

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 **Free love in a free world – let's crack down on LGBTI** 2 **criminalisation overseas**

3 *Considering that:*

- 4 • as of January 2020, 73 countries still criminalise private, consensual, same-sex sexual
5 activity;
- 6 • the death penalty remains on the books as a punishment for same-sex sexual activity in
7 12 of these countries and is still actively implemented in at least half of these 12;
- 8 • in addition to criminalising LGBTI individuals through their actions, governments in many
9 of these countries also criminalise them through their omissions, e.g. by failing to
10 prosecute so- called corrective rape and other forms of LGBTI-phobic violence to the
11 fullest extent of the law;
- 12 • while states around the world should enjoy a degree of flexibility in deciding what their
13 government policy on LGBTI rights is, the criminalisation of consensual, same-sex sexual
14 activity is indisputably far beyond what is acceptable from any liberal or human rights
15 perspective; and
- 16 • the EU has an ethical obligation to promote human rights overseas, but also a legal one
17 enshrined in TEU articles 3(5), 21(1) and 21 (3).

18 *Recalling that:*

- 19 • despite incorporating the defence of LGBTI rights into its foreign policy strategy, the EU
20 has so far failed to persuade some of its trade and geopolitical partners to stop
21 criminalising LGBTI individuals for their sexual orientation;
- 22 • *overt or covert LGBTI-phobic policies and statements by certain EU heads of government*
23 *undermine the credibility of the EU when fighting the criminalisation of consensual,*
24 *same-sex sexual activity overseas;*

25 *LYMEC:*

- 26 • calls on the European External Action Service to appoint a special envoy tasked
27 specifically with fighting the criminalisation of consensual, same-sex sexual activity
28 overseas;
- 29 • urges the EU to broaden and deepen its monitoring of LGBTI- phobic policies all over the
30 world;

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- *calls on the EU and its Member States to tie development aid to third countries to the cessation of the criminalisation of consensual, same-sex sexual activity, especially in those countries where the death penalty is still on the books;*
 - encourages the EU and its Member States to look into the use of sanctions (e.g. travel bans, cancellation of planned joint events) as a way of pressuring countries with LGBTI-phobic policies to cease their criminalisation of LGBTI individuals; and
 - asks the EU to reinforce the place of LGBTI rights in the Copenhagen criteria as well as in trade agreements and preferences with third-party states.

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