

# Proposal for Autumn Congress

Proposal  
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**LYMEC Autumn Congress, November 8 to 9., 2019 in London**

Author: Centerstudenter (Sweden) and Svensk Ungdom (Finland).

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

The Autumn Congress may decide:

## 1 Resolution on Renewing Europe

2 Noting that:

3 The European Union is at a crossroads. While the international rules-based order that supports  
4 Europe's peace and prosperity is being challenged from all sides by China, Russia and the  
5 United States, European leaders are looking inward. Instead of strengthening Europe's position  
6 as a globally oriented knowledge economy, and using the EU as an important tool to do so,  
7 nationalism and protectionism are taking hold across the continent. Moreover, the EU's budget  
8 expenditures still reflect the priorities of the post-WWII era rather than the 21st century, and that  
9 does not seem to change with the adoption of the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

10 The EU cannot afford to make such mistakes: Europe must not become a museum, but a  
11 continent of opportunity. In particular, the EU and its member states need to prepare for a future  
12 where services and the digital economy, not industry, will be the greatest job and wealth creators.  
13 Hence, the European commission, council and parliament need to rally around an agenda  
14 focused on education, research and strengthening the single market.

15 If the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, there will only be one EU university among  
16 the top 50 universities worldwide. The lack of top universities in the region seriously threatens the  
17 EU's global competitiveness and its potential as a centre for high-skill labour and innovation.  
18 Therefore, it is crucial that the integration of European higher education continues. To tackle the  
19 challenges of tomorrow, the EU needs universities that can provide its citizens with world class  
20 education, while also attracting talented international students and high-skilled researchers.

21 The boundaries between research and private enterprise need to be eliminated, in particular  
22 when it comes to applied research. The EU cannot afford to get left behind as the United States  
23 and China make new leaps in areas like artificial intelligence (AI) and biotechnology. While the  
24 European Commission has argued that the EU should ensure that AI develops in a manner that  
25 respects fundamental rights, doing so will be impossible if EU scientists are not at the forefront of  
26 AI research. The same is true for for biotech, where current EU frameworks on e.g. GMOs  
27 restrict European researchers' ability to innovate. EU bureaucracy should not stand in the way of  
28 open inquiry and cutting edge research.

29 The EU's single market is one of the greatest achievements in European history. To have  
30 access to a market where goods, services, people and capital can flow seamlessly has laid the  
31 foundation for Europe's unprecedented wealth today. Yet, the European Union still has many  
32 obstacles to overcome in order to achieve a truly integrated market.

33 LYMEC calls for:

- 34 - Member states to take necessary steps to allow more private universities and research  
35 institutions to be established in the EU.
- 36 - Continued EU support to so-called European universities to offer common educational  
37 programmes and facilitate mobility between European institutions of higher education.
- 38 - A full completion of the Sorbonne process to make sure upper secondary school merits get  
39 recognised across the EU, just as university merits are through the Bologna Process.
- 40 - Further initiatives to create global Bologna and Sorbonne Processes.
- 41 - The EU to continue the development of the Erasmus program.
- 42 - The European Commission to use prize competitions similar to the X Prize in order to spur  
43 innovation, in addition to traditional funding through the Horizon Europe programme.
- 44 - A general rule demanding open access to research that has been funded by European  
45 taxpayers through the EU budget.
- 46 - Carve-outs in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to exempt AI from certain  
47 provisions, thereby ensuring that the EU does not fall behind in AI research.
- 48 - A revision of the current EU GMO legislation to make that the use of new gene editing  
49 techniques such as CRISPR/Cas9 is not threatened.
- 50 - A deadline and clearly defined milestones for completion of the single market for services and  
51 the digital economy, similar to the deadline to establish the original single market in 1992.
- 52 - Prioritising common European investments in connectivity and 5G infrastructure without  
53 disruption at national borders.
- 54 - Continued enforcement of the EU's competition policy to keep markets fair and competitive;  
55 disputes over merger control such as the Alstom-Siemens case must not lead to a future  
56 authorisation of anti-competitive transactions.
- 57 - No further development of the social pillar, in order to ensure that the MS retain the right to  
58 develop their own labour market policies as well as preventing the development of EU regulated  
59 minimum wages.
- 60 - The EU to abstain from using trade policy to achieve non-trade related, strategic ends. Trade  
61 policy should not be used as a political weapon.
- 62 - The EU to continue to incorporate economic development and sustainability aspects in future  
63 trade deals.
- 64 - A halt to the plans to turn the Eurozone into a fiscal union with its own budget and finance  
65 minister.

*Attention: This is a preview! The official text is printed in the proposal book for Autumn Congress 08 - 09 November 2019.*