

Proposal for Spring Congress

Proposal
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LYMEC Spring Congress, April 05.-07., 2019 in Brussels

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Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Spring Congress may decide:

1 **Defending Europe: a liberal common-sense approach to** 2 **joint security**

3 **Noting that:**

- 4 • The member states of the European Union have a combined defence spending on par
5 with the total defence expenditure of the People's Republic of China and the Russian
6 Federation combined.
- 7 • The various European Union member states cooperate on defence multilaterally on
8 multiple levels, both within overall NATO and EU frameworks, and outside of these
9 frameworks.
- 10 • These efforts include joint units between two or more member states and various forms of
11 cooperation pertaining to procurement and maintenance, including but not limited to the
12 Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) initiatives of the European Defence Agency.
- 13 • Several European Union NATO members currently do not meet the agreed upon NATO
14 norm of spending at least 2% of GDP on defence.
- 15 • The overall interests of European Union member states regarding defence and security
16 are often aligned and the member states regularly cooperate operationally when it comes
17 to international missions to further peace and stability.
- 18 • There do still exist examples in which the interests and considerations of member states
19 do not align, including but not limited to outermost regions or even entire countries for
20 which a member state is bound by treaty, charter, or historical considerations to provide
21 defence and security. Such examples include the French Republic, the Kingdom of the
22 Netherlands, and the Kingdom of Denmark.
- 23 • European Union member states should not and cannot continue to depend primarily on
24 the United States of America for overall security in Europe and the wider region,
25 especially given the long-term shift towards the Pacific, as well as statements potentially
26 indicating a more self-centred or even isolationist approach.
- 27 • Threats continue to evolve which require new approaches and capabilities, including but
28 not limited to cyber warfare, the development of autonomous weapons systems,
29 asymmetrical warfare, ever increasing activity of non-state actors, and terrorism.
- 30 • It is in the interest of individual member states and the European community as a whole
31 that defence funding is spent in the most effective way possible, which can be achieved
32 through close cooperation, for example by elimination inefficient redundancies in
33 procurement.
- 34 • European cooperation should not lead to the development of a European
35 military-industrial complex which could trap European cooperation into pork barrelling,

- 36 and an overall lack of competition.
- 37 • One of the most important decisions a democratic state makes is that of peace and war,
- 38 as it is a decision which will inevitably put its citizens serving in the military in harm's way
- 39 and may even pose risks to its citizenry as a whole.
- 40 • As such, the decision of whether or not to deploy troops could only ever be delegated to a
- 41 European minister of defence and the European Parliament if a democratic fully
- 42 integrated political union were to exist in which the aforementioned misalignments on the
- 43 grounds of treaty, charter, or historical considerations were resolved.

44 **Considering that:**

- 45 • European Union member states should not and cannot continue to depend primarily on
- 46 the United States of America for overall security in Europe and the wider region,
- 47 especially given the long-term shift towards the Pacific, as well as statements potentially
- 48 indicating a more self-centred or even isolationist approach.
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- 63 European minister of defence and the European Parliament if a democratic fully
- 64 integrated political union were to exist in which the aforementioned misalignments on the
- 65 grounds of treaty, charter, or historical considerations were resolved.

66 **LYMEC:**

- 67 • Calls upon member states to cooperate more closely on the topic of defence and security,
- 68 especially on matters such as procurement, research and development, and cyber
- 69 security, as well as the development of long-term strategies of preventing international
- 70 conflict using diplomacy or development before defence strategies are even needed.
- 71 • Calls for the continued development of the PESCO and various other initiatives within the
- 72 European Defence Agency, to research and develop answers to the joint questions of
- 73 security in the future.
- 74 • Maintains that decisions regarding the deployment of military personnel should be made
- 75 by the individual member states, meaning that any joint EU missions are carried out
- 76 based on voluntary contributions of military power by member states.
- 77 • Maintains that all weapons systems to be developed in or procured by member states
- 78 should have a human operator in the loop making the final decision; development and
- 79 procurement of fully autonomous weapons systems should be prohibited.
- 80 • Calls upon member states which have not done so to increase structural defence
- 81 spending to at least 2% of GDP to strengthen their contribution to European defence and
- 82 security.

83 *This resolution, if adopted, would archive 1.45 and its points subsequently adopted into 1.52*

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