

What future for the Council of Europe in the context of EU enlargement



MEC organized a seminar in Moldova, a country where the presence and activities of the council are felt more than in other regions, to discuss this topic through a various range of activities and produce an official resolution outlining the vision of young European liberals for the future of the Council of Europe.

Partners:

- LYMEC
- European Liberal and Democrat Reform Party (ELDR)
- Friedrich Naumann Foundation
- Youth of Alliance Moldova Noastra (OTAMN)

Objectives:

The objective of the seminar was to confront young liberals in Europe with the problematic situation and unclear future of the Council of Europe. Moldova was chosen as the venue of the seminar for the simple fact that as a country on the fringes of the European Union, the influence of the Council of Europe in the region is greater than in the rest of Europe. Through workshops and panel debates, the participants of the seminar outlined their position and recommendations on this issue, presented in the form of a draft resolution to be adopted at the LYMEC Congress.

Expected results:

The main end product of the seminar was a resolution that voiced the opinion regarding the Council of Europe. However, the

EUROPE: Chişinău, Moldova

added value of this seminar was to have a real and open discussion amongst the participants and invited guests (experts and Liberal leaders) on the subject matter. Through these actions, the participants were expected to have a better understanding of the Council of Europe and how it could complement the other international organizations, especially the EU in promoting and aiding the process of enlargement in countries faced with a difficult political situation such as Moldova.

Activities:

The activities of the seminar involved several speeches from distinguished guests as well as interaction between the participants in workshops and panel debates.

Target group:

The target group for the seminar were participants fitting the category of young liberals in Europe.

Final beneficiaries:

The final beneficiaries of the seminar extended to not only members of the European Liberal Youth, but also members of the European Parliament who received a copy of the resolution produced at the seminar as well as recipients of the LYMEC newsletter.

Funding:

The funding for this seminar was primarily provided by the ELDR Party (<http://www.eldr.org>) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (<http://www.fnf.org.ph/>)



Publications:

A copy of the LYMEC resolution "Young Liberals' vision for the future of the Council of Europe" can be found in the following link:

http://lymec.org/repository/uploaded/LY-MEC_Resolution_-_Council_of_Europe.pdf

ENoP MEMBER FOUNDATION:

LYMEC



Context/short summary:

The Council of Europe was created in 1949 with 47 member states whose fundamental principles – democracy, human rights and the quality of life – are indispensable in Europe. Today, due mainly to the presence of the EU monolith, the Council of Europe lacks a clear profile. Coupled with a little budget and a lack of visibility and transparency, the Council of Europe has some hurdles to overcome, despite the fact that it possesses an enormous potential of specialised experience and influence. Their complementary work does achieve change in the fundamental fields of economics and society, such as the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings – a silent revolution. The biggest NGOs in the field, such as Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI), agreed that the Council of Europe was the only international organisation which was influential with human rights in Russia. Therefore, LY-