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LYMEC Autumn Congress in Tallinn

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Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
000

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Jong VLD, speaker: Hans Maes

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution repealing resolution 10.18

2 Noting that:

- 3 •
- 4 The LYMEC Congress, gathered in Zagreb on June 6-7 2014, voted resolution 10.18 - on
- 5 extremist and non-liberal parties in ALDE part of the policy book,
- 6 •
- 7 The resolution presents a static state of affairs, leaving no room for future change,
- 8 progress or improvement,
- 9 •
- 10 Since the Zagreb congress both Union Pogreso y Democracia (UPyD) and Ciudadanos
- 11 have become members of the ALDE party,
- 12 •
- 13 Ciudadanos is hoping to join LYMEC as well,

14

15 Considering that:

- 16 •
- 17 Having a larger liberal group within the European institutions is positive,
- 18 •
- 19 Having more young European liberals join LYMEC strengthens the organisation,
- 20 •
- 21 Liberal ideology is more important than regional squabbles,
- 22 •
- 23 Resolution 10.18 prohibits Ciudadanos from joining LYMEC due to its condemnation of
- 24 the party as populist, extremist, non-liberal and even socialist and communist,
- 25 •
- 26 Resolution 10.18 provides scant evidence to support these claims,

27 Convinced that:

28

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Resolutions of this nature are unworthy of an organisation that promotes tolerance and a pluralistic open society amongst its primary values,

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UPyD and Ciudadanos are indeed liberal parties, which can be concluded from their manifestoes and the widespread support for their membership by other ALDE member parties,

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Judging which individual or political party in Europe is liberal and which isn't shouldn't be LYMEC's business in the first place,

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38 LYMEC Congress:

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40 Calls on LYMEC:

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To repeal resolution 10.18 - On extremist and non-liberal parties in ALDE.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
101

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Jonge Democraten and Svensk Ungdom

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Towards European Military Cooperation

2 Considering that:

- 3 • Europe is facing internal and external threats to its peace and security. These include
4 regional conflict, terrorism, weak democratic structures, human rights violations and
5 economic instability.
- 6 • Security is the foundation of economic stability and democratic structures within and
7 around the European Union.
- 8 • In order to secure European interests and promote European liberal values soft power is
9 not enough to meet the challenges, the European Union needs to increase its hard
10 capabilities to provide diplomatic leverage against both state and non-state actors.

11 Noting that:

- 12 • the EU member states, at the moment, spend an equal amount of money on Defence
13 compared to China and Russia combined.
- 14 • a European Common Security and Defence Policy is already in place, however not
15 efficient due to different national security strategies and interests.
- 16 • Military cooperation between member states is taking place already. Both bilaterally
17 (Dutch-German division Fast Forces), and multilaterally (BENELUX defence cooperation
18 between Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg and the partnership between the Nordic
19 states), further within a NATO context (Baltic Air Policing mission) and within a European
20 context (procurement coordination through the EDA).
- 21 • Britain's exit from the European Union removes one of the biggest obstacles to stronger
22 EU defence in tandem with NATO.

23 LYMEC calls upon:

- 24 • Security strategies to be focussed on prevention of conflict rather than conflict resolution.
25 By cooperation between development aid, diplomacy, police, justice, sanctions, cyber and
26 defenses could help in crises before it ever escalates into a (violent) conflict. This can not
27 be done by one country alone, working together as EU is crucial. The efficiency of
28 defence spending could be markedly improved by closer cooperation between member
29 states.
- 30 • European member states to work towards intensifying the Common Security and Defense
31 Policy (CSDP) and to as soon as possible move towards the creation of a "Defence
32 Union"

- 33
- 34
- 35
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- 37
- 38
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- 40
- Member organisations to push ALDE group and its member organisations to support the creation of a European defence force.
 - European member states to make concrete steps in military cooperation, to in the future develop a European Military, overseen by a European Ministry of Foreign Affairs that can appoint a European Secretary for Defense. The main goals of these institutions would be: To to secure the European territory, To protect and promote international peace and stability, To support civil authorities with law enforcement, disaster relief and humanitarian aid, both inside and outside of the EU

41 Striking down other resolutions

42 1.41 - European Defense

43 9.66 – European Defense

44

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
201

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Jong VLD, speaker Charlotte Dupon

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution on privacy and data protection

2 Striking resolution 2.25 and 2.58

3 Considering that

4 - big data[1] and IoT[2] have become an inevitable and essential part of our society,

5 - EU regulations on the use of personal data were recently updated (spring 2016),

6 - the right of privacy protects the personal sphere. Therefore, generally an invasion of the
7 personal sphere requires the morally transformative act of consent to be legitimate,

8 - only when there is an overriding interest (e.g. national security) may privacy be infringed
9 without consent,

10 - this logic is also reflected in the data protection law,

11

12 Appreciating that

13 - there is continuous research in the EU on new IT developments and corresponding policy
14 challenges,

15 - the transparency principle is strengthened and guaranteed in the data protection law,

16

17 Believing that

18 - big data and IoT can bring worldwide benefits to socio-economic issues (e.g. ageing
19 population), but also bring an increased risk of abuse and fraud,

20 - data is a fundamental resource in the digitalized economy,

21 - the protection of privacy constitutes a core value and all users should have control over their
22 personal data,

23 Stressing that

24 - users seldomly read privacy notices, do not comprehend them fully, but consent to the
25 processing of personal data nonetheless[3],

26 - stronger, explicit consent mechanisms might actually have the effect that users will make
27 less informed decisions about their privacy, or at least, it will not make their decisions more
28 informed than they are now (consent transaction overload leads to consent fatigue),

29 - principles such as purpose binding and data minimisation may be difficult to reconcile with

30 big data technologies;

31 This LYMEC congress therefore calls for:

32 - LYMEC Board and its mother organisations to call upon the EU and ALDE to keep fighting
33 for the fundamental right of privacy and data protection of its citizens;

34 - rather than further strengthening consent based on the autonomous authorisation model,
35 the EU should look towards more practical and fair alternatives that fit in the present IT
36 circumstances;

37 - further encouraging of research in the EU on IT changes in order to find solutions for these
38 challenges posed by the new IT environment in Europe and abroad.

39

40

41

42 [1] Big data is high-volume, high-velocity and/or high-variety information assets that demand
43 cost-effective, innovative forms of information processing that enable enhanced insight, decision
44 making, and process automation.

45 [2] The Internet of Things (IoT) describes the revolution already under way that is seeing a
46 growing number of internet enabled devices that can network and communicate with each other
47 and with other web-enabled gadgets. IoT refers to a state where Things (e.g. objects,
48 environments, vehicles and clothing) will have more and more information associated with them
49 and may have the ability to sense, communicate, network and produce new information,
50 becoming an integral part of the Internet.

51 [3] [Http://consent.law.muni.cz/storage/1365167549_sb_consentonlineprivacyconferencemarch20](http://consent.law.muni.cz/storage/1365167549_sb_consentonlineprivacyconferencemarch2013-consentprojectresultswhatconsumersthink.pdf)
52 [13-consentprojectresultswhatconsumersthink.pdf](http://consent.law.muni.cz/storage/1365167549_sb_consentonlineprivacyconferencemarch2013-consentprojectresultswhatconsumersthink.pdf)

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
202

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: IMS, speaker Daria Kirianova

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Securing Freedom

2 Policy Book Chapter 2. Justice and citizens rights

3 Striking down resolutions: -

4 Keywords: Freedom, security, populism

5 Noting that,

- 6 • In his State of the European Union speech, Commission president Juncker said:
7 tolerance cannot come at the price of our security.
- 8 • Never before in its long history has Europe been so safe. Violent crime has been on a
9 decrease over the last 5 years (1) and the number of terrorist attacks is lower than it was
10 15 or 30 years ago (2)
- 11 • The call for increased security at the cost of openness, tolerance and even the rule of law
12 is an increasingly common political message in Europe

13 Considering that,

- 14 • 100% security can never be guaranteed
- 15 • Although statistical data shows that Europe is safer than a decade ago, European people
16 feel less safe
- 17 • Worries about security are a stronghold for populist parties, so it is an issue that cannot
18 be ignored if we want to keep Europe free from populism
- 19 • Threats to security of the individual, such as crime or terror, come from inequality and
20 oppression. Inequality and oppression are the opposites of freedom. Therefore more
21 freedom leads to less inequality and less oppression and eventually increases security.

22 Concludes,

- 23 • To safeguard and promote civil and human rights should be preferred over a pointless
24 effort to reach total security by increasing the power of the state;
- 25 • Instead, in order to increase security European governments should focus on driving back
26 inequality and oppression.

27 LYMEC Calls upon,

- 28 • European leaders to speak out against the argument that civil rights have to be sacrificed
29 in order to provide security

30 Sources and notes

31 1. ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Crime_statistics

32 2. www.datagraver.com/case/people-killed-by-terrorism-per-year-in-western-europe-1970-2015

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Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
203

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Jong VLD, speaker: Nils Utens

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution on Intelligence Cooperation

2 Striking resolution 2.01

3 Considering that:

4 •

5 The European Union Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU INTCEN), part of the
6 European External Action Service, currently acts as the EU's main provider of intelligence
7 analysis, early warning and situational awareness,

8 •

9 The European Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity (SIAC) combined civilian intelligence
10 from EU INTCEN with military intelligence provided by the intelligence directorate of the
11 European Union Military Staff (EUMS),

12 •

13 Despite considerable development in the area of European intelligence cooperation over
14 the past 15 years, existing European structures still face a wide range of obstacles
15 impeding their optimal functioning,

16 •

17 EU Member States only share intelligence if they believe this furthers their own interests,

18 •

19 Intelligence is often shared between Member States only when asked for, or provided on
20 a need to know basis,

21 • National security and intelligence gathering are closely related to the sovereignty of any
22 nation state,

23

24 Stressing that:

25 •

26 Terrorism and organised crime know no borders, while intelligence gathered on terrorists
27 and criminals does,

28

29 Believing that:

30 - Current bilateral and multilateral intelligence cooperation within Europe is inadequate to deal
31 with current threats,

32 - Various threats of external and domestic terrorism have highlighted the need of increased
33 cooperation in the area of intelligence sharing and homeland security within the European Union
34 and the wider European Area,

35

36 - A European intelligence database would lead to a faster and more efficient exchange of
37 intelligence between member states,

38

39

40 LYMEC calls for:

41 - ALDE to support and facilitate the creation central European intelligence database, where
42 intelligence services of Member States exchange information on terror suspects and criminals in
43 the EU.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
301

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: European Liberal Students' Network, speaker Marina Sedlo

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Improving technology in favor of education

2 Considering:

- 3 • Technology is an essential part of good education policy.
- 4 • Open and flexible learning is about fully exploring the potential of Information and
5 Communication Technologies to improve education and training systems, aligning them
6 with the current digital world.
- 7 • Staying competitive in terms of digitalization in today's world is a key issue, education in
8 that respect should follow as well. Nowadays, new methods of sharing knowledge are
9 being developed really fast, putting education at the core of these systemic changes is an
10 important issue.
- 11 • Improving of technologies in the field of education can have a huge positive impact on the
12 way exchanges are managed, since it helps to connect the educational systems in a
13 more efficient way.

14 Welcoming:

- 15 • The initiative "Opening up education" by the European Commission. The EU has taken
16 the steps in the right direction with this project to improve technology in favor of
17 education.
- 18 • The targets of the Horizon 2020, aiming to invest in both technologies and training in the
19 field of education.

20 Criticizing:

- 21 • In 2013, the Commission launched the project consisting in funding Erasmus + and
22 Horizon 2020. Since then, only "openeducationeuropa.eu", a portal aimed at supporting
23 users (teachers or learners) in finding relevant Open Educational Resources was created.
- 24 • The implementations are falling short to rhetorics, therefore concrete actions are needed.

25 LYMEC calls for:

- 26 • Guaranteeing a good internet connection and training for all the students, schools and
27 universities. Everyone should be able to have access to a computer and internet and
28 knowing how to use it.

- 29 • The European Commission to support schools and universities and give private
30 companies incentives to help them gather the necessary devices and software, making it
31 easier to study and teach (e.g. Computers in each classroom, computer boards instead of
32 chalkboards, tablets instead of books and notebooks, etc.). Besides, the teachers have to
33 be trained to be able to use the devices.

- 34 • A comparable digitalization level at schools and universities within the European Union.

- 35 • Promoting distance learning by having a good internet connection and being able to
36 afford and use devices (e.g. watch a livestream of a lecture from a professor in Spain
37 while sitting at home in France).

- 38 • Expanding the system where classes in primary, secondary and higher education are
39 being livestreamed in order to help students who can't go or have difficulty going to
40 school.

- 41 • Using and developing technology to interconnect and interlink educational structures
42 throughout the EU in order to enhance students mobility and improve exchanges across
43 the EU.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
302

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Jong VLD, speaker: Jerry Van Echelpoel

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution on Ethical Hacking

2 Considering that:

- 3 - IT infrastructure has an increasingly prevalent role in the society of today and tomorrow,
4 thus increasing its potential as a target for criminal and terrorist activities,
- 5 - IT infrastructure should therefore be protected and tested against external threats, by
6 means of a robust initial design and a constant maintenance, testing for system vulnerabilities,
- 7 - The purpose of the activities of a hacker is to look for vulnerabilities in order to exploit them
8 for criminal or terrorist activities,
- 9 - Ethical hacking is done to look actively for vulnerabilities within a system in order to test or
10 repair the tested system and is always done by mutual consent,
- 11 - Both hackers and ethical hackers use the same set of techniques in order to achieve their
12 goal, whether with malicious or benign intent,
- 13 - The difference between hacking and ethical hacking is not enshrined in current legislation,
14 thus creating a legal vacuum for people who try to improve security by actively looking for
15 vulnerabilities.
- 16 - Therefore, even when an ethical hacker has the consent of a system's owner, a third party
17 could file a complaint which could result in prosecution of the ethical hacker,
- 18 - The IT infrastructure of public institutions, both national and European, is insufficiently and
19 inadequately secure, while it is often the prime target of cyberattacks,

20 Acknowledging that:

- 21 - While ethical hacking has already been common practice for several years, with tech
22 companies such as Google and Facebook awarding ethical hackers that find vulnerabilities within
23 their system, it nevertheless remains a criminal activity,
- 24 - It is impossible to look for vulnerabilities without using techniques that are considered
25 illegal,

26 Believing that:

- 27 - Ethical hacking is an important factor and tool against the threats of cybercrime and
28 cyberterrorism,
- 29 - The use of IT infrastructure is not limited to national borders and calls for a European or

30 international context,

31 - Ethical hacking improves the security of European citizens, companies and governments;

32 LYMEC calls for:

33 - The European Union to legalize the use of techniques and activities considered as ethical
34 hacking which are done by explicit consent of the owner of a system in order to improve the
35 system's security.

36 - Public, governmental and European institutions to make use of ethical hacking by citizens to
37 strengthen the security of e-governance, voting systems and as a way of democratic
38 accountability.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
601

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: FCY, speaker: Hilikka Kemppe

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution on LULUCF sector regulation

2

3 Noting that:

4 •

5 The target of the Paris Agreement is ambitious: to hold the increase in the global average
6 temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to
7 limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees.

8 •

9 The EU has agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030
10 compared to the 1990s' level.

11 •

12 The role of forests in part of climate strategy is well recognized in the Paris Agreement.
13 LULUCF and forests are the only sector having its own article in the Paris Agreement.

14

15 Considering that:

16 •

17 To achieve the long-term goal, emissions and removals need to be in balance in the
18 second half of this century.

19 •

20 Transport represents almost a quarter of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions and road
21 transport is by far the biggest emitter on transport sector. Advanced biofuels are one
22 important part of long-term renewable energy solution for transportation.

23 •

24 In countries like Finland, wood-based fuels come from side-products of forest industry. In
25 general, forests in Finland are not grown and cut for bioenergy, but instead logging waste
26 and harvest residues are utilized.

27 •

28 In the Nordic countries, sustainability in forestry is ensured with legislation, voluntary
29 measures, incentives, monitoring and forest certification that is market based-instrument.

30

31 Believing that:

32 •

33 While reducing emissions, we need to continue the work to maintain and enhance forest
34 carbon sinks and stocks of forest and wood products. At the same time, to reduce
35 emissions from fossil energy, we need to increase use of renewable bioenergy, like wood.

36 •

37 If a country generates significant climate benefit through their land use sector and in
38 particular in forest, it should not be penalized.

39 •

40 The Commission proposal on LULUCF does not have sufficient incentives and it will not
41 lead to stimulate maximum long term action in forest sector.

42

43 LYMEC calls upon:

44 •

45 The Commission should base the accounting of the carbon sinks within the LULUCF
46 sector on current data and not on the levels of 2009.

47 •

48 The main emphasis should be on reducing emissions while some limited flexibility from
49 LULUCF sector to help meeting emissions targets in agriculture are important.

50 •

51 The accounting rules for land use sector should reflect better on what are the real impacts
52 to the atmosphere are.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
701

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Centerstudenter, speaker: Petter Thorin

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Resolution on the matter of antimicrobial resistance in** 2 **Europe**

3 Throughout Europe the knowledge about the risk for and the actual spreading of antimicrobial
4 resistance must be changed for the better. The information needs to be clearer about this issue
5 as this in fact must be said to be a highly challenging and up-to-date topic for the future of
6 Europe, considering our common wealth. This considered in a health manner as well as strictly
7 economically. Today's outspread, common use of antimicrobial medicine in foremost meat
8 productions raises serious questions. By today's highly irresponsible using of the drug as a so to
9 say just-to-be-safe preventive use the increasing resistance must be said to be a fact.
10 Estimations of millions of people dying from the cause of antimicrobial resistance by the year of
11 2050 speaks very clearly about the need for action. As well, there are also obvious economic
12 effects that would be real and concrete if we do not act clearly on this matter in time.

13 With this background we call on:

- 14 - To encourage the member states of EU to politically work with preventing the risks of
15 antimicrobial resistance, by national strategies with concrete goals
- 16 - The creation of an common European law regulation, stipulating that those who are legitimized
17 veterinaries only must have permission to prescribe antibiotics
- 18 - To emphasize to the member states of Europe the need for more and effective research
19 processes on a high level dealing with the questions of antimicrobial resistance, in which a
20 European cooperation is an important part
- 21 - A science developing process of alternative antimicrobial drugs with lower resistance risks
- 22 - A responsibility for each European member state to inform about the risks of antimicrobial
23 resistance and how these might be avoided in everyday life on a more individual level, such as
24 types of food consumption for example.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
702

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Svensk Ungdom, Elis Henell

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **More bzzz in the food!**

2 Keywords: Food Security, Insects, Environmental practices

3 *Summary*

4 It is a fact that meat production causes a great amount of greenhouse gas emissions. There is an
5 interesting and protein rich alternative, that LYMEC should call upon the EU to accept as
6 provisions.

7 *Noting that*

8 The global warming has got many people to think about their eating habits. For a long time it has
9 been known that the meat production results in large discharges of greenhouse gas. One less
10 polluting alternative source of protein is insects.

11 *Considering that*

12 Insects contain a large amount of protein at the same time as the production of these requires
13 less resources. One kilogram grasshoppers requires only two kilograms of fodder, which is 12
14 times less than what cattle requires. Outside the EU there are long traditions of eating insects, in
15 about 80% of the countries in the world the insects belong to the national cuisine.

16 The same can not be said about the countries in the EU. Most of the countries in EU follows a
17 recommendation by the European Commission. The European Commission categorises insects
18 as new provisions and therefore they have to go through a security assessment and get
19 permission of the Commission before they can be introduced and enter the market. The
20 European Commission supports a research project that investigates risks in allowing insects as
21 provisions. This research lean on the risk analysis that were made of the European Food Safety
22 Authority in October 2015.

23 *Concludes*

24 Tackling climate change requires not only decreased use of fossil fuels and new ways of
25 producing energy. We need to think about more environmentally friendly solutions for everything
26 in our day to day life. All the economic sectors that lead to the production of greenhouse gas
27 emissions are affected by food production and consumption. Meat production is one of the most
28 polluting food industries, but if we in Europe start consuming alternative sources of protein such
29 as insects, we can reduce the consumption of meat. Thereby the greenhouse gas emissions can
30 be reduced. Therefore the EU needs to consider insects as provisions.

31 *LYMEC calls upon:*

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-

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That EU accepts the production of insects as provisions when scientific quality controls are made.

34

35

- That the selling, branding and distribution of insects as provisions are allowed on the single market.

36

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
703

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Working Group on CAP, speaker Lena Höglund

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Working Group Paper on CAP

2 Introduction to working group process and conclusions

3

4 „[...] if I abolish independent farmers like in the former East Germany (DDR) ... or I give them
5 long-term subsidies: on the one hand I abolish the independent farmers by taking away their
6 estate, on the other hand I abolish farmers intellectually and mentally.” (Heinrich Niehaus,
7 1956, p.28)

8 The reoccurring debates, resolutions and upcoming reforms on the subject on agricultural
9 subsidies, tariffs, direct payments and Rural Development programs lead to the creation of a
10 working group on the CAP in LYMEC. The initiation for the working group took place after the
11 passed resolution "Securing our rural economies" in Helsinki, Finland in October, 2015. Ten
12 persons from different regions of Europe and fractions within LYMEC were chosen for the
13 working group. The working group met up for the first meeting during the spring of 2016 in
14 Brussels and interviewed Paolo Gouveia of COPA-COGECA, the European Farmers' and
15 Agri-Co-operatives' Association as well as MEP Jan Huitema. Since then, the working group has
16 met several times over Skype to debate and, finally to organize the writing of varying stances and
17 compromises on the future of the CAP.

18 The CAP provides incentives to produce high quality food for consumers. But also, it actively
19 seeks to encourage farmers to seek new innovative solutions for problems such as renewable
20 (green) energy sources and diversification into new forms of employment such as Agri-Tourism.
21 With little room left for expanding agricultural land in the EU, greater efficiency and production
22 growth in the future has to be achieved through innovation and research. The CAP to date has
23 been the cause for millions of farmers to farm more sustainably than before and supported the
24 upgrade of agricultural technologies and infrastructure. While it started out as a mechanism to
25 protect farmers, it grew to something much more.

26 Lobbyists for the agricultural sector would say that an ever-growing world population needs more
27 food. In 2050 the world's food consumption would double, they say. The focus to counter this
28 problem should not be to just produce more food. We should also take measures to counter the
29 problems concerning waste and overconsumption. Supermarkets competing for the lowest prices
30 is making farming unsustainable and putting food safety and quality in jeopardy. We need more
31 actions hell bent on limiting the power of the few big supermarket chains, incentivizing more fair
32 market competition and less oligopolization.

33 In order to support technological research, there needs to be more cooperation between EU
34 member states and innovation in the field of EU agriculture. This can be achieved mainly through
35 giving farmers new and better tools, namely better access to available information and more
36 options for sustainable and innovative investments. A priority should be to help farmers diversify
37 their trades and skills so as to make their reliance on direct payments as minimal as possible. In
38 other words, to increase their financial sustainability in order to overcome market fluctuations.
39 The future of EU farming needs to be aligned to new and innovative sustainable practices that
40 enhance rural environments as well as the generation of unique and high quality products. We as
41 liberals need to support the EU's initiative to help encourage young professionals to get involved
42 in farming. We cannot risk seeing a future where the young professional finish their education in
43 farming, but end up not farming at all due to barriers to inheritance and credit availability.

44 The working group concluded that the direct payments to farmers, subsidies and tariffs need to
45 be phased out – but with care and over time. An immediate abolishment of the CAP in all its
46 dimension would result in many serious consequences, while a transition towards phasing out
47 the direct payments in proportion with increased investment in local business diversification and
48 agricultural innovation makes for a more sustainable future.

49 In this document, the working group displays the arguments of the most recent resolution on the
50 topic, argues for different parties in the debate and concludes on what the next actions for a more
51 liberal agricultural policy in the EU should be. The document has the following topics: Pillar 1,
52 Pillar 2, Tariffs and Subsidies and Youth.

53 **PILLAR 1**

54 **Existing arguments and conclusions in the resolution adopted in Helsinki, Finland 2015**

- 55 • The CAP was first established in the early 1960s to provide guaranteeing fair prices to
56 European farmers and encourage them to produce more and stabilize markets.
- 57 • Article 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union outlines the objectives
58 of the CAP. Among them being to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural
59 community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of persons engaged in
60 agriculture; to stabilize markets; to ensure the availability of supplies and to ensure that
61 supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.
- 62 • The European Union is the world's largest agricultural importer and exporter
- 63 • 77% of the EU's territory is classified as rural and that there are over 12 million full time
64 farmers which provide supplies that support 46 million jobs.
- 65 • An ever growing World population needs a larger food base to feed it.
- 66 • Rural communities across Europe have experienced great social and economic change
67 as a result of the recent economic crash.
- 68 • While food prices may increase producers' incomes may not increase or be the cause of
69 it.
- 70 • The rush to the bottom by some supermarkets on certain products is making farming
71 more unsustainable and putting food safety and quality in jeopardy.

72 **Views and opposing views**

73 Views:

- 74 • It is not a key function of the European Union to support agricultural markets with
75 subsidies in difficult times.
- 76 • In a European agricultural market, according to liberal standards, we have to decrease
77 the subsidies in the Common organization of the markets (CMOs).

- 78 • The direct payments are granted per hectare of farmland.
- 79 • Positive effect of the reform 2014-2020 is that European farmers will be paid for their
- 80 diverse services to society.
- 81 • We have to strengthen the idea to support the farmers in taking on public services.
- 82 • Therefore, we can support direct payments, if they are linked to innovations in the
- 83 production cycle. That means, we support a more innovative and nutrient, energy and
- 84 carbon efficient agricultural production in Europe.
- 85 • We need a more market-orientated agricultural policy, therefore we have to change the
- 86 first pillar into a system that honors modern, innovative and efficient farms.
- 87 • In the future we will not be able to explain the European taxpayers that we are funding
- 88 farms like the current situation (direct payments).
- 89 • Support for farmers that are doing environmental measures.
- 90 • Literature shows that the first pillar is not an efficient solution to get an equitable income.
- 91 • As liberals we can't agree to support business since it is against a free agricultural
- 92 market.

93 Opposing views:

- 94 • Many European farm associations justify direct payments in the first pillar as a legal way
- 95 to stabilize the incomes of farmers due to market fluctuations.
- 96 • Subsidies are not ideal however they are necessary in the current agricultural structure to
- 97 supply the market with cheap, clean and safe food and still provide some sort of living to
- 98 those who produce.
- 99 • A sudden end to the basic payments would create an instable situation, where food
- 100 security would be threatened and rural unemployment would become a real problem as
- 101 there are about 12 million full-time farmers and 46 million jobs provided by agriculture and
- 102 agri-foods industries in the EU.

103 **Compromise/final opinion:**

- 104 - Decrease the basic payment over time to terminate it and open a new support scheme for
- 105 innovations connected to rural livelihoods and sustainability.

106 **Estimated consequences of the final opinion**

- 107 - Cutting off the basic payments (single area payment) over a period of a decade.
- 108 - Support a payment scheme for innovations in farm production (precision farming,
- 109 research, big data solutions).
- 110 - Still support young farmers scheme in order to motivate young people to become a farmer.
- 111 - Terminate the crop specific payments on for example cotton.

112 **Consequence** is that the basic payments will decrease and the specific payments for innovation
 113 will increase, but less than the basic payments decrease, adding up to a smaller total proportion
 114 of the EU budget. The end result will be a considerable decrease in subsidies.

115 **Actions to be taken and by whom**

- 116 • ALDE party to write amendments during the new CAP reform to phase out the basic
- 117 payments over time and introduce a payment scheme for innovations in farm production.
- 118 • LYMEC in cooperation with ALDE to organize events with (farming associations,
- 119 innovation companies, politicians and farmers) before and during the new CAP reform in
- 120 order to get better, different and new information from the sector.

121 **Fact sheet**

122 **CMO after 2013:**

- 123 • A complex part of the CAP Regulations
- 124 • 232 articles – many rules arising from delegated acts
- 125 • Crisis reserve fund can be used to finance exceptional measures to address market
- 126 disruption

- 127 • The dairy quotas expired in 2015 – in order to strengthen the EU dairy farmers in the food
- 128 chain
- 129 • The single CMO provides for beekeeping (50% of the funding)
- 130 • Defined by producer organizations, associations of such organization and inter-branch
- 131 organizations

- 132 ◦ Funding by the Rural Development budget
- 133 ◦ They can be authorized by the EU Commission in some cases to take temporary
- 134 measures to stabilize markets (storage by private operators)
- 135 • “Refunds on exports to third countries have been retained under the new regulation, but
- 136 only for certain products and only when conditions on the internal market are equivalent
- 137 to those which trigger exceptional measures. Exports eligible for subsidies will be subject
- 138 to restrictions.”
- 139 • CMO is funded by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF).
- 140 • 2014 market intervention measures 2,6 billion (5,8% of total EAGF).
- 141 • On average around 40% of the farms income comes from the first pillar under the direct
- 142 payments scheme.

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- 147 [support/direct-payments/docs/direct-payments-schemes_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/direct-support/direct-payments/docs/direct-payments-schemes_en.pdf)
- 148 • Legal Basis: Articles 38 to 44 of Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
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- 152 western German farm incomes and regional farm income disparity: paper prepared for
- 153 presentation at the EAAE 2011 Congress "Change and Uncertainty, Challenges for
- 154 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources"; August 30 to September 2, 2011; ETH Zurich,
- 155 Zurich, Switzerland. p.12.

156 **PILLAR 2**

157 **Existing arguments and conclusions in the resolution adopted in Helsinki, Finland 2015**

- 158 • The CAP provides incentives to produce high quality food for consumers and encourages
- 159 them to seek new development opportunities, such as renewable ‘green’ energy
- 160 sources and diversify into new forms of employment such as Agri-Tourism.
- 161 • With little room left for expanding agricultural land in Europe, productivity growth in the
- 162 future has to come through innovation and research.
- 163 • The CAP to date has been caused millions of farmers to farm more sustainably than

164 previously and supported the upgrade of farm technologies and infrastructure.

165 **Concluding for LYMEC**

- 166 • To support the principle of creating balanced regional and rural development that allows
167 communities to help shape their own destiny in providing resources and contributing to
168 their own member states and the EU which is outlined in the CAP Pillar 2.
- 169 • To support technological researches, cooperation and innovation in the field of farming all
170 over the European Union. Achieve it mainly by giving farmers new tools, namely better
171 access to available information and capabilities in which they can invest.
- 172 • To assist farmers to diversify their trades and skills so as to make the reliance on direct
173 provisions as minimal as possible.
- 174 • To support the expansion of farming into new environmentally friendly practices that
175 enhance local habitats and generation of unique produce.

176 **Views and opposing views**

177 **Views:**

- 178 • The LEADER or community-led local development instrument (part of Rural
179 Development) fosters diversification of industries within rural areas such as Agri-Tourism,
180 Transportation and Ecological industries, but since the liberal principles do not support
181 subsidizing businesses, the instrument is not commendable.
- 182 • Rural Development initiatives should not be tied with the CAP and should have a
183 separate budget.

184 **Opposing views:**

- 185 • The LEADER instrument fosters diversification of industries within rural areas such as
186 Agri-Tourism, Transportation and Ecological industries, making farmers less dependent
187 on subsidies and direct payments over time.
- 188 • Agriculture takes place in the main in rural areas therefore having a linked policy makes
189 sense.
- 190 • Rural Development strategy is something to be supported as it helps the most peripheral
191 of regions to be more financially sustainable over time.
- 192 • Member states can alter how some provisions of Pillar 2 are met allowing them to take
193 into account the uniqueness of their rural areas.
- 194 • Regional imbalance in terms of development is present throughout Europe and on a
195 smaller scale within nation states.
- 196 • Often can be a democratic deficit in who decides what an area needs. Bottom-up
197 approach to development should be encouraged.

198 **Compromise/final opinion**

199 - Rural areas are different but may share some similarities with some traits in others.
200 Therefore, member states should be allowed to tailor the roll out of Rural Development Fund to
201 their own regions' needs.

202 - To address regional imbalance, the Rural Development Fund should assist in the setup of
203 innovative indigenous industries.

204 - The LEADER instrument should be continued and expanded at the pace of the decrease
205 in direct payments (Pillar 1).

206 - Farmers need to diversify their agri-business or innovate their production methods in order
207 to meet support criteria.

208 **Estimated consequences of the final opinion**

209 - Community groups and rural businesses will be able to decide for themselves what they
210 need for their area and can seek part funding for projects.

211 - A diversification of rural livelihoods will not only lead to better financial stability in the rural
212 regions of the EU, but also social stability and work against urbanization. A quick increase of the
213 LEADER instrument will work to avoid dramatic increases in regional unemployment and
214 considerable needs for restructuring of local labor markets.

215 - A more direct link between research and innovation implies a more stable path towards
216 sustainability and a higher level of resource effectiveness.

217 **Actions to be taken and by whom**

- 218 • LYMEC & ALDE continue to support the Rural Development and rebalancing initiatives
219 such as LEADER and the Rural Development Fund.
- 220 • LYMEC & ALDE seek that member states review the type of projects that are attaining
221 funding through the Rural Development programs (Pillar 2) to ensure money is being
222 spent in best manner.
- 223 • The LEADER approach for local development has, over a number of years, proven its
224 effectiveness in promoting the development of rural areas by fully taking into account the
225 multi-sectoral needs for endogenous rural development through its bottom-up approach.
226 LEADER should therefore be continued in the future and its application should remain
227 compulsory for Rural Development programs at national and/or regional level.

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231 **TARIFFS AND SUBSIDIES**

232 **Existing arguments and conclusions in the resolution adopted in Helsinki, Finland 2015**

- 233 • Subsidies are necessary in agriculture in its current form to supplement farmers' incomes
234 that are being dictated to by the sale of cheap food to the market.
- 235 • Phasing out of subsidies is the ideal solution if it does not lead to collapse of the industry
236 and massive increase in food prices.

237 **Views and opposing views**

238 **Views:**

- 239 • Standardize tariffs and subsidies among all EU farmers. Now different tariffs and
240 subsidies apply to different regions which impedes farmers from region A where subsidies
241 are lower to compete with farmers from region B where subsidies are higher (COPA,
242 2015).
- 243 • Historic reference years for Single Farm Direct Payments do not reflect current level of
244 productivity on farms and therefore should be updated or scrapped (COPA, 2015).
- 245 • Greening and associate direct payments have not given the desired results and lead to

246 more confusion among member states and farmers than anything else. Moreover, the
247 phosphate meters installed to prevent farmers from hurting the environment have
248 paralyzed the market. New measures to deal with greening in a more sustainable and
249 market-friendly way are very much needed.

- 250 • Phasing out of subsidies is the ideal solution. Farmers need to become self-sufficient.

251 **Opposing views:**

- 252 • Abolishing the milk quotas will mainly be in the interest of large farmers and processing
253 companies such as FrieslandCampina. Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) will
254 experience more difficulty to compete. It may lead to extreme forms of monopolization or
255 oligopolization of the dairy industry.
- 256 • The power of lobbying in the dairy sector for example seriously favors the interests of
257 large processing companies over the interests of the young and the small and
258 medium-sized farmers. Incentives are being developed to nudge young farmers to
259 increase, but these incentives might not be enough and they might not be the right
260 incentives as to provide fair and self-sustainable market competition.
- 261 • Near to nothing is being done to compensate small and medium sized farmers for their
262 loss of position in comparison to large processing firms and large farmers. The
263 developments concerning small and medium-sized farmers being bought out by large
264 farmers and processing firms are not beneficiary to increasing the number of young
265 farmers. In order to keep a fair and self-sustainable market competition, our position
266 would be to care for the negative consequences of the phasing out of the subsidies and
267 tariffs.
- 268 • The abolition of direct payments would cause a serious rift in the agri-economy as
269 farmers would have to either increase sale cost, which would affect the consumer, or else
270 smaller holdings would disappear, in turn leading to larger super holdings controlling the
271 sector.
- 272 • Subsidies are necessary in agriculture in its current form in order to supplement
273 farmers' incomes that are being dictated by the sale of lower quality, cheap food on the
274 common market by big chain stores.
- 275 • Farmers do more than just produce food. They also are caretakers of the rural
276 environment and this is why payments have been linked with agri-environmental
277 schemes.
- 278 • European standards and safety measures on EU food production help safeguard
279 consumers. Subsidies and tariffs have taken this and the cost of it into account in the
280 past.
- 281 • If subsidies are reduced or terminated, at a minimum imported food should face the same
282 health safety, animal rights and workers' rights scrutiny as food produced within the EU
283 does.

284 **Compromise/final opinion**

- 285 - Subsidies in an ideal world would not exist. However, scrapping them immediately would
286 have a dramatic effect on food production and prices.
- 287 - Large corporations would most likely dictate the price paid for food production as well as
288 consumption if subsidies were phased out too quickly or were immediately abolished. This might
289 result in global dependency relations that pose as serious threats to democracy, security,
290 equality and sustainability.
- 291 - A gradual reduction of subsidies and tariffs over a period of time is the compromise

292 position. This will enable key stakeholders to monitor the effect of this measure and make
293 adjustments to counter perverse effects if necessary.

294 - Any phasing out of subsidies should go hand in hand with measures that promote and
295 support innovation and diversification within agriculture.

296 - An absolute requirement for the reduction of subsidies and tariffs is for EU-imported
297 produce to follow the same standards as EU-produced produce.

298 - Additional options for consumers should be encouraged, however, standards should not
299 be compromised to meet that end.

300 **Estimated consequences of the final opinion**

301 - Smaller farms will suffer most and either have to diversify into other forms of rural and
302 agri-foods businesses, seek off-farm employment or cease production.

303 - Less produce produced on smaller farms.

304 - Potential risk of large farms and corporations controlling the price paid to producers and
305 thus, fewer producers and options for consumers.

306 - More lobby practices by large corporations in the individual member states and in the EU
307 sphere.

308 **Actions to be taken and by whom**

309 • LYMEC and ALDE support that while payments are in existence, they should contribute
310 to covering additional costs and income foregone resulting from the commitments
311 undertaken in agri-environmental projects and should only cover commitments going
312 beyond relevant mandatory standards and requirements, in accordance with the "polluter
313 pays principle".

314 • LYMEC and ALDE to oversee a gradual decrease in subsidies and tariffs, while strongly
315 upholding the health and safety standards within the EU market.

316 • LYMEC and ALDE to vouch for a more transparent and regulated public sector due to the
317 strong lobby practices of the large corporations in comparison with the farmers' interest
318 groups.

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355 YOUTH

356 Existing arguments and conclusions in the resolution adopted in Helsinki, Finland 2015

- 357 • 77 % of the EU's territory is classified as rural and that there are over 12 million full time
358 farmers, which provide supplies that, support 46 million jobs.
- 359 • The CAP provides incentives to produce high quality food for consumers and encourages
360 them to seek new development opportunities, such as renewable 'green' energy
361 sources and diversify into new forms of employment such as Agro-Tourism.
- 362 • With little room left for expanding agricultural land in Europe, productivity growth in the
363 future has to come through innovation and research.
- 364 • The CAP to date has been caused millions of farmers to farm more sustainably than
365 previously and supported the upgrade of farm technologies and infrastructure.
- 366 • An ever-growing World population needs a larger food base to feed it.
- 367 • While food prices may increase producers' incomes may not increase or be the cause of
368 it.
- 369 • The rush to the bottom by some supermarkets on certain products is making farming
370 more unsustainable and putting food safety and quality in jeopardy.

371 Concluding for LYMEC

- 372 • To support the principle of creating balanced regional and rural development that allows
373 communities to help shape their own destiny in providing resources and contributing to
374 their own member states and the EU which is outlined in the CAP Pillar 2.
- 375 • To support technological researches, cooperation and innovation in the field of farming all
376 over the European Union. Achieve it mainly by giving farmers new tools, namely better
377 access to available information and capabilities in which they can invest.

- 378 • To assist farmers to diversify their trades and skills so as to make the reliance on direct
379 provisions as minimal as possible.
380 • To support the expansion of farming into new environmentally friendly practices that
381 enhance local habitats and generation of unique produce
382 • To support the EU's initiative to help encourage younger people to get involved in
383 farming.

384 **Views and opposing views**

385 **Views:**

- 386 • Many farmers already have diversified their farms into businesses, energy generation and
387 agricultural tourist destinations. Diversification should not be based on financial support,
388 but on real market demand.
389 • Given the investment-heavy nature of the agricultural business, complete dependency on
390 the CAP is not sustainable, but should rather be a short-term fix while local co-ownership
391 of materiel and machinery (or sufficient scale of the single farm) should be the rule and a
392 precondition for CAP investment support.

393

394 **Opposing views:**

- 395 • CAP is, for now and for a foreseeable future, essential for the existence of farmers on the
396 existing scale in Europe. Not only does the CAP support farmers in diversifying their
397 farms as tourism businesses and investing in the needed technology to produce food of
398 quality, but the CAP works as an income buffer at the face of price fluctuations.
399 • A big factor in choosing farming as a profession depends on financial security and
400 dependency on conditions and price development. Therefore, CAP is essential to
401 supporting young farmers in their career choice. For those already interested in farming,
402 investment support from the Rural Development programs or LEADER instrument helps
403 formulate and diversify young farmers' business plan from the start.
404 • A drastic fall in the number of farmers is not in the interest of consumers or the general
405 food supply security on the European continent. The lifestyle-attraction of the farmer's
406 profession does in no way weigh up to the expected need for new young farmers in
407 Europe.
408 • The consumer trend for locally grown produce has yet to give real financial return to
409 farmers.
410 • Although, farming is a lifestyle choice and young people who have grown up in the
411 proximity of farming are much more likely to take to that career, making inheritance tax
412 and other issues ahead of a generation shift a central aspect to consider when
413 encouraging young people to become farmers.
414 • The connection to existing farms also means educational institutions need to be as local
415 as possible.
416 • The CAP as a whole must not make generation shifts more difficult, the definition of
417 active farmer and a functioning pension system for farmers could lead to increased
418 accessibility of farming land for young people who are interested in becoming farmers.
419 • In addition, a functioning farm relief service, local services and functioning internet service
420 on the country side are named as necessary preconditions for motivating youth for
421 becoming professional farmers.

422 **Compromise/final opinion**

423 - Diversification should always be based on real demand. Investment support for technology
424 upgrading should especially consider smaller farms or several smaller farms that seek co-funding
425 together. Smaller farms and local co-ownership should be prioritized over bigger farms as
426 candidates for investment. Smaller farms should be encouraged to create business models of
427 shared investments in technology through investment incentives.

428 - Although a reform of the CAP is to be anticipated in the decade to come, income support to
429 farmers is to be phased out over time, rather than terminated on an immediate basis. The
430 generation shift in the agricultural sector needs to come to terms with a new outlook of what
431 farming encompasses in terms of financial sustainability and business modelling.

432 - Accessible and innovative agricultural education is univocal in the development and
433 transformation of the agricultural sector. Educational programs need to target climate change,
434 sustainability and resilience to a larger extent, as well as business modelling, investment support
435 alternatives, alternative farming side products (e.g. energy generation) and technology.
436 Technological and biological research in the field of agriculture in Europe is not only essential to
437 the development of the agricultural sector on a global scale, but also has an impact on the
438 overall attractiveness of the sector for coming generations of farmers.

439 - Inheritance tax and other issues such as access to land (definition of active farmer in terms
440 of agricultural support) ahead of a generation shift remains a central aspect to consider when
441 encouraging young people to become farmers. All possible incentives for inheriting farms from
442 previous generations need to be in place, as much of the financial risk of farming lies in the cost
443 of the property, land and farming equipment.

444 - General services ranging from internet connection to relief services should be catered to
445 on a national level.

446 - To purchase farmland is a large capital investment, one that most young people cannot
447 afford. Access to the credit is a key component to encourage young people to get involved in
448 farming.

449 **Estimated consequences of the final opinion**

450 - Reform and development of the agricultural educational programs, allowing for and
451 promising more business diversification of agricultural businesses.

452 - New requirements for investment support in innovations and technology, priority to
453 co-ownership and scale requirements on certain investments.

454 - Continued but over-time phased out income support to farmers.

455 - Diversified and more financially dependent farmers and entrepreneurs within different forms
456 of agri-business and rural livelihoods.

457 **Actions to be taken and by whom**

- 458 • LYMEC and ALDE to propose additions and reforms in the curriculum of national
459 agricultural education programs
- 460 • LYMEC and ALDE to propose changes to the criteria of CAP investment support in
461 technology in the favor of small farm co-ownership, farms of sufficient scale and farms
462 directed towards business diversification.
- 463 • LYMEC and ALDE to propose clarifications on 'active farmers' and thus simplify young
464 farmers' access to farming land and agricultural support at the initial stage of a generation
465 shift.
- 466 • LYMEC and ALDE call for the involvement of the European Investment Bank and other
467 financial institutions in the provision of credit for capital investment to younger farmers.

468 **List of references**

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471 **The Working Group on CAP has consisted of the following members:**

472 Ashmita Krishna

473 Jorge de Jesus

474 Keith Henry

475 Beret Roots

476 Daniel Eberz

477 Jon Gleeson

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Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
901

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: AY, ERPY, LLY, speaker: Gaspar Shabad

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Dousing the hateful flame from East

2 Keywords

3

4 Eastern Partnership, Russia, Democracy, EU Foreign Policy, Propaganda

5 Summary

6 In order to ensure maximum transparency and objectivity, awareness about propaganda among
7 citizens of the European Union, it is important to maximize the quantities of resources of
8 information about propaganda measures and tools, its spread and distribution, its influence and
9 impact accessible for European Union society in general. Combating propaganda is necessary to
10 uphold fundamental EU values and to ensure human rights, democratic values and functions of
11 civil society. Despite the levels of concern in European institutions, citizens of EU member
12 nations experience a lack of transparency with regards to the usability of and access to
13 information channels, tools, measures and documentation concerning propaganda within the
14 European Union. Citizens of the European Union are not currently involved in the process of
15 identifying and combating propaganda.

16 Taking into account

17 LYMEC Resolutions

18 •

19 9.64 – Resolution on the Ukraine-Russian war

20 •

21 9.70 Resolution on common foreign policy towards Russia

22 International Documents:

23 •

24 European agenda for culture in a globalising world (COM(2007)0242);

25 •

26 The Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship (8496/15);

27

-

28

European Parliament resolution on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values (2015/2139(INI));

29

30 Noting that

31

32

-

33

Deeply concerned about intensifying propaganda and disinformation towards European states

34

35

-

36

Taking into account that propaganda is a message designed to persuade its intended audience to think and behave in a certain manner or it is official government communications to the public that are designed to influence opinion;

37

38

39

-

40

Fully alarmed about the content of Russia's propaganda with anti-European sentiment, hate speech, homophobia and xenophobia, which encourages aggression against neighbouring countries and impedes integration of national minorities in the Baltic States, through strategies such as falsifying the history of former member nations of the USSR

41

42

43

44

-

45

Noting that Russia's main propaganda tools in the Baltic states are television, radio, news portals, social networks.

46

47

-

48

Further noting that Russian programming is slick and entertaining, and consequently widely watched even by people who do not feel politically drawn to the Kremlin

49

50 Considering that

51

-

52

Russian TV reaches around 4 million Baltic States' Russian speakers and ethnic Russians

53

54

-

55

Concerned that Russia's launched Sputnik, a so called news agency, and the semi secret Baltnews site, which publishes anonymously produced "news" in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian.

56

57

58

-

59

Taking into consideration that Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine itself have blocked Russian TV channels, to prevent them from exerting similar influence on their minorities.

60

61 Concluding that

62

-

63 Pro-Russian broadcasters influence is reflected in consistently stronger backing for the
64 Kremlin among ethnic Russians than in the general population

65 •

66 Deeply concerned that citizens of the European Union are not involved in a process of
67 recognition and identification of propaganda

68 LYMEC Calls upon

69 •

70 To set up a task force, under the auspices of East StratCom, charged with identifying the
71 best methods to counter any disinformation tactics seeking to undermine the unity and
72 diversity of the EU;

73 •

74 To increase the EU's Strategic Communication budget, case specific to the needs of East
75 StratCom and for guarantees to be made that these funds will remain available even in
76 times of crisis;

77 •

78 To create media campaign(s) aimed at raising awareness among European citizens
79 regarding EU channels that counter Russian propaganda

80 •

81 To continue ongoing efforts in helping and building communications with Russian NGO's
82 and civil union leaders that pursue the same political goals and ambitions as those of the
83 EU;

84 •

85 To facilitate as part of secondary education curriculums across EU member states, in
86 some beneficiary form, critical evaluation studies of sources and their reliability,
87 respective to the study programs

88 •

89 To pursue additional rounds of talks regarding possibilities of creating a cross-EU news
90 station, charged with countering propaganda news, thereby working to propagate the
91 values inherent in the principles and member nations of the Union;

92 •

93 To bring forth a separate resolution on the proceedings regarding the creation of any new
94 news service by the time of the next Congress, following prior consultations with other
95 LYMEC member organizations.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
903

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: IMS, speaker: Antoinette Bakker & Friso Bonga

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Future of relations between EU and the European** 2 **Neighborhood**

3 Keywords: Eastern Partnership, Rule of Law, Democracy

4 Striking down resolutions: 9.02 Resolution of European Liberal Youth on European New
5 Neighbours Policy

6 Summary:

7 The European Neighborhood Policy aims to support democracy, free market economy and rule
8 of law in the countries surrounding the European Union. Over the past years it has become clear
9 that hesitation among EU member states to honor the ENP and consequently the disappointment
10 among EaP countries failing to benefit from EaP reforms, directly counteract the continued
11 implementation of the ENP. This resolution calls upon the member states prioritize a coherent
12 ENP that focuses on adding value for citizens of partnership countries thereby encouraging
13 sustainable implementation of further reforms.

14 Taking into account Lymec Resolutions:

- 15 • 1.12 on the Future of Europe
- 16 • 1.16 on the Young liberals' vision for the future of the Council of Europe (2008)
- 17 • 1.21 Towards a more transparent and accountable Europe,
- 18 • 1.22 Urgent resolution on the Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to the European Union
19 (2012)
- 20 • 1.26 A True European Customs Union (2012)
- 21 • 2.45 Urgent Resolution on the Presidential Elections in Belarus (2006)
- 22 • 9.22 Revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East (2011)
- 23 • 9.36 Towards a Stronger Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (2008)

24 Noting that,

- 25 • Since 2004 the European Union has formulated its relations to countries surrounding it as
26 the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). The ENP has been focussed on promoting
27 democracy, the rule of law and the free market
- 28 • The exchange of goods and ideas increases cohesion between the EU and partnership
29 countries and are at the core of the ENP

30 Considering that,

- 31 • Neighbouring countries are facing similar challenges (eg. corruption, stagnating economic
32 development or human rights violations) in different ways. Therefore their relations with
33 the European Union are different and the EU's approach to them should be different too.
34 • Before specific benefits of the ENP, association treaties or bilateral agreements with
35 partnership countries such as visa liberalization or provisions for a customs union can
36 come into effect, partnership countries have to meet strict criteria that bring them up to
37 level with the EU's internal market and Schengen regulations.
38 • With the notable exception of some, most partnership countries have tried, but are failing
39 to implement liberal democracy, free market economy and institutions to support the rule
40 of law.
41 • Until today the ENP has failed to sufficiently encourage democratic development in most
42 of the partnership countries or to deliver a relevant degree of economic development.
43 • Over the past two decades there have been attempts by the EU to adjust the ENP and
44 make it more effective. This has led to contradiction, excessive bureaucracy and
45 budgetary constraints on the European side, and disappointment in the promise of
46 democracy, the rule of law and the free market in the partnership countries.
47 • There is reluctance in the European Council to enact agreements that are related, or
48 perceived to be related, to the ENP and institute visa liberalization and encourage free
49 trade with partnership countries. This leads to mutual disappointment and disillusionment.
50 Such disappointment makes nations vulnerable to anti-democratic sentiments.

51 Concludes that,

- 52 • the reluctance to enact promises made in the ENP leads to increasing disappointment
53 and distrust among partnership countries in the values of the European Union
54 • new policies regarding the relations between the EU and the European Neighborhood
55 should focus on rebooting and supporting democratic reforms, while at the same time
56 making sure that the benefits of democracy and free market are obvious for citizens of the
57 partnership countries
58 • Based on geographical similarities between partnership countries a distinction between a
59 Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and an Eastern Partnership (EaP) remains desirable.

60 LYMEC welcomes,

- 61 • a New Neighbourhood policy with specific programs aimed at promoting democracy, the
62 rule of law and free market. We consider it vital that appropriate amounts of funds are
63 distributed for these programs to include:
64 ◦ student exchange
65 ◦ cultural exchange (folk singing and accordeon, dance; sports, arts)
66 ◦ A comprehensive program of twinning of government agencies of neighbouring
67 countries
68 ◦ investments in infrastructure to join neighbouring countries with EU infrastructure

69 LYMEC Calls upon,

- 70 • the European Commission and the European Council to be consistent in the the
71 enactment of policies and agreements. Negotiations with partnership countries that
72 rollback on reforms (implemented under the ENP or to gain access to the Enlargement
73 Agenda) should be frozen until that country shows real commitment to adhere to the
74 norms and principles that grant access to the schemes, projects and the accession
75 process as a whole. be removed from the Enlargement Agenda if such reforms are

76 undone. Similarly, if the agreed standards are met by partnership countries, benefits
77 should become available to without delay or hesitation.

78 This position will be communicated to and discussed with ELDR and ALDE.

79

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
904

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: FCY, speaker: Jenny Hasu

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Resolution on increasing vocational education and** 2 **entrepreneurship training in development policy**

3 Considering

- 4 •
5 Global unemployment has increased rapidly since 2007.
- 6 •
7 More than one third of all unemployed people globally are young women and men.
- 8 •
9 Nearly 2.2 billion people live below the US\$2 poverty line and that poverty eradication is
10 only possible through stable and well-paid jobs.
- 11 •
12 470 million jobs are needed globally for new entrants to the labour market between 2016
13 and 2030.
- 14 •
15 In addition to insecure and exclusive societies and lack of quality education
16 unemployment is one of the root causes of large-scale movements of people.
- 17 •
18 The Sustainable Development Goals 5 on Quality Education and 8 on Decent Work and
19 Economic Growth.

20 Believing

- 21 •
22 Decent jobs ensure human dignity.

- 23 •
- 24 Vocational education and entrepreneurship training enable young people to engage with
- 25 economic activities and gain access to employment.

- 26 •
- 27 Entrepreneurship and startups have the potential to create new decent jobs.
- 28 •
- 29 Vocational education and training equip young people for labour markets.
- 30 •
- 31 Investment in young people's skills will translate into economic growth and development
- 32 of societies.
- 33 •
- 34 Entrepreneurship skills will help people to utilise their own skills and potential and create
- 35 jobs for themselves.
- 36 •
- 37 Governments, non-governmental organisations and intergovernmental organisations
- 38 cannot create as many jobs as are needed within the next decades, but people and
- 39 private sector can.
- 40 •
- 41 Developing countries need to increasingly utilise their own resources, particularly the
- 42 resources within people, but at the same time in order for developing countries to utilise
- 43 their own potential, donor countries and international organisations must invest in
- 44 supporting infrastructure, skills based education and the private sector in their
- 45 development policies.

46 Calls upon

- 47 •
- 48 Further attention on the needs of young people entering the labour market and on
- 49 ensuring that all people have the skills that the current and future labour market
- 50 demands.
- 51 •
- 52 EU and its member states to increase their common and national efforts to introduce
- 53 more skills based education and training into development cooperation.
- 54 •
- 55 The European Commission to highlight and increase their efforts in skills and vocational
- 56 training under the international cooperation and development sector.
- 57 • LYMEC to promote and advocate for increasing vocational education and
- 58 entrepreneurship training across European development cooperation initiatives.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
905

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: NUV, speaker: Yngve Horvei

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 A common effort to stop the genocide of the Yazidis

2 Noting that:

- 3 • On the 15th of June a expert group "Independent International Commission of Inquiry on
4 the Syrian Arab Republic," under mandate of the UN High Commissioner for Human
5 Rights, has stated that Daesh (IS) is systematically committing genocide on the Yazidis of
6 north-eastern Syria and north-western Iraq. This in the report ""They came to destroy":
7 ISIS Crimes Against the Yazidis"
- 8 • the UN usually refrains from stating that a genocide is being committed, but rather uses
9 wording like 'genocide like tendencies.'
- 10 • the leader of this expert group, Carla Del Ponte is the former Chief Prosecutor of the
11 International Crime Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, increases the
12 credibility of the report, and its findings.

13 Considering that:

- 14 • Genocide is by the UN defined as "any of the following acts committed with intent to
15 destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing
16 members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
17 deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical
18 destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the
19 group; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."
- 20 • A definition that finds fulfillment in Daesh's persecution, enslavement and murder of
21 Yazidis, because they are Yazidis.
- 22 • Daesh has committed thousands of killings, and that multiple mass graves have been
23 found,
- 24 • Daesh according to the report taken over 3200 Yazidis as slaves, of them most women
25 and children.
- 26 • The enslaved women are being used as sex slaves, and that the boys are indoctrinated,
27 trained and used in acts of war.
- 28 • Thousands of Yazidis, children, women and men alike are missing.
- 29 • That the use of slavery has been confirmed by multiple sources among them Nadia
30 Murad Basee Taha and her statements on her own experiences as a slave of Daesh.

31 Lymec calls on:

- 32 • The EU countries to give Yazidis priority for refuge.

33
34

- The EU countries to put into force strong measures to stop the ongoing genocide, and fulfill their responsibility to protect as provided by Genocide Convention of 1948.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
906

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: IMS, speaker: Guillermo Passas Varo

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Vessels and not Missiles from Kaliningrad

2 Keywords: Free Trade, Russia, prevention of conflict

3 Summary: Free trade stops wars

4 Noting that,

- 5 • The Russian Federation is illegally occupying Crimea and parts of Eastern Ukraine. In
6 response to this the European Union has put in effect asset freezes and visa bans that
7 apply to 149 persons while 37 entities are subject to a freeze of their assets in the EU.
- 8 • current fly-overs of Russian fighter planes over the Baltic and the Northern Sea constitute
9 an actual threat to our European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, and should be a
10 warning to the EU citizens that the relations with Russia are escalating.
- 11 • In response to the asset restrictive measures of the EU, the Russian federation instituted
12 boycotts on a range of European products
- 13 • the Russian Federation has already deployed missiles in Kaliningrad capable to of
14 holding nuclear weapons. The Government of Russia affirms that this is part of a routine
15 work, but the truth is that those missiles are easily capable to reach the Baltic countries,
16 Sweden and Poland and even Berlin, which threatens our Area of Freedom, Security and
17 Justice.

18 Considering that,

- 19 • the Secretary of State of the U.S., John Kerry, has already urged Russia to comply with
20 the INF Treaty, and therefore there is a possibility of conflict between these two countries
21 which shall affect to the integrity of the Union.
- 22 • peace always exists between liberal democracies, but liberal democracies do not work
23 without a strong free market economy and an open society. The lack of (warm water)
24 seaports has prohibited Russia to get access to the global marketplace .Without access
25 to the free market, Russia will remain unable to develop a liberal and democratic political
26 system. This has severely damaged the relations between this country and its neighbors.
- 27 • A war economy does not provide true welfare to societies nor development. War
28 economy, and particularly with such dangerous weapons leads only to destruction and
29 poverty for Russia and Europe;
- 30 • a country which is commercially blocked has no other choice than becoming aggressive,
31 because its population remains isolated and undersupplied.
- 32 • As long as the Russian federation illegally occupies the Crimea and parts of Eastern
33 Ukraine, restrictive measures and the counter boycott will remain in place.

34 Regrets that,

- 35 • article 73 TFEU deprives the Union of the ability to develop concrete measures on
36 matters of "national security" autonomously and let the Member States solve this dispute
37 in terms of international cooperation.
- 38 • Kaliningrad is the only seaport in Russia which is operational the whole year, and it is
39 becoming a missile silo instead of functioning as an open gate to the prosperity through
40 free trade, which is essential for Russia to become a fully developed country, with
41 peaceful relations with its neighbors.

42 LYMEC Calls upon,

- 43 • its members, the ALDE Party, the ALDE Group, the ALDE PACE, the Liberal International
44 and the International Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth (IFLRY), to promote in their
45 respective scopes of influence a redefinition of the international relations between Russia
46 and the rest of liberal democracies in the world based on commercial cooperation instead
47 of simply censoring military competition.
- 48 • the ALDE at the Council of Europe (PACE) to insist that Russia expresses its commercial
49 interests with the rest of the European countries in order to accomplish a greater degree
50 of confidence and trust between the European countries and Russia.
- 51 • the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to
52 move these guidelines to her scope of influence and competence, in order to achieve a
53 peaceful and prosperous solution to the current situation with Russia.
- 54 • the Delegation of the European Union to Russia to promote a safe and fruitful framework
55 of negotiation between companies in the European Union willing to trade with Russian
56 companies and viceversa.
- 57 • the Russian Government to stop developing weapons, and instead of this it invests more
58 in infrastructures in order for the seaport in Kaliningrad to become truly operative, being
59 the open gate of Russia to a greater prosperity.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
907

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Svensk Ungdom, speaker: Jose Forslund

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **More money for United Nations High Commissioner for** 2 **Refugees (UNHCR)**

3 Keywords: UNHCR, UN, refugee aid

4 *Summary*

5 While the world faces the largest refugee crisis since World War II, we need to both increase the
6 funding for refugee aid, and renew the working process of UNHCR. UNHCR should be directly
7 funded by the UN and their resources should not be marked for specific operations or projects,
8 but rather be distributed to the crises areas that are in the biggest need of help at the moment.

9 *Noting that*

10 Today, the world faces the largest refugee crisis since World War II. Over 60 million people have
11 been forced to flee their homes because of insecure situations such as armed conflicts,
12 persecution and sexual violence. Of these 19.5 million are refugees, 38.2 million have been
13 relocated within their country and 1.8 million are asylum seekers. 14.4 million of the 19.5 million
14 refugees are under UNHCR's mandate while about 5.1 million are under the mandate of UNRWA*
15 (2014). Over half of all refugees are from only three countries; Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia.

16 *Considering that*

17 The aid for refugees is currently not funded directly by the UN. UNHCR calls out for grants from
18 to the Member States and private actors to raise funds for different UNHCR operations. Member
19 states are currently funding over 83% of the total amount , but it is not enough;

20 Food rations in refugee camps are cut in half, health care is inadequate and children are left
21 without education. The financial structure is not flexible and it takes too long to get additional
22 resources if needed.

23 *Concludes*

24 Finland with the other Nordic countries have for a long time been a contributor to the UNHCR
25 which the organization can count on. We want the whole Europe to become part of this crowd
26 and hope that all European countries could increase their share.

27 *LYMEC calls for:*

28 •

29 UNHCR should be funded directly by the United Nations, because the funding would be
30 more predictable and the member countries would all take evenly part of the funding.

31

•

32

Stop the earmarking of funds for specific operations or projects to allow the UNHCR judge where the money is needed.

33

34

•

35

Urge Member Organisations and Individual Members to lobby on national level for the European countries to increase their aid to UNHCR.

36

37 Explanatory note:

38 *The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
908

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Liberal Youth, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Jonge Democraten, speaker: Andrew Martin

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Britain and the European Union

2 Noting that

- 3 • A narrow majority regrettably voted to leave in the UK's referendum on membership of the
4 European Union on June 23
- 5 • Studies show 75% of 18-24 year olds voted to remain within the European Union
- 6 • That no decision has yet been made by the British Government as to what future
7 relationship it wishes to have with the European Union, and that Article 50 of the Lisbon
8 Treaty will be not triggered until a negotiating position has been agreed internally
- 9 • The EU and its predecessor organisations have brought many benefits to the citizens of
10 the 28 Member States, including Britain, including peace, increased trade, investment
11 and jobs, greater security, cultural enrichment, academic and scientific cooperation and
12 stronger environmental protection
- 13 • This will absorb significant resources as well as government and parliamentary attention
14 in the UK, as well as in the institutions of the EU and other Members States, when there
15 are so many other pressing demands
- 16 • There has been an increase in xenophobic and racist threats, abuse and violence against
17 both EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens of ethnic minority backgrounds since
18 the referendum, and calls on the British government and police to take decisive action to
19 protect potential victims and crack down on the perpetrators of hate crimes
- 20 • Free Movement is particularly beneficial to young people in Britain and other EU countries
- 21 • The Erasmus Scheme is the world's most successful student and apprentice exchange
22 programme
- 23 • The EU has supported the Peace Process on the island of Ireland through the facilitation
24 of free trade and movement of people as well as the establishment of a dedicated PEACE
25 fund for the border communities
- 26 • That politics is no longer solely divided between left and right, but more and more
27 between populism and liberalism.

28 Considering that

- 29 • The Leave campaign delivered dishonest and divisive messages in the referendum
30 campaign and has failed to take responsibility for providing a coherent and practical plan
31 for exiting the EU, which has still not been produced
- 32 • Complications surrounding the positions of Scotland and Northern Ireland after the
33 referendum present a risk to the continued existence of the United Kingdom, and in the
34 case of Northern Ireland to the peace process supported by the Good Friday Agreement,

- 35 and also that the interests of Gibraltar have been put at risk.
- 36 • Brexit will result in a loss of UK's ability to shape the future direction of the EU during a
 - 37 period of rapid change
 - 38 • Free trade and free movement are important liberal principles that LYMEC should seek to
 - 39 uphold across Europe
 - 40 • The departure of the UK & Northern Ireland from the EU would leave a land boundary
 - 41 between an EU member and non EU state on the island of Ireland against the wishes of
 - 42 the people of Northern Ireland
 - 43 • Previous arrangements and economic flows agreed on the Common Travel Area between
 - 44 Ireland and the UK in 1923 and further enshrined in response to the Republic of Ireland
 - 45 Act 1949 and Ireland Act 1950 respectively, may no longer be binding due to Ireland's
 - 46 status as an EU member state.

47 LYMEC Calls for

- 48 • The British Government to hold a parliamentary vote on the terms of the negotiation
- 49 before Article 50 is triggered
- 50 • Continuing parliamentary scrutiny of negotiations on EU withdrawal
- 51 • Protection of rights for EU citizens and UK citizens, so that those who have settled in UK
- 52 are allowed to stay and British people living in EU countries can remain
- 53 • Continued British Membership of the Single Market, with its 'four freedoms' of freedom of
- 54 movement for workers, free movement of goods, free movement of capital and freedom
- 55 to provide services
- 56 • Protecting freedom of movement, so that British citizens retain the right to live and work
- 57 throughout the EU and EU citizens retain the right to live and work in the UK
- 58 • Britain to remain a participant in the Erasmus scheme, which is a fantastic and enriching
- 59 experience for pupils, students, junior academics and apprentices, and every European
- 60 youth exchange program
- 61 • Britain and the EU to maintain law enforcement and judicial co-operation, including
- 62 keeping Britain a member of the European Arrest Warrant which allows the police to track
- 63 down criminals more efficiently
- 64 • Promoting scientific cooperation and funding for research, including continuing funding for
- 65 existing projects, so that valuable medical, defence, security, universities and other areas
- 66 are not harmed
- 67 • Encouraging reciprocal travel and tourism, by continuing Britain's participation in
- 68 schemes such as the European Health Insurance Card, pet passports and reduced
- 69 roaming charges
- 70 • The British Government to maintain EU-level standards in health, safety, consumer
- 71 protection, employment and equalities and regional development funding
- 72 • The British people to be given a final say through a referendum on whether the terms of
- 73 the deal agreed for the withdrawal of Britain from the EU should be accepted, and if those
- 74 terms are not accepted, for the EU to allow Britain to continue its current arrangements as
- 75 an EU Member
- 76 • Continued free movement of people and goods across the border between Ireland and
- 77 Northern Ireland
- 78 • The maintenance of Cross-Border funding under the PEACE fund and INTERREG to the
- 79 border region of Northern Ireland & Ireland
- 80 • Continued support for the Good Friday (Belfast Agreement) of 1998 by the EU and Irish
- 81 and British Governments
- 82 • The British Government to not discriminate against students from the EU studying in
- 83 Britain by keeping the same university fees

- 84
- 85
- 86
- 87
- 88
- 89
- 90
- 91
- Implementing a general knowledge of the different cultures in Europe in primary and secondary education, so British young people won't lose touch with the continent, and as a means to fight xenophobic and nationalist tendencies
 - Fighting populism through an open-minded, fact-based education that prepares young people to live in a globalised world
 - To ensure that inhabitants of London, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the 3.3 million EU citizens living in the UK, the 1.2 million UK subjects living in the EU and the 75% of young British voters who voted 'Remain' do not pay the price for 'Brexit'.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
909

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Igor Caldeira, IMS

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Go West – Urgency Resolution on a European strategy for** 2 **information war**

3 The European Liberal Youth, gathered in Tallinn at its 40th anniversary congress, 11 and 12
4 November 2016,

5 Reminds

- 6 1. The explosion of populist and extremist political movements since the start of the financial
7 crisis;
- 8 2. The intensification of religious extremist activities, culminating in several terrorist attacks;
- 9 3. The violation of national territories (airspace and territorial sea) of several EU member
10 states and the annexation of parts of neighbouring countries by foreign aggressive
11 powers;
- 12 4. The increase in cyberattacks that political institutions and economic actors in Europe
13 have suffered;
- 14 5. The dependence of Europe on American military capacity for its defence.

15 Notes

- 16 1. These events are fuelled and financed at least partially by foreign governments with the
17 specific aim of creating dissent in Europe, break down its institutions, spread extremist
18 political ideas (both of Far Left, Far Right and religion-based);
- 19 2. The election as President of the United States of a candidate that has threatened to
20 weaken NATO, not defend its European allies in case of aggression and that is himself
21 connected to some of the foreign interests that are threatening our continent.

22 Compares

- 23 1. RFE/RL's budget today, stretched to support television, radio, web, and social media in
24 28 languages, is roughly \$100 million, while East Stratcom, the new EU unit which has
25 identified and publicized 2,500 Russia-planted fake stories over the past year, may soon
26 be upgraded to a paltry budget of €1 million out of a budget of 142 billion Euros.
- 27 2. Russia's population is roughly 140 million people, while the EU's is 500 million.
- 28 3. Russia's GDP is of around 1300 billion US dollars, while the EU's is of about 16500
29 billion.

30 And re-states

- 31 1. Its commitment to defend liberal democracy and the European project;
32 2. Its seventh point of its Electoral Manifesto of 2014, in which “(w)e call for the creation of a
33 European cyber-security strategy leading towards common protection services as an
34 integral (and pioneering) part of a future European defence force.”

35 In consequence, LYMEC’s Congress

- 36 1. Stands for an urgent pooling of resources aimed at creating a permanent cyberdefence
37 organisation with operational capacity to defend European countries from external
38 cyberattacks and propaganda activities.
39 2. Proposes that at least 2% of the European Union’s budget (less than 0,02% of the EU’s
40 GDP) is devoted to defend our values and institutions against foreign political powers’
41 propaganda and that the implementation should start as of 2017.
42 3. Asks the Bureau to create a campaign aimed at our political partners, both within the
43 Liberal family and from other political families, to promote this proposal.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
103

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: IMS (Friso)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Urgent: No place for racists in EU high office**

2

3 Noting

4 •

5 The racist remarks that European Commissioner Gunther Oettinger has recently made
6 about Chinese people;

7 •

8 That these remarks have been widely condemned on practically every major news outlet
9 in the European member states and in a great many of the minor news outlets as well;

10 Considering

11 •

12 This is not the first time that Mr Oettinger has attracted unwanted attention to the
13 European Commission. His remarks on gay-rights and the people of Wallonia being the
14 most recent examples.

15 •

16 These remarks contradict the European values of diversity and inclusivity, that are
17 important to the European Liberal Youth aswell;

18 •

19 The widespread condemnation of Mr. Oettingers remarks and views is a rare example of
20 an EU-wide public opinion;

21 •

22 A European Commissioner should not ignore a European public outcry

23 Calls for

24 •

25 The immediate resignation of Gunther Oettinger from the European Commission

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
910

LYMEC Autumn Congress 2016, November 11-12 in Tallinn

Author: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya & Radikale Ungdom | Alistair Spearing

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Urgent: In defence of CETA and free trade**

2 Considering that

- 3 • Europe's prosperity was built to a great extent on free trade with countries all over the
4 world;
- 5 • the creation and negotiation of trade agreements between the European Union and
6 other parties is a cornerstone of the European Union;
- 7 • a sustainable economic recovery for European countries, businesses and workers can
8 only be achieved by boosting growth throughout the continent;
- 9 • the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and
10 Canada can contribute to this growth by removing 99% of customs duties,[1] saving
11 European exporters approximately €500 mn a year, opening Canadian public
12 procurement to European SMEs, creating a more favourable environment for job creation,
13 and making Europe wealthier by €5.8 bn a year.[2]

14 Noting that

- 15 • the Government of Wallonia refused to grant the Belgian government full powers to sign
16 CETA following a vote on 14 October and subsequent negotiations with the EU and
17 Canada;
- 18 • a tentative deal to provisionally implement CETA, which could yet be sunk by Wallonia,[3]
19 was struck on 27 October;
- 20 • the "mixed-agreement" system chosen for signing CETA is an unwieldy process under
21 which any single one of 38 national or regional parliaments can hold a treaty to ransom
22 even if almost everyone else supports it; and
- 23 • failure to ratify the treaty with Canada would cast serious doubt on the EU's ability to
24 formalise deals with other important trade partners such as Japan and the United States.

25 Believing that

- 26 • the Parliament of Wallonia's reasons for rejecting CETA were hard to understand² and, as
27 highlighted by the ALDE member party in Wallonia, appeared to privilege party politics
28 over good economic governance:[4]
- 29 • in light of Wallonia nearly sinking the free trade agreement with Canada, and as such

30 holding 500 million European citizens hostage, there should be a change in the approach
31 for approving free trade agreements between EU and other parties;

- 32 • Canada and the EU have issued binding declarations to address previously raised
33 concerns;^[5] and
- 34 • there seems to have been no clear-cut legal requirement for the Commission to label
35 CETA a mixed agreement.^[6]

36 This LYMEC congress therefore calls for:

- 37 • the European Commission and EU Member States to fight for the ratification of CETA;
- 38 • European institutions to put food and safety standards at the heart of their negotiation
39 strategy for future free trade agreements;
- 40 • LYMEC Board to call upon the EU, ALDE and ALDE member parties to mount a vigorous
41 defence of free trade in words and action;
- 42 • in the short term, LYMEC calls for the EU to seek a clear legal opinion on whether CETA
43 and similar free-trade agreements should be approved under the EU-only scheme or the
44 mixed-agreement scheme;

- 45 • in the mid to long term, LYMEC calls upon the institutions of the European Union to work
46 in a two-phase process when negotiating and approving EU trading deals, in this manner:
- 47 • the core parts of trade agreement I, should not require approval by each national
48 parliament, as long as the trade agreement proposed, upholds and adheres to EU
49 treaties and laws. Approval by the European Commission, the European Parliament and
50 the European Council should be sufficient;
- 51 • should parts of a trade agreement affect a given Member State in a specific and direct
52 way, the national parliament of the Member State should be granted the opportunity to
53 approve said parts;
- 54 • LYMEC furthermore believes that trade agreements which have already been approved
55 should not be revokable on request of a single member state.

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58 [1] "Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)", European Commission, 2016

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61 [2] "Wallonia is adamantly blocking the EU's trade deal with Canada", *The Economist*,
62 22 October 2016

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65 [3] "Voici le texte de l'accord intra-belge sur le CETA", RTBF, 27 October 2016

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68 [4] "CETA: quand le jeu politique prime sur l'économie", Mouvement Réformateur, 19 October
69 2016

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72 [5] "EU and Canada move to allay concerns over free trade deal", *Financial Times*,
73 23 September 2016.

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76 [6] As noted by Folkert Graafsma, a leading trade and customs lawyer at the VVGB law firm.

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