



MANIFESTO

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I. Preamble

LYMEC, the Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union, is composed of liberal and radical political youth and student organisations in The European Union and the future member states as well as young European individuals subscribing to the principles and values of Liberalism and Radicalism. The aim of LYMEC is to strengthen co-operation and community between like-minded young liberals and radicals and to promote the European idea developed in the framework of the European Union. We will promote our common interests primarily through close relations with the Liberal, Democrat and Reform group in the European Parliament and the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party. LYMEC has a close co-operation with the International Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth, IFLRY.

The strengthened European integration demands a strong European youth movement, ensuring the influence of young liberals and radicals within the process. There is a strong need for a visionary and idealistic approach on the European debate. As well we see a need for a more open and public discussion about the future organisation of the European community.

The enlarged Union demands a European consciousness and deeper debate among, and awareness of the European citizens. To LYMEC the debate and creation of the European Union is a continuing process, where geographical borders and cultural differences is a challenge, not a barrier. This manifesto is the common ground on which LYMEC bases its work.

II. Liberalism, Radicalism and the Individual:

2,1 Primary values of Liberalism and Radicalism

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

- Freedom with responsibility
- Equal rights and equality towards the law.
- The sovereignty and inviolability of the individual
- Progress and Prosperity through Peace and Global Co-operation
- Tolerance
- A free market economy, where a sustainable environment is taken into consideration.
- An active democracy
- Respect for fundamental human rights
- A plural society
- Rule of law



2,2 Main principles of Liberalism and Radicalism

The basic principles of Liberalism and Radicalism are the distinctive concept of liberty and the distinctive conception of the individual. We believe that the individual should be the goal and not the mean, thus every human being is a purpose in him/herself. The liberal and radical conception of the individual is that every human being is unique but of equal value. The inevitability of this however, is that of recognising that one mans gain can never justify another mans loss. This principle must hold true in government administration as well as in civic matters. The foundation of the liberal and radical ideology is that of human progress for the mutual benefit of the individuals in a society. In order to ensure that every man has the possibility to fulfil his life-project the government of a society has the responsibility for ensuring that its citizens have an economic basis in the shape of a minimum standard of living if they cannot provide for themselves.

Each individual is entitled to define his vision in life and born with the right to be free from the compulsion of others. Each individual should respect any others right to decide how they want to fulfil their needs as long as they respect their fellow men.

We believe that our fellow human beings can make sensible choices - choices which benefit the individual and which respect and support the freedom of others. Therefore we base our ideas of a better society on the fact that the citizens must have true freedom; both the economic freedom to choose and options to choose between. The best and most efficient way to organise a social system of economic freedom is by private initiative and competition organised in a free market economy that respects the environment.

We are in favour of a pluralistic society, where a variety of views and opinions exist side by side in mutual respect. We want a tolerant and open society where all minorities have a say and where all views are heard. We urge that all individuals take responsibility for their life and the society they live in and therefore to the largest extent possible participate actively in the decision-making processes. We believe in a democratic form of government and are against totalitarian systems. In order to prevent political and administrative abuse of power we support an open decision-making processes in all institutions. We urge that all political decisions are to be taken as closely as possible to the citizen to ensure a genuine and transparent democracy.

III. The Individual and the Society

Having defined the individual as a goal in him/herself poses an immense challenge to conservative ideologies on all levels. The important essence to grasp is that of the state not being an aim in itself, but a tool essential in upholding the rights of the individual.

3.1 "L'État de droit" and the Fundamental Rights

In a just and democratic society the rights of the citizens are enshrined in a constitution. They find their expression in the definition of human rights.



The constitution is the basis of a community founded on freedom within the rule of law, in which all decisions taken by the Executive can be traced back to a democratically adopted formal rule.

We believe that judicial independence and separation of powers is fundamental to the rule of law and to the protection of the citizens' civil rights and freedom. We believe in a tripartition of powers, which consists of a legislative, executive and judicial power. The constitutional court and the "ombudsman" are examples of measures to accomplish this system.

The constitution shall forbid retroactive laws so that citizens will always have knowledge of the rules they are subject to. Furthermore it is an aim for a democratic society to reduce the number of regulative laws and to make legislation as transparent as possible. This not only to diminish bureaucracy but also to give the citizens better knowledge about the society in which they live and the regulating legislation which concerns their lives.

3.2 Media

In Europe's modern societies the media is rapidly changing from a paternalistic monopoly over today's fragmented multichannel-system towards a media-convergence where the media will have an even stronger and covering impact on the society. In the future there will only be few limits for the possibilities within the media-world and the technical difficulties will be overcome.

The access to information should be guaranteed to all citizens. Though it should be kept in mind that it is not a public job to ensure that everybody has direct access to the media from their home. The future media is an interactive medium that demands participation from both sides. Though there should be no restrictions on the items that are broadcast and all people should have the right to watch whatever channel they want.

The move towards a media-convergence both challenges the media-world and the citizens. The convergence will broaden the gap between the ones with media-knowledge and the citizens that do not know how to act react and impact the media-world. The gap between the advanced broadcast-companies and the less advanced, say economically poorer, companies will as well broaden.

To manage the challenges of the media-convergence we need European media legislation a framework and a new media ethic so the diversity and multi-channel system will be ensured. The main principles of the law must be no possibilities for frequency hoarding, no monopolies on the analogue nor digital network, no possibility for cartels and no favouring of the public broadcast companies. This to ensure, that the free press has the widest space for acting and thereby contributing to a plural society. For a functioning European democracy it is of greatest importance to have a pluralistic and critical European media market, to ensure access to independent information.

In today's societies the media also play an important role within the political process. The media acts critically upon the decisions taken by the politicians and ensures that the policies are both discussed and weighted by and among the



public. Some even understands the media as an extra-power spoken in constitutional terms. To uphold this position the media itself have to keep up a strong self-regulation.

3.3 The Organisation of political system

LYMEC believes in the representative democracy based on an electoral system with proportional representation that ensures, that the will of the people is reflected through regular and genuine elections. All citizens shall have the right, but not obligation, to vote, although some restrictions may apply – such as restrictions based on age and citizenship – as long as these restrictions are not meant to exclude certain parts of the population. In a democracy ballots must be secret and direct, and the elections free.

All political parties and individuals of the age of majority shall be free to stand for election and to have the right to promote information about them. In order to ensure the broadest possible representation every citizen must have access to information about the political systems, the political parties and individuals running for office. Secure online voting is an important tool in strengthening democracy and should be further developed.

3.4 Individual Political Participation

In order to achieve individual participation in the political decision making process, it is important that political decisions are taken as closely as possible to the individual according to the principle of subsidiarity. The political decision-making process and its documents shall be open to the public at all stages. Bureaucracy must be reduced and public administration must be transparent. Civil servants have the obligation to answer questions posted to them and hand out documents. Any expectations to this rule must be limited and clearly defined. Close contact between the people and their elected representatives is desirable. Society should encourage comprehensive political participation in parties, non-governmental organisations and educational establishments etc. Management of public institutions, e.g. educational establishments should, to the extent possible, be handed over to both the users and the employees to ensure that the individual to the largest extent possible can influence her/his own life.

3.5 Interest Groups

Companies, unions and non-governmental organisations play an important role in the political process. The interaction between the interest groups and the political establishment contributes to a more thorough and user-close legislation, BUT it is of crucial importance that no well-organised interest organisation is favoured on behalf of a minor and less organised group. The processes where the interest organisations are integrated in the policymaking process demand that all actors respect and recognise each other. The goal; a better society for everybody must never be sat aside in the strive for own achievements.



IV. Four key issues for LYMEC.

Free Trade, The need for education, Social Policy and A Clean Environment.

4.1 Free Trade

LYMEC is in favour of abolishing trade barriers and any kind of import duties and export benefits that prevents free trade between the EU and the rest of the world. In the long run, a system of free trade will enable countries to contribute most favourably to global prosperity, welfare and economic growth. The European Union should continue to use the World Trade Organisation as the prime instrument in the attempt to reach global free trade. It is important to keep human rights in mind in free trade.

LYMEC believes that free trade is the key to developing the third world countries. Developmental aid should provide structural economic benefits as well as improving social conditions, education and medical provisions. Structural aid should be directed at projects strengthening or providing the basis for free market mechanisms or solutions and institutional stability. And it shall be ensured that the aid is delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible. As debts are an obstacle for investment in their own economy, by developing countries, debt-relief programs are a crucial instrument in the developing process of third world countries.

4.2 The need for education

LYMEC believes that education is crucial. It makes the full use of each individual's resources and potentials possible, which benefits both society and the individual. Therefore a high standard of education should be sought throughout the EU member countries.

The challenges that faces a modern society, makes a high level of education necessary. It also furthers the individuals understanding of and respect for other people and cultures. Through education, each individual should be capable of providing for oneself and develop a critical, analytical and independent opinion and way of thinking. The ability to make independent and critical decisions will further democracy in the member countries and give the individual the possibility of handling important ethical decisions.

Concerning the EU, LYMEC believes that educational policy in principle should be managed according to the principle of subsidiarity. LYMEC however, would welcome the development of a private European educational sector based on market principles and eventually backed by government funding. LYMEC do not want a harmonisation of the educational sector, but recognises the need for certain standards, that make comparisons and transfers within the EU member countries possible. This will further the mobility in between the countries, and make for a more flexible and mobile labour market.

The Union must ensure that certain rights are guaranteed to all European citizens:

- The right to a basic education regardless of economic status



- The right to be accepted to a school in another member state, on the same terms that applies to the citizens of that member state

Thus programmes and policies of the EU must promote:

- The mobility of young people
- The possibility for all young people to take part in exchange programmes
- The introduction of a period in another country as part of the educational system
- The teaching of foreign languages at the earliest appropriate age
- The teaching of world history
- Civic education

4.3 Social policy

LYMEC believes that the member countries must provide a fair minimum level of social security for all citizens that cannot provide for themselves. The welfare system should encourage a free market policy in order to achieve efficiency. Each member country is free to conduct its own social policy.

Unemployment is a big problem in many European countries. Unemployment compromises the individual and leaves the unemployed in a situation where they no longer feel as citizens that can contribute to the society. Unemployment is not only a problem for the individual but as well a disaster for a democratic and prosperous society. The Unemployed live in a situation where they can no longer continue their normal way of life but are torn out of their normal routine.

Unemployment leaves the citizens as well as the society in an unsustainable situation where the resources of the individuals are not used in a proper way. Also unemployment among young people is an increasing problem that demands political attention. The individual young as well as old is a far too precious resource to leave unemployed. Unemployment is to be dealt with through structural improvements. Free movement of labour, capital and goods within the EU is a necessity in achieving this goal. To stimulate labour mobility in the union, bureaucracy has to decrease and educational certificates should have the same value in every member state.

4.4 A Clean Environment

On a global level it is of the greatest importance that developed countries take the lead towards sustainable development. This means a considerable increase in the efficient use of energy, turning to sustainable patterns of consumption and a dramatic reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gases. EU should strongly support the further development and use of alternative energies. Concerning the fact that nuclear power generates nuclear waste, which final disposal is still unsolved, we aim to develop better and safe nuclear energy. EU should, in the safety of European citizens, take financial responsibility, to ensure safety in



eastern and central Europe, where nuclear power plants are generally in a poor condition. LYMEC urges that the use of fossil energy sources are decreased and encourages the EU as well as the national states to invest in alternative energy sources and promote the sciences in this field.

Achieving sustainable development is an enormous challenge, particularly in the fields of energy, transport and pollution. LYMEC believes these challenges must be met via three key mechanisms; Individual responsibility, Market economy and International co-operation. LYMEC supports a common European environmental policy to set up minimum standards and take the environment into account in all European policymaking areas and in all European projects.

Environmental problems know no state borders and therefore LYMEC finds it reasonable to invest more money and time in conquering the environmental problems in the neighbouring countries than to invest many resources inside the EU. Though the environmental standards in the EU should always be kept in mind and in developing and execution of standards EU countries have to set a good example.

The EU should invest in and give incentives for private enterprises to invest into alternative energy producing and distributing in Central and Eastern Europe in order to reduce the waste of energy and to improve the environmental situation in these countries.

V. Visions for Europe

5.1 A United Europe

LYMEC is committed to the process of creating a closer Union among the peoples of Europe and to establish peace and freedom. History has taught us that interdependence and European unity are preconditions, if a lasting peace among our nations is to be ensured. Furthermore, as the world grows smaller a number of problems can no longer be solved only by the nation states. However, the nation state is alone too small and the world is too complex to face up to future challenges. It is against this background that we see the need for European Union. The core-tasks of such European Union should be:

- a) Guarantee freedom, democracy, peace and human and minority rights;
- b) Guarantee economic and social stability;
- c) Fulfil the aims of the internal market by realising its four freedoms.
- d) Define a foreign, security and defence policy to co-ordinate national foreign and security policies.
- e) Provide and take care of a healthy environment.
- f) Guarantee the member states no interference by the European Union in other matters than described in the core-tasks.



- g) Provide the institutional frame for co-operation on justice and home affair matters.
- h) Create more transparency and efficiency in the whole process of policy-making;
- i) Create a framework in which all European countries that subscribe to the core tasks of the European Union are welcome.

The exclusive competencies of the European Union should be set down in a European Constitution, preceded by a legally binding Charter of fundamental Rights.

LYMEC puts high value to the diversity in culture and traditions in Europe and the world, and we do not see this diversity challenged by European Union. We see the European Union as a Union where diversity goes hand in hand with tolerance and the perception that people are different, but of equal value. Despite our differences - we share common interests. As the European Union we wish to show that solidarity is not only felt towards one's neighbour or fellow national citizen.

Our long-term goal is to ensure a stable and harmonious development of the world through strong and efficient co-operation, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. Co-operation should be concentrated on the questions of common concern: i.e. peaceful resolution of conflicts and the preservation and restoration of the environment

5,2 The Content of the Union

The European Union must be based on the values set out in section 2.1. Our Union is based on unity, but not uniformity. Our European Union is a citizens union, where all citizens take part in, benefit from, and participate in the creation of a democratic and peaceful Europe.

It is our aim to deepen the solidarity between the European peoples while respecting their history, culture, language and traditions. We will promote social and economic progress, which is environmentally sustainable.

We see the European project as a continuous process that is open to change, deepening and enlargement. We aim towards a strengthening and convergence of all the European economies to enlarge the European Monetary Union so all European Union countries will have a single and stable currency.

We wish to see the establishment of a European citizenship and free movement of people within the Union. The free mobility of people and goods is a basis for intercultural understanding. It must always be ensured to reach deeper understanding and tolerance among the citizens of the Union as well as other individuals moving around in the European Union. The safety and security of the citizens in the Union must be ensured through close co-operation on home and legal affairs.



We support the establishment of a common European foreign and security policy - including a common defence with the purpose to promote peace, security, democracy, human rights and progress in Europe and the world.

5,3 Regions

LYMEC acknowledges the role of regions in the European decision-making process, especially those, which have a legislative capacity and their own cultural identity.

Until a two-chamber system has been established, LYMEC is in favour of looking for a workable solution for the Committee of the Regions in the short-term vision.

5.4 A Democratic and Federal Europe

The future of the European Union is a federal system. LYMEC believes in an united Europe based on a federal system where the principle of subsidiarity is respected so that the decisions are made as closely as possible to the citizen, at local, regional or national levels, unless the common interest can be proved to be better served by a decision at European level.

A constitution creating a European federation should follow the existing Treaty of the European Union. However, European unity can only be achieved with the support of the citizens of Europe. Therefore, the citizens of the member states should be allowed and encouraged to participate in a thorough debate on the future of the European Union setting up the proposal for a constitution.

LYMEC supports a federal European political system based on the two-chamber system. The first chamber represents the citizens of the Union and will be the European Parliament. The second chamber represents the member states and will be the Council of Ministers. In the Council of Ministers each member state should have one vote. The European Union is a union of the inhabitants of the member states and of the member states themselves. The structure would mean that European legislation should have a majority among the inhabitants (Parliament) and member states (Council).

The European Commission will be the government of the Union. The chairman of the commission should be elected by the parliament. The elected chairman should then suggest that the Commission and the European Parliament should approve on each commissioner and the Commission as such. The number of commissioners should reflect the number of key policy areas of the European Union, not more, not less. The current system with at least one commissioner for each member state is not sustainable in an enlarged European Union.

The number of members of the European Parliament from each country should be proportional to the number of inhabitants. No single country should be allowed to block the decision-making process in the two chambers.

Members of the European Parliament should be elected on the basis of a common European electoral code, based on the principle of proportional representation. For us as Liberal minded people the individual citizens are far more important



than states. Therefore we want the European Parliament to be the major force in the European Union.

The competence of the European Parliament should be increased to have the right of initiative and to amend, approve and disapprove every law. The European Parliament should have the right to amend and approve the full budget. The European Commission proposes the budget. The competencies of the second chamber should be to have the right to approve and disapprove every law, including the budget.

The powers of the political institutions should be restricted by the fact that those institutions must show that the common interest is better served by a decision at European level rather than at national, regional or local level. The constitutional court must guarantee the division of powers according to the principle of subsidiarity.

The European Union must ensure that its legislation is implemented and enforced in all the member states. Member states that do not sufficiently enforce Union law must be tried before the European Court of Justice. Such European laws imply that any citizen should be able to apply to the court of Justice in his/her state. The European Union decision-making process including documents held by the European Union institutions must be open to the largest possible extent to all European citizens. Modern information and communication technology must be used to make the EU more open and transparent.

5,5 Core Group/ Flexibility

LYMEC considers the European project to be a continuous process, which is always open to change, deepening and enlargement, though it is important to bear in mind that the goal of the project should be the same to all. The goal is the establishment of a stable, democratic, peaceful and integrated European Union. LYMEC recognises that some countries are more advanced and ready to further integration. Flexibility is therefore a keyword, when it comes to deeper integration in the European Union. Though it must always be ensured that the goal is the same for everybody. If we want to create a multi-speed Europe there are certain demands that must be met:

- a) A differentiated integration must be compatible with the objectives of the European Union. The establishment of core-groups should never go so far that the remaining member states would not be able to join the group. A gap between the advanced and the less advanced member states is to be combated not strengthened.
- b) Each member should be free to join the core group if it is capable to do so and if it has the will to satisfy the requirements put down for a faster integration;
- c) A differentiated integration must not compromise the Community's legal order, nor undermine the cohesion of the internal market;



- d) Member States who choose to renounce to this participation will not be allowed to oppose the institution of a core group.

The multi-speed Europe must not be seen as a goal for advanced countries to create better conditions for themselves but a way to ensure that the European Union is developing. The goal must never be a European Union in various dimensions. The flexibility is a tool towards deeper integration, not a goal in itself.

5,6 A Prosperous Europe

As liberals and radicals we see free trade as a mean to achieve prosperity in the European Union and the rest of the world. Therefore, the Union must continue to develop the internal market with the four free movements, direct or indirect, that inhibit intra Union trade. To secure the free movement of people the social rights should be transferable in the member states. However, trade with arms and weapons must be subject to severe restrictions. Consumers, employees and the environment must be protected by using economic policy and legislation. Economic growth with respect to the environment should be directed by using the free market.

LYMEC supports European Monetary Union, the objective of attaining price stability and a common currency. These are preconditions to the full benefits of the Single Market.

LYMEC favours a strict adherence of the Maastricht criteria on EMU and the stability pact. Member states that fulfil these criteria should join EMU as soon as possible. EMU will foster competitiveness of European companies, which is necessary to form the economic basis for social progress.

VI. “An Open and Peaceful Europe”

The challenge of our generation is to create a unique opportunity to create Europe where democracy and human rights are universally respected values. A world where peace rests upon common interests and not upon a balance of terror. In our part of the world the European Union should have a great responsibility to ensure that this opportunity is used to it's fullest.

6,1 Common Foreign, Security and Defence Policy

Military violence is the least favourable option. We as young liberals and radicals believe that military force should not be used until there are no other alternatives left. It is the last, but sadly a legitimate option. Common institutions should be developed and created to handle early warnings of aggression and to prevent conflicts all over Europe. The European Union must co-operate with other organisations on an international level in order to secure peace in Europe and in the world.

The European Union should develop a common defence and security based on the ideas of collective security. This should be based on mutual defence of the European states. The European Union should as well develop a common foreign policy.



LYMEC supports the establishment of a European crisis management force and would like it to develop into a force in order to secure that EU can solve regional crisis in Europe. It is time for Europe to grow up and take responsibility. Securing peace, freedom and stability in Europe shall be the main task.

Following established international norms of security politics, engagement in this management force is based on intergovernmental co-operation.

6,2 Immigrants and Refugees

LYMEC calls for a harmonised humanitarian immigration and refugee policy based on the right to asylum in the EU, also by helping to solve the problems in the countries of origin. We support the idea of cultural pluralism, and think that everyone should be free to choose where they want to live, no matter her/his geographical origins. This policy should be combined with information and education to break down the barriers of xenophobia and intolerance and create mutual understanding.

VII." Enlargement of the European Union"

More than 10 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reunification of Europe has not yet been brought into action and the EU neighbouring countries are still knocking at the door of the EU. The enlargement of the European Union therefore needs to be given first priority in the coming years.

The European Union must never develop into a "Fortress Europe" and must remain open for membership to all democratic European states that respect the fundamental human rights and believe in a common project for all Europe. To ensure a smooth enlargement of the European Union there is a need for a self-critical approach within the European institutions as well as the setting up target dates for all countries applying for EU membership. The reunification of Europe has to take place in a positive atmosphere where you have a clear goal for each step ahead to a fully integration. Furthermore thorough plans are to be set up for every applicant country to ensure a sustainable and self-generating process of enlargement.

LYMEC supports the enlargement of the Union by the EEA-countries and by the countries in Central and Eastern Europe where democracy, legal statue and human rights are respected. It is the responsibility of the European Union to assist the countries in East- and Central Europe in their transition to democracy and market economy. The aim must be to enable these countries to become members of the Union, if they wish to do so.

The Union must give free access to the European markets to all goods from these countries. Association agreements should in a transitional period give these countries the benefits of a membership but not necessarily the duties. New member states should only be accepted on the basis of the existing treaty and legislation (*acquis communautaire* and *acquis politique*). A common basis is necessary to ensure a transparent legal structure that gives the same rights and duties to all citizens in the Union. The European Union Member States must never require visas for citizens in candidate countries to enter the European Union.

Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union
LYMEC



All member states should accept the fundamental rights and liberties of ethnic minorities and groups.

It is important to bear in mind the fact that a deeper European integration also demands the support of the citizens of the European Union. There is an urgent need for a debate among the citizens and about the future position of a citizen's Europe. The European integration can only progress if the idea about the European project is known and debated among the European citizens. LYMEC is open for this debate and looks forward to an enlarged Union and a citizen's Europe.