

MINUTES

Online Bureau meeting 6 December 2021

Present: Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (AA), Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Ines Holzegger (IH), Marina Sedlo (MS), Marten Porte (MP) Laia Comerma (LC), Ida-Maria Skytte (IS) and Bălint Gyévai (BG)

Benjamin Fievet (BF), IFLRY representative joins the meeting for a specific point.

Meeting starts at 19 h 03.

1) Finances - 15 minutes - MP/BG

- End of the year closing

- *The last refunds were processed for the requests received from the Bureau side;
- *We plan on buying a good quality camera for LYMEC. The objective is to get a bit more professional one just like the one Sara was bringing to our events;
- *Regarding ALDE Council related refunds, the deadline is the Wednesday morning after the event;
- *Internal and external audits are planned for February already.

- End of the year bonus Secretary General

The Bureau decides to go ahead and provide BG with an end of the year bonus for great work in 2021.

- Staff restructuring and ALDE support

- *ALDE will increase the total grant from 85 000 to 100 000 EUR for next year. This means that we will be able to hire a **second full-time person** for the office. It will be a starting junior position. First, a 6 months contract and then an extension if we are happy with the new staff member;
- *ALDE is hiring a **youth liaison trainee** cooperating closely with us;
- *The grant from the EC is also projected to go to a higher level to support the staff changes (provided we get it);

The Bureau is welcoming the new proposed structure in the office and more professional allocation of resources.

- Updated Budget 2022

- *The new staffing situation will be reflected and adapted in the budget for next year;
- *Cooperation project to be kept for the new mandate (second part of 2022) to be sure we get the EC grant before we commit to it.

- EC Grant application 2022

- *This time we apply only for **1 year** instead of the 3 years format we had previously. However, there is a higher grant amount, we are aiming at going for around **90 000 EUR** instead of 50 000 EUR in the past.

2) Next Spring Congress 2022 - 40 minutes - All

- Discussion and selection of the location

The Bureau discussed the 3 proposals received:

- One from TizenX for Budapest
- One from Mladé ANO for Prague
- One from European Youth of Ukraine for Kiev

BG runs the Bureau through the received proposals, highlighting the different points to be considered. It becomes clear that the proposals from Budapest and Prague are the finalists. We miss a lot of information for Kiev and only one out of the two local members we have there submitted the application.

Discussion and views from the Bureau members:

*AA explains that we do a lot in Hungary and Poland lately so it would be good to bring more diversity in the countries/organisations we give visibility to;

*LC prefers Prague because we go to Budapest in June for the AoH most likely already;

*MS would prefer Budapest for the political message;

*IH sees the political message against Orban or to support the cause. She has some doubts on the capacity to handle the elections and then the Congress 1 month after. She would lean towards Prague. She could check out the locations in both cases to ensure proper planning and logistics (as she is based in Vienna);

*IS has no huge preference, she had the same initial feelings that MS had. From an organisational point of view, it's more reliable to go for the Budapest proposal;

*MP shares both MS and IH inputs. On paper, we could count more on the Budapest one but it seems difficult to have the campaign and organise the Congress at the same time. It would also be good to go for the cheaper option in case a hybrid Congress is needed. The preferable option would be Prague from that perspective;

*DAS adds that we should go to Prague to avoid jeopardising the campaign in Hungary;

*AA explains that the elections might really jeopardise the logistical side if we go to Budapest.

The Bureau therefore takes the following decision: The upcoming Electoral Spring Congress will be held in Prague, Czech Republic. The Bureau wishes to give organisations that weren't that vocal in LYMEC so far more visibility and we didn't go to Prague in the recent years. For Budapest, the timeline might be very tight with the elections taking place before and full investment might be difficult from the local team. On top of that, the AoH and Bureau meetings were and are planned to take place there already. The Prague option was also more economic, financially appealing.

- Timeline and bookings

We need to ask for proper proposals and bookings soon. We need to have something on the table by the beginning of January.

- Draft logistical plan

We need to secure the hotel booking with one dinner and lunch, coffee breaks and conference room. We have to check the technical aspects in the offer. We will ask them to reach out to at least 3 hotels to provide comparative offers. IH is set to go to Prague closer to the event when booking is secured. FNF in Prague is to be contacted and IPPS could help too.

3) Year of the Youth - 20 minutes - IH/BG

- Committee of the region plenary discussion

IH gave a short intervention in front of the plenary of the CoR explaining what we as LYMEC would want as priority for 2022 based on our policy book and briefing from Chiara. We stressed the importance of the CoFoE and proposals such as the student entrepreneurship status EU-wide but also the right to vote at 16 years old. She stressed the importance of being involved in such initiatives in the future as well. The draft resolution of the CoR was quite liberal and youth oriented.

- EC stakeholders meeting

LC and MS attended the meeting. LC submitted some points on behalf of LYMEC. MS took the floor to tell that we want to be more involved. Survey was completed on further involvement once received.

- Next steps and possible allies

There is an email address from the EC we can use if we have ideas. There will also be a portal/platform to exchange ideas and ensure communication. **Dragos Pislaru** is working on topics related to youth, he could be of support. We could organise an event with him on the Year of the Youth. **IH was sent in as a contact person and will attend the next meeting.**

4) Past and upcoming events/activities - 40 minutes - IS/LC/BF

***AoH Youth Academy 2022 - 1st event and selection**

- LC and BG will have the main preparatory meeting next week Tuesday with Adam and Ian;
- The 1st event will be moved to end of February/beginning of March due to the COVID restrictions and in order to have it after our audits;
- We had around 50 applications and 20 were taken on board - a lot of people were not selected. It was a very successful call and we have high quality candidates;
- The work on the programme is on-going.

***CoE Study Session in Strasbourg**

- The Youth Department helped a lot for the logistical aspects: programme, visa applications and reimbursements;
- They are doing events differently so it was sometimes challenging for us to coordinate properly;
- Some issues came up with one specific person participating that thought they would be more in a trainer position than participant. This person was questioning the whole training and behaved very offensively. The impact on other participants was minor but huge on the organisers;
- There was a positive COVID case during the event. Everyone else tested negative. There were protocols in place to avoid getting COVID but not necessarily on how to handle an actual COVID case situation;
- $\frac{2}{3}$ of the participants were LYMEC members and $\frac{1}{3}$ from ACP-YPN;
- Feedback from participants is overwhelmingly positive. LYMEC participants would hope we do more of this kind of event. Doing more with other youth organisations and broadening the topics we deal with would be a relevant consideration for our future activities;
- IS suggests not to do another event like this in the coming future, since the workload is huge. The Bureau already decided we wouldn't apply since it's not going towards structural funding.

***Bilateral talks EU Diplomacy fit for the future**

- Publications were distributed in the EP to relevant MEPs;

- We had one talk with *MEP Katalin Cseh* last week where *Rhea Csordas* was the author engaging in the discussion;
- We will have another one with *MEP Hilde Vautmans* in January together with Oriol Subira as author;
- We will follow up with *MEP Urmas Paet*.

***IFLRY Congress (reporting: Benjamin Fievet, IFLRY representative)**

- The IFLRY GA took place in Athens at the end of November. 3 out of the 4 former Vice-Presidents got reelected. There is one new V-P from Jordan to replace Pau who wasn't elected. The positions will be a bit reshuffled but the same V-Ps will be in charge of the European areas.
- A basque organisation, Euzko Gaztedi was accepted as an observer member, they are members of YDE.
- The IFLRY GA went ahead with the implementation of the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage.
- Membership voted also in favor of an IMS programme. It is not exactly like in LYMEC but more as a working group having one vote at the GA's.
- Calendar question regarding the IFLRY GA's for next year: it will be on the first or second weekend in May, probably in Senegal. YFJ Comem is on the second weekend but then LYMEC on the third weekend of May. BF will make sure this is coordinated with the IFLRY Bureau.
- ELF membership for IFLRY is off the table for now which is welcomed by the LYMEC Bureau. Cooperation will be done on a case by case basis.
- IS proposes 'a getting together' meeting between the two boards at some point so we can strengthen cooperation.

***Launch of the call for the new Libertas Editorial team**

- The call will be opened in February, selection in March and decision by April to have it before the Board elections.
- In the form, the option will be there to be proposed as Editor-In-Chief as well if someone is interested.
- LC will work on this with Lucasta and Chiara.

***Launch of the Working Groups**

- We have it for one year mandate now so there is a discussion on whether we should accept more people during the mandate. IS and IH are in favour of not having people dropping in during the term. We will try like that this time and then we can reassess later if this new way of doing works. BG is in favor of accepting IMS joining working groups even between calls for working groups. MS and AA propose **6 months mandates for the WG's** to allow more people to join in and become active (1 year is very long).
- Therefore, until January we will have a phase out period with the pending requests and then we would let people in only when we have open calls after every Congress. We will be discussing practicalities regarding this but it is decided that we open every 6 months for new arrivals.
- It is important to find a new leading figure in the working groups and get the groups working soon. Chiara to help with launching the groups if Bureau members need support.
- We will also take out from the IMS Welcome pack the note saying that new IMS can contact WG leaders.

***Policy book renewal and Digital Assembly**

- There is a timeline in place, so we have time to work on the chapters till the end of January;
- This will be about Chapter 4. MS explains that a lot of mergers and archival will take place;
- We have 13 people registered for this process. Chiara and LC are set to support Marina's work.

***LCN - Toolkit for young communicators**

- The visual identity is not fully compliant, but it is nice and we could print it out. Around 50 copies would be relevant to have (and hand it out at our events). We have to send it out to our members also in the digital version whenever we have time for it, probably at the beginning of January.

***LYMEC trainers' network**

- Iryna Akhmedova approached LC with the idea of a new project. She would create a platform for people from LYMEC interested in training and organise meetings with them to share best practices and invite trainers to support their work. They would need our Zoom account because it will be fully online.
- It will be a grassroots project called the 'Youth trainers' hub'. It will be launched in March. Iryna will manage everything and LYMEC will support the initiative with providing the Zoom account.

5) Invitations - 15 minutes - All

- JFS Congress

Invitation was sent for 18-20 March Congress. It has been a while since we didn't attend their Congress. IH will therefore attend this Congress.

- Swiss Green Liberals Congress

Important Congress for them to become full members eventually. 29 January is the date. IH will go but we are not sure yet if it is in-person or online. It will be most likely online.

6) CoFoE - 20 minutes - All

- Clara Puigs's proposal for a video campaign explaining how endorsement works

IS is wondering what the best approach at this stage would be, focus on endorsements or rather influencing MEPs with our proposals. MS adds that it would be nice to have video endorsements if MEPs would be interested in it.

In general, we are a bit late for this and we did already explain endorsements at the YLM, our Congress but also at the regional talks/meetings.

Conclusion: We should rather push our proposals directly with MEPs. In January, we could resend our proposals to the MEPs part of the Conference to remind them about the proposals and ask to push for our ideas. It could serve as a refresher to the MEPs in their work on the written conclusions.

- Hans van Baalen Town Hall meeting in Rome - AA

AA is one of the speakers with Guy Verhofstadt, Emma Bonino and Ilhan Kyuchyuk. AA will focus on the call for action of our Presidents from the YLM in terms of content.

7) News from MOs and IMS - 20 minutes - All

- Information point from Young Liberals of Greece

LC explains that a new General Assembly will take place in January. Some leadership issues took place and they will have their first elections. LYMEC is not going to interfere in internal affairs of our member organisations as per Code of Conduct. LC will only attend to give an opening speech.

- IMS delegate elections 2022 open call

MS to talk with the Steering Committee to dynamise the process a bit.

8) AOB

- EU Youth Dialogues application

LYMEC reapplied for the programme for the coming terms. It was a coordinated effort between LYMEC and IFLRY.

- Christmas break and business continuity

LYMEC will take a complete break for two weeks from 18 December 2021 till 2 January 2022 since this year has been challenging with a lot of work on both Secretariat and Bureau.

Meeting ends at 23 h 00.