



Dear delegates and liberal friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the LYMEC Spring Congress of 2018 in Berlin. 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 since we last met at the congress in Sofia.

Just after the Sofia congress, we had the pleasure of launching our newest publication "the New Europeans" which consists of essays from the seminar by the same name earlier in 2017. The launch reception was held in Brussels with Angelika Mlinar as the main speaker and with good participation from the liberal family.

In November we launched the first ever mentorship program in Brussels, where 8 young liberal candidates standing for European or National elections got paired with an elected politician from another EU country. I believe that the fact that 8 very busy, high level politicians dedicated time to our project reflects our good reputation as a serious and hardworking organisation and that we can all be very proud of this.

In beginning of December I attended the ALDE Party Bureau meeting in Amsterdam. This Bureau meeting was very important for us as the final composition of the ALDE Party Election Manifesto Committee was to be decided, and then finally being approved by the ALDE Council the same day. While not everyone in the Bureau was keen on the idea of earmarking a spot for LYMEC at first, we eventually got what we wanted thanks to hard work and preparations as well as good allies in the Bureau who voiced their support.

Hard work was also what characterised our LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Party Congress. Without any doubt, were we the most active delegation, putting forward amendments to resolution, taking the floor defending them as well as lobbying for our own two resolutions. The work paid off and both our resolutions were adopted. Moreover, the candidate we publicly endorsed, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, got elected with the highest amount of votes for a second terms as vice-president.

As something new this year, we had ahead of the congress published articles on each of our two resolutions to outline our arguments and create awareness both inside and outside our membership.

During the ALDE Party congress we also had the pleasure of having the first alumni drinks in the LYMEC Alumni Network together with IFLRY. The event was very successful and it was good to see the network having such a good start.

Later in December I took part in our IMS event which we hosted in Brussels. The event focused on capacity building and beforehand the individual members had had the opportunity to vote on which skills they would like to work on in particular, so we could tailor-make the program. I think it worked really well and I would definitely recommend to take this approach whenever possible in the future.

In December it was time to say good bye to our assistant Rick Brans, as the 6 month training ship came to an end. In January I held a series of interviews together with our Secretary General, and I am happy to introduce to you our new assistant, Chris Giapitzis-Papandreou.

In the first months of 2018 I worked together with the European Youth Forum and the other party political youth organisations (PPYOs) on an opinion piece published in Euroactive. The piece highlights the needs of involving young people in the 2019 election in general and within political parties. The initial draft was quite negative, but with our amendments the final result was a balanced text with the right focus.

In February we had our first event of the year in Zagreb “Vote vote vote” which was a seminar on elections system and the effects these have on campaigning strategies. Ahead of the event all participants had written essays, which will later be turned into a publication. I was very impressed with the level of knowledge and dedication among the participants, and really think having essays is a good way adding value to our events.

Naturally, the past months have also, between events and everyday activities, been focussed on the fact that our term is coming to an end and that a new Bureau will be elected when we meet in Berlin. To ensure a better handover from one Bureau to another, I have initiated that every bureau member creates a handover document that describes the tasks and responsibility he or she has been performing. Hopefully this will give the new bureau members a better idea of what the previous bureau members have been up to and it will help to build up a better institutional memory.

Moreover, I have also written a blog post about the life in the LYMEC bureau to provide better insights on what we actually do in the different functions as Bureau members besides attending events (in short, lots of emails, every day!) and how much time it really takes.

As this is my 12th and last Bureau report, I also want to take the opportunity to thank everyone I had the pleasure of working with through the years in the Bureau and in the office, and to thank you, the members. Being part of LYMEC has been a life changing experience and have giving me so much. Thank you!

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 van Run-Kvist

President

Events Attended

Dates	Place	Event / Purpose	Organisation(s)
15 October 2017	Sofia Bulgaria	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
18 October 2017	Brussels Belgium	Book launch	LYMEC and ELF
4 November 2017	Munich Germany	Stand up for Europe Conference	Stand Up for Europe
9 November 2017	Brussels Belgium	YES 25 year anniversary dinner	YES
10-11 November 2017	Brussels Belgium	Building the Best	LYMEC and ELF
1 December 2017	Amsterdam The Netherlands	ALDE Party Bureau Meeting	ALDE Party
1-3 December 2017	Amsterdam The Netherlands	ALDE Party Council and Congress	ALDE Party
3 December 2017	Amsterdam The Netherlands	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
8 December 2017	Brussels Belgium	IMS Event	LYMEC
29 January 2018	Brussels Belgium	ALDE Party Bureau Meeting	ALDE Party
16-18 February 2018	Zagreb, Croatia	Vote Vote Vote	LYMEC and ELF
18 February	Zagreb, Croatia	In-person Bureau Meeting	LYMEC