

Fellow Liberal friends,

I write to you in the quality of **LYMEC's Bureau Member responsible for Greece**. It was a true pleasure to know of your existence. As a Portuguese, I know how hard it is to be a Liberal in our countries and in our times. And I know how hard it is to show to others the intricacy of a situation that we disapprove: to other Europeans, making people understand that eventually some of the paths we are following are not necessarily the best; to our fellow compatriots that the roads that we have taken in the past are definitely wrong and can only lead us to disaster.

LYMEC stands as an **active, but critical, supporter of the European project**, demanding a Union where transparency is enlarged, where democratic control of the institutions is reinforced, and where resources are used in a better way and in different goals (it is unacceptable that agriculture remains our main expenditure in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century).

The European Liberal Youth is also a **plural, diverse organisation**. Not only geographically and thus culturally, but also ideologically. Side by side liberals of all shades and tendencies live under the same roof, having in common the central value of Freedom. This contributes to lively debates that always test us, requiring our judgement and our arguments to be improved at each new confrontation. Such diversity was one of the many things that made me feel at home when I first joined LYMEC, in 2008, as an Individual Member. Considering myself as a pragmatic social liberal, I enjoy the dialectics that is created from debates based not only in concrete, specific policies, but also on *values and on principles, on the ideological fundamentals of any decent political action*.

I hope to see you in the near future!

Please find attached:

- The different **types of membership in LYMEC**. Bear in mind that besides applying as an organisation, you are also welcome to become individual members.
- The list of our **events in 2013**. Try to have someone from your organization in at least three events before the Autumn Congress if you do intend to apply for Applicant Membership.
- And an **excerpt of our Manifesto**, to get acquainted with our main values and principles.

*Με εκτίμηση,*



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## LYMEC Membership Types

Regarding membership, LYMEC has 4 types of members:

- **Individual Members (IMS)** through which individuals can join LYMEC. I, for example, am an Individual Member of LYMEC and I can only encourage you and your more active members to join through this formula (regardless of if the organization is going to join in the near future or not). Check <http://www.lymec.eu/become-member>. Individual Members can vote for their own delegates for the congress. They can also present resolutions. Enrollment through LYMEC's the website.

- **Observer Members** - for organizations that are not sure of what is their engagement with LYMEC, or that LYMEC is not sure if is willing to engage with, or for organizations that do not fulfill all the main criteria. The applicant organisation must have attended at least one LYMEC event prior to the Autumn Congress where the application is dealt with. This cannot include any seminar attached to the Autumn Congress where the application is dealt with. Observer Members don't have a right to vote.

- **Applicant Members** - this is a mandatory step to become a full member. You must have attended several events from LYMEC, including a Congress, and a member of LYMEC Bureau should have visited you in a congress of yours. Approved through submission of an application and voting by the Autumn Congress (only). Applicant Members don't have a right to vote.

- **Full Members** - after being at least a year as an Associate Member you must have attended five events from LYMEC, and a member of LYMEC Bureau should have visited you in a congress of yours. Approved through submission of an application and voting by the Autumn Congress (only). Full members can vote, elect and present candidates.

## LYMEC events in 2013

- **Redrafting Europe: How to Construct and Promote Liberalism for the Young Electorate**, 15th – 17th March 2013, Helsinki, Finland

- **LYMEC Congress and Seminar on Redrafting Europe** 24th – 28th April 2013, Tallinn, Estonia

- **Redrafting Europe: building and communicating a Liberal political program**, 7th – 9th of June 2013, Florence, Italy (tbc)

- **IMS event**, 5th – 7th July 2013, Berlin Germany

- **Young Leaders Meeting**, 6th – 8th of September 2013, Lisbon, Portugal (Only for Organization's President and European Elections' candidates)

- **LYMEC Press training**, 11th – 13th of October, 2013, Brussels, Belgium

- **LYMEC Congress and Seminar on European Identity**, 13th – 17th of November 2013, Bucharest, Romania

- **LYMEC fringe meeting on ALDE Party Congress**, 30th November 2013, London, UK

- **ALDE Winter Academy**, 4th – 6th of December 2013, Brussels, Belgium

## **LYMEC MANIFESTO**

*(Excerpt; full version available online at*

*[http://www.lymec.eu/sites/default/files/LYMEC%20Manifesto%20Rome%202009\\_o.pdf](http://www.lymec.eu/sites/default/files/LYMEC%20Manifesto%20Rome%202009_o.pdf))*

Adopted at the Congress in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, April 2005

Updated at the Congress in Rome, Italy, May 2009

### **I. Preamble**

LYMEC, European Liberal Youth, is a pan-European organization dedicated to the promotion and strengthening of liberal and radical values in Europe. The word Radical stems from the French word *Radicaux* and indicates Social-Liberalism. LYMEC is composed of liberal and radical political youth and student organisations based in European countries, as well as of young European individuals subscribing to the principles and values of Liberalism and Radicalism. The aim of LYMEC is to strengthen cooperation among the community of young liberals and radicals and channel our combined efforts towards building a better and more liberal political, social and economic environment for all Europeans.

Furthermore, LYMEC aims to play a role in the construction of the European Union as a youth organisation in close cooperation with other pan-European liberal and radical organizations, educate its member organisations and individual members through the organization of seminars, publications, group travel, symposia, courses and educational meetings, stimulate the cooperation between its member organisations and individual members on the European level, to develop the important themes of the general public debate, educate its member organisations and individual members to develop clear strategies and to take own initiatives and to promote political awareness and involvement of young people in European politics including the promotion of active citizenship.

LYMEC views the European Union as a positive political force that has brought peace and stability to our continent and allowed Europeans to progress and develop in the spirit of tolerance and cooperation. It aims to reform and deepen the European Union in order to strengthen democracy, transparency and political participation on the European level.

LYMEC shall work on its political agenda by maintaining close relationship with the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party and its parliamentary group in the European Parliament. LYMEC closely follows the ELDR group in the European Parliament, taking positions on parliamentary debates and integrating the views of young Europeans into the group's work. LYMEC equally considers important the issues of global development and cooperation and is the official regional youth organisation of the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) in Europe. LYMEC is independent in all decisions.

This manifesto is the common ground on which LYMEC bases its work.

## **II. Primary values of Liberalism and Radicalism**

As liberals and radicals our main value is Liberty, which implies:

- Freedom with responsibility
- Equal rights and equality in law.
- The independence of the individual
- Progress and Prosperity through Peace and Global Cooperation
- Tolerance
- A free market economy
- A sustainable environment
- Active citizenship
- Respect for fundamental human rights
- A pluralistic society
- The rule of law

### *SUMMARY OF THE LAST THREE SECTIONS*

## **III: Main principles of Liberalism and Radicalism**

- 1. Free Individuals*
- 2. Democracy and rule of law*
- 3. A Liberal Economy*

## **IV: Key issues for LYMEC**

- 1. Personal freedoms*
- 2. Education and Youth*
- 3. Clean Environment*
- 4. Freedom of expression and Information Society*
- 5. Free trade*
- 6. Social Policy*

## **V: Strong and United Europe, deepening European democracy**

- 1. Institutional settings*
- 2. Competencies of the Union*
- 3. Development of the common foreign and security policy*
- 4. Home affairs, migration and asylum*
- 5. Europe in a Globalised world*