



Report from the Working Group on Statutes and Congress

Background: the working group was established on initiative from the LYMEC Bureau, who saw a need to update the current statutes in order to make LYMEC are more dynamic organisation, as well as to make them more clear and precise. Moreover, the working group is also the result of the wish from the LYMEC members to reform the LYMEC congress as expressed in the resolution adopted by the Congress in Vienna in 2016.

Members: The members of the working group was appointed by the LYMEC Bureau with the aim of ensuring that people with the needed experience and from all corners of the organisation were present in the working group.

The working group has been led by Sissel Kvist, LYMEC President. The remaining members are Hans Maas, Laura Neijenhuis, Lukas Schweiger and Sofia Molin. The members have all attended several LYMEC congresses and combined they represent the IMS, the auditors, the committee on discipline and arbitrage as well as the writers of the resolution from Vienna.

Work: The working group held a series of skype meeting throughout January to March 2017 leading to the result of the proposal for new statutes as well as a recommendation to the LYMEC Bureau on how to distribute spots for the congress as well as recommendation on how to continue with the working groups on resolutions. . Besides the knowledge and experience held by the members of the working group itself, all LYMEC members were also consulted via a survey. The result of the survey can be found in appendix 1.

Outcome

Update of statutes: The result of the work of the working group can be found in the proposal for new Statutes as well as the Congress Rules. These can be found on the congress documentation page.

Recommendation on Working Groups on Resolution: The recommendation from the working group based on the survey was to continue with the working group on resolutions. Everyone was aware that the experience and result from Tallinn was not ideal, but also recognized that it takes time to implement new ways of working. The working group recommended to move the working groups to Friday before the congress, so more people can be present. Moreover, it was recommended that the Bureau encourages member organisation to communicate to other member organisations before congress so the work of finding compromise and phrasing amendments can take place as early as possible, with the hope that more issues are solved before we get to congress.

Recommendation on Distributions of Spots: Based on the survey the working group discussed whether or not it would be desirable to have bigger congress than the current 120-130 spots. On one hand it was discussed that it is always positive if more members can participate in the congresses, on

the other hand it is clear that very large delegations not necessarily are very productive. In addition to this, the financial aspect was also discussed, as the survey showed that only a minority of the LYMEC members are prepared to pay a higher participation fee to cover the cost of expanding the congress.

With these discussions in mind the recommendation of the working group was to keep the congress at its current size and delegate the spots using the following model:

- All full member organisations are guaranteed 3 spots regardless of their size.
- All associate members are guaranteed 2 spots regardless of their size.
- The individual members sections are guaranteed 3 spots for the IMS delegates as well as an additional 5% of the total amount of spots (so with 120 people this would be 6 people).
- All member organisations can nominate more people up to the maximum amount of votes they hold. I.e. an organisation with 6 votes, can nominate 6 delegates but only the first 3 are guaranteed.
- The remaining spots will be distributed in accordance to size.

The advantage of the new model is that MOs is always guaranteed 3 spots, making it possible for them to plan well in advance and elect the core delegates. Moreover, as additional spots are distributed in accordance to size, it insures that larger MOs still have more spots than smaller ensuring proportionality.

While the IMS are arguable overrepresented according to their size, it is the opinion of the working group that the IMS section is a core function of LYMEC as well as the fact that the LYMEC Congress is the only place where IMS can discuss and debate politics, it makes sense to give them relatively more spots than MOs.

However, the working group also recommends the LYMEC Bureau to evaluate the proposed system after 1 year, and also to keep the option open to expand the congress if additional finances is available.

Other Recommendations: The working group further more suggested that the Bureau considered if more agenda points could be cut timewise leaving more time for policy discussion. Such agenda points could be reports from working groups and bureau members, which usually have been reported in writing and orally. These could simply be presented in writing and the congress could move directly to questioning. Other suggestions also included continuing the congress longer Friday night and possible Saturday as well, and to encourage the congress to show responsibility and be on time as much time is wasted on not have a quorum in the congress room.

[Dit formulier bewerken](#)

18 reacties

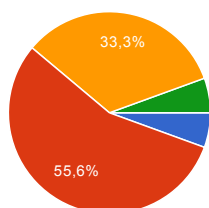
[Alle reacties weergeven](#) [Analyse publiceren](#)

Overzicht

[Afbeelding]

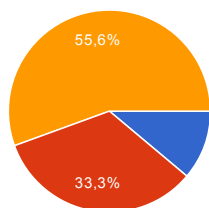
General Questions

Age



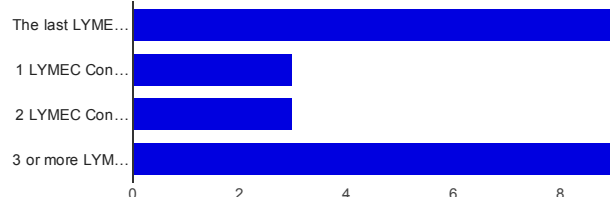
< 20 years old	1	5.6%
20 to 24 years old	10	55.6%
25 to 29 years old	6	33.3%
>29 years old	1	5.6%

I am:



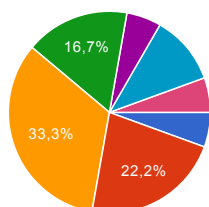
An individual member of LYMEC	2	11.1%
Delegate of a Member Organisation of LYMEC	6	33.3%
International Officer of a Member Organisation of LYMEC	10	55.6%
Overig	0	0%

I attended:



The last LYMEC Congress in Tallinn	9	50%
1 LYMEC Congress in the past years	3	16.7%
2 LYMEC Congresses in the past years	3	16.7%
3 or more LYMEC Congresses in the past years	9	50%

How many people does your delegation usually consist of?



1 person, I'm usually on my own	1	5.6%
2 people	4	22.2%
3 people	6	33.3%
4 people	3	16.7%
5 people	1	5.6%
6 people or more	2	11.1%
Overig	1	5.6%

Why do you come with this number of delegates?

Financial reasons

Help with decision making and transparency for te org

Motivation and willingness to get more visibility

IMS limited to three delegates

6 delegates are officially elected by our federal congress + me

motivation

Financial reasons.

It's a popular trip within our MO

Usually the international officer and LYMEC officer are guaranteed to be delegates, the other two are chosen from either members of the international committee, the board of our organisation or from members who fill out an application

IMS have a delegation of three, stated in the RoA

Only have the financial for two

Financial reasons/popularity

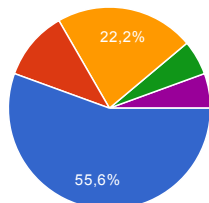
Popularity

financial reasons

Financial reasons

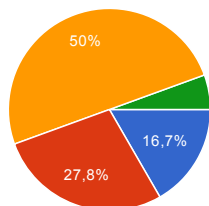
Congresses

What is the main reason for you/your organisation to come to a LYMEC Congress?



Influence decision-making and have political discussions	10	55.6%
Meeting new people and networking	2	11.1%
Learning from other organisations and share best practices	4	22.2%
Listen to interesting speakers	1	5.6%
Overig	1	5.6%

In general, what is the most important part of a LYMEC Congress in your opinion?



The seminar with interesting speakers	3	16.7%
Opportunities to share best-practices and experiences	5	27.8%
The debates on resolutions	9	50%
Overig	1	5.6%

Do you use the LYMEC policy book in the work of your organisation and how?

No

Toolbox

Using some ideas and implement them in our work organization

We may see some policies and adopt them

Not enough

In the work of the IMS in general

we don't use it

Not too much.

We don't regularly use it, no

We usually work the other way round, using our own policy book as guidance when deciding how to vote on resolutions in LYMEC. Our own policy book is only amended using motions tabled

Not in my national MO, but it is very important for the IMS

Yes in order to put the ideas of the Lymec policy book in our organisation

LYMEC policy book is used during resolution writing.

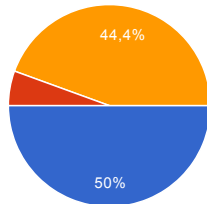
Hardly, but we are working to change that. The policy book is incredibly unweildy, which makes incorporating it's points challenging.

Yes, we use it as starting point when creating our views on topics to which we have not have developed opinon yet.
 No, not yet

Do you think there is an other, easier way of presenting and preserving LYMEC views on political issues?

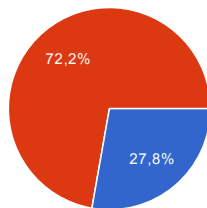
Doing lobbying work in Brussels, bringing agenda of organisation
 Statements, declarations ...
 No
 no
 There could be an application for mobile phones - it could be very handy.
 Press releases
 Yes
 Time limit om resolutions
 Not all the views, but a condensed "manifesto" might help members grasp the basics.
 Definitely! The policy book needs cleaning up, our MO has even been talking of putting forward a package of motions to do so. Moreover, it might be interesting to implement sort of a review procedure for resolutions, where the relevance of them would be checked every so often, and if outdated they would be archived.
 There is an idea to present it in PR- form through LYMEC web-page.

In the future, would you like the LYMEC Congress to remain the same size (about 120 participants)?



Yes, I think this is the right size.	9	50%
No, I think there are too many people to have constructive discussions	1	5.6%
No, I think there should be opportunities for the event to grow further	8	44.4%
Overig	0	0%

In case you would like the Congress to accommodate more participants, would you be willing to:

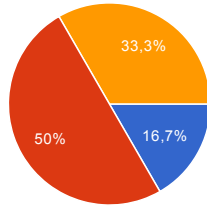


Pay more per delegate to have more spots (also for your delegation)?	5	27.8%
Accept a more basic set up for the congress (accomodation in cheaper hotels or hostels, less fancy dinners, more delegates sharing a room)?	13	72.2%
Overig	0	0%

Treatment of Resolutions

Do you think there is enough time for the treatment of resolutions?

Yes	3	16.7%
No	9	50%
Maybe	6	33.3%



Balkan countries which are still not eu members should find better ways for the treatment of resolutions

There are often too many people presenting the same points. Chairs should have the ability to cut people off if they continue labouring the point.

We need more debates before the Congress is taking place

It always depends on the other agenda points and the resolutions presented. In general, I think the average is good. as long as we have enough time to discuss all resolutions, everything is fine

Actually there will always be difficulties to have enough time for resolutions, but I think the main solution should be that everyone has to prepare everything well before in order to save time. Also the discussion part can be done partly in free-time if not even before the congress. Absolutely more should be done before Congress.

The way resolutions are treated is too quick. I always feel like we don't have enough time to discuss everything because everybody wants to do it as quickly as possible

There are always a lot of motions that do not get discussed at conference, although this is partially because lots of MOs put in motions on the off chance that they might get to speak

Debating resolutions is the most important aspect of the congress, therefore it is important that as many as possible are debated.

I've attended a couple of congresses now where there was not enough time to discuss all resolutions. That meant resolutions were pushed forward and had to wait for next congress for LymeC to get a position on them. The search for shared liberal views and common ground, per open debate, should be at the core of LYMEC's congresses.

Discussion on each resolution should have limited time.

Includenprogram sundays

They are resolutions that we need more time to debate with the other members of LymeC

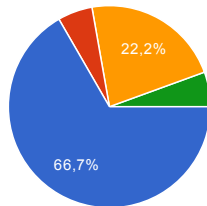
Due to lack of time the resolutions are rushed through as quickly as possible. However every resolution needs a different allocation of time (depending on the depth of the resolution and the interest shown by delegates). Also some resolutions are "certain to go through" meaning they will impact our policy book, whilst not always being debated thoroughly (in the interest of time).

If implemented properly, much of the discussion time could be done during working groups ahead of the plenary.

Depends on the topic. In general, if delegation is interested it has enough time to participate effectively

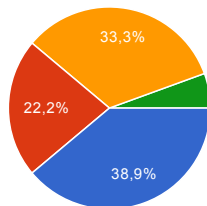
It's ok

Do you contact other organisations before the Congress to discuss resolutions and/or amendments?



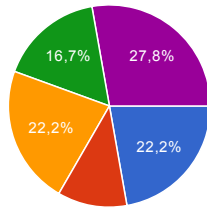
Yes	12	66.7%
No	1	5.6%
Maybe	4	22.2%
Overig	1	5.6%

Do you think an earlier deadline for amendments would help smoothen the treatment of resolutions?



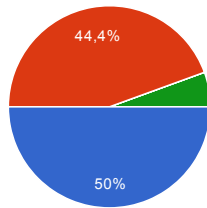
Yes	7	38.9%
No	4	22.2%
Maybe	6	33.3%
Overig	1	5.6%

What deadline for amendments would be acceptable and feasible for you?



Before the start of the start of treating the resolution on which the amendment applies	4	22.2%
Before the role call at the start of the Congress	2	11.1%
24 hours before the start of the Congress	4	22.2%
More than 24 hours before the start of the Congress, in order for delegations to prepare the discussion of the amendments	3	16.7%
Overig	5	27.8%

Do you think it would be a good idea to extend the Congress until Sunday around noon?



Yes	9	50%
No	8	44.4%
Maybe	0	0%
Overig	1	5.6%

Do you have any other suggestions how to free up more time for the resolution discussion?

No
-
Less workshops
Start the Congress before thursday/friday
Earlier beginnings
no
I personally think that all ideas presented above are enough. Deadline for amendments one week before the start of the congress and then pre-commentary possibility.
Not sure
Extending the time for debating resolutions is the most important aspect.
less speakers
As mentioned before - limited amount of time of discussion for each resolution.
Speak before that the congress start and work more in the resolutions in the workings groups.
Maybe make the vote on the order of resolutions an advisory measure, with the Bureau having final say depending on relevancy to current affairs. Sometimes debate time is taken up by resolutions which have similar counterparts, at least partly, already in our policy book. If we could count on every delegation to read through the policy book that would be great, however there are several resolutions that essentially touch on the same issue. Also, some issues are more significant in terms of current affairs than others. (Not 100% sure about giving the Bureau such prerogatives though).
stricter speaking time for other agenda points, such as presentations of the bureau, auditors etc. Much is prepared in written form, no need to waste speaking time on repeating stuff assuming nobody read anything. Allow for discussion, but nudge participants to prepare working groups on resolutions should meet prior official start of congress (ex. thursday afternoon).

Do you have other ideas to make the treatment of the resolutions smoother?

No
-
Only allow both sides of the argument to alternate a set number of times.
more time allocated to them before
Going back to a MS Word basis on the projector
no
Deadline for amendments one week before the start of the congress and then pre-commentary possibility.

Getting hold of the resolutions and amendments further in advance would be useful, I think

Evolve the concept of having committees work on the resolution before the congress starts.

Working groups

Make the treatment in a limited time

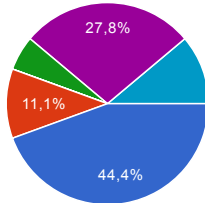
Same as the answer above.

The resolution tool in Tallinn was a good first step. Improve on this and things will go more smoothly.

No.

Working Groups

What is your opinion on the working group experiment in Tallinn?



Positive: gave the opportunity to talk more about the resolutions	8	44.4%
Negative: we repeated the whole discussion during the Congress	2	11.1%
Negative: not everybody was able to attend these working groups	0	0%
Neutral: the idea is good, but it should be done differently	1	5.6%
I wasn't there, so I have no opinion	5	27.8%
Overig	2	11.1%

Please elaborate on your previous answer:

Was not present at the working group session

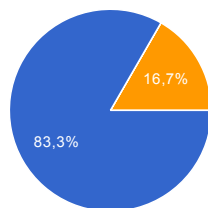
As I wrote earlier, I think it is a concept that has much potential as it improves the quality of the subsequent debate.

Pushpoll? Just one positive option vs two negative options? ts ts. I think the idea was great, but should be expanded. More time for discussion and a statutory right to do proposals to the congress so the plenary treatment can be sped up.

It is definitely necessary for more people to attend, especially those who submitted resolutions. Moreover, the amount of chairs shouldn't be limited. An MO with 6 delegates should have no trouble to have all 6 of them attend. Moreover, in case of multiple WGs, clarify division in advance, this allows for better delegation prep.

It is possible that working group comes to common ground and therefor no debate is needed at congress. It saves time and includes everyone interested.

Do you think we should continue having a working group on the resolutions before the congress (plenary)?



Yes	15	83.3%
No	0	0%
Maybe	3	16.7%

Please elaborate on your previous answer:

See previous answer.

It is a great idea that deserves to be developed further

as explained in previous answer it helps include everyone interested in the topic.

Do you have anything else to add that might be of importance for the outcome of this questionnaire?

No

no

Bring LYMEC Agenda to EP, do lobbying.

Resolutions are the most important part of the CONGRESS

Thanks for the questionnaire. Good effort!

Two points: 1) More preparing means more efficiency. And 2) reserving time for quality speakers.

Make sure that the decisions made by the congress are easy for member organisations to communicate at home.

nope, see you soon!

-

None

No.

/

No

Aantal dagelijkse reacties