Adopted by
General Assembly

Brussels, Belgium
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Motion

Powering Europe's Future: Affordable, Clean and Secure Energy

Signed by: European Liberal Youth (LYMEC)
Co-signed by: Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT)

Recognising that:

- Secure, affordable and sustainable energy is essential to maintaining and improving young people's living standards, education, employment and ability to live independently;
- A reliable and resilient energy system is fundamental to Europe's economic resilience, competitiveness and autonomy;
- Europe's energy market remains vulnerable to geopolitical shocks, disrupted supplies from third countries, and excessive dependence on individual suppliers;
- Russia's weaponisation of energy following its invasion of Ukraine demonstrated the risks of excessive dependence on a single external supplier and reinforced the need for Europe to diversify its energy sources and reduce strategic dependencies;
- The role of private investment, including from companies transitioning away from fossil fuels, in developing clean energy, alongside the need for transparency, environmental accountability and the application of the polluter-pays principle;
- Long-term energy security requires stronger European cooperation, diversified supply, interconnected infrastructure and sustained investment.

Concerned that:

- Insufficient investment, fragmented infrastructure, and lengthy administrative procedures continue to slow the modernisation of Europe's energy system and the transition towards climate neutrality;
- Weak cross-border electricity connections limit European countries' ability to share surplus energy and support one another during shortages, outages, or attacks on critical infrastructure;
- High, volatile energy prices hit young people and low-income households particularly hard, whilst renters and those with limited savings often have fewer opportunities to benefit from renewable energy and efficiency measures.
- Renewable energy projects are too often developed without meaningful public consultation or the early involvement of affected communities and are too often imposed top-down, regardless of whether they are developed by public or private actors;
- Large-scale renewable energy developments can impose disproportionate land-use and environmental burdens on rural communities, particularly where affected residents are insufficiently consulted or do not share fairly in the economic and social benefits of such infrastructure.

Affirming:

- The European Youth Forum's commitment to social and economic rights, an adequate standard of living, intergenerational fairness and a just transition with meaningful youth participation;
- That a just transition should ensure that the costs, benefits and burdens of the energy transition are distributed fairly and that no group, including rural or marginalised communities, is left behind or exploited, and that impacted communities are meaningfully engaged;
- Growing support for deeper European energy-market integration, diversified supply, and stronger cross-border infrastructure;
- Efforts to expand renewable generation, storage and transmission at European, national, local and community level;
- That climate-neutral energy generation must urgently replace fossil fuel generation, whilst recognising the challenge of meeting growing electricity demand resulting from the electrification of sectors such as transport, heating and industry;

- The need to support community-owned energy systems alongside other forms of energy governance: the energy transition is realised through the strength of individuals, communities and businesses, their investments and innovations.

Calls on the EU and its Member States, in addition to other European countries, to:

1. **Accelerate and modernise cross-border electricity connections**, especially in poorly connected regions and energy islands, with adequate European funding through instruments such as the Connecting Europe Facility and REPowerEU, aiming to reach at least 15% interconnection capacity by 2030, alongside efficient permitting, proper environmental assessment and public consultation.

2. **Invest in resilient grids, storage and demand flexibility**, including large-scale storage and green hydrogen corridors, so renewable electricity can be shared, transported and stored efficiently across Europe.

3. **Reduce Europe's exposure to external energy pressure** by diversifying imports, assessing supply-chain risks and avoiding excessive dependence on individual suppliers, particularly where security risks exist.

4. **Deepen European energy-market integration and cooperation between grid operators**, including energy solidarity mechanisms allowing neighbouring countries to share surplus electricity, storage capacity and technical assistance during shortages, outages, or attacks on energy infrastructure.

5. **Accelerate investment in renewable and other climate-neutral energy technologies to replace fossil fuels,** supported by the necessary infrastructure, research, skills and targeted incentives to unlock private investment, alongside reassessing and progressively phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that distort competition and hinder the clean energy transition.

6. **Ensure transparent and inclusive renewable energy deployment** through early and meaningful public consultation, access to relevant information, and community participation in project planning so that projects are developed alongside residents, whilst keeping consultation proportionate, time-bound and free from unnecessary barriers to clean energy development.

7. **Support community-owned and cooperative models of renewable energy alongside other forms of energy governance,** including through appropriate legal frameworks, fair access to funding and grid infrastructure, and capacity-building, so that local communities, including rural and marginalised communities, benefit from hosting renewable energy infrastructure and share fairly in its economic and social benefits.

8. **Protect young people and vulnerable households from energy poverty**, with specific attention to rural and remote areas, where limited alternatives, older housing stock and mobility dependence increase exposure to energy poverty, to ensure that the costs of the energy transition are shared fairly and that access to affordable energy is maintained.

9. **Guarantee the meaningful participation of young people and youth organisations** in decisions on long-term energy policy and infrastructure, supported by funding for youth-led capacity-building, training and mentoring in energy governance, so young people can lead as well as be consulted.

10. **Strengthen preparedness for energy crises** through regular European grid stress tests and adequate contingency reserves to ensure that the loss of an individual energy source or supplier does not threaten security of supply.

11. **Enable renters, low-income households and young people to own, govern and benefit from renewable energy** by implementing the Renewable Energy Directive's framework for energy communities and sup-

porting accessible, voluntary participation, including options that do not require property ownership or significant upfront capital.

Calls on the European Youth Forum to advocate for a European energy policy that advances climate objectives, affordability, security of supply, and economic resilience together, and to ensure that young people's interests and experiences are adequately represented in decisions shaping Europe's long-term energy system.







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