

LYMEC – EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

To Whom it may concern

Subject: Application for 2018 fee reduction of Youth of LDP

Dear Mr./Ms.,

Youth of LDP seek for opportunity to apply on the upcoming LYMEC congress for reduction of its fee for 2018, having in mind following reasons. Youth of LDP is a youth organization of Liberal democratic party, and as such do not represent separate legal entity. Since bank account of the mother party is frozen since 2014, all funding of youth branch were terminated respectively. Therefore, we were unable to raise enough funds to pay membership fee to LYMEC. Further, Youth of LDP believes in voluntary work as one of the important European values and therefore do not impose any fee to its members. Serbian law do not recognize youth political organizations as entities and thus do not provide funding for its work. Having in mind that we do not receive funds from mother party, nor from the state, nor from the membership fees, Youth of LDP relies on crowdfunding on certain ideas and sponsorship which is hard to attract in the below described political situation, thus we are seeking for fee reduction due to those reasons since we would hardly raise money to pay full membership fee.

Having in mind previously mentioned, Youth of LDP do not have any more its separate offices and rather share office with its mother party for the time being and currently do not have anyone as permanent staff. All people engaged into work of Youth of LDP currently are there on voluntary basis. Youth of LDP still has significant number of members, those who firmly believes in liberal values and importance of youth work for societal development and keeping Serbia on the track of Western societies. Most active members of Youth of LDP are active internationally as well. Mostly with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom who organize numerous trainings, exchanges with young politicians from the region and beyond, participation at international events as speakers and consultants, etc. Beside, Youth of LDP cooperates with Centre Party International Foundation from Sweden. We are also giving our best to contribute to events organized by LYMEC, providing our experience, insights and will to learn and engage with other members in empowering ourselves to promote EU and its core values among people in Serbia.

We believe in importance of being members of LYMEC and further cooperate for building more liberal and progressive society in Serbia, and therefore we are striving to fulfill our financial obligations toward LYMEC. However, situation described above, accompanied with hard political times for liberal ideas in Serbia where there is high polarization and division of society along political lines, dominated by ruling party who controls, and often abuses, all resources and opposition which is highly fragmented but united in their thoughtlessness to confront government no matter of policies and values they are going to support (in most cases their approach to key issues in Serbia are far more radical and nationalistic then one coming from government); all of this leaved Youth of LDP and its mother party in a very hard position of being the only voice of sense and only defender of liberal values in Serbia.

Due to this, we would like to apply at the upcoming LYMEC congress for reduction of fee for 2018 on 150 EUR.

We hope that you will understand our situation and accept our application for reduction and that we are going to jointly work on strengthening liberal values in Europe in a years to come, since joint Europe is our future and our presence.

Sincerely,



Ivan Despotović

President of Youth of LDP from Serbia