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Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

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LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Youth movement for rights and freedoms

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Resolution on the integration of migrants in the European** 2 **Union**

3 **Whereas:**

- 4 • Europe continues to face the greatest migration wave since the end of World War II;
- 5 • according to Eurostat data, extracted in March 2017, there were an estimated 2.4 million
6 citizens of non-member countries who immigrated to one of the EU-28 Member States
7 during 2015[1]; In 2016 the number of first time applicants for international protection
8 accounted to 1.20 million, and there were almost 1.26 million in 2015; this followed on
9 from an increase of 694 thousand first time applicants between 2014 and 2015[2]; In
10 2016, 61 % of EU-28 first instance asylum decisions resulted in positive outcomes,
11 granting a refugee or subsidiary protection status, or an authorization to stay for
12 humanitarian reasons;
- 13 • in its Resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a
14 holistic EU approach to migration, the European Parliament stressed the need for
15 integration measures, calling for full participation and early integration of all third-country
16 nationals, including refugees;
- 17 • on 7 June 2016, the European Commission presented an Action Plan on the integration
18 of third-country nationals, which provides a framework to support Member States' efforts
19 in developing and strengthening their integration policies, and the measures the
20 Commission intends to implement in this regard. While it targets all third-country nationals
21 in the EU, it contains actions to address the specific challenges faced by refugees;
- 22 • in its Conclusions of 9 December 2016 on the integration of third-country nationals legally
23 residing in the EU, the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the
24 Member States acknowledged the Commission's Action Plan and the New Skills Agenda
25 for Europe;
- 26 • the lack of adequate integration measures on the ground in the European Member States
27 still persists.

28 **Underlines that:**

- 29 • the need of thorough integration and inclusion policies for third-country nationals, and
30 specifically for refugees has already been recognised by the EU institutions; Points out in
31 that regard, that even though it was recognized that the "building of inclusive, cohesive
32 and prosperous societies...is of a common interest to all Member States"[3], there's little
33 practical progress made;

- 34 • the continuous refugee influx makes it urgent to quickly find practical solutions for the
35 integration into society, educational system, cultural setting and labour market of
36 refugees;
- 37 • the European Union has a supporting role to play, both in terms of coordination and of
38 financial support to the Member States;
- 39 • integration policies would counter the phenomenon of a "lost generation" of migrants who
40 did not have proper access to schooling and vocational training and as a result could end
41 up in a vicious circle of unemployment and social exclusion;
- 42 • many Member States are experiencing demographic challenges and labour shortages;
43 According to Eurostat statistical data extracted in June 2015[4] - by 2080 there will be
44 only two persons of working-age for each elderly person and the share of the working-age
45 population will fall in each of the EU Member States; therefore points out that the
46 migration influx could be beneficial for overcoming those shortages;
- 47 • integration schemes would make migrants self-sustainable and would counter the
48 populist narrative that they are overburdening the social systems;
- 49 • integration policies should also work on changing the negative societal perceptions of
50 migrants;
- 51 • digital skills and skills of the 21 Century for young individuals of migrant origin will make
52 the EU as a whole better prepared and more competitive on the global scene;
- 53 • integration is essential to countering marginalisation of third country nationals, and
54 specifically refugees; points out in that regard that young people who grow up in social
55 exclusion and are feeling like outcasts of society are specifically vulnerable to
56 radicalisation and sociopathic tendencies.

57 **LYMEC calls on:**

- 58 • the European institutions to allocate more EU budget resources for integration and
59 inclusion programs, especially programs for the integration of children and young people,
60 whose participation in the educational system is particularly time-sensitive;
- 61 • the European Commission to ensure better coordination and exchange of best practices
62 between national and EU authorities and closely and regularly monitor the development
63 of the National integration programs and schemes;
- 64 • the Member States to ensure that children of migrant origin are enlisted in the national
65 schooling systems and to monitor their drop-out rate; urges that specific attention is to be
66 paid to refugee children with a view of the best interest of the child;
- 67 • the Commission and the Member States to establish swift procedures for the recognition
68 of training and qualifications of migrants with a view of harnessing the full potential of
69 young experts of migrant origin;
- 70 • the Member States to work with civil society and national labour or commercial chambers
71 in order to identify the existing gaps in the national labour markets, for which training
72 should be offered to migrants; Emphasizes that vocational training of migrants could help
73 reduce the shortages of staff, for example - nurses and paramedics that Eastern
74 European Member States are experiencing;
- 75 • calls on the European institutions together with the Member States to swiftly develop and
76 implement actions, avoiding segregation, ghettos and second-class citizenship.
- 77 • cohesion policy tools to be better used in order to maximize the potential of the
78 integration of migrants in Europe's rural and urban communities.

79

80

81 [1]

82 ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistic
83 [s](#)

84 [2] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics

85 [3] Council Conclusions of 9 December 2016 on the integration of third-country nationals legally
86 residing in the EU

87 [4][http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/People_in_the_EU_%E2%80%93_](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/People_in_the_EU_%E2%80%93_population_projections)
88 [population_projections](#)

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
103

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Benjamin Fievet

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Towards a democratic approach to the issue of** 2 **self-determination**

3 The LYMEC Congress,
4

5 **Considering:**

- 6 • That the EU is committed to observe international law as established by the Charter of
7 United Nations and associated Covenants, which contains the right to self-determination
8 of all peoples to strengthen universal peace;
- 9 • That the legitimacy of democratic systems and of political institutions in the EU is based
10 on political participation through representation as defined by the international standards
11 in democracy and respect for the rule of law;
- 12 • That citizens from all European nations have the right to express their political will by
13 peaceful, legal and democratic means that must be respected by all levels of government;
- 14 • Europe to be founded on the values of freedom, democracy, respect for the rule of law,
15 and respect for human rights, including minorities' rights.

16

17 **Acknowledging:**

- 18 • That the question of self-determination is a legal issue as well as a political one;
- 19 • That European peoples and nations, due to historical reasons, may have achieved
20 statehood, may have remained divided across different States, or may have formed
21 multicultural States;
- 22 • That the EU is a mosaic of languages, religions, cultures, traditions and history, whose
23 citizens share common values and a common future;
- 24 • That citizens have the right to decide their own political future whilst complying with
25 international and European standards on democratic processes, as defined by the
26 guarantees stipulated in the EU Treaties, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and
27 Political Rights, and the best practices promoted by the Venice Commission of the
28 Council of Europe;
- 29 • That referendum can be a valid way to resolve self-determination issues as far as they
30 comply with the aforementioned rules;

- 31 • The liberal goal of a stronger EU does not oppose the defence of the particular identity of
32 all European people and nations within the union.

33

34 **Calls for:**

- 35 • The recognition that the establishment of solid democratic systems founded in the rule of
36 law, the principle of representation in all political institutions without discrimination, and
37 the respect of the rights of national minorities and the competences of regional entities as
38 the best means of progressing to a more integrated European Union;
39 • That issues of self-determination should be resolved through peaceful and democratic
40 means and bona fide dialogue that respects the rule of law, human and fundamental
41 rights (including the rights of national minorities and regional entities) between the parties
42 involved;
- 43 • LYMEC and the EU institutions to firmly stand in defence of the democratic and legitimate
44 rights of European citizens and to condemn any violation of International and European
45 Treaties;
46 • The EU to respect the rulings of the relevant authorities and the choice of the people in
47 matter of self-determination.

48

49 **Recognizes:**

- 50 • That any new state in Europe wanting to join the EU would have to follow the same
51 accession procedures as the member states that joined after 2004.

52

53 **Decides:**

- 54 • To archive resolution 1.37 "Stateless Nations' right to decide their own political future" of
55 the LYMEC Policy Book.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

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LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: IMS, Liberal Youth/ Jorge de Jesus - IMS

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Citizens Rights Post-Brexit

2 Whereas:

- 3 • The result of the referendum on 23 June 2016, namely the UK's withdrawal from the
4 European Union, constitutes an unfortunate event in the development of Europe;

5 Noting that:

- 6 • Over 3 million EU citizens currently live in the UK, and that over 1 million UK citizens live
7 in the EU;
- 8 • The European Council's (Art.50) guidelines for Brexit negotiations identifies the potential
9 loss of citizen rights is a possibility, and therefore that ensuring the protection of these
10 rights is a priority in the negotiations

11 Recognising that:

- 12 • The UK's withdrawal from the EU, without a proper agreement between both sides, can
13 have a catastrophic effect on the rights of these citizens;
- 14 • The continued access of the UK to the free movement of goods, capital, people and
15 services is conditional upon its membership of the single market, and that no exception
16 should be made;

17 Considers that:

- 18 • The uncertainty caused by the UK's current position on citizen rights, as delineated in its
19 position paper "Safeguarding the Position of EU Citizens Living in the UK and UK Nations
20 Living in the EU" of June 2017, is thoroughly lacking in sufficient guarantees regarding
21 the protection of citizen rights post-Brexit;

22 Concerned by:

- 23 • the rise in xenophobic incidents targeting EU citizens in the UK since the referendum;

24 Stressing that:

- 25 • Even with the eventual UK withdrawal from the jurisdiction of the EU Court of Justice, the
26 UK remains bound to the protection of the rights of EU citizens by virtue of numerous

27 international agreements, such as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR),
28 the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International
29 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);

30 **Considers that:**

- 31 • Treating EU citizens in the UK, and UK citizens in the EU as third country nationals is an
32 unjust and immoral blow to the rights that these citizens has acquired, and that the
33 creation of a special status for these citizens is the most desirable option;

34 **Concludes that:**

- 35 • Both sides must step up their efforts to ensure that the rights of EU citizens in the UK,
36 and UK citizens in the EU, continue to be protected post-Brexit;

37 **LYMEC calls for:**

- 38 • The reciprocal protection of citizen rights post-Brexit;
39 • The creation of a special status for EU citizens in the UK, and for UK citizens in the EU,
40 that does not equate to the status of third country national, and that takes into
41 consideration the reality of these individuals as 'former citizens'. This special status
42 would ensure that
43 ◦ Family reunification procedures on both sides to be streamlined for families
44 affected by Brexit, and that any obstacles that might lead to the discrimination
45 between citizens are removed;
46 ◦ The political rights of citizens, namely the ability to stand and vote in local
47 elections, be safeguarded on both sides;
48 ◦ The conditions for EU students seeking to study in the UK, and UK students
49 seeking to study in the EU, remain unchanged;
50 • The protection of the rights of EU workers in the UK, and of UK workers in the EU, with a
51 view to avoiding exploitation and discrimination;

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LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Centerstudenter (CS)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Women's right over their own body**

2 **Recalling:**

3 The resolutions "Recognition of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as a Policy in LYMEC",
4 "A Call for a Change in Vatican Policy". In particular the health complications due to unsafe
5 abortions.

6

7 **Notes that:**

- 8 • every year ca 20 million illegal abortions are made all over the world, mostly in poor parts
9 of the world and more than 70,000 of the deaths are a consequence of illegal/unsafe
10 abortions;
- 11 • these procedures are often made in the later stage of pregnancy, either made by the
12 woman herself or by people lacking sufficient medical education;
- 13 • every year 15,000 women suffer from severe consequences like physical disabilities and
14 infertility as a consequence of illegal abortions;
- 15 • the principle of informed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family
16 planning programmes;
- 17 • some countries in the European Union are facing calls for legislation that would severely
18 restrict or even prevent access to reproductive health services, including family planning
19 and safe abortions;
- 20 • a ban on abortion, except when there is an immediate and undeniable threat to a
21 woman's life, will mean that survivors of rape and incest will be forced to give birth.
22 Doctors will refrain from performing vital pre-natal tests for fear of possible prosecution,
23 and that miscarriages will be met not with care from a medical professional, but questions
24 from a prosecutor;
- 25 • taboos and the lack of availability of measures of planned parenthood inter alia
26 contraception leads to the rise of unplanned pregnancies, abortion and infectious
27 diseases.

28 **Considers that:**

- 29 • the empowerment and autonomy of women, and improvements in their political, social,
30 economic and health status, are essential to the achievement of sustainable
31 development;
- 32 • sexual and reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the human rights of women's

- 33 right to have control over and decide freely on matters related to their own bodies;
- 34 • sexual and reproductive health and rights are based on four separate notions, namely
- 35 sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive rights and reproductive health, within the
- 36 framework of human rights;
- 37 • it is crucial for liberals to fight for the right of individuals to take autonomous decisions
- 38 over their own sexual and reproductive health rights;
- 39 • forcing women to procure illegal abortions jeopardises women's health and potentially
- 40 threatens their lives;
- 41 • forcing victims of rape and incest to carry pregnancies to term is an assault on their
- 42 autonomy and dignity, and jeopardises their mental and physical health;
- 43 • criminalising abortions in circumstances where the pregnancy is likely to result in death is
- 44 an unacceptable violation of reproductive health.

45

46 **Calls on:**

- 47 • Lymec member parties to actively work to uphold the principle that the human rights of
- 48 girls and women are an inalienable and indivisible part of human rights, to be protected
- 49 not only in areas of public life but also in the privacy of the home;
- 50 • member parties to recognise reproductive decision-making, including choice in marriage,
- 51 family formation, and determination of the number, timing and spacing of one's children;
- 52 and the right to the information and the safe means to exercise those choices;
- 53 • member parties to deal openly and forthrightly with unsafe abortion as a major public
- 54 health concern.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

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LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Norges Unge Venstre (Young Liberals of Norway)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 For a better world we need to end the war on drugs

2 Noting that

- 3 • After careful consideration the liberal government of Canada wishes to legalize cannabis
4 which could generate 5 billion \$ in tax revenue
- 5 • Portugal and Switzerland have had success dealing with crime and overdoses through
6 decriminalization of user doses in Portugal and free heroin to heavy users in Switzerland
- 7 • Other countries, like Norway, with heavy regulations are among the countries with the
8 highest number of fatal overdoses.
- 9 • Injecting heroin is far more lethal than inhaling it with smoke
- 10 • According to Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the UN, illegal drug trafficking is a
11 major problem in e.g. Western Africa
- 12 • More than 7000 people have died due to the Philippine government's inhumane and
13 brutal war to end the country's problem with drugs, and sources say that the police is
14 covering up evidence to justify these killing
- 15 • The Mexican cartels are among the world's most powerful criminals, and their violent
16 regime have cost more than 120.000 lives in the last ten years.

17 Considering that

- 18 • Legalizing cannabis will ensure that the money involved in the drug market now will be
19 taxed and go to the government instead of criminals
- 20 • The UN reports that criminalization of personal use of narcotics often prevents ordinary
21 people to get their health rights fulfilled due to, amongst other things, a fear of
22 prosecution
- 23 • Conservative UN countries restrict others countries path to a more humane drug policies
24 through UN conventions.
- 25 • These conventions might prevent countries like Canada and Mexico to continue their
26 current reforms without breaking international law
- 27 • The UN and their conventions is currently restricted on international drug policies rather
28 than being progressive and open to liberal solution
- 29 • The war on drugs has failed; it has cost several trillion dollars, and have lead to a strong
30 increase in global drug trafficking

31 LYMEC calls for

- 32 • The EU to follow closely the Canadian reforms on their drug policy and watch the

- 33 consequences it has on the number of user, and the effect of illegal drug trafficking
- 34 • Their member organisations to push their governments to change the UN's restrictive
- 35 policies on drugs.
- 36 • Their member organisations to push for implementation of liberal drug reforms in their
- 37 countries, like decriminalisation of user doses and initiatives to smoke heroin instead of
- 38 injecting

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

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301

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: European Liberal Students' Network (ELSN)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **The role of education in the fight against youth** 2 **unemployment**

3 Completing Resolution 3.23 of the policy book

4 **Considering that:**

- 5 • Unemployment levels and rates are largely related to the general business cycle.
6 However, other factors such as labour market policies and demographic developments
7 have to be taken into account as well.
- 8 • Youth unemployment rate can even double the average unemployment rate.
- 9 • Youth unemployment rate reached 18,7 % at the end of 2016 in the EU while it is 10,4%
10 in the USA.

11 **Noting that:**

- 12 • It's important for the consistent development of the next generations and our economies
13 to properly include young people in the European labour market. For many of the youths,
14 entering and re-entering the labour market does not need to be the cause for financial or
15 personal distress. But unemployment spells with a duration of longer than 12 months can
16 very well cause problems like skills erosion or rising social exclusion. Here we are talking
17 especially about the so called NEETs- young people who are not in employment,
18 education nor training. This group faces a particularly high risk to be left behind
19 permanently, if not provided proper guidance into employment.
- 20 • Study programs need to be adapted to a rapidly changing labor market and teachers
21 trained to face the new challenges. The continuing trend towards more academisation,
22 demographic developments and technological progress make constant evolution and
23 adaptation necessary.
- 24 • Partnerships between private structures and educational structures are developing and
25 can be an opportunity for young people to link studies, internship and labour market.
- 26 • An early and good orientation for the youth is often key to find a job.
- 27 • Practical experiences such as internships are an important step towards the labour
28 market.

29 **LYMEC calls for:**

- 30 • bringing long-term reforms in the field of education allowing the reconnection between

- 31 studies and the labour market, such as introducing dual vocational training programs that
32 combine school and workplace learning.
- 33 • launching a proposal on the creation of pan-European internships in most of the policy
34 areas.
 - 35 • promoting public/private partnerships as a way to get out of the high youth unemployment
36 rate and bringing schools and labour market on the same level.
 - 37 • promoting internships as an important step in the way to get into the labour market.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
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LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: European Liberal Students' Network (ELSN)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Free trade for education

2 Noting that:

- 3 • Universities today do not have the same ability as companies to establish overseas
- 4 faculties and units where students can go abroad and keep studying at the same
- 5 university.
- 6 • Higher education is a highly regulated and politicized sector. There is a need to make it
- 7 easier for universities to establish themselves abroad within the whole of Europe.
- 8 • Campus branches are at the moment registered as private education providers under the
- 9 jurisdiction of the host ministry of education.

10

11 Considering that:

- 12 • Making it possible for European educational institutes to be present in many different
- 13 countries will improve the internationalisation of education.
- 14 • Branch campuses are not a manifestation of a relentless globalisation of higher
- 15 education, but a transitory alignment of motivations: universities seeking to build their
- 16 brands and spreading their knowledge by extending their global reach and host
- 17 governments seeking to accelerate the development of their higher education systems.
- 18 • Establishing branches in other European countries would improve European relationships
- 19 and movement of teachers and students across Europe.
- 20 • Branch campuses will increase quality and prestige as they attract "foreign talent"and
- 21 make research collaborations between universities easier. Making it possible for
- 22 universities to operate in different countries will also attract funding for research and
- 23 establish crossborder institutions.
- 24 • The freedom of establishing campuses in different countries will improve accessibility to
- 25 education and increase competition within education in each country and the whole of
- 26 Europe.

27

28 LYMEC calls for:

- 29 • freedom for universities within the EU to establish branches in other EU member states.
- 30 • reducing bureaucracy to be able to expand the university in an other EU country.
- 31 • education accessible to all European students.

32
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34

- expanding Europe's outreach in education to keep up with globalisation.
- a greater supply of a wider array of education providers to fulfill the growing demand of students seeking higher education.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

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LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Jonge Democraten, JOVD, JNC, Jong VLD, Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux, Venstres Ungdom, Vesna, Junge Liberale, Ógra Fianna Fáil, Keskustanuoret, Radikal Ungdom / Carlijn Olde Reuver of Briel (JD)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 License to Heal

2 Considering that:

- 3 • A third of the world's population has limited access to essential medicines.
- 4 • Costs of new expensive medicines cause problems of accessibility also in developed
- 5 European countries.
- 6 • According to research there is no correlation between the innovative power and
- 7 profitability of a pharmaceutical company.
- 8 • The pharmaceutical industry is a billion-dollar organization operating on international
- 9 level.
- 10 • The high prices of drugs threaten patients' right to treatment, and put health budgets
- 11 under unsustainable pressure.
- 12 • About a quarter of the available drugs were discovered by knowledge institutions such as
- 13 universities. The government finances medical scientific research, but sets no conditions
- 14 on the price and accessibility of the discovered medication; leaving pharmaceutical
- 15 companies free to ask high prices which cannot be accounted for by research and
- 16 development costs.
- 17 • The UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, provides valuable recommendations
- 18 for governments and international institutions to address inexpedient inconsistencies
- 19 between public health, medical innovation and the current research investment incentives
- 20 and legal framework.
- 21 • The UN Human Rights Panel (A/HRC/32/L.23/Rev.1) recognizes access to medicines as
- 22 a fundamental human right.
- 23 • The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution ((2016/2057(INI)) on how to
- 24 improve access to medicines in Europe, highlighting numerous areas where member
- 25 states can take immediate action.
- 26 • The European Union invests 1.6 billion euros in the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a
- 27 partnership of the EU with the pharmaceutical industry, without requiring conditions
- 28 directed at access to the resulting drugs.

29 Believing that:

- 30 • Medicine and other medical products should be accessible to everyone.
- 31 • The human right to health and appropriate medical care is essential in sustaining
- 32 societies.

- 33 • European Member States do not work sufficiently together nor do they have the proper
34 policies to handle this situation causing the international operating pharmaceutical
35 industry to have a huge advantage in selling drugs for a certain price putting unnecessary
36 strain on the accessibility of drugs.
- 37 • To achieve affordability and accessibility, all stakeholders in the development and
38 purchasing of medicine need to take responsibility.
- 39 • It is necessary for countries to implement policies and collaborate with other countries to
40 safeguard the accessibility of drugs.

41 **Calls upon LYMEC and its MOs to:**

- 42 • Stimulate European Member States to implement measures to better the accessibility of
43 medicine.
- 44 • Stimulate European Member States to require research institutions to responsibly license
45 new active pharmaceutical ingredients which are discovered by these institutions using
46 public funding. Preferably by incorporating the following criteria in the license
47 agreements:
- 48 ◦ Require the licensee to be transparent about the added value and cost structure
49 of a drug (including marketing costs, public R&D investments and tax rebates).
 - 50 ◦ To require the licensee to ensure access to the drug originating from such
51 institutions by asking a responsible price
 - 52 ◦ Stimulate collaboration between different countries to negotiate with
53 pharmaceutical companies regarding the pricing of innovative drugs to gain
54 bargaining power and ensure their accessibility of medicine and the sustainability
55 of healthcare systems.
- 56 • Stimulate the European Commission to take the following measures:
- 57 ◦ Promote the accessibility of medicines in low- and middle income countries by
58 making market competition possible through non-exclusive licenses of European
59 public research in these countries;
 - 60 ◦ Implement criteria for funding the Innovative Medicines Initiative. The Innovative
61 Medicines Initiative should safeguard the access to the resulting drugs of this
62 public-private partnership.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
401

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux (FEL), Junge Liberale (JuLis), Jonge Democraten (JD)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 A step forward for digital entrepreneurship in Europe

2 Summary

- 3 1. The growth of innovative start-ups in Europe is often hindered by the Byzantine
4 patchwork of digital laws of our States.
- 5 2. The ability of digital services companies to operate under the same conditions throughout
6 Europe would also bring a much-needed dose of free-market competition to certain
7 Member States.
- 8 3. Streamlining the regulatory landscape has the potential to add €415 bn and hundreds of
9 thousands of jobs to the European economy.
- 10 4. This resolution urges the EU institutions to move forward in the completion of the Digital
11 Single Market, to tear down regulatory walls that only make it more difficult for digital
12 entrepreneurs to succeed, and to make sure digital consumer rights are protected.

13 Considering that:

- 14 • The goals of the European Single Act in 1986 were explicitly to remove barriers between
15 Member States in order to create the Single Market. This included the digital sector to
16 allow entrepreneurs to thrive on the European market.
- 17 • The 2012 LYMEC Congress in Copenhagen approved a resolution on "Completing the
18 Digital Single Market", which dealt essentially with digital infrastructure and copyright
19 harmonisation.
- 20 • A true Digital Single Market is much more than that: it means that an innovative start-up
21 can easily grow from a garage in one Member State to become a company active
22 throughout the European Union, without an unnecessary regulatory burden.
- 23 • However, growing digital start-ups in Europe have more trouble expanding than their
24 American counterparts because they have to ensure compliance with a different
25 patchwork of digital laws every time they cross a Member State border.
- 26 • Completing the Digital Single Market has the potential to add about €415 bn to the
27 European GDP and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.
- 28 • Some Member States have taken advantage of the lack of an integrated Single Digital
29 Market to favour domestic companies over those based in other states. Such protectionist
30 actions go directly against existing competition regulations in the European Union.
- 31 • There remains a substantial degree of fragmentation in the field of patents, with two
32 pan-European patent offices, plus one in each Member State.

33 **Believing that:**

- 34 • The fact that distributors of digital content can have the rights to sell the exact same
35 content in some Member States, but not in others, constitutes an unacceptable
36 fragmentation and clear barrier to the completion of the European single market.
- 37 • Making it easier for digital services companies to expand into other Member States would
38 increase competition, shaking up sclerotic markets and thereby resulting in better prices
39 and services for consumers under free-market conditions.
- 40 • The European patent with unitary effect (EPUE) and the harmonisation of patent offices
41 have the potential to slash patent costs for innovators across the continent, as well as
42 making it easier for them to secure their products with less bureaucracy.
- 43 • Greater unity and transparency is required in the field of patents.

44 **LYMEC:**

45 **Urges European Member States to:**

- 46 • participate in the unitary patent regulation and/or ratify the Agreement on a Unified Patent
47 Court if they have yet to do so.

48 **Calls on the European institutions to:**

49

- 50 • maintain the momentum for integration of the Digital Single Market despite the withdrawal
51 of the United Kingdom, hitherto one of its leading proponents;
- 52 • take steps towards closer unity and greater transparency over European patent policy,
53 laying the groundwork for the European Patent Office to grant truly European patents with
54 unitary effect instead of the bundles of national patents it currently grants;
- 55 • move towards a streamlined legislative framework that enables digital companies to
56 operate in other Member States just as easily as in their home states; and
- 57 • to do so while keeping in mind consumer rights such as personal data protection,
58 warranties, a wide range of choice (free-market competition) and the availability of digital
59 products and services all over Europe.

60 **Striking down other resolutions**

61 None

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
403

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: FEL (Fédération des étudiants libéraux)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **From an economic and monetary union (EMU) to an** 2 **economic, budgetary, fiscal and monetary union (EBFMU)**

3 **Considering that:**

4

- 5 • The European Union stays a confederation of states where unanimity rule still prevails for
6 several decisions; the economic and monetary union is part of these areas.
- 7 • The current decision-making process regarding economic governance and the
8 management of the single currency is lacking efficiency and forces member states to
9 push for national interests, leaving the common interest on the side.
- 10 • The Economic and Monetary Union is still lacking a real economic, fiscal and budgetary
11 policy. Member states retain autonomy in these key areas.
- 12 • In the crisis situation and beyond, the lack of coordination in terms of fiscal and budgetary
13 policies especially in the Eurozone have been proven destructive on the economic
14 performances of the countries concerned.

15 **Noting that:**

16

- 17 • For example, the Quantitative Easing has been launched in 2010 by the Federal Reserve
18 System in the USA to tackle the sovereign debt crisis after the financial crisis of 2007
19 while it has only been launched in 2015 by the European Central Bank, in other words
20 almost ten years later...
- 21 • One another relevant example might be the issue of fiscal dumping and the fact that
22 some countries have very attractive tax rates for enterprises and represent an unfair
23 competition towards the other members states. This is in fact possible because of the
24 lack of common policies.
- 25 • Despite the fact that the EU establishes the legal framework for the macroeconomic
26 indicators that are the government budget balance (max 3% of GDP) and the government
27 debt rate (max 60% of GDP), it is strictly up to the Members States to define their
28 policies. Hence, some states choose for fiscal austerity, others for public investment.
29 Since all Member States of the Eurozone do have the same currency, this lead us to a
30 quite schizophrenic and inconsistent system where some decisions enter in conflict with
31 other decisions in the Eurozone and beyond.
- 32 • The actual executive body of the Eurozone is the Council of Finance Ministers (also
33 called Eurogroupe) whereas the Ecofin Council is dealing with economic and financial

34 issues of all the 28 countries. The Ecofin Council is taking into account the decisions of
35 the Eurogroupe resulting in a blurry, inefficient, two-speed approach.
36 • Some Head of States, for example Emmanuel Macron but also Angela Merkel and
37 Mariano Rajoy are in favour of a deep reform regarding the economic field in order to
38 path the way towards a European Economic and Fiscal Union.
39 • The Single currency was designed at the Maastricht treaty as a goal to reach for all the
40 Members States of the Union after complying with the criteria's to apply for a
41 membership.

42 **Calls for:**

43

- 44 • The creation of a European economic government, provided with its own budget, a
45 common taxation policy and more to the point, a common strategy of economic
46 development and growth in order to avoid the consequences of the current situation.
- 47 • A transfer of competences and sovereignty in order to allow this government to take all
48 the decisions that might be needed to manage financial, budgetary and fiscal policies.
- 49 • The extension of the range of actions and empowerment of the Commissioner,
50 Vice-President of the Commission and responsible for the Euro and financial stability as
51 Minister for economic and financial affairs. If relevant, consultations might be carried out
52 with the national counterparts.
- 53 • The democratization and the increase of transparency of the EMU (becoming EBFMU). In
54 other words, strengthening of the role of the European Parliament in economic, monetary
55 and financial affairs.
- 56 • Urging all Members States to accelerate talks and reforms aiming at integrating the
57 Eurozone in the near future.
- 58 • The creation therefore of the "Euro accession assistance structure" as presented by
59 Jean-Claude Juncker in his "State of the European Union 2017" to help catching-up with
60 the 19 on the short-term and unify the 28 in the field of economic and monetary policies
61 on the long-term.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
601

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Centerstudenter (CS) & Jong VLD

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution for a common container deposit scheme in the 2 European Union

3 Notes that:

- 4 • A deposit scheme will increase the number of beverage containers being recycled each
5 year.
- 6 • large amounts of aluminium cans and plastic bottles are disappearing from national
7 deposit schemes as they are purchased in a different country than the intended country
8 for consumption;
- 9 • beverage cans and bottles imported have a much lower recycling rate and generally
10 becomes residual waste instead;
- 11 • the energy needed for manufacturing a new aluminium can is 20 times higher than using
12 aluminium from a recycled can;
- 13 • the environment, industry and trade would benefit from a common beverage container
14 deposit scheme in the European Union;
- 15 • all the European Union increasing level of recycling of beverage cans, and with more
16 cross border trade the need for a common deposit scheme will only grow.

17 Considers that:

- 18 • Movement between the European Union is at record high and therefore the need for a
19 common container deposit scheme is increasing.
- 20 • In order to work for a less polluted world, new and innovative solutions that cross borders
21 is very much needed.
- 22 • A common deposit scheme will increase cross border trade.
- 23 • The amount of aluminium and plastics being recycled will increase when the containers
24 are included in a deposit scheme.

25 Calls on:

- 26 • Lymec member parties to actively work to unite the different deposit schemes in the
27 european countries into one common scheme.

28

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
901

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux (FEL), Venstres Ungdom (VU), Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen (LHG)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 On the racist and xenophobic riots in the USA

2 Summary

- 3 1. The presidential election of 8 November 2016 in the United States of America was won
4 by a candidate who ran a campaign steeped in bigotry and offensive speeches against
5 minorities.
- 6 2. As the 45th president of the USA, Donald J. Trump has repeatedly courted controversy
7 with xenophobic and hate speeches since he was sworn in on 20 January.
- 8 3. Mr Trump has also tried to play the Member States of the European Union against each
9 other with the aim to divide the European people as well and to revive the spectres of
10 hatred and sorrow.
- 11 4. The events of 11 and 12 August 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white
12 supremacists rioted in the streets and an anti-supremacist activist lost her life, together
13 with Mr Trump's failure to condemn them, were a disturbing moment that worries us all.

14 Believing that:

- 15 • the United States of America is a key political, economic and cultural ally of the European
16 Union;
- 17 • speeches based on hatred, bigotry and violence to achieve their goals are incompatible
18 with free and democratic societies; and
- 19 • all human beings are free and equal in our pursuit of happiness regardless of our origins,
20 creeds, sexual orientation, and colour of skin.

21 LYMEC:

- 22 • condemns all statements and speeches made by the Trump administration with the aim
23 of dividing the American society and/or based on hate, bigotry and aggressiveness;
- 24 • reaffirms its support for equal rights for all people regardless of their ethnic background;
- 25 • rejects all types of demonstrations that use violence to achieve their goals, whether in the
26 USA or in the EU;
- 27 • condemns the Trump administration's attempts to play Member States of the European
28 Union against one another; and

29 • calls on the EU to lead a global response to these types of statements and speeches,
30 abroad as well as domestically.

31 **Striking down other resolutions**

32 none

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
902

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Youth movement for rights and freedoms (YMRF)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution on the Western Balkans enlargement process

2 Considering that:

- 3 • Any European country which respects the principles of liberty, democracy and rule of law;
4 protects and preserve human rights and fundamental freedoms may apply and become a
5 full member of the European Union
- 6 • Western Balkan states (Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia
7 and Herzegovina) share a common goal in joining the European Union
- 8 • The European Union and the Western Balkan states share a vision of common future,
9 and that EU integration needs to remain key perspective for the Western Balkan states.
- 10 • EU enlargement has been the most successful European policy for promoting stability,
11 peace and prosperity;
- 12 • EU enlargement has been the most effective EU policy for spreading Union's values and
13 norms as well as for consolidation EU's global and regional role and influence.
- 14 • The EU enlargement process has been an important catalyst for key and bold reforms,
15 and the massive public support which this process enjoys in Western Balkan states
- 16 • Peace and stability on the Balkans are in EU's own interest because the region is
17 surrounded by EU member states.
- 18 • Antidemocratic trends, disinformation campaigns and increasing political influence of third
19 countries in the region lead to lack of political dialogue, return of authoritarianism, worsen
20 relations with neighbouring countries and incomplete reconciliation processes.

21 Believing that:

- 22 • The EU should increase its cooperation with Western Balkans states in order to reassure
23 on one hand region's path to democracy and on the other to consolidate pro-European
24 course and membership perspective of the Western Balkan states
- 25 • In the wake of Brexit the EU should speed up enlargement in Western Balkans in order to
26 enlarge the common market and bring about new economic opportunities for both EU
27 member states and Western Balkan states.
- 28 • The EU should be more active in the region and fix a dead line (concrete time period) for
29 accession of all candidate countries from the region (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and
30 Macedonia).
- 31 • EU enlargement in the Western Balkans will promote peace, stability and prosperity in the
32 region which on the other hand will have a long-term positive effect on security and
33 stability throughout the whole European continent
- 34 • EU membership will bring many opportunities and benefits to citizens of Western Balkan

35 states

36

37 **Therefore LYMEC calls for:**

- 38 • The EU and its member states to increase their assistance and to pay more focused
39 attention to the Western Balkan states and their EU membership aspirations
- 40 • EU institutions and member states to increase their support for economic development of
41 the Western Balkans region. In particular, to support the successful implementation of the
42 recent Sarajevo Declaration on the creation of a common market, which in a long term
43 will decrease ethnic and cross-border tensions as well as decrease unemployment and
44 poverty in the region.
- 45 • The EU and Western Balkan states to preserve the multi-ethnic character of the region
46 within a peaceful, fruitful and cooperative framework, recognising that good neighbour
47 relations and regional cooperation will facilitate the enlargement process.
- 48 • The Western Balkan states to move forward with reforms and implementation of the
49 Copenhagen criteria. The fight against corruption on all levels should be brought to a
50 successful conclusion.
- 51 • Further and comprehensive assistance to regional liberal parties and organisations,
52 especially youth organizations (like ISEEL) in order to encourage much stronger and
53 intensified liberal cooperation in the region as well as to consolidate the European
54 perspective of the Western Balkan states.

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
903

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: LYMEC Bureau

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution on the EU Relationship with Turkey

2 Noting:

- 3 • the Resolution "Open Negotiations with Turkey without Delay!" adopted at the Executive
- 4 Committee in Rome, 3-5 December 2004.
- 5 • the Urgent Resolution on Turkey's Violation of Human Rights adopted at the LYMEC
- 6 Congress, held in Helsingborg, Sweden on the 14th-16th of March 1997.
- 7 • the Resolution on a Customs Union with Turkey adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in
- 8 Hebden Bridge on the 18-19th. of March 1995.
- 9 • the Resolution On the Integration of Turkey (9.65 in the LYMEC Policy Book in 2017)

10 Stating that:

- 11 • Turkey was accepted as a member of the Customs Union with the European Union under
- 12 the condition that Turkey would improve the human rights situation in Turkey.
- 13 • Accession talks with Turkey started after the recommendation of a regular progressive
- 14 report issued by the European Commission in 2004.
- 15 • Turkey initially made considerable progress in terms of institutional reform for its political,
- 16 economic and legal systems as a country committed to fulfill all the Copenhagen criteria
- 17 and implement effectively the Acquis Communautaire.
- 18 • Increasing authoritarian infringes on the rule of law and democratic rights in Turkey have
- 19 been introduced since the attempt at a coup d'état in 2016. Since then Turkey has been
- 20 under a state of emergency, allowing the government to fire or suspend around 130,000
- 21 people suspected of being involved in the failed coup and to arrest around 45,000 people.
- 22 The last year has also featured extensive intimidation of opposition members, some shot
- 23 at or beaten by unknown persons while campaigning or protesting.
- 24 • President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan struck a deal with the 28 EU heads of the European
- 25 Union in March 2016, aiming to address the overwhelming flow of smuggled migrants and
- 26 asylum seekers traveling across the Aegean from Turkey to the Greek islands by allowing
- 27 Greece to return to Turkey "all new irregular migrants" arriving after March 20, 2016. In
- 28 exchange, EU Member States will increase resettlement of Syrian refugees residing in
- 29 Turkey, accelerate visa liberalization for Turkish nationals, and boost existing financial
- 30 support for Turkey's refugee population.
- 31 • The slim majority vote for the constitutional reform in the 2017 referendum will give the
- 32 next elected president sweeping powers over the government, effectively ending the
- 33 current parliamentary political system and the division of powers.

34 **Considering that:**

- 35 • The human rights situation, democratization of institutions and transparency of Turkey
36 has declined considerably during the last years, disqualifying Turkey from continuing any
37 accession talks with the European Union.
- 38 • The decline in human rights in Turkey affects its academia, civil society, opposition and
39 also, the vulnerable Syrian refugees.

40 **Calls on:**

- 41 • The ALDE leaders at the European Council of Ministers meeting in October 2017 to
42 harden the tone towards Turkey and suspend the accession talks.
- 43 • The ALDE leaders in the European Council of Ministers to put an end to the migration
44 deal with Turkey, initiate humanitarian visas and push for rapid relocation of refugees in
45 the EU Member States.
- 46 • The ALDE leaders and ALDE Party Members to reassure the rights of the Turkish
47 nationals living in the European Union, while in unison condemning the attempts by
48 President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to corrupt the Turkish nationals ahead of European
49 elections.

50 **Striking down:**

- 51 2.50 Urgent Resolution on Turkey's Violation of Human Rights
- 52 9.60 Resolution on Customs Union with Turkey
- 53 9.61 Resolution "Open Negotiations with Turkey Without Delay!"
- 54 9.65 – On the European Integration of Turkey

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
1002

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: IMS / Jorge de Jesus

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Internal Motion: Internal Reform of the Individual Members** 2 **Section**

3 **Whereas:**

- 4 • The Individual Members Section represents a unique feature in the European political
5 system, giving young liberals across the EU and beyond the opportunity to participate in
6 European politics at an individual level;

7 **Noting that:**

- 8 • The IMS has been an important part of LYMEC since 1997;
- 9 • A desire to reform the internal structure of the IMS has been voiced by individual
10 members in order to professionalise the Section;
- 11 • The current setup of the IMS is not ideal for the smooth running of the section;

12 **Considering that:**

- 13 • The internal rules of the IMS must not conflict with the Statutes and Rules of Association
14 of LYMEC;
- 15 • Changes to the IMS Internal Rules require the approval of the Individual Members
16 Assembly, and the subsequent ratification by the LYMEC Bureau;

17 **Taking into account:**

- 18 • The Working Paper on the Reform of the Individual Members Section that has been
19 created in cooperation with the LYMEC Bureau and circulated among the IMS;

20 **Proposes:**

21 The following changes to the internal structure of the Individual Members Section:

- 22 • The creation of a Steering Committee;
 - 23 ◦ The Steering Committee will be the executive body of the IMS, responsible for the
24 day-to-day running of the IMS and for establishing its political direction. It will
25 liaise with the LYMEC Bureau and with the Secretariat;
 - 26 ◦ The Steering Committee would be composed of 2 members of the steering
27 committee elected for a 2 year period, and the member of the LYMEC Bureau

- 28 responsible for the IMS. The election of the Steering Committee is to be
 29 coordinated with that of the Bureau in order to ensure a smooth transition;
- 30 ◦ The Steering Committee will answer to the Individual Members Assembly;
 - 31 ◦ The Steering Committee would decide, in consultation with the IMS Council and
 32 with the individual members as a whole, which IMS event(s) to propose to the
 33 LYMEC Bureau, in accordance with the timeline for proposing events as set by
 34 the Bureau;
 - 35 ◦ Should a member of the Steering Committee be deemed, by the individual
 36 members, unfit to carry out their responsibilities, they can be advised to step
 37 down. A vote of no confidence on a member of the Steering Committee can be
 38 called by 25% of paying members from at least three different countries. Should a
 39 member of the Steering Committee be removed from office by a vote of no
 40 confidence, elections are to be held to fill his/her position at the earliest possible
 41 date;
 - 42 ◦ The Individual Members Assembly has the ability to change the composition of
 43 the Steering Committee by a simple majority vote, should that be deemed
 44 necessary in the future;
- 45 • The Individual Members Assembly (IMA) is to be designated as the highest source of
 46 authority in the IMS;
 - 47 ◦ The IMA is composed of all individual members who wish to join it;
 - 48 ◦ The Steering Committee is obligated to call for a mandatory meeting of the
 49 Individual Members Assembly at least three times: twice a year as a
 50 Pre-Congress Meeting before LYMEC congresses and once before the election of
 51 the IMS Delegates;
 - 52 ◦ The IMA has the power to call for a vote of no confidence in one or more
 53 members of the Steering Committee and the Congress Delegation;
 - 54 ◦ The Individual Members Assembly has the power to decide how to structure the
 55 voting of the Individual Member Delegates: either so as to individually reflect the
 56 division of votes on a resolution or amendment by the Individual Members
 57 Assembly (in favour, against, abstention), or as a 'winner-takes-it-all';
 - 58 • The IMS Council is to be redefined as the advisory body of the Steering Committee;
 - 59 ◦ It is to be composed of all paying members who request to join;
 - 60 ◦ It is tasked with assisting the Steering Committee in coordinating IMS activities;
 - 61 • The positions of Country and Local Coordinators are to be established on a by-need
 62 basis;
 - 63 ◦ Country and Local Coordinators would serve as the initial point of contact for
 64 individual members in a particular country or area;
 - 65 ◦ The Steering Committee would appoint, or organise the election of, Country
 66 Coordinators;
 - 67 ◦ Should the need arise, Country Coordinators, or the Steering Committee, can
 68 appoint Local Coordinators. They, along with the Country Coordinators, will
 69 develop an engagement strategy for the country and area for which they are
 70 responsible;
 - 71 ◦ Should the Steering Committee deem that the Country/Local Coordinator has not
 72 kept to his/her responsibilities, or has in any way violated the Internal Rules of the
 73 IMS, the Statutes and/or the principles of the European Liberal Youth, it has the
 74 ability to relieve the Country/Local Coordinator from his/her duty (simple majority
 75 vote required). A new Country/Local Coordinator shall be appointed, or elections

76

for the position shall be organised, at the earliest possible date;

77

- A clarification of the IMS attendance at the LYMEC Congress;

78

- Attendance of the IMS to the LYMEC Congresses shall be as follows:

79

- Congress Delegation

80

- Steering Committee

81

- Individual Members

82

- Due to the limited number of spots at each Congress, a set of criteria will be developed in order to vet which members should be able to attend each Congress. The criteria will be based on the principle of fairness, and will focus on the promotion of active member involvement, including that all individual members chosen must attend all Pre-Congress Meetings and all IMS meetings during the Congress;

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88

- An update regarding the Official IMS Thematic Working Groups;

89

- Coordinators of the Official Thematic Working Groups would either be appointed by the Steering Committee or elected by the Working Group. Individual Members whose proposal for the creation of a working group would be successful would automatically be appointed coordinator;

90

91

92

93

- Coordinators of the IMS Working Groups liaise with the Steering Committee; A report on the activities of each active Working Group must be submitted by the Coordinator to the IMS Council before each Congress;

94

95

96

- Every individual member would have the right to propose the creation of a Working Group, and all Official Thematic Working Groups would be open to all paying individual members;

97

98

99 **Calls for:**

100

- An update of the IMS Internal Rules to include these proposals and hence reorganise the internal structure of the IMS. This should be done by the Spring Congress of 2018;

101

102 **Further recommends:**

103

- That LYMEC consider these changes to the organisation of the IMS the next time the statutes are updated, and amend the latter if necessary.

104

105

106

Proposal for LYMEC Autumn Congress

Proposal
1003

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 13 - 15, 2017 in Sofia

Author: Friso Bonga (IMS), Bureau

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The LYMEC Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Motion - Brace yourselves: European elections are** 2 **coming**

3 **Noting that:**

- 4 • in 2019 the citizens of the Union will elect a new parliament

5 **Considering that:**

- 6 • The future of Europe is our business. The European Liberal Youth has a responsibility to
7 consistently promote policies that add value for young European citizens.

8 **Calls on:**

- 9 • The bureau to set up an inclusive way to take into account the LYMEC Policy Book and
10 integrate the LYMEC Members in drafting a 2019-2024 EP Election manifesto that
11 contains among other things :
- 12 • An economic policy that focuses on the creation of jobs and sustainable economic
13 development.
 - 14 ◦ With a strong focus on combating youth unemployment. European youth lack
15 equal access to the labour market. Some member states subsidize cheap labour
16 and market inequality, while others disincentive employment by draconian labour
17 laws. The EU should work for young people, removing the obstacles for a
18 rewarding career, strengthening labour mobility within the Union, by harmonizing
19 labour laws to encourage employers to hire more people.
 - 20 ◦ The Erasmus program is the most successful EU program to date. It deserves
21 LYMEC's continued support.
 - 22 ◦ Free Trade that liberates markets, exemplified in the most recent EU-Japanese
23 trade deal. The single market is the EU's greatest power, the EU should use that
24 power to promote liberal market principles in its trading partners. Transparency,
25 accountability and inclusiveness should be the guiding principles of our trade
26 policy.
- 27 • Initiatives to strengthen and promote liberal democracy, embedded in strong institutions
28 that guard the rule of law
 - 29 ◦ In some states the rise of illiberal and nationalist politics has gone too far already.
30 The Union needs a stronger mechanism to enforce its own treaties. A
31 Copenhagen Criteria Control Cycle as outlined in LYMEC's policy book.

- 32 ◦ Populism, as a form of politics that divides societies, is a threat to European
33 democracy and will continue to be a feature of European politics for many years to
34 come. The Strategy developed by the Working Group on Populism will be the
35 starting point for a paragraph on fighting populism in the election manifesto.
- 36 • a focus on the management of the consequences of global warming, because:
 - 37 ◦ Climate change policy should be central to the liberal ideology, as it is
38 indispensable in order for all individuals to enjoy the right to equal opportunities;
 - 39 ◦ EU Member States need to talk less and do more to reach their climate goals and
40 IPCC's recommendations.
 - 41 ◦ In order to support sustainable initiatives, an EU-wide capitalmarket dedicated to
42 green investments is needed;
 - 43 • Suggestions to strengthen EU security policy, that recognises the potential and
44 shortcomings of both soft & hard power
 - 45 ◦ The primary strategic challenge for the Union comes from the East. The regime of
46 Vladimir Putin is robbing the Russian people of its freedom, wealth and potential,
47 while it remains in power by artificially creating a scare of the EU and western
48 culture. The EU's main strategic goal should be to check the Putin regime at every
49 step.
 - 50 ◦ LYMEC has always, and will continue to support, the enlargement of the Union
51 with all countries that comply with the Copenhagen Criteria. That means we
52 welcome accession negotiations with the western Balkan countries, Georgia and
53 Armenia, who have all shown great improvement and commitment in
54 implementing EU standards. Through the same reasoning LYMEC believes that
55 negotiations with the Turkish government ought to be cancelled immediately and
56 for the time being. The Ankara regime has consistently reversed the pro-EU
57 policies of the past and no longer deserves the candidate member status.
 - 58 ◦ With the decline of US influence a global vacuum looms. The EU should increase
59 the autonomy of its security policy, and actively look for partnerships beyond its
60 own neighbourhood.
 - 61 • Insistence on reforming EU Governance, making it more accountable and transparent:
 - 62 ◦ Increase the power of the elected parliament to strengthen the democratic
63 legitimacy of the supranational Union;
 - 64 ◦ Implement transnational elections in order to build a EU polis.
 - 65 ◦ Transform the role of the European commission and put it under control of the
66 European parliament;
 - 67 • Standing firm in the Brexit negotiations, guarding the rights of EU citizens and protecting
68 EU values. Handling new situations for Northern Ireland & Scotland

69 The European Liberal Youth, together in Sofia, reaffirms its commitment to an ever stronger
70 Union that serves the interests of all EU citizens, wherever their cradle stood or whomever their
71 heart fell in love with. A Union of freedom and progress for all.