so they are accepted.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 1 and 2 to Article 1**

The content of this amendment has two additions, it is that the Congress meets at least twice every year in order to elect, dismiss, and discharge Bureau members **and (1) other positions and also (2) appoint the Secretary General** upon Bureau proposal.

Article 1 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 3 to Article 3**

The content of this amendment is to add that the Congress works in public, **except when there is a default closed session under the membership issues agenda point.**

Article 3 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 4 to Article 5**

The content of this amendment puts the common practice in the rules, that 'Immediately after the confirmation of the Chairs, the Congress shall appoint two persons and the Secretary General charged with producing a written record of the Congress...'

Article 5 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 5 to Article 7**

The content of this amendment is to add: '... if done so urgently after the decision has been rendered through a point of order'.

Article 7 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Article 9**

The content of this amendment is to modify "Member Organisations are free to distribute their votes within their respective delegations" by "**The respective Heads of Delegation from the Member Organisations vote on behalf of the whole delegation**".

○ **Amendment 6 to Article 9**

Marina Sedlo (Chair): there is no recommendation on Amendment 6 to Article 9. Are there any questions?

Julius Graack (JuLis): I want my delegation to be able to vote. I want to be able to give delegates in my delegation voting rights in the future, so that everyone can take a more active role. I don't want this to be a forum where only International Officers are debating and discussing. Some of the members from my delegation already took the floor today, but I also want to make sure that they can cast a vote. Please vote against this amendment. If you want to have votes as Head of Delegation, you can still have them, even with that rule. Please give other delegations the liberty to spread their votes. And also, when it comes to Openslides, it is not a big issue to allocate the votes accordingly. I checked, and we in **JuLis** have Openslides as well.

Roelof Dik (JOVD): Vote against this. It is important that every delegation can distribute the votes the way they want to.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): I would urge you to vote in favour of it. We are a delegated organisation. You represent your organisation's opinion, not your own opinion. If there is a big division in your organisation you abstain, instead of splitting your votes.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): Why do we want the head of delegation to vote for the whole delegation? No, we are not the bad Bureau who doesn't want more participation. If you have ever organised something like this, it's very very hard in the background. Yes, **JuLis** has 1 vote per delegation member at their Congress, that's not a lot of votes per person. It is too much work for the roll call too. What would happen if one person of the delegation is here and the others are not? We cannot distribute all the votes on the spot and put it from an organisation to a person. It is very hard work in the technical sphere in the background. This solution would not be administrable and we would lose a lot of time during the Congress.

Felix Schulx (IMS Delegate): Please vote against this for our liberal values. We want to put the individual first. The argument is that there are technical issues. We should put our core argument first, so vote against this.

Marina Sedlo (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.

Vote on Amendment 6 to Article 9 of the Congress Rules:

For - 117

Against - 65

Abstain - 6

The amendment did not reach the 2/3 majority (130 votes needed). It is not carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Article 17**

The content of this amendment is to add on the amendments to urgency resolutions point: (2) point 5 second reading: '... statutory deadlines as set in the appendix of these Congress rules, they **can be proposed until the deadline set by the Chairs of the Congress before the agenda point on resolutions**'.

○ **Amendment 7 to Article 17**

Marina Sedlo (Chair): This amendment had no recommendation from the Working Group. **JuLis** is on the speakers' list for amendment 7 to article 17 of the Congress Rules.

Julius Graack (JuLis): The point is about urgency resolutions. What it does is that amendments and amendments to amendments can only be added until the deadline set by the chair. With normal resolutions that is fine. With urgency resolutions it is sometimes impossible to write amendments or

amendments to amendments. For example, **JuLis** has this rule for all resolutions. We also work with openslides. It works. If we accept this, this might result in us not being able to discuss the urgency resolutions properly.

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): I want to step out of my VP role here, and speak as a member of **JUNOS** who had this rule. This was chaos. After deadlines were set, it was no problem anymore. You could have great discussions. Please vote in favour of this amendment, to make it easier to administer this at the Congress.

Marina Sedlo (Chair): There are no other speakers, so we will start the vote.

Vote on Amendment 7 to Article 17 of the Congress Rules:

For - 109

Against - 64

Abstain - 18

The amendment did not reach the 2/3 majority (130 votes needed). It is not carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 8 to Article 19**

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): The content of this amendment is to ADD: "(1) A request to state a point of order can be taken (DELETE: either by a raising of hands, or simply calling) **in the way announced by the Chairs at the beginning of the Congress**".

Amendment 8 to Article 19 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is carried by the Congress.

➤ **Amending Congress Rules - Amendment 9 to Article 26**

Ines Holzegger (LYMEC Vice-President): The content of this amendment is to ADD: (2) point 1 - Correct to **9 LYMEC delegates to the ALDE Party Congress**.

Amendment 9 to Article 26 received a positive recommendation from the Working Group. It is carried by the Congress.

15. Presentation and vote on the outcomes of the Policy Book renewal Working Group.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): With this Working Group we updated the first half of chapter 9 on international and external relations of the EU. It was already discussed during the digital assembly so we can directly move to a vote on the matter.

❖ Chapter 9 - Resolutions to archive (Outcome of the Policy Book Renewal process)

Marina Sedlo (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 first half of Chapter 9:

For - 151

Against - 0

Abstentions - 23

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

❖ Chapter 9 - Update outcomes 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.

Marina Sedlo (Chair) proposes to move to a vote on the renewal of the resolutions of the first part of Chapter 9 and opens the vote.

Vote on the outcomes of the Policy Book renewal of half of Chapter 9:

For - 157

Against - 0

Abstentions - 15

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

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Thank you for the hard work on the Policy Book. For all spectrums of liberalism, the Policy Book renewal is a political process. If you want to have your views

represented, please join the Working Group. You should put in the effort to be part of this process. We will be working next on the final archival with the last part of Chapter 9 of the LYMEC Policy Book.

16. Motions

➤ Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct, adopted in 2019 at the LYMEC Spring Congress in Brussels, Belgium, has been amended by the Bureau in order to make it fit with the Equality and Diversity Plan. It has never been updated ever since its adoption. Moreover, the modification of the Code of Conduct come as a consequence of some comments that the Internal Auditors had. The ombudspersons, which were not mentioned in the original document, are an important figure of LYMEC for cases of violence or harassment. These figures have now been introduced in the Code of Conduct too with these modifications.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We are a bit behind schedule, so we should try to be fast. Amendments will be voted on an 'anyone against' basis. When we get to the final document we will vote on openslides.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau) can explain the changes to the Code of Conduct.

Ellinor Juth (LYMEC Bureau): It is quite basic, we reviewed the Code of Conduct and some points needed to be adapted. You can see them on Openslides.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) states that no one is on the speakers' list. We are now therefore going to vote on openslides on the Code of Conduct as amended. The vote is now open.

Vote on the updated Code of Conduct:

For - 170

Against - 3

Abstentions - 7

The Congress carries the changes to the Code of Conduct.

➤ Manifesto

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We are moving to the electoral manifesto for the 2024 European elections. We are going to look at all the amendments first since you had the chance to discuss the text already during the Working Groups and the feedback session beforehand.

❖ **M2 Amendment 3/ JOVD**

This amendment was carried by the Working Group. It is simply adding a new title to the first part.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against. **The amendment is carried by the Congress.**

❖ **M2 Amendment to Amendment 4 / JuLis**

Julius Graack (JuLis): This text includes the new title of the manifesto in the preface. It also includes the new text with all the bullet points that people wanted to add on this.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): All these amendments to amendments have been submitted because of the participatory process and outcome of the Working Groups. I would highly recommend a positive vote on this.

Vote on M2 Amendment to Amendment 4

For - 158

Against - 10

Abstentions - 6

Amendment to Amendment 4 is carried by the Congress. Therefore, Amendment 4 and Amendment 24 both fall.

❖ **M2 amendment 2/ Jonge Democraten**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It deletes one sentence at the end.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against.

Amendment 2 is carried by the Congress.

❖ **M2 Amendment 5/ JOVD**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It gives a proper title to this section.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against.

Amendment 5 is carried by the Congress.

❖ **M2 Amendment to Amendment 7 / JuLis**

Julius Graack (JuLis): We agreed to have a compromise on the last bullet point. All the bullet points that we added are in line with the Policy Book.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): In response to this, the bullet points are not controversial, but LYMEC has no resolution calling for agricultural subsidies to be cut off. The only point where we call for it, is

the manifesto of 2019. Also in that instance, that call just slipped into the previous manifesto without being in the Policy Book. We shouldn't repeat the mistake this time.

Julius Graack (JuLis): You are free to call for a vote. I think normally the Bureau treats all policies that are in the Policy Book equally. Obviously happy to have a separate vote on this, but I will not call for this myself.

Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom): State subsidies for agriculture are terrible for most of the economies in European countries. I would just use this opportunity to state that LYMEC is against that.

Vote on M2 Amendment to Amendment 7

For - 110

Against - 36

Abstentions - 21

Amendment to Amendment 7 is carried by the Congress. Therefore, both Amendment 7 and Amendment 27 fall. Amendment 6 was withdrawn by the mover before the Congress.

❖ M2 Amendment 8/ JOVD

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It gives a proper title to this section.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) asks if anyone is against. No one is against.

Amendment 8 is therefore carried by the Congress.

❖ M2 Amendment to Amendment 9 / JuLis

Julius Graack (JuLis): This was one of the most debated points. We took the criticism to make this more representative and balanced. We just took out points from the policy book. We hope this is a good compromise.

Vote on M2 Amendment to Amendment 9

For - 145

Against - 6

Abstentions - 16

Amendment to Amendment 9 is carried by the Congress. Therefore, both Amendment 9 and Amendment 25 fall.

❖ M2 Amendment to Amendment 21 / JuLis

Julius Graack (JuLis): I hope we have a good mix here as we took into account the position of other MOs.

Vote on M2 Amendment to Amendment 21

For - 147

Against - 0

Abstentions - 18

Amendment to Amendment 21 is carried by the Congress. Therefore Amendment 21 falls.

❖ **M2 Amendment 10/ JOVD**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It gives a proper title to this section

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 10 is carried by the Congress.

❖ **M2 Amendment to Amendment 11 / JuLis**

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is taking the floor on this. No one, so we moved to a vote.

Vote on M2 Amendment to Amendment 11

For - 113

Against - 19

Abstentions - 9

Amendment to Amendment 11 is carried by the Congress. Therefore, Amendment 11 and Amendment 26 both fall.

❖ **M2 Amendment 1/ Jonge Democraten**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It corrects 'Defence' to be written with a 'c' instead of an 's'.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 1 is carried by the Congress.

❖ **M2 Amendment 12/ JOVD**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It gives a proper title to this section.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 12 is carried by the Congress.

❖ **M2 Amendment to Amendment 13/ LHG & JuLis**

David Grasveld (LHG): This is about adding bullet points contained in the Policy Book to highlight the role that education and Erasmus play in combating unemployment.

Vote on M2 Amendment to Amendment 13

For - 160

Against - 6

Abstentions - 0

Amendment to Amendment 13 is carried by the Congress. Therefore, Amendment 13 falls.

❖ M2 amendment 14/ JOVD

This amendment was carried by the Working Group. It gives a proper title to this section.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 14 is carried by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): There are two amendments to amendments on amendment 15. We will first discuss the one that goes the furthest, which is the amendment to amendment from JuLis.

❖ M2 Amendment to Amendment 15/ JuLis

Julius Graack (JuLis): The point was to add most of the stuff that we received. There is nothing controversial, everything comes from the Policy Book.

Julius Graack (JuLis) raises a Point of Order:

I would like to have a separate vote on this paragraph as we don't want 1/3 of the EU budget invested on subsidies. We want that money invested in our future. This is the second to last bullet point of the 'Amendment to Amendment 15' submitted by JuLis.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so this paragraph will be voted on separately. Before the vote, does anyone want to speak in favour or against?

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): As **Julius Graack (JuLis)** said, the common agricultural budget takes 1/3 of the EU budget. We should do something. It is not only protectionism messing up with our countries. Why do we ignore such a figure?

Guido von Backer (JOVD): It is very important to create more competition between countries to get a better policy on agriculture, create more food security, and have better taxes in the EU. I recommend you to vote in favour of this amendment.

Julius Graack (JuLis): I find it funny that **JOVD** speaks for competitiveness, when those subsidies just do the opposite. We call for a gradual decline of these subsidies. I don't think we should call for the

support of all farmers on the basis of equal opportunities. I don't want that the money that should go into our future instead goes to enterprises. I don't think that's liberal.

Niall Gaffney (Ogra Fianna Fail): The CAP should be supported. The role of agriculture in many of our countries is central. It is not about throwing money, it is about setting a relevant budget.

Vote on the second to last bullet point (point 8- CAP) of M2 Amendment to Amendment 15 submitted by JuLis:

For - 113

Against - 34

Abstentions - 27

The second to last bullet point of M2 Amendment to Amendment 15 submitted by JuLis is carried by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now discuss the rest of the amendment to the amendment and vote on it then.

Julius Graack (JuLis): What we just voted on was the only controversial part of this amendment to amendment.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 15 by JuLis as proposed (including the bullet point):

For - 134

Against - 4

Abstentions - 23

Amendment to Amendment 15 from JuLis is carried by the Congress. Therefore, Amendment 15 and Amendment to Amendment 15 by Jonge Democraten both fall.

❖ **M2 Amendment 16/ JOVD**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It gives a proper title to this section.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 16 is carried by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): There are two amendments to amendments on amendment 17. We will first discuss the one that goes the furthest, which is the amendment to amendment from JuLis.

❖ **M2 Amendment to Amendment 17 / JuLis**

Julius Graack (JuLis): This takes into account the points that **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer)** made in her amendment to amendment 17. I urge you to vote in favour, it is a good compromise.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 17 by JuLis:

For - 124

Against - 3

Abstentions - 13

Amendment to Amendment 17 by JuLis is carried by the Congress. Therefore Amendment 17 and Amendment to Amendment 17 by **Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer) both fall.**

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We are now moving first to the next point at the bottom impacting all the other amendments before as the proposal aims at reshuffling the last part of the manifesto.

❖ **M2 Amendment to Amendment 28/ JuLis**

Original Amendment 28 was carried by the Working Group.

Julius Graack (JuLis): It comes to the federalisation which is close to members of LYMEC.

For - 134

Against - 20

Abstentions - 12

Amendment to Amendment 28 is carried by the Congress. Therefore, Amendment 28 falls.

❖ **M2 Amendment 18/ JOVD**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It is taking out a part that is now in Amendment to Amendment 28 that was carried.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 18 is carried by the Congress.

❖ **M2 Amendment 19/ JOVD**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It is taking out a part that is now in Amendment to Amendment 28 that was carried.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 19 is carried by the Congress.

❖ **M2 Amendment 20/ JOVD**

This Amendment was carried by the Working Group. It is taking out a part that is now in Amendment to Amendment 28 that was carried.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): asks if anyone is against. No one is against, so it is carried.

Amendment 20 is carried by the Congress.

Point of Order:

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): The two amendments 18 and 19 with a positive recommendation from the Working Groups submitted by **JOVD** are a deletion included in the adopted amendment to amendment 28. That is why for sake of consistency, it is good the Congress carried them but the content is not lost.

❖ **M2 Amendment to Amendment 22 / JuLis**

Julius Graack (JuLis): This is about innovation and digitalisation. The compromise point comes from the Policy Book. There is one new thing: the last bullet point is an extension of the free roaming zone. This was not noted in the Policy Book before.

Vote on Amendment to Amendment 22

For - 132

Against - 6

Abstentions - 12

Amendment to Amendment 22 is carried by the Congress. Therefore, both Amendment 22 and Amendment 23 fall.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): There is now a possibility to discuss the manifesto in its entirety. He asks delegates to put themselves on the speakers' list.

Gijs Toussaint (Jonge Democraten): I want to make a short point about going to the EU Elections with a document that is pretty broad to me. We should have strong bullet points on some regulations. I would encourage the Bureau to think about this.

Laia Comerma (LYMEC Policy Officer): Thank you for your point. I want to encourage everyone to vote in favour, a lot of work has been put into this document. It is a good text and we can be proud of it. Please vote in favour.

Vote on the manifesto as amended as a whole

For - 148

Against - 4

Abstentions - 3

**The Electoral Manifesto as amended as a whole was adopted by the Congress.
Congratulations!**

18. Reports from Member Organisations, IMS, the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage, and LYMEC Working Groups

Alistair Spearing (Chair): You can now make a few reports since we have a bit more time and before addressing the resolutions - point 17. It will be on a first comes first served basis through the openslides speakers' list.

No one is on the speakers' list yet. We therefore move to the resolutions directly.

17. Resolutions

➤ Resolution 1: Stop Russian Imperialism in Eastern Europe

Alistair Spearing (Chair): This resolution has only one amendment. Someone from **Nowoczesna Youth** can take the floor to speak as mover of the resolution.

Florentyna Martyńska (Nowoczesna Youth): Thank you for voting for this resolution as the first one, it shows our support to Ukraine. It is important to look at the bigger picture, as in Ukraine there is a brutal war ongoing, but we have also seen Russian imperialism in other countries in Eastern Europe, such as Moldova or Georgia. For that reason we want to advocate for broader integration, as well as grant EU candidate status for Georgia.

Emil Markiewicz (Nowoczesna Youth): The reason why we advocate for this is the security of the whole region. I call everyone to fully support our resolution and show that we care about it. We want to fight against Russian imperialism and ideology.

❖ Amendment 29 / Jong VLD

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We are moving now to the one and only amendment for this resolution.
Amendment 29 was accepted by the mover so it is carried as no one else is taking the floor.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) asks if anyone wants to speak for the resolution as amended.

Mariia Lakhina (Vesna YDM): I want to speak in favour of this resolution as a Russian citizen. I think my voice here will be quite important. The Russian threat is growing and the EU is the only way to prevent it. The EU should pay closer attention to Georgia and Moldova.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) calls for a vote on the resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 154

Against- 11

Abstain- 0

The Congress has adopted Resolution 1 as amended.

➤ **Resolution 2: Time to Act Against Healthcare Associated Infections**

Alistair Spearing (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Lova Bodin (CUF): This is the second time we submit this resolution. I will do my best to convey its message. Healthcare associated infections are the most common healthcare injury in the EU. If you don't know, a healthcare associated infection is an infection that you might get at the hospital, when you are there for something else. Millions are spent every year to treat what could have been prevented by something as simple as hygiene. We should ensure basic hygienic routines all over Europe. We need to act on this. I encourage you to vote in favour.

Niall Gaffney (Ogra Gianna Fail): We are co-signatories of this. In 2014, I caught a MRSA infection due to poor sanitation in a surgery. This progressed into septic shock after it entered my bloodstream and I was in a medically induced coma for a week and intensive care for a month. Nine years later, my life still consists, and likely always will, of bi-monthly visits to specialists, excessive medical costs, constant anxiety - it could have been worse. I survived. The need for medical staff, tools and facilities to be up to scratch is not something to be underestimated. If the tools had been correctly sanitised, and the staff appropriately prepared - I would not have ever gotten sick. I don't blame them, they were working with what they had, but we can improve that by implementing better infection controls across the EU and beyond.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) asks if anyone wants to speak for the resolution as amended. There is one amendment - **Amendment 63** from **JuLis** with a positive recommendation. There are no comments on it so it is carried. He gives the opportunity to discuss the resolution as a whole. No one has a comment. We go to a vote.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) calls for a vote on the resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 160

Against- 0

Abstain- 17

The Congress has adopted Resolution 2 as amended.

----- Coffee Break -----

Before heading to the Roll Call, **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)** thanks in front of the Congress the Chairs **Marina Sedlo (Chair)**, **Alistair Spearing (Chair)** and **Barnabás Gádor (Chair)** for their work during this weekend in Budapest; **Barna Biro (Momentum TizenX) and his team** for the local support and for making this event happen; **Willemijn Krans (Policy Resident)** for her hard work at the LYMEC Office as Policy Resident for the past months.

Roll call

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) performs the roll call with **Willemijn Krans (LYMEC Policy Resident)** and **Chiara Olga Liguori (LYMEC Project Officer)**. **Bàlint Gyévai (Secretary Gyévai)** 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 unmute themselves 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 5 - after last break
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra - JLA	3
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
Czech Republic	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	5
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret ry (Finnish Centre Youth)	3
France	Jeunes Radicaux	
Germany	Junge Liberale (JuLis)	10
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	5
Hungary	TizenX	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai 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
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 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
United Kingdom	Young Liberals UK	6
IMS	Tim Robinson	1
IMS	Felix Sebastian Schulz	1
IMS	Christine Khomyk	1

200

Simple majority of those present

100

Two thirds of present

133.3333333

Simple majority of those present without abstentions

1/3 = 70

There were 200 votes present at the Congress.

The following Member Organisations were not present:

- Youth Forum of Naša stranka
- Liberal Democratic Youth (Lidem)

- **Jeunes Radicaux taken out - unpaid membership fee 2023**

Resolutions

- **Resolution 3: Liberal Consolidation needs to be implemented to prevent the spread of authoritarian nationalist tendencies in Europe**

Alistair Spearing (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor and he opens the speakers' list for interventions on the resolution before tackling the amendments. .

Barna Biro (Momentum TizenX): Basically there are still practices in the EU which include confiscation by the States of private properties based on ethnic minorities. Through this resolution, we would like to ask LYMEC to condemn any kind of discrimination. The resolution is supported by countries that are affected by this. There are a lot of amendments, but based on the discussions we had in the Working Groups, we accept all of them. The amendment submitted by our Czech colleagues has been withdrawn.

Štefan Čikovský (Mladi Progresivci): I am very glad for the cooperation and for finding common ground with **Momentum TizenX**. I want to talk about the fact that some of our MOs or their mother parties have backgrounds which do not align with LYMEC's values. We should address the elephant in the room, as this resolution finally talks about the populist and authoritarian tendencies that former Prime Minister Andrej Babiš from Czechia had.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret): We tackled this topic on Friday at the fringe panel discussion. It was a very good discussion, and this resolution is a sign of our cooperation on further improvement within this topic.

Maarten Tollenaar (Jonge Democraten): We urge you to vote in favour. We would also like to make a general point: the resolution calls for the European Court of Justice to take proper action. This might not be the best place for a political youth organisation to actively call for the ECJ to act. It is not a political body, and we should try not to politicise it as much as we can.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We now move on to the amendments. A few amendments have been carried by the mover as just explained. Amendment 21 and 22 received a positive recommendation by the Working Group. Amendment 36 from **Mladi Progresivci** has no recommendation. Amendment 78 was withdrawn by the mover of the amendment - **Mladé ANO**. No one has comments, we move to a vote.

- ❖ **Amendment 36**

Alistair Spearing (Chair) asks if anyone wants to speak on the amendment. No one takes the floor. We move to a vote.

Point of Order:

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) points out that the mover accepted all remaining amendments. The vote was therefore cancelled by the chairs. Amendment 36 that received no recommendation from the Working Group together with amendments 21, 22, 44, 48, 49, 52 and 53 were all accepted by the mover.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) asks if anyone wants to speak on the resolution as amended as a whole. The speakers' list is open.

Umberto Masi (Lithuanian Liberal Youth): I need to emphasise that we are living in times where liberals are threatened from the left and the right. We have to provide a concrete and strong answer to that. We cannot implement populist legislation in our own agenda. Therefore, vote for this resolution.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) moves to a vote on the resolution as amended as a whole:

For- 151

Against- 0

Abstain- 0

The Congress has adopted Resolution 3 as amended.

➤ **Resolution 4: Towards Stricter Screening of Foreign Direct Investments Into Critical EU Infrastructure**

Alistair Spearing (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor. There are no amendments, which means that the first reading is the final reading.

Emelie Franzen (LUF): Europe's relation with Russia since 2014 has demonstrated the dangers of dependency on authoritarian regimes. These are countries we have to co-exist with, but it shouldn't mean we enable them to exploit our openness to control us politically. With this in mind, we propose three things: 1) a screening mechanism should be required; 2) the criteria for said screening should be harmonised; 3) the Commission should issue opinions on specific investments that may threaten the security or public order of other Member States.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): There are no comments from delegates. **We move on to a vote on the resolution:**

For- 171

Against- 0

Abstain- 3

The Congress has adopted Resolution 4.

- **Resolution 5: Closing Putin's gates means welcoming allies - Extending an invitation to Georgia**

Alistair Spearing (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Dimitra Papadopoulou (JuLis): What we want to do is to keep our eyes and hearts open and not repeat our past mistakes. Putin's aggressions have not started last year. Since 2014, protests have been going on. We want to make a commitment out of this resolution to extend our hand to Ukraine and Europe's biggest allies in this fight, like Georgia. I urge you to vote for it.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We have a single amendment without recommendation. I invite the mover of the amendment to take the floor.

❖ **Amendment 28 / Jong VLD**

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): We are in favour of this resolution, but we believe this small part on allowing members of Georgian liberal youth organisations to join LYMEC activities should be reserved to them only once they become members of LYMEC. We would be welcoming them to do that as soon as they become members.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): There will be no vote, because the mover accepts the amendment. We can now discuss the resolution as a whole. No comment. **We now move to a vote on the resolution as a whole as amended:**

For- 176

Against- 0

Abstain- 6

The Congress has adopted Resolution 5 as amended.

- **Resolution 6: Generationally fair and sustainable European pension policy**

Alistair Spearing (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Philipp Eng (JFS): Our society has a responsibility to find sustainable solutions to political problems. But unfortunately, the expression 'sustainability' only becomes important when linked to climate change. Sustainability needs to be around all political discussions. What do we want to hand over to new generations? Higher taxes and procrastination don't help, but they are actually terrible for young people, because it's us who will have to find solutions and to pay for everything in the future. We need to take responsibility for ourselves and for the generations that will come.

❖ **Amendments 33 and 35 are taken by the mover so those two are carried.**

Point of order:

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate) raises a point of order on amendment 34 and 38. He wants a separate vote to delete the text in red and add the text in green.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will vote on the point of order with a simple majority.

Vote on the point of order on Amendment 38 and Amendment 34 to be taken in parts.

The results of the vote on the point of order on the approach towards Amendment 38 and Amendment 34 were as follows:

For- 88

Against- 24

Abstain- 40

Alistair Spearing (Chair): Amendments 38 and 34 will be treated separately and the movers accept the addition of the text in green. Now we will vote on the amendment concerning only the deletion of the text in red.

❖ **Amendment 34 (deletion text in red only) / Tim Robinson (IMS delegate)**

Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom): I speak in favour as I agree with economic sustainability. There is no document saying that taxation is economically unsustainable. There is actually plenty of proof of the opposite.

Philipp Eng (JFS): Most of you will know I am not a fan of taxes. The issue is that we won't have a sustainable pension fund. We have demographic changes, and because of that, pension funds are not sustainable if we don't change their structure. That's why we shouldn't find a measure over taxes, but rather come up with measures that are sustainable.

Winston Beck (JFS): I think we all agree that the basic focus shouldn't be on taxes, and as a liberal (not as a radical) I disagree with the comment from before according to which we should be pro rising taxes.

Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom): We as liberals are liberal because we use the different methods and vehicles that are available to politicians. This resolution would mean that politicians have less methods to deal with the structural issues that exist. We need to recognize that taxation is sometimes part of the solution, as it has been since the dawn of society.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) closes the discussion and calls for a vote on Amendment 34 concerning the deletion of the red text:

For- 100

Against- 49

Abstain- 23

Amendment 34 concerning the deletion of the red text is carried by the Congress. Therefore, the text in red from Amendment 34 is deleted just as the amendment originally targeted.

Line 24 - 26

- 24 • Financing our social security systems through ~~higher taxes or employee~~
25 ~~contributions~~ through the pay-as-you-go model, without any attempt to
26 calculate the true cost of pension benefits through actuarial methods,
leads to passing on ~~the~~ debt to future generations, and establishes
26 negative incentives, and is therefore an unsuitable way to finance our
old-age
27 provision in a sustainable manner.

Show entire motion text

❖ Amendment 38 / Tim Robinson (IMS delegate)

Alistair Spearing (Chair) explains that we move to amendment 38, the last amendment for this resolution.

Line 29 - 30

- 29 • ~~The sustainable restructuring of the pension funds and remediation of structural~~
- 30 ~~problems due to demographic developments.~~
- European states to restructure their state pension systems, moving away from the PAYG model and towards the “steady-state” model.
 - The EU to pass regulations requiring member states to ensure the long-term solvency of their pension plans, due to the devastating pan-European economic impact that the insolvency of a major state pension fund could have.

Point of order:

Julius Graack (JuLis) raises a point of order to vote on the addition of the green part separately for this amendment. The movers want to carry the green text, while JuLis doesn't want the green text to be included.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) calls for a vote on the point of order made by JuLis. Vote in favour if you want to vote on the green part. If you are fine with the addition, you vote against.

Marina Sedlo (Chair): In Amendment 38, there are a green and red part. The green part has been carried by the mover, but **JuLis** is challenging what the movers carried to have a vote on those two bullet points in green as well.

Vote on the point of order on Amendment 38 by JuLis:

For- 116

Against- 43

Abstain- 15

The point of order was adopted by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): The point of order was carried so we will vote on the green part separately. There will now be two different discussions with two different votes. We will start with the deletion of the red part.

Jessica Brestel (JFS): We are in favour of keeping the red text instead of taking it out. We want people to be healthier in their old life. Something like this has never been around in history so far. We need structural changes to be prepared for the future.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) calls for a vote on the deletion of the red part in Amendment 38:

For- 41

Against- 93

Abstain- 50

The deletion of the red part of Amendment 38 was rejected.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now discuss the addition of the green part of Amendment 38.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): I want to ask you to vote against this. The 'pay as you go' model is a bad pension model. It is not the role of the EU to interfere in its Member States' pension models. We as **JuLis** don't want to tell other Member States which pension model is the best for them.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): Firstly, the text of this amendment does not explicitly say that the EU should force states to adopt this, but it calls on European states to do something. There are several resolutions in the LYMEC Policy Book that contain similar 'calls for', as we are allowed to have opinions on things. Secondly, the part about EU Regulations is just a basic rule that pension schemes have to be solvent, because it is a huge threat to the European economy if they don't.

Lova Bodin (CUF): I agree with **Calvin Nixon (JuLis)**' point, but there are two pension systems plans included in the resolution. The text is confusing. If you want to adopt this policy, you should define it first.

Malthe Rugberg Andersen (Radikal Ungdom): We are against this amendment. The EU should stay away from our pension system. We should respect different decisions.

Fabian Grepper (JFS): I want to speak against, simply because the European Union is not Europe. It does not make sense to have a European policy on pensions. It is about European countries overall, not about the European Union. Therefore, I would ask you to say no to this amendment.

Guido Von Backer (JOVD): This is inherently wrong, vote against this amendment please. Harmonisation can be a good thing, but this should be a sovereign issue. This will not help with getting better pensions. It would be better to get a 'pay as you go' model, but this is not something the EU should be imposing on its Member States. Please vote against.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) calls for a vote on the addition of the green part in Amendment 38:

For- 39

Against- 116

Abstain- 39

The green part of Amendment 38 was rejected as well.

Because the green part of Amendment 38 was rejected too, the entire amendment 38 has been rejected by the Congress (in two parts).

Alistair Spearing (Chair) asks if anyone wants to speak on the resolution as amended as a whole. The speakers' list is open.

Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate): First of all, sorry for the procedural stuff. I am going to shock you; I actually agree with **JFS**. This proves that even a stopped clock is right twice a day. There is no investment, cash goes in, cash goes out. This is a pyramid scheme; it would be illegal for companies. As young people we should address this. Let's have liberals fix this.

Philipp Eng (JFS): I am really glad it only took me 3 years to convince **Tim Robinson (IMS Delegate)** to vote reasonably. Please vote in favour of this topic to stand and fight for sustainable pension policies.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) moves to a **vote on the resolution 6 as a whole as amended:**

For- 138

Against- 26

Abstain- 28

The Congress has adopted Resolution 6 as amended.

➤ **Resolution 7: Climate Justice**

Alistair Spearing (Chair) invites the mover of the resolution to take the floor.

Leonardo Holberg (Radikal Ungdom): I have written this resolution that calls for increased support for the most vulnerable and most affected countries by climate change. It should be pretty uncontroversial that climate change has a severe humanitarian impact. It is very unjust that the people that have emitted the least amount of emissions are the most affected. We have the role, as nations who have historically contributed the most, to now help. It's also important for us to have clear policies on this topic.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): Amendment 25 was accepted by the mover. We move to Amendment 50 as it had no recommendation by the Working Group.

❖ **Amendment 50 / Felix Schulz (IMS delegate)**

Gijs Toussaint (Jonge Democraten): A fantastic resolution is threatened to be ruined by this amendment. It ignores colonialism and exploitation that were also part of that western process. It does not add to the goal of this resolution. Because of us, people in those countries cannot drink clean water, don't have clean air or clean nature, and are still suffering from that exploitation.

Leonardo Holberg (Radikal Ungdom): Vote against this. Adding to **Jonge Democraten**, I don't think it is relevant to talk about how industrialization has worked historically. We should recognize the huge efforts that have been made by developing countries with strong, green policies.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): Industrialization has also caused suffering in the third world because of the emissions. Adding this amendment weakens the resolution.

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): This amendment basically says that we want to have the whole resolution to be more objective. Now the resolution only highlights the negative aspects. We also need to highlight the positive consequences of industrialisation to have a balanced resolution.

Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom): This is one of the most beautiful resolutions I have ever had the pleasure of submitting. It is beautiful because it is concise. This amendment ruins it. Think about people who cannot drink clean water now. Think about how you would tell them that industrialization has been good for you, even if you cannot drink your own water. The resolution is humble, it should stay humble. With this change, it won't be humble, it will be an insult.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): Who are we as liberals? We want individual and economic development. These are intertwined. We totally agree with the resolution before the amendment, but this amendment balances the resolution in general. It tells us that industrialization has also enabled people to follow their individual ambitions and life paths.

Katharine Macy (Young Liberals): Thank you for the amendment, but it does not have any place in this. We don't need balance to something that only needs change. Yes, industrialisation has brought women to work, but we still get paid less. Many aspects of industrialisation have gone awfully. This amendment does nothing to the resolution. There is no justification for destroying people's lives with pollution. If you actually care about making sure that this whole world is equal, we don't need something like this amendment in this resolution.

Joy Kamel (FEL): I am really sorry for one thing about this amendment. Development and research can be greener. But if we stop this progress and development, what do we do? Do we leave China and the USA to continue polluting? From an economic point of view, we need industrialisation, even though it brought negative aspects. Thanks to it we are going greener. Please stop being black or white, there is also grey.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now move to a vote on Amendment 50 as we close the list of interventions:

For- 86

Against- 100

Abstain- 3

Amendment 50 was rejected by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We are moving to the next amendment which did not get a recommendation from the Working Group, amendment 51.

❖ **Amendment 51 / Felix Schulz (IMS delegate)**

Felix Schulz (IMS Delegate): We put forward this amendment because the resolution insinuates that the EU industry is demonised. Actually, the EU industry is also part of the solution. It is not negative as a whole and leaving it out wouldn't make the issue balanced. This is not the solution.

Leonardo Holberg (Radikal Ungdom): We have seen a lot of funding from Denmark going to middle income countries to purchase our windmills. This should not be the purpose of climate funding. That is why I have written this resolution.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): We are extrapolating liberal values here, there should be benefits and assets. The EU shouldn't use subsidies to give EU industries an unfair advantage. It should be about creating sustainable industries to the benefit of citizens.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now move to a vote on Amendment 51 as we close the list of interventions:

For- 93

Against- 53

Abstain- 26

Amendment 51 was carried by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We are moving to the next amendment which did not get a recommendation from the Working Group. The mover can now present the amendment.

❖ **Amendment 65 / Julius Graack (JuLis)**

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): I would urge you to vote for this amendment. It is a difficult topic. We realise that implementation of a neutral agreement related to green technologies is way too important to talk about it in just one bullet point. We would need a larger resolution to tackle it properly.

Leonardo Holberg (Radikal Ungdom): I am very willing to write a whole resolution about this topic exclusively. I have been very careful in writing only the most essential technologies. This is a very narrow scope. We would need technologies such as pumps to save cities, not solar panels, windmills or the big climate industries.

Julius Graack (JuLis): Thank you for your explanation, but this is why it should have its own resolution. Please vote for the deletion of this bullet point.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now move to a vote on Amendment 65 as we close the list of interventions:

For- 53

Against- 71

Abstain- 24

Amendment 65 was rejected by the Congress.

Point of order:

Gijs Toussaint (Jonge Democraten) raises a point of order to discuss the previous amendment although it was already carried by the mover.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We didn't see the point of order on Openslides, but there must have been some technical issue, as **Young Liberals** had the same issue.

Vote on the point of order moved by Young Liberals and Jonge Democraten to overturn Amendment 25.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) opens a vote on the point of order to overturn Amendment 25 and tackle it despite the initial acceptance of the mover. The result of the vote was as follows:

For - 88

Against- 46

Abstain- 21

The point of order by Jonge Democraten and Young Liberals was carried by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): The acceptance has been overturned. We will be therefore debating and voting on Amendment 25 once again.

❖ **Amendment 25 / Brent Usewils (Jong VLD)**

Leonardo Holberg (Radikal Ungdom): Me carrying initially this amendment was a mistake. We should take a stance here as it is a very controversial amendment.

Rowan Fitton (Alliance Youth): The amendment accepts that we did something bad and hurt people. Moreover, COP28 did something to accept the historical impact of climate change. Some countries have contributed to that. We should accept our faults.

Brent Usewils (Jong VLD): We are a bit surprised as the outcome of the Working Group was different. You were accepting it, now you are not. We know that emissions are not good and we are not in favour of emitting anything, but we should look at how we can move forward from there.

Sean Bennett (Young Liberals): The reasoning behind this amendment is that the west is the only cause of these issues. But we are not the only ones. We should of course take our responsibility, but also lead the world with good examples, and crucially do it in a liberal way.

Marius Gobet (Young Green Liberals Switzerland): Let's talk about the words we use. We need to lead by example, but we also need to act. We should take ownership for the good and the bad we have done, both cases.

Gijs Toussaint (Jonge Democraten): Look at the explanation that has been given to this amendment. We should achieve climate justice, not only in Europe but in the whole world. This amendment is led by fear, and it is in these cases that progress becomes impossible. Please vote against this amendment.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now move to a vote on Amendment 25:

For- 85

Against- 77

Abstain- 16

Amendment 25 was carried by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We are moving to the next amendment which got a negative recommendation from the Working Group. The mover can now present the amendment.

❖ **Amendment 66 / Julius Graack (JuLis)**

Alistair Spearing (Chair): As we lack time, this amendment will be discussed on a one in favour one against basis. There was a negative recommendation from the Working Group.

Calvin Nixon (JuLis): We have 27 Member States with different levels of technologies and infrastructures. We would basically act in a selfish manner if we, in the end, stick with the formulation of the original resolution. Please vote for this amendment. Don't put forward financial burden on countries that already are under financial distress.

Leonardo Holberg (Radikal Ungdom): You might have missed the point for this. The amendment does not say how proportionality should be done. We have seen loans being counted as additional funding for climate financing. This is terrible.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now move to a vote on Amendment 66:

For- 60

Against- 78

Abstain- 20

Amendment 66 was rejected by the Congress.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) proposes to not do a second reading and immediately move to a vote because we have to finalise our Congress.

Point of Order:

Julius Graack (JuLis) - I would still like to speak on the resolution. Please also make sure the vote is not open yet on the resolution as we should still have the opportunity to speak before that happens.

Alistair Spearing (Chair) moves to the discussion on the resolution as amended as a whole on a one in favour one against basis.

Julius Graack (JuLis): As this resolution is amended now, it is not detailed enough and risks some misunderstanding. While we want to be strongly in favour of climate justice, what we have in the bullet points goes far beyond that. Please vote against this resolution as a whole as amended.

Rasmus Festerling Sørensen (Radikal Ungdom): Saying that this resolution is not detailed enough while trying to remove some parts of it is actually funny. Is LYMEC actually for green equality?

Leonardo Holberg (Radikal Ungdom) works professionally with this stuff and he knows what he is talking about. The resolution is detailed and concise enough for something that is extremely important.

Alistair Spearing (Chair): We will now move to a vote on Resolution 7 as amended:

For- 119

Against- 47

Abstain- 11

The Congress has adopted Resolution 7 as amended.

19. Closing from LYMEC President and Any other business

Alistair Spearing (Chair) gives the floor for the conclusions to **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President)**.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC President): Thank you everyone for being here and conducting this important work. Yesterday, we talked about all the things we need to do. It is important to have a vision to tackle all of this. Now we have a manifesto, resolutions and tools to make our policy visible. I am very happy about that. One example of the impact we have, is that we are gaining attention from people who look at our work, just like our final guest today - **Xavier Bettel (Prime Minister of Luxembourg)**

➤ Final closing guest speech

Xavier Bettel (Prime Minister of Luxembourg): International Organisations are important, especially for liberals. And I am excited to be visiting you in Budapest with my husband. I used to be an active member of LYMEC in another century, between 1990 and 1999. I have been the Prime Minister of Luxembourg for 10 years. I have also been MP, city council member, deputy mayor in Luxembourg and much more. I wanted to be at this Congress, for different reasons. It is very important to know the things you learn here for politics, and the resolutions you accept here. It is not about the next elections, but about the next generations. Maybe some of you will be disappointed. But I will not fight people, I fight ideas. I have had long discussions with Mr. Orbán about LGBTQ-rights. Everytime I come to Hungary, I come with my husband. Love is not something you can predict. Being gay has not been a choice. The most difficult part was to accept it myself. Being gay is not a choice, being homophobic is. There is still a long way to go. Never fight the person, fight the ideas, fight for the values, fight for your motto.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) stresses that the Congress is now closed at 18 h 30 CEST (Budapest time) and gives some practical information for the dinner arrangements. Thank you everyone and see you in Riga in the Autumn!