## Statements on Facebook 2016

## 18th January 2016

Free movement of people is one of the cornerstones of the European Union. Open borders are one of Europe's greatest milestones. Unfortunately it seems that European countries are taking steps back to 28 separate border policies.

Join the action #DontTouchMySchengen from the Young European Federalists [JEF] on Thunderclap.



## 17th February 2016

LYMEC, together with 10 other pan-European youth organisations, calls upon the European Council and president Tusk to preserve the Schengen principles. The message is clear: Open borders are one of Europe's greatest milestones — we want to keep it that way. #DontTouchMySchengen



## 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016

LYMEC supports the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union Today a referendum is held in the Netherlands on the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement. LYMEC supports the referendum as a democratic measure, However, this referendum has further reaching implications for supporting Ukrainian citizens to determine their own future. LYMEC calls on all voters to support Ukraine in its democratic development and support more freedom for Ukrainian citizens and more opportunities for both the EU and Ukraine. The implementation of liberal values as equal rights, the rule of law, free movement of people, economic development and free trade are supported by this agreement. Ukraine will commit to implementing EU standards for human rights, fair trade, and economical reform. LYMEC therefore supports the YES vote today!



## 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016

LYMEC firmly believes in the separation of the powers of the church and the state and we are appalled by the Catholic church dictating legislation and the ruling Law&Order party adapting a positive stand on the total ban on abortion. Neither the church, nor the state, should decide over what women do with their own bodies.

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/04/07/keep-church-and-state-separated-and-let-women-decide-over-their-own-bodies-2/



## 20th April 2016

The 2016 World Press Freedom Index sadly shows that media freedom is under attack, even in Europe.

We believe that freedom of the press is a prerequisite for a democratic society and are cautiously following the developments throughout Europe. Last year LYMEC organised a round table on press freedom in Belgrade together with our Serbian member organisation Mladi LDP, and earlier this year it was one of the topics of discussion at our training in Skopje together with our Macedonian member organisation Liberalno Demokratska

Mladina-LiDeM.

LYMEC will continue fighting for media freedom throughout the continent and standing up for the freedom of information.



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2016 World Press Freedom Index – leaders paranoid about journalists | Reporters without borders

Most of the movement in the World Press Freedom Index unveiled today by
Reporters Without Borders is indicative of a climate of fear and tension combined...
RSFORG

## 26th April 2016

LYMEC is shocked by the news from Moscow: today at 12:30pm Moscow time the president of the Youth wing of RPR-Parnas - Михаил Конев - was abducted. Three unknown men pushed him into a car and drove away. His whereabouts are unknown at the moment. We are deeply concerned about this situation and other examples of systematic intimidation of opposition activists in Russia. We hope that Mihail will be released soon! Our thoughts are with our friends and colleagues from the the opposition!



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# 9th May 2016

Europe Day is a perfect opportunity to remind ourselves that the EU was created as a project for peace, prosperity and freedom. Today, therefore, is a great day to stress the importance of free movement. The current state of border- and passport controls being reinforced at our inner borders is far from the vision the founders of the EU had for the continent. Schengen is too good to

lose! #freemovement #EuropeDay#donttouchmySchengen #toogoodtolose



## 12th May 2016

LYMEC, together with other political party youth organisations, is strongly opposing the idea by the Heads of EU Member States to block the "Spitzenkandidaten" process of electing the President of the European Commission. The process of European elections determining the next President of the Commission has been a hugely positive step in empowering citizens to choose the direction of the EU, adding transparency and more democratic legitimacy to the process.

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/05/12/young-people-demand-the-election-of-the-president-of-the-european-commission-remains-democratic/

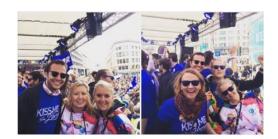


## 14th May 2016

LYMEC always stands up for equal rights and today we can combine it with a great party! Together with the liberals from Open Vld, Jong VLD, MR, Jeunes MR and ALDE Party we joined todays Pride Parade in Brussels! All over Europe it is still a long way to equality but it is great to see so many people fighting for it.

#brusselspride #yourrightsourfight #kissmeiamliberal





# 17th May 2016

Today is the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. LYMEC strongly supports all individual's equal rights to a safe environment in schools, workplaces and public space regardless of their sexual orientation or gender expression. No one should be bullied or discriminated against because of who they love or who they are.

#EndHomophobiaNow#IDAHOT2016 #YourRightsOurFight







# 25th May 2016

Two years since the European Parliament elections also marks two years since the first time voters had an impact on the election of the president of the Commission. LYMEC wants to see the democaratization continue #DontTouchMySpitzenkandidaten



# 30th May 2016

We welcome the Commission's move to update the 30-year-old audiovisual media laws but we urge them to acknowledge the character of modern media and to create common outlines and legal security for the whole EU to give all EU citizens equal access to online products. President Sissel Kvist: "Laws protecting children are welcomed, but laws to prevent sedition on the internet needs to be draft carefully as censorship and limits to freedom of speech can in no way be accepted."

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/05/30/lymec-we-need-modern-media-laws/



Last Saturday LYMEC's resolution in favor of the Spitzenkandidaten process, "Secure that the election of the President of the European Commission remains democratic", was approved by the ALDE Party — Liberals and Democrats for Europe Council. We are happy that ALDE Party joins the party political youth organizations in supporting a process to make the appointment of the president of the European Commission even more transparent and inclusive and to put an end to intransparent backroom politics.

#DontTouchMySpitzenkandidaten

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/06/06/lymecs-resolutions-approved-by-alde-council/



#### 8th June 2016

As the European Parliament on Tuesday debated the #MigrationEU package presented by the European Commission, youth organisations presented a joint call for solutions to the refugee and migration situation - solutions that recognize the valuable work youth organizations are doing on the ground, and that invest in quality employment for youth in Europe, also for newcomers.

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/06/07/lymec-co-signs-call-for-investments-in-solutions-to-integration-and-employment/



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# LYMEC co-signs call for investments in solutions to integration and employment

Investing in solutions for refugees/migrants and creating quality jobs for young people: Young people across Europe have been deeply affected by the migration and refugee crisis and have often been the first to act to protect human life.

LYMEC.EU

#### 9th June 2016

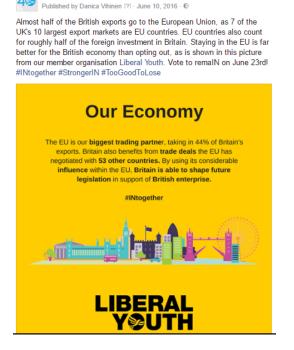
LYMEC believes that Britain is stronger IN Europe. If you're eligible to vote in the #EUref, remember to register to vote by midnight on Thursday, and vote for Britain to remalN in the European Union on June 23rd. Because if you believe something is broken, shouldn't you stay and fix it instead of just leaving? #INtogether #StrongerIN #TooGoodToLose



#### 10th June 2016

European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)

Almost half of the British exports go to the European Union, as 7 of the UK's 10 largest export markets are EU countries. EU countries also count for roughly half of the foreign investment in Britain. Staying in the EU is far better for the British economy than opting out, as is shown in this picture from our member organisation Liberal Youth. Vote to remalN on June 23rd! #INtogether #StrongerIN #TooGoodToLose



LYMEC is deeply saddened by the horrible attack in Orlando this weekend. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with the victims and their families and loved ones. We will continue the fight for equal rights and safety for the LGBT community #loveislove



## 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The European Union provides young Brits with multiple opportunities to study or work in other EU countries, as well as visa free travel. These are just some of the many reasons to vote remalN on June 23rd. Check the facts and make sure to stay #INtogether - because Britain is #StrongerIN and the EU is #TooGoodToLose



LYMEC President Sissel Kvist and Pauline Kastermans - IFLRY President issued a joint statement calling upon the European Institutions: "This delay in the visa liberalization process is unacceptable. Georgians and Ukrainians deserve this new visa regime, having worked hard and committed living up to the requirements set by the EU. The EU has to stick to its promises, instead of pushing neighboring countries away."

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/06/15/lymec-and-iflry-urge-european-institutions-to-immediately-proceed-with-visa-liberalizations-for-georgia-and-ukraine/



#### 16th June 2016

With one week to go to the British #EUref we have only one message for our friends and followers in the UK: vote remain! The young voters will decide the future. We want you to stay #INtogether, because you're #StrongerIN. We believe that the EU is #TooGoodToLose, don't you agree?



Next week the Brits will vote to either remain in the EU or Brexit. The Single Market creates jobs, also in the UK where 1/10 jobs are linked to it. Vote for a prosperous future, vote to remain in the #EUref next week. #INtogether #StrongerIN #TooGoodToLose



## 20th June 2016

The European Union was founded as a peace project - a way to secure that the European states would restrain from going to war with each other. The EU brought peace to our continent, and continues to do so. Vote remalN on Thursday to keep the UK in the EU.

#EUref #INtogether #StrongerIN#TooGoodToLose



## 20th June 2016

Youth organizations from across the political spectre agree: UK has everything to gain by voting remain. As the young vote will be decisive we encourage all our members and followers to vote remain this Thursday.

#TooGoodToLose #BritsIN #YoungBritsIN #INtogether #StrongerIN



#### 21st June 2016

From cleaner beaches to playing a key role in delivering the COP21 Paris agreement, the EU is protecting our environment - one of many reasons why it's #TooGoodToLose! Vote remalN on Thursday, because the UK is #StrongerIN. #INtogether



#### 21st June 2016

According to a YMCA survey 72% of British 16-24 year olds want the UK to remain in the EU. Make sure younger generations have the same opportunities as you've had, vote remalN on Thursday because the EU is #TooGoodToLose!

#BritsIN #ParentBritsIN #INtogether #StrongerIN



# 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

Did you know that the EU promotes and protects equal rights in the workplace: EU laws regarding workers' rights also safeguard rights such as equal treatment for men and women, parental leave and protection against discrimination based on sex, race, religion, age, disability and sexual orientation.

This is one of many reasons why the EU membership is #TooGoodToLose! We therefore encourage our members and followers in the UK to vote remalN in the referendum on Thursday. #INtogether #StrongerIN



#### 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

Youth organisations from across the political spectrum in Europe have come together for a joint message: The UK has everything to gain by voting remalN. The European Union is far from perfect, but it sure is worth fighting for. By staying you can help shape a better union for all of us. #BritsIN #INtogether #StrongerIN #TooGoodToLose



#### 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

Consumers in the UK gain from being part of the EU as they have access to cheaper goods thanks to the single market, and even holidays are more affordable. Continue gaining by remaining, vote remain! #TooGoodToLose#INtogether #StrongerIN



## 24th June 2016

We believe the Brexit decision will weaken both the EU and the UK, but respect the choice of the British people and now turn our focus to the exit negotiations and urge the EU to use the Brexit as a new beginning.

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/06/24/lymec-eu-must-use-the-brexit-as-a-new-beginning/



## European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)

Published by Danica Vihinen [?] - June 24, 2016 - €

We believe the Brexit decision will weaken both the EU and the UK, but respect the choice of the British people and now turn our focus to the exit negotiations and urge the EU to use the Brexit as a new beginning.

#### LYMEC: EU must use the Brexit as a new beginning

LYMEC has listened to the voices of British people and is sadden by the news that a majority of the British voters have decided to leave the European Union. No matter how much we believe this decision will weaken both the EU and the UK, we respect the choice of the British people and now turn our fo...

LYMEC.EU

# 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016

4.5 million young Europeans are unemployed. Current unemployment initiatives are not working. Our message ahead of the #bratislavasummit is simple: Europe needs labour market reforms, and there is no time to waste for the member states!

#yfactor #liberalisingeurope #jobsnotsubsidies



#### European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)

Published by European Liberal Youth - LYMEC [?] - July 8, 2016 - €

4.5 million young Europeans are unemployed. Current unemployment initiatives are not working. Our message ahead of the #bratislavasummit is simple: Europe needs labour market reforms, and there is no time to waste for the member states! #vfactor #liberalisingeurope #jobsnotsubsidies

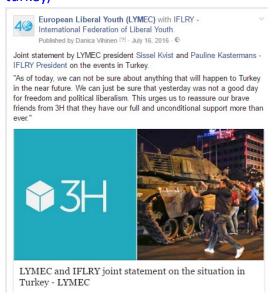


# 16th July 2016

Joint statement by LYMEC president Sissel Kvist and Pauline Kastermans - IFLRY President on the events in Turkey.

"As of today, we can not be sure about anything that will happen to Turkey in the near future. We can just be sure that yesterday was not a good day for freedom and political liberalism. This urges us to reassure our brave friends from 3H that they have our full and unconditional support more than ever."

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/07/16/lymec-and-iflry-joint-statement-on-the-situation-inturkey/



# 18th July 2016

We are happy that the EU is communicating clearly to Erdogan! Nothing can ever justify a country moving away from human rights, democracy and fundamental freedom.



# 25th July 2016

LYMEC president Sissel Kvist on the rumors about the UK getting an emergency break on migration from the EU: "The British people voted to leave the Union, and though the campaign was emotion rather than fact based, the UK and the EU have to deal with this decision. But for the sake of the future of the European Union cherry picking cannot be an option, neither to keep a state in nor to soften the way out. The EU already buckled before populist demands when it accepted a deal with Cameron that would have limited main achievements of the EU, which was bad enough giving a single member state special treatment. To grant the UK even more exemptions now, after the Leave vote, is a disgrace to the process of the European integration and everything we have struggled to achieve since the Union was founded" http://www.lymec.eu/2016/07/25/lymec-cherry-picking-cannot-be-an-option/



#### 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016

LYMEC is celebrating #EuroPride by participating in the Canal Pride in Amsterdam this weekend, but also during the week by highlighting questions regarding LGBTI rights that are yet to be solved. We believe the EuroPride is a time to celebrate diversity but also an opportunity to shed light on issues where we still need progress.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016

We're working for a community as diverse as the colors on the rainbow flag This weekend we'll be at #EuroPride in Amsterdam, but we are standing up for human rights every day of the year.

Check out some the questions regarding LGBTI-rights that still need to be solved: https://youtu.be/M5gDpaFBWuw

#### #YourRightsOurFight





# 6th August 2016

We had such an awesome day celebrating love, freedom and diversity at the #EuroPride in Amsterdam.

Equal rights shouldn't be something special, but universal. We will continue the fight until we win.



Equal rights shouldn't be something special, but universal. We will continue the fight until we win.



# 11th August 2016

Youth unemployment is the greatest problem facing young people in Europe, according to 81 % of the polled youth leaders in the POLITICO Caucus. We couldn't agree more, and are proud to see our bureau members Edgaras and Kevin, our Secretary General Danica and ALDE MEP Ilhan Kyuchyuk among the respondents.

We are also happy to see that most of the youth leaders share our trust in the future of the EU:

"Despite fissures over Brexit, security and migration, 68 percent of the largely Europhile group believes that not only will the EU exist in 2025, it will be stronger."



## 12th August 2016

Today is International Youth Day

It should be a day of celebration, but for too many young people in Europe there is nothing to celebrate. Youth unemployment is a ticking time bomb under our society, leading to poverty, deskilling and social exclusion. We urge policymakers on all levels to tackle the root of the problem: the inflexibility of the the labour markets. We need labour market reforms now!



# 26th August 2016

LYMEC welcomes the ruling by the highest French administrative court, the State Council (Conseil d'Etat), that overturns the discriminating burkini prohibitions and adheres to the fundamental principles of a modern, secularized and liberal society. Those who force a woman to remove her hijab or burkini are as wrong as those who force her to put the garment on. A ban will not advance the liberation of women in Europe or elsewhere. Read more: http://www.lymec.eu/2016/08/26/freedom-not-fines/



# 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

In cooperation with IFLRY - International Federation of Liberal Youth we are calling on our members and ALDE Group representatives in the relevant delegations dealing with Venezuela to support the opposition's protests in Venezuela. Decades of socialism have weakened the rule of law and annihilated the country's economy. What was once one of the richest nations of Latin America is now facing a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented levels. Join the campaign on 8 - 15 September to send a powerful message of unity against the Venezuelan government. #LibertadParaVenezuela



## 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Today we celebrate the International Day of Democracy. Democracy is one of the core values of the EU and the foundation the European society is built upon. Respect for the will of the people, as expressed in free and fair elections, is something we might take for granted but that many others around the world still fight for, even here in Europe. We are especially worried about the anti-democratic developments in Hungary, Poland and Russia. Today, as all other days, we stay committed to the fight for democracy and liberalism in Europe!



#### 3rd October 2016

Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán and his governing party Fidesz were eager to legitimize their rightwing, anti-immigration and anti-EU policies in a referendum, but they failed. The turnout in Sunday's referendum in Hungary did not reach the 50 % threshold and is therefore declared invalid.

The anti-immigration agenda of the Hungarian government might have been halted for now, but the results of the referendum speak a harsh truth: over 95 % of the Hungarians that did cast their vote said no to the question: "Do you want the European Union to be able to mandate the obligatory resettlement of non-Hungarian citizens into Hungary even without the approval of the National Assembly?". Orbán has said he will use the results to renegotiate the Hungarian migration quotas even though the threshold was not met.

LYMEC wants to see a common EU asylum system and a higher level of efficiency and cross-border cooperation in order to solve the current crisis. It is clear that the EU member states have to meet the migration challenges together. The EU plan to relocate 160,000 migrants across the member states in order to relieve Greece and Italy of some of the migration pressure would mean Hungary receiving 1,294 asylum seekers.



## 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016

As the European Parliament prepares to discuss the Commission statement on women's rights in Poland this afternoon in Strasbourg, LYMEC joins the black protest in solidarity with the Polish women.

No government should interfere in a woman's decisions regarding her own body, and as the abortion laws in Poland are already among the most restrictive in Europe any further restraint is outrageous. Criminalizing abortions does not solve the issue, it just leads to more illegal, unsafe abortions and puts the health of women and girls in danger.

#czarnyprotest #blackprotest #womensrights #humanrights



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#### 5th October 2016

We find the EPP initiative to offer free InteRail tickets to all 18-year-old EU citizens to be slightly populistic and most importantly, not tackling the real barriers to mobility in Europe. EPP also seems to have forgotten about the Erasmus+ program!

"If the EPP really wants to do something for mobility and social cohesion they should look at the roots of the problems. The bureaucracy for moving from one EU country to another is still huge, a language barrier is often present and last but not least the recognition of skills and education between countries is almost zero...

Moreover, the EPP seems to have forgotten that there already is a program within the European framework that aims to increase mobility and break down barriers for young people; the Erasmus+ Program. While the Erasmus+ Program is not perfect, it is often highlighted as one of the greatest success stories of the EU."

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/10/05/free-train-tickets-will-not-fix-europe/



#### 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

Free trade is a cornerstone for our modern society, working as a catalyst for peace and prosperity. It's simple. Lymec free trade.



## 25th October 2016

On Saturday LYMEC President Sissel Kvist participated in the event of European Liberal Forum and Projekt: Polska "The New F Word" on the future of the EU in light of the Brexit. In the debate Sissel highlighted how it is crucial for young liberals that the EU don't compromise on the very core; the freedom of movement. Moreover EU has to deliver real solutions to the big problems such as youth unemployment and the refugee crisis, in order to win back the trust of the people. #elfevent #liberalisingEurope



# 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

9th of November is a historical day for freedom and liberalism in Europe, marking the fall of the Berlin wall and the hunger for peace and freedom. In the US the date also became historical, with Donald Trump winning the presidential elections. The outcome is deeply worrying, not only for America, but for Europe and the world as a whole. Populism is still on the rise, also in Europe. Topics such as climate, security, human rights and free trade are at stake. The progress that previous generations fought so hard for seems to be disappearing in front of our eyes.

LYMEC calls upon European politicians to come together to fight for European values and principles, and to strengthen the EU cooperation to safeguard our achievements both in Europe and globally. And though it might look tough, to not let the transatlantic dialogue break but to keep up the relations especially in times when it's unsure how our American partner will interact.

https://www.facebook.com/notes/european-liberal-youth-lymec/a-historical-day-for-europe-and-usa/10154051704248730



#### 12th November 2016

The LYMEC Congress adopted a resolution on closer defence cooperation in Europe, suggesting to add more weight to the European cooperation within the NATO. LYMEC decided to improve technology in favour of education and decided to continue to hold privacy regulations high as big data is a growing concept. Also, the LYMEC Congress calls for increased transparency in EU Neighborhood policy implementation and dialogue as well as in trade agreement processes. LYMEC Congress also calls on a lucrative balance between forest carbon sinks and an increase in renewable bioenergy. LYMEC Congress also voted on sustainable solutions in terms of antimicrobial resistance and an increased use of insect proteins.



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#### 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

We are calling for the respect of democratic principles in the upcoming Macedonian elections together with IFLRY - International Federation of Liberal Youth, Young Democrats for Europe (YDE), Young European Federalists [JEF], Federation of Young European Greens - FYEG, EFAy, IUSY and Young European Socialists.

"Ensuring clean electoral lists, and preventing manipulation of the electorate must have absolute priority in order to secure not only transparency and accountability, but most of all legitimacy. It is crucial that citizens are presented with a variety of meaningful options from which they can choose what kind of lives and systems they consider to be the most desirable for their very own community. This means, free and open competition between different parties."

http://www.lymec.eu/2016/12/06/lymec-co-signs-statement-on-the-upcoming-elections-in-macedonia/



#### 17th December 2016

The events in Poland are very worrying. Limiting the access of media to the parliament is already in it self a blow against press freedom, and preventing opposition parliamentarians from voting on key budgetary laws is outrageous.



# 19th December 2016

The situation in Poland is escalating. We ask for the European Commission and our leaders to stand up and ensure that freedom of speech and democratic values are safe guarded. http://www.lymec.eu/2016/12/17/democracy-downfall-in-poland/



The situation in Poland is escalating. We ask for the European Commission and our leaders to stand up and ensure that freedom of speech and democratic values are safe guarded.



#### Democracy downfall in Poland - LYMEC

LYMEC condemns the recent crackdown on transparency, democratic processes in decision-making and public access to independent news in Poland. On Friday, ruling party Law and Justice passed the annual budget, while excluding the opposition...

WWW.LYMEC.EU