

## MINUTES

### Online Bureau meeting

### 24/08/2020

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

Meeting starts at 18 h 35

#### 1) Finances (MP,BG)

- *General overview and latest updates*

°MP explains that we have less money spent again because of the COVID situation. We need to plan for next year and to spend more money. After the audit, MP will work on a first draft of the budget for next year that will be discussed at the Bureau meeting taking place after/at the YLM.

- *Internal Audit*

MP going to Brussels to work on the books tomorrow. Bureau members should be ready to provide information or receipts if any are missing and requested by MP and BG.

The audit this time will take place in two parts:

- MP in Brussels tomorrow to prepare everything with BG. We will have a call with the auditors tomorrow evening to discuss expectations and the reports.
- The actual audit will take place on Saturday online. MP and BG will fine tune preparations on Wednesday together in Brussels.

The Bureau asks to discuss what to do with the surplus with the auditors.

IH reminds that we will have more money for the website and Openslides for example so that's good because we would need a consequent budget, especially for the first.

- *Alumni network*

MP explains that there is nothing much to add, no updates but we could budget money for a launch event for the network towards the end of the year. To ask the auditors if possible to shift the funds for that.

#### 2) Statutory changes: updates + additions on MO fee reductions (AA,BG,MS,IH)

AA focused on the political programmes of action in the last week, however the statutory changes to make were identified and AA will work on them in the coming days.

BG updates on the work of the notary: he is getting back to us this week on his mission.

**The Bureau decides that MO fee reduction for associate MOs will be added as an option in the statutes and therefore added to the list of changes.**

AA asks Bureau members to reach out to their MOs and explain the changes carefully so that everyone understands the purpose of the exercise and the changes proposed.

### 3) LYMEC programme of action: updates and next steps (AA,DAS)

- AA prepared the introduction and the political part.
- What's missing so far is the KPI for the political part. MS and LC to work on that.
- Bureau members have to comment until Friday.
- The Friday after is the final version delivery to be ready well ahead of submission.

### 4) ELF (DAS, BG, IH, IS)

#### - YLM (for decision)

##### ° Latest COVID updates

Unfortunately, the restrictions are well present - mostly need for quarantine when arriving in Riga, Latvia.

Amongst the participants following our assessment - 8 are green while 7 are yellow - remaining is red - 15 would potentially make it (that's a maximum). There are plenty of uncertainties.

BG sent out a survey to the participants to know more about their current situation and if they are willing/able to travel to Latvia.

##### °Logistics

We have an accommodation and venue offer and need to get back to them tomorrow morning. We can cancel the commitment the latest on Friday for free.

On the ELF side, the fear is that no organiser would be able to attend the event, that can't happen. The question is also if it is worth the investment if most of the participants can't be there physically?

##### °Programme

Cooperation with locals is on-going and we have most aspects/speakers confirmed already. Updated draft version will be sent to the Bureau. Bureau Members are expected to moderate sessions

##### °Online or Hybrid?

There is a decision to take, we are less than 1 month before the event.

##### The questions:

1. Online or Hybrid?
2. If hybrid then we keep 15 people as target and risk 2000 EUR or we lower booking at this stage?

##### Discussion:

- IH isn't sure to be there herself because she might have to quarantine upon arrival in Estonia for her studies. She would then not be able to go to Riga on time.
- MS doesn't really think this works now and we need to face the truth.
- LC says it isn't worth it.
- MP underlines that we have the money and we need to spend it but it might be more complicated to make sure everyone gets there.
- DAS adds that we need to consider all the work the Latvians put in there and not delete/hinder everything. We need to see as soon as possible how many people would come and who from the Bureau.

- IS is able to go there under the current restrictions but its not recommended.
- BG emphasizes that the hybrid format will have to be maintained even in that case because some people aren't willing to travel.
- AA undelines 2 components: #1 If we move it online, not many will connect, it's a networking event. Let's see how many people respond and in what direction.

**The Bureau decides that we book for less participants (10 rooms) and we reassess the situation until Friday based on the survey results. Requirements to go online: Less than 10 people coming only. We will get in touch with people coming from red zone countries if they complete the survey without looking at Latvian restrictions.**

**- Book Launch (for decision)**

\*Logistics, new format and updates

The new proposal for this event includes: a new date with 30 September and fully online with more engagement as the situation in Brussels isn't very good regarding the virus. Social media plan was prepared and there will be a challenge before the event to trigger more participation.

\*Programme

2 MEPS: Samira Rafaela and Svenja Hahn will be speaking but also Sophia Bengtsson from Liberal International. Invitations to be sent out this week. In addition, authors will play a bigger role and will all have access to the event.

\*Publications printing and shipping

On its way, we are currently waiting for feedback from the printing company in Bulgaria.

**The Bureau agrees with the approach of having it fully online and validates the change of date.**

**- YCA**

Latest COVID updates

\*We are in close contact with our local partners and we will monitor the situation for each participant/organiser.

°For the time being, only two participants are coming from a red zone: Romania and Catalonia.

Logistics

°All measures can be taken and enforced at the venue - VVD Headquarter in The Hague

°Hybrid event and we can invest in tests for some of the participants that wouldn't be able to come without it.

Programme

°Experts from VVD International were contacted to facilitate the event together with MP and IH.

**The Bureau agrees with a hybrid event format.**

**5) Paris Congress (AA,MP,BG) (for decision)**

- Latest developments COVID: Criteria and timeline if we need to switch to online

\*Nothing evolved that much regarding Paris, the number of cases are growing for the moment. We stick to 80 people maximum and we still need to adapt the bookings accordingly. BG to reach out to the hotel this week.

\*Criteria to switch it to a fully online format:

- If the country doesn't let us in (allow these countries without quarantine).
- Countries having ban to enter France and impose quarantine and not enabling sufficient representation there.

\*Latest point to decide on the fate of the Congress: Bureau meeting beginning of October.

\*Timeline for registrations: Launch it on Tuesday 1st September and close it on 15th of September.

- Logistics: state of play and hybrid aspect

Hybrid event format will be implemented, BG has a call with the technical team of the hotel to make sure we develop the hybrid option.

- Agenda:

It will be sent around in the coming days by BG for comments.

- Finances: membership fee proposal for 2021

There is no reason to increase or decrease, we should continue with the current rates.

- MO applications and suspension/exclusion:

Deadline for submitting documents for this Congress is 18 September 2020 (8 weeks before Congress).

The following has to be monitored:

1. Nova Stranka Youth from Serbia applied already:

MS explains that they are not able to organise a statutory event and don't know when it will be possible so we need to follow up.

2. Nasa Stranka Youth from Bosnia:

MS will reach out to them since we didn't hear anything concrete yet.

3. Young Liberals Greece:

They are applying for full membership and preparing the relevant documents.

MP will get in touch with financially problematic organisations in the coming days and see if there is reason for suspensions/disaffiliations. MP and BG to check during the Brussels meeting tomorrow if organisations can apply for MO fee reduction at Autumn Congress.

- Proposals for Chairs of the Congress were discussed

- Committee of discipline and arbitrage nomination - Bureau discussed potential candidates and will check interest in the coming weeks.

Resolutions:

They are not transferred from the last Congress, they will have to be submitted again. This will be explained to IOs and delegates. Tool will open 8 weeks before Congress until 4 weeks before as per statutory deadlines.

## **6) Young Elected Liberal Leaders Summit - YELL 2020 (BG)**

Latest updates and general overview

- The event will be online, morning event probably;
- Programme elaborated with CoR closely with EM after registrations;
- Deadline to register is on 11 September;
- Event will take place on 25 September;
- We will use the online conferencing platform provided by the CoR Renew team.

## **7) 2021 Draft calendar - discussion (AA)**

\*Proper proposal to be submitted later to the Bureau for decision. BG will work on it this week.

\*Our Spring Congress will take place 26 to 28 March or 30 April to 2 May.

BG to see when we could have the internal and external audits so that there is enough time to have everything ready.

## **8) Call for 2021 Autumn Congress + criteria (BG) (for decision)**

- The Call will be launched rather for the Spring Congress instead of the Autumn one.
- We need to evaluate the locations based on the COVID situation. Important that the place is properly connected to other countries.

## **9) New assistant recruitment (AA, BG)**

- Important to have a good understanding of digital skills and visual creation.
- Shortlist was made and the interviews will take place on Friday afternoon.
- We base ourselves on more professional working and digital skills.
- We will also partially assess based on the work delivered (that will be analysed by DAS and IS from the Bureau).

## **10) Communication Strategy (IS) (for decision)**

- IS made a new version based on the comments of the Bureau in Brussels at the Bureau meeting. She emphasizes the new part about crisis communication and asks Bureau members to give further inputs if needed.
- The notion of Crisis communication team was introduced as a taskforce: BG, AA, DAS and IS are part of it. They would be keeping the rest of the Bureau updated of course. It will be useful for an external but also an internal issue- in both cases - we would need to communicate.
- Bureau members can comment further on the strategy through email in the coming days.

## **11) IMS (and NationBuilder - registration form) (MS, IH)**

- IH explains that the forms are ready, we are already testing. It will probably be ready to be published next week, we are fixing the issues in the form and making sure it's ready for use.
- MS adds that she had a call with the IMS SC: the SC is making the interviews - one didn't reply so there will be no recommendation to the Bureau.
- SC will check how to increase the number of members where we don't have MOs.
- Next hangout in September only for IMS and update them about the latest developments.

## **12) ALDE Congress in April 2021 and LYMEC delegation to it (BG, AA, MS)**

°The ALDE resolution deadline for inputs is at the end of this month so we need to submit amendments to their Bureau resolution this week. MS to take care of that.

°There is no information yet whether the size of the event would allow our delegation to attend in April 2021.

°MS sent out an email to the delegation to confirm the attendance. Last two need to reply to the email next week.

## **12 bis) Future of Europe**

- MS explains that the text on the institutional reform is ready.
- Another meeting will be organised with the IOs to develop the thematic focuses.
- It will be ready by the YLM so it can be discussed there.

## **13) News from MOs**

- Potential interest in LYMEC from non-members:

*3H movement from Turkey* : LC had a call with the President, he showed interest in applying for associate members. They are an NGO under Turkish law, they were established in 2009. Age limit is under 30 and they have an alumni network. They have many activities, events and Congresses. She proposed to be cautious to start cooperation before applying for associate members. We should organise something first together and then apply the year after. They could join technically but we need to double-check with our statutes if their structure fits.

**The articles of statutes need to be checked if possible on their side as well. They need to be officially the following:**

- A. National/sub-national youth organisation
- B. Liberal in the statutes

These labels should be respected and present in the statutes.

## **14) Invitations**

- Next ALDE Bureau meeting - 18 September online - AA to be there.
- ELF GA - 25 September online - AA and BG there.
- JR summer camp in Marseille to be attended online by LC.
- MP will be representing LYMEC at the JD Congress taking place beginning of September in Utrecht.

## **15) AOB**

- Reminder to MS for Openslides platform testing - she is meeting tomorrow with IH to discuss it.
- IH to fly to Copenhagen for YFJ elections' night - the goal for her is to be with the campaign team of Simon (our common candidate with IFLRY). She would have coordination and networking roles as part of the campaign and to support our candidate.
- MS to organise a meeting of the Catalonia WG: 6 weeks before the Congress online.
- The working group IS is leading will put forward several resolutions for the next Congress. The Bureau agrees that it should be 1 or 2 resolutions/Congress.

**End of the meeting at 21 h 45**