



IMS Internal Rules

PREAMBLE	4
ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS	4
ARTICLE 2 - NATURE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERNAL RULES	5
ARTICLE 3 - GOALS OF THE IMS	5
ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	5
ARTICLE 5 - IMS STEERING COMMITTEE	6
ARTICLE 6 - IMS DELEGATES	6
ARTICLE 7 - THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS	7
ARTICLE 8 - AREA COORDINATORS	7
ARTICLE 9 - GENERAL MEETINGS AND OTHER MANDATORY MEETINGS	8
ARTICLE 10 - ANNUAL SEMINAR	8

Individual Members' Section Internal Rules

**Written by the Individual Members of LYMEC and ratified by the Bureau in
February 2011, in accordance with article 11 of the Statutes**

**Updated by the IMS Steering Committee and Delegates and ratified by the Bureau
in June 2020**

Preamble

LYMEC exists to promote liberalism throughout Europe through the engagement of young people. The LYMEC's Statutes sets the scope for individual membership within LYMEC.

Citizens and residents of a European country aged between 18 and 35 years, who broadly agree with its Manifesto and Policy Book, can become individual members of LYMEC – herein referred to as IMS (Individual Members' Section).

This document sets out the framework under which the IMS works, so as to gain the maximum benefit for the individuals, LYMEC and liberalism.

Article 1 - Definitions

For the purposes of these Internal Rules, the following definitions apply:

1. "IMS" refers to "LYMEC Individual Members' Section";
2. "Individual Member" refers to an individual member of LYMEC, in accordance with LYMEC's Statutes;
3. "SC" refers to the Individual Members Steering Committee, a body tasked with organising and coordinating the IMS, in accordance with LYMEC's Statutes;
4. "Delegate" refers to an Individual Member elected by Individual Members to represent them in the Congress, in accordance with LYMEC's Statutes and Congress Rules;
5. "Working Groups" refers to groups of Individual Members that join forces to focus on a specific task or topic;
6. "Area Coordinator" refers to an Individual Member to which the Steering Committee delegates certain tasks in a specific geographical area;
7. "General Meeting" refers to a meeting to which all Individual Members are invited and during which a vote can be held to take formal decisions.

Article 2 - Nature and Objective of the Internal Rules

1. These Internal Rules regulate the internal workings of the IMS;
2. The IMS is composed of all Individual Members;
3. Everything within these Internal Rules should be interpreted in accordance with LYMEC's Statutes, Congress Rules and other statutory documents.

Article 3 - Goals of the IMS

The IMS has the following goals:

- a) to provide a forum for Liberal minded people to share ideas, debate and develop policy at all levels;
- b) to promote Liberalism, in particular in countries where no liberal youth organisations exist;
- c) to assist in setting up liberal youth organisations in countries where they do not yet exist;
- d) to provide support to LYMEC in its various activities, in Europe and throughout the world;
- e) to assist Individual Members of LYMEC in being active within LYMEC.

Article 4 - Members' Rights and Responsibilities

1. Individual Members have the following rights:
 - a) to take part in IMS activities, such as seminars and campaigns;
 - b) to apply for LYMEC events;
 - c) to take part in developing LYMEC's policies and political positions;
 - d) to vote for, and be elected as, IMS Delegates and Steering Committee members;
 - e) to attend IMS General Meetings;
 - f) all other rights granted to them by the LYMEC Statutes (including but not limited to Article 13(2)), these rules or other statutory documents.
2. Individual Members have the following responsibilities:

- a) to abide by LYMEC's statutory documents and these Internal Rules;
- b) to pay their membership fee in due time;
- c) to help promote LYMEC's official policies and political position;
- d) to support and develop Liberalism;
- e) all other rights responsibilities attributed to them by the LYMEC Statutes, these rules or other statutory documents.

Article 5 - IMS Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee is composed of a Bureau Member appointed by the Bureau and two Individual Members elected for a term of two years in accordance with the procedures set out in the Statutes.
2. The IMS Steering Committee shall have the following rights and responsibilities during their term in office:
 - a) coordinate, organise and develop the Individual Members' Section;
 - b) inform the IMs regularly about opportunities and the latest developments of the section;
 - c) be the primary point of contact for current or potential Individual Members and answer their questions;
 - d) coordinate with the IMS Delegates on all relevant matters;
 - e) all other rights and duties attributed to them by these internal rules or the LYMEC Statutes.
3. The SC shall report to the Congress and to the Individual Members at least once a year at the LYMEC Spring Congress and at the IMS General Meeting preceding it, respectively.

Article 6 - IMS Delegates

1. Delegates shall be elected for a civil year, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Statutes.

2. IMS Delegates shall have the following rights and responsibilities during their term of office:
 - a) represent the Individual Members at LYMEC Congresses by holding individual voting rights;
 - b) involve the Individual Members in the preparation of the Congress and organise the pre-Congress meetings;
 - c) represent and involve the Individual Members in the policy making process of LYMEC along the year;
 - d) coordinate with the Steering Committee on relevant matters;
 - e) be a secondary point of contact for Individual Members;
 - f) all other rights and duties attributed to them by these Internal Rules.
3. Delegates will decide among themselves which Delegate is charged with carrying each individual duty described above.
4. Delegates shall report to the Individual Members after each Congress.

Article 7 - Thematic Working Groups

1. Without prejudice to the right of Individual Members to join a LYMEC Working Group as set out in the LYMEC Statutes, the Steering Committee can decide to form a Working Group within the IMS to work on a specific task or topic.
2. Working Group activities are monitored by the SC. This task can be delegated to the Delegates in relevant cases (e.g. Working Group to write a resolution).
3. IMS Working Groups may report on their activities during Mandatory Meetings.
4. IMS may formally adopt a policy paper, a study or a similar document through a formal vote in one of its General Meetings, where it may also decide to submit that document to the LYMEC Bureau, and/or to present that document at a meeting of the LYMEC Congress.

Article 8 - Area Coordinators

1. If there are enough members in a geographical area (e.g. city, region or country), the Steering Committee may decide to name a coordinator for the area.
2. The coordinator is in charge of organising activities and is a point of contact for Individual Members and prospective members in the area.
3. Other tasks can be attributed to the coordinator by the SC.
4. The coordinator reports to the SC and acts under its supervision.
5. The coordinator may report on its activities during General Meetings.
6. The SC may decide at any time to replace a coordinator or that one is no longer needed in a specific area.

Article 9 - General meetings and Other Mandatory Meetings

1. IMS General Meetings are meetings to which all Individual Members are invited and during which a vote can be held to take formal decisions. They are to be called for by the Steering Committee. They take place online.
2. The following General Meetings are mandatory and must happen:
 - a) one after the resolutions are published but before the amendment submission deadline for the Spring Congress (also known as “*Pre-Congress meeting*”);
 - b) one after the resolutions are published but before the amendment submission deadline for the Autumn Congress (also known as “*Pre-Congress meeting*”).
3. The SC can call for additional General Meetings if there is a need, but they are not mandatory.
4. Additionally, the following debates are mandatory but are not considered General Meetings:
 - a) A debate between the candidates during the electoral campaign for the Delegate positions;
 - b) A debate between the candidates during the electoral campaign for the Steering Committee positions.

Article 10 - Annual Seminar

Subject to LYMEC's financial position and political priorities, the LYMEC Bureau and the SC will aim to organize a seminar specifically for Individual Members every year.