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Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
101

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Junge Liberale

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Shut down Turkey's EU accession talks**

2 *Considering that:*

- 3 • The freedom of speech and the freedom of press in Turkey have recently been under
- 4 attack;
- 5 • Journalists from EU-member states have been taken into custody without a fair trial;
- 6 • The result of the recent referendum means a step towards autocracy;

7 *LYMEC:*

- 8 • Encourages its members to vote and campaign for shutting down Turkey's EU accession
- 9 talks

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
201

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux, John De Coster (FEL/IMS)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Towards the dismentantlement of the Pink and Tampon** 2 **taxes**

3 **Referring to**

- 4 • Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13.12.2004 implementing the principle of equal
5 treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services,
6 OJ L 373, 21.12.2004;
- 7 • Research paper "Gender equality and taxation in the European Union", requested by the
8 European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and
9 commissioned, overseen and published (2017) by the Policy Department C : Citizens'
10 Rights and Constitutional Affairs (Directorate General for Internal Policies) whose aim
11 was "to evaluate how tax systems and tax policies at EU and Member State level
12 contribute to – or hinder – gender equality";
- 13 • The nine (9) recommendations listed at the end of the latter research paper, namely to :
- 14 • "Strengthen policies to promote the equal intra-household distribution of paid and unpaid
15 work
- 16 • Strengthen the redistributive impact of taxation
- 17 • Take account of the distributional and allocative impact of tax expenditures
- 18 • Promote and conduct research on gender aspects of taxation and ensure the availability
19 of appropriate gender-disaggregated data
- 20 • Take legal obligations to prohibit discrimination and ensure substantive gender equality
21 with regard to taxation seriously
- 22 • Ensure political commitment at the European level and define targets and indicators to
23 achieve substantive gender equality with regard to taxation
- 24 • Ensure the implementation of gender analyses and compliance with gender equality
25 objectives with respect to taxation at Union and Member State level"
- 26 • Commissioner Věra Jourová written answer (d.d. Septembre 9, 2015) to MEP Ernest
27 Urtasun (Verts/ALE) written question (d.d. June 26, 2015) reading as follows : "Equality
28 between women and men is a fundamental right and one of the founding principles of the
29 European Union. Directive 2004/113/EC prohibits direct and indirect discrimination
30 between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services. Indirect
31 discrimination occurs where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice would
32 put persons of one sex at a particular disadvantage compared with persons of the other
33 sex, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim
34 and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary";

35 **Acknowledging that**

- 36
- Such things as a “pink tax” and a “tampon tax” really do exist;

37 **Considering that**

- 38
- The "Pink Tax" could be defined as followed : "refers to the additional costs for products or services, specifically targeted at women" ("Gender equality and taxation in the European Union", p14);
 - 39
 - 40
 - 41 • “Overall, women pay 13% more for personal care products, 8% more for clothing, 7% more for girls’ toy, 8% more for health care products”, a study of the NYC Department of
 - 42
 - 43 Affairs finds;
 - 44 • The “Tampon Tax” could be defined as levying “VAT on women’s sanitary products”
 - 45 (Collins online);
 - 46 • The tampon tax has become a source of social and economic unfairness to women given
 - 47 that the “potential regressive effects of VAT on basic needs are also at the heart of the
 - 48 present debate on tampon taxes, which obviously are goods only consumed by women”
 - 49 (“Gender quality and taxation in the European Union”, p44);
 - 50 • The rate at which women’s hygiene products are levied varies within the EU and thus
 - 51 may reach alarming percentages (5,5% in France, 6% in Portugal and Belgium, 10% in
 - 52 Spain, 19% in Germany, 22% in Italy, 27% in Hungary);
 - 53 • Plan International published a study that showed that 45% "of girls in Scotland have had
 - 54 to use alternatives such as toilet paper, socks and newspaper during their periods
 - 55 because they could not afford to buy sanitary products”, a rather saddening established
 - 56 fact which refers to the concept of “periods poverty”, defined as "a phenomenon in which
 - 57 people struggle to pay for basic sanitary products on a monthly basis, resulting in a
 - 58 negative impact on their hygiene, health and well-being” by grassroots group Women for
 - 59 Independence;
 - 60 • taxation not only unfairly impacts women through VAT on feminine hygiene products, as
 - 61 the above mentioned study states : “there has been a longstanding debate and increasing
 - 62 concern that the burden of VAT falls disproportionately on women” ("Gender equality and
 - 63 taxation in the European Union”, p43);

64 **Further acknowledging**

- 65
- Scotland’s decision to make sanitary products free for all students in order to "banish the
 - 66 scourge of period poverty”;
 - 67 • Susannah Lane's (Head of Public Affairs at Universities Scotland) way of putting
 - 68 things sound and clear : "Periods are a part of life but they shouldn't be a point of
 - 69 inequality, compromise someone's quality of life or be a distraction from making the very
 - 70 most of time spent at university”;
 - 71 • That measures aiming at doing away with the very existence of a tampon tax have been
 - 72 taken in various not-so-far-away-from-home countries, f.i. Ireland (0% VAT) or Canada
 - 73 (removal of the “Goods and Services” tax (GST) on feminine hygiene products);
 - 74 • The "lack of research based on gender-disaggregated data that can show what impact
 - 75 specific rates and exemptions have in relation to certain consumption patterns” (p43);

76 **LYMEC urges**

- 77
- to endorse of the 9 previously mentioned recommendations, more distinctively;
 - 78 • to promote research on gender aspects of taxation and ensure the availability of

- 79 appropriate gender-disaggregated data;
- 80 • to ensure political commitment at the European level and define targets and indicators to
- 81 achieve substantive gender equality with regard to taxation;
- 82 • Member States to follow the Republic of Ireland's example by removing VAT on all
- 83 feminine hygiene products; and ideally,
- 84 • Member States to contemplate the possibility to follow Scotland's footprints by delivering
- 85 feminine hygiene products for free on campus and to women with lower income.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
202

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya | Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux | Jonge Democraten | Young Liberals | Spokesperson: Víctor Solé

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Against the new wave of xenophobia and racism in the EU**

2 *Considering that:*

- 3 • politicians have failed to counter the rampaging speeches of hate and fear made by others;
- 4 • there are newly elected office holders who base their political speeches on the fear of others, scapegoating migrants and
5 refugees;
- 6 • the consequent fear and hate felt by some citizens in society leads to hunts and other types of violence that have to be
7 eradicated; and
- 8 • a patronising or clientelist discourse is just as harmful as those that aim to disrespect newcomers.

9 *Recalling that:*

- 10 • the LYMEC Policy book currently has several resolutions on the matter: *Towards a common migration policy* (2.08);
11 *Tougher measures against racism* (2.53); *Minority Rights* (2.70); *Countering radicalisation of youth in Europe* (3.25);
12 and
- 13 • LYMEC is one of the European political umbrella organisations with the most thorough anti-xenophobia stance.

14 LYMEC:

- 15 • reiterates its determination to fight all forms of racism;
- 16 • rejects and condemns racist and xenophobic comments made by elected officials as well as any type of discriminatory
17 policy in European countries;
- 18 • urges the ALDE Party and its member organisations not to make racist or xenophobic comments or discriminatory
19 policies; and
- 20 • calls on EU Member States to ensure a common migration policy and the update and upgrade of the current Dublin
21 system, which has already become obsolete.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
203

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya | Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux | Jonge Democraten | Spokesperson: Laia Comerma

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Democracy at the doorstep

2 *Considering that:*

- 3 • In early summer 2018, the European Parliament green-lighted the first reform of European electoral law in decades,
4 which included several interesting changes such as the promotion of electronic voting or making it easier for EU citizens
5 residing abroad to vote in European elections;
- 6 • disaffection with politics, particularly but by no means exclusively among young people, is one of the driving forces
7 behind falling turnout and the rise of extremism in many parts of the Western world, while politicians are increasingly
8 viewed as distant and out of touch with voters;
- 9 • the geographic and demographic size of European constituencies has a real impact on these perceptions and the
10 closeness between politicians and their voters; constituencies that are too large deprive people of any meaningful
11 connection to their politicians, whereas constituencies that are too small result in extremely high effective electoral
12 thresholds that also harm European democracy;
- 13 • some EU Member States are looking at importing certain voter registration requirements from the United States; while
14 ostensibly done to prevent voter fraud, in practice these measures are used to reduce turnout among certain demographic
15 segments; and
- 16 • a true European political sphere is a *conditio sine qua non* for the rise of a European demos.

17 *Recalling that:*

- 18 • the 2018 LYMEC Spring Congress passed a resolution calling for increased democratic rights for EU citizens living in
19 EU Member States other than the one in which they hold citizenship.

20 LYMEC:

- 21 • reiterates its determination to fight apathy towards politics among young people;
- 22 • calls on EU Member States to ensure that the 2024 and subsequent European elections are held using constituencies
23 whose geographic and demographic size ensures a meaningful connection between voters and their representatives,
24 while avoiding excessively small constituencies that lead to very high effective electoral thresholds;
- 25 • rejects any attempt to reduce voter turnout among certain demographic segments under the pretence of fighting voter
26 fraud; and
- 27 • emphasises the importance of transnational lists in European elections for the rise of a European demos.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
205

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya | Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux | Venstres Ungdom | Jonge Democraten | Unge Venstre | Svensk Ungdom | Junge Liberale | Spokesperson: Mariona Bernaus

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Expanding freedom of speech

2 *Considering that:*

- 3 • freedom of speech is a core liberal value;
- 4 • there remain barriers to free speech that are relics of a bygone era in which the ruling class was exempt from any sort of
5 criticism;
- 6 • several European countries still have lèse-majesté laws on their books, which can be used to prosecute anyone who
7 insults their heads of state or government or those of third countries;
- 8 • generic libel laws already exist to protect the rights of people whose reputation has been unfairly tarnished; under the
9 principle of equality before the law, there should not be separate laws for members of the ruling classes;
- 10 • several European countries still have blasphemy (or similar) laws on their books, which can be used to prosecute anyone
11 who insults a religious figure or deity; and
- 12 • free speech should remain free, and every individual should be protected by the same universal laws, no-one should be
13 more or less protected than others;
- 14 • true equality doesn't origin from special laws, but a change of mindset; and
- 15 • a liberal conception of the very idea of freedom of speech should include a peculiar tint of philosophical republicanism,
16 meaning that no citizen stands outside the reach of the law, nor the exposure to public opinion and sanction.

17 LYMEC:

- 18 • calls upon all EU Member States that still have lèse-majesté or similar laws to abolish them;
- 19 • urges all EU Member States that still have blasphemy or similar laws to abolish them;
- 20 • calls upon all EU Member States to make sure that a law on defamation is enforced;
- 21 • encourages EU Members States whose legislative procedure makes the simple act of striking down a law intricate to
22 add a “freedom of speech” article to their constitution in order to render the above mentioned norms *de facto* unlawful;
23 and
- 24 • reiterates its commitment to defending freedom of speech.

25 **Striking down other resolutions**

26 None

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
206

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Centerstudenter

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **A European AI Strategy**

2 Notes that:

- 3 • At present, 48 percent of artificial intelligence (AI) investments are made in China and 36
4 percent in the US; the EU comes in at a distant third.
- 5 • AI has tremendous potential for application in areas ranging from education to healthcare.
- 6 • Seizing this potential would lead to a boost of the EU's GDP.

7 Considers that

- 8 • The EU Commission's blueprint for an AI strategy focuses heavily on the risks
9 associated with AI, rather than its possibilities.
- 10 • Current rules under e.g. the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), such as the
11 prohibition to use personal data for any other purpose than that in which it was originally
12 collected, risk hampering AI innovation in Europe.
- 13 • The EU needs a common approach to AI to match the investment and scope of the US
14 and Chinese initiatives; the EU can only affect the ethics and standards of AI if it does so
15 from a leadership position.

16 Calls upon

- 17 • A more ambitious and targeted EU strategy for AI, which focuses on how to attract
18 venture capital to ensure that the EU's strength in basic research is matched by a
19 successful commercialization of new technologies.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
207

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Centerstudenter

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Resolution for a common European Critical Patient Data** 2 **System**

3 Notes that:

- 4 • For citizens moving (for recreation, business or as migrants) between the EU countries,
5 critical patient information must today be sent on obsolete paper print between the
6 involved hospitals and health systems
- 7 • The inability of health personnel to quickly access information pertaining to, for example,
8 diabetes, anticoagulant treatment and transmissible disease may lead to injury or death,
9 especially in emergent situations
- 10 • the pharmacological industry and scientists could benefit from increased sharing of health
11 data between EU countries

12 Considers that:

- 13 • For patient safety to be ensured in an increasingly mobile world, patient information must
14 also be more mobile
- 15 • Science benefits from scale, and a large EU data repository would surpass the size of
16 any individual national register, while maintaining uniformity owing to the social and
17 economic similarities of the involved countries
- 18 • The reduced amount of paper consumed through digital communication supports the
19 environment

20 Calls upon:

- 21 • The EU to establish a critical patient data system, which would record:
 - 22 ◦ potentially life-threatening chronic conditions (f.e. diabetes)
 - 23 ◦ treatments requiring special attention (f.e. anticoagulation, pacemaker implant)
 - 24 ◦ and hazardous transmissible diseases (f.e. hepatitis B & C, HIV)
- 25 • The data system to be safe and secure and guarantee the integrity of the EU citizens
26 enrolled within the system

27
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- The data system to automatically gather information (after securing the permission of the patient) from the various journal systems employed in the EU countries

29
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31

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
208

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Svensk Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Jonge Demokraten,
Spokesperson: Laura Fagerlund

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Establishing a formal definition and a protection system** 2 **for Climate Refugees**

3 Considering that:

- 4 • More than 25 million people, i.e. one third of all displaced persons, have been forcibly
5 displaced by floods, storms, wildfires, extreme temperature, droughts, famine or coastal
6 erosion linked to sea level rise in the latest decades.
- 7 • This number is inevitably going to increase causing as many as 250 million people to be
8 displaced to by 2050.
- 9 • Persons forced to flee their country of origin as a consequence of their native soil
10 becoming uninhabitable as a result of climate change aren't recognized as refugees with
11 a right for asylum.
- 12 • The term Climate Refugee lacks any formally legal definition both at a global and
13 European level, leading to the impossibility to create an adequate protection system.
- 14 • The recent adoption of 2017 European Parliament resolution on 'Addressing refugee and
15 migrant movements: the role of EU external action' stressed that EU development
16 cooperation should continue to address and effectively tackle the root causes of forced
17 displacement and migration, including lack of economic opportunities and climate change,
18 in line with Goal 16 in the Agenda 2030.

19 Believing that:

- 20 • The above mentioned EU Parliament resolution represents a crucial step towards
21 diminishing the future number of displaced persons due to the effects of climate change.
- 22 • Such resolution doesn't tackle the the issue entirely, since some people won't have any
23 choice but fleeing to the nearest habitable place, including Europe.
- 24 • Persons who are forced to flee need international protection.

25 Calls for:

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- The establishment, at least at the European level, of a formal definition of the term climate refugee.
- The creation, at least at the European level, of a legal instrument recognizing such category of refugees and providing adequate protection.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
209

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund Sofie Lundgren

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Climate refugees - a new refugee status

2 Noting that

- 3 • The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as early as 1990 declared that
4 the biggest consequence of climate change would be migration.
- 5 • The rising average temperature is a problem for the entire world, but in some places its
6 repercussions are becoming catastrophic.
- 7 • One of the consequences of the rising temperature is that deserts are spreading and that
8 drought and long periods with heat that threatens harvests and force people to flee or
9 move. Another is that the rising sea level causes problems.
- 10 • Despite climate agreements and steps taken in the right direction, the Western world still
11 emits too much – so much that we should be redo to take responsibility for the damages
12 we have caused, including the people who are forced to flee due to these damages.
- 13 • Several refugees are fleeing today; in a world where fewer and fewer countries are
14 keeping their borders open. Climate changes are expected to force over 200 million
15 people from their homes by 2050.

16

17 Considering that

- 18 • Climate change does not take notice of countries' borders, which is all the more reason
19 for us to work together.
- 20 • The refugee conventions do not mention climate refugees at all. This means that now that
21 climate refugees are starting to appear, they do not have any international refugee
22 convention to apply for asylum through.

23

24 LYMEC calls upon:

- 25 • The EU to urge large, rich nations such as the US, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran, using
26 diplomatic means, to take in more refugees. EU cannot be the only responsible part but
27 should take on a more active role in more countries taking in refugees, especially in the

28 vicinity of the biggest migration flows.

- 29 • The EU to work towards an international recognition of “climate refugees” as a status to
30 obtain asylum.

31 LYMEC calls for:

- 32 • The EU to work on the opening of institutions for asylum application in countries outside
33 EU where there is an expected high pressure of migration flow due to climate change.
- 34 • An possibility to give UNHCR mandate and resources to investigate who should be
35 recommended a granted asylum to the EU, taking climate refugees into account.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
301

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: The Finnish Centre Youth

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Taking responsibility on protecting our health with** 2 **vaccinations**

3 **Considering that:**

- 4 • Vaccinations are an easy and affordable way of securing the health of EU citizens;
- 5 • The number of measles cases has been on the rise for the past few years in Europe;
- 6 • In a report published in 2011 The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
7 states that more effort should be put to ensuring the coverage of vaccinations among the
8 EU citizens.

9 **Believing that:**

- 10 • Citizens all around Europe should commit to preventing contagious diseases
- 11 • All nations of the EU should encourage their populations to vaccinate
- 12 • The opposition against vaccinations is higher than before due to misleading information in
13 the media
- 14 • It is highly important to use vaccinations as a preventing measure to tackle different kinds
15 of diseases
- 16 • The population should be well informed on the risks of not having enough vaccinated
17 people in our society

18 **Lymec calls for:**

- 19 • Actions to be made to prevent any further damage and spreading of diseases
- 20 • Tackling false information relating to vaccinations
- 21 • The EU member states and commission to take action on making sure that sufficient
22 coverage is met in the percentage of vaccinated individuals in the EU area

23
24

- All individuals living in the EU area to take responsibility on vaccinating themselves and their children

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
302

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Yaroslav Vasylyuk

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Resolution for ban of artificial intelligence military use

2 European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC)

3 Defining that:

- 4 • Artificial intelligence (AI) based weapon is a weapon that can take non-algorithmic
5 strategically important or irreparable solutions in combat situations without human
6 intervention;

7 Noting that:

- 8 • The artificial intelligence (AI) market is rapidly developing as well as AI financing is
9 growing in a military domain;
- 10 • AI is a complicated invention based on software that can be remotely accessed and
11 controlled by terrorists, illegal military groups and other actors of such kind for their
12 purposes;
- 13 • AI requires no costly or rare raw materials, moreover, it faces major commercial price
14 declines over the past few years that will lead mass-produce AI-based weapons and even
15 if banned after appearance they will remain on the black market;
- 16 • AI-based weapon is a new destructive tool that only enlarges the range of arms available
17 for a wider range of states that previously were not interested to enter conflicts;
- 18 • There are many other ways of reaching the objective of the safer battlefield which
19 AI-based weapon is assumed to ensure;
- 20 • The subject of responsibility for the flawed actions of AI-equipped machines is almost
21 impossible to define;

22

23 Believing that:

- 24 • Once developed, AI-based weapons will create prerequisites for more large-scaled
25 conflicts involving more state as well as non-state actors around the world;

- 26 • There is no guarantee that after having AI-based weapons war ended there will be no
27 continuation of the war in modern understanding with involving human resource;
- 28 • AI-based weapons admission to a military field will lead to one more arms race.
- 29 • AI is designed for human welfare but not warfare;

30

31 LYMEC calls for:

- 32 • AI-based weapons to be added to the list of weapons banned under the UN's convention
33 on certain conventional weapons (CCW) brought into force in 1983, which includes
34 chemical and intentionally blinding laser weapons;
- 35 • to conclude all needed international agreements that achieve this objective;
- 36 • to consider other options to reduce losses at the battlefield than AI;
- 37 • to distinct at international level definitions and domains of civilian use and military use of
38 AI;
- 39 • upon LYMEC Bureau to pass this resolution to the UN, the European Commission, and
40 ALDE Party Secretariats for taking it into consideration.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
303

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: ELSN, Centerstudenter

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **recognition of upper secondary qualifications across** 2 **Europe**

3 The European Liberal Youth congress in Vilnius, Lithuania on 12th to 14th October 2018.

4 Notes that:

- 5 • While the Bologna Process has greatly facilitated student mobility across Europe, several
6 obstacles remain.
- 7 • To date, a process for mutual recognition of diplomas only exists for higher education
8 (bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees).
- 9 • It is particularly difficult for students to have their upper secondary diplomas recognised,
10 and the time it takes to get qualifications recognised varies widely between universities.

11

12 Considers that:

- 13 • Studying abroad is of great value to students as it e.g. increases students' cross-cultural
14 awareness, improves foreign language proficiency and enhances career prospects.
- 15 • A common framework for recognising upper secondary diplomas would facilitate student
16 mobility.

17

18 Calls upon:

- 19 • European countries to create a common framework for recognising upper secondary
20 qualifications, similar to the one that exists today for higher education, under the
21 proposed Sorbonne Process.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
304

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: ELSN, Junos

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 European University

2 The University as institution is constitutive to European Culture and developments since first
3 foundations in the middle ages. As the place where knowledge is created and transferred, they
4 act as the key to solve contemporary and future challenges. Exchange and Research across
5 national borders is not only essential for flourishing science, but also serve by ensuring
6 transnational collaboration and peace.

7 Whereas:

- 8 • A European University Institute already exists but the focus is on post-graduate programs
- 9 • The financing of the EUI is based on bilateral agreements between the involved countries
- 10 • There are calls by state leaders for such institution but they haven't been materialized yet

11

12 Considering that:

- 13 • That the European Union is funded on the principle of ever closer integration
- 14 • Erasmus + is well established nowadays but it has no program for lecturers
- 15 • Moving the seat of the parliament to Brussels would free up the building in Strasbourg

16

17 Referring to:

- 18 • LYMEC resolution on "Transfer of the permanent seat of the European Parliament in
19 Brussels and the creation, in Strasbourg, of a European university of public
20 administration, political sciences, international relations, European law and history of the
21 European construction."
- 22 • LYMEC resolution on "Education"
- 23 • LYMEC resolution on "Educating Europe"

24

25 LYMEC:

- 26 • Reiterates and strengthens its call for the establishment of a European University in
27 Strasbourg
- 28 • Calls for the extension of the European University Institute to a full-fledged university with
29 focus on European spirits, efforts and identity and with English as common language
- 30 • Calls that there a Curriculum General with rotating and fixed lecturers, and focused on
31 teaching skills needed for a European Civil Servant
- 32 • Calls for funding of such a university to be from EU funds and by downstream tuition fees
- 33 • Calls for the focus of such a University's research to have the European knowledge in
34 one research cluster
- 35 • Calls for a European Open Data initiative and research Data cooperation's

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
305

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: ELSN, LHG

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 European University Network

2 Noting that

- 3 • we have hundreds of national and private higher education institutions.
- 4 • the institutions have most of the time bilateral agreements with other institutions.
- 5 • a joint or double degree is often the exception.

6

7 Considering

- 8 • that there could be a network across universities and faculties in Europe that work
9 together and offers study programs all together in cooperation.
- 10 • the European spirit could be lived and experienced during the study program.
- 11 • that the students can do their Bachelor degree at three different universities in three
12 different European countries and all performances are recognized.
- 13 • European values are spread and exchange would be lived by promoting the diversity of
14 the European languages and educating the student as a free world citizen.
- 15 • that there is an institution that supports actively the multilingualism of students.

16

17 Calls for

- 18 • an European University Network network of science, research and teaching which
19 includes universities/ universities of applied science and/or individual faculties.

- 20 • a network that offers European specific study programs (e.g European Law) with
21 harmonized examination regulations and coordinated study contents.
- 22 • financed by a common core funding, jobs and research vacancies from the EU-budget,
23 third-party funds or with other cooperations.
- 24 • a shift in responsibilities towards the EU. The Council of education, youth, culture and
25 sports should ensures the European wide accreditation of the European study
26 programmes.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
306

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: ELSN, LHG

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 European Digital University

2 Noting that

- 3 • digitalisation is on the rise and the internet can be used for magnifful objectives.
- 4 • lives become more individually and self-determined.
- 5 • we have plenty of good lectures in Europe and only the enrolled students of the specific
- 6 university can profit from it.

7

8 Considering that

- 9 • the digitalisation is used efficiently with an added value for all participating parts.
- 10 • the universities in Europe share online lectures and materials.
- 11 • students can get the best offers and study with an European focus.

12

13 Calls for

- 14 • an European Digital University (EDU), an European online university. EDU should allow
- 15 for online study all around Europe with a pan- European approach.
- 16 • a pan- European conception implementation, coordination and financing.
- 17 • trans-European committees for conception, implementation, coordination, quality
- 18 assurance and accreditation, affiliation to erasmus+
- 19 • an access for all Union citizen with university entrance qualification and contingents for
- 20 non-European citizens by autonomous entrance procedures
- 21 • a shift in competencies from member states to trans-European bodies

- 22 • a development of databases and IT for a technical access all around Europe
- 23 • a development of digital teaching and research cooperation with European universities
- 24 • an examinations cooperation with universities and accredited institutions, on the spot
- 25 • a cooperation between EDU and already existing successful online-universities
- 26 • a high Data security within the university.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
401

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: JUNOS - Junge liberale NEOS, JULIS - Junge liberale

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Menstruation: Breaking the taboo

2 - In many societies, menstruation is viewed as unclean and talking about it is still considered a
3 taboo. Therefore, a lot of women feel ashamed and embarrassed during their periods. This often
4 stems from a lack of education and misinformation of society on the topic.

- 5 • Furthermore, even if education on menstruation is provided, sustainability may not be a
6 part of it. However, female hygiene products pose a great challenge to the environment,
7 not only due to the vast amount of waste that is accumulated, but also because they
8 sometimes are not or cannot be disposed properly.

9 Considering that:

- 10 • Ireland already has 0% VAT on female hygiene products. This however, is not possible in
11 many other EU states.
- 12 • A sustainable use of resources is important to guarantee a liveable world for future
13 generations. Therefore, sustainability needs to be part of these measures of education on
14 menstruation. Innovative and sustainable female hygiene products should be promoted
15 as alternatives to regular products like tampons.

16 LYMEC Calls:

- 17 • The goal that all other member states receive the right to lower the VAT on female
18 hygiene products under 5% as well.
- 19 • The EU to take measures and work on policies in order to ensure the removal of all
20 taboos connected with menstruation with use of education
- 21 • The EU to encourage education on sustainable use of hygiene products, especially on
22 topic of disposal of waste.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
601

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Radikal Ungdom, Philip Tarning-Andersen

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Stop Nord Stream 2**

2 **Considering that:**

- 3 - The relationship between Europe and Russia is marked by historically remarkable
4 tensions.
- 5 - The Danish government has asked for a common standing statement from the EU
- 6 - Russia historically has used its natural gas to increase political pressure on other
7 countries
- 8 - The tariffs gained by Ukraine by the current pipeline make up 3 pct. of Ukraine's GDP
- 9 - There is enough capacity in the current European gas network for the current demand.
- 10 - Natural gas as a fossil fuel need to be outphased during the next decades.

11 **Concerned that:**

- 12 - Russia will use the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to put economical and political pressure on
13 Ukraine.
- 14 - This will give Russia more power in Europe by increasing the reliance of Russian gas
- 15 - Russia can cut off Ukraine's gas supply deliberately

16 **LYMEC calls for:**

- 17 - A complete stop in the work towards the building of Nord Stream 2
- 18 - Germany to seek more sustainable ways to get energy

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
701

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Junge Liberale, JUNOS

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Open Use of Agricultural Engineering & Innovative** 2 **Concepts of Green Biotechnology**

3 *Considering that:*

- 4 • Global warming and climate change will have a deep impact on agriculture and farming in
5 the future so that new challenges for the production of food will arise
- 6 • The ongoing reduction in biodiversity will have major impacts on the ecosystem and
7 needs to be stopped
- 8 • Space for agricultural uses becomes an increasingly valuable and limited good and the
9 available space needs to be used more effectively

10 *LYMEC:*

- 11 • Calls for the open use of agricultural engineering and innovative concepts of green
12 biotechnology
- 13 • Urges also the EU and all member states to lower restrictions in the use of genetically
14 engineered plants and organisms for agricultural uses

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
702

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Junge Liberale, JUNOS

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Market economy and free trade encourages agriculture

2 *Considering that:*

- 3 • The European Union's agricultural subsidies currently amount to 60 billion Euros and are
4 therefore the biggest financial item in the EU budget – money, which could be better
5 spent elsewhere;
- 6 • Subsidized agro-products especially harm African farmers by overflowing their markets –
7 and thereby leading to unemployment and eventually new causes for refugees;
- 8 • State subsidies lead to welfare-reducing misallocation of resources and overproduction,
9 such as “butter mountains” and “milk lakes”;
- 10 • Countries like Australia and New Zealand are good examples of agricultural economies
11 which are independent of state subsidies – and still remain competitive;

12 *LYMEC:*

- 13 • Encourages the European farming industry to take action to become independent of state
14 subsidies, for instance by opening new markets;
- 15 • Calls upon the European Union and their member states to gradually reduce the EU
16 agricultural subsidies and to eventually completely abandon them within the next 20
17 years;
- 18 • Further endorses transitory support for small and medium-sized farms to facilitate
19 refinancing and deleveraging, following the New Zealand example, as well as to assist in
20 crop shortfall insurances, following the US-American example;
- 21 • Further supports programs which are conducive to renaturate and preserve cultivated
22 land – whereby, however, respective measures must be observed by the WTO, which
23 should intervene, if there is evidence of market distortion or covert protectionism under
24 the veil of sustainability;
- 25 • Urges the European Commission to advocate for a free and open agricultural world
26 market, for a prohibition of decoupled direct payments inside the WTO, as well as for a
27 treaty to globally reduce and eventually abandon agricultural subsidies – and calls upon
28 ALDE to submit a respective proposal to the European Parliament;
- 29 • Emphasizes the need for a reduction of bureaucratic barriers at the application for funds;
- 30 • Suggests a comprehensible labelling of agro-products to transparently inform the
31 consumer about origin and contents of the article, which should be easily accessible
32 through the internet.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
801

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Radikal Ungdom, Philip Tarning-Andersen

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **A common European fee on flights**

2 **Considering that:**

- 3 - Direct emissions from aviation accounts for 2-3% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4 - Emissions from aviation in the EU increased by 87% between 1990 and 2006.
- 5 - Global emissions from aviation are projected to increase by 70% from 2005 to 2020.
- 6 - The tax on aviation fuel worldwide is either very low or non-existent.
- 7 - The price of flight tickets in Europe has decreased massively over the last decades.

8 **Concerned that:**

- 9 - There is little development in making aviation more climate friendly.
- 10 - The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'s proposed CORSIA scheme does
11 very little to reduce aviation emissions compared to other industries.
- 12 - There is little development of alternative fuels for commercial flights
- 13 - Trains across Europe is no way near competitive to flights on either price or duration.

14 **LYMEC calls for:**

- 15 - A common European fee added to flight tickets that is proportional to the expected
16 greenhousegas emission.
- 17 - The expected greenhousegas emission will be based on average number of passengers
18 and fuel consumption for the last three comparable months.
- 19 - The fee will be charged by the nation, where the flight either departs or lands. If both
20 nations are in Europe, the fee will be split between the two countries.
- 21 - A similar fee will be added for freight flights based on the mass carried.
- 22 - Along with this, investments in trans-European high speed trains should increase to create
23 a more climate friendly alternative to flying.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
901

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya | Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux | Radikal Ungdom | Venstres Ungdom | Svensk Ungdom | Jonge Democraten | Spokesperson: Alistair Spearing

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **EU support for sustainability and democracy in Tunisia**

2 *Considering that:*

- 3 • Tunisia was the only country to make a successful democratic transition following the Arab Spring;
- 4 • the European Union (EU) should support the incipient Tunisian democracy and its steps towards stronger protection of
5 human rights;
- 6 • the EU stands to benefit from having a successful and stable Tunisian state, in contrast with Libya, which serves as a
7 cautionary tale of what happens when there are failed states at the EU's borders;
- 8 • the EU should take the lead in the fight against climate change, particularly following the abdication of responsibility by
9 the United States under the Trump administration;
- 10 • Tunisia has a great deal of potential in solar power and wind power, but it remains susceptible to blackouts and power
11 shortages; and
- 12 • both Tunisia and Europe would benefit from tapping this potential, through improved energy security, better grid
13 connectivity, job growth, business opportunities for European companies; and
- 14 • Tunisia, Europe and the world have a strong interest in transitioning to a low-carbon energy mix and mitigating climate
15 change.

16 LYMEC:

- 17 • calls upon the EU and its Member States to launch and support public/private initiatives to develop gigawatt-scale
18 renewable energy projects in Tunisia;
- 19 • urges the EU and its Member States to get rid of protectionist rules and/or unnecessary bureaucracy so that European
20 companies are in the best position to take advantage of business opportunities in the Tunisian renewable energy sector;
- 21 • stresses the importance of improving electricity transmission links between Tunisia and Malta, Tunisia and Italy, and
22 Tunisia and France to improve grid connection and facilitate the import/export of energy among these countries;
- 23 • reminds the EU of the need to invest in a stable geopolitical neighbourhood;
- 24 • acknowledges that lessons must be learnt from previous European investments in the fields of the energy and therefore
25 urges the EU to be self-aware of its investments. No political, financial or economic involvement shall be accepted
26 should it endanger the sovereignty of Tunisians or the stability of its nascent democracy; and

27 • supports the nascent Tunisian democracy and urges its government to continue building on the protection of human
28 rights.

29 **Striking down other resolutions**

30 None

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
902

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Anhelina Vaskovska

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Supporting Ukraine

2 European Youth of Ukraine (EYU), Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC), Venstre Ungdom
3 (VU)

4 Recognizing

- 5 • that Ukraine is a European state that restored independence in 1991;
- 6 • that Ukrainian nation has been constantly pursuing freedom, justice and liberty and has
7 reaffirmed these fundamental values through the Revolution on Granite 1990, Orange
8 Revolution 2004, Revolution of Dignity 2013-2014;

9 Recalling

- 10 • Resolution 1.39 “On the signing of the Association Agreement and DCFTA between the
11 EU and Ukraine” from LYMEC Policy book;

12 Encouraged

- 13 • by the activism of civil society and the courage of soldiers who are defending the
14 sovereignty of Ukraine and the integrity of Eastern boundaries of Europe from illegitimate
15 Russian aggression considering its geopolitical position;

16 Supporting

- 17 • the efforts of the Ukrainian government and citizens for the complete implementation of
18 Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine of 1st September
19 2017;

20 Considering

- 21 • that only after the successful fulfilment of the Copenhagen criteria Ukraine may be eligible
22 to become a member of the European Union;

23 LYMEC calls:

- 24 • upon the European institutions and governments of the State-members of the Council of
25 Europe to support the aspiration of Ukraine and Ukrainian society for the full integration to
26 the European Union;
- 27 • upon ALDE Party to favour the liberal organizations and their movements to advance and
28 promote universal rights and fundamental freedoms in the Ukrainian community;
- 29 • upon LYMEC Bureau to pass this resolution to the European Commission, the European
30 Parliament, the Council of Europe and ALDE Party Secretariats for taking it into
31 consideration.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
903

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Iryna Akhmedova, European Youth of Ukraine (EYU)

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Ukrainian political prisoners held illegally in Russian** 2 **Federation**

3 *Endorses:*

- 4 • the PACE resolutions relating to the situation in Ukraine, in particular Resolution 2231
5 (2018) on Ukrainian citizens detained as political prisoners by the Russian Federation,
6 Resolution 2132 (2016) on the political on the political consequences of the Russian
7 aggression in Ukraine, Resolution 2133 (2016) on legal remedies for human rights
8 violations on the Ukrainian territories outside the control of the Ukrainian authorities
9 and Resolution 2198 (2018) on humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine;

10 *Recognizes that:*

- 11 • 70 or more Ukrainian citizens are illegally detained in annexed Crimea or the Russian
12 Federation on politically fabricated charges;
- 13 • the human rights are being violated by continuous pressure on Ukrainian citizens to
14 change their nationality by obtaining Russian passports in Crimea and self-proclaimed
15 republics (“Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Luhansk People’s Republic”);
- 16 • Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, who are the minority of Ukrainian citizens, and
17 political activists, who are against Russian occupation, are exposed to searches and
18 arrests;
- 19 • closing or changing status of the Ukrainian and Tatar language-based schools on the
20 territory of the annexed Crimea is a violation of universal rights;
- 21 • Russian disregard of international appeals for the protection of natural human rights of
22 political prisoners interferes with the Declaration of Human Rights;

23 *Alarmed:*

- 24 • that political prisoners are being held regardless numerous appeals of the international
25 community;
- 26 • Some of the prisoners, for example Mr. Sentsov and Mr. Balukh who are on hunger strike
27 more than 120 days have not been released yet;

28 *Presumes:*

- 29 • that tortures and force-feeding are still taking place in regard to political prisoners,
30 especially those who are on hunger strike;
- 31 • Political prisoners can be used by Russia in the political bargaining for the protection of its
32 national interest;

33 *Concerned:*

- 34 • that the Ukrainian ombudsperson, Liudmyla Denysova, was denied to visit Mr. Sentsov;

35 *LYMEC therefore calls on the PACE:*

- 36 1. Facilitate the resumption of the negotiations on the release or exchange of the political
37 prisoners by calling on the Russian Federation;
- 38 2. Support the requests for help from Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People and Ukrainian
39 activists from the occupied territories;
- 40 3. Prolong sanctions to the Russian Federation in case of further violating of human rights of
41 the political prisoners and captives;
- 42 4. Keep suspension of the voting rights, right to be represented in the Bureau of the
43 Assembly, the Presidential Committee, and the Standing Committee, and right to
44 participate in election observation missions, as it is stated in Resolution 1990 (2014).

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
904

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Norges Unge Venstre

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Gaza is alone under fire**

2 Considering that

- 3 • Earlier this year thousands of Palestinians marched peacefully towards the closure's
4 fence in the Gaza Strip on March 30th demanding their right to return to their homes - a
5 right enshrined by UN General Assembly Resolution 194 of December 1948
- 6 • The Israeli occupying forces unleashed disproportionate lethal force against them; killing
7 18 Palestinians and injuring 1,416 more of the peaceful demonstrators.
- 8 • Despite the calls made by the UN Secretary General (UNSG) and several UN officials for
9 an investigation into the premeditated use of lethal force by Israeli soldiers, on April 1, the
10 Security Council failed to vote on a statement expressing concern over the excessive use
11 of violence and calling for impartial investigations.
- 12 • This systematic reprisal happened again on 24th of August, results in 189 wounded
13 demonstrators, including 50 who were hit by live fire.
- 14 • The two million people living in Gaza are exposed to largely unsafe water, limited
15 electricity and expansive restrictions on freedom of movement.
- 16 • Israel often denies, or delays permits to those seeking vital medical care outside Gaza,
17 while hospitals lack adequate resources and face chronic shortages of medical supplies.
- 18 • This situation could briskly worsen in view of the expected reduction or suspension of
19 essential UNRWA emergency services, as two thirds of Gaza's overall population are
20 refugees.

21 LYMEC

- 22 • urges the international community to ensure accountability through an independent and
23 impartial investigation of the killings by the Israeli security forces near the Gaza fence.
- 24 • calls on the UN Security Council to put an end to its practice of shielding states from
25 being held accountable for unapologetic criminal behavior; permitting the law of the most
26 powerful to prevail clearly contradicts the UN Charter and the principles underlying the
27 international order that are intended to ensure peace and security
- 28 • believes that Norway must stand up for international and humanitarian law, and thus
29 urges the government to condemn the Israeli aggression towards peaceful protestors.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
1001

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Svensk Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, Spokesperson: Ida-Maria Skytte

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Gender equality within LYMEC

2 Considering that:

- 3 • Gender equality is a fundamental human right of crucial importance, a right that LYMEC
4 and all of LYMEC's Member Organisations support.
- 5 • ALDE, LYMEC, YDE and CoR organised a Summit of Young Elected Local and Regional
6 Leaders in Brussels 17.9.2018. 18 young politicians participated, 1 of the participants was
7 a woman, 17 were men.

8 Believing that:

- 9 • In order to reach true gender equality, gender considerations need to be included on all
10 political levels.
- 11 • Acknowledging the importance of gender equality will contribute to reaching equal
12 representation in politics.
- 13 • Improved gender equality within decision-making results in more representative politics,
14 and therefore contributes to democracy.

15 Calls for:

- 16 • LYMEC to actively strive for gender equality within the organisation, i.a. by including
17 gender considerations when planning events, and by encouraging especially women to
18 participate in LYMEC's events.
- 19 • Member Organisations to actively strive for gender equality within their organisations, i.a.
20 by recruiting and supporting more female members and candidates.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
1002

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: Working Group on the IMS Reform

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Implementation of the IMS Reform**

2 LYMEC Congress:

3 Noting the conclusions of the Working Group on IMS Reform,

4 Decides:

- 5 - That, should the amendment to the statutes to create an IMS Steering Committee pass,
6 the Steering Committee will be set up (and its members nominated or elected) by January 2019.
7 Its first elected members shall serve for a partial term. They will be replaced according to the
8 statutes after the next bureau election.
- 9 - To update the IMS internal rules accordingly

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
001

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: LYMEC Bureau

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Motion to amend the LYMEC Statutes**

2 Dear Congress,

3 We would hereby like to propose the following amendments to the LYMEC Statutes , in order to
4 correct some mistakes that were not noticed when the Statutes Rules were adopted in 2017:

5 Current:

6 Article 16 - Changes in member organisations

7 (1) If a full member or associate member organisation merges with a non-member organisation,
8 its membership in LYMEC must be confirmed by an absolute majority of those present and voting
9 at the next Autumn Congress. The new member organisation must comply with the criteria as set
10 out in Article 10 of these Statutes, except for the third point in Article 10 (3). All the necessary
11 requirements must be transmitted in writing to the Bureau at least 8 weeks prior to the Congress.

12 Proposed new version:

13 Article 16 - Changes in member organisations

14 (1) If a full member or associate member organisation merges with a non-member organisation,
15 its membership in LYMEC must be confirmed by an absolute majority of those present and voting
16 at the next Congress. The new member organisation must comply with the criteria as set out in
17 Article 10 of these Statutes, except for the third point in Article 10 (3). All the necessary
18 requirements must be transmitted in writing to the Bureau at least 8 weeks prior to the Congress.

19 Explanation: For several years changes to member organisations have been possible both at
20 Spring and Autumn Congress. The word "Autumn" should have been removed when updating
21 the Statutes in 2017 but unfortunately it was not removed then. We therefore propose to delete
22 the word "Autumn" from Article 16.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
002

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: LYMEC Bureau

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Motion to amend the LYMEC Congress Rules**

2 Dear Congress,

3 We would hereby like to propose the following amendments to the LYMEC Congress Rules, in
4 order to correct some mistakes that were not noticed when the Congress Rules were adopted in
5 2017:

6 Current:

7 Article 9 - Roll call and voting rights (1)

8 At the beginning of a Congress, a roll call shall be undertaken by the Chair in order to distribute
9 votes and determine the required quorum, which consists of one-third of the votes at the
10 Congress according to Congress registration. Questions concerning the quorum or majorities
11 shall be directed to the to the Chair. It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that a quorum is
12 established at all times.

13 Proposed new:

14 Article 9 - Roll call and voting rights (1)

15 At the beginning of a Congress, a roll call shall be undertaken by the Secretary General in order
16 to distribute votes and determine the required quorum, which consists of one-third of the votes at
17 the Congress according to Congress registration. Questions concerning the quorum or majorities
18 shall be directed to the to the Chair. It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that a quorum is
19 established at all times.

20 Explanation: As the Roll Call is done before the appointing of Congress Chairs it cannot be the
21 Chair that undertakes the roll call. We therefore suggest to change this wording in the Congress
22 Rules to reflect what has become customary in LYMEC, which is that the roll call is conducted by
23 the Secretary General.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
003

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: IMS

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 Amendments to the Statutes

2 Changes in “Article 14 - Individual member Congress delegates”

3 Current:

4 (1) The individual members shall elect individual member delegates to the Congress. These
5 delegates have the right to vote at the Congress.

6 Proposed new version:

7 (1) The individual members shall elect individual member delegates to the Congress. These
8 delegates have the right to vote at the Congress. They are elected for a civil year.

9 Current:

10 (2) Elections take place electronically. Elections and requests for candidacy shall be announced
11 to all individual members at least eight weeks before the spring congress. The elections will last
12 three days and will end at least four weeks before the Spring Congress starts.

13 Proposed new version:

14 (2) Elections take place electronically. The elections will last three days and will end at least eight
15 weeks before the Spring Congress starts. Elections and requests for candidacy shall be
16 announced to all individual members at least four weeks before the start of the elections.

17 Current:

18 (3) Delegates must themselves be individual members, with their term expiring at the start of the
19 first Congress of the subsequent year. Their duties towards LYMEC and the individual members
20 shall be properly specified by internal rules of the Individual Members' Section; the LYMEC
21 Bureau shall guarantee the existence of such rules and oversee their correct application.

22 Proposed new version:

23 (3) Delegates must themselves be individual members, with their term expiring at the end of the
24 civil year. Their duties towards LYMEC and the individual members shall be properly specified by
the internal rules of the Individual Members' Section.

25

26 Current:

27 (4) Delegation of votes from one or more delegates to other individual member delegates must
28 be justified in written form to the Bureau and Secretariat. Delegation of votes to member

29 organisations is strictly forbidden. During the first two-thirds of the mandate, if for compelling
30 reasons a delegate cannot fulfill his mandate, a by-election shall be organised.

31 Proposed new version:

32 (4) Delegation of votes from one or more delegates to other individual member delegates must
33 be justified in written form to the Bureau and Secretariat. Delegation of votes to member
34 organisations is strictly forbidden. If for compelling reasons a delegate cannot fulfill his mandate
35 or resigns, a by-election shall be called as soon as possible but not during the eight weeks
36 preceding a congress. A by-election shall not be held if this occurs after the autumn congress.

37 **Add a new article (after article 14):**

38 Article X - Individual Members Steering Committee

39 (1) The Individual Member Steering Committee coordinates and organizes the Individual
40 Members Section. Its specific duties and rights are specified in the internal rules of the Individual
41 Members' Section.

42 (2) The Steering Committee is composed of a bureau member appointed by the bureau and two
43 individual members elected for a term of two years.

44 (3) Elections take place electronically. The elections will last three days and will end no later than
45 eight weeks after the election of a new bureau. Elections and requests for candidacy shall be
46 announced to all individual members at least four weeks before the start of the elections.

47 (4) If an elected member resigns or cannot fulfill its mandate, a by-election is held to replace him
48 or her for the remainder of the term. A by-election shall not take place if this occurs less than eight
49 weeks before the election of a new bureau.

50 (5) An elected member of the steering committee cannot simultaneously be either a member of
51 the Bureau, or an internal auditor.

52 **Add a new point in “Article 15 - Change of membership status”:**

53 (x) An individual member who hasn't paid its membership renewal shall be automatically
54 suspended one month after the expiry of said membership. Such suspension automatically ends
55 when payment of the fee is received by LYMEC. The bureau can waive such suspension on a
56 case by case basis.

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
004

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: IMS

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Amendments to the Congress Rules**

2 Appendix 1

3 8 weeks before the congress:

4 Delete:

5 • Call for IMS elections

6

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
000

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: LYMEC Bureau

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Internal motion on creating a Code of Conduct for LYMEC**
2 **officials**

3

4 **Considering**

5

- 6 • That LYMEC officials represent the organisation, and all its members, both internally and
7 externally;
8 • That there currently exists no written guidelines for officials representing LYMEC;
9 • That such guidelines would benefit not only the officials, but also the membership by
10 providing transparent rules of procedure

11

12

13 **LYMEC Congress proposes**

- 14 • That the Bureau and Secretariat draft a Code of Conduct for LYMEC Officials, and
15 submit it to the member organisations for approval at the LYMEC Spring Congress in 2019.

16

Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal
001

LYMEC Autumn Congress, October 12 - 14, 2018 in Vilnius

Author: LYMEC Bureau

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 LYMEC ELECTORAL MANIFESTO - THE FUTURE IS 2 EUROPE

3 Events in the last years have clearly shown that Europe is experiencing a crisis of solidarity, a
4 crisis of togetherness and a crisis of short-sighted visions. It has been a time of rising national
5 egoism, populist agendas and hate-speech. Recent geopolitical shifts have made it clear that we
6 can no longer rely on some of our default allies in solving conflicts in the European
7 neighbourhood.

8 We are living in a time of post-truth news realities, and challenges to personal data and cyber
9 security. It is more than evident that to protect our Union of freedom, justice and democracy we
10 need to reform. For that, we need all pro-European, progressive voices to actively involve
11 citizens to bring about change in the European Union and the way we think about Europe.

12 We need the energy and optimism of young people, only together can we turn the European
13 Union into one that better delivers upon our concerns. There is no other way forward - the future
14 is Europe.

15 LYMEC, the European Liberal Youth, is a pan-European youth organisation dedicated to the
16 promotion and strengthening of liberal values in Europe.

17 LYMEC aims to strengthen the cooperation of young liberals and to unite the efforts of young
18 people in building a better and more liberal political, social and economic environment for all
19 Europeans.

20 We strive to ensure more youth engagement and civil participation; we are guided by the
21 principles of individual freedoms, coupled with responsibilities. Only in a state of freedom are
22 people able to realise their true potential, and only by taking our fair share of responsibilities can
23 we form an ever-perfect, inclusive, merit-based society.

24 The upcoming European elections present a perfect opportunity for young people to get our
25 voices heard and to influence the decision making. We call on all political leaders to listen to the
26 voices of young liberals from across Europe, and to consider these LYMEC priorities for the
27 upcoming mandate of the European Parliament:

28 **1. A working framework on legal migration and asylum, and tackling the refugee crisis – a** 29 **call for open Europe**

30 The Commission proposed to revise the Common European Asylum System in 2016 when it
31 became clear that the existing EU rules were not fit for purpose. In the meantime, we have seen
32 a drastic decrease in the latest numbers of migrant arrivals compared to 2015, yet populists are
33 still using migration to spread a narrative based on fear and hate. Disappointingly, driven by

34 populist rhetoric, Member States are resisting taking up the needed actions of solidarity. This
35 leaves the European Union in a permanent state of incapability to deal with the current realities.
36 A proper framework for safe, orderly and legal access to the EU, including to its labour market
37 and effective integration measures for those already in Europe, are lacking. This makes it difficult
38 for migration in Europe to be successful.

39 Western societies are immensely divided by issues related to asylum and migration. This results
40 in a renaissance of nationalism, populism, protectionism and tribalism. Populist politicians are
41 taking advantage of fear. They favour a closed society. Open society is in decay. The challenge
42 for young liberals today is to defend the core values of open society and liberal democracy. As
43 young liberals are against a "Fortress Europe", LYMEC advocates a free Europe. A liberal
44 Europe. An open Europe.

45 LYMEC calls for:

- 46 • a harmonised immigration and refugee policy with a more open path to asylum. The EU
47 should strengthen the role of European Asylum Support Office (EASO), making it better
48 prepared to respond to common migration challenges. EASO's enhanced role should
49 include a responsibility for examining asylum applications. EASO should have the
50 responsibility to coordinate national agencies, increase their efficiency, and harmonise
51 their asylum procedures, applying existing European standards, and safeguarding the
52 rights of refugees. In an area with common borders and freedom of movement, there is
53 no need for twenty-seven different asylum agency practices and procedures.

- 54 • the EU eliminate the Dublin System, which establishes a country responsible for asylum
55 application, and replaces it with a balanced common asylum policy based on solidarity
56 and justice. This should take into account asylum seekers' individual needs and situation
57 (for example their language, education connections, family members or contacts willing to
58 support them), as well as the capacity and resources of potential host states. We need to
59 make sure the burden no longer only lies on countries at the European borders.

- 60 • a legal and safe alternative to irregular migration, which would prevent smuggling, human
61 trafficking and fatal accidents at sea. We need the ability to start the asylum procedure
62 outside of the EU and to apply for humanitarian visas at all EU embassies. We also need
63 a functioning system for access to Europe tailored for economic migrants.
- 64 • the immediate launch of integration measures, including proper access to schooling,
65 vocational training, and labour market access for young migrants.
- 66 • removing obstacles within the EU to free trade and the free movement of labour, private
67 capital and service. Workers should have fully transferable employment rights across
68 Europe. This can be done through the further development of EU citizenship, which would
69 be complementary to national citizenship.
- 70 • Liberals to stand up and defend Migration as an economically beneficial, historical and
71 natural phenomenon. Migration is a fundamental part of European culture.

72 **2. Security and defence – stronger Europe through stronger capabilities**

73 Europe is facing internal and external threats to its peace and security, by organised terrorist
74 groups, regional conflicts in its vicinity and continuous threats of cyber-attacks.

75 In addition, the geopolitical situation is becoming increasingly complicated, highlighting that
76 Europe can rely less and less on its default allies within NATO. The individual capacities of
77 Member States are not enough to meet those challenges. LYMEC firmly believes that the
78 European Union needs to increase its common defence capabilities. While the European
79 Common Security and Defence Policy is already in place, it is not efficient due to different

80 national security strategies and interests. This weakens Europe's role on the global stage and
81 leads to unproductive double-spending on defence equipment and infrastructure.

82 LYMEC calls for strengthening the common EU defence alongside that of NATO, targeting the
83 EU defence spending deficiencies through a common EU defence budget, the development of
84 European capabilities and an integrated defence market, including defence research and
85 innovation. LYMEC also calls for a forward-looking approach to tackling cyber-security, ensuring
86 proper information sharing and pan-European efforts to protecting Europe's critical infrastructure
87 from future cyber-attacks.

88 LYMEC calls for:

- 89 • closer cooperation between member states in the field of security and defence in view of
90 finding efficient solutions such as the PESCO project, a common defence intelligence
91 body under the authority of the Commission, and common border control.

- 92 • the focus of security strategies to be on prevention of conflict rather than conflict
93 resolution. We insist on cooperation in the field of development aid, diplomacy, police,
94 justice, sanctions, cyber security and defence since working together as EU is crucial.
- 95 • Member States must work towards intensifying the Common Security and Defence Policy
96 and move towards the creation of a functioning "Defence Union" and the creation of a
97 European defence force.
- 98 • Member States to work more together on border security matters and even out the
99 differences in financial and capacity responsibilities between member states, especially
100 those managing external borders.
- 101 • the harmonization of European identity cards by introducing common standards for EU
102 IDs in order to improve the mutual trust of Member States in the field of border security.

- 103 • common spending in the MFF post 2020 to be focused more on the management of
104 borders and on common defence. Investing in common defence and security capabilities
105 would lead to reducing resources needed, accelerating information exchange and
106 improved EU response. Furthermore, after Brexit, the collective military potential for EU
107 States will decrease.
- 108 • an integrated defence market be created, funding improved for defence research and
109 innovation, and to foster the EU's cyber-security capabilities.
- 110 • EU security and defence decisions to be taken by majority in order for the EU to
111 participate effectively on the global forum. A strong Europe needs a common foreign
112 policy, whereas the European response currently is often too little to late.

113 **3. Climate change, environment and energy**

114 LYMEC firmly insists on more measures for tackling climate change. By leading the way on the
115 Paris Agreement, the EU must drive its implementation. New, creative solutions and innovations
116 should be sought in order to save our environment. Europe should move towards implementing
117 an effective decarbonisation strategy and phasing out fossil fuels, consistent with the goals set
118 out in the Paris Agreement.

119 In addition, Europe should invest more in green and alternative energy sources as the
120 uncompetitive energy prices and extreme dependency on unreliable third country suppliers are
121 making Europe's energy system vulnerable.

122 LYMEC calls for continuing EU's leadership and further progressing under the Paris Agreement,
123 for the diversification of energy sources and improving energy security and for striving for more
124 affordable energy prices as means to boosting the competitiveness of industrial start-ups. We

125 support innovative measures for ensuring sustainable development and restoring the
126 environment.

127 LYMEC calls for:

- 128 • European countries to prioritise the sustainable use of natural resources, e.g. by reducing
129 food and water wastage.
- 130 • Europe to do their best to keep the planet as clean as possible, restoring the world for
131 future generations.
- 132 • increased awareness of sustainable development and climate issues, not just to young
133 people but across generations.
- 134 • the EU should continue to lead the way in implementing the Paris Climate accord. We
135 therefore must stay in line with the agreement made in Paris, and Member States should
136 stay united in the effort to prevent climate change.

- 137 • the EU's leaders to come up with a consensus and contingency plan on how to act on
138 the ongoing and upcoming changes on climate and its consequences, such as natural
139 disasters and climate migration.
- 140 • in the importance of Arctic areas, which will grow in the upcoming years. Europe needs
141 to focus more on preserving its unique nature and wildlife.
- 142 • more structural support in finding innovative energy solutions and ensuring that the
143 European energy supply is steadier and more affordable, as means to boosting the
144 competitiveness of industrial start-ups. We must diversify our energy sources and
145 improve energy security. We must also ensure that the European energy grids overcome
146 the existing infrastructure bottlenecks within the Single Energy Market.

147 **4. Digitalization, innovation and markets**

148 The world is turning increasingly digital and sadly, Europe is lagging behind compared to Asia
149 and the US. It is important to overcome the digital deficiencies through proper high-speed
150 internet infrastructure, but also through securing the openness of the internet. The open internet
151 is vital to promoting innovative ideas and digital economic productivity, which develops
152 pioneering solutions. We firmly insist on the principles of net neutrality, transparency and
153 freedom of expression in the digital field. In addition, we believe in the pursuit of new
154 technologies and robotics. It is essential that we boost competitiveness in the field of
155 digitalization by increasing EU funding for research and innovation. At the same time, we must
156 complete the digital single market and look for new global trade partners. It is also important that
157 Member States invest in e-government whilst protecting citizens' privacy.

158 LYMEC calls for keeping Europe's internet open, ensuring net neutrality and a copyright reform
159 fit for the needs of the 21st century. We highlight the need for promoting digital solutions,
160 innovative creations, and improving the functionality of the single market whilst exploring new
161 international trade opportunities.

162 LYMEC calls for:

- 163 • the protection of freedom of expression as a basic human right, at all times and in all its
164 forms. All censorship of the internet should be opposed. Actions, such as website or
165 content blocks, should only happen as a result of a thorough judicial review by means of
166 a court order and not by order of a government or automatic filtering.

- 167 • the safeguarding of Net neutrality to ensure a fair and equal access to information, easily
168 available to everyone. The use of modern technologies must be widely instructed and
169 promoted.

- 170 • a copyright reform which does justice to the needs of the 21st century. Such a reform
171 should ensure broad accessibility of information and data and should not hamper
172 innovation.
- 173 • the media market to be open to competition.
- 174 • the support of additional E-government projects through which governments should
175 deliver better, more efficient public services via internet and be more responsive to the
176 needs and interests of the citizens.
- 177 • citizens' privacy needs to be protected in the information society. Special attention has to
178 be given to the personal privacy in the digital era and that citizens' right to privacy could
179 be waived only under special, extreme circumstances and only after a judicial review. An
180 increasing number of decisions are made through automated algorithms and decision
181 support systems. Where such algorithmic decisions affect citizens' lives,
182 non-discrimination should be the core value upon which such decision support systems
183 are built
- 184 • the perception of digitalisation as a chance and not a threat. The coherent development
185 of digitalisation will advance our society. It would dramatically transform the European
186 industry, services, markets and labour. Hence, special policy prioritization on the EU level
187 is needed.
- 188 • a digital-friendly regulatory framework, which would encourage innovation and global
189 competitiveness.
- 190 • innovation to be encouraged and not curbed, with exceptions to innovation based on
191 unethical research, such as human cloning.
- 192 • tax cuts for European companies investing in innovative products and solutions to support
193 innovation in Europe. We oppose any taxes on innovation or scientific research.
- 194 • improving the functionality within the internal market and for further free trade agreements
195 not only with all the European community, e.g. Switzerland, but also with Canada and the
196 US.
- 197 • a free market based on competition that can guarantee a long-term growth and economic
198 stability.

199 **5. Education, labour market, youth unemployment**

200 Innovation is important in EU's education systems. Europe needs to predict future skill needs
201 and adapt education better to the jobs available on the labour market, while bridging the
202 generational digital skills gap. LYMEC welcomes the increase of funding for Erasmus+ under the
203 multiannual financial framework post 2020, as we believe that the ability to study, train or learn
204 abroad while broadening the experiences and awareness of Europe significantly increases young
205 people's competitiveness on the labour market. We further ask for improved capacities of the
206 European vocational training programs and for flexible opportunities-based measures for fighting
207 youth unemployment. We demand improvement of EU-wide labour mobility as it tackles
208 Europe's skills mismatch across borders and improves the dissemination of innovation and
209 knowledge across the EU.

210 LYMEC calls for ensuring appropriate digital education, in order to equip the young people of
211 Europe with competitive skillsets of the 21st century and insists on more flexible opportunities for
212 first-time labour market entrees. In addition, LYMEC calls for removing the remaining intangible
213 barriers to free movement, thus addressing Europe's mismatch of labour supply and demand.

214 LYMEC calls for:

- 215 • the reconnection of the labour market and education sector, and adapting both to the
216 digital realities of the 21st century as means to tackle youth unemployment. with its

217 current rate of 14.8 %, youth unemployment is still one of the biggest issues that the
218 youth of Europe must face. For too long, education, the labour market and youth
219 unemployment were treated as three separate subjects.

220 • the free movement of workers to be encouraged as an answer to the mismatch between
221 supply and demand of skilled labour. This will also strengthen European identity.
222 • the creation of a Common European Job Bank, which would lead the way to a real single
223 European Job Market. The Flexicurity is a model to consider and represent a good
224 compromise between employment and labour market flexibility.

225 • the EU to have more competences in the field of education and higher education. This
226 should include a European budget and a common framework, the Common European
227 Higher Education Area and a common system of schooling.

228 • students to have a student status all around Europe, and the educational institutions to be
229 allowed to found branches in other Member States. We should further aim at establishing
230 a European University.

231 • the EU to support and respect the freedom of ethically acceptable research.

232 • a common European grading system from primary school up to university, to allow for a
233 good comparison of performances. As an example for such a system, the Anglo-Saxon
234 system with percentages could be explored to that end. The European Standards and
235 Guidelines for Quality Assurance Flexibilisation should be the basis of this process.

236 • more support for education scholarships, additional public-private partnerships, and a
237 needs-based funding system for students.

238 • the ERASMUS+ programme to have more funding and based even more on an
239 international level. The UK and EU relationship should continue to collaborate on an
240 ERASMUS+ level. We also believe Erasmus+ should evolve by further including and
241 fostering joint degrees programs within the frame of its possibilities.

242 • digitalisation to be used more in the field of education, and that Massive Open Online
243 Courses (MOOC) have to be established and spread as an option.

244 • european universities to offer language courses to meet the demands of migrational
245 movements, and that the SELT (Support, Employment, Training, Learning) approach is
246 used.

247 • the European Commission to officially recognize the "student-entrepreneur" status and
248 inscribe this system in its Youth and Job Strategies. More entrepreneurs are needed
249 across Europe, an opportunity should be given to students who want to develop their own
250 companies.

251 **6. Future of the EU, institutional reform, ensuring the respect of human rights and** 252 **equality.**

253 As the European Liberal Youth, it is clear to us that Europe is not the problem, Europe is the
254 solution. It is extremely important to us however, that Europe is properly explained to all young
255 people, by providing concrete reminders and examples of the peace and prosperity that it
256 brought about and reminding that "Brussels" is where the national leaders take decisions too. It
257 is important that Europe reforms profoundly, reinventing the values on which it was founded,
258 striking down any attempt of infringements on the rule of law on its territory, fostering that
259 Member States are doing more together – but not only on paper – and ensuring that turning a
260 blind eye on cases of human rights and equality challenges is not accepted in Europe.

261 LYMEC believes that the future of Europe depends on the youth, which is why we want to see
262 more young candidates for the upcoming European elections, as well as an electoral approach
263 targeted at young people, explaining concretely what the EU is and has done for each and every
264 one of us. We want to see institutional reforms, putting the citizens at the centre of the European

265 construction. We want European decision-making to be more resilient, more accountable and
266 less prone to stagnation by its individual member states. We insist on ensuring that the rule of
267 law, equality and human rights are respected in our Union of values and in the global field.

268 LYMEC calls for:

- 269 • the Commission to evolve and become the executive branch of the European Union
270 under a parliamentary system, and to take a more proactive stance in defending the
271 interests of the European citizens. This includes better monitoring and improved
272 enforcement of EU legislation.
- 273 • the Spitzenkandidaten system for the election of the President of the European
274 Commission to be kept in place. We believe that it should be maintained but improved,
275 insofar as to allow minority candidates a fair chance as well.
- 276 • the number of European Commissioners to be reduced, rendering the European
277 Commission more concentrated in its portfolios and therefore more efficient.
- 278 • increasing the transparency of the deliberations in Council in line with the European
279 voters' expectations. We further insist on the gradual abolishment of the unanimity
280 requirement in the Council proceedings and replacing it with qualified majority voting, as
281 the current system has proven to often lead to decision-making paralysis and national
282 protectionism.
- 283 • the powers of the European Parliament to be strengthened, providing it with proper
284 legislative initiative powers, so that it can fully carry out its duties.
- 285 • the relevant regulations to be amended so that EU languages other than the official ones
286 can be used in the proceedings of the European Parliament.
- 287 • EU nationals living in states other than the one where they hold citizenship of for a longer
288 period of time to be allowed to vote and stand as candidates in regional and national
289 elections, other than the currently existing passive and active electoral rights only for local
290 and European elections, as means of creating a truly European populus.
- 291 • issues of self-determination to be resolved through peaceful and democratic means and
292 bona fide dialogue that respects the rule of law and fundamental human rights (including
293 the rights of national minorities and regional entities) between the parties involved.
- 294 • transnational lists that allow citizens to vote for candidates from across the EU to be
295 introduced. We also want legal and financial frameworks facilitating pan-European
296 campaigns to be created.
- 297 • the powers of the European Union in the field of human rights to be increased, and its
298 ability to enforce them to be bolstered. We call for the human rights perspective to be
299 introduced as part of future free-trade agreements.
- 300 • full civil equality without exception. We believe that in our union of values, there's no
301 place for second class citizenship and persisting lack of gender equality.
- 302 • the European Court of Justice to have the resources necessary to speed up cases
303 concerning the violation of human rights.
- 304 • the principle of ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and personal diversity, which
305 constitutes an invaluable asset to the European society, is upheld. We insist that diversity
306 and minority rights must be defended and safeguarded.

307 The European Union is founded on the values of freedom, democracy, respect for the rule of law,
308 and respect for human rights. We insist that those values should be upheld by the introduction of
309 a European mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, applicable to all
310 member states.