

My name is Ruslan Rubenovich Abdurakhman, I was born the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1992 in Moscow. Long story in a short life (I'll turn 28 in May). I'm both a Russian and European (EU) citizen. I'm running for the bureau, because I want Lymec to reach all Europe, not only the countries where an ALDE party member/associate is present. I want Lymec to reach the common people, because Liberals tend to live in their castle, where's everything is beautiful but unfortunately life is not a castle, and populists get votes outside the castle. Spreading Liberalism across Europe should be Lymec first priority and not only in Brussels.

I joined Lymec as an Individual member last September, because I wanted to make a change. Starting from my country, Italy, (how from Moscow I came to Italy I'll leave it for another time). It doesn't matter where we come from, but where we're directed to. I wasn't born as a Liberal, I had the hammer, the sickle, the book (opened) and the sun. Yes I believed in Socialism, I believed in progress, I believed in a better future. I thought the state was the solution, while then I realized the state is the problem. There's plenty of people calling themselves liberal and telling you, "You're not a Liberal!". Indeed, I'm just Ruslan. A guy who moved to the liberal neighborhood because was tired of dogmas, of people telling him the Truth, and tired of a collectivist vision of the world and society where people can be divided in categories. I'm not a tag, I'm a human. I'm an individual person, I am Ruslan, I'm not better or worse than any other human being on earth, I'm just me, myself. I thought liberalism could be a house for me, a place where I could have been myself, because I was tired of wearing masks to appease someone else. Liberalism for me is to put us as people in the centre. Nothing's more important than we are, there's no major cause or a common good to overcome our individual dimension. And here we come to freedom. What is freedom? Well to me freedom means to be myself, and not someone else. As long as We don't damage other individuals there should not be any restrictions to our freedom, to our individual dimension. Am I Liberal? Well, I'll leave that to you to decide, 'cause you know I'm not here to "tag" myself, to categorize myself, I'm here to introduce myself, especially to you who are spending some of your precious time to know me better.

We're living a world political crisis, because of the 2008 Economic crisis and its results. Economic liberalism is considered an illness to be cured. Liberalism is seen around the World as a failure. Populism and Soverainism instead are the most chosen, the ones who sell most of the tickets, because they present themselves as "Anti-Establishment", or "against the system". Throughout history it's plenty of cases like these, they all ended substituting the old elites with new ones. Liberalism needs to be reaffirmed as an idea, not be left in the books or in the museums. And it's up to Us as Liberals (and most of all, Us as Young liberals) to give new life to Liberalism.

Why am I seeking this position? Why Me?

Well, maybe because I'm living in a country where there's no associate/member organization. Yes, Lymec does not have any associate/member organization from Italy, yet. From the first day I joined Lymec, I had this idea of doing something in Italy for the cause. I've been told I'm also the only active Italian among IMS.

Well off course, that's not the only reason, otherwise no-one would think about supporting me, since I'm the only "active" Italian. I'll try to be quick and to explain my broad view using two topics, that we always talk or hear about. Migration and Environment.

I chose these two topics, because Migration and Immigrants is the main topic of right-wing oriented subjects, while environment has become the most important topic for the left-wing oriented. They've been used both by both sides to hide real issues.

Indeed, Migration and Environments are an issue, but they aren't as much as they are depicted. About migration I agree that there's the need of a regulation, on the other hand, if a migrant follows the legal framework required, there should be no room for discriminations. The problem comes when Migrants move without following the legal framework, so they become illegal immigrants. They are not illegal as people of course, but as migrants yes. This happens because of scarce

cooperation with low-income countries. It happens because of NGOs who decide to make migration policies for the states, and because of the misuse of international treaties like the Geneva convention on the status of refugees (1951). Since 1989, with the end of the Cold War, migrations from poorer to richer countries always increased. In most cases, migrants weren't following the legal framework, and in many cases the institute of Political Asylum was used to allow people coming from low-income countries to the high-ones. Political Asylum has been misused because to be eligible, there must be a real/personal threat to you as a person, while poverty and in general the income of a person is not a reason, or a discriminant for eligibility of Asylum. For example, in my humble opinion, Julian Assange who is not a guy escaping poverty, but someone who exposed corruption, it's now in jail in Britain and will be extradited to the US where he could face death penalty. He should be granted Political Asylum. And as I already said before NGOs have no rights to decide who is eligible for Asylum, neither who should have a free ticket to Europe paid by Europeans. International treaties like the Geneva's one should re-discussed and modified. On the other hand I'm not an idiot like those who believe that by giving migrants to other European countries we have solved the problem. Europe is one, We have the common market. Inside the common market there's among the various freedoms, freedom of movement for the people. So every "illegal migrant" no matter from where they enter they are in Europe. That's all. So we should act at the roots of the problem with international cooperation, and have on the other hand a common and serious framework on immigration like the one present in New Zealand. Migrants can also be an opportunity, they're not just threats. Migration exists both sides, so I personally believe that most of politicians looking at migrants as the main issue, they forget when their own citizens leave for a better future. To the country they emigrate they're migrants as well, without considering how much potential their home country has lost. So it's a serious issue migration that cannot be solved on Facebook or Twitter, like many politicians do.

The left instead since 1968 has always been the paradise of Radical Chic people. And the Environment or Climate Change is their trend nowadays. As always they haven't understood anything. I am pro-Environment, and I believe every person who has brain, understand that at the moment, we have just this planet and we cannot throw it away in the garbage. But what has not been understood at all, is that SUSTAINABILITY is at first Economic. If any project is not economic sustainable, it does not exist. Moreover, since sustainability is a common trend, private firms and corporations already seek it, for obvious marketing and image reasons, but still the result is the same. People advocating strong measure against Climate Change, normally don't bring solutions, but instead they create other problems. They want to redistribute wealth from the richer to the poorer, they want to kill businesses with taxes and regulations, they want to tell the people what behavior they should have. SUSTAINABILITY to me means, ***Innovation, Technology, Economic Growth***, all things that happen within a Free Market, in a friendly environment for investors and firms, where there's no envy and social hate toward the rich or towards those who have achieved something in their life. I'm not a supporter of the US but I recognize how they've switched from Oil to Natural Gas. Oil reserves are inferior to the ones of Natural Gas. Trying to switch to Natural Gas would be a sustainable (and affordable) move also for Europe. We have always to consider as I said before that sustainability it's economic at first otherwise it is unsustainable.

Dialogue, Cooperation, Freedom of movement (for capitals, ideas, people and goods), being open to innovation. These are all common traits of Liberalism, and only Liberalism can solve many of today's problems. To me Liberalism is not an ideology, is an instrument for achieving something greater, something better for our society and our world. Let's give it chance.

To sum up my candidature: A strong commitment to the person, and to its freedoms, from the economic one to personal freedom. Progress needs freedom, without freedom there cannot be progress. And Freedom means also Free Market. There's no freedom without economic freedom. Thanks for your precious time!