

## REQUEST for MEMBERSHIP FEE REDUCTION

Dear LYMEC,

Dear Congress,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Liberal Democratic Youth of Macedonia (LiDeM) the only liberal youth in Macedonia, to you with the request for membership fee reduction.

As you know currently Macedonia is facing with very deep political crisis. This situation has very bad influence on our mother party LDP including our Youth. After the elections we still don't have government which means that LDP including LiDem don't have their representatives on a ruling positions in the country. After more than 10 years in opposition we lost most of our sponsors and the disappointment through the young people from year in year increased more and more. As a consequence of the financial crisis and the skepticism for spreading Liberal values in our country we lost a lot of members. Last year the number of the youth members fell to only 70 active members, which is a very worrying data if we compare the numbers from the past.

We would kindly ask you to consider the following:

1. LiDeM is a Lymec member which despite of the difficult financial situation managed to cover on time their membership fee for last year. We do not have our personal office, we are situated in the same office of the party with the seniors and for this office we are paying monthly rent;
2. Government cut the budget funds for financing smallest parties, so we lost the fixed sum that we received from the country;
3. LiDeM does not have own representatives in the Parliament, neither in the Government or in the local municipalities more than 10 years;
4. More than 10 years the party is on the opposition so we are facing with very difficult financial situation;
5. Most of the members of the Liberal Democratic Youth are students and they are not paying any kind of membership fee. Only the members who are employed are paying some symbolic membership fee which is not enough for the running costs of the Youth;
6. LiDeM does not have personal sponsors, we could not have fixed funds even from our mother party;
7. The membership that we are paying in Lymec are money earned from the savings that we are collecting during the whole year from some small local project or from the symbolic memberships of the youth members which are employed;
8. There is no state funding in the budget of LiDeM. Considering to the economical and political situation, even state funding for projects and events, organised by LiDeM, is remarkably low. So every payment became extremely expensive for us;

Considering to the whole difficult political country situation and our poor financial situation we do not have any steady income. Therefore we are constantly searching for possible projects, donors and funding possibilities.

Due to the mentioned concerns, Liberal Democratic Youth of Macedonia (LiDeM) is asking the Bureau and the Congress to approve this application for the reduced membership fee and fix it to 100 euros per year for now. Currently LiDeM could afford this amount of membership fee, could pay it on time and not falling in debts as it was case in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Zajkova

International officer of Liberal Democratic Youth of Macedonia