

LYMEC Digital Assembly (Online)

30th January 2021

Minutes

Session A

Introduction and outline of the latest and future Bureau actions

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)

- Antoaneta explains what the Digital Assembly is about and how it will proceed. In session A, Antoaneta will explain what the Bureau has been doing since the Congress, then Dan-Aria will complement that and then there will be a Q&A session.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)

- LYMEC introduced a new initiative: the Member Organisation Cooperation Projects. A winner has been selected and the implementation of the project has started. It is a cooperation by several Balkan Member Organisations, focused on education. All projects were very good, but this specific one was chosen, because it was the most clear and had the most concrete outcomes. It also did not require any physical events.
- LYMEC is still happy to support the other three Cooperation projects as well, for example in terms of logistic, technical and dissemination support.
- Regarding the Working Groups: a new structure has been installed, which is working. Policy proposals, resolutions and events are coming from the Working Groups. Antoaneta also encourages the Working Group members to take the floor during this Assembly.
- LYMEC has been releasing several policy statements, including on Belarus, Navalny, Poland, and for several important days (like for Holocaust Remembrance day and International Education Day). Antoaneta encourages members to reach out to LYMEC if they would like LYMEC to communicate on certain topics.
- Regarding Libertas: LYMEC has started a reform process, with a clearer structure and better quality.
- Regarding the LYMEC website: a new website is under construction and will probably be launched before summer.
- LYMEC introduced the new initiative 'From Our MOs', as LYMEC would like to hear good practices from its MOs. This includes how they approached events, especially during the pandemic, and how they came up with creative solutions. The initiative will give them visibility and provide an opportunity for learning.

- Regarding the Young Liberal Women Summit: the registration is now open. This event is important and will focus on self-confidence of women in dealing with politics and on barriers and stereotypes. Several female MEPs have already committed to join the event.
- Regarding the LYMEC Spring Congress in April: it is still unclear where and how this will happen. It will possibly be in Paris and possibly be hybrid. The logistics are in place, but we cannot be sure for now.
- Regarding the upcoming book event on diplomacy: this will also possibly be online.
- Regarding the LYMEC delegation to the ALDE Congress: LYMEC did not receive any information yet on when and how the Congress will take place. LYMEC will let the members know as soon as they have more information.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)

- Regarding Libertas, Dan calls on the members to contribute. Libertas does not get as much readers and engagement as he would like to. A rebranding is ongoing at the moment, with a new logo and marketing. A new editorial team of about 10 people is also being set up. Dan encourages people to apply, as the LYMEC members have good ideas, which should be included in Libertas. LYMEC is looking for progress on Libertas by mid-February.

Relevant comments, interesting proposals, questions:

Umberto Masi (LLJ - Liberal Youth of Lithuania)

- Regarding communication, Libertas and rebranding, Umberto wonders how LYMEC is searching for the target audience. He is also wondering whether Libertas and its reform are considering how to better reach out to the MOs, but also to the Member States, to spread LYMECs liberal values.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)

- In response to Umberto (LLJ): Dan answers that Libertas has not been as viral as LYMEC hoped for. For targeting purposes, one has to look at current articles and see which people interacted with them, to look for patterns. However, LYMEC cannot currently define the target group, as there is not enough engagement. LYMEC will heavily invest in marketing of Libertas within LYMEC. When Libertas has enough viewers, LYMEC will do the analysis and target readers better.

Alice Schmidt (Julis)

- Regarding campaigning and communication, Alice finds that this has improved a lot. LYMEC is reacting to political matters, which is the way it should be done. LYMEC did the right things to change and Alice is happy with the amount of communications. LYMEC also responded to MO requests in this regard.

- Alice proposes for LYMEC to do more actions, like demonstrations, for example in front of the Chinese embassy or Russian embassy. Julis has been successful in this regard and gets media attention. Alice would like for LYMEC to do more of these campaigning actions.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)

- Regarding their winning project within the Bonding European Youth Initiative, Ioana announces to the other organisations that she will reach out to them for this project and she encourages them to be active and respond positively.

Margaux Carron (Young Green Liberals Switzerland)

- Regarding the 'News From the MOs' initiative, Margaux is wondering what kind of news LYMEC is asking for. Her organisation engaged in lobbying against an anti-terrorist law in Switzerland and she wonders if this is something that should be included in the 'From Our MOs 2020' initiative.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)

- In response to Alice (Julis): Antoaneta states that the current situation is difficult, as people need to stay at home and should not organise unnecessary gatherings. LYMEC is doing everything online, but would then gather people in front of an embassy. This would not look good, as it is very tricky how to portray the organisation during a pandemic. LYMEC will do actions online, like the action on Srebrenica they did in summer.
- In response to Ioana (USR Tineret): Antoaneta states that this Digital Assembly is indeed a good platform to let the other MOs know what you are planning to do and to make announcements.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary-General)

- In response to Margaux (YLG-CH): Bàlint clarifies that the concept is called 'From Our MOs 2020' and it is meant to share actions and initiatives of MOs that responded or adapted to the pandemic. It is not about news, but rather about actions or something MOs put in place to respond to the crisis, which is worth sharing with the rest of the network. The objective is to share best practices and help each other in these difficult times by inspiring others.

Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer)

- In response to Alice (Julis): Ida highlights that if MOs are doing actions, like demonstrations or other activities, they should tag LYMEC on social media and LYMEC will happily share that on its channels to make it more visible.

Eleni Siapikoudi (YLG)

- Eleni states that Young Liberals Greece also applied for the Cooperation Project call, but did not win. However, they are planning to continue with the project, which is a campaign against post-pandemic youth unemployment, in cooperation with JNC and USR Tineret. This project is looking for cooperation with many organisations and Eleni announces that they will reach out to the other MOs too.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)

- Antoaneta concludes session A by highlighting that it is important that we, as young liberals, show emotions and empathy. We need to show that liberals are not cold and elitist. LYMEC is all about togetherness.
- As a final comment for session B on policy, Antoaneta states that the Digital Assembly is not binding, only the Congress is. It is thus possible to reopen topics during the Congress. Antoaneta encourages the members to ask questions on the procedure as well.

Session B

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Bureau)

- Marina explains the background of the Policy Book renewal process and states that it is an ongoing project. There are regular Working Groups which go through the Policy Book chapters in turn.
- She reminds delegates that only Delegation Heads should vote, but that all delegates can speak in the debate.
- She reminds Member Organisations that they must re-submit all amendments for the Spring Congress, as the Digital Assembly is not binding.

Resolution and amendments	WG Recommendation	DA Outcome	Comments by participants
2.09 LYMEC Condemns Recent Arrests of Political Youth in Azerbaijan	Archive	Accepted	
2.10 Resolution of visa-free regime between Ukraine ("Eastern partnership" countries) and EU	Archive	Accepted	Discussion about whether, due to Covid-19, the visa-free regime would be suspended. Agreed that in that case, a new resolution would be necessary.

<p>2.11 – A new European strategy for managing the refugee crisis Amendment 1 (JuLis) Amendment 2 (JuLis) Amendment 3 (JuLis)</p>	<p>Merge with 2.11, 2.17, 2.18 and 2.31</p>	<p>Resolution - accepted A1 - accepted A2 - withdrawn A3 - withdrawn</p>	<p>A1 - JuLis felt that economic migrants and refugees should not be conflated. Additionally, the Middle East should not be singled out as the only source of migrants.</p> <p>A2 - JuLis argued that EU agricultural subsidies have negative consequences in LEDCs. Some MOs agreed, some felt that the amendment was not relevant to the scope of the Resolution. Amendment withdrawn.</p> <p>A3 - Withdrawn under condition that Bureau comes up with an official definition of the term 'climate refugee'</p>
<p>2.11 Strengthening the European Refugee Fund</p>	<p>Archive (merge into new 2.11)</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	
<p>2.12 Condemning xenophobia and racism in the EU Amendment 4 (LHG)</p>	<p>Merge 2.12 and 2.33</p>	<p>Resolution accepted, Amendment accepted</p>	<p>A4- LHG explain that they believe the term "witch hunt" should be in quotation marks</p>
<p>2.12 Tougher measures against racism within the EU</p>	<p>Archive (merge into new 2.12)</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	
<p>2.13 No NSA-practices in the European Union</p>	<p>Archive (merge into 2.20)</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	
<p>2.14 A Uniform ID Card for a More Effective and Safer Schengen</p>	<p>Minor update</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	

2.15 – Recognising the Armenian Genocide	Keep as is	Accepted	
2.16 – Legal right to euthanasia in the European Union	Keep	Accepted	
2.17 – A common European, humanitarian search and rescue mission to the Mediterranean	Archive (merged into new 2.11)	Accepted	
2.18 Resolution on a harmonized common EU asylum policy	Archive (merged into new 2.11)	Accepted	
2.19 Resolution on the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD2)	Minor update	Accepted	
2.20 Resolution on privacy and data protection Amendment 5 (JuLis)	Update, including text from 2.13	Resolution accepted, amendment voted on, leading to different outcome and phrasing	A5 - JuLis argued that there is an ambiguity in the wording “by a public body” - it suggests that infringement of privacy by a private body is acceptable Two votes were held, with the result being that the phrase “by a public body” will be replaced by “following due judicial scrutiny”
2.21 Urgency resolution on the current situation in Catalonia	Keep	Accepted	

2.22 Urgency resolution on preventing Romania from holding a referendum against Gay Marriage	Archive	Accepted	
2.23 Citizens' Rights post Brexit	Keep, but the WG urges the relevant MOs to write a replacement	Accepted	
2.24 For a better world we need to end the war on drugs	Update	Accepted, vote to remove unverified statistics	Debate about the statistics used in the original resolution and the difficulty of verifying them/ finding up to date statistics. Vote held to strike out part of sentence alluding to '120,000 deaths'
2.25 Women's rights over their own body	Keep	Accepted	
2.26 For full voting rights of EU citizens in all member states	Keep	Accepted	
2.27 Resolution on the Istanbul Convention	Keep	Accepted	
2.28 Resolution on Minority Rights	Keep	Accepted	

2.29 Resolution on the Rights of Linguistic Minorities	Update	Accepted	
2.30 Expanding Freedom of Speech	Keep	Accepted	
2.31 Establishing a formal definition and a protection system for Climate Refugees	Archive (merge into new 2.11)	Accepted	
2.32 Eliminate Pink and Tampon Taxes	Minor update	Accepted	
2.33 Against the new wave of xenophobia and racism in the EU	Archive (merge with 2.12)	Accepted	
2.34 Legal Protection for Whistleblowers	Keep	Accepted	
2.35 Resolution on condemning the persecution and torture of journalists and activists	Small update	Accepted	

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Bureau)

- Marina explains that almost everything in Chapter 10 is being archived. Most are old motions which can also be found in the LYMEC Statutes and Congress Rules. Chapter 10 will be deleted, and a new document will be created to gather all internal motions.

- She adds that the Resolutions on the LYMEC-IFLRY relationship will be archived and the Bureau will work with IFLRY to produce a new Resolution, which will be presented at the next Congress.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom)

- Kasper asks whether there will be a supplement to the internal resolutions, and whether any of the relevant information will be used by the Bureau later.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Bureau)

- Marina explains that all relevant information is present in the Congress Rules and Statutes.

Kasper Langelund (Radikal Ungdom)

- Kasper asks what the legality of the Statutes is.

Antoaneta Asenova (LYMEC President)

- Antoaneta explains that these motions are extended organisational explanations, where the Statutes do not contain enough detail. However over time Chapter 10 has become a general repository for Members who want to comment on LYMEC's operations.
- She adds that the level of detail and description found in Chapter 10 is often unnecessary.
- She explains that the motions are binding as they are supplementary to the Statutes, but often the motions are not clear enough to be really binding.

There is a vote on archiving all of Chapter 10 besides the motions not mentioned in the outcomes that are kept in the new separate document for internal motions. The Assembly unanimously accepts the Working Group's proposals.

Resolution and amendments	WG Recommendation	DA Outcome
10.01 Motion on the Publicity of LYMEC	Archive	Accepted
10.02 Resolution on Translations	Archive	Accepted
10.03 Resolution on the IMS	Archive	Accepted

10.04 LYMEC Individual Members' Clubs	Archive	Accepted
10.05 Resolution "Redefining the Role of LYMEC Auditors"	Archive	Accepted
10.06 Capping the Debts of Inactive Member Organisations	Archive	Accepted
10.07 Reduced Participation Fees to LYMEC Statutory Events for Member Organisations having Financial difficulties	Archive	Accepted
10.08 Internal Motion Concerning Bram Houtenbos and Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage in LYMEC	Archive	Accepted
10.09 Proposal on Creation of the Working Group of ELSN – European Liberal Students Network	Archive	Accepted
10.10 "Frédéric Bastiat" – Prize for Bloggers	Archive	Accepted
10.11 Internal Motion: LYMEC Individual Membership	Archive	Accepted
10.12 Internal Motion on Voting Procedures for Internal Auditors	Archive	Accepted

10.13 Resolution "An ELDR Party bringing together European Liberals and "Radicals""	Archive	Accepted
10.14 Resolution "Political map of Europe must match geographical map of Europe"	Archive	Accepted
10.15 Resolution on the Relationship between IFLRY and LYMEC I	Archive	Accepted
10.16 Resolution on the Relationship between IFLRY and LYMEC II	Archive	Accepted
10.17 Resolution on the Italian "Democraia e' Liberta" Margherita Party	Archive	Accepted
10.18 – On extremist and non-liberal parties in ALDE	Archive	Accepted
10.19 – Resolution on the Treatment of Resolutions during LYMEC Congresses	Archive	Accepted
10.20 In varietate concordia — Liberal voices working together	Archive	Accepted