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# **POLICY**

## **Historic Archive**

**LYMEC Archive of Past policies**

**1992-2018 (created in 2013)**

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## **Policy Archive Chapter 1 - EU Institutions and Institutional Reform**

### **PA 1.01. European Defense**

Whereas

- the developments of international relations over the past decades have caused for a re-focus of military capacities in all EU member states, as the focus seems to continue to shift away from state-against-state aggression and digital threats have come to the stage;
- contributing to a peaceful and stable world cannot only be achieved by the EU's current focus on 'soft power';
- the financial and economic crisis have caused pressure on national budgets throughout the European Union causing cuts on national budgets reserved for defense;
- the efficiency of defense spending within the European Union is seriously limited due to the fragmentation of materials, training capacities and other expenditures between the 28 Member States.

Noting that

- defense policy, on any level, should focus on strengthening the international rule of law, fighting conflicts, maintaining peace and fight international terrorism;
- Many nations in Europe have a certain speciality in military force.

Believing that

- The EU can only fully contribute to a peaceful and stable world order if its foreign policy is strengthened by a credible military force;
- the common European defense policy should focus on
- the coordination in military education and training;
- the establishment of one single military planning capacity and one single operational headquarters in the EU;
- pooling and sharing of critical military assets on the principle of burden and risk sharing between the member states
- the EU Member States should, on short term, agree on collective defense, whereby its member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party; on long term, European cooperation should be prioritized over NATO cooperation;
- Cooperating in the field of defense on the European level in current times seems to be more of a necessity than a choice in terms of efficiency and costs optimization.

LYMEC calls upon

- MOs to promote the cooperation of defense capabilities on the European level within their organizations and mother parties;
- the Bureau to promote this common European defense policy within the ALDE Party.
- lymec and its member organisations to push alde group and its member organisations to support the creation of a European defence force

## **PA 1.02 Stateless Nations' right to decide their own political future**

Considering:

- That legitimacy of democratic systems and of political institutions in the EU is based on political participation.
- Europe to be founded on the values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, including minorities' rights.
- Citizens from all of Europe's nations to have the right to express their political will by peaceful and democratic means that which must be respected.
- That the EU should stand in defense of these democratic and legitimate rights.
- The EU is an entity in constant evolution; Member States should not be seen as immobile entities.

Acknowledging:

- That some nations in Europe have not yet, for several historical reasons, achieved Statehood.
- The liberal goal of a stronger EU does not oppose the defense of different identities and cultures within it.
- The huge demonstrations lived in Catalonia, with more than 1.5 million people peacefully asking for a referendum of independence.
- That several grassroots movements claiming the right of nations such as Scotland or Catalonia to vote on their political future have gained widespread support in these countries and political parties demanding a referendum hold a clear majority in the Catalan and Scottish Parliament.
- That the UK government has agreed with the Scottish government to hold a referendum on the independence of Scotland in 2014.

- Citizens and political parties calling for the right to vote in a referendum are moved by a pro-European conviction.

Calls for:

- Recognition that voting in a referendum should stand as best practices in order to resolve territorial political conflicts.
- The Spanish government to agree with the Catalan government on the terms for a referendum of independence in Catalonia following the UK example.
- The European Commission to make any further comments on the future of new States born in Europe, based on legal terms.
- LYMEC and the EU institutions to condemn any attempt to use the judicial power against the democratic will of European citizens belonging to stateless nations and their democratically elected institutions.

## Policy Archive Chapter 2 – Justice and citizens right

### PA 2.01 – Resolution on Freedom and Democracy in Ukraine

*Freedom of Expression/Media Freedom, Democracy, Ukraine*

**Considering** that since the last presidential election the Ukrainian government has reaffirmed on several occasion their dedication towards promoting European integration of the country and has shown extensive interest in closer cooperation with the European Union.

**Considering** that the European Institutions thinks of the Ukraine as “a country of strategic importance to the EU” and has taken intensive steps to push forward cooperation, especially through the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the Eastern Partnership Initiative and the ongoing negotiations on a new Association Agreement.

**Considering** that the European Union has coupled these measures with the demand of continuous improvement of the situation of human rights as well as the extensive promotion of democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine.

**Whereas** the re-establishment of a presidential system of governance in late 2010 has been followed by several measures undertaken by President Janukowitsch to centralize power within the presidential administration and his own party, the Party of Regions, undermining effective power-sharing and checks and balances within the political system.

**Whereas** it is clear that especially since the presidential elections politically motivated activity by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and security institutions and the misuse of administrative and judicial resources for political purposes is a serious threat to the development of the rule of law and liberal democracy in Ukraine.

**Whereas** the organization “Reporters without borders” reported that there have been intensive blows against the freedom of press throughout the last year including direct pressure of the Ukrainian state security service SBU on several TV- and radio stations as well as threats against journalists linked with the political opposition.

**Whereas** the frequent monitoring of the Kharkiv Institute for Social Research showed that human rights abuses by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies have

significantly increased during the year 2010 and are still at an unacceptable high level today.

**Taking into account** that changes to the electoral law put forward by the presidency of Viktor Janukowitsch have caused a hindrance to the engagement of new established parties in local elections as well as questionable procedures.

**Taking into account** that President Janukowitsch personally initiated legal persecution against several leading members of the former government already accumulating in a harsh sentence against former Prime Minister Yulia Timoschenko that is in large parts politically motivated. It is particularly worrying that these persecutions are conducted under provision in the criminal code of the country that dates back to Soviet times and are in no way conform to the legal standards promoted by the EU.

**The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC), deeply concerned about the recent curtailing of democracy in Ukraine:**

**Condemns** the sentencing of the opposition politician Yulia Timoshenko as a ridiculous approach by the government of Viktor Janukowitsch to mute political opponents by the usage of judiciary as a tool of political suppression and urges the Ukrainian officials to guaranty fair, independent and transparent in the case of the appeal by Yulia Timoschenko and also in the case of other processes against members of the former Ukrainian Government

**Demands** from the Ukrainian government to proof its dedication towards a further European integration of the country by taking immediate measures to guarantee freedom of media, freedom of political participation, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression as well as by taking decisive steps to prevent and investigate human rights violations by law enforcement agencies and the state security service.

**Urges** the Ukrainian government to follow the recommendations of the Venice Commission and OSCE in the process of drafting a fair and transparent election law and to cooperate with EU institutions on the issue of judicial reform in a more effective way.

**Welcomes** the 7<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> October resolutions of the European Parliament on the issue of the deterioration of democratic political and juridical processes in the country and the support which the ALDE group has given in the European Parliament.

**Calls** on the European Institutions to constantly remind the Ukrainian government of their obligations towards implementing a fair, democratic and transparent political system in all possible diplomatic ways and suggests more direct measures such as the temporary suspension of EU programs and consultations with Ukrainian institutions in case there is no improvement of the situation in the near future.

**Calls** on the LYMEC member organizations to use their political networks to raise support for the causes of democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and political freedom in Ukraine.

**Calls** the LYMEC Bureau to ensure our concerns are heard in the ELDR Party

## **PA 2.02 – Resolution on a Liberal Asylum Policy**

*Refugees and Asylum Policies*

Adopted by the LYMEC Congress, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April 2001, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- Regretfully, as citizens of the EU have gained in freedom new walls have been built against countries outside.
- When proposing a liberal policy for refugee and immigration policy in the EU, actions should be taken to promote the possibilities to move freely inside the Union and to enter and leave the Union as easy as possible. The vision is to have no borders at all, all refugees should get adequate protection and immigration should be open for all individuals.
- Stressing the importance of asylum seekers having access to the refugee determination process. The current trend with visa requirements and carrier sanctions the fundamental right to seek asylum, which is prerequisite of being granted refugee status, is being denied.
- Noting that immigrants and refugees do not have the same background and the same needs. Therefore these two groups must be dealt differently. Today many people who are immigrants do not have a legal possibility to enter an EU country and must either resort to the help of smugglers or pretend to be refugees. This is very negative for the public support for receiving refugees, but this does not mean that EU and its member states should increase their efforts to stop immigrants.

### **LYMEC:**

**Calls** on the member states to respect the Geneva Convention on Refugees. Persecution originating from non-state actors should be recognized by all EU member states. The Dublin convention cannot be used as an excuse to transfer refugee seekers in violation of international standards. Sending states should be obliged to use the sovereignty clause available in the Dublin convention and process the refugee claim when the responsible, receiving state uses a higher threshold on the definition of refugee status.

**Calls** on the EU to abolish demands on visa for potential refugee seekers. Visa requirements should either be abolished or be replaced by temporary refugee visas available at embassies in the country of origin.

**Calls** on the EU and its member states to refrain from carrier sanctions, forcing transportation companies to act as refugee authorities. They are not skilled to perform refugee determination and it is not proper that privately employed personnel will act as government officials.

**Calls** on the EU to introduce a common system of asylum policy. The Dublin convention does not promote burden sharing, the effect of the convention is that border states will have increased responsibility.

**Acknowledges** the fact that no country is safe. All states have the potential of violating human rights. The emerging practice of labelling states as safe must be abandoned by the EU and its member states. The Spanish Protocol should be declared as no longer binding.

Given that the results of this debate in a EU level will be discussed during the Belgian Presidency in the second semester of the year 2001, the LYMEC Congress asks to its Bureau to forward this resolution to our liberal leaders.

## **PA 2.03 Resolution on Privacy**

*PNR, Privacy, Civil Rights, Data*

LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,

Since 9/11 and with the so called 'war on terror' we have seen an escalation in the violation of our privacy rights. There are increasing numbers of cameras in streets, shops, in public buildings and even on buses. The mobile phone, internet and financial transactions of all European citizens are recorded and retained by law. Cameras can be used for security reasons, but if we put up cameras with no limitations we risk that video being recorded for other purposes than security.

In the EU, the retention of airline Passenger Name Records (PNR) has already violated our right to privacy. Files are created for each journey that any passenger books. They are stored in the airlines reservation and departure control databases that different agents from the air industry can access. In addition, the passenger's reservation data is available for investigation.

This LYMEC congress:

- Calls on decision-makers at all levels of power to respect privacy as an individual right, to respect the rule of law and to strictly apply the principles of proportionality, necessity and subsidiarity in designing rules affecting the

privacy of individuals and organizations.

- Calls on the LYMEC bureau to fight against any EU regulation that would not follow these principles, and asks LYMEC Member Organisations to do the same at national and local level.

## **2.04 Strengthening and harmonizing European data protection**

**Keywords:** Data protection, privacy, digital economy

### **Considering that**

- EU regulations on the use of personal data were last updated in 1995.
- Companies can currently shop around to place their headquarters in EU countries with the weakest regulations on data protection.
- The EU is currently negotiating the legislation on data protection, which was a LYMEC top priority for the EP of 2009-2014.
- The potential of boosting the EU economy with 2.3€ billion annually by harmonizing data protection rules.

### **Believing that**

- Personal data is sensitive knowledge about an individual, and is thus both private property and a part of protecting the privacy of individuals.
- Digitalization has enormous potential for growth and welfare, but that there is also an increased risk of abuse and fraud.
- The use of data can be very useful for research and such data should be available for scientific purposes.
- The ongoing negotiations between the EU and the US on a free-trade agreement are of crucial importance for EU and US consumers.

### **Stressing that**

- 92% of Europeans say they are concerned about mobile apps collecting their data without their consent ([http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-14-186\\_da.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-186_da.htm)).
- Data is a fundamental resource in the digitalized economy.

### **LYMEC therefore calls upon the ALDE Group to work for**

- Ensuring that personal property in the charter of human rights include personal data.
- The use of data should be extremely limited when it comes to services that you cannot practically live without, given digitalization.
- Ensure that medical data is anonymized and available for research all over the EU.
- The right to be forgotten should be respected as much as practically possible.
- When merging companies, the amount of personal data they own should be considered from a monopoly perspective.
- Establish a common regulation for the protection of personal data in all member states.
- That effective data protection must be a result of the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

- When a company is hit by a leak of user data, it must inform users of the leak.
- Establish a standing committee in the European Parliament that continuously evaluates and scrutinises the legislation in the area of data protection.

## **Policy Archive Chapter 3 – Culture, education and youth, Science and technology**

### **PA 3.01 – Policy paper on Youth Unemployment**

#### **Aim of the policy paper**

This Policy Paper aims to communicate the Youth Policy of LYMEC – European Liberal Youth. LYMEC is a political youth organization unifying more than 250,000 young people in Europe; it is by that means concerned with the role of young people in the Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **Definitions**

Youth is regarded by both European and worldwide organizations as the group of citizens from 15-25 years of age. By analogy the YOUTH programme of the European Commission and the various other programmes dedicated for 'youth' of the European Union and the Council of Europe are implemented for this group of people. Without doubt young people are commonly regarded as the potential of Europe, not only by its citizens but also by its institutions, also in concrete demographic numbers: following enlargement to 25 member states, there will be 75 million young people in the European Union between the ages of 15 and 25. This makes about one sixth of the total population.

#### **Demography**

Between 2000 and 2020, the 65-90 age group will increase from 16% to 21% of the total population of the European Union, while the 15-24 age group will fall to only 11%. With this process of ageing, more is expected of the last group. Also the period of youth is changing. Demographers have observed that, under pressure from economic factors (employability, unemployment, etc.) and socio-cultural factors, young people are, on average, older when they reach the various stages of life: end of formal education, start of employment, starting a family, and so on. It is necessary that policies of the European Union and its member states adapt to this demographic trends.

#### **Youth policy at the European level**

LYMEC supports the White Paper on youth as approved by the European Commission on 21 November 2001. It is the first step towards an integrated European Union policy on youth. The follow up on the White paper has been the resolution of the European Council of 27 June 2002, setting a new framework for co-operation in the youth field. In this Resolution, the Council called for the open method of co-ordination (OMC) to be applied to four priorities i.e. participation by young people, information of young people, voluntary activities among young people and a greater understanding and knowledge of youth.

At the Spring European Council of 22 – 23 March 2005, the EU Heads of State and Government adopted a European Youth Pact as one of the instruments contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon Objectives: making Europe “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world”. LYMEC supports the adoption of a European Youth Pact; we think that the Lisbon Objectives can never be achieved without a focus on the role of the youth in the process towards achievement. Adding the youth dimension to the overall Lisbon strategy is vital for its success. LYMEC asks the European Council for a sustainable commitment to the implementation of the Youth Pact as a way to achieve the Lisbon objectives.

## **2. Towards life-wide learning**

Non-formal education is an organised process that gives young people the possibility to develop their values, skills and competencies others than the ones developed in the framework of formal education. It is no longer sufficient to think only in terms of formal education. Non-formal education is an essential part of life long learning process and youth organisations as LYMEC are a space for and providers of non-formal learning.

In many communities, young people's involvement in youth work and the related skills and competencies acquired in non-formal learning environments are not sufficiently recognised. LYMEC calls upon local, national and international institutions, schools and universities, labour market organisations companies, to recognise the values of youth work. Especially the contribution of non-formal education to the development of skills, knowledge and attitudes gained through voluntary work by young people. LYMEC believes that this can be achieved by taking away unnecessary barriers between formal – and non-formal education. Formal education programmes need to show their flexibility towards non-formal schedules.

LYMEC believes that in a knowledge-based society the skills and competencies gained by non-formal education should be visible, tomorrow even more than today. LYMEC supports initiatives taken by the European Commission to develop a passport for experiences gained through youth work.

## **PA 3.02 Policy Paper on Youth Employment**

*Employment, Social Rights*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

### Introduction

The situation of young people on today's labour markets in Europe is a major challenge for policy shapers on all levels of governance. The participation in the labour market of all possible persons including the younger generation is an important contributor to economic growth, though the situation in several European countries is worrying. Increased participation is furthermore needed in order to limit as much as possible the negative consequences of a declining labour force in Europe from 2010 onwards.

The social consequences of high youth unemployment rates are enormous. Several researches show that having or not-having a job is a major determinant for a person's happiness. Next to that young people who are unemployed are statistically seen as a higher risk for juvenile criminality and socially unaccepted behaviour.

There are both social and economic reasons why youth employment should be on the top of the agenda. LYMEC as a youth organisation needs to have developed opinion on this matter, even more so now that we are asked to give young liberals' inputs to several discussions on this topic, like the one taking place in the Youth Forum.

#### *Facts:*

- *The ratio of youth-to-adult unemployment rate is 3.*
- *In total, with about 7,4 million unemployed young people in the EU, young people aged 15-29 represent 38,5% of the total unemployed.*
- *There is a significant gender gap in youth employment in the EU with the employment rate of young women in 2006 being 5,9% lower than of their male peers.*
- *In the age group 15-24 in 2006 the EU-15 average unemployment rate was around 16%, the EU-27 average around 17% with the highest numbers amounting up to almost 30% (Poland) and the lowest down to nearly 6% (the Netherlands).*

### Background

The employment rate for young people depends on many different social – and economic issues. Policies are currently made on several different levels; the EU only has a role of coordination and can serve as a platform for best-practise exchange. In the future this should remain the same: employment policies have to be decided and executed on the national or even local level.

Policies will have to be shaped and existing ones to be improved in a larger area. With youth employment comes education, transition from education to the labour market, social security systems, age discrimination and equal opportunities.

#### General assessment

Participation of all different categories of people at the labour market is an important key to economic growth and a possible solution to challenges that come with our ageing societies. The full participation of youth and starters is the category that this paper focuses on.

Looking at the unemployment rate of young people it is obvious that the levels are way too high and that young people are at risk. The causes of youth unemployment are various and differ very much from state to state. There are however certain overarching problems that can be defined.

#### *Education*

The transition from finishing education to full employment is seen as one of the most important moments on a young person's life. This is the moment where knowledge acquired during a period of education (formal and non-formal) has to be transformed into employment possibilities. Often the education does not match the requirements of the employers. Even worse are the high amounts of early-school leavers that have no to little chances at the labour market

#### *Young Entrepreneurship*

Over half of the EU's young people wish to start up a business within five years according to Eurobarometer. At the same time there are severe barriers that withhold these youngsters from really starting the business. Many young people are not considering it any longer once they are faced with the enormous administrative burden and difficulties to get loans because of short credit records. Furthermore skills required for starting up a business are not always sufficiently taught during primary and secondary education.

#### *Age discrimination on the labour market*

Today's labour markets in Europe often suffer systems that overprotect older people. Discrimination on the basis of age is done in both legal and illegal ways. These practices that are often the result of collective bargaining agreements between different social parties are very harmful for young people.

#### *Employment costs*

High employment costs are a problem for many labour markets in Europe. Employment costs generally consist of a salary, the patronal part of social security costs and taxes as well as possible secondary benefits for employees. These costs combined with an often high level of regulation make it sometimes unappealing for employers to attract new employees on long-term contracts, leading to high frictional unemployment, high levels of temporary jobs and other ways to avoid committing

long-term contracts (internships etc.). More vulnerable groups on the labour market such as women and young people are affected the most by high barriers for employers to recruit new people.

#### *Dialogue*

In Europe's current societies where unionisation is decreasing fast especially amongst young people, Trade Unions can no longer be seen as the only representative voice of workers. Young workers and starters often do not longer engage themselves in Unions and this has serious consequences for their representative voices. Civil Society organisations can play an active role in discussions around youth employment, intergenerational solidarity and other social-economic challenges.

The LYMEC Congress, meeting from 1-3 May in Barcelona, concludes the following:

- When implementing the Lisbon Strategy and possible further EU coordination plans on innovation related to social-economic policies, special attention has to be drawn to young peoples' participation in the labour market as a part of boosting labour participation in general;
- The EU should develop individual targets for member states so that the EU-27 average youth employment rate goes down from 17% to 10% by 2020;
- National policies will have to be developed in order for European states to focus on early-school leaving and the transition from education to employment when improving education policies;
- European states urgently have to start cutting Red Tape for starting up businesses. Ambitious programmes in some countries where it has to be possible to set up a business in one day could serve as an example for other member states;
- The EU has to take legal steps against member states practicing policies of legal age discrimination within national labour law;
- The EU has to urge its member states to cut employment costs in order to increase employment. This can be done by absolute cuts on taxes and social charges for employers and alternatively by transforming current tax regimes from taxing labour and production to taxing consumption;
- New forms of dialogue will have to be created on all levels of governance that are concerned with youth employment. It has to be recognised that trade union cannot longer be seen as the only voice for young people in various policy discussion

## **Policy Archive Chapter 4 – Business, Economy, Finance and Tax, Cross-Cutting Policies**

### **PA 4.1 Pan-European Legalisation of Soft Drugs**

*Tax, Industry*

Resolution adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress 2-3 December 2000, Barcelona.

#### **Considering that**

- Soft drugs are less dangerous than hard drugs. Hard drugs are both mentally and physically addictive. Soft drugs are only addictive in a mental way. It is possible to die from an overdose of hard drugs, concerning soft drugs dying from an overdoses is impossible. Hard drugs makes people often aggressive and criminal, with soft drugs this is not the case.
- Many hard drugs like Alcohol and Nicotine are legal. Addiction to legal, chemical, drugs is also widespread.
- Every individual should have the right to consume whatever he or she wants as long as nobody else gets endangered. Individuals should be free to make their own choices and have their own responsibilities.
- Criminals benefit from the illegal production and trade of cannabis. Legalising soft drugs will undermine the activities of maffias, organised crime is a huge threat for Europe.
- In many countries the soft drugs dealer sells hard drugs as well. This means a big risk, people who just want to buy cannabis, will be offered hard drugs.
- There is no (state) quality control on cannabis. This endangers the health of the individual consumer, whilst the health of the individual consumer is most important.
- Legalising the soft drugs market increases official GDP and means extra tax income and a possibility for excise-duty.

#### **The LYMEC-Congress concludes**

- To support individual European countries which aim to legalise soft drugs.
- The ELDR Party should equip a strong pro soft drugs legalisation policy in the European Parliament.



## **Policy Archive Chapter 5 – Employment and Social Rights**

### **PA 5.01 Legalize Prostitution**

*Employment, Social Rights, Tax*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of April 2004

The LYMEC Congress

Noting with concern the goal of the Irish EU presidency to ban paying for sex throughout the EU,

Further noting that the Danish and Dutch policy on prostitution (legalisation) is not a standard policy, and would thus be overruled by an EU majority.

Recognising the fact that prostitution has existed since the settling down of the prehistoric 'hunters and gatherers', and the inevitability of its existence, in whatever form, in the future.

Considering the following advantages of legalisation of prostitution:

- Control and regulation of industry (hygiene, STD's, minimum age and permits of workers)
- Prevention of abuse and involuntary prostitution due to pulling the sector out into the open (including sexual abuse of children and illegal aliens)
- Safer industry (disentanglement of prostitution from potential criminal ties)
- Collecting taxes on the industry benefits the government.

Stressing that:

- An association, such as the Dutch trade union for prostitutes and ex-prostitutes, to whom prostitutes can address their complaints, helps insure the protection of the rights of the prostitutes, including the absolute right to say no and provides access to re-training programmes for sex workers who want to leave the industry.
- Prostitutes show a lower incidence of all sexually transmitted diseases than the general public does.
- Most national constitutions in Europe guarantee that not only can we freely practice the religion of our choice, but also that the government will not impose religion upon us. Almost all the arguments in favour of maintaining laws against consensual activities have a religious foundation. The government is then asked to enforce these religious beliefs by arresting the non-believers and putting them in jail.
- For the government to say that certain services cannot be bought or sold is a direct violation of the fundamental principles of our economic system.

- One should be allowed to do whatever one wants with one's own person, as long as one does not physically harm the person and violate the rights of a non-consenting other.
- It should not be a business of government what consenting adults are doing voluntarily.
- Sex is a positive, nurturing act, and whether it is given out of love or rendered as a service, as long as it is consensual it is still positive. Making another human being feel good for a fee is not degrading unless it is degrading to make other people feel good.
- The only way to fight crime in this sector is the total legalisation, and inclusion of prostitutes in society. It is impossible to police an illegal industry that is closed to society, and thus at the mercy of criminals and violent customers.

LYMEC is of the opinion that:

- Laws and legislation concerning prostitution should be formulated at national level in accordance with the subsidiarity principle (the sovereignty of the nation state on national issues) which is of utmost importance for a strong Union, one that is 'united in diversity'.
- Laws against consensual activities are opposed to the principles of free enterprise, the open market and the separation of church and state and create a society of fear, hatred, bigotry, oppression, and conformity; a culture opposed to personal expression, diversity, freedom, choice, and growth.
- There should be no law discriminating against prostitutes forming and joining professional associations or unions and working collectively in order to acquire a high degree of personal security.
- Prostitutes should pay regular taxes on the same basis as other independent contractors and employees, and should receive the same benefits according to the different regulations in different countries.
- The spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases by unsafe sex can only be eliminated through education, not by prohibition.
- Each individual should have the right to decide by oneself whether to work in the sex industry.
- To oppose the legalisation of prostitution, is to oppose the freedom to make use of one's own body, as one wishes.
- Prostitutes are entitled to all human rights and civil liberties, including the freedom of speech, travel, immigration, work, association, marriage, motherhood and the right to unemployment insurance, health insurance and housing.
- Asylum should be granted to anyone denied human rights on the basis of a "crime of status".

LYMEC calls upon the Member States to:

- Decriminalise and legalise all aspects of sex work involving consenting adults and regulate third parties according to standard business codes.
- Enforce laws against fraud, coercion, violence, sexual abuse, child labour, rape, human trafficking and racism across national boundaries.

## **PA 5.02 Youth Unemployment**

*Employment, Social Rights*

Considering:

- Young men and women should focus on their dreams, hopes and aspirations. Yet the limited availability of jobs in most areas of the world limit their opportunities in the labor market.
- Achieving decent work for young people is a critical element in poverty eradication and sustainable development for future generations.
- The government has a responsibility to create a sustainable future for all.
- Intergenerational solidarity is not a priority for labor unions or political parties.
- Not being in employment, education or training is wasteful for society, as one has no outlook on change in such situation.

Acknowledging:

- The current young generation is the best educated and highest skilled youth ever.
- There is a wide spread in youth unemployment within Europe, with over 40 percent in Spain and less than 10 percent in the Netherlands.
- A general trend within Europe exists with 50% more youth unemployment than in the general population.
- Specific groups are under particular hardship based on discrimination and social exclusion, such as GLBT's, immigrants, ethnic minorities and socially disadvantaged youth.

Calls for:

- LYMEC to advocate on a European level more mobility for young workers and entrepreneurs to start business in another area or country.
- LYMEC to call for education based on market requirements. Students of applied sciences should have an outlook to applying their talents and skills.
- LYMEC to focus on the problem of youth unemployment and the broad differences within Europe, to seek a solution to this pressing issue.
- All member organizations to support the exchange of young people between European countries and support a mobile young workforce.
- LYMEC to promote in cooperation with ELDR the drafting of a joint resolution.

## **PA 5.03 Resolution on Youth Unemployment**

### *Employment, Social Rights*

Adopted at the 20th Anniversary Congress of LYMEC, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the 29-31st of March 1996.

Dropping unemployed, homeless young people out of the social society is a very serious European problem. The high juvenile unemployment shouldn't be underestimated. There must be striven to ease the problems of the juvenile unemployment in the whole of Europe with different kinds of local projects financed

by the EU. All those projects, which aim to ease international juvenile unemployment must get financial help from the budget of the EU.

Projects of all social foundation and community initiative YOUTHSTART must be developed taking into consideration special needs of young people. Also developing of educational system to be preparing for lifelong learning is one of the main points of solving the unemployment in general.

## **Policy Archive Chapter 6 – Climate Action, Energy and Natural Resources**

### **PA 6.01 A Call for Forceful Stands to Combat Climate Change**

Renewable Energies, Natural Resources, Nuclear

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia

During the current decade, the issues of climate change and emissions of greenhouse gases have rapidly increased in importance. In the past year, the complex issue of how to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases has become one of the top priorities today, much due to the IPCC and the Stern reports.

LYMEC calls for forceful measures in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by the governments of Europe. Thus, LYMEC calls for the following measures:

LYMEC urges governments to stop further large scale investments in greenhouse gas producing energy sources. These sources should gradually be replaced by energy sources not producing greenhouse gases, such as wind power, solar energy, hydropower, bio energy and nuclear power.

### **PA 6.02 Resolution on the Environment**

*Natural Resources, Conservation*

Adopted at the 20th Anniversary Congress of LYMEC, held in Il Ciocco, Italy on the 29-31<sup>st</sup> of March 1996.

#### **The Binding Common Environmental Policy of the European Union**

The biggest threat of European security is damage of environment. Greenhouse effect, for example, is an enormous threat of all the member states of the EU. These kind of problems can only be solved together with very binding decisions. Common pan-European environmental policy has to be created. That must be the most important issue and challenge of future in European Union.

The European Parliament has to have rights to make initiatives in European environmental policy. The EU should be effective in all such issues concerning the environment and nature conservation in which measures transcending national boundaries are required. All, member states should, amongst other things, rapidly introduce a tax on carbon dioxide. EU decisions must not prevent member states from going further in their national decisions than the common environment norms.

There must be created a common high level in a tax of energy and environment, in which all the member states will commit. With this tax money EU should give financial support to middle- and eastern ecological reconstruction.

### **PA 6.03 Kyoto Protocols**

*Kyoto-Protocol, Renewable Energies, Natural Resources*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

- Whereas the Kyoto protocols, aiming to curb the air pollution causing global warming, has finally come into effect, seven years after they were agreed.
- Whereas further cuts in air pollution must be made in order to stop global warming and climate change.
- Whereas the USA and some of the new developing countries, like China and India, are at present not willing to participate in battling our common environmental problems.

The Congress the European liberal youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam from April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2005 states:

That as liberals and radicals we see the challenges of global warming and climate change as one of the most important political issues of Europe and the world today. That Europe needs to be a driving force for developing better environmental policies, especially in terms of developing and using new technology.

That the EU and other European countries must fulfil all their commitments under the Kyoto-protocols, and a special obligation rests on those countries presently far behind their commitments.

That liberal and radical political groups must support political and technological initiatives towards elimination of the use of fossile energy such as oil and natural gas.

## Policy Archive Chapter 7 – Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

### PA 7.01 Cut the Crap, Scrap the CAP!

*Common Agricultural Policy, Subsidies*

Resolution adopted by LYMEC Congress, 7-9 April 2006, Winterthur, Switzerland

#### **Whereas:**

- There are two main areas (so-called 'Pillars') of agricultural expenditure:
  - Market and income support (Pillar 1)
  - Rural development (Pillar 2)
- In 2002, an agreement was reached by EU leaders on a budget for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) until 2013, together with a new reform of EU's agricultural policy that included a shift of funds from direct aids for farmers to rural development objectives.
- The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has recently been a source of considerable contention in both the negotiation of the EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 and the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s ongoing "Doha Round", blocking any satisfactory compromise
- As part of the deal on EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013, it was agreed that - by 2008 - the Commission should make a "comprehensive and wide-ranging review, covering all aspects of revenue and expenditure, including, inter alia, the Common Agricultural Policy, and the UK rebate", in order to allow a medium term overhaul of the EU's budget in 2008.

#### **Considering that:**

- Whilst the CAP was initially successful in encouraging better productivity and in securing a stable supply of affordable food for European consumers, it is now outdated.
- Money spent on agriculture could be better spent in areas more relevant to modern society or not spent at all and returned to the Member States.
- Globalisation and trade liberalisation are the critical to development in the third world, and also to future growth for industrialised countries
- Production subsidies in this context distort world trade and should be illegal
- Rural development, the "second pillar" of the Common Agricultural Policy, should not be dealt with at EU level: it is more appropriate for it to be dealt with at national level, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle

#### **Acknowledging that:**

- Cutting agricultural tariffs creates big welfare gains for competitive agricultural exporters like Brazil, but at the same time erodes the preferential access already extended by the EU to least developed countries.
- The Council's deal on EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 still needs to be approved by the European Parliament

**Concludes:**

- The EU Common Agricultural Policy should be disbanded and agricultural trade liberalised at worldwide level through the WTO
- Agricultural tariff cuts need to be accompanied with assistance to least developed countries in order to mitigate the negative impact and maximise the positive
- LYMEC will develop a campaign "Cut the crap, scrap the CAPI!", using leaflets and e-banners that can easily be disseminated by its Member Organisations, as a way to put pressure on the European Commission in advance of the review of EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013

**Policy Archive Chapter 8 – Regions and Local Development,  
Transport and Travel**

## **Policy Archive Chapter 9 – External Relations and Foreign Affairs**

### **PA 9.01 - Recognise Western Sahara**

*Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Berlin, Germany, 20-22 April 2007*

#### **Whereas**

- The territory of Western Sahara has been under occupation by Morocco since 1975.
- The United Nations General Assembly already in 1960 declared that the people of Western Sahara have the right to self-determination.
- The International Court of Justice in 1975 ruled against Morocco's territorial claim on Western Sahara.
- Western Sahara is formally recognised under the name of the *Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic* by 85 states, but by no European state to date.
- Western Sahara is on the UN list of Non-Self Governing Territories and is considered Africa's last colony.
- Under the terms of the UN's settlement plan in 1991, Western Sahara should decide its own future status in a referendum.

#### **Noting that**

- Attempts to hold a referendum on the future stat of Western Sahara have repeatedly failed.
- Human rights agencies and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have reported grave and systematic violations of human rights in the occupied territories.
- The people living in the occupied territories are subject to severe restrictions on their freedom of speech, assembly and movement.
- Human rights activists and pro-independence journalists and editors have been put behind bars.
- The Baker Peace Plan – calling for the establishment of a Western Sahara Authority, which would be followed after five years by a referendum – has been blocked by France in the UN Security Council.

#### **Considering that**

- The EU has signed agreements with Morocco that allow EU vessels to fish in territories that are legally under occupation. This constitutes a clear violation of international law and constitutes a de facto recognition of the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara.

- The US-Morocco free-trade agreement does not extend to products from the occupied territories of Western Sahara.

### **LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon the EU and all European states to**

- Formally recognise the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as an independent state.
- Exclude from all trade agreements with Morocco products originating from the occupied territories of Western Sahara.
- Put pressure on Morocco to respect the human rights of all Sahrawis and to release all prisoners of conscience.

## **PA 9.02 - Stop exploitation of occupied Western Sahara**

*Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, 1-4 May 2008 in Barcelona, Catalonia*

Whereas

- The territory of Western Sahara has been under occupation by Morocco since 1975.
- The International Court of Justice in 1975 ruled against Morocco's territorial claim on Western Sahara.
- Western Sahara is on the UN list of Non-Self Governing Territories and is considered Africa's last colony.
- Under the terms of the UN's settlement plan in 1991, Western Sahara should decide its own future status in a referendum.

Noting that

- Morocco has repeatedly blocked the execution of a referendum.
- Human rights agencies and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights have reported grave and systematic violations of human rights in the occupied territories.
- The people living in the occupied territories are subject to severe restrictions on their freedom of speech, assembly and movement.
- Human rights activists and pro-independence journalists and editors have been arrested.

Observing that

- Nothing of the income from the exploitation of Western Sahara's rich fish and phosphate natural resources is diverted back to the people of Western Sahara.
- The EU has signed an agreement with the government of Morocco that allows EU vessels to fish in occupied territorial waters off the coast of Western Sahara, in clear violation of international law. The EU/Morocco fishing agreement specifies that it does not prejudice of the EU's position about the status of the territory of Western Sahara.
- The USA has specifically excluded from its free-trade agreement with Morocco all products that originate from the occupied territories of Western Sahara.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon

- The EU to exclude the coast of Western Sahara from its fishing agreement with Morocco.

### **PA 9.03 – Ukraine**

*EU's foreign affairs, EU Enlargement/Pre-Enlargement, NATO, Ukraine*

Adopted at the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8-10 April 2005.

The LYMEC Congress taking into consideration that:

Further enlargement of the European Union endorses spreading democracy and human rights as well as guarantees higher level of security for all European countries

The Ukrainian Society categorically opposed the attempts of Presidential Election's falsification by triggering the "Orange revolution"

Ukrainian society arduously fought for fairness, democracy and the right for self-determination and therefore proved their belonging to the family of democratic European nations

The newly elected President of Ukraine – Victor Yushchenko has clearly declared the willingness of his country to tighten the cooperation with EU and NATO

Strongly urges the European Commission and European Parliament:

To define clear perspective of Ukraine's integration with European Union

To set precise criteria, which Ukraine has to fulfil to commence membership negotiations

To endorse Ukraine in the process of implementing European legal regulations.

Declares

To observe carefully the situation in Ukraine and react properly in case of any violation of democratic rules

To support the development of Ukrainian civil society through cooperation with local NGO's

To organise joint conferences, seminars and trainings with the aim of sharing our experience with young Ukrainian liberals

To spread knowledge about developments in Ukraine among liberal politicians.

### **PA 9.04 Resolution on the Status of Turkey as an EU Candidate Country**

*EU Enlargement/Pre-Enlargement, EU's Foreign Affairs, Turkey*

Adopted by the LYMEC Extraordinary Congress in Andorra, 2002.

LYMEC – European Liberal Youth:

...recalls the status of Turkey as a candidate country to the EU since the Helsinki Summit in 1999, and following Accession Partnership Program and the National Program.

...regrets the reluctance that was expressed in the European Commission's latest status report on the applicant and candidate countries. In spite of the clear progress Turkey have shown in the 'pre-negotiation', the EU have not taken serious steps to support the reforms in Turkey further.

...considers, that the lack of progress in the negotiations between the EU and Turkey is partly due to the ambivalence and reluctant attitudes within the EU towards Turkish membership of the Union.

...affirms the Copenhagen Criteria as the primary criteria evaluating membership applications instead of culture and religion.

...calls upon the European Council at the Summit in Copenhagen in December 2002 to initiate serious and fruitfull negotiations with Turkey. However it shall be made very clear, that the political criteria of the Copenhagen Criteria has to be fulfilled completely before real accession can be an issue on the table.

...furthermore calls upon Turkey to increase the pace towards reaching full compliance with the Copenhagen Criteria.

## **PA 9.05 Resolution on the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996**

***(excerpt deleted from the resolution 9.01)***

### **VII. European Foreign and Security Policy**

In this part we will describe our vision of the development of a European defence-structure. This structure must guarantee democracy, peace, human rights and individual rights. First we will briefly describe the current situation, then we will describe what we see as the best European defence-structure for the next century. This is how we see a possibility of implementing the Maastricht Treaty. We realise that it is a difficult subject and that it will provoke a lot of discussion. That is exactly what we want. We want you to think with us in order to come to a thorough paper. When the goal is clear we will state a couple of propositions which can lay the foundation for a discussion.

The Maastricht Treaty contains an article about the intention to form a third pillar of the European Union, being the common Foreign and Security Policy. In this article (Art. J.4.), the European Union requests the WEU (West European Union) to implement the decisions of the European Union. The necessary practical arrangements will be made by the European Council together with the institutions of the European Union, somewhat in the shadow of the NATO. The Treaty that formed the WEU in 1954 will end in 1998. So the WEU either will be dissolved or continued but with a different goal.

### **Proposal**

Europe has to divide its attention between European interests and our obligations in the NATO structure. This can be done by reforming NATO into a bilateral structure between Europe and Northern America. The American pillar consists of the USA and Canada. The European pillar must consist of all the Member States of the European Union, with addition of the non-EU NATO-members (Iceland, Norway and Turkey), for whom a 'status apart' must be created. This automatically includes the fact that Europe decides which countries are to be included in the European Union and thereby in the European part of NATO. The countries that have applied for EU-membership are also positive about membership of NATO or the WEU.

In order to fulfil our obligations to NATO, it is necessary that the European pillar of the NATO has the same rigid structure as NATO has today. Amongst other things this means that once a NATO commander issues an order to a multinational European unit, none will check with their individual Ministries of Defence whether or not to follow the order.

In addition to deployment of troops within the NATO-structure, it must also be possible to deploy the respective forces of the two pillars separately. In this respect it must be mentioned that today the European forces are not able to operate without extensive help of the North-Americans. This does include the logistical side of military operations, but also striking capacity of the American aircraft carriers is unmatched by any number of European military units. This also counts for the American capability of information gathering by satellite. The WEU does have its own Space Intelligence Centre in Spain, but this in no respect matches up to the possibilities the Americans have.

### **Problems**

To come to such a new transformation of the Defence and Security Policy of the European Union a lot of practical problems should be resolved first. First, the memberships of the different organisations are not the same. Secondly, the American pillar is divided. Thirdly, there is a tendency in Europe to cut back on defence-costs. People will not be eager to spend more on national defence in order to make it more international. The most important factor is to get the members of the European Union to see, that in order to have a common Security Policy they should first come a common Foreign Policy in all aspects.

## **PA 9.06 Resolution on A Common Foreign and Security policy in the EU**

*EU's Foreign Affairs, NATO, Security*

Adopted at the LYMEC Congress, held in Helsingborg, Sweden, on the 14-16<sup>th</sup> of March 1997.

### **Noting that:**

- The Maastricht Treaty contains an article about the intention to form a second pillar of the European Union, being the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- In this article (Art. J.4.) the European Union request the WEU (Western European Union) to implement the decisions of the European Union.
- The necessary practical arrangements will be made by the Council of the European Union together with the other institutions of the European Union.
- The Treaty that formed the WEU in 1954 will end in 1998. The WEU will either be dissolved or continued with a different goal.

### **Considering that:**

- Security and peace in Europe are common tasks for all countries in Europe. There is a need for the new situation to include existing structures (i.e. EU, NATO and WEU) and new structures, such as the PFP which must evolve into a complementary alliance..Europe is facing new threats to its peace and security. These include, internally, regional conflict, terrorism, environmental problems, human rights violations, ethnic and economic instability, and weak democratic structures.
- Security is not only dependent on the power and sizes of armies, but is as well a question of economic stability and treatment of ethnic minorities within and around European Union.
- In order to facilitate military actions of the United Nations around the world the member states of the European Union should build up reaction brigades who are able to go into action with very short notice, and who are trained and co-ordinated by PFP and available for UN- missions in especially Europe.
- Europe has to divide its attention between European interests and the obligations of the member states in the NATO structure. This can be done by reforming NATO into a bilateral structure between Europe and Northern America. The American pillar consist of the USA and Canada. The European pillar must consist of all European Union NATO members, with addition of the non-EU NATO-members (Iceland, Norway and Turkey), for whom a 'status apart' must be created.
- In order to fulfil our obligations to NATO, it is necessary that the European pillar of the NATO has the same rigid structure as NATO has today. Amongst other things this means that once a NATO commander issues an order to a multinational European unit, none will check with their individual Ministries of Defence whether or not to follow the order.
- It must also be possible to deploy the respective forces of the two pillars separately. In this respect it must be mentioned that today the European forces are not able to operate without extensive help of the Northern Americans. This does include the logistical side of military operations, but also striking capacity of the American aircraft carriers is unmatched by any number of European military units. This also counts for the American capability of information

gathering by satellite. The WEU does have its own Space Intelligence Centre in Spain, but this in no respect matches up to the possibilities the Americans have.

**Propositions:**

- All members of the European Union should become members, either full or associated, of the European defense-structure (i.e. NATO, PFP or WEU).
- The WEU will be expanded to a PAN-European defence-structure.
- NATO must be transformed into a bilateral organisation with a Northern American and European pillar.
- The European pillar of NATO should be made more self-supporting than it is today. In order to integrate a CFSP the EU should appoint a commissioner of Foreign Affairs.
- The two pillars of NATO must be able to operate separately.
- The creation and strengthening of the Pan-European defence-structure should not lead to a situation, in which any country feels isolated or threatened.
- The European Defence Pillar should be overseen in European democratic way, that means by the European Parliament. It is proposed that the WEU set up a Common European Task Force, which could be used by the United Nations or the Organisation for Security and Co- operation in Europe (OSCE) for peace-keeping and peace-making or humanitarian actions, environmental catastrophes and terrorism.

**The LYMEC Congress:**

- Fully supports evolution of the CFSP and future military co-operation in Europe, and the recent approach to make it possible for Central and Eastern European countries to join the various European security structures.
- Is convinced that the Alliance must be open for new members, while at the same time enhancing the strong, stable and enduring partnership with Russia and the Ukraine
- Welcomes the success of the Implementation Force (IFOR) in separating warring factions and maintaining an albeit uneasy peace, but regrets the lack of progress in re-establishing civil institutions in reconstruction's and in bringing war criminals to justice; believes therefore, that in Bosnia the conditions for the unchaperoned peace do not yet exist and that IFOR must continue until this has been established, in order to achieve the full implementation of all points of the Dayton agreement
- Urgently requests that IFOR must continue until at least the local elections have been held

**PA 9.07 Defence**

*Military, Security, EU's Foreign Affairs*

Adopted on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in Vilnius, Lithuania, 4 - 6 April 2003.

**ascertains,**

- the diversity on brands of material used by different European military forces,
- the ongoing integration in Europe on different areas,
- that the US armed forces are currently superior in technology and strength

**further ascertains,**

- that EU contains a growing number of neutral states,
- that certain states have chosen not to be part of a common foreign and security policy for other reasons,

**considers,**

- that closer military integration among member states is desirable,
- that Europe should not be competing with the USA as a military power but working with and through the UN to promote world peace,
- that attuning purchases in the future will improve the efficiency of military spending and promote further integration,

**having regarded these considerations, LYMEC declares,**

- that member states, remembering the aforementioned neutral states, and other states reluctant to enter such a communal structure, should be urged to co-ordinate military acquisition.

## **PA 9.08 Free Syria from Violence and Oppression**

*Peace Process, Minority Rights, Syria*

Whereas

- The ruling Ba'ath party have governed Syria since 1970, without the liberty of free elections.
- From 1963 until April 2011, the emergency rule had remained in effect which gave security forces sweeping powers of arrest and detention.

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- According to Human Rights Watch, Syria's human rights situation is among the worst in the world.
- According to Amnesty International, the government may be guilty of crimes against humanity.
- According to Human Rights Watch, both government and opposition forces have infringed on human rights
- On 26 January 2011, public demonstrations and nationwide protests against the government began, and continuing still.

Noting that

- There is no freedom of expression, association, assembly, press or protesting allowed, with random arrests, torture and disappearances being widespread.

- Since March 2012, more than 3,000 civilians have been killed by the authorities.
  - The al-Assad government is completely dependent on trade income to withhold its military regime and violence against protesters.
- LYMEC – European Liberal Youth calls upon the EU and all European states to
- take responsibility in working towards a speedy conclusion with the least loss of lives as possible to the Syrian conflict.
  - Support only pro-freedom forces, rejecting any cooperation with the Muslim brotherhood of salafit movement
  - Press opposition forces to respect religious minorities and guarantee that Allzwites, Chritians and shite minority are not going to be massacred after the fall of the regime
  - further pressure the Syrian regime and that those responsible be trialed before an international court.
  - express the possibility for the international community to consider a military intervention in order to protect the civilian population against the brutal regime, with or without a UN mandate
  - encourage European and other countries to open asylum for Syrian citizen

## **PA 9.09 – European Defence**

*LYMEC Congress, Berlin, Germany 23-25 October 2014*

### **Considering that:**

- Europe is facing internal and external threats to its peace and security. These include regional conflict, terrorism, weak democratic structures, human rights violations and economic instability.
- Security is the foundation of economic stability and democratic structures within and around the European Union.
- The development of the international system since the Cold War is characterized by a shift in focus away from traditional interstate aggression, to threats of a more varied nature among which hybrid or non-linear warfare, digital threats and fundamentalist challenges to our European values
- In order to secure European interests and promote European liberal values soft power is not enough to meet the challenges, the European Union needs to increase its hard capabilities to provide diplomatic leverage against both state and non-state actors.
- Military cooperation between member states is taking place already. Both bilaterally (Dutch-German division Fast Forces), and multilaterally within a NATO context (Baltic Air Policing mission) and within a European context (procurement coordination through the EDA)
- The efficiency of defence spending could be markedly improved by closer cooperation between member states.

### **Noting that:**

- Many nations in Europe have a certain specialty in their military force.
- Many EU member states are currently obligated to assist other states under the NATO treaty.
- Such an obligation of assistance does not exist towards non-NATO EU member states.
- Military cooperation between member states is taking place already, without European coordination.
- Affirms that a European Union Defence Policy must be created, and that it:
- Shall stipulate that an attack against one member of the Union is to be considered an attack against the Union as a whole.
- Shall not lead to a situation, in which member states feel isolated or threatened.
- Shall be overseen by the European Parliament, European Commission and European Council.
- Shall include a strong and synergised cooperation with NATO, which is necessary for the security of the entire European continent.
- Shall have one single Headquarters for the Defence of the European Union.
- Shall focus on strengthening the international rule of law, fighting conflicts, maintaining peace and fighting terrorism, both internal and external
- Further believing that:
- Security and peace in Europe are common tasks for all countries in Europe.
- External and security policies can only contribute to a peaceful and stable world if supported by a credible military.
- The EU Defence Policy contributes to closer cooperation and shall commit member states to a shared responsibility concerning European security.
- The European Union Defence Policy and NATO can coexist and that this will only be advantageous to the security of the European continent.

#### **LYMEC urges:**

- European liberals to advocate the formation of a European Union Defence Policy that operates in line with the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.
- Members and member organizations to advocate expanding military cooperation between European Union member states.

### **PA 9.10 Resolution of European Liberal Youth on European New Neighbours Policy**

*European Neighbours Policy, European Integration*

Resolution adopted at the LYMEC Congress held in Zagreb, Croatia on 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> of April 2004

Considering present historic enlargement that undoes the occupation of Eastern-Europe by undemocratic forces.

Considering the interests of European citizens to be secured of illegal immigration, hard drug and human trafficking. It is in the interest of Europe itself that the above mentioned countries develop themselves economically and in closer interaction with EU societies.

Having in mind that most countries bordering to EU still do not have liberal democracy, free market economy and rule of law, although the nations do aspire for it.

Having in mind the strong cultural and economic links and prospects over the future boarder of European Union.

LYMEC strongly supports the commission initiative of establishing New Neighbourhood policy. We consider it vital that appropriate amounts of funds are distributed to these programs to include:

- student exchange and comprehensive programs for study from these countries
- comprehensive program of twinning of government agencies of neighbouring countries
- investments into infrastructure uniting neighbouring countries with EU infrastructure
- cultural exchange (folk singing, dance; sports, arts)

## **PA 9.11 The resolution of Cyprus**

*The resolution of Cyprus*

*International Conflicts, United Nations, Peace Process, Cyprus, Turkey*

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting/ Extraordinary Congress, held in Konstanz, Germany on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1997

### **Noting:**

- The situation in Cyprus, where the northern part has been occupied by Turkish military forces since 1974;
- That Cyprus has applied for membership in the European Union;
- That negotiations will start with Cyprus early in 1998;
- That the UN Secretary General has started negotiations on behalf of the UN to solve the problem;
- That the first two rounds of negotiations have not resulted in any progress towards finding a solution;
- That there has been increased tension on the island during the last few months.

### **Considering:**

- That because of the imposed separation and division, a whole generation of Cypriots has not been giving a chance of living together;

- That ever since the invasion and occupation of the northern part of Cyprus by the Turkish troops, thousands of Turkish settlers have been illegally transferred to Cyprus;
- That the UN is planning another round of negotiations after the February Presidential elections in Cyprus;
- That Cyprus fulfils the criteria of becoming a member of the European Union and the European Monetary Union;
- That a membership of Cyprus in the European Union will contribute to the development of the European Union and Cyprus;

**Stating:**

- That Turkey must withdraw its military forces from the island so that reunification of Cyprus, the only remaining divided European country, could become possible;
- That all the refugees must be allowed to return to their homes;
- That the Human Rights of all Cypriot Citizens must be respected and upheld;
- That everything must be done for the Cyprus problem to be solved peacefully and on the basis of all UN resolutions for a just and viable solution;

**LYMEC Supports:**

- The efforts of the UN Secretary General in promoting a solution through direct negotiations between the two sides;
- Cyprus' application for full membership in the European Union, which will benefit both communities on the island;

**LYMEC Urges:**

The two sides to continue the negotiations for a speedy, just and viable solution;

**LYMEC Welcomes:**

The contacts between LYMEC and the youth organisations ONED, NEFIL and NEDIK in Cyprus;

**LYMEC Hopes:**

- To establish further co-operation with these organisations;
- To establish co-operation with young liberals all over Cyprus, who agree on this resolution and who preferably have contacts with one or more of the above mentioned youth organisations in Cyprus.

## **Policy Archive Chapter 10 – LYMEC Internal Organisation**

### **PA 10.01 Internal Motion on Fianna Fail**

*LYMEC – ELDR/ALDE, Ireland*

*LYMEC Congress, assembled in Rome from 8th till 10th of May 2009,*

Whereas:

- “Fianna Fáil has become the newest member of the ELDR Party on 16 April 2009 and it is expected that Fianna Fáil will join the ALDE Group after the EP elections in June
- LYMEC respects the decision of the ELDR Council to accept Fianna Fáil as a new member
- The “Emergency motion on the ELDR Group” adopted at the LYMEC EC in Gummersbach on 2 July 1994 mentions Fianna Fáil as a party not coming from a “genuine liberal and democratic tradition” and states that it would be an “inappropriate” party “for genuine liberals to sit with in a parliamentary group”;
- Only three years ago, the LYMEC Congress in Winterthur adopted a resolution stating that “LYMEC believes that Fianna Fáil is currently unsuitable for membership of the ELDR party and the ALDE Group”;
- Fianna Fáil has traditionally had a socially conservative ideology and remains critical towards euthanasia, abortion rights, contraception, gender-neutral partnership laws and the decriminalization of soft drugs;
- The (Fianna Fáil) Prime Minister Bertie Ahern has been one of the most eager supporters of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and is opposed to its reforms claiming that the aims of the CAP set down in the Treaty of Rome were still valid;
- LYMEC condemns Fianna Fail for trying to introduce blasphemy as a crime in Ireland.

The LYMEC Congress proposes:

- LYMEC acknowledges the decision of the ELDR Council to accept Fianna Fáil as a member but also needs to respect the decisions made at the EC in Gummersbach and the Congress in Winterthur. This means that LYMEC for the moment retains its position on Fianna Fáil but is also ready to re-evaluate it as early as at the 2011 Congress in two years in the light of the performance in and the contribution to the liberal family that Fianna Fáil will have made.
- The LYMEC Bureau shall inform the ELDR Party and the ALDE Groups in the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions of its position on Fianna Fáil.

## **PA 10.02 Emergency Motion on the ELDR Group**

*LYMEC – ELDR/ALDE, Ireland, France, Italy*

Adopted at the LYMEC Executive Meeting held in Gummersbach, Germany on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1994.

This LYMEC Executive Committee Meeting notes:

- That at the recent ELDR Council Meeting in Rome there were discussions concerning the future make up of the ELDR Group in the European Parliament.

This Executive Committee Meeting declares:

- That we wish to see a genuine Liberal Group in the European Parliament made up of members of parties with a genuine Liberal and democratic tradition. The French RPR, Irish Fianna Fail and Italian Forza Italia do not come from such a tradition and would not be appropriate parties for genuine Liberals to sit with in a Parliamentary Group, whether that be a technical group or a political one.

This Executive Committee Meeting calls:

- On the LYMEC representative at the next ELDR Council Meeting to make these views clear and do anything within their power or influence to prevent any proposed group co-operation with members of the three before mentioned parties.

### **PA 10.03 Resolution on Fianna Fail and ELDR**

*LYMEC – ELDR/ALDE, Ireland*

Resolution adopted by LYMEC Congress, 7-9 April 2006, Winterthur, Switzerland

LYMEC believes that Fianna Fáil is currently unsuitable for membership of the ELDR party and the ALDE Group.