

# Proposal for Spring Congress

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Status:  accepted  rejected  transferred to \_\_\_\_\_

The Spring Congress may decide:

## 1 Democracy at the Doorstep

2 **Keywords:** Democracy

3 *Considering that:*

- 4 • In early summer 2018, the European Parliament green-lighted the first reform of  
5 European electoral law in decades, which included several interesting changes such as  
6 the promotion of electronic voting or making it easier for EU citizens residing abroad to  
7 vote in European elections;
- 8 • disaffection with politics, particularly but by no means exclusively among young people, is  
9 one of the driving forces behind falling turnout and the rise of extremism in many parts of  
10 the Western world, while politicians are increasingly viewed as distant and out of touch  
11 with voters;
- 12 • the geographic and demographic size of European constituencies has a real impact on  
13 these perceptions and the closeness between politicians and their voters; constituencies  
14 that are too large deprive people of any meaningful connection to their politicians,  
15 whereas constituencies that are too small result in extremely high effective electoral  
16 thresholds that also harm European democracy;
- 17 • some EU Member States are looking at importing certain voter registration requirements  
18 from the United States; while ostensibly done to prevent voter fraud, in practice these  
19 measures are used to reduce turnout among certain demographic segments; and
- 20 • a true European political sphere is a *conditio sine qua non* for the rise of a European  
21 demos.

22 *Recalling that:*

- 23 • the 2018 LYMEC Spring Congress passed a resolution calling for increased democratic  
24 rights for EU citizens living in EU Member States other than the one in which they hold  
25 citizenship.

26 LYMEC:

- 27 • reiterates its determination to fight apathy towards politics among young people;
- 28 • calls on EU Member States to ensure that the 2024 and subsequent European elections  
29 are held using constituencies whose geographic and demographic size ensures a  
30 meaningful connection between voters and their representatives, while avoiding

- 31           excessively small constituencies that lead to very high effective electoral thresholds;
- 32           • rejects any attempt to reduce voter turnout among certain demographic segments under
- 33           the pretence of fighting voter fraud; and
- 34           • emphasises the importance of transnational lists in European elections for the rise of a
- 35           European demos.

36 **Striking down other resolutions**

37 1.27 Resolution on the European electoral system

*Attention: This is a preview! The official text is printed in the proposal book for Spring Congress 05. - 07. April 2019.*