

BUREAU REPORT

**Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer,
President**

October 2021 – May 2022

Dear Delegates,
Dear LYMEC members,
Dear Liberals and friends,

The past mandate of LYMEC's Bureau, covering the period of April 2020 – May 2022 was by far not what I had pictured, when I took the decision to run for LYMEC President. This period was marked by our changed way of life, broad about by the COVID pandemic and a myriad of crises, culminating with the shuttering of our blissed ignorance on the fragility of peace in Europe. And while it's a cliché that challenges also provide opportunities, the current mandate passed predominantly marked by the meaning behind those words.

We started this mandate by organizing the first ever digital Congress of the European Liberal Youth organization. As difficult of a period the peak of the pandemic was, it brought about a change of mindset, in thinking digital by default, an uptake of online tools and opportunities, bringing about discussions, speakers and trainings in a digital setting that we could have never imagined before.

Recently, while we all woke up to a much darker world, following the Russian invasion in Ukraine, understanding that the European area of peace, security and prosperity, that was being repeated almost like a hollow mantra is not a given, and the fight for personal freedoms and peace could become a tangible, real struggle within a blink of an eye. It all brought about the understanding that now really more than ever, we need unity, togetherness and solidarity in order to defend our civilizational choices.

Throughout these difficult times we, as LYMEC Bureau have been trying to respond as quickly as possible to the changing realities and lead the organization through the quickly changing realities to the best of our ability, trying to be as adaptive and responsive. In doing so, I believe – and hope you agree with that estimate - that we have managed to answer to the priorities we have set with the LYMEC Working Program, adopted in 2020.

As horizontal goals, we intended to work for a more professional LYMEC and indeed our office is now reinforced by a permanently employed administrative assistant and a youth liaison officer, that the ALDE party provided support with, making the work flow of the organization a lot more stable and organized, while providing the necessary man-power to provide regular policy briefings on European topics to our member organizations, so that you are more aware and better prepared to respond to the ongoing changes on the European stage. We further set the aim to improve coordination and communication between Bureau members and the representatives of our member organizations, clearly communicated portfolios and activities, providing for more transparency, and understanding of the work

being done. To this end, we initiated a bi-annual informal digital assembly and allocated more time for Bureau reports and follow-up Q/A at Congresses, in order to inform you on the individual work of each Bureau member, so that you could provide us with your feedback, comments or suggestions on the work being done in between the Congresses, as well as to provide you with an in-between opportunity to discuss the policy book clean up that was started during the previous mandate.

We further continued the work on strengthening and streamlining the workings of our Working Groups, through devising an improved working infrastructure, as well as the workings of our unique Individual Members' section, by improving the connection between the responsible Bureau member, the Steering Committee and the newly joining individual members, and continued building on the work for launching the Alumni network as a platform to connect our former members with a heart for LYMEC with our current activities.

In addition we continued the work of the previous Bureau on making LYMEC's visual identity a recognizable brand, and as pledged at the beginning of the mandate, a special focus of our work was improving the digital instrumentation, which our organization uses, which is why we replaced the previous multitude of Congress platforms with our current single gateway for documents, discussions and voting, and launched a new website.

We were also introducing novel opportunities for strengthening our organizations and the links between them, through awarding projects for developing twinning concepts on political topics of relevance to the youth of more than 3 members organisations.

Last but not least, as a horizontal goal we worked on strengthening LYMEC's political relevance and standing within the liberal family and decision-makers. As one of the driving discourses on the European stage during this period was concerning the Conference on the Future of Europe, we targeted our efforts on making the LYMEC views on it known with every fraction of the Liberal family and beyond, and held regular discussions with representatives of the ALDE Party, Renew Europe Group, ALDE PACE, and organized meetings and discussions with representatives of the other European youth organizations on this topic, emphasizing at all times and at all forums, the necessity to bring about real results from this process. We created an advocacy database for reaching out to the Members of Parliament from our political family. In addition, with the support of ALDE's co-presidents, we improved LYMEC's standing with the ALDE party, through jointly working on a "Alliance for Her Youth" edition, providing training to young, politically active women and by improving LYMEC's participation in one of the party's high-level events, by securing representation at the ALDE leaders' meetings.

All in all, we executed our mandates and performed our work with a lot of passion and dedication and I hope you could forgive the glitches along the way, as we were indeed always adapting and bridging the current ever-changing realities, the important topics on the European political agenda and the desire to deliver to the needs shared by all of you.

Events:

Date	Place	Event/Purpose	Organisation
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12/11/2022	Brussels	Young Changemakers' Academy	LYMEC
08 - 10/12/2022	Rome	ALDE Council meeting	ALDE
10/12/2022	Rome	ALDE Party Bureau meeting	ALDE
10/12/2022	Rome	4th Hans van Baalen Town Hall in Rome, Debate on the Conference for the Future of Europe	ALDE
02/02/2022	Brussels	Meeting with Renew Europe Group President Stephane Sejourne	Renew Europe Group
04 - 06/02/2022	Brussels	Bureau Meeting	LYMEC
05/02/2022	Online	Digital Assembly 2022 – part I	LYMEC
21/02/2022	Online	LYMEC Year of the Youth Hub brainstorming session	LYMEC
28/02/2022	Online	ALDE Extraordinary Summit on the situation in Ukraine	ALDE
02/03/2022	Online	ALDE meeting on the invasion in Ukraine with Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna.	ALDE
03/03/2022	Namur	Alliance of Her Youth	ALDE/LYMEC
07/03/2022	Online	Bureau meeting	LYMEC
15/03/2022	Brussels	ALDE Party Bureau meeting	ALDE
17/03/2022	Online	LYMEC voices from Ukraine	LYMEC
24/03/2022	Online	ALDE Party Leaders' meeting	ALDE
28/03/2022	Online	LYMEC voices from Ukraine	LYMEC
31/03/2022	Online	Bureau meeting	LYMEC
27/04/2022	Online	Meeting of the Liberal Awards Jury	ELF
19/05/2022	Online	Bureau meeting	LYMEC

Looking forward to seeing you within the liberal family,

Always yours,



Antoaneta Asenova - Bihlmayer,
LYMEC President