

## Minutes Brussels Bureau Meeting 01/02/2020

Meeting starts at 10 h

Present: All Bureau members - Pau Castellvi Canet (PCC), Deimante Rimkute (DR), Edgaras Mascinskas (EM), Antoaneta Asenova (AA), Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Lena Höglund (LH), Svenja Hahn (SH) and in addition Bálint Gyévai as Secretary General (BG).

### Signature of the presence list

### Finances (LH)

#### Result of the year

- 2019 was a complicated year in terms of book-keeping so far. However, we managed to close the year soon. We end up at around 6000 EUR surplus. External audit is taking place next Friday.
- **Decision of the Bureau** if 2019 is validated as it is by the external auditors:
  - a. Maximize travel support and reduced participation fee for Congress.
  - b. Book-keeping assistance with surplus money from 2019 to professionalise our approach.
  - c. Decisions regarding travel refunds for Congress will be notified after the external audit.
- There is a recurring technical issue with Xero for the reports. Rest of the book-keeping issues were fixed. LH will get in touch with Xero support service.
- Outcome of the internal audit: Paypal or revolut would be used for card payments instead of the Sum up that we don't have anymore.

#### Membership fees

MO fee reduction requests received so far ahead of Congress:

- ERPY: 200 EUR

- MLADI LDP: 200 EUR paid each year to pay off debt, reduce 2020 MO fee to 5 EUR to be able to pay debt. Bureau to write off 1000 of their debt and remaining 300 EUR to be paid in two years.
- EYU: 100 EUR
- Mladi HNS: 300 EUR
- LLJ: Should pay their debt from Berlin before the Congress. 100 EUR reduction if action taken on the 240 debt (payment plan or payment before the Congress).

### Congress applications

- **Freedom fund applications** were assessed by the Bureau. The priority is to represent more organisations, not people. Guaranteeing representation of MOs. Priority on having more MOs joining us rather than more people/delegation in need of financial support.
- **Reduced participation fee:** Bureau agreed with LH proposal: 65/75 EUR.
- **2020 Budget to be amended.** Modify the reduced fees part (increase by a few hundreds).

### Funding applications

#### *European Commission grant*

- Erasmus+ 2019: report to get the extra 10 000 EUR annexes were gathered by BG and he is working on the written report. Deadline is the 29 of February 2020.
- Erasmus+ 2021 application: In November 2020.

#### *Council of Europe grant*

- Council of Europe Youth Department: Study session, team meeting in April, LH to follow up on the administrative side, report due within a month of the event (end August). We received the main documents and need to assess and get back to the responsible person.
- New study session application in April 2020 for beginning of 2021 (October 2020 for the one after in 2021). Fake news topics?

#### *European Liberal Forum*

- ELF planning for next years (last year of the current agreement) need for discussing it with the secretariat before the project applications for 2021 in July 2020. Multiannual framework to be lobbied for. PCC proposing to be mobilized to give trainings on participation.

- ELF special formats project applications (including RDR): might be interesting for ALDE Congress fringes (Ted talks format). Mention it to ELF team and discuss it. LH: we need to keep in mind that we spend more than what we receive for these events.

### *ALDE Party*

- Political project application at the ALDE Party should be also tried. Baltic event might be an option (10 000 budget). Make this transparent and a call for that. **We should open a call by the end of February.**

### *Renew Europe Group*

- Renew Europe grant: same amount as before, maybe more + Summer Academy.

### External audit

- New person this year.
- We will ask for contract interpretation on what they can offer more than just controlling.
- Bureau to be available to reply on Friday 7 February to urgent requests.
- Process: sign the financial report and send it formally and then to Congress.

### **2020 survey (BG)**

- 11 responses missing from MOs, we have the remaining ones now and MO fees are calculated.
- Discussion around increases and decreases in members.
- Around 234 votes in our MOs this year, around 15 000 EUR of MO fee this year.

### **Congress (BG, SH, EM)**

#### Candidacies

Discussion of potential candidates to run for Bureau positions.

#### Reports

- Final report for each Bureau member (making together the annual report)
- KPI report by EM (Mandate wrap-up)
- **SG report**

- **Deadline is 6 March 2020.**

#### Transition to next board

- Projects and routine of the work (one page overview for each position).
- Some recommendations to be added if needed.
- **Main document with deadlines to be created (funding applications, projects, on-going overview).**

#### Registrations

- Proposal accepted with 140 delegates: more delegates than ever before. 47 out of the 61 MOs attending. Less guests because focus on elections and MOs.

#### MO issues and memberships

##### **Full membership**

- Young Liberals Greece
- Uppreispn

##### **Associate membership**

- Swiss Green Liberals

**Suspend - primarily based on the rule of non-attendance at our congresses for a super long time and also because these organisations aren't replying anymore and don't pay MO fees:**

- Civil Forum Belarus (debt, not responding)
- Musavat Youth Organisation (no idea)
- Youth Forum of AKR (haven't attended since 2016/2017, debt from 2019)
- European Youth Movement of Ukraine (debt from 2019, no attendance since membership)
- UDI Jeunes (debt and non-existing?)

##### **Disaffiliate:**

- TLDE Romania (debt, still not responding)

#### Photographer

- Miladin Papovikj (Papovic) to be hired from the selection we received.
- One and a half day services requested.

### **ELF 2020 projects: (BG, EM, AA)**

- YCA and Values first project proposals were discussed with the ELF secretariat in order to adapt them to the new guidelines:
- Values first recommendations accepted (we will find good matching between MEPs and authors based on the content).
- YCA: several amendments, give up campaigning for elections.

Instead, we should start new projects with FNF on campaigning? To be discussed with FNF-Europe.

- Flexible formats: RDR, Ted talks ...

Already discussed earlier under project applications.

### **Luxembourg event**

- Programme

Next steps discussed and the last 3 speakers are due to confirm. Anders Rehnberg was invited to speak as well. Important to foresee travel between venues, and this has to be discussed with the locals. Parking options were discussed already.

- Registrations

All accepted, only Usman IMS was rejected because no essay was submitted.

### **Working groups**

- On Catalonia (SH)
  - Scope: Find a position on Catalonia if possible. Bring the two existing resolutions on Catalonia in the working group. Start after the Congress in Skopje. Place where we try to find a balanced position. Goal is to bring the two organisations together.
  - Outcome: Common position or at least work together. Achieve an agreement between the two.
  - Chair: 2 persons steering from LYMEC (6 people in total). One physical meeting to be foreseen in 2020. Question is who from the LYMEC side is steering (from the next Bureau) and another one mediating (**Jelena Jesajana to be asked**).
  - Suggestion to launch this from the Bureau in this mandate to the next Bureau.

- Policy (AA)

It's an on-going process. Two or three merger of resolutions will be proposed. A lot of resolutions on Belarus will be archived. The process is in phase 2. February 9 is the deadline. Working group should be ready to table resolutions on 13th of February in the afternoon.

Resolution created with the Boris Divkovic Foundation with organisations from the Balkans designed at the ELF event in Brussels won't be co-signed by the Bureau but will be tabled.

#### **Alumni network launch (BG, LH):**

- Igor might be interested
- Sissel doesn't know
- Vedrana is interested (potential chair)
- Slaven might be interested
- Back up: Daniel Tanahatoc.

**17-18 March 2020** Lena is back in Brussels. 17th March evening to be proposed as a date for a meeting.

#### **HR (BG)**

- Call for intern

Call is accepted with the timeline proposed. Call will be out next week.

- Work regulation - final version

LH and BG to discuss this bilaterally first to deal with specific points. The Bureau will have to approve it after. It should be approved at the Luxembourg event.

#### **Communication**

- Produweb updates (BG)
- Too expensive for what they are doing.
- We need to see and assess the different options available.
- SH will ask her website developers from Julis.
- Save all important items on our hard drive in case we move.

- Libertas (DR)
  - Blog is working.
  - Editorial team to be requested information for Libertas platform.
  - Last article was published a few days ago by BG.
  
- Social Media campaign, joint brainstorm (DAS)
  - Animated video of what LYMEC is. LYMEC image video.
  - Concept from DAS and EM to put it together. If not enough, we do something in Luxembourg.
  - LYMEC elections “Gifs” to be made. Clara to be involved as well.
  - Videos of the Bureau members summing up the situation, experience in LYMEC, ahead of the Congress in Luxembourg.
  - Small videos (1 to 1 and a half minutes).
  - Talk about the positions and not the persons.
  - EM to bring material to Luxembourg. Everyone has their own script. Goal is to increase transparency.
  - To be put in the Commission report under “transparency”.

### **Invitations (BG)**

- PPYO - 17 February

YOFest - proposal of topic - we don't have any priority at this stage.  
Not a huge added-value, not an active role around the YOFest but we are there for the EYE.

- IRI Bucharest - 12/16 March

We don't go for it now.

- Svenja Azerbaijan invitation for next weekend - she can't attend.

### **Committee of discipline and arbitration (BG, SH)**

SH to send out 2 emails + John to be proposed to replace BG

### **AOB**

### **COMEM report YFJ Amiens 2019:**

- Socialist perspectives mostly, not looking for consensus approach. Scandinavians were more liberal.
- Shrinking civic space resolution accepted - HUN, AUT, RU addressed important issues.
- Future of work: quite left, we didn't support. She spoke quite a lot against it. She met with political youth organisations. Essential questions to our generation were addressed.
- New strategy package for YFJ: LH - climate should be cross-cutting and what is the end of the strategy?  
It really matters how we follow-up on these processes. This strategy is necessary for young people. Inter-group on youth non-existence is linked to this. Not prioritised by the EPP because of YEPP.
- Macron delivered message about education and climate mainly in Amiens

**YFJ:** Next GA - find out when the next call for chairs is for the Autumn Comem. Danica should be sent.

### **Mother party of JNC discussion by PCC:**

- Position needed if Puigdemont and his colleagues at the EP join a group different to Renew Europe?
- There are several precedents: Namely, Jeunes Radicaux stayed as full member of LYMEC despite mother party joining the EPP Group in the EP (2009-2014). when their MEPs joined the EPP. With the Romanian organisation a few years ago, the mother party left and they changed the values and identity of the organisation.
- Bureau: no case now, because MEPs are not members of JNC (or JNC's mother party, PDeCAT). Discuss again if they do become members. Nothing to talk about at the Spring Congress.