

Proposal for Skopje Spring Congress 2020

Proposal
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LYMEC Spring Congress, April 3 to 5, 2020 in Skopje

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Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Skopje Spring Congress 2020 may decide:

1 **Urgent Resolution on harmful content online**

2 This resolution archives Resolution 2.15 on the Plan of the EU to Block Websites.

3 *Civil Rights, Internet, Transparency, Freedom of expression*

4 **For consideration on the annual Congress of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) in**
5 **Skopje, North Macedonia on 3-5 April 2020.**

6 **Considers:**

7 - that any case of child abuse published on the internet to be deeply disturbing, but that it is
8 important to fight child abuse effectively instead of only making such content invisible when
9 hosted on EU servers;

10 - that blocking web sites does not help to avoid harmful content online, but only makes it
11 somewhat harder to reach the website and more difficult for the authorities to identify them. That
12 there effective initiatives in this field - such as INHOPE, a network of hotlines reporting on child
13 abuse online cases that works with representatives of the technology sector, child advocates,
14 and law enforcement, need to be supported;

15 - that the EU Internet Forum was launched in the EU in 2015 to stop the misuse of the internet by
16 international terrorist groups and that the Forum provides a framework for voluntary cooperation
17 with the internet industry to remove online terrorist content, bringing together governments, EU
18 Agencies, academics, and internet companies such as: Google/YouTube, Facebook, Microsoft,
19 Twitter, Justpaste.it, Snap, Wordpress and Yellow;

20 - That currently the Dissemination of terrorist content online Directive is being negotiated
21 between the European parliament and the Council. That amongst other sensitive elements, the
22 Directive contains the so called "one hour rule" - a legally binding one hour deadline for content
23 to be removed by platforms and server providers following a removal order from national
24 competent authorities, and also, a "duty of care obligation", rendering all platforms to ensure
25 they are not misused for the dissemination of terrorist content. Considers these provisions to put
26 inadequate pressure to smaller platforms, operated by SMEs;

27 - that Since May 2016, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Microsoft, Google+ and Instagram have
28 committed to combatting the spread of illegal online hate speech in Europe through a Code of
29 Conduct, committing to review and remove content in less than 24 hours. When they receive a
30 request to remove content from their platform, the companies assess the request against their
31 rules and community guidelines, national laws on combating racism and xenophobia. That
32 according to the European Commission this has led to a removal by the signatory platforms of an
33 average 70% of illegal hate speech notified to them and in more than 80% of these cases, the

34 removals took place within 24 hours;

35 - That despite the broad public outcry on the legal uncertainties and ambiguities of the Directive
36 on the copyright in the digital single with its liability regime for content-sharing platforms, it was
37 adopted by the European Parliament with a narrow majority, and its impact on the way the
38 Internet and its digital market operates is yet to be seen.

39 **The European Liberal Youth (LYMEC):**

40 - strongly condemns any form of child abuse and child pornography, calls the European
41 institutions and Member states for a joint effort to fight any kind of child abuse with effective
42 measures inside and outside the internet, and for support to initiatives that fight this phenomenon
43 and provide victim support;

44 - Reaffirms its stand that the internet is a fundamental right in an age of digitalization and calls for
45 its protection as such;

46 - Calls the liberal MEPs to oppose censorship of the internet, and insists that actions, such as
47 website or content blocks, should require thorough judicial review and authorisation by means of
48 a court order and not by order of a government or any means of automatic filtering.

49 - Calls for thorough impact assessment to be provided in any further legislative proposals dealing
50 with the functioning of freedom of speech in the internet and the digital single market.

Attention: This is a preview! The official text is printed in the proposal book for Skopje Spring Congress 2020 03 - 05 April 2020.