

Dear liberal friends, dear fellow Individual Members,

Two years ago, I took the plunge and joined LYMEC's Individual Member Section. I found it so appealing because it is a bubbling source of new ideas with the potential to make our young liberal movement bigger, stronger, and better at transforming political values into political realities. I would like to bring to the table my ample experience and knowledge of the European liberal family, gained from years of preparing and participating in LYMEC and ALDE events, as a member of the Steering Committee for the 2020-2022 period.

Ever since I joined the section, I have seen many talented people stand forward with fresh ideas for resolutions, LYMEC organisational improvements, turning the IMS into a more effective political tool and much more. Now, I believe the time has come to bring these approaches together into an overarching plan for the IMS that is greater than the sum of its parts.

For many of us, the IMS has been a second home along with our work in LYMEC member organisations. However, it is also meant to be the home of young liberally minded people from European countries where liberal youth organisations are inactive or inexistent. Therefore, while continuing to encourage people in MOs to join the IMS in their own right, we should make it a priority to recruit young people from countries where the potential of liberalism remains largely untapped. The mid-term goal is to make LYMEC the reference organisation of each and every young liberal in a country without active youth liberal organisations.

As individual members, we also owe it to ourselves to be ground-breaking within and without LYMEC. Regularly coming up with innovative resolutions on subjects that capture the imagination and spark an intense debate is a great way of putting the IMS on the map and encouraging LYMEC MOs to engage with it. The idea is to put forward cutting-edge resolutions at each LYMEC Congress that make other MOs get involved, until we reach the point that MOs that want to submit resolutions spontaneously get in touch with the IMS as a general rule.

In recent years, the IMS has organised events (like the one we will be having in late May) that have had a great impact on the skills base of our individual members. Now, the time has come to leverage this organisational capacity to run events that also raise the profile of the IMS within LYMEC specifically and the European young liberal scene in general, with a view to encouraging more people to join the IMS, showcasing the fantastic work of individual members like you, and making the voice of the IMS in LYMEC louder.

However stimulating it may be to debate politics in the abstract, at the end of the day, we all entered politics because we want to change things. We want to improve our universities, our economies, our environment, our civil rights and liberties... and, yes, Europe, the continent we love and cherish. If you put your trust in me as Steering Committee member for the 2020-2022 period, I will work hard together with the other members to make the IMS an even more powerful platform for your political values, priorities and ideals in Europe.

Together, we'll reach out to young liberals in countries where they do not yet have a home. Together, we'll make the IMS a key player and a reference in the LYMEC political debate. Together, we'll make your voice heard. Come and join me on this exciting adventure!

Liberal regards,

Alistair Spearing