

LYMEC Digital Assembly (Online)

3 July 2021

Minutes

Session A

Introduction and outline of the latest and future Bureau actions

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (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.
- ❖ She explains that this is the first time this year that the Bureau has met in-person with strict measures in place.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)

- ❖ As a reminder, the last Congress was recent (April 2021). The Conference on the Future of Europe is the major event that has taken place in the previous months since our Congress. The Conference was the highest European political priority. LYMEC has uploaded its two proposal documents onto the platform and the LYMEC webpage. As President, I have been invited to several ALDE events as a guest speaker, to discuss young people's views and perspectives. There was a Renew Europe event too, with me and two other young people able to ask questions. We created three banks of names and drew names to decide who would be able to speak - splitting Member Organisations according to geographical regions. The selected people were **Tess Minnens (Jong VLD)** and **Marketa Plesnikova (Mladé ANO)** - the President of JuLis was proposed but he could not attend.
- ❖ The Renew Europe group is currently organising events on the Conference on the Future of Europe once per month, with different stakeholders and speakers. LYMEC is usually invited to submit one question, and will continue to pick names for participants from our MOs.
- ❖ Other than that, LYMEC participated in the ALDE Congress, where **Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)** did a great job, and I was invited to speak about the Conference. All of LYMEC's partners recognise that we have something to say about the Conference. Antoaneta thanks everyone for the work of the past year - it shows that LYMEC has concrete suggestions and proposals, which makes the organisation relevant in this process.
- ❖ Regarding the Conference itself, LYMEC has been working on it for the past year because it is so significant for the coming decade. Yesterday, a new far right declaration was signed by right wing parties in the Parliament, which calls for

abandoning the idea of a supranational Europe, giving greater power back to Member States and so on. In Poland, information campaigns to mobilise conservative views at the Conference are taking off, to push the Conference in a more right wing direction. Our proposals have only a small number of endorsements - our Member Organisations need to work to endorse them. As of the late autumn, there will be no more time to keep endorsing things and influencing the outcome. The plenary, containing politicians at all levels, will be discussing the proposals which got the most support and traction. What we worked for must not be rendered useless. LYMEC is working with some of its partners, and trying to get support from ALDE, Renew and even JEF, but the power of this Conference is in the hands of all LYMEC Members.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President) asks **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** to share his screen and show the platform for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General):

- ❖ Balint explains how [the proposals](#) were submitted and what they cover. He shows delegates how to endorse the proposals and how to create an account to endorse the proposals.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):

- ❖ To finish, this is what the Bureau have worked on so far, and this is what LYMEC will be working on in the coming months:
- ❖ First, in order to make our events more understandable, the Bureau have planned to do online events on a regional level, split up the following way: there will be an event for the UK and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; one for the Nordic countries; one for the Benelux region and France; one for Southern Europe; one for the Balkans; one for Austria, Germany and Switzerland with Poland, Hungary and Czechia; and one for the Baltics including Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Ukraine but also Belarus. At these events Bureau members will present the Conference, how the platform works and will give the floor to all members. She expects that these will be members who are not highly engaged with European politics: the events are designed to give them a chance to put forward their own questions and ideas.
- ❖ Finally, as a reminder, it is possible for individuals and organisations to submit their own proposals - members don't need to only support LYMEC's proposals but spread their own directly [in the digital platform](#).
- ❖ **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** hands the floor over to **Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)**

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)

- ❖ The Conference has been LYMEC's priority. The Bureau has been focussing on other things too - they need to plan for the work ahead, including more in-person meetings and events. Events such as the YLM, the Skill Camp etc are coming up. The Joint

Cooperation Project - Renewing Education - is coming up on 16th July, the first in-person event for a long time.

- ❖ The Bureau has also concentrated on events for 2022, and discussed dates and temporary venues. They had the ELF-LYMEC book launch recently, as well as the Liberal Communicators meeting: all had to be online, but all were very positive. In the summer, LYMEC will try to be more active on social media, but of course the Secretariat and Bureau will all take vacations. We are planning some communications regarding the Slovenian Council presidency.
- ❖ He invites members to take the floor to ask any questions.

Relevant comments, interesting proposals, questions:

Phil Hackermann (JuLis)

- ❖ He says that he wants to stress how important the CoFe is, and that everyone should participate. He adds that he also wants to share some thoughts about the ALDE congress. It was not a great Congress, it was of course digital so there were not many chances to engage. The Congress had a terrible Slido voting system, where everyone could vote as many times as they wanted, and LYMEC lost votes because of that. The Working Groups were badly run and things were not efficient. He believes that LYMEC can be more progressive and political at future Congresses but we need to address the issues encountered with them.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)

- ❖ We are aware of these issues and I know that a lot of the points have already been made to ALDE.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)

- ❖ She explains that this was their first Digital Congress, and to be blunt, their membership is old and not very tech savvy. It could have been more streamlined but keep in mind that they were trying to use simple platforms knowing that the membership cannot cope with more complex stuff. Additionally, **Phil Hackermann (JuLis)**, you did not put me in a comfortable position - other organisations complained that our delegation was a bit too aggressive, and made unfair complaints about the hosts and chairs. I don't want to see this again from LYMEC - we are trying to fight the idea that we are a bunch of kids. We need to behave more respectfully. With that being said, I will convey your message to the next ALDE Bureau. I don't see the problem with Slido - everyone had a unique code, which ensured that the vote counted only once. Let's understand that if ALDE used our tech, the membership would be lost. I do agree that the Working Groups were not ideal - people didn't mute themselves, the chair could have been more assertive and it took too long. But we can be proud of how we run these things.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)

- ❖ Regarding the outcome, we had two resolutions, one on women's rights and one on the outcomes of the Conference on the Future of Europe. It was a little toned down, we wanted to see real reforms, but as mentioned, some of the other Member Organisations are not as progressive as we are. We had big amendments, I knew some of them would not pass easily, for example the CO2 tax. The voting was too fast, and the outcomes were not always great, but our resolutions were accepted with a big majority.

Ioana Abaseaca (USR Tineret)

- ❖ She states that she wants to make a point about the Renewing Education - Cooperation Project event that USR Tineret will organise with LYMEC, and that members can still apply online. It will be a really interactive event, with lots of opportunities to engage. Please check the email from **Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)** and find the registration link, or go on the International Officers facebook group, or reach out to the organisers.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis)

- ❖ She expresses some surprise that **Phil Hackermann (JuLis)**'s Working Group idea, which proposes offering suggestions to ALDE, was not really addressed. She explains that everyone can bring in ideas from their Member Organisations and bring it to the ALDE Bureau. JuLis invited Alexander Graf Lambsdorff and passed on their points, and he admitted that ALDE could have done better. The LYMEC Bureau should do something similar. She argues that Slido was not democratic and that LYMEC should not make excuses for ALDE.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)

- ❖ She emphasizes that she will not encourage it to be called a bad Congress. We got our points made, but this is not our Congress, we did not run it. I do not criticise what **Phil Hackermann (JuLis)** said, but rather how he said it. To be honest, I didn't understand that he was proposing a Working Group, just that he felt we should express our frustration. Let's be honest, ALDE knows what OpenSlides is, it just doesn't fit their purpose. Please put yourself in the shoes of the older generation - if they can't get OpenSlides to work, we can't criticise them for that. Slido was not undemocratic in my opinion. We can come up with proposals which would work in the long term, but we cannot just tell them that their platform is bad. We have been working on building a LYMEC profile which is constructive and allows us to be treated as equals. I agree we can present suggestions but only in a constructive way.
- ❖ As **Franziska Brandmann (JuLis)** suggested in the chat, we must come together.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis):

- ❖ She responds that she is only giving advice and that she does not appreciate a comment directed at JuLis as an organisation, nor about **Phil Hackermann (JuLis)**. The question is not whether JuLis is overly critical. LYMEC allows itself to be treated like a group of children because that is how the organisation perceives itself. As a

board, JuLis discussed the problems with Lambsdorff - he didn't see this as an attack, just a way to improve the party.

Dan-Aria Sucuri (LYMEC Vice-President)

- ❖ He proposes to wrap this up and move on to the next point.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):

- ❖ She explains feeling uncomfortable - had to go and apologise for things that were written in the chat, and this reduces our bargaining power in general. Sometimes JuLis tries to apply a model which doesn't fit: but we can discuss this another time. We can definitely have a Working Group on the Congress problems, and we can submit this to the ALDE Bureau - but we must not sound like we are commanding them to do something. Regarding OpenSlides we already proposed it to ALDE, but this was just not possible for them to implement.

Alex Alvarez (JC):

- ❖ He informs the members that they will receive an invitation to an event with Jóvenes Ciudadanos and LYMEC, regarding the young liberal response to the Covid-19 crisis. He urges everyone to attend. It will be livestreamed on Monday.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)

- ❖ She adds that next week the Bureau Members will reach out to geographical areas as explained earlier to have the discussion on the Conference on the Future of Europe. Please use this opportunity. If any organisations would like an event on their own, we can facilitate that. If anyone would like to join the consultation on what we can bring to ALDE for their next Congress, please reach out.

Alice Schmidt (JuLis):

- ❖ She explains that JuLis have a social media squad, to which all their members are able to apply. This has allowed them to work with the Communications officer, which has relieved their workload and allows them to do policy and media research. She understands that Ida does not have time to review all social media across Europe, and invites the Bureau to see how JuLis runs their communications and maybe get inspired by it.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):

- ❖ She acknowledges that it sounds like a good idea, you are always welcome to reach out with these ideas.

Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer):

- ❖ She adds that it would be great to get more members involved in our social media. Feel free to contact me directly if you think we should have more communications on a particular issue. Send us an email with your proposals.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President):

- ❖ We have also been working on a new webpage - I will now hand over the word to **Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer)**.

Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer):

- ❖ We finally have a new website, it is still in the testing phase, and for a while will run parallel with the old website while we check that registrations are working. We need you to visit the site and tell us if there are problems with it. Please look at your organisation's page and check the contact information and so on. Let us know if you would like us to change something.

Ida-Maria Skytte (LYMEC Communications Officer) plays a video introducing the new website. It is then officially launched.

- ❖ Right now the address is **action.lymec.eu**. Please bear in mind that for now you cannot log into the new website - you will receive details at the end of the summer.

There is a short break of 10 minutes

- **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** reminds the Assembly that the Digital Assembly is not binding, only the Congress is. It is thus possible to reopen topics during the Congress. She encourages the members to ask questions on the procedure as well.

Session B

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)

- ❖ The Policy Book renewal process is an ongoing project. There are many old resolutions and it can be hard to find new policies in these. There are regular Working Groups of Members and IMS Members which go through the Policy Book. The Sunset Clause system was adopted in London 2019 and means that resolutions are archived or updated after 6 years. We already took care of chapter 1, 2 and 10 and now we are focusing on **chapter 3 on Education and Digitalization**.
- ❖ We will go through point by point, you all had the chance to submit amendments before the DA and you still have the possibility to submit amendments if you want to. We will not open this outcome for amendments during our next Congress, we will only vote on it. Finally, thank you to everyone who has been involved in the work of the Policy Book Renewal. No amendments were received before the Assembly this time.
- ❖ As a reminder, only Delegation Heads should vote, but all delegates can speak in the debate.

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer):

- She displays the outcomes on the screen. The green text is the text taken from other resolutions and red text is new text. We will not change the policy, only update it. We have resolutions that the Working Group wants to archive, as well as mergers and some resolutions that won't be updated. There are some big mergers in the field of education, as well as resolutions regarding scientific research. If you want to take the floor, put your name in the chat.

Resolution and amendments	WG Recommendation	DA Outcome	Comments by participants
3.01 Set Culture Free	Archive	Positive recommendation	Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer) recommends that someone write a new resolution on this topic for an upcoming Congress.
New 3.02 Freedom of Scientific Research	Merge between 3.02, 3.05 and 3.19	Positive recommendation	
Old 3.02 Freedom of Scientific Research	Archive (merged into new 3.02)	Positive recommendation	
3.03 No to Software Patents	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.04 New A Liberal Approach to Education in Europe	Merge 3.04, 3.08, 3.29, 3.31, 3.34, 3.39	Positive recommendation	
3.04 Resolution for a Competitive University	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.05 Save Stem Cell Research	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.06 Science Not Stigma: Ending the Blood Ban	Minor updates	Positive recommendation	Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (OFF) : She reminds delegates that in Ireland the ban is still in place. This week Ireland ran

			out of specific blood banks and had to import them because of that.
3.07 Resolution on Drones and Privacy in the EU	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.08 Resolution on Education	Archive (merged into new 3.04)	Positive recommendation	
3.09 New Youth Programme (2007 - 2013)	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.10 LYMEC Policy paper on Youth	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.11 A Student's Perspective on the Bologna Process	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.12 Mobility in Europe	Update, including text from 2.13	Clara's amendment is accepted Positive recommendation (with addition)	Clara Puig (IMS): She states that it is important to talk about the people who cannot access the Erasmus+ programme because of their social and economical background. A few years back she worked with a Mobility Programme in schools and was shocked by the lack of information in rural France.. She proposes the following amendment: <i>"Calls on the EU to ensure a true partnership between Europe Direct centers and educational facilities to provide all young people with information on mobility programs regardless of their background."</i>
3.13 Unified Grading System for Schools and	Keep	Positive recommendation	

Institutions of Higher Education - Easy, Transparent, Comparable			
3.14 Resolution on the Bologna Process	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.15 Student Services Across Europe	Archive	Positive recommendations	
3.16 Let Justice Between Generations Prevail	Update	Lukas Stravinskas (LLJ)'s comment is accepted Positive recommendation (with the change)	Lukas Stravinskas (LLJ): He suggests correcting the population number for Lithuania from 3.5m to 2.8m.
3.17 A Truly Global Bologna Process	Update	Positive recommendation	
3.18 Resolution on the Liberal Challenge of the Communication Society	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.19 Resolution on Biotechnological Research and Human Cloning	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.20 Open your mind with open access	Keep	Positive recommendation	
3.21 European Net Neutrality	Archive	Positive recommendation	
New 3.22 A welcoming student culture - Establishing	Merger	Positive recommendation	

language courses for refugees			
Old 3.22 A welcoming student culture - establishing language courses for refugees	Archive (merge into new 3.22)	Positive recommendation	
New 3.23 Youth Unemployment in Europe	Merger	Positive recommendation	
Old 3.23 Resolution on Youth Unemployment	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.24 The Role of Education in the Fight Against Youth Unemployment	Archive (merge into 3.23)	Positive recommendation	
3.25 Resolution on Countering Radicalisation of Youth in Europe	Update	<p>“Extremists” to replace ‘Extreme religious speeches’ Amendment passes</p> <p>Resolution as a whole: Positive recommendation</p>	<p>Clara Puig (IMS): In the last paragraph in ‘calls for’, where it can be found as ‘extreme radicalization’, we should include nationalists as well, not only religious speeches.</p> <p>Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): She clarifies that it would then be ‘Extreme religious and political speeches’ as proposed by Clara.</p> <p>Franziska Brandmann (Julis): She is against including political, because it suggests that we want to save young people from political speeches. More sense to cross out religious, which would then suggest that we mean all extreme speeches.</p>

			<p>Umberto Masi (LLJ): Yes, in my opinion we can find a solution but if we say extremist political speeches, this doesn't suggest we are trying to keep young people away from all political speeches.</p> <p>Clara Puig (IMS): People can be radicalized by different causes, in my opinion we need to take out the sole link to religion.</p> <p>Franziska Brandmann (Julis): What if we say extreme ideologies?</p> <p>Umberto Masi (LLJ): I would personally support Franziska, if we say extremist, it is better.</p> <p>Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): We will have a vote on the word extremism and on extreme ideologies.</p> <p>Asks Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General) to open vote for changing extreme speeches to extremism.</p> <p>Vote on changing the word 'extreme religious speeches' to 'extremists' was accepted by the Digital Assembly.</p>
3.26 Improving Technology in Favour of Education	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.27 Joint Degree Programmes Integration in Erasmus+	Update	Positive recommendation	

3.28 Refugees in Universities	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.29 Educating Europe	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.30 License to Heal	Keep	Positive recommendation	Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer): This is an initiative from the NL. She flags it as very relevant currently in EU discussions.
3.31 Free Trade for Education	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.32 5G Wireless - Let's Start the Future	Keep	Positive recommendation	
3.33 Industry 5.0 A European Initiative	Keep	Positive recommendation	
3.34 A Liberal Way for European Education	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.35 Facilitating academic cooperation with the EU in higher education	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.36 Academic Freedom in a time of populism and political volatility	Archive	Positive recommendation	
3.37 Taking responsibility on protecting our health with vaccinations	Keep	Positive recommendation	
3.38 Recognition of Upper Secondary Qualifications across Europe	Update	Positive recommendation	

3.39 European Digital University	Archive (merged into 3.04)	Positive recommendation	
3.40 Secure Innovation, how to secure smart devices	Keep	Positive recommendation	

Marina Sedlo (LYMEC Policy Officer)

- ❖ If there are no more comments, I will close the session on this Policy Book Renewal. Don't forget to encourage your members to participate in the next Policy Renewal, it will be about **Chapter 4**, which concentrates on taxes, financial affairs and so on. I hope that as many of you can participate in the next Working Group as well after our Autumn Congress.

Bàlint Gyévai (LYMEC Secretary General)

- ❖ The result will be presented to the Congress. He makes a few reminders: check the new website and check that the information is up to date regarding your own organisation. If there is anything you want to change please let me know and email us at office@lymec.eu. Please try to keep your credentials available in the future, now we also have an easier way to get a new password. A reminder about the Conference on the Future of Europe, please endorse the proposals and share it with your members. If we want to have a weight in this process, we need a lot of endorsements. With that being said **Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)** will give the closing remarks.

Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (LYMEC President)

- ❖ Thank you very much for everything today! I want to urge you to take the chance to invite us to explain to you about the Conference on the Future of Europe. I cannot stress enough that there are conservative forces teaming up to influence the outcome and we need to do that as well.
- ❖ We will use all the tools to make this organization moving forward and if you have any proposals on doing so do not hesitate to contact us.