



Dear delegates and liberal friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the LYMEC Autumn Congress of 2017 in Sofia. The following pages will outline the activities that have taken place in the months that have passed, both for myself as well as for LYMEC as a whole. Should you have any questions, never hesitate to contact me.

An overall observation looking back on the last 5 months is that LYMEC is becoming better and better in reaching out to more people, whether it is members, established politicians, interest groups or people in general.

I believe the Freedom Fund introduced at the congress in Stockholm, which provides travel refund for some of our least financially resourceful members, as well prioritizing having more travel refunds in the size of 50-100 euros at more seminars has been pivotal in this. Making it possible for us to reengage with members we otherwise don't see very often. Our campaign initiative involving members of the European Parliament has also raised awareness about LYMEC and made us more known within the ALDE Group. More steady presence on social media, and using more video and live streaming, has boosted our reach. Moreover, we are being invited to more and more events, both from member parties of LYMEC, the European Liberal family in general and other stakeholders. While both money and time are scarce resources, we try our best to attend as many events as possible, raising the voice of LYMEC and our policies.

Despite the summer holiday, we did not slow down much on our activities and events.

Following the congress we launched our latest book: "Defending Europe - The Military Future of our Continent". It is such a pleasure to create a platform for young thinkers and allow them to share their thoughts in a more in-depth way than a resolution typically allows. We have already planned our next book launch "The New Europeans" on migration for late October, compiling the essays submitted for our event in Athens on the same topic earlier this year.

In June LYMEC attended the ALDE Council in Ljubljana. One of the most important things on the agenda, was the kick off of the discussion of the process of the ALDE Party Manifesto for the 2019 European Parliament Elections as well as how we will elect the liberal spitzencandidate for the position of President of the Commission. We made our case to have a strong role in the process of developing the Manifesto, and while the process is not concluded, we did have indications from many ALDE Party

Bureau Members that it would only be natural to have LYMEC join the committee. For the elections of the Spitzenkandidat, we argued for a transparent and open process. This was only the first phase, and the discussions will continue at the ALDE Party Congress in Amsterdam later this year. During the congress, I also had the pleasure of being part of a panel discussion on the topic of democracy and digitalisation arranged by the European Liberal Forum.

Following this, the first ever LYMEC Hackaton took place in Andorra. Rethinking how we do our events, and making sure we do not get stuck in "business as usual" is crucial for the continued development of our organisation.

June was also the time for the ALDE Group Summer Academy together with the Young Democrats in the European Parliament. We had two good days, discussing politics and the participants got "hands on" experience developing a statement on our priorities for the future of the EU. While the Summer Academy has always been a success, it was great to see that we this year had a very diverse representation of member organisations and Individual Members compared to previous years. An example of how we are staying in touch with more organisations than previously. During the Summer Academy, we also hosted a panel debate with other political youth organisations, where I had the pleasure to represent LYMEC and among others highlighted the need for labour market reforms and lifelong learning as real solutions to a changing labour market.

July was also the month of our seminar in Gdansk "Getting the Liberal Message Out", where we provided young liberals with communications skills and tools. Especially newer member organisations have expressed a wish for more skill focused events, and I am happy that we are able to accommodate this.

In July, I also visited the Summer Camp of the Youth of Ciudadanos in Malaga. Here I had the opportunity to tell the more than 300 members present more about LYMEC and why it is important for young people to be engaged in European affairs and in politics in general.

In July, I led the work of preparing and submitting our application for funding from European Liberal Forum for 2018, but it was really a team effort. Our work was fruitful, as we already received positive feedback on the application and look forward to welcoming you to ELF events across Europe next year as well.

In August, we had our Young Elected Councillors meeting in Brussels together with ALDE in the Committee of the Regions. The event gave the participants, all elected as local and regional councillors, an opportunity to talk about shared challenges and solutions. The event itself was spearheaded by Edgars Machinkas. The event was a success, and the Committee of the Region has expressed a wish to repeat it next year.

September is the month of the Young Leaders' Meeting, which this year took place in Podgorica, Montenegro. This year the event brought together more Presidents and Vice Presidents than ever before. During the event many current European challenges were discussed, not only providing the participants with new views on topics such as the refugee crisis, security policy or a multispeed Europe but also giving us as Bureau a better understanding of where the leadership of our member organisations stand.

During the Summer, we said good bye to our assistant Paulina Gono, who did excellent work. In September, we were happy to welcome Rick Brans, who will be with us for the coming half a year. Rick will take part in the daily work in the office and also help out with logistics for events etc.

An ongoing project in the past months has also been the cooperation with the IMS Delegates regarding the reform of the Individual Members' Section. It has been really great to see the initiative and eagerness of the three IMS Delegates to move the IMS forward. For the Bureau, the IMS is an integral party of our organisation just as member organisations are, and we look forward to discuss the proposal during the congress.

If you have any questions, ideas or inputs to the work we do in the Bureau please don't hesitate to contact me.

All the best

Sissel Kvist President

Events Attended

Dates	Place	Event / Purpose	Organisation(s)
14 May 2017	Stockholm Sweden	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
2nd June 2017	Ljubljana Slovenia	ALDE Party Bureau Meeting	ALDE Party
2nd-3rd of June 2017	Ljubljana Slovenia	ALDE Party Council	ALDE Party
28 June 2017	Brussels Belgium	ALDE Group Summer Academy	ALDE Group
21-23 July 2017	Malaga Spain	Summer Campus	Jovenes de Cs
8-9 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	Young Leaders' Meeting	LYMEC
10 September 2017	Podgorica Montenegro	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
30 September 2017	Sint-Michielsgestel the Netherlands	Roundtable, JOVD Congress	JOVD