

Proposal for Skopje Spring Congress 2020

Proposal
208

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

Author: LYMEC Bureau, Radikal Ungdom, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, JUNOS, YMRF, JOVD, Jóvenes Ciudadanos (resolutions drafted by the policy renewal working group).

Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Skopje Spring Congress 2020 may decide:

1 Freedom of belief

2 This resolution archives Resolution 2.23 on “The Liberal-Democrat Attitude Towards Religion”
3 adopted in Sinaia, Romania in March 2002, Resolution 2.25 on “Stop the Islamophobia and
4 Respect Religious Diversity” adopted in Sinaia, Romania in April 2010, Resolution 2.26 on “True
5 Religious Freedom in the EU” adopted in Sofia, Bulgaria in October 2012 and Resolution 2.43 on
6 “Blasphemy is a right, freedom is not a crime!” adopted in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in May
7 2015

8 *Religion, Modernization of Society, Rejection of Anti-Liberal Policies*

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

11 **Considering:**

12 - the increase in discrimination on the grounds of religion and a rise of islamophobia in Europe[4]
13 - the legislation passed throughout the European Union on stripping down the right of individuals
14 to wear religious symbols[5]

15 **Believing that:**

16 - All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and possess rights, regardless of their race,
17 colour, sex, language, religion, opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;[6].

18 - The freedom to choose one’s religion and beliefs is a fundamental human right and the right to
19 carry religious symbols is part of this freedom[7]

20 - Religious freedom is a cornerstone of Liberalism and was a constitutive element of the
21 Enlightenment movement that gave birth to our modern, democratic, pluralistic and secularized
22 societies;[8]

23 - No European citizen should be discriminated through prohibitions in the labour market ,
24 educational system or in any other way hindered from fully participating in society due to religious
25 reasons;[9]

26 - the state should be secular and individuals must have the freedom of expression and religious
27 freedom as long as it is not harmful against others[10];

28 - respect of freedom of thought and religious diversity is a core liberal value, as well as freedom
29 of expression[11];

30 - criticizing religions, and even using satire towards them, cannot be forbidden in a Liberal
31 society, and that such criticism may never incite violence[12].

- 32 - freedom of conscience and freedom of expression are not manifestations of Western culture,
33 but universal aspirations to freedom of all rational beings and rejects any return of blasphemy
34 laws under the false premises of cultural relativism[13];
- 35 - there cannot be successful coexistence in without mutual understanding between religious
36 believers of any confession, as well as between atheists and agnostics[14];
- 37 - scapegoating by targeting one specific religion is a highly unacceptable as all religions in
38 Europe should have the same standing before the law[15].
- 39 **LYMEC calls for:**
- 40 - countries to respect the religious diversity and be truly secular, therefore refraining from
41 imposing obligatory lessons of religion or religious taxes[16];
- 42 - governments and the EU to refrain from institutional display of religious symbols in public
43 schools and universities, while recognising the right of any individual to display their private
44 religious affiliation[17];
- 45 - fighting religious intolerance and all religious extremism, regardless of their nature and
46 origins[18]
- 47 - The EU Member states and the institutions to respect the religious freedom of the individual and
48 remove the bans on displaying certain religious symbols[19];
- 49 - Member states to regard the subject of religion in education as a historical, and cultural
50 phenomenon, free of any preaching, in order to create mutual understanding[20];
- 51 - Member states to guarantee freedom of speech in Europe, by removing legal restrictions on
52 religious grounds or otherwise, including but not limited to blasphemy and lese-majesty laws[21];
- 53 - Appeals to European institutions to cease giving a privileged position to certain religious groups
54 and integrate representatives from non-religious international organizations in social
55 dialogue[22].

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