

MINUTES
London Congress 2019
LYMEC Autumn Congress 2019
David Game College

Day 1 - Friday 08/11/2019

1. Opening speech by LYMEC President and guests

LYMEC President Svenja Hahn opened the congress and welcomed the delegates:

Svenja welcomed the delegates to London and talked about how exciting the year has been for Liberals in Europe. The United Kingdom is still part of the European Union, which is amazing considering the Congress was anticipated to be in a post-Brexit United Kingdom. Svenja talked about the amazing harm Brexit poses to young people and how unfair it was that people born in this millennium were unable to vote in the referendum and yet have had their decisions made on their part. Svenja offered her support and solidarity to young people in the UK ahead of the upcoming General Election, and spoke about the importance of holding the ELF pre-congress seminar on post-Brexit relations and preventing Brexit.

Svenja spoke about the fantastic European Election results and how amazing it was to sit in European Parliament with 17 young Renew Europe MEPs (below 35), she said it's amazing to have so many young and engaged politicians, and this would make the job of LYMEC even more important.

LYMEC as a group challenged the EU on democratic reforms, and on how they can see the future of Europe. Svenja spoke of how important it was that LYMEC made young people's voices heard on the future of Europe, and how important it was in turn to take these views back to Member Parties and Renew Europe.

European Liberal Forum (ELF) Executive Director, Daniel Kaddik welcomed the Congress:

He started by emphasizing that he met a lot of participants over the last few days during the ELF seminar discussing the future relations post-Brexit within the EU. He spoke of his years as an active engaged LYMEC individual member and welcomed old friends. Daniel spoke of how proud he was of current president Svenja Hahn and past president Sissel Kvist, and of how fantastic and proud LYMEC should be to have an MEP for President. He spoke of how proud we should be of the Liberal Democrats and Young Liberals in the UK for not giving up the “good fight” against Brexit and against Boris Johnson’s dangerous ideas.

Daniel spoke of the failures of the Brexit Referendum to convince people with reason, and how important it was not just to speak to the brains but to speak to the hearts of people. We have to fight like liberals, but what for? What is Europe? Within my university studies we treated the EU as a political body. But this isn’t useful for citizens. We need to speak of the absence of war, yes. But everyday people can not grasp the horror of wars, we must speak of things that are relatable. People feel disenfranchised and do not feel Europe. LYMEC must rise here and sell the feeling of Europe. Here we all are sat in London talking about the future of Europe and here we are uniquely equipped to speak about the future of Europe. LYMEC alongside ALDE Party and European Liberal Forum must be strong voices in keeping European Liberals. Liberal, and not centrist. Renew Europe has become a centrist party not a liberal party. Renew Europe does not have Prime Ministers, ALDE Party has prime ministers. Let’s remind people of this. ALDE Party is a family, not of convenience, but of values and ideology. We come together and come up with ideas together, a vision together, this is why ELF in 2020 is launching the project of the White Book Process, Liberal of Europe 2030, led by Svenja Hahn, to help answer what Europe it is that we want, what a liberal Europe is. He thanked Congress for fighting the good fight and for supporting Young Liberals, the Lib Dems, and freedom in Europe.

Liberal Democrat MEP, Luisa Porritt, welcomed Congress:

Luisa spoke about just how much it warmed her heart to see so many young liberals from across Europe, she spoke about the honour it was to welcome the Congress as a young LibDem MEP on behalf of the Liberal Democrats. London is home to a huge range of Europeans, it’s a European City. Luisa spoke about how fantastic it was to flood London with young liberal voices and friends. Luisa spoke about the solidarity offered to the Liberal Democrats by young women Renew Europe MEPs like Svenja Hahn. She said that the existential crisis in the UK against populists like Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage was similar to that faced across Europe.

Here in the UK a prime minister tried to shut down the parliament, and to use an election to push forward a Brexit without consulting the British people - rotten tricks straight from the populists' playbook.

Orban's government visited Boris Johnson and we're not going to let them win. Speaking of Orban, Momentum has had huge successes in Hungary, Neos has achieved its best ever results in an election only a few months ago.

Luisa said that we need more election successes to cause more blushes amongst people.

The Liberal Democrats are in a great position ahead of the next general election, doing fantastically in the local council elections and just two week later having huge success in parliament. We've succeeded in stopping Brexit three times this year *audience laughs* and now it's time to stop it for good. No delays, let's stop it for good.

Luisa welcomed European Liberal friends and allies to come and spend some time to campaign here in the UK in what would be a knife edge of an election. Being in London already, an area with a wealth of target seats, delegates were in a perfect place to help us. Jo Swinson as prime minister would revoke A50 on day one and would fight for a stronger more liberal European Union as active members.

She welcomed delegates and wished them a wonderful congress.

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom's (FNF) Thomas Ilka welcomed Congress:

Thomas welcomed Svenja Hahn, Congress, and fellow speakers. As the oldest person in the room he took the advantage to capitalise and reflect on 1989, aged 24 in Keele University watching a football match. During the match people cheered the collapse of the Berlin Wall, it was a special moment, a drunk moment, and the world opened in the Liberal Program of Thomas' generation. China opened yes, but war came back too, it was important to bring a united Europe.

Now climate change, Brexit, trade wars and digitalisation have brought new problems. Problems that liberals had good answers to. Thomas talked about the need of intergenerational responses, responses including pan-European unity, speaking to not just reason but to heart. He showed two paintings, one by William Turner and one by Caspar Fredrich, these paintings showed the strengths of industrialisation and fears and anxieties for the future. Liberals must bridge these two pictures to be successful, liberals must look like the change they want to see.

Thomas wished good luck to congress and urged delegates to look to a brighter future with European Values.

Young European Socialists (YES) President, Alícia Homs Ginel:

Alicia said what a pleasure it was to be in Congress representing Young European Socialists. It was a sign of mutual respect. Democracy in Europe now is at risk due to grave economic inequalities across Europe. Climate change too was a key issue for young people, a problem that has real victims for example in the Balearic Islands, her region. Digitalisation presented, yes, a problem in the challenges it poses to the Labour Market. Companies that don't adapt might collapse. Thomas Cook just shut down affecting thousands of workers, this affects young people a great deal. Workers are not being paid due to the gender gap, families are at threat. We must find solutions to this.

This is an age of grievance and populists are reacting to this. Not a single populist in the world has offered solutions to our times. Populists are on the rise, and have a greater presence than ever. We are the only ones who offer real solutions to the challenges of our times. We must work together to challenge inequalities, to provide the welfare state. Political economy needs to be centered in people and not figures. To combat climate change, we must reach a zero-carbon economy, and to combat digitalisation we must allow innovation and protection to workers at the same time. We must eradicate the gender pay gap and give the help we can to avoid gendered violence. Socialists, Liberal, even conservatives work together in Europe to protect our democracy and to protect our futures. We cannot betray our democracy, and it isn't an easy task. But this century will need our cooperation, our dialogue, and our best efforts for democratic politics to succeed.

What a coincidence for us to be here at the same time for our Bureau Meeting. We are here in London where Brexit is at the top of our priorities, I hope we can work together and I wish you all a good Congress.

President of Young Democrats for Europe (YDE), Begoña Garteizurrekoa Azua, welcomed Congress:

Thank you once again for inviting me to your Congress. The work you carry out in these Congresses is so impressive. Our relationship with LYMEC, in organising training and debates is invaluable. To me democracy is about respect, about ensuring the rights of European Citizens and for speaking up for them. In Spain, tolerance, democracy and respect have been deeply misunderstood by the ruling elite. This is why we face our second general election, the misunderstanding of democracy. This is why Europe is light for us. Democracy, tolerance and respect for Europe is essential.

I love to come here and see what you do, and I hope we can continue to work together for Europe.

Young Liberals Chair, Tara Copeland welcomed Congress:

Hello fellow Europeans, welcome here to LYMEC Autumn Congress 2019. It's such a wonderful feeling to welcome so many friends to share our diversity and values of liberalism.

Brexit has divided our nation here in the UK, and we are fighting hard to win a general election that will decide the future of the UK and its relationship with Europe. We are fighting for openness, tolerance and diversity, for our future place in the EU.

Our election successes in 2019 have meant that the UK is looking towards Europe for our future. This weekend we can work together to champion values that ensure a liberal future. Welcome to Congress and have a good weekend.

Alliance Youth representative, Scott Moore welcomed Congress too:

Good evening delegates. Liberalism in Northern Ireland is essential. Our schools are divided by sectarianism and our collapsed government has caused huge funding problems to our hospitals and schools. I live three miles from the Irish border and under a No Deal border, posts could open up right in my community. For us more than anyone else a Brexit must be stopped by any democratic means. Alliance is determined to fight against division, our youth wing has recently reopened and Alliance has surged. We elected Naomi Long along in May, our first ever Alliance MEP. This general election Alliance stands with its best chances within our lifetimes and we thank you and urge you to support us and our community.

Vice-President IFLRY, Syuleyman Shaban, welcomed Congress: [not present]

2. Roll call and voting rights

Interim Secretary-General Bálint Gyévai performed the roll call and handed out the voting cards with Administrative Assistant Matilda Kylefors. There were 176 votes present.

Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale Neos	4
Belgium	Jeunes Mouvement Réformateur	10
Belgium	Jong VLD	6
Belgium	FEL	4
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms	10
Catalonia	JNC	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party youth	6
Estonia	Estonian Center Party youth	0
Finland	KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret (FCY)	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	5
Germany	jungliberale	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstības Youth	3
Lithuania	LLJ	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten	3
North Macedonia	LIDEM	3
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
The Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
Norway	NUV	5
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF)	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	IMS Tiago Dias	1
IMS	IMS Jordi Torres	1
IMS	IMS Eleni Vasileiou	1
		176

3. Election of Congress chairs, secretaries and scrutineers

LYMEC President Svenja Hahn proposed Sissel Kvist (Radikale Venstre), Ciara Campbell (Alliance Youth), and Ben Whitlock (Young Liberals) as Congress Chairs. **Congress Accepted** and the Chairs took their seats.

Chair Sissel Kvist presented the Congress Secretaries, proposing Matilda Kylefors (LYMEC), and Huw James (Young Liberals). **Congress Accepted**

The Chairs moved on to scrutineers and proposed that together with the Internal Auditors, Erki Raja and Niklas Milthers, the following delegates take position: Emil Djazic from Radikal Ungdom, Syuleyman Syuleyman from Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms, Pierre Brassinne from Jeunes MR and Rutger de Ridder from JOVD. **Congress Accepted**

4. Adoption of the agenda

Chair Sissel Kvist asked if there were any changes to the agenda as proposed by the Bureau 8 weeks before the Congress.

Antoneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer, took the floor and explained the proposal from the Bureau to first look at the resolutions agreed by the working group on the policy book, before the resolutions together with the motions. **Congress accepted the proposal.**

5. Adoption of minutes from the Congress in Brussels

Chair Sissel Kvist, asked if there were any comments to the minutes from the Spring Congress in Brussels.

Marten Porte, Jonge Democraten, asked whether the speeches were necessary to include in the minutes? It would ease the work of the minute-takers.

Chair Sissel Kvist asked whether this was a procedural question and consider it noted. It will be discussed by the Bureau after the Congress.

6. Urgency of resolutions (in case of urgency resolutions handed in)

Chairs: The Bureau recommended that the speaking time would be limited to one minute. **Congress accepted the recommendation.**

Chair Sissel Kvist explained the instructions on speaking time.

Urgency Resolution 1 on EU accession talks for Macedonia.

Andrea Ugrinoska, Lidem, explained that the Macedonia motion arises from EU Council changes, hence the urgency.

Congress voted unanimously in favour. Resolution added to the agenda.

Urgency Resolution 2 on Dialogue, not prison, is the solution in Catalonia.

Laia Comerma, JNC, said the urgency for this motion arose in the recent changes in Barcelona and the ruling of the Spanish justice.

Chair Sissel Kvist noted that Laia's comments were based on content rather than the urgency which should be debated here. She opened the floor for speakers in favor and against.

Laia continued that the sentences of Catalanian politicians led to massive recent protests and therefore urged congress to debate the resolution.

Laia Garrido, Jóvenes Ciudadanos, spoke against the urgency resolution as LYMEC was a space for dialogue between conflicting parties like JC and JNC and this was not an appropriate space for this conversation.

Chair Sissel Kvist noted that Laia's comments were based on content rather than urgency.

Laia continued and spoke for the need for common ground, and that it would be inappropriate for JC not to have a voice on this. Tomorrow there would be national elections in Spain and if we discuss this here and we had a resolution that does not represent both member organizations, it will be an issue.

Chair Sissel Kvist interjected and urged for comments based on urgency.

Hans Maes, Jong VLD, wanted to point out the political ramifications of the urgency and said it would be inappropriate to impact the election.

Laia Comerma, JNC, interrupted and disagreed.

Hans continued and called for congress to consider the ramifications of their discussions.

Ian Wood, Ogra Fianna Fail, spoke on the Urgency Motion and said that it would only be fair to all parties involved to discuss this outside of the urgent context at present with proper reflection and full discussion between parties.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom, spoke of the urgency and said that the events happening past the deadline did indeed mean that the resolution was urgent. He urged people to vote in favour of the debate for the sake of having the debate.

Eleni Vasileiou, IMS, spoke against the urgency, on the basis that the events were predictable beforehand and that it was better to discover the facts and properly reflect on them.

Svenja Hahn, President of LYMEC, spoke on behalf of the Bureau neither for nor against the urgency reminding the Congress on the sensitivity of the topic and on the importance to build bridges beyond national differences. She called for a respectful debate.

Chair Sissel Kvist said that we will try with the electronic votes and if it doesn't work we will do it the old fashioned way with paper ballots.

Electronic vote not being available yet, the Auditors started preparing secret paper ballots.

In the meanwhile the Chair, Sissel Kvist asked for MOs to come forward to share some news from their organisations:

Laia Comerma, JNC: JNC will be 40 years old next year, come along to the beach in Catalonia to celebrate with us!

Remi Gustalli, Jeunes Radicaux: Many JR candidates are running to become Mayors in March 2020, come along to campaign with us. Macron isn't a liberal.

Martin Porte, Jonge Democraten: I am no longer international officer, here's the new one [Abel Hartman].

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: We've just had internal election in RU and we have a gender diversity problem, we want to know the root cause for this [audience: it's you *laughter*] if you have experience in dealing with gender problems please do contact us.

Ludovic Art, FEL: It's our 45th anniversary, Adrian is our new federal president. Adrian thanked Congress for the invitation.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie: We celebrated our 70th Birthday on October 12th, speakers included Mark Rutte and the senate, the US ambassador came along and a panel including ALDE Party President Hans Van Baalen, thanks to everyone in our international family who came along.

Michael Agostini, Jonk Democraten: We have welcomed the new international officer Nicholas Wurth and said that Luxembourg would soon have free public transport and that by 2021. We hope to be the first EU country to legalise marijuana [mass applause].

Chair Sissel Kvist: Let's spend time efficiently, Antoaneta, can we talk about ALDE Party Congress?

Anetoneta Asenova, Policy Officer LYMEC: I hope you have read the reports on ALDE Party Congress. You should be very proud of the ALDE Party Delegation (she pointed them out in the congress hall and delegates gave them a round of applause) we together pushed for all ALDE Party red lines and interviewed all the Party President and Vice President Candidates.

Our delegates were well prepared and had a Resolution for transnational lists that finally passed at the Congress, before LYMEC's resolution five previous congress' resolutions on the topic have failed.

LYMEC's resolution on a common defence force is now ALDE Party policy having passed at Congress. Thank you for the trust you have put in me as delegation leader I am so proud of you guys.

Chair Sissel Kvist invited comments in the Hall.

Rémi Gustalli, Jeunes Radicaux, spoke of the disastrous relationship between ALDE Party's elders and LYMEC's fantastic committee member. He pleaded the Congress to become ALDE Party Individual Members - do so here:

https://www2.aldeparty.eu/individual_membership

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: LYMEC was simply amazing at the ALDE Party Congress, they spoke and won speeches, they won debates and discussions, sometimes they didn't always agree by LYMEC had a massive influence in shaping the ALDE Party. LYMEC Delegates successfully challenged Bureau Members, Kasper was proud of the Delegation.

Laia Comerma, JNC, spoke of the great work of Anotenta Asenova as delegation leader working until three in the morning on the resolutions so that they could do the great job that they did.

Alice Schmidt, Jungeliberale: I was disappointed on LYMEC's stance on sanctions in Russia, they didn't amend a resolution to highlight the importance of sanctioning Russia, I was disappointed that the delegation didn't hand in those sanctions which are very important for our policy book.

Antoaneta Asenova, Policy Officer LYMEC: Julis delegates may have disagreed but they were representing LYMEC not Julis, put your points forward in advance. The Russian delegation pleaded LYMEC to withdraw their amendment based on the irrelevance of the amendment to fair elections in Russia. The amendment would have been unhelpful to the member organisation in Russia, and if LYMEC policy hurts our member parties then they should not be put forward. These points were not urgent, they were general. They may have been in the policy book but they were not urgent. We are not congress delegates but part of Congress, we work with delegations and I would not have risked passing other LYMEC Policy based on fluffy points.

Alice Schmidt, Julis: For me we must go to ALDE Party and give them points of action, this Resolution urges ALDE Party to do nothing and we must take up chances to implement LYMEC policies in ALDE Party where we have the opportunity to. What we decide here is important.

Antoaneta Asenova, Policy Officer LYMEC: I asked the delegation, consulted them, and LYMEC's delegation decided it was best to withdraw.

6. Urgency of resolutions (in case of urgency resolutions handed in) - CONTINUED

Chair Sissel Kvist explained that the order in which the resolutions are handled is determined by the snap vote.

The motion on an Equality and Diversity Plan is not included in the snap vote as motions are handled before the resolutions.

Chair Sissel Kvist invited the internal auditors to explain the voting procedure. Erki, Internal Auditor, explained the process for voting (by paper ballots). There were no questions on the process for voting

Chair Sissel Kvist quickly assessed the presence of delegates in the room and requested a roll call before voting.

Laia Comerma, JNC, made a point of order saying that she didn't like the process here and she didn't want confrontation, she wanted dialogue, and therefore she is withdrawing her urgency resolution and called for a working group to address the situation with other MOs, chaired by Svenja Hahn. This would be delayed until next congress.

Congress applauded Laia, and applauded the Internal Auditors who have written the paper ballots.

Chair Sissel Kvist noted that the Urgency Resolution has been withdrawn and moved to the snap vote.

7. Snap vote on the order of resolutions (with the presentation of resolutions)

Bálint Gyévai, LYMEC Secretary General, explained that an electronic email will be sent to delegation leaders in the coming minutes with the vote and that the results would be announced the following morning (Saturday morning) ahead of the afternoon session.

Instructions on the vote are part of the email and he remains available for further questions and clarifications. Delegates have until 19 h 30 to vote.

Results of the snap vote on resolutions:

905 DEMAND TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG,93

204 Resolution on lowering the voting age to 16 in European Parliament elections,63

501 Liberalise the sex industry,62

103 Defending Europe: liberal common-sense approaches to joint security,57

202 Liberal Gender Policy,51

URGENCY - Start of EU Accession Negotiation,49

902 European Union's Role in Outer Space,49

101 Sunset clause on EU legislation,45

201 Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families,34

401 Resolution on Renewing Europe,31

403 Multilateral and liberal model of international commerce,29

303 A European answer to the threat of rising Antisemitism,27

701 Renaming the Common Agricultural Policy,21

203 Introduction of the "Community of responsibility",20

901 Restructuring the distribution of foreign aid,19

402 Let's liberalise the foreign exchange market,17

208 Challenging the vacuum of government in Northern Ireland,16

601 For a more sustainable tourist EU industry,15

903 EU should pressure the US to respect the International Criminal Court,15

102 Admission of innovative animal feed to combat climate change,10

404 Towards More Responsible Businesses in the EU,9

904 Free Trade Agreements following negotiations on the EU-MERCOSUR free trade agreement.,9

301 Taking Europe Out of This World,7

302 Improving the USA-EU Cooperation,0

8. Bureau reports and debate about the reports

Chair Sissel Kvist invited the Bureau to the floor.

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President, took the floor and welcomed Congress's decision to work together. She talked about LYMEC's programme of action defined during Vilnius Congress based upon the KPIs that Svenja and Ed had learnt in their professional lives. Their political priorities were to make LYMEC more political. LYMEC's Policy Officer Anetoneta Asenova did a great job of this during the European Election, setting the topics for the Bureau to work on and to lobby ALDE Party and new Renew Europe MEPs for. As an MEP herself, this is somewhat easier for Svenja now, and she works to implement this through working groups in the European Parliament. The young Changemakers Academy has been a huge success and Svenja is very happy she's secured finances for the programme next year: Three weekends full of training. Svenja Hahn spoke about Libertas the LYMEC blog and opened to Edgaras to speak further on communications.

Edgaras Mascinskis, LYMEC Vice President, spoke about the priorities for communication during the European Election campaign thanking Eleni and Dan-Aria on their communication work during the campaign.

During the election we set the target of reaching 1 million individuals, we didn't but we reached 400,000. We experimented on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram - we were successful with Facebook but have more to go on on Instagram. We want to work further with Libertas and if you have an election please do approach Deimante. In the future we look to change our priorities.

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: We have been evaluating the success of our Membership Development through events. Our events have a high level of recommendation but in recent working groups members have not shown a huge wish to participate in them. Therefore we will in the future only hold these on an ad hoc basis.

In the last year of our mandate we hoped to develop our training programme.

Edgaras Mascinskas, LYMEC Vice President: we have reached 80% of our KPIs and are looking to reach the final 20%.

With the IMS, a big issue we had was the need to subscribe via our outdated website which was difficult. We couldn't afford a membership database, but the ALDE Party have said that they will soon be able to share membership databases.

People find out about IMS via word of mouth and mainly join to participate in events like our Lisbon ELF Event only for individual members in late November. Our IMS challenge during the European election was a huge success and he is proud that we were able to get our membership to engage with us via this method.

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: Thank you most of all to Edgaras who was able to cover my back during the elections I am so grateful for this support you were able to offer.

Svenja invited the bureau to the stage and invited delegates to question the Bureau

Chair Sissel Kvist pointed out that we were running a little behind schedule and that she suggests that we do three questions at a time.

Hans Maes Jong VLD: I missed the Vilnius Congress and I have several questions:

1. Congratulations on your election Svenja Hahn, it was inspiring. How will you consider your different interests in FDP, LYMEC, Renew Europe, and your constituents in how you vote in parliament?
2. Why not 1 million reach on social media? - KPI approach is highly professional although tricky.
3. LYMEC is now considering using Nationbuilder for IMS, it's fairly expensive, and works better when you have more input. What's the strategic value of using Nationbuilder when we have 160 members?
4. Could you put forward a Blueprint for MOs based on young changemakers academy, we would love to learn from you to implement the scheme ourselves.
5. Pau's 2 projects assigned to him - did they go to plan? Online learning and hackathons did they fail? [Deimante pointing out this was her project] The LYMEC Campaign in Deimante's portfolio had to be reassigned - why and what responsibilities could you have taken on?

Answer to question 1:

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: Appreciated that people read the reports. I use my personal judgement on the right thing to do (trying to make her way as an MEP), an example is our policy regarding North Macedonia - her party was in favour of halting expansion where as LYMEC believes in enlargement, sending a strong signal in support of Macedonian development. She would support that on a personal level even if against her party line. There will be times when her personal opinion would be against LYMEC, it's a matter of right balance and being right with her conscious.

Answer to question 2:

Dan-Aria Sucuri, LYMEC Communication Officer: Our targets are ambitious, and mostly budgeted on Facebook advertisements. Facebook's changes to advertising policy exempting advertisements other than in Belgium and Sweden were challenging. We did a good job in promoting our campaigns and at points our campaigns trended.

Answer to question 3:

Edgaras Mascinskas, LYMEC Vice-President: We are going with Nationbuilder because of its much wider applications, we have no institutional memory in LYMEC, so we hope to expand LYMEC's wider network including the Alumni Network and other interested third parties.

Answer to question 4:

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: Young Changemakers Academy - we want to make a blueprint to MOs and are looking to do this for the next year. There were some flaws with the first round that we are trying to evaluate for the next round and then afterwards we can evaluate it all in whole and share this with MOs.

Answer to question 5:

Deimante Rimkute, Campaigns and Training Officer - I focused on my personal campaign and didn't prioritize the Bureau, the Bureau fantastically were able to cover for this which is a credit to them. We managed to host an online seminar, slides and videos can be shared with LYMEC's wider network over time.

Pau Castellvi Canet, Capacity Building and Coordination Officer - The hackathon was an experiment with FNF in Gummersbach, the main challenge their was member interest, it was lower than expected, perhaps because it was the first time we've tried it. Our communication channels with our members could have been better but this shouldn't rule out trying hackathons in the future.

The Chairs opened the floor for further questions:

Question: Marina Sedlo, IMS: Why did the online learning platform not work during the European Elections, it's a shame that people couldn't attend. Thank you for your work alongside the European Election Campaign!

Answer: Unanswered

Question: Marten Porte, Jonge Democraten: I have a question for Dan-Aria, it was very statistical, but can you help make these statistics a reality - what was your individual role in making these statistics a reality - mostly strategic or direct involvement.

Answer: Dan-Aria Sucuri, LYMEC Communication Officer: Ed did a huge amount of the role on social media. I created a lot of content, writing posts and extracting the data, Ed did much of the design and videos.

Edgaras Mascinskas, LYMEC Vice President: Dan's being shy, he did a great deal getting the photos and graphics together and did an absolutely fantastic job.

Question: Marten Porte, Jonge Democraten: Pau Castellvi Canet, none of your projects according to Svenja's report were successful - young changemakers was very successful, thank you for that!

Answer: Pau Castellvi Canet, Capacity Building and Coordination Officer:

Hackathons with FNF in the past had a quota for the number of participants, this was 55 on this occasion. Getting those 55 was hard and we didn't quite succeed and we're sorry and will look into this in the future because we'd love to collaborate with FNF. Young changemakers academy was a huge success and we'd be happy to discuss with MOs how this can be translated on a smaller level.

Question: Abel Hartman, Jonge Demokraten: The reports were very useful to read, I have a question to Svenja Hahn, you have two huge jobs, a very heavy portfolio as an MEP and President of LYMEC - how do you combine these? Are they the cause of the capacity problems?

Answer: Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: These two responsibilities go together very well, much better than my former private sector job. Working as a politician is much easier, especially as I now live in Brussels rather than Hamburg. My schedule and travel bookings are much easier to combine now and now I can give LYMEC so much more outreach and give as much credit as possible.

Chair Sissel Kvist: We will do the Interim Secretary General and Secretary General reports and debate about the report tomorrow and the approval of the new Secretary General.

Remember the deadline for snap voting is later tonight. Have a good evening, arrive promptly tomorrow morning for the roll call.

80% of the votes are in, the 20% of MOs left please vote as soon as possible and before the deadline.

END OF DAY ONE OF CONGRESS - Friday 8 November 2019

START OF DAY TWO OF CONGRESS
Saturday 9 November 2019

ROLL CALL: 167 present

	Full Members	Roll call 1 Saturday morning
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale Neos	4
Belgium	Jeunes Mouvement Réformateur	10
Belgium	Jong VLD	6
Belgium	FEL	4
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms	10
Catalonia	JNC	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party youth	6
Estonia	Estonian Center Party youth	0
Finland	KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret (FCY)	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	5
Germany	jungliberale	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Lithuania	LLJ	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten	3
North Macedonia	LIDEM	0
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
The Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
Norway	NUV	5
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	0
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF)	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	IMS Tiago Dias	1
IMS	IMS Jordi Torres	1
IMS	IMS Eleni Vasileiou	1
		167

9. Secretary General and Interim Secretary General reports and debates about the reports

Chair Sissel Kvist invited the former Secretary General, Danica Vihinen and the Interim Secretary General, Bálint Gyévai, to immediately take questions on their respective reports.

Chair Sissel Kvist opened the floor up to questions.

Abel Hartman, Jonge Democraten, asked a question regarding the selection of the Secretary General, asking how broadly the job advertisement was shared with the members.

Chair Sissel Kvist asked the Bureau rather than the Secretary General to respond.

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President, responded that after Danica Vihinen announced her intention to resign, the job was shared as all of our job advertisements on our platforms, in the newsletter, social media, and with our local partners such as ELF.

There were no further questions.

10. Approval of the new Secretary General

Chair Ciara Campbell, moved to the **approval of the new Secretary General**.

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: Bálint Gyévai was the most qualified candidate and the board unanimously accepted Balint, he later applied for the job of permanent SG and the Bureau accepted him once again for the Mandate of one year. Svenja proposed Balint as SG on behalf of the board.

Bálint Gyévai spoke for his own approval as Secretary General, speaking of his dedication for defending LYMEC's values and for achieving LYMEC's goals. Balint spoke of his strong motivation furthered by his placement as Interim SG. He thanked Matilda Kylefors and Laurenz van Ginneken for their fantastic assistance as Administrative Assistants in helping build the Secretariat's capacity. He thanked Danica and the whole bureau for their help in educating and inducting him into the role. He wanted bigger change as united Member Parties can have a bigger impact on their societies and he would like to work with Member Organizations and Individual Members to have an even bigger impact. He gave special thanks to Danica Vihinen for her huge help to him and LYMEC during his time as Secretary-General.

There was a large applause.

Chairs Ciara Campbell and Sissel Kvist invited Bálint to leave the room for discussion to continue in closed business.

After closed business Bálint re-entered the room with a standing ovation as the new permanent Secretary General of LYMEC.

LYMEC Secretary General Bálint Gyévai thanked the Congress and urged the members to reach out to him and to the Secretariat when they need help and support.

11. Finances

Chair Ciara Campbell, invited Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer, to take the floor to present the finances.

a) Requests for a reduced membership fee and payment plans

Lena Höglund, LYMEC treasurer: There were no requests for reduced membership fees, which the treasurer found a huge concern, she urged member organisations to apply for reduced fees if they need them. There were several MOs who certainly needed Membership Fee reductions. Next Congress Membership Organisations should come to LYMEC Bureau with their size numbers and pay their application fees in full. Should Congress not accept the reduced membership fee then later membership will have to be paid in full. In future Autumn Congress is the best time to apply for Reduced Membership Fees

No organisations applied for payment plans including organisations that had substantial debts to LYMEC.

b) Interim Financial Report

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: The past year has been a massive one in terms of events, in terms of financing, and in terms of staff. The demand has been high and the regulatory demands have been high.

The finances this year were heavily reliant on the election results. Renew Europe's income was dependent on MEP numbers and therefore LYMEC's income was dependent on MEPs. Payment of this London Congress was a huge amount in advance. The density of ELF events has been stressful. One FNF event had to be cancelled that brought an inadvertent saving for the Bureau.

LYMEC were interested in setting up 3 international activities that would be funded by the Council of Europe for a total of 10,000 Euro, of which some would be funded by LYMEC.

Lena was very interested in setting up structural funding now as a backup to a contingency for future electoral failure given that finances are reliant on Electoral Success currently.

LYMEC are running at a small deficit which is a massive victory given how busy and full the agenda has been this year. Needless to say, the larger staff, and the change of staff, these things are almost impossible to predict completely. We had quite a fluffy budget for staff costs and by the looks of it, we are going to go under budget on staff spending which will then reflect on an even more ambitious staff planning for next year.

This year we were able to successfully get a European Union Erasmus+ funding grant thanks to the hard work of Danica Vihinen.

We had a stricter control of ELF Events after the spring. We must now have a much higher control on how much money we spend around ELF Events in general.

In addition, ELF now has to pay Organisers Fees in full which is traditionally quite unusual for LYMEC.

A few last-minute changes to this London Congress will also change the budget slightly.

Promotional Material Bills were received at a very late stage compared to when they were ordered.

LYMEC had to pay for an ELF Hotel in Paris which they were only refunded very late on.

The 3rd quarter 2019 Capital is 66,327 Euros which is incredibly healthy. There are 12 membership fees pending, or actually 10 since I handed in my report, and 6 debts pending. Transfers has been an issue for many.

Serbia's Mladi LDP has the debt of 850 Euros and although they've met in person and agreed on a payment plan over 6 years the organisation has failed to meet these financial administrative arrangements and failed to communicate, which has been a huge concern.

Another organisation also hasn't responded to questions on their debt. Overall many previous debts have now been paid and the overall debt to LYMEC has reduced.

The IMS now has 175 Individual Members, although we didn't recruit as many during the Elections as we would have hoped for. But yet, we still get individual membership applications. And with the nationbuilder I believe that we're going to have a better network for recruitment in the future.

Donations collected during LYMEC Congresses and ALDE Party Congress were limited by the Card Payment Company SumUp given they do not trade in Greece where the ALDE Congress was. We have received approximately 200-250 euros in terms of donations so far.

The Bureau has been quite liberal in giving participation fee reductions for this Congress since we thought it was a priority to make sure that people could arrive here.

The UK's membership of the EU has meant that there will be considerably less Visa costs than planned for this Congress.

We've done exceptional refunds to our Bureau members for Uber, transfers and for the unfortunate events of delays etc.

c) Revised budget 2019

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: Reminder that the ELF payments in March did not pass through our accounts, only the money that passes through our bank accounts are visible in any budget report that you see. Why? Because this money operate with the authorities, in fact the European Youth Forum was heavily warned and faced the consequences because they included money that was not not passing through their own accounts. As this was noted, we were careful separating that money into separate budgets for different events.

There was a Financial Advisory Committee meeting in Berlin this year with the ALDE Party resulting in extra cost and extra spending on that budget post. Because of the change of staff this summer we also had Bureau meetings in August to ensure that there would be a smooth transfer between the persons.

We've had higher spending on promotional sales which were also what we planned for and ahead of the end of the year we are foreseeing a better platform for Libertas, in addition we are also right now thankful for getting a good preferable deal for Nationbuilder, but we don't know if that's going to come with a cost or not.

As said, this year came with some extra salary costs, but we're still foreseeing going under budget on what we predicted.

Lower costs of the fall Congress from what was expected for LYMEC.

We also accumulated higher participation fee incomes than we anticipated which is also an aspect to consider when seeing the final result for the year.

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer, invited the Congress to ask questions.

Marten Porte, Jonge Democraten, asked for some context on the new 2019 column on the Budget - was the 14,000 from the European Commission just there because they haven't received it yet?

Answer: The 10,000 is received next year so it's in a different budget post, you will receive the final finances this year next year since the year isn't over yet.

In order to clarify, the last column in the table is due to the adjustments that we are proposing.

There are no more questions, the financial report is closed.

d) Interim internal audit report

Erki Raja and Niklas Milthers, Internal Auditors:

We are satisfied with Lena, Danica and Balint's hard work. Our only recommendation is that we prepare for change of staff well in advance next time with better handover.

The internal auditors invited Congress to ask questions: There were no questions.

e) Proposed membership fees 2020

Lena Höglund LYMEC Treasurer: The Bureau is proposing no new changes. Last year IM fees changed, this year they will not.

Lena invited the Congress to ask questions: There were none.

f) Draft budget 2020

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: ELF payments do not pass through LYMEC Accounts, this attachment will be separate. Three members of congress had read these accounts.

An extra large party grant was coming up as ALDE Party Congress approved of a much higher fund for LYMEC after the election results.

Next year Bureau Meeting costs would go up and Internal Audit costs would go up because it's important to give a proper handover.

They are looking into staffing costs and seeing if it's possible to maximise the length of internships in the future, it is.

Next years congress costs may be lower pending on where the group stands on that. The increase in grant allocation, from 35.000 to between 40.000 and 45.000, will improve the quality of congress.

Sales for promotional goods may increase when Nationbuilder is adopted. Lena is hoping the Member Organisations will want to distribute LYMEC's materials.

Between 2019 and 2020 there will be an increase in income, with which there will be an increase in spending over Bureau, Staffing, and structural costs.

LYMEC Treasurer Lena Höglund invited the Congress to ask questions: There were none.

Chair, opened the voting about the financial report is open. **Congress Approved of the Draft budget 2020.**

12. Membership issues

a. Applications for Associate Membership

USR Tineret Romania

Christian Preoteasa-Maier presented his organisation that started as a protest party which received huge success in the European Elections, he explained that they were looking for huge success in Presidential Elections as well. In Summer 2019 the youth organisation was officially established. Currently, the Bureau are appointed.

Ioana Abaseaca said that they are the second-largest political youth organisation on Facebook and the third largest on Instagram. A quarter of all Romanians have shared or interacted with their posts. They want to train young candidates to run for election. They want a strong European party to give their organisation's actions impact at European level. They care about the same issues as LYMEC, a strong Europe, action on climate change, building a strong European identity and empowering women.

Questions were opened in groups of 3 (this was ignored by delegates)

Mariana Sedlo, IMS:

1. What's your relationship with your mother party?

Answer: Members of the youth party are only members of the mother party. Internal statutes are being built up but are not yet in place, the new Bureau will only be formed after the Presidential Elections.

2. How are your meetings announced, what do you do if non members join, are your meetings inclusive on non Facebook users?

Answer: We are building up our presence on different social media platforms, websites, TikTok etc.

Ines Holweggerm Junos:

3. What will the new structure of your board be like?

Answer: Our members have brought up different ideas for our internal statutes. A committee has drafted this, and members will validate this draft by a universal vote on Monday.

Abel Hartman, Jonge Democraten:

4. The political context in Romania is somewhat different than here, what's your position on LGBTQI and minority rights - your party took a position on the constitutional referendum and that was great, but I still wanted to ask you where you stand on this?

Answer: We're fighting the prejudices in Romania presently, we're trying to push the LGBTQ Agenda but it's really taboo in Romania so we really need to push cautiously. Our profile picture has a rainbow on it. *applause*

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom:

5. I love your energy and passion, please explain your financial and political dependence on your mother party?

Answer: We're entirely dependent on the finances of our mother party at the moment, but we can come to our mother party with project plans and they can either approve or deny this. So far none of our projects have been rejected to date.

In our mother party the accumulation of power and conflict of interests has been banned so that members of the youth party board cannot be on a local party board.

Victor Márki Jungeliberale:

6. How will you protect the Hungarian minority in Romania?

Answer: We want Hungarian votes and we support the Hungarian minority, we want to protect their minorities and to create a whole Romanian identity.

Laia Comerma, JNC:

7. Good luck! How do you deal with disagreements with your mother party and what do you do when you have differences with your mother party?

Answer: We disagree with our mother party on legalising cannabis and on LGBTQ Rights. Our mother party is worried about losing conservative votes, but we as a youth party dare to question these areas. In the last European Elections 50% youth voted for us, although boomers might not see it yet we are the future.

Kamile Kuktaite, IMS:

8. What's your stance on same sex marriage and child adoption?

Answer: Party has no stance, the Presidential candidate is for both of these things. We were the only parliamentary party to stand up against the Referendum for Hate.

Tiago Dias, IMS:

9. What are the biggest economic problems for youth in Romania?

Answer: We have more jobs than employees, we have a growing deficit for professors for doctors, we want to stop young people from leaving the country as over half of graduates wish to leave. Moldovans work in Romania as doctors, east asians work as doctors and we want to see why Romanians do not have these jobs.

Chair Ben Whitlock, invited USR Tineret Romania to leave and the Congress entered the closed business.

Congress voted on the associate membership of USR Tineret Romania, **Associate Membership was carried by Congress by large majority.**

USR Tineret Romania thanked LYMEC for their vote, and said that it would do a great deal to improve their European policy in the future. They are excited to join and will look to apply for full membership as soon as possible.

Youth Democratic Movement VESNA Russia

Mariia Lakhina, YDM VESNA, introduced her organisation, founded in 2015 in Russia. They participate in many rallies and do lots of street actions about human rights. They educate people on human rights issues.

They have 9 regional branches with a wide range in geography and they are interested in opening new branches.

Vasily Neustroev, YDM VESNA, explained the structure of their organisation, they have a permanent governing body on a federal level that has representatives from all the regions. Their governing body checks that branches do not violate their charter and uphold their values of liberalism. Their secretary deals with membership issues and finances. Their Press Officer deals with social media and speaking to members of the press. They have an international officer, Mariia, and treasurer. The situation for freedoms in Russia is not good and they are fighting to improve freedom of expression, free and fair elections, freedom of meetings, and economic freedom.

Mariia Lakhina, YDM VESNA: We are welcoming to our broad civic community including women and LGTBQ citizens. Our budget is funded both centrally and regionally. We do not receive any money from the Russian Government or affiliated bodies because we disagree with the Government.

Questions were opened in groups of 3 (this was ignored by delegates)

Ines Holzegger, JUNOS:

1. This is your first LYMEC Congress, why did you decide to apply to membership this early?

Answer: We have been watching LYMEC from afar and now we would like to get more involved and take moves forward with our European neighbours.

Marina Sedlo, IMS:

2. Thank you for your presentation, it's great you're accepting of everyone but what's your stance on same sex marriage? You have a time limit on members and probation periods, why?

Answer: We are for same sex marriage, our probation periods are there because we have to be sure that our members are genuine and real rather than entryists. In our situation, what we are doing is dangerous, so we want to ensure that people understand what we're about. On social media we have supporters but these people are not ready to fight for our values on the street, this probation period is about finding these dedicated members.

Tiago Dias, IMS delegate:

3. You really need our support, but I was surprised by how simple your manifesto was compared to this coherent and developed presentation. Why do you not have a more complex Manifesto?

Answer: Yes, our manifesto looks like a wish list for Russia. Our values are in article two of our charter.

Tiago Dias IMS delegate asked for a follow up, Chair Ben Whitlock said no.

Ida-Maria Skytte, Svensk Ungdom:

4. What's your relationship with your mother party?

Answer: We have a friendship with Yabloko (Russian liberal party) but we're not dependent on them we have some independence and some differences in views. We don't think that federal Yabloko have a lot of perspective to be frank.

Iryna Akhmedova, European Youth of Ukraine:

5. What's your stance on the Ukrainian situation?

Answer: Mariia and Vasily: We were the first to speak against it [large applause] the first to say that Russian aggression against Ukraine was not okay. The area of conflict is not Russian territory and should not ever be Russian territory and we want the violence to stop now.

Putin's international policy is aggression in Ukraine, in Syria, in Africa, we're against Putin's international policies. We want to reach out to the outside world, that we should work with Europe, not against Europe. That we shouldn't work so closely with governments like China.

Tuuli Helind, Estonian Reform Party Youth:

6. Do your members face public scrutiny? Do they fear violence?

Answer: Mariia: Events in Moscow this summer with police beating up peaceful protestors is just real life for us right now. They're trying to intimidate us, they are trying to call us terrorists, they have imprisoned 15~ people. We're trying to change the hearts and minds of Russians to make them aware of the police violence we face. We are scared but do not want to be.

Kristians Vasilevskis: Attistibai Youth

7. You responded fantastically on Crimea. What are your relations with the Limese Movement and do you participate in their rallies?

Answer: Yes, we participated in rallies from 2017, we support Limese' claim to the presidency. But we're independent from him. We're supporters rather than mutually inclusive with him. He's the best option we have right now.

Ludovic Art, FEL:

8. A great presentation, but you had a problematic flag there, an anarcho capitalist libertarian flag, do you believe this?

Answer: We have social liberals, classical liberals, libertarians, all these are fine - just not homophobes and not fascists.

Alice Schmidt, Julis:

9. What's your position on sanctions against the Russian Government?

Answer: We fully support sanctions against Putin but you have to understand that a lot of these sanctions really do effect and hurt everyday people, we do not blame Europe we blame putin, but they do hurt us. We want sanctions against Putin not sanctions against Russia.

Chair Ben Whitlock invited Youth Democratic Movement VESNA Russia to leave and the Congress entered the closed business.

Congress voted on the associate membership of Youth Democratic Movement VESNA Russia, **Associate Membership was rejected by the Congress.**

Congress entered a break.

Roll call 3: **181 votes present.**

	Full Members	Roll call coffee break 1 (11 h)
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale Neos	4
Belgium	Jeunes Mouvement Réformateur	10
Belgium	Jong VLD	6
Belgium	FEL	4
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms	10
Catalonia	JNC	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party youth	6
Estonia	Estonian Center Party youth	5
Finland	KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret (FCY)	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	5
Germany	jungliberale	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Lithuania	LLJ	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten	3
North Macedonia	LiDEM	3
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
The Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
Norway	NUV	5
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF)	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	IMS Tiago Dias	1
IMS	IMS Jordi Torres	1
IMS	IMS Eleni Vasileiou	1
		181

b. Applications for Full Membership

Momentum TizenX Hungary

Karoly Nagy, Momentum TizenX Hungary: A generation has lost their contact with politics, young people don't care about politics, and we thought that wasn't acceptable. Momentum TizenX want to wake up our apathetic youth.

Andrais Sztanef, Momentum TizenX Hungary: We were founded in 2018 shortly after our mother party. In rural areas, areas with high suicide rates and lower education our membership is much lower.

Karoly Nagy, Momentum TizenX Hungary: After the election 100 young people joined us and since then we've built up our youth network.

András Sztanef, Momentum TizenX Hungary: Since the regional network we've gained political presence, we've held civic meetings, and we have a young party president. Our congress elects our board, who elect our directors. Our membership is of 450 now, our age limit is 14-24. Our biggest priority is in the countryside, become a country-wide party. We and other mother party have limited resources and we don't have membership fees, but we do crowdsource funding which is "super-innovative". Read our Manifesto, we're centrists - we aren't economically left or right, we're just for a progressive country, sustainable ecology, minority rights and education. We have huge social media outreach (450,000 young people reached) and lots of events.

We do lots of campaigning, our membership is super-active. Karoly travels around the country to organise political forums and is well connected to both local communities and national press. We have had huge successes in the past few days, for example forcing the Government to withdraw their dangerous reforms to universities. We've run an information campaign about Erdogan and Orban's role in supporting his government. In major cities with had some huge successes and in the upcoming elections there are some key marginal that we're hoping to make successes in.

Questions were opened

Laia Comerma, JNC: What are your biggest challenges?

Answer: Government has a huge control of the media it's changed its constitution 3 times and members are scared of losing their jobs through political activism for us. People have lost their faith in politics and we're trying to revive this faith through our hard work.

Chair Ben Whitlock invited Momentum TizenX Hungary to leave and the Congress entered the closed business.

Congress voted on the full membership of Momentum TizenX Hungary, **Full Membership was accepted by Congress with 2/3 majority.**

Momentum TizenX Hungary were handed their voting rights and the updated total number of votes present is now 184.

Jóvenes Ciudadanos Spain

Jóvenes Ciudadanos presented a video

Jorge Vinuelas, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: Thank you for having us here, thank you for your huge support to us over the past few years. We are a youth organisation and a young organization, we have 6,000 members and 50 of them are running for election in Spain tomorrow as candidates on the list. We are passionate about Spain and we are passionate about Europe. Most of our staffers are aged below 35, and we're very active in civil society, we want to protect the environment and to improve public health. We wish to be the most pro-EU party in Spain and we've had the privilege to host LYMEC in Spain through training and in our congress. We've had the honour to be involved in your congresses and to discuss policy.

Laia Garrido, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: Why LYMEC? You are where the real pro-european liberal democrats are. You are a place for dialogue, we really want to be here and to be full voting representatives at LYMEC. We want to contribute to the LYMEC Project through fact-based policy making, we're passionate about well researched policy, and we have a high variety of topics we wish to discuss. In European Parliament we've gone from having 2 to 7 representatives and our youthful representatives in parliament give a brilliant platform to raise LYMEC's voice on an international level. We want to host initiatives based on the here and now in Europe, not just the Europe of the Future. We want to be the change we want to see through things like training, we'd love to do training in communication and share our expertise in training with not just International Officers but members. Over the last 3 years you've gotten to know us well and we want to work with you to see our future in Europe.

Questions were opened, 1 minute speaking time per speaker:

Rémi Guastalli, Jeunes Radicaux: Congratulations on what you've been doing we're happy to have you on board. The Catalan issue is the elephant in the room, how do you see yourself collaborating with the other MO based on this issue?

Answer: Thank you for the question, we're here to talk about Europe, with all organisations, including JNC. On a regional level, we have a conflict of opinions but we also share concerns. We have the same socio-economic problems, the same environment, and here is a place for us to have those joint questions.

Ida-Maria Skytte, Svensk Ungdom: Do you have any concrete ideas on how you will overcome national differences with JNC in LYMEC?

Answer: Yes we saw some JNC policies as very strong which is why we amended them. Perhaps one day we could co-produce motions and resolutions. It's useful for you to hear both perspectives.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Congratulations on Associate Membership, why are you applying for full membership so quickly, what's with the rush?

Answer: We really really really want to be part of LYMEC. We've been here for 3 years and have good relationships with many MOs here and those MOs have asked us to join as full members and they have found this very important. We've done shared campaigns and shared projects, let's bring this relationship forward.

Anouk van Brug, JOVD: What are your views on liberal values and how independent are you on your mother party?

Answer: Liberalism to us is opportunity and freedom. In Europe, freedom of movement and freedom to study abroad is limited by the resources of citizens of those EU citizens. If you don't get the opportunity then you don't get the privilege. We have our own structure our own Executive, and we have the freedom to propose ideas and put forward policies. We don't propose ideas on a confrontational basis but alongside our mother party. MEPS and parliamentarians are willing to listen to us where we put forward proposals and we want to influence our mother party to adopt our policies. For example, at the moment we're lobbying our

Laia Comerma, JNC:

Let me start of by saying that the most liberal party in Spain is a very adversarial proposal for JNC. But let's shake hands as we said. It is reminded that liberals should cooperate in this family.

1. Ciudadanos called for all independent parties including those that do so within legal means to be banned. Do you agree with the votes made by Ciudadanos at the Madrid assembly?

Answer: The motion talks about those attempting violence, we're against parties encouraging violence. No independence party is encouraging violence so this isn't a problem. Our president clearly states that we don't want to ban any independence party but to beat them through democratic means in the elections.

2. How do you help oppose dictatorial policy in Spain?

Answer: We condemn Franco's dictatorship, we've made this clear - we totally condemn any dictatorship in any country.

3. LGBTQI policies, how will you build bridges with people on these rights? How would include them?

Answer: In Spain we were one of the parties the most active regarding their rights.

We've gone to demonstrations to protest about it and we've invited LGBTQ citizens to join our electoral list. We've opposed the socialists' policy against same-sex adoption and fostering, we really hope that this come through so we can change these things and give LGBTQ citizens the rights they deserve. Any person should be able to become a parent. LYMEC would help us even more in this in order to put words and policies into concrete action to give them .

4. A third of your members have recently left (along with one MEP), including those who have set up "los constitucionalistas", where does this internal division come from?

Answer: Javier Nart is no longer a member of our party, we don't have any comment about his decision. We have no comment on the "new" party.

Chair, Ben Whitlock, invited **Jóvenes Ciudadanos Spain** to leave and the Congress entered the closed business.

Congress voted on the full membership of Jóvenes Ciudadanos Spain, **Full Membership was accepted by Congress with 2/3 majority.**

Jóvenes Ciudadanos Spain were handed their voting rights and the updated total number of votes present is now 192.

	Full Members	Momentum added votes	Jovenes Ciudadanos added votes
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale Neos	4	4
Belgium	Jeunes Mouvement Réformateur	10	10
Belgium	Jong VLD	6	6
Belgium	FEL	4	4
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms	10	10
Catalonia	JNC	7	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party youth	6	6
Estonia	Estonian Center Party youth	5	5
Finland	KOL	3	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret (FCY)	6	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	5	5
Germany	jungliberale	10	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3	3
Lithuania	LLJ	6	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten	3	3
North Macedonia	LIDEM	3	3
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7	7
The Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6	6
Norway	NUV	5	5
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	8	8
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	6	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4	4
Sweden	Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF)	6	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	6	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7	7
IMS	IMS Tiago Dias	1	1
IMS	IMS Jordi Torres	1	1
IMS	IMS Eleni Vasileiou	1	1
		184	192

c. Suspensions

TLDE Romania

TLDE Romania has not responded to Bureau Communications.

Simple majority: 96

2/3rds majority: 128

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: We are proposing to suspend their membership due to their lack of communication and the non payment of debt. The only reply we have had from them is that they are holding internal discussions. Their membership fee has not been paid. That's why the Bureau is proposing to suspend the member organisation, to basically putting them on pause and assess the situation.

Organization in vacuum are usually accumulating debt. Here the Bureau suggest preventing that by suspending them.

Open for questions, no questions.

Point of order Danica Vihinen, IMS: The exact number is needed for the minutes.

There were 169 votes for the proposal to suspend them, 23 abstentions. **Their suspension was carried by Congress by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.**

d. Disaffiliations

No disaffiliations > to be debated during Spring Congress 2020, giving more time for organisations to take a stand on membership.

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: Likely we will have some at the next Congress in Spring. The basis for this will be debt and non-cooperation on debt. If you as a member organisation are suspended do not take it as a no but as a reason for you to consider your future payments of debts.

Questions from the floor:

Remi Guastalli, Jeunes Radicaux: Could the Bureau provide a list of organisations being disaffiliated well in advance of the current deadline so we can help influence cooperation better as an international community.

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: Your comments were noted. We will be able to do it for most of them probably. Some cases, however, there is a structured dialogue, so it's a process that takes more time.

13. Motions and Resolutions (including statutory changes)

A) Statutory changes

1. Discussion on co-presidency

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC: Some of you may remember last year's Autumn Congress you tasked the Bureau to create a work plan on diversity in our organisation. We've done this through this work plan which was built on in the Young Leaders Meeting, and co-presidency was put forward as a key statutory change. We have received a number of questions hence our explanatory notes. As a summary co-presidency should be able to provide more coverage and capacity and in practice were run co-presidency at the moment with myself and Edgaras and myself and Sissel beforehand.

We believe that gender quotas are not the answer because there's not two genders and its illiberal, and that co-presidency is the answer.

This change would come into action for the next mandate and it would turn the vice-president into a full co-presidency.

Happy to answer any questions and open for debate.

Chair Sissel Kvist: Please come forward in advance when you know you have a question.

Rémi Guastalli, Jeunes Radicaux: Thank you for providing us with your view on the effect of the reforms. I do not agree with the board stating that there are "more than two genders" and that it should be used as an inclusive diversity. Diversity should be, considering the number of brilliant women running this organisation, rather about include handicaps, social backgrounds or ethnicities. As a white gay cis-male I do not see how the diversity of gender expression has anything to do with the importance of gender quotas. Look at this very white and able-bodied audience. These are things we should be looking to address.

Answer: We agree with you on the diversity of gender, and we think that gender quotas would not reflect this.

Mikaela Hellman, Centerstudenter:

There's insufficient background information for this massive constitutional change, we're very against this co-presidency as it would weaken the Bureau and create confusing potential for miscommunication. It's already difficult to reach through the white noise with one figurehead. We will vote against this and want the Bureau to come back with better background information about the impact on LYMEC and members of the proposals.

Answer: I'm sorry about your feeling on the lack of information. This entire debate is us discussing the constitutional change, you asked us to put this forward. If you do not accept this today there is no reason to put it forward again because it's part of our greater diversity plan.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie:

I agree with a lot of things that were said before. Solution should be answering a problem. We should have a second vice-president rather than two presidents, equal Co-Presidents run on a single mandate, this will weaken the board and not strengthen it.

Answer: Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: I can only say that we came up with this proposal because we didn't want to create extra Bureau positions out of financial obstacles.

Point of Order Marten Porte, Jonge Democraten: Can we make questions not statements?

Chair Sissel Kvist: Does anyone want to speak in favour of the proposal? (no hands)

Point of order, Eleni Vasileou, IMS: Can we please go straight to a vote?

Svenja Hahn agrees with the point of order and asks if people decided already (all hands)

Chair Sissel Kvist said yes and proceeded to a vote

The chair called for a vote on the statutory changes as proposed by the Bureau.

In Favour: 13

Against: 176

Abstain: 3

Congress voted against the Statutory Changes from the Bureau

Svenja Hahn, LYMEC President: The Bureau will delete the lines related to the co-presidency from the later discussed Equality and Diversity Plan.

2. Introducing a sunset clause to LYMEC resolutions

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: The policy book is outdated, it has a lot of outdated texts. As the Policy Officer of LYMEC it was my duty to look at not just new texts but existing texts. So this is why we looked at the texts that were already there to see which should be archived and why. We looked for alternatives for the future.

Should this be passed, policies will automatically be archived after 5 years unless MOs disagree with the archiving.

Chair, Sissel Kvist: Is there anyone that wishes to speak?

Point of order, Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: We put the statutory change before the motion usually but in this case we are looking to move to the motion first to discuss the content and later on discuss the statutory change (change to the Congress rules). Because the text in the motion is much more substantive.

Chair Sissel Kvist said yes since no one said no and moved on to the discussion on the motion on the Sunset Clause. Antoaneta do you want to explain your motion as well?

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Well the motion is basically the same but for procedure reasons we have to have the motion before the statutory change. The motion contains a bit more explanations of how each of the things could be understood.

Marten Porte, Jonge Democraten: I'm not entirely sure what's in the motion or not but could you give a bit of an overview of the list?

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: How about we move to the motion because these things are in the motion?

Chair Sissel Kvist agreed, and clarified that members should have the proposals in front of them.

She asked the proposer of the amendment to very briefly explain and according to Congress rules we will have a maximum of two speakers in favor and two speakers against.

Amendment 1

Not accepted by mover

Alice Schmidt, Jungeliberale, spoke for Amendment 1. Point of clarification that they had the same rules but different proposals so they wanted to have an amendment to the amendment. They were proposing to discuss at the Congress archived resolutions as regular resolutions (1 by 1).

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom, spoke against amendment 1. I am sympathetic to this however what if we spend entire congress talking about what is and isn't archived, it will take way too long. Vote down the amendment.

Congress voted against Amendment 1. Not carried.

Amendment 2 Jungeliberale

Antoneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: The bureau is strongly against.

Withdrawn by the proposer

Amendment 3 Jungeliberale

Withdrawn by the proposer

Amendment 4 (IMS)

Antoneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: The bureau has no view

Eleni Vasileiou, IMS: This is important to have it written down as it will stop people constantly asking the Bureau.

Chair: Amendment 4 is carried

Amendment 5/6

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Please do not vote for this and stick with the original text.

Point of Order, Chair Sissel Kvist: This amendment was submitted after the deadline and therefore was not accepted.

Benjamin Fievet, IMS, CounterPoint of order - this is because the system was in Brussels time.

Antoneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Can the Secretary General provide clarification whether it's accepted?

Bálint Gyévai, LYMEC Secretary General: Yes because it's been submitted twice [therefore amendment 5 and 6 were not accepted].

Amendment 7/8

Benjamin Fievet, IMS

The Bureau accepted amendment 8.

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: It was submitted twice **[therefore amendment 7 was not accepted]**.

Amendment 9

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: **Withdrawn by the proposer**

Amendment 10

The Bureau didn't accept, this was **withdrawn by Jungeliberale**.

Amendment 11/12

The Bureau didn't accept, this was **withdrawn by Jungeliberale**.

Chair Sissel Kvist moved to the Motion as amended:

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: This is a projection to the future, it makes the policy book relevant. The policy book too often is conflicted over things submitted and accepted years ago. Please vote in favor.

Marten Porte, Jonge Democraten: Great plan, technical question - what if a resolution is archived and the deadline is passed for resolutions to be amended?

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: We would publish a list of the texts to be archived well in advance, you have time to propose text to amend with your changes.

Ines Holzegger, JUNOS: This is a long process, I don't know if you've read the policy book from front to back but its contradictory and a lot of the points are completely irrelevant. Please vote for this resolution.

Chair Sissel Kvist: We move to a combined vote on the Statutory Changes and the Motion. A two-thirds majority is needed as this is a constitutional amendment.

Congress voted unanimously (192 votes) in favour of the motion.

Congress moved to a lunch break.

After the Lunch break our guest, Young European Federalists, JEF's Chris Powers welcomed Congress: JEF cares a lot about the work of LYMEC given that the values of European Federalism and Subsidiarity fit in well with those of JEF. JEF Congratulates LYMEC in their role of politicising Europe. Socialists, Liberals, they all have an idea about where Europe is going. JEF care less about the substance of a future Europe and more about the direction of European Federalism for the future. As a liberal democrat (thunderous applause) I would like to thank the Lib Dems for their fantastic work, although JEF doesn't take a party position it does take a position on the UK and Europe - only the LibDems and Greens take the correct stance on Europe and we welcome this. It's quite significant that LYMEC come here to London where the problems and troubles of Europe are so significant. These problems do not exist just here but across the European Union, and therefore it's fantastic that you come here to address these problems with solutions for the future.

Member's Updates (continued)

Tuuli Helind, Estonian Reform Party representative: We won the last parliamentary elections with the biggest landslide in Estonian History, we're looking into issues and working out a program for the future. We have a new Secretary General, and we welcome to attendance of the Estonian Centre Party, whilst their policies do diverge from them we welcome to share this European Platform alongside them with open hearts.

Kristians Vasilevskis, Attistibai Youth: We've been rather successful in our parliamentary elections where we now have two ministry seats out of a possible 3 ministers, and in the European Elections we have successfully elected an MEP. We've got a strong education agenda coming up and we're hosting the Young Liberals Academy soon, funded by FNF we kindly invite everyone to participate with us as it's a fantastic opportunity for Liberals to get together and to work together for the future.

Ida-Maria Skytte, Svensk Ungdom: We have had national elections and European Parliamentary Elections in Finland, we're super happy to be in Government again with the Finnish Centre Party. In the European Parliament elections we had the youngest candidates in Finland which was a super nice thing for us and we elected a new Bureau and a new President.

Idun Gulla Dyrnes, Unge Venstre: We did the best school election ever in Norway, if you don't know what that is - all high schools in Norway have debates with all youth parties and we did the best we've ever done and I'm glad we represent the views of liberal young people in Norway.

Catriona McDougall, Young Liberals: We've had the European Elections where we went from having one election to 16, alongside Alliance's Naomi Long MEP. We did amazingly in the Local Elections in May electing over 600 Lib Dem councillors. We have over 130,000 members, and a new active and dynamic woman leader in Jo Swinson.

Another guest took the floor: Silja Markkula, Bureau member of the European Youth Forum: Congratulations for a successful Congress. As an umbrella of a number of European Youth Organisations we're very excited to be invited here today, and I want to highlight our work this year. We represent national youth councils and International Youth Organisations such as LYMEC who I am very honoured to be the contact for. We help ensure that European Youth Organisations have the appropriate funds to access their rights and that member states encourage youth political activism. We do this through the EU, Council of Europe, and UN.

Our campaign, Vote Vote Vote, hugely relied on members like you. With below 2% of politicians worldwide being young, LYMEC as an organisation did a fantastic job to get young people elected.

On employment we run a campaign to try and get young people jobs alongside the challenges of climate change and digitalisation. Soon we will adopt a policy paper on this and I'm sure that LYMEC will actively take part and have much to say on their ideas for the future of work.

Finally, on a personal note I very much wanted to thank you for making my birthday an unforgettable moment today.

Syuleyman Shaban, Vice-President of IFLRY, welcomed the Congress: Thank you for inviting me to address you today, I am very glad that we can liberalise together not only Europe but the entire world. I wish you best of luck for the rest of Congress and I thank you a huge deal.

Erki Raja, Internal Auditor, updated Congress on the electronic voting system.

B) Motions

ROLL CALL: 192 VOTES PRESENT

	Full Members	Roll call lunch Saturday
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale Neos	4
Belgium	Jeunes Mouvement Réformateur	10
Belgium	Jong VLD	6
Belgium	FEL	4
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms	10
Catalonia	JNC	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party youth	6
Estonia	Estonian Center Party youth	5
Finland	KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret (FCY)	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	5
Germany	jungliberale	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	8
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Lithuania	LLJ	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten	3
North Macedonia	LIDEM	3
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
The Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
Norway	NUV	5
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	8
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF)	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	IMS Tiago Dias	1
IMS	IMS Jordi Torres	1
IMS	IMS Eleni Vasileiou	1
		192

001 :: Introducing a sunset clause to LYMEC resolutions

Discussed and approved in the Statutory Changes above after point of order.

002 :: LYMEC Equality and Diversity Plan

Part on co-Presidency deleted by the Bureau by Svenja Hahn following vote.

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: You tasked us with challenging the lack of diversity in LYMEC. We did this through our Code of Conduct, but also through an equality and diversity plan which is more focused on changing the culture and behaviour of LYMEC as a Youth Organisation but also the social interactions in Member Organisations of LYMEC. How do you include staff members and members on equal terms (usual practice in Nordic countries to have this)? The need to adjust behaviours is very necessary, this plan is only the beginning. No one should be laughed at for their opinions, and nor should stereotypes be made. This is an organisation that employs young people, people from different stages of life and we have a duty to care for them. Under Belgian Law we need to support equal opportunities whilst recognising that our job is more 24/7 than 9 to 5, it's rather a lifestyle choice. People who apply for jobs with us are familiar faces to us usually. For this we need to make sure we avoid personal biases and offer an equal bases for hiring staff members regardless of their relationship with us. Delegates (and equal opportunities) are up to MOs but what happens to them afterwards is up to us. Comments on newbies in the corner are unfair, we should ensure that no one is left out of the Congress and people leave the Congress having had a positive experience.

Our financiers, for example the Erasmus+ grant requires us to be able to behave in certain ways, circulate certain values and they are essential for us for financial resilience.

This is the how and way of this proposal and the motivation behind.

Chair Sissel Kvist opened for questions.

Hans Maes, Jong VLD: A specific question on the plans to anonymise the recruitment process, could you please clarify?

Answer: In practice when the Secretary General receives all the applications for staff positions they would have to register who is what but they would anonymise the name, age and country of the applicant whilst keeping their relevant experience clear for Bureau Members - this would avoid biases and encourage good selection. Naturally the interviews would not be able to include this.

The Chair then moved on to the amendments.

Amendment 13 by Jong VLD

Hans Maes, Jong VLD: This will be a tough process and if you were to erase all of the identifying details then you would be erasing all relevant experience in my view.

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Spoke in against the amendment. This would allow the process to be less biased. Many people who apply to LYMEC do know the Bureau, and many members of the Bureau know people who are applying. The original proposal is good to avoid bias.

Ida-Maria Skytte, Svensk Ungdom: Spoke against. There are some benefits for having anonymised the gender and age of the participants, SU do this in fact. However information such as party affiliation is useful. We would prefer just gender age and country to be anonymised rather than political experience.

The chair opened voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment. Not carried.

Amendment 14

Benjamin Fievet IMS: We wanted to have two people from different bodies so we would get different perspectives on the issue.

The chair opened an electronic vote on the amendment.

Point of Order, Niklas Milthers, Internal Auditor: Can we have music in the background during the votes?

Chairs: No.

The Chair opened voting. Congress voted for the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Amendment 16

Point of Order, Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Technically, this is a motion, you can't just delete parts of it like that. There are several deletion amendments, you must choose which amendment you accept.

Lena Höglund, LYMEC Treasurer: We accept Benjamin Fievet's amendment, 16

Chair Sissel Kvist explained that other amendments on co-Presidency fall.

Motion as amended.

No one speaking against or in favour of the motion.

The chair then opened voting for the Resolution as amended.

Congress voted for the Motion as amended. The Motion is carried with 150 in favor.

003 :: Motion to Archive Resolutions in Chapter 1 and 2

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer, spoke on behalf of the Bureau:

We're back to archiving, like I said, when I ran for policy officer we had a lot to discuss regarding archiving, it was my campaign promise so to say. After the European Election was finished we sent an email to all MOs to ask to work on the archiving exercise, and so we worked with a number of MOs on this. In line with this we will set up a structured working group that we strongly advise all of you to join so we can move on with a bigger chapter than a half. Still however this chapter is more than 100 pages so I kindly ask you to give applause to these working group members. Statutes currently require a reason for each resolution to be archived, chair can we go to a vote?

Chair Sissel Kvist: Does anyone want to speak against? No.

The chair opened the vote on the Motion as a whole. Congress voted in favour of the motion, the motion was adopted.

004 :: Motion to Archive Resolution 1.49 on the Revised Dublin III Regulation

Antoneta Asenovam, LYMEC Policy Officer, spoke on behalf of the Bureau: This was taken out of the other resolutions as it was made less than 3 years ago meaning we must vote on it with a supermajority. However, the motion is out of date, we therefore ask you to archive it. I urge you to vote in favour of this motion to archive.

Chair Sissel Kvist called for speakers in favor or against.
Nothing was said.

The Chair opened voting. Congress voted in favour of the motion and it was carried by 180 votes.

104 :: Resolution on the Future of the European Unity

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer, spoke on behalf of the Bureau: I hope you have seen the explanatory notes and the rationale for them. Resolution 104 builds upon resolution 101 in the policy book, a resolution from 1992. We deleted irrelevant elements of the resolution and merged it with 107 and 114. I'm not going to argue on pros and cons, I will leave that to you.

Chair Sissel Kvist opened debate on the resolution as a whole, there were no speakers so Congress moved to the amendment.

Accepted by the mover

**Amendment 66 by Mladé ANO
Withdrawn**

Amendment 67 by Mladé ANO

Jaroslav Ambroz Mladé ANO: Spoke for the amendment. We believe the Council and Parliament should be put on an equal basis, parliamentary dominance over the Council is not in line with our vision. Someone argued that Governments should be controlled by the Parliament but is the Council of the EU a Parliament?

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Spoke against the amendment. If we want a strong European Union then we must have a strong European Parliament, vote it down.

Hans Maes Jong VLD: Spoke for the amendment. We need a parliament's control yes, and the Council of the European Union is controlled by 28 parliaments therefore their mandate is valid and should be equal.

The Chair opened voting. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was not carried.

Amendment 68 by Mladé ANO

Jaroslav Ambroz Mladé ANO: Spoke in favor of the amendment. The majority of us believe in a federal EU but there must be a better way for the integration. We want to keep the value of the Member State and not to diminish the value of the state in a federal Europe.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Spoke against the amendment. The European Union is the one body that stands strong and united for liberalism on a supranational level. Vote against the amendment.

Antoaneta Asenova, Policy Officer: This provision came directly from 1.04 and 1.07 and since our examination only went through chapter one I'm sure other areas do support a federal Europe so this does not decide whether we are for or against a federal Europe, just keep that in mind.

The Chair opened voting. Congress voted against the amendment, amendment fell. Rejected by 101 votes against.

Point of Order Ellen Wangdell, Centerstudenter: Can you put the amendments to amendment numbers up?

Chair Sissel Kvist: This is technically not possible.

Amendment 69 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos

Not accepted by the mover

Laia Garrido, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: Spoke for her amendment: We must regionalise our aspirations to make Europe more real to our citizens. European Unity needs our common treaties and our common values to be accepted.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Member States legal framework is questionable sometimes for example in Poland and in Hungary. Please vote for liberal democracy in our Union and vote down this amendment.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress rejected the amendment.

Amendment 70 by Jonge Democraten

Accepted by the mover

Amendment 71 by Mladé ANO:

The movers didn't accept the amendment

Jaroslav Ambroz Mladé ANO: This is in line with all the amendments that we have proposed. What we are seeking is an alternative. On the long-term putting the two institutions on the same level makes a stronger Commission.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom:

Spoke against the amendment: The problem with this amendment is that it doesn't feel right. Of course, the Commission should be changed but it should not be put on an equal platform to the European Parliament. Vote this down.

The Chair opened voting on the amendment. 130 against, amendment falls.

Amendment 72 by Jonge Democraten

Accepted by mover.

Amendment 73 by Mladé ANO

Jaroslav Ambroz Mladé ANO: The Monetary Union should only be put in member states when they are economically ready for it. It's more efficient and better to be in the Eurozone, I support that, the problem comes where there's an external shock and different structured economies in member states. In these situations differently structured countries may be disproportionately affected.

Tanzer Yuseinov, YMRF: Spoke against. Economic and monetary union allows economic crises to be overcome easier.

Laurenz Van Ginneken, Jong VLD: Spoke against the amendment. A fiscal union is the answer to economic problems.

The Chair opened voting on the amendment. The amendment is rejected.

**Amendment 74 by Jonge Democraten
Carried by mover**

**Amendment 75 by Jonge Democraten
Carried by mover**

**Amendment 76 by Jonge Democraten
Carried by mover with an amendment to the amendment**

**Amendment 77 by Mladé ANO
Falls**

**Amendment 78 by Jong VLD
Withdrawn**

The Chair opened voting on the resolution as a whole. The resolution was carried.

105 :: Resolution on the vision for the future of the Council of Europe

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: I hope you all have read the motivations for those resolutions so I'm not going to waste all this time. All of the amendments have been accepted by the Bureau so we can move on.

All amendments (79-83) were accepted by the mover (Bureau).

No one spoke.

The Chair opened voting on the resolution as a whole. Congress voted in favour of the resolution and it was carried.

106 :: Resolution on the Council of the European Union

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: This resolution is made to fix the error in the current policy in conflating the Council of Europe and the European Council.

**Amendment 84 by Jonge Democraten
Withdrawn**

Amendment 85 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos:

Jorge Vinuelas, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: It is important to provide the European Council with certain tools to allow policy to be coherent. That's why the qualified voting system is so important.

Hans Maes, Jong VLD: This amendment would just confirm the status quo. The council is currently blocked by the requirement for unanimity in foreign policy, this is why we are calling for the voting to be switched to qualified voting in all areas.

Tanzer Yuseinov, YMRF: We should get rid of the QMV rule.

This only fixes internal problems in member states. Romania and Bulgaria have fulfilled all the criteria to be accepted into the Schengen area but they are still not in it and this is unfair.

The Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, amendment fell.

Amendment 86 by Centerstuderter:

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: It was important that Congress made a decision on the wording rather than it being picked by the Bureau.

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Spoke against the amendment. The original text already calls to abandon unanimity rules in most matters but not all matters, using the word "decrease" instead of "abandon" is not ambitious enough.

Chair opened the voting. The amendment was rejected by congress, the

The Chair opened voting on the resolution as a whole. Congress voted in favour of the resolution as a whole by 133 for, the resolution was carried.

107 :: Resolution on the European integration of Iceland

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Much of the previous content was outdated, unfortunately our Icelandic friends have not had much impact on this policy.

Amendment 87 by Mladé ANO:

Jaroslav Amroz, Mladé ANO: Regarding this amendment, we already believe we have an accession procedure so this is not necessary and we think that LYMEC policy regarding accession should be led by Member Organisations in the Member State, not by LYMEC.

Stefannia Reynisdóttir, Uppreisn: Spoke against the amendment.

It's not just about the EU, it's about the time frame. LYMEC is calling for Iceland to make moves on it's time frame therefore I'd urge you to vote against this amendment

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: considering you've just heard that from our Member Organization on the ground I urge you to do as she says.

The Chair opened voting. The amendment was rejected by Congress, the amendment fell.

Amendment 88 by Centerstudenter

No one spoke for or against the amendment.

The Chair opened voting on the amendment. Congress voted in favour and it was carried.

Chair Sissel Kvist called for a discussion on the resolution as a whole.

Starri Reynisson, Uppreisn: Iceland has an application to join the EU since 2010 I think. In 2013 it was put on ice. So we've kept on the fight and the attempt to join has never been legally withdrawn. This gives us something to go home with and something for us to take to the fight for joining the EU.

No one spoke against.

The chair opened voting on the Resolution as a whole, it was carried with 168 votes in favor.

108 :: Bringing the youth ideas in the European elections' agenda

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: This resolution came from a merger of different texts. I won't speak more, you've read it.

**Amendment 89 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos
Accepted by the mover**

**Amendment 90 by Jovenes Ciudadanos
Not accepted by the mover**

Jorge Vinuelas, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: I am frankly surprised this wasn't carried, it is something we should be fighting for in European parliament. The Youth Working Group shows a lack of current interest in youth initiatives and the Youth Agenda, this amendment is a good start to be moving forward on this path.

Eleni Vasileiou, IMS: We strongly believe that the youth agenda is very important but this is incredibly bureaucratic and it requires more committees and it goes on and on and on and LYMEC is against creating more bureaucracy. Please vote against.

Elsie Gisslegård, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund: There is already a relevant committee in European Parliament that brings motions on youth policy and there's an organisation that brings youth orientated policy. We do not need more bureaucracy, please vote against.

Chair Sissel Kvist reminded delegates that only 2 can speak against.

The Chair opened voting on the amendment, Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment fell.

Amendment 91 by Jong VLD

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: This part of the text comes from the old text therefore requires a proper discussion now.

Brent Usewils, Jong VLD: We think taking this out makes the motion better because it's currently quite vague and there's no real way to implement it. It's very short, lets get rid of it.

The chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted for the amendment and it was carried.

The chair opened discussion of the resolution as a whole. No one spoke.

The chair opened the vote on the resolution as a whole. Congress voted for the amendment and the resolution was carried.

109 : For an independent ECB – monetary stability instead of economic steering

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: This is the last archiving on chapter one, let's move on we accept everything. Vote for the resolution as a whole.

**Amendment 92 by Benjamin Fievet, IMS
Carried by mover**

**Amendment 93 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos
Carried by mover**

The chair opened voting on the resolution as a whole. Congress voted for the resolution and the resolution was carried.

205 :: Towards a sustainable labour migration policy

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: This is to be taken to Congress, I urge you to vote for the original text unamended. We have 28 blue cards in Europe all with different regimes. If you don't want a blue card you don't want qualified workers in the European Union.

Amendment 113 by Venstres Ungdom

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: Just to clarify, we don't want harmonisation of immigration legislation in the European Union.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Coming from a country that isn't doing very well, We think that it's very important that we have a high skilled workforce, look at the way we don't bring in major companies - the answer to this is allowing experts to move here freely. Vote this one down.

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Blue card are for highly qualified people. This would allow

The Chair opened voting on the amendment. Congress voted against it and the amendment was rejected.

The chair invited discussion, none was held.

The chair opened voting on the resolution as a whole. Congress voted for the resolution and it was adopted.

206 :: A common approach to asylum policy

**Amendment 114 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos
Carried by mover**

Amendment 115 by Jungeliberale

Alice Schmidt, Jungeliberale: Unfortunately there are still countries that don't want to accept asylum seekers. This means other countries have to cover up for them and pay for that. For example, Polish people's intolerance costs other member states, therefore these countries should pay for their intolerance in the form of sanctions.

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Asked a question regarding the divergence of what Alice Schmidt said and what was said in the text of the amendment.

Alice Schmidt, Jungeliberale, Replied that what she said in Congress was expressed just then through her intention.

Chair Sissel Kvist asked if the Congress was fine with making an exceptional amendment change from out to in? Anyone against this? No answer.

**Point of order Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: By the EU but not outside.
Changing the text to "by" rather than "outside" would be more accurate.
Congress Hall in Unison: No**

Alice Schmidt, Jungeliberale, would proceed with Antoaneta's proposal.

Chair Sissel Kvist asked if the Congress could agree to an exceptional oral

The amendment as amended was carried.

The Chair opened voting on the resolution as a whole, the resolution was carried.

207 :: Recognition of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as a Policy in LYMEC Gender and Sexual Rights and Civil Liberties

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Old resolution, reformed here. Everything was accepted.

**Amendment 116 by Svensk Ungdom
Accepted**

**Amendment 117 by Marina Sedlo IMS
Accepted**

**Amendment 118 by Jonge Democraten
Accepted**

**Amendment 119 by Jonge Democraten
Accepted**

The chair opened discussion to the resolution as a whole, no one spoke.

Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole. The resolution was carried.

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Thank you so much for cleaning up the policy book, please can we make sure we participate in the working group in the future? I think we learned a few things in this process. Lets clean it up once and for all.

Congress voted for shortening the coffee break to spend extra time debating resolutions.

ROLL CALL after the break: 183 present, Ogra Fianna Fail and IMS Tiago Dias not present

Full Members		Roll call coffee break 2 Saturday 16 h
Andorra	Joves Liberals d'Andorra	3
Austria	JUNOS - Junge Liberale Neos	4
Belgium	Jeunes Mouvement Réformateur	10
Belgium	Jong VLD	6
Belgium	FEL	4
Bulgaria	Youth Movement for Rights and Freedoms	10
Catalonia	JNC	7
Czech Republic	Mladé ANO	3
Denmark	Venstres Ungdom	6
Denmark	Radikal Ungdom	5
Estonia	Estonian Reform Party youth	6
Estonia	Estonian Center Party youth	5
Finland	KOL	3
Finland	Suomen Keskustanuoret (FCY)	6
Finland	Svensk Ungdom	6
France	Jeunes Radicaux	3
Germany	Bundesverband Liberaler Hochschulgruppen	5
Germany	jungliberale	10
Hungary	Momentum TizenX	3
Ireland	Ógra Fianna Fáil	0
Latvia	Attīstībai Youth	3
Lithuania	LLJ	6
Luxembourg	Jonk Demokraten	3
North Macedonia	LiDEM	3
The Netherlands	Jonge Democraten	7
The Netherlands	Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie	6
Norway	NUV	5
Spain	Jóvenes Ciudadanos	8
Sweden	Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund (CUF)	6
Sweden	Centerstudenter	4
Sweden	Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (LUF)	6
Switzerland	Jungfreisinnige Schweiz	6
Ukraine	European Youth of Ukraine	3
Ukraine	Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	3
United Kingdom	Young Liberals	7
IMS	IMS Tiago Dias	0
IMS	IMS Jordi Torres	1
IMS	IMS Eleni Vasileiou	1
		183

C) Resolutions

905 DEMAND TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG

Amendment 204 by Mladé ANO Withdrawn

Artur Kharytonov LDLU: It's time for a radical message, Liberals are doing it. Many years ago the Hong Kong Issue was created and now Hong Kong faces a crisis in liberalism. Hong Kong has a very special status in International Law, the UK has a responsibility over Hong Kong and we mustn't

Chair Sissel Kvist interrupted and said that the two amendments from Mladé ANO have been withdrawn. So we only have the amendment on the line 72-73 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos, do you accept this?

Artur Kharytonov LDLU: No

Chair Sissel Kvist: Then I ask the mover of the amendment to come down and explain this.

Amendment 205 by Jovenes Ciudadano Not accepted by mover

Jorge Viñuelas, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: We have introduced this amendment as it provides us with realistic options over Hong Kong and a realistic way to move forward. In respect to international law we must look to the international community to help enforce this. We must support a solution that fits within the international law and fits within the international community.

Danica Vihinen, IMS: I don't see how this amendment makes the resolution stronger, a referendum is a referendum, we demand a referendum not an 'Arrangement to reevaluate'. That's democracy.

Artur Kharytonov, LDLU: It's more about professional outcome, given the British relationship with Hong Kong before the best possible outcome is the outcome supported by the people who are fighting and dying for their freedoms.

The Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress rejected the amendment.

**Amendment 206 by Mladé ANO
Withdrawn**

Discussion on the resolution as a whole.

Lucas Stravinskas, LLJ: It's time to LYMEC to take a stance on an area of human rights violations that is huge. Hong Kong is part of the European Community so we ask you to vote in favour of this.

Laia Comerma, JNC: Spoke in favor. As someone who lived in and experienced the situation in Hong Kong I have seen the need for this resolution to pass, I urge you to vote in favour of the resolution.

Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole. Congress voted in favor.

In Favour: 162

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**204 Resolution on lowering the voting age to 16 in European
Parliament elections**

Skirmantas Baikauskas, LLJ: Our resolution to lower the voting age is based on our surprise that this was not already a policy of LYMEC. This years elections in Greece has voters at 16 and we believe that votes at 16 would make the voting process stronger. Young people pay taxes, they have an ID, they often can drive vehicles, we call for voting age to be harmonised across all EU member states.

**Amendment 107 by JNC
Accepted**

**Amendment 108 by JNC
Accepted**

**Amendment 109 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos
Withdrawn**

**Amendment 110 by JNC
Accepted**

Amendment 111 by JUNOS

Accepted

Amendment 112 by JNC

Accepted

Chair opened a debate on the resolution as a whole.

Ines Holzegger, Junos: In Austria we have votes at 16 and some of our members are 14. There's a need to give younger people a voice. We as liberals should enshrine these democratic rights within the EU. Please vote for the resolution.

Andrea Ugrinoska, LiDEM: In the UK you can have sex with a MP at 16, but you cannot vote for them. This is wrong, please support this.

Eleni Vasileiou, IMS: This is a national competency and therefore it would be inappropriate for Member states to govern in this area.

Tuuli Helind, Estonian Reform Party Youth: In Estonia, people as young as 16 can vote in local elections. It was really a moment that made me cry when i saw the constitutional change happen, things like Brexit show that old people can make decisions for young people that can have repercussions for years. Vote in favor of this.

Emils Dobrajs, Attistibai Youth: Lowering the voting age in national elections is good please vote in favour.

Point of order Benjamin Broekhuizen, Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie: We should have 2 speakers for each at this stage no?

Chair Sissel Kvist: Only for amendments

The chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole.

[There was a technical problem so this was done twice]. The resolution was adopted.

In Favour: 97

Against: 46

501 Liberalise the sex industry

Louise Thomsen, Venstres Ungdom: Please vote for this resolution as it promotes liberal values. It allows sex workers to feel safer and its fair. Individuals career choice should be respected even if people disagree. Forced prostitution has nothing to do with

liberal values and this only concerns voluntary prostitution. In many countries sex work is legal but purchasing sex work is illegal which leads to many prostitutes working in danger. In many countries you can only work as a prostitute if you are self employed, which can make many prostitutes' work unsafe.

Amendment 172 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos

Not carried by proposer

Laia Garrido, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: We think that in order to properly legalise sex work you must give them rights and liberties, that's why we are creating systems to prevent exploitation from bosses.

Louise Thomsen, Venstres Ungdom: This resolution isn't about Human Trafficking its about sex work so this is irrelevant. We believe that this is the strongest way to protect sex workers.

Michael Agostini, Jonk Democraten: I will speak for this amendment as the original text there must be legal contracts between pimps and a prostitute. Sex should never be contracted, this is an important principle that Cuididanos addresses.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted for the amendment. The amendment was carried.

The chair opened debate on the resolution as a whole.

Louise Thomsen, Venstres Ungdom: I believe it's very important for LYMEC to take a position here.

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Sex work is work, so let's treat sex workers with the same rights and responsibilities as other workers.

David Liljedal, CUF: This proposition is problematic on some issues and doesn't tackle all the problems it should and we mustn't undermine Member States' ability to legislate on sex work in accordance with their own laws on a national level. Each to their own, this is problematic on a lot of different levels as the situation is different in different national contexts.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Everytime we see prostitution being illegalised it goes underground. Anything that helps the poor men and women who go into prostitution, like this, should be encouraged. When we have a regulated sex industry, we have a safe sex industry. Vote for it.

Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole, Congress voted for the resolution. [159 with the addition of Venstres Ungdom manually who were unable to vote electronically]

In Favour: 159 in total

103 Defending Europe: Liberal common-sense approaches to joint security

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: You might think this is the same resolution as in Brussels [audience: it is] well we need a groundwork of like minded individuals to make the amendment more palatable than it was before. To prevent a complete back and forth on the amendment, I hope we can move quick and vote for this resolution.

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: This would archive our current position on defence, LYMEC has implemented our current position in ALDE Party Congress in Athens two weeks ago on the European Defence Force. Keep in mind what's in our electoral manifesto, let's not create two positions and remove our manifesto.

Point of order Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Can we discuss the resolution as a whole first?

Chair Sissel Kvist: No, too many amendments. Makes more sense to discuss the amendments first and then vote on the resolution as amended.

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: Please respect to JOVD and let them have a discussion. [applause]

Amendment 35 by Junos

Ines Holzegger, JUNOS: Common sense is a very normative term and therefore we think it really shouldn't be included.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: We like it.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted in favour of the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Amendment 36 by Ben Fievet (IMS), Radikale Ungdom, JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux Accepted

Amendment 37 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux Falls because of amendment 39

Amendment 38 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Eurostats show that a majority of people support an EU Army.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, Jongeren Organisatie Vrijheid en Democratie: Lots of people also don't believe in an EU army so it's not accurate.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Member States may not be in favor but here it's LYMEC.

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: LYMEC mustn't say things that are completely unacceptable to citizens in our Member States.

Ellen Wangdell, Centerstudenter: Whilst the majority is in favour now, this resolution will be timeless, vote against this.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment fell.

Amendment 39 by Ben Fievet (IMS) and JOVD

Accepted

Amendment 40 by JUNOS

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: Not accepted

Ines Holzegger, JUNOS:

This is essential stuff, please vote for it.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: We don't want a defence Union, EuroPol and InterPol are internal, external, and too vague, do not vote in favour.

Victoria Hantzen, Jungeliberale: This amendment is essential for a European Army and the Security system. Vote in favour.

Laurenz Van Ginneken, Jong VLD: If you look at a defence union, by working together we become a much more reliable partner for our international partners. This strengthens not only the European Union but our commitment for a safer world. We need this.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted for the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Amendment 41 by JUNOS

Not accepted by mover

Ines Holzegger JUNOS: We want to have a closer description of this defence union we feel that the defence union would be more cost effective as not every MS would need to put in the resources. We can pull the resources and therefore this is better.

Benjamin Broekhuizen JOVD: Joint purchasing, joint maintenance is great. We can do this bilaterally, not via the EU. The joint industrial complex brought by doing this on an EU level is bad for defence and bad for the economy.

Laurenz Van Ginneken, Jong VLD: Spoke in favor. We are joining forces in our airspace, but if the only reason for this would be because we can't afford it ourselves then it's not meaningful.

Ian Wood, Ogra Fianna Fail: The words defence union might sound good to us, but OFF can not support an amendment that uses unexplained meaningless terminology. This is an unreasonable term, vote against.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: A defence union may not be defined but neither is Federalism. Our ideals and ambitions are explained in the text, please vote for it.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was not carried.

Amendment 42 by Ben Fievet (IMS), Radikale Ungdom, JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux Benjamin Fievet, IMS:

We must recognize that the too decentralized decision system is an issue as it can prevent efficient action from the EU.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: Our problem is that individual member states should be able to decide how they commit military use. Member state partners should decide how they commit their armed forces.

Sam Bogerd, Jonge Democraten: Problem with fragmented decision-making. What would it be like if national parliaments would try to make LYMEC Policy? We should do it all together. It would be a complete disaster, vote for the amendment.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Amendment is carried.

Point of order Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Can we discuss

the amendment from Radikal Ungdom first? Congress votes in favor.

Amendment 43 by Radikal Ungdom

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: We agree we shouldn't have a common defence force unless the EU is democratically elected and we don't think we should have defence force as soon as we have a European elected democracy, the creation of a defence force should be gradual.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: We must harmonise our different interests first, until we have aligned interests we can not share an army. EU missions, great. But as long as there is no quick integration of the interest the decision should remain within the individual member states. Good examples are Denmark and the Netherlands.

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Reaction to the previous intervention. It was said that the EU would decide on national issues which is not true but why would the Netherlands decide on EU issues, it should be rather dealt with at EU level. We want to integrate EU troop for EU issues, for military decisions just pertaining to a member state the member state remains the one that decides.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress votes in favor of the amendment by 71.

**Amendment 44 by Ben Fievet (IMS), FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Falls because of Amendment 43.**

**Amendment 45 by Ben Fievet (IMS), Radikale Ungdom, JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Benjamin Fievet, IMS: EU should be able to decide to deploy troops.**

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: This is meaningless, and already said in the motion. It's superfluous, vote against it. It should be up to the member states to decide if they want to commit troops to the missions.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: One of the biggest problems with coalitions is that you have to make an agreement with everyone beforehand, that is why it's important that we move this forward. Without this the EU defence force would be inefficient.

Ian Wood, Ogra Fianna Fail: People who studied defence understand, but people who studied law might take our resolution worded and not for what it actually means. The words of this motion are hard to understand without any context (it could be anything) and are not written in plain English other than in the specialisms of the people who

wrote the amendments. We need more clarifications about the context.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. RU is in favour but cannot vote. The amendment was rejected.

Amendment 46 by Ben Fievet (IMS), Radikale Ungdom, JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Everyone is bored, but this is an important document.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: We don't disagree with ALDE's road map but we do propose an alternative, please vote against the amendment.

Chair called for votes on the amendment. The amendment was rejected.

Amendment 47 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Accepted

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: After discussion we agree on this one.

Amendment 48 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Benjamin Fievet, IMS: We like the content of this but the way it calls for cooperation is supporting bilateral cooperation to the detriment of EU level initiatives that we want.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: We were actually quite surprised by this. It gives a number of concrete examples of where the EU Member States can work together and actually should work together, one of them being cyber security. It's very surprising to see it being removed when that's actually the heart of what European cooperation should be about.

Sam Bogerd, Jonge Democraten: In favor of the amendment. Some member states don't have the ability to do this or the capacity to do this. It must be done together rather than on a member state level.

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: The least countries that put their own resources to this the better, they can still do it if they want to, you don't have to force them.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was rejected.

Amendment 49 by JUNOS

Ines Holzegger, JUNOS: We wanted to insert the fact that it defines our common goal. We feel that it is needed that we have a common security and a common defence

policy so we act as a union and therefore are stronger.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: This is a bad idea, it's poorly defined, the rest of the resolution provides enough alternatives through cooperation on a European level.

Abel Hartman, Jonge Democrten: We're on a cliff edge of defence with China on the rise, NATO crumbling, the answer is a defence union, vote for the amendment.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was rejected.

For: 79

Against: 80

Point of Order: Recount, stop abstaining

Congress in Unison: No

Abstaining is voting.

**Amendment 50 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Withdrawn**

**Amendment 51 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Withdrawn**

**Amendment 52 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Withdrawn**

**Amendment 53 by Ben Fievet (IMS), Radikale Ungdom, JD, FEL, Jeunes
Radicaux**

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: LYMEC is in favour of federalism, we want a defence union, we want further integration. Vote in favor of this amendment.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: Vote against, keep the resolution as it is with its current strong grounds for multilateral cooperation.

Abel Hartman, Jonge Democraten: Look at Trump, if he says NATO doesn't matter we need a European Defence Union.

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: I will once again ask you to reject the amendment.

Point of order: Two for and two against on amendments?

Chair Sissel Kvist: Yes, perhaps we should just reduce the number of speakers.

[The front of Congress who were speaking were against, the back of congress who weren't were for]

Chair said that up to six people can speak in total on each amendment.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: LYMEC made history by getting a defence union through at ALDE Party Congress. It's a long standing LYMEC tradition. Vote in favour.

Ian Wood, Ogra Fianna Fail: It's interesting to see a liberal make an argument on the grounds of tradition. What I admire about LYMEC is the work they ask their members to do to make sure that motions make sense. This was a low quality amendment, vote it down. We can't bring this back to our member parties and say that we compromised. This isn't compromise.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted for the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Amendment 54 by Ben Fievet (IMS), Radikale Ungdom, JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux
Benjamin Fievet, IMS: JOVD complained earlier that what we proposed was not specific enough. This is specific. Vote for it

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: This is specifically wrong, whilst this can exist in addition through mission under and EU flag, the deployment of troops should be up to member states. Vote against the amendment.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was rejected.

Amendment 55 by Julis

Victoria Hentzen, Jungeliberale: We like the idea of European Parliament and taking control of European defence forces but we think that it's a major problem to have an army without the consent of the European people. We ask you to vote in favor of this.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: This is unclear, coalitions are difficult, this is an even worse proposal than the last one.

Sam Bogerd, Jonge Democraten: Great proposal! All military should be accountable to a democratic body! That's why you should support this amendment.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted for the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Amendment 56 by Radikal Ungdom

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: Indeed, this is basically the same argument we used on Radikale Ungdoms last amendment, integration should mean more defence capabilities.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: Apparently the assembly wants to give it to Parliament? If you want to give deference to parliament then do not give it to the Parliament and the Commission. That is taking it too far.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: We want the resolution to make sense. Let's delete the bit on the Commission. The deletion of the mention of the "Commission" from the amendment was agreed in an **oral amendment**.

Chair Sissel Kvist: Is the Congress fine with that?

Congress: Yes

Ian Wood, OFF: I come not as a politician or a political scientist but as a mathematician - what's the proportionality between democracy and sovereign rights of the Commission and the right to armed forces? It sounds good reading it in a paragraph, but when you think about what this actually means. Overall I believe this is meaningless.

Chair Sissel Kvist: Would it be fine to take away the entire last line in order for it to make sense?

Congress: Yes

The chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted for the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Amendment 57 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux

Withdrawn

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: **FALLS**

Amendment 58 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux

Withdrawn

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: **FALLS**

Amendment 59 by Ben Fievet (IMS)

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: This resolution is about the defence of the EU, it's not the right resolution for this specific point which is about values. Remove it.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: I think that shared values rather than defence capabilities bind us together as European liberal and define us. It would be a mistake to remove that from this resolution.

Viktor Márki, Jungeliberale: Spoke in favor of the amendment as we are in a free market and this is good.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted for the amendment, the amendment was carried.

Amendment 60 by Ben Fievet (IMS)

Falls

Point of Order Sam Bogerd, Jonge Democraten: Can we still discuss it?

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: No.

Sam Bogerd, Jonge Democraten: This is weaker therefore Congress might still want to discuss it.

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: We've already voted on removing the whole line, pay attention.

Amendment 61 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos

Accepted in Working Group

Amendment 62 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos

Accepted in Working Group

Amendment 63 by Ben Fievet (IMS), Radikale Ungdom, JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: This is talking about a European army as a goal we are working towards.

Point of clarification Ian Woods, Ogra Fianna Fail: Where is this long term goal stated? Who is calling for it?

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikale Ungdom: We have proposed this in our manifesto.

Ian Wood, Ogra Fianna Fail: Thank you.

Lovisa Kronsporre, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund: We want more cooperation, this amendment is too far reaching. Instead of adopting an EU army we should focus on the goal of further cooperation. For this reason we are voting against, you should also.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: I would like to speak against the amendment, European cooperation as we outlined in the Resolution is the best way forward. Liberalism is not dogmatic, vote against the amendment to this resolution.

Abel Hartman, Jonge Democraten: What's interesting is that LYMEC is for a federal Europe, what would a federal structure be without an army - what's Germany without an army, or the United States of America?

Point of Order Andrea Ugrinoska, LiDEM: We've been discussing this already, so much is waiting and relying on this to end. Can we please have just one speaker in favour and against?

Accepted by the Congress for the amendments.

**The chair opened the vote on the amendment,
Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was not carried.**

Amendment 64 by Ben Fievet (IMS), JD, FEL, Jeunes Radicaux

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: This resolution doesn't contradict our previous one. We don't need to archive it.

Benjamin Broekhuizen, JOVD: We want to archive the previous resolution.

Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: That resolution is where our amendment to the ALDE Party Congress came.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, amendment fell.

Chair opens the floor for discussion on the resolution.

Chair Sissel Kvist: I suggest that we have two speaking in favor and two speaking against?

Congress: No

Alice Schmidh, Jungeliberale: No, this is an important discussion to have.

Point of Order Danica Vihinen, IMS: Please limit speaking to 30 seconds?

Congress: Yes

Hans Maes, Jong VLD: I appreciate the work we've just put in. But this isn't an acceptable motion, it is now a hybrid beast that isn't a position of LYMEC. It has no clear line, let's vote against.

Benjamin Broekhuizen: You can recognise a good compromise by equal unhappiness, so this is obviously a fantastic compromise. We are not happy with all of the amendments that have passed but we still represents an improvement of what was being said before. We still think there is some work that needs to be done, so we would very much encourage there to be something like a working group on defense. Please vote in favor of this resolution.

Point of order Benjamin Fievet, IMS: Are you sending this to a working group?
Mover rejected this proposal.

Benjamin Fievet, IMS: This resolution has been amended so much and not in a coherent manner that it doesn't make sense anymore. The resolution that we already have is better. This resolution should not pass, vote against.

Sam Bogerd, Jonge Democraten: Liberals are used to consistency, this is not. I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Victoria Huntzen, Junge Liberale: We will also vote against, there's no red line here anymore and we don't agree with it.

Point of order Antoaneta Asenova, LYMEC Policy Officer: The list is closed but can I say something?

Chair: No

Anna Sturgkh, Junos: We have fought at the ALDE Party Congress to get this to happen, let's vote against this resolution. We would agree on something that wouldn't make any sense.

Ian Wood, OFF: Members have opinions, it's disingenuous to butcher a resolution then vote against it.

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: I have to express my right to discuss this once again, we're here to discuss and change our views. Please vote for it.

Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole. Congress voted against, resolution was rejected.

In Favour: 59
Against: 117
Abstain: 5

**Bureau suggestion we extend congress half an hour.
Suggestion passed.**

202 Liberal Gender Policy

Mover of the resolutions - Laia Barbera, JNC: It will take over 100 years at the current pace to reach gender equality. Women are underrepresented in the democratic process and often undervalued. That's why in this resolution we've called for gender equality, for LGBTQ+ people to have equal rights. As liberal leaders we claim to fight the gender gap, support this.

**Amendment 96 - JNC
Carried**

**Amendment 97 - Svensk Ungdom
Accepted**

**Amendment 98 - Jóvenes Ciudadanos
Accepted**

**Amendment 99 - Svensk Ungdom
Accepted**

Point of order Laia Comerna, JNC: There was a transaction with an amendment to the amendment?

Congress: No

Amendment 100 - Venstres Ungdom

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: We must be clear that the EU should stay clear from maternity and paternity leave, the choice is for families not for us.

Ida-Marie Skytte, Svensk Ungdom: We have seen several countries that have indeed implemented leave for mothers and fathers with specific months for the father. These countries have also gained more gender equality on the labour market and overall in society and if we want to reach through to equality we need to make changes in society.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment [twice because there was a voting problem the first time]. Congress voted for the amendment, the amendment was carried.

**Amendment 101 by Jonge Democraten
Withdrawn**

**Amendment 102 by Venstres Ungdom
Accepted**

**Amendment 103 by Venstres Ungdom
Amendment to the amendment (104)
Falls**

**Amendment 104 - Venstres Ungdom/JNC
Accepted**

Chair Sissel Kvist opened the discussion on the resolution as a whole.

Laurenz Van Ginneken, Jong VLD: This replaces an article in our policy book that is very clear about a liberal gender policy. My question is why is this text better than 2.18 - what does it add? In my opinion this needs to be implemented and we must stand for our values.

Ida-Maria Skytte, Svensk Ungdom: What this resolution adds is clarity and the policies we want as liberals, the authors have done a good job!

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: We shouldn't force anyone to have maternity leave, as liberals we must use common sense. Vote in favour.

**Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole, the resolution was carried.
In Favour: 137**

URGENCY - Start of EU Accession Negotiation

Chair Sissel Kvist: There were no amendments to this resolutions so we will move directly to discuss the resolution as a whole and first let the mover present it.

Andrea Ugrinoska, LiDEM:

This is an urgency resolution because we cannot give up on North Macedonia's

accession! We are more prepared than other countries were so there's really no justifiable reason. North Macedonia and Albania's progress was not accepted and also there's no reason why we should be lumped together in a package.

Chair Sissel Kvist: Let's move to the discussion on the resolution.

Benjamin Fievet, on behalf of Jeunes Radicaux France: Jeunes Radicaux believes that the Balkans have their place in the EU and that we should help them and show a clear path towards membership. Jeunes Radicaux deplores the role played by the French President in refusing to start the accession negotiations. Vote in favour of this resolution.

Tanzer Yuseinov: This sends a strong message to North Macedonia that we as liberals support them.

No Amendments to this resolution

Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole. The resolution was adopted.

VOTE:

In Favour: Large majority

902 European Union's Role in Outer Space

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: This resolution does not talk about a European Space Force. Currently the law is very lacking in regards to space policy, therefore this was an important resolution to cover.

Amendment 188 - Jóvenes Ciudadanos

Jorge Vinuelas, Jóvenes Ciudadanos: Basically this is a clarification that makes the wording slightly less aggressive and a bit more diplomatic.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: China is an aggressive space actor we must act aggressively to protect our atmosphere from Chinese interference. Vote this amendment down.

The chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was rejected.

**Amendment 189 by Radikal Ungdom
Carried**

**Amendment 190 by Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund
Accepted**

**Amendment 191 by Mladé ANO
Withdrawn**

Amendment 192 by Svensk Ungdom

Julia Nouro-Ståhle, Svensk Ungdom: We thought this big change in the administration in the UN was very unfair within a single point. It's not good for the UN to administer such a big thing as Space.

Elsie Gisslegård, Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund: This change needs to be done. This is just a statement of things we need to do, a beginning not an end, more resolutions on space must complement this one.

Chair opened the voting on the amendment. Congress voted against the amendment, the amendment was rejected.

**Amendment 193 by Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund
Accepted**

**Amendment 194 by Radikale Ungdom
Accepted**

**Amendment 195 by Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund
Accepted**

**Amendment 196 by Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund
Accepted**

Discussion on the resolution as a whole.

Kasper Langelund Jakobsen, Radikal Ungdom: It's important to talk about space policy and for us as a youth organization to go out and say that this is our vision!

Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole. The resolution was carried.
In Favour: 120

101 Sunset clause on EU legislation

Chair Sissel Kvist: We must stop this discussion. Last resolution to be discussed.

Congress: No

Chair Sissel Kvist: If you promise to be super fast we can do one more.

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: We should have a sunset clause on all EU legislation this is very important, please vote in favour.

**Amendment 20 by Radikal Ungdom
Falls**

**Point of order Marina Sedlo: Amendment number 23 was accepted in the working group
[Retroactively not accepted]**

**Amendment 21 by Jóvenes Ciudadanos
Falls**

**Amendment 22 by Jonge Democraten
Falls**

**Point of order Sam Bogerd, Jonge Democraten: Did this amendment fall?
Chair: Yes**

**Amendment 23 by Marina Sedlo, IMS
Accepted**

**Amendment 24 by Radikal Ungdom
Accepted**

Chair Sissel Kvist moved for the resolution as a whole to be discussed.

Julie Nymark, Venstres Ungdom: Just vote in favour.

Chair opened the voting on the resolution as a whole. The resolution was carried.

VOTE:

In Favour: 105

Against: 56

Abstain: 9

All other Resolutions put forward fell outside of congress and therefore they all weren't discussed.

201 Protecting the freedom of surrogate mothers and families

401 Resolution on Renewing Europe

403 Multilateral and liberal model of international commerce

303 A European answer to the threat of rising Antisemitism

701 Renaming the Common Agricultural Policy

203 Introduction of the "Community of responsibility"

901 Restructuring the distribution of foreign aid

402 Let's liberalise the foreign exchange market

208 Challenging the vacuum of government in Northern Ireland

601 For a more sustainable tourist EU industry

903 EU should pressure the US to respect the International Criminal Court

102 Admission of innovative animal feed to combat climate change

404 Towards More Responsible Businesses in the EU

904 Free Trade Agreements following negotiations on the EU-MERCOSUR free trade agreement

301 Taking Europe Out of This World

302 Improving the USA-EU Cooperation

Svenja Hahn closed the Congress and thanked the European Liberal Forum, ALDE Party, European Parliament, Sissel Kvist for chairing together with Ben Whitlock from the Young Liberals and Ciara Campbell from Alliance Youth, and Danica Vihinen for her work in the past years.