

Bureau Report – Political Officer – Antoaneta Asenova October 2018 – April 2019

Dear Liberal Friends,

After the Congress in Vilnius, I hereby present to you my bi-annual report as Bureau member of LYMEC.

The weeks following the Autumn LYMEC Congress were marked by streamlining and leading the delegation, elected to represent LYMEC at the ALDE Party Congress. The main focus of this particular ALDE Congress, just as our Congress was adopting an electoral manifesto with view of the upcoming European elections. For that reason, we took the strategical decision to focus on tabling and defending as many amendments of crucial importance to LYMEC as possible. We split the delegation into groups, covering the different segments of the ALDE Party manifesto, and identified the key, non-controversial messages for LYMEC, that provided us with a clear mandate to be defended, and based our amendments on those. Together with the LYMEC delegation, we held in total 5 Skype meetings with medium length of 4 hours. We elaborated a strategy, including preparing arguments for speaking up on both our amendments and the amendments of the ALDE Party members, with which all participants were well familiar and comfortable in advance, identifying the amendments that constitute our “red lines” – or non-arguable positions, and those, that we were ready to let go, in order to show good will and compromise or trade for something of higher importance. It is in that period of extensive research that I realized, that LYMEC’s policy on climate change is outdated and needs revising.

I am extremely delighted to say, that the delegation represented LYMEC with a strong voice and visibility, safeguarding most of the positions of significant importance to us, despite the resilience of the conservative forces in the ALDE family. The Bureau too, has received sizeable positive feedback and is convinced that together we have ensured a respected representation to our organization, and the values we defend.

That being said, I would like to point out that my understanding that team-work, participating on equal footing and strong sense of responsibility of ALL the members of the delegation is of crucial importance of the smooth performance of the entire delegation, without over-burdening some of the team members, because of the lack of performance of others. Therefore, I would full-heartedly plead to you to only apply or nominate people for participating in the LYMEC delegation to ALDE Congress if you are convinced that your agenda would allow your availability – both in the preparation process and on the ground.

In the meantime, as a second priority, I have continued supporting President Svenja Hahn and LYMEC altogether in improving our visibility with the ALDE Group and its MEPs. We have continued standing strong, defending LYMEC’s position on the “Copyright in the digital single market” dossier. I provided updated policy research with view to the recent developments, so that LYMEC’s Bureau and member organizations would have the

background content needed to lead a strategic campaign, including visuals, social media and renewing our call in the form of a letter to the ALDE MEPs ahead of the plenary votes.

I also helped contacting members of the European parliament and ensuring their participation in the first addition to the “Young change-makers Academy”, for the follow a MEP for a day exercise of the participants in the program, and I was responsible for the facilitation of the event “Building our Europe together” that took place in the European Parliament.

Last but not the least, I have worked on the procurement of a short excerpt of the LYMEC electoral manifesto that we worked out together, in order to be used for the European elections by the organizations that would not have campaigning material on their own.

Facing this important moment, I am extremely grateful to my colleagues in the Bureau, our Secretary-general, our President and the international officers of LYMEC’s member organization for all their devoted work, and hope that my policy input was timely and useful.

Looking forward to the period after the European elections, I think that with all your help, we could take the ambitious journey into reforming our policy book on the basis of the process that we have established for the LYMEC manifesto.

Respectfully yours,

Antoaneta Asenova

Events:

Date	Place	Event/Purpose	Organisation
08 – 10 December	Madrid, Spain	ALDE Congress	ALDE Party
09 December	Madrid, Spain	ALDE Council	ALDE Party
05 – 07 February	Brussels, Belgium	Young Change-makers Academy	LYMEC
06 February	Brussels, Belgium	Building our Europe together	LYMEC
28 February – 03 Marc	Athens, Greece	European Leader’s Academy	IRI
15 – 17 March	Lutry, Switzerland	Congress	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz
04 – 06 March	Brussels, Belgium	Pre-congress seminar and LYMEC Congress	LYMEC