

## **“LOVE IS LOVE”**

*Anna Komziuk for the LYMEC representative in the IFLRY Bureau*

### **The Platform**

To strengthen liberal ideas, it is essential to constantly seek brand-new tools allowing to have better and more transparent cooperation between freedom forces. As we know, the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) and the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) are the leading youth liberal powers across the globe. Unfortunately, in recent years, we have witnessed the lack of communication and, as a result, the lack of effective cooperation between the two organisations. In order to maintain the liberal spirit of good partnership and to guarantee openness and solidarity, it is imperative to start a reform focused on strengthening the LYMEC-IFLRY relationship in this turbulent and challenging time for the liberal democratic order worldwide.

Taking into account my professional knowledge and experience, I identify the following priorities in my activity if elected as the LYMEC representative to the IFLRY Bureau:

#### **I. Stronger together**

To prevent further miscommunication issues between LYMEC and IFLRY, we need to establish a tradition of friendly and open relations between the members of the two Bureaus. The LYMEC representative to the IFLRY Bureau should be a person responsible for maintaining constant person-to-person contacts within the respective ruling bodies, sharing news, and exchanging experience. In practical terms, to increase the cooperative capacity of both organisations, the LYMEC representative to the IFLRY Bureau should focus on the establishment of annual in-person meetings between LYMEC and IFLRY executives, namely between Presidents, Vice President/Secretary General, and Treasurers in Brussels and Berlin.

#### **II. Global Europe**

Over the years, there have been no mutual events carried out by LYMEC together with IFLRY. It should be our aim to change this state of affairs. The example of a strong and successful collaboration of IFLRY with other regional members, for instance, with CALD Youth in Asia or AYUFD in the MENA region, illustrates the value of such partnerships for our member organisations. The LYMEC representative to the IFLRY Bureau should foster the idea of practical cooperation between the two organisations and commence working on holding an annual joint activity somewhere in Europe.

#### **III. Exchanging knowledge**

LYMEC has one of the most progressive institutional structures among youth political organisations in the world. Including a highly developed system of individual membership.

As to IFLRY, the functioning of the individual membership section still remains a goal to be achieved. The LYMEC representative to the IFLRY Bureau should assist IFLRY in exchanging this unique experience with LYMEC to give young liberals globally as many ways to deliver their voice as we have in Europe. This also includes partnership in the framework of the IFLRY Ambassador Programme responsible for designing possible individual membership structures within IFLRY.

#### **IV. Proportional friendship**

As a regional member of IFLRY, LYMEC elects its representative to the IFLRY Bureau in the most democratic way when compared to other regional members. At the same time, the internal rules and procedures of IFLRY grant regional members declarative rather than effective rights. The person responsible for LYMEC-IFLRY relations should urgently introduce a reform aimed at enabling LYMEC to play an active role and be heard within IFLRY. As a matter of priority, it is necessary to make granting of voting rights to LYMEC in the IFLRY decision-making bodies possible.

#### **V. Sharing freedom**

Having such a huge social media audience, both LYMEC and IFLRY would only benefit from supporting each other at the public level, namely through own social media platforms. The two organisations should actively follow each other's social media pages, as well as start sharing important posts and relevant news more frequently.