

Antoaneta Asenova – Political officer Bureau Report November 2019 – April 2019

Dear Liberal Friends,

After the Congress in London, I hereby present to you my last report as Policy officer and Bureau member of LYMEC.

What we did together during this mandate

The past two years have gone by rather quickly. Two years ago, I stood before you, and promised that I would work with all of you on finding a way to streamline our stands in writing a LYMEC manifesto for the European elections and in elaborating an approach to tackle the Policy book clean up – an exercise that all of us, who have ever dealt with resolutions drafting, deemed necessary. In addition, I took on the responsibility to lead a strong and vocal LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Party Congresses. I have done my best to deliver on all those promises.

Leading the LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Party Congress and stakeholder representation

I have been privileged to be able to lead truly hard-working delegations to the ALDE Party Congresses, who passionately defended LYMEC's stances and made a difference to the Party's adopted texts of resolutions and Electoral manifesto. Due to our strong positioning as an organization, I was also able to approach stakeholders in the liberal circles from the ALDE Party, ELF, FNF, but also decision-makers at the European parliament and to spread out LYMEC's views on variety of topics such as the importance of the Erasmus+ program, equality and gender diversity, digitalization, neighborhood policies and enlargement, migration - and to express our views or concerns with regards to legislative proposals, as was the case with the Copyright in the digital single market file in the EP, on which I also provided the campaign's policy input.

LYMEC manifesto for the EU elections

I consider myself privileged as well, because throughout my mandate we were working together on policy proposals and identifying our top priorities ahead of the European elections. The process that we adopted during the electoral manifesto drafting included working on equal footing on compounding LYMEC's positions on the identified priorities in a coherent and understandable manner - and I am proud of what we achieved as our final proposal.

Policy book clean up

The “manifesto process” laid the grounds for the Policy book clean up. In the communication with our member organisations’ policy officers, it became clear to me that we need a cleaner, more coherent sleight with regards to our policy almanac. I reached a conclusion that a “fitness check” of our stances is needed and that we should work together on reviewing outdated and contradicting positions that still linger in our policy book. Assessing the underlying cause of the remaining outdated policies, I also proposed a sunset clause, that would allow for the automated archival of resolutions older than 6 years, unless the future Bureau, any member organization or IMS delegate proposes the prolongation of the validity of one or several resolutions up for archival, which was adopted at our last Congress in London.

The last bi-annual period

After the “pilot” exercise we did last summer prior to the Congress held in London, the past couple of months we created a fully-fledged Working group taking on the clean-up effort. Thus, as a matter of priority, throughout the current bi-annual period between our congress in London and the congress in Skopje, I was occupied with navigating the work of the Policy book clean-up on Chapter 2 of our Resolution book. The work that we performed together led to proposals for 9 updated resolution texts touching on corner-stone matters, and justification for archiving a number of resolutions that either fulfilled their goals or are no longer fit for purpose. I am extremely proud to say, that 30 people from all over the spectrum of LYMEC’s member organizations participated in the working group and did their best so that we could all enjoy a much more coherent, streamlined and up-to date LYMEC policy. I therefore would like to express my warm gratitude to RU, VU, SU, Uppreism, JUNOS, YMRF, ECPY, Jeunes MR, JNC, JCs, LLJ, JOVD, LHG, FEL, Jong VLD, Forum Mladih Nasa Stranka, LDLU, CUF and Mlade Ano comprising the Working group.

With a view to the future of the policy portfolio, I would like to call for continuing this effort beyond the mandate of the current Bureau. The policy book clean-up is a learning process that we improve along the way, and needs some further streamlining, but I am deeply convinced that it is yielding results to the benefit of the organization, and that it is a needed step before the sunset clause starts producing results.

In conclusion, I am grateful for having worked with my colleagues in the Bureau, the Secretary-general, the member organisations’ international officers, but also with all of you in LYMEC, who participated in the joint policy-setting effort in a spirit of team work and respect. I am delighted that you gave me a chance to be part of a devoted, hard-working team in a crucial and challenging political moment, and hope that we could continue working together.

Respectfully yours,

Antoaneta Asenova

Events for the bi-annual period:

| Date | Place | Event/Purpose | Organisation |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 03 – 05 March | Skopje, North Macedonia | LYMEC Congress | LYMEC |
| 21 March | Athens, Greece | Planned: Statutory congress - Young Liberals Greece | Young Liberals Greece |
| 20 March | London, UK | Planned: Meeting with LYMEC MO (IO) | Young Liberals, UK |
| 08 March | Luxembourg, Luxembourg | In person LYMEC Bureau meeting | LYMEC |
| 06 – 08 March | Luxembourg, Luxembourg | ELF event on trade and values | LYMEC, ELF |
| 05 March | Brussels, Belgium | Meeting with LYMEC MO (IO) | TizenX |
| 10 February | Vienna, Austria | Meeting with LYMEC MO (President) | JUNOS |
| 09 February | Skopje, North Macedonia | Meeting with LYMEC MO and check of LYMEC congress preparations | LiDeM |
| 09 February | Skopje, North Macedonia | One Balkans towards the EU – Regional conference | Boris Divkovic Foundation |
| 08 February | Brno, Czech Republic | Meeting with LYMEC MO (President) | Mlade ANO |
| 04 February | Brussels, Belgium | Breaking the glass ceiling: women in politics | Liberal International + FNF Europe |
| 03 February | Brussels, Belgium | Meeting with LYMEC MO (IO) | FEL |
| 01 February | Brussels, Belgium | In person LYMEC Bureau meeting | LYMEC |
| 31 January | Brussels, Belgium | Meeting with LYMEC MO (IO) | Jeunes MR |
| 31 January | Mechelen, Belgium | Meeting with LYMEC MO (IO) | Jong VLD |
| 30 January | Brussels, Belgium | LYMEC presentation to Young Visitors' program of the Renew Europe Group (visitors from the UK) | Renew Europe Group |

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| 24 January | The Hague, Netherlands | Meeting with LYMEC MO (IO) | JD |
| 16 January | Luxembourg, Luxembourg | Meeting with LYMEC MO (President and IO) | JDL |
| 11 January | Sofia, Bulgaria | Meeting with LYMEC MO – hearing on mandate performance (President and Bureau) | YMRF |
| 13 December | Sofia, Bulgaria | Building a Liberal Europe: the ALDE Project | MRF Party, Renew Europe Group |
| 19 November | Brussels, Belgium | Regional Liberal Political Academy – providing training on writing resolutions and formulating policy to Balkan youth | Boris Divkovic Foundation |
| 20 November | Brussels, Belgium | Book launch “Make your choice – Liberal visions for Europe” | LYMEC, ELF |
| 15 November | Brussels, Belgium | Presenting the role of young people and LYMEC to a group of visitors of Jovenes Ciudadanos to the European Parliament | Renew Europe Group, JC’s |
| 8-10 November | London, UK | LYMEC Autumn congress | LYMEC |
| 7-8 November | London, UK | Speaker and moderator at pre- congress elf EVENT “We are all Europeans” | ELF, LYMEC |