

Extraordinary Online Bureau meeting Minutes 14/03/2020

Present: Svenja Hahn (SH), Edgaras Mascinskas (EM), Antoaneta Asenova (AA), Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Lena Höglund (LH), Pau Castellvi Canet (PCC) and in addition Balint Gyevai (BG) Secretary General.

Not attending: Deimante Rimkute (DR)

Starts at 10 h

1. Decision on turning Skopje Congress into a digital congress because of COVID-19/Coronavirus spread all over Europe (SH):

a. Reasons for not having a physical Congress:

- Issues with airline companies cancelling flights
- Travel ban from several countries
- Issues for host countries to get people from all over Europe
- Can't ensure delegates would arrive there properly
- Can't guarantee health and well being of the delegates on spot.

LH adds that we need to tell people in Skopje that it's not about the situation on the ground. AA replies that locals are understanding the situation.

Suggestion to the next Bureau to have Congress in Spring 2021 in North Macedonia.

b. Reasons for not postponing:

- We don't know where we should postpone it.
- We don't know where the wave is leading us.
- Closing of books and legal obligations.

Changing agenda, date and location is possible thanks to Article 2 of the Congress rules.

Changes to be proposed:

- Date: 4 April only, from 9 h to 17 h
- Location: Digital
- Agenda changes: limited agenda with statutory matters only. Resolutions won't be dealt with in the online Congress. By default we transfer them to the next Congress unless movers say they don't want to.

SH proposes to send out a communication with an updated agenda, a guide on how it would work (digital Congress) and a FAQ overview of the reasons of the decision and the financial impact it has. Only delegation leaders will be able to take the floor during the Online Congress.

The Bureau agrees with what was said and proposed.

On the financial side regarding the various fees:

- **MO fees** need to be paid, if MOs in question don't pay, they can't vote. LH suggests for MOs to pay over paypal or transferwise. She will get back to people willing to pay by cash to find a way.
- **Participation fees** will be paid back to all individuals/organisations that made their payments already. Organisations should send us invoices to claim the money back while individuals can just send us their banking information.
- **Freedom Fund** promises will be kept and we can refund already booked travels.
- We **can't make further refunds** and we advise delegates/MOs to see if their flights get cancelled and if not, reach out to the relevant actors to get refund (when possible).

Further comments:

- The Bureau is not giving recommendations on MOs gathering behind one screen. We definitely don't give incentive to gather due to the current Coronavirus threat.
- The whole Congress session will be recorded. We are going to tell participants that by accepting the meeting, they accept their voice and picture being recorded for archiving and minute-taking.
- We will ask for support in the communication to delegates to get the MOs on board in this important decision.
- The secretariat will create a proper guide on how the online Congress would work and send it out so that all delegates have the same understanding of the tool and its functions.

2. Decision on sending LYMEC Bureau Member to Young Liberals of Greece Congress mid-March (AA, SH):

- Decisions need to be made on this, we have a responsibility towards our Bureau members. If we are not sending Ani there, the MO is not able to apply for full membership. It is however the best decision to take in light of the latest developments and borders closing all over Europe.
- The Bureau therefore decides on restricting all travels for Bureau members for safety reasons to avoid spreading of the virus and prevent from exposing the Bureau members. It will be added to the FAQ.
The Bureau hereby suspends all travels for staff and bureau members for LYMEC duties.
Therefore, DAS is not travelling to Estonia anymore. Trips will be cancelled and we will seek refund.
- We will also cancel the flights to and from Skopje. We will monitor and try to get reimbursement closer to the event.