#### 4. Digitalization, innovation and markets:

LYMEC calls for keeping Europe's internet open, ensuring net neutrality and a copyright reform fit for the needs of the 21st century. We highlight the need for promoting digital solutions, innovative creations, and improving the functionality of the single market whilst exploring new international trade opportunities.



#### 5. Education, labour market, youth unemployment:

LYMEC calls for ensuring appropriate digital education, in order to equip the young people of Europe with competitive skillsets of the 21st century, and insists on more flexible opportunities for first-time labour market entrees. In addition, LYMEC calls for removing the remaining intangible barriers to free movement, thus addressing Europe's mismatch of labour supply and demand.

## 6. Future of the EU, institutional reform, ensuring the respect of human rights and equality:

LYMEC believes that the future of Europe depends on the youth, which is why we want to see more young candidates for the upcoming European elections, as well as an electoral approach targeted at young people, explaining concretely what the EU is and has done for each and every one of us. We want to see institutional reforms, putting the citizens at the centre of the European construction. We want European decision-making to be more resilient, more accountable and less prone to stagnation by its individual member states. We insist on ensuring that the rule of law, equality and human rights are respected in our Union of values and in the global field.





## THE FUTURE IS EUROPE

**EUROPEAN ELECTIONS MANIFESTO 2019** 

Europe is experiencing a crisis of solidarity, a crisis of togetherness and a crisis of short-sighted visions. We are facing post-truth news realities and challenges to personal data and cybersecurity. In times of national egoism, populist agendas and hate-speech, to protect our Union of freedom, justice and democracy, we need to reform it.

We need the energy and optimism of young people. There is no other way forward - the future is Europe.

LYMEC, European Liberal Youth, is a pan-European youth organisation dedicated to the promotion and strengthening of liberal values in Europe. LYMEC aims to strengthen the cooperation of young liberals and to unite the efforts of young people in building a better and more liberal political, social and economic environment for all Europeans.

# 1. A working framework on legal migration and asylum, and tackling the refugee crisis – a call for a liberal Europe:

Western societies are immensely divided by issues related to asylum and migration. This results in a renaissance of nationalism, populism, protectionism. Populist politicians are taking advantage of fear. They favour a closed society. Open society is in decay. The challenge for young liberals today is to defend the core values of open society and liberal democracy. While others advocate for a "Fortress Europe", LYMEC advocates for a liberal Europe.

## 2. Security and defence – stronger Europe through stronger capabilities:

LYMEC calls for strengthening the common EU defence alongside that of NATO, targeting the EU defence spending deficiencies through a common EU defence budget, the development of European capabilities and an integrated defence market, including defence research and innovation. LYMEC also calls for a forward-looking approach to tackling cyber-security, ensuring proper information sharing and pan European efforts to protecting Europe's critical infrastructure from future cyber-attacks.

#### 3. Climate change, environment and energy:

LYMEC calls for continuing EU's leadership and further progressing under the Paris Agreement, for the diversification of energy sources and improving energy security and for striving for more affordable energy prices as means to boosting the competitiveness of industrial startups. We support innovative measures for ensuring sustainable development and restoring the environment. In order to ensure a safe future without life threatening epidemic, food security has to be considered in the security policy of the Union. We want the food produced in the EU to be sustainable and safe for the environment and the individual