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BUREAU REPORT APRIL 2018 – October 2018

Antoaneta Asenova – Political officer

Dear Liberal Friends,

After the Bureau elections in Berlin, I hereby present to you my first report as Bureau member of LYMEC.

The past half year has been marked by our composition as a team, the setting of priorities for the team, and the political momentum connected to the approaching of the European Elections next year.

In that process, for the past couple of months, I have had two main tasks – to streamline a process and work on a draft for a LYMEC Manifesto for the 2019 Elections, and to support our president Svenja Hahn in improving LYMEC's relationship with the ALDE Group at the European Parliament.

With regards to the Manifesto, the process was announced in the end of May to the presidents and International officers of our member organisations and the individual members' section. Each Member organisation, and the IMS respectively was invited to identify the top 5 priorities that it would like to have the Manifesto focus on, as well as to appoint one person per organisation – to participate in a drafting working group, coming up with the content of the Manifesto that we have before us today. The concept initially was that our Manifesto would contain 5 chapters, but since a few of the topics received an equal count of "votes" being appointed as priority, we ended up with 6 topics, and subsequently – six working groups covering the topics.

Given the importance of this particular document, being the mutual ground for our future campaigning, and in favour of achieving full inclusiveness, I have agreed to extend the deadlines, both for determining priorities, and for appointing a manifesto officer a few times, so that there will be no voice left unheard. I have provided the Working Groups with guidelines for starting their work, and a starting point – referencing their work to the LYMEC policy book, as our common ground of voted for positions. It was my role subsequently, to provide an introduction to the Manifesto, compile the work of the six groups in a coherent and orderly manner, without significantly affecting the content of the group's work, and propose additions to the text, where I thought such were needed. In the end of the process, I have provided the raw draft of the Manifesto for the overview of the working groups, so any potential omissions or discrepancies could be eliminated. I led a manifesto session at the Youth Leaders Meeting

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in September, where your attending presidents or vice-presidents had a chance to discuss the manifesto and offer amendments where needed. The result of this work is offered for your discussion at our current Congress as the LYMEC Manifesto. I firmly believe, that even though not at all times easy, the manner of work as established with the manifesto working groups has proven to be productive, and I would be looking into having a similar approach with regards to revising LYMEC's Policy book after the European elections in 2019.

In the meantime, as a second priority, I have been supporting President Svenja Hahn in improving LYMEC's visibility with the ALDE Group and its MEPs. While LYMEC has an impeccable stand with the ALDE Party, won by our strong representation at the ALDE Party Congresses and other supporting events, the relationship with the Group seemingly faded. As a matter of making our work more political, and LYMEC as organization – more influential, this Bureau put forward as a priority having more visibility and increased communication with the ALDE Group. I have accompanied President Svenja Hahn to a number of meetings with ALDE MEPs discussing a more systematic discussion between LYMEC and the ALDE Group. In the same time, following the European Parliament plenary agenda, I provided the policy research for LYMEC's position on the "Copyright in the digital single market" dossier. Following the positions of a number of our member organizations, and in protection of the freedom of the internet as it corresponds to Europe of the 21st century, LYMEC's Bureau team led a strategic campaign, including visuals, strong stand in social media and a position paper on the report, which was sent to all ALDE MEPs. As a result, within the discussions of the ALDE Group on the topic, a number of references were made to the LYMEC position, drawing more visibility to us as the Liberal's progressive beacon.

Last but not the least, with view to the workings of the European parliament, I have managed to have a Liberal MEP introduce a number of LYMEC points as provided for in the resolution 2.70 on Minority rights and 2.71 on the Rights of Linguistic minorities as amendments to the European Parliament's own initiative report on minimum standards for minorities in the EU. Facing the most important half a year in this current mandate, I am delighted that I was given the chance to be part of an amazing, hard-working team in such a crucial political moment. On my part, I would try my best to defend LYMEC's position in the process of discussing the ALDE Party Manifesto at the upcoming ALDE Party Congress in Madrid and to provide the policy input in line with our stands as an organization and with a view to the current political trends, so that we always have LYMEC as spearheaded and vocal as possible, but especially – for the European election of 2019.

Respectfully yours,
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Events:

Date	Place	Event / Purpose	Organisation
27 – 28 April	Sofia, Bulgaria	ALDE Party Council 2018 meeting	ALDE Party
18 – 20 May	Brussels, Belgium	In-person Bureau meeting and mandate training session	LYMEC
27 June	Brussels, Belgium	Book Launch “Vote, Vote, Vote”	ELF/LYMEC
27 – 29 June 2018	Brussels, Belgium	LYMEC Summer Academy	LYMEC
13 - 15 July 2018	Milan, Italy	IMS Seminar on “Grassroot campaigning” and in-person Bureau meeting	ELF/LYMEC
07 – 09 September	Budapest, Hungary	Youth Leaders Meeting and in-person Bureau meeting	LYMEC/ELF
12 – 14 October	Vilnius, Lithuania	ELF Seminar, LYMEC Autumn Congress 2018 and in-person Bureau meeting	LYMEC/ELF