

To my fellow colleagues from LYMEC,

In several years working with LYMEC multilaterally and all of you bilaterally, I have realised that politics seems to be changing faster and faster. New dynamics and ideological challenges that threaten the way we used to do politics now seem to be the norm. And we have to be ready for it.

As young people, we have to be the greatest champions of the values we hold dearest: freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights and the rule of law. We need to work harder than ever within our communities to show that liberalism is the best and only way forward for a true democratic society.

LYMEC currently needs three things: experience, commitment, and ideas. Only by being closer to its member organisations and helping them one-to-one will LYMEC be able to reach its full potential. At the same time, it needs to be closer and more responsive to the wants and needs of its member organisations, and help them deal with their national politics: on campaigning, crowdfunding, etc. I envision a more cohesive and proactive LYMEC, that is able to lobby for all the policy ideas that come out of every congress; that accepts and leverages the diversity that its MOs represent and that sparks debate on all the hot topics in the political agenda nowadays: climate change, gender equality, migration, free market, etc.

This is why I am committing myself, if elected, to the following: I want to configure LYMEC's training activities so that they bring the most added value to its member organisations, by setting up a participatory procedure for its design and configuration; I want to bring LYMEC to the MOs by creating more fluid ways of communication about the important issues going on in Europe and at a national level; and I want to increase transparency and accountability in this process. To this aim, I will offer an online training platform for all LYMEC members where all the trainings will be posted and readily available at any time, and I will help with tailored training newly elected international officers.

Last but not least, I would like to organise the first ever LYMEC Women's Academy, to empower women all across Europe and contribute to achieving gender equality; and I want to make LYMEC ready to provide a liberal answer to the Climate Emergency, because it is our planet and our future at stake.

LYMEC needs someone who has experienced it from all the perspectives: as delegation member, as delegation leader since being IO of my organisation, and as LYMEC representative when I was member of the delegation to the ALDE congress. I know how LYMEC works, its dynamics and diversity, and what it needs (how it can improve). With this experience, I am completely committed to do a good job, to give it all the time it needs and to be more available for all the MOs to carry out all the ideas in my program.

With this vision, I put forward my candidacy for the bureau of LYMEC, hoping that you will share it and to be able to count on your support.

Looking forward to debate and discuss with you all these ideas and many more.

See you in Skopje,

Laia Comerma Calatayud

