

# LYMEC Electoral Manifesto

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## FUTURE FIRST!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***LYMEC calls upon a cut on CAP subsidies, redirecting resources to growth and jobs, enabling the creation of European markets for energy and ICT.*** Direct subsidies to agriculture still consume about 30% of the Union's budget. In times of crisis it is unjustifiable that we concentrate so many resources in measures that contribute so little to our economies. Furthermore, such subsidies hinder the effective functioning of a proper market economy. Applying subsidiarity to budget policies, and policy priorities, demands that we focus on sectors

in which the EU can bring added value, for instance research and development, education, and infrastructures which enable the emergence of a European market on sectors such as energy and ICT. This will bring more jobs, innovation in fast-growing sectors, energy security and better environment, allowing a greener energy-mix.

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

### 3. Irresponsible spending

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

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

### 4. Hyper-regulation

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

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

### 5. Lack of jobs

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

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

*of the labour market.*

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

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

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

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

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

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