

MINUTES

Online Bureau Meeting

25 April 2021

This online meeting replaces the Bureau meeting that we were supposed to have in person on the fringes of our LYMEC Congress on 23-24 April 2021 in Paris, France, which due to the COVID-19 situation will not take place.

Attending: 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)

Agenda

Meeting starts at 10 h 10

1) Congress - 30 minutes (AA/MP/MS/BG)

- Policy outcomes

- 15 resolutions were adopted which means that it was quite a successful Congress policy wise, it's a very important amount;
- Archival and cleaning of chapter 2 approved smoothly thanks to the Digital Assembly;
- Archival of chapter 10 and creation of a new internal motions document was also carried;
- Very good chairing was done through the Congress and on the policy side especially;
- We will need to include the new resolutions in the policy book soon but also update the archival - Lucasta will work on that.

- Finances and MO fees

- All requests were approved by the Congress. They need to be implemented in our records next week (delete debt of Nowoczesna youth and book negative on invoices for MO reductions);
- 7 outstanding MO fees are still in the system. In that regard, the Bureau discussed latest updates and reminders to make;
- Nasa Stranka Youth Full membership fee will need to be paid for this year on top of their reduced fee since they were accepted.

- Internal Auditors situation

- The Internal Audit report for this Congress wasn't received on time (nearly 2 weeks delay);
- Jeffrey Drui replaced Sandra Krekikj a few days before Congress because she resigned from her position;
- Jeffrey accepted the mission;

- The Internal Audit report was finally received the day before the Congress.

- *IFLRY document*

- The **IFLRY document** which is in the operational powers of this Bureau in leading the organisation, was presented to Congress. There was time to challenge the process and the document during the session. A question came up on the content but not on the form in front of the Congress. The LYMEC Bureau considers it **hereby implemented for the future, and entering into force**. We expect IFLRY to do the same at their Congress. If no comments/challenge happen to the memorandum of understanding at the IFLRY GA, it will be in full force between the two organisations.

- *Future of Europe document - political focus*

- It was approved as it is so we can start planning further the campaign (no deletion were made);
- Only one organisation didn't validate it and they had the chance to be active and make their points;
- **The two Future of Europe documents are approved now** - with deletions from sensitive areas - we as a Bureau have sufficient mandate to represent the organisation on this topic. We are going to act on it and represent the views of the organisation in any panel/question/discussions we have ahead of us.

- *Feedback for next Congress*

- During the chair briefing, we should focus more on the Congress rules but more in details on majority rules calculations to ease predicting certain situations;
- Great job done by the office and the chairs in general. Everyone was properly briefed and experience could be felt.
- MP volunteers to help BG with the info note on majorities for chairs - to be created for the next Congress.
- MS proposes to improve the system by doing the snap vote on resolutions before Congress. Rules might be changed for this so we will need to look further into this. IH highlights it might be difficult with the urgency resolutions. MS will come up with a proposal compliant with the rules if possible.

-Working groups on resolutions

- Good feedback in general;
- MS streamlined well the processes for the Congress which helped a lot and made things smoother.

2) New Website - 20 minutes (BG/IH/IS)

- *Progress and latest updates*

- 75% completion rate at this stage;
- A few key functions are still missing but they are working on it;

- IH, IS and BG to meet next Thursday to look at the work and make some comments if needed on items to improve.

- *Updated timeline*

- The works will be done by the end of May;
- We need more tests internally after that so we should not launch before June.

- *Launch: date and format - for decision*

- We could launch it at the next **Digital Assembly at the beginning of July internally on 3 July 2021**;
- We could do a video with the basic features to present it externally to the public after that at the **beginning of summer**.

3) 2021 YCA - 30 minutes

(IH/BG)

- *Format and logistics of the 1st event - for decision*

- IH explains that we have two options:
 - Hybrid with some people in Greece and some joining online
 - Studio in Brussels and having people join online
- BG explains ELF Board will decide on the international travel ban for their activities next week;
- IH explains that realistically we won't be more than 5-6 people on the ground with the possibility of doing rapid testing, we could make a trial there for hybrid format events;
- AA raises the question of the short timeline and realism in delivering on such short notice;
- LC is optimistic on the help we could get if the event would be in Athens instead of Thessaloniki. We would be able to do everything in one week and we can rely on the Young Liberals of Greece;
- BG explains that since the workload is very heavy for the coming weeks with the office moving, it will be complicated to set up a hybrid event in two weeks with all the planning it involves;
- DAS would want to wait for the ELF Board and see what they decide before we take a decision;
- MP would say there is not really a question anymore if the office is very busy;
- MS says it's better to plan online now for this one and let's plan better for the next two in the Autumn with hybrid/in-person formats;
- IS adds that we should have this one online and the other two hybrid or in-person;
- LC thinks it is manageable and she can help the office if needed and it can be done in Greece;
- IH realises it's a lot of work in a short time and she doesn't think ELF would make an exception for this one so the best is to move forward with looking for a studio in Brussels and doing the rest online;

- AA fully agrees with what IH said - on top of the moving, she doesn't want to put extra pressure on the office - the question is if it **worth to go for the studio option in Brussels;**
- DAS/MS emphasize that being more than just online is important - if it comes to the Brussels option and there is need - they could help.

The Bureau decides that we would reach out to the studio ELF used in Brussels to see if it is possible to host us. One Studio in Brussels (for some organisers, speakers and moderators) and the participants connecting online is the way forward.

- Selection of the participants

- We had 14 good applications - 2 weren't eligible (16 in total);
- We selected 10 participants - 6 (men) to 4 (women) gender balance like last time;
- We tried to have more diversity with regard to the organisations participating, 40% of the organisations are new - however a lot of the same organisations applied;
- Very diverse project topics: LGBTQI+ rights, tourism, climate change, education, digitalisation and disinformation related projects.

- Latest programme for Event 1

- Quite a few speakers are confirmed already;
- We are working on a second speaker for the session on the MeToo movement;
- Silja Markkula from the European Youth Forum still needs to confirm for the youth activism session;
- We still need a trainer for the second day - our partner Kefim is not replying, we need to look into that soon.

4) Discussion on ELF Communications' Meeting - 20 minutes (IS/DAS/BG)

- Call for applications

- Call has to be open on 3rd of May for two weeks;
- ELF and LYMEC members' Communicators' persons will be targeted;
- ELF will take care of the visuals and have the same brand for all the events of the umbrella programme;
- Our event will be the first of the whole project (FNF and ELF are coming after) which is clearly an opportunity.

- Format

- We had a meeting with ELF and went over the basics;
- We spoke briefly about the chances to have this event in hybrid/online - we need to decide on that later - closer to the event;
- Some of the speakers will be in any case connecting online and the topic would be fitting;
- We will evaluate hybrid at our next meeting in May.

- Programme

- It is part of a bigger umbrella programme with FNF and ELF;
- We are focusing on political communication and young people;
- The manual on communications proposed by DAS during the meeting has to be discussed further, he also reminds that the events are different and this manual is important to have something concrete in common but identity of the different projects need to be preserved;
- We have a first draft of the programme, we need to get in touch with the speakers now.

5) Conference on the Future of Europe - 40 minutes (IS/AA/MS)

- Actions and timeline

- Week of 3 May: the 2 documents in visual format will be sent out to MOs and decision-makers (2 different versions - one with disclaimer)
- May: Publish about the fact that we sent our proposals to decision-makers
- 9 May: video release with MOs as launch of the campaign + 2 SM cards/week start of campaign
- Until end of June - 6 weeks with SM cards (closing introduces the meetings in Autumn)
- September - YLM on institutional reform of the EU as kick-off of discussions with MOs
- Autumn/Winter (October till beginning 2022) - online meetings with MOs in a regional setting

- Letter and distribution list

- Email to all organisations before 7 May with the designed proposals to the MOs and invite them with a link to the 11 May conference organised by AA;
- Letter was prepared - comments from Bureau are welcomed - it is on the drive;
- Distribution list needs to be completed with the email of the relevant stakeholders.

- SM Campaign

- IS received only 3 videos so far for the campaign launch video - she will send out a reminder tomorrow. IS to send a few sentences to AA on what to say at the beginning of the video. We will see on 3rd of May if enough videos are received and if not Bureau members will step in by 5 of May.
- Visuals will be created in the coming week - first release will be on 10 or 11 May after the launch.

- 11 May event between 14 h and 16 h with Ilhan Kyuchyuk, MEP.

- First, there will be the Commissioner in charge and Guy Verhofstadt opening;
- Then, a panel with key stakeholders and academics will take place: Sofia university, debating Europe, Friends of Europe and neighbouring countries council. Committee on Constitutional Affairs coordinator will also join;
- Second panel will be moderated by AA about our ideas and brings together YEPP, YES, JEF and FYEG. The latest two are confirmed. European Youth Forum President will also be invited. Karen Melchior and Svenja Hahn are invited too;

- The event will be added to the official Conference on the FoE digital platform.

- *Regional events and YLM*

- The goal is to bring the discussion on the FoE to the membership and listen to their ideas and mark down **3-5 good ideas** that would come up in the process. The idea is also to give them the floor to enable them to say what they think and encourage them to submit it on the platform. We will encourage the use of the official hashtag as well.
- We will see which of the regions want to have an event and show more interest, we could have more meetings in those regions. It would come on top of the existing regional meetings that will be planned.

- *Additions*

- We will also invite our members to participate in the ALDE townhalls besides our own events.
- We will also push to submit as much as possible in terms of content and events on the [digital platform of the EC](#) meanwhile participating in all possible events.

6) ALDE Party - 20 minutes (BG/MS)

- *Changes in the office with renovation works*

- We will have less space in the new office
- Half of the material/furniture will have to be given or sold
- We need to take action in the coming 2 weeks - works start on second week of May
- This will take a big share of BG's work in the coming week

- *ALDE Congress latest updates*

- Our two resolutions on the Conference on the Future of Europe and the Women's right were submitted
- 3 Vice-Presidents + Treasurer will be elected at this Congress - meetings will need to be scheduled online with the candidates for the delegation
- MS will discuss and make the amendments to all submitted resolutions with the delegation at the next meeting. 14 May is the deadline for the amendments.

7) Invitations - 10 minutes (BG/LC)

- Invitation to FNF Greece Summer Academy in July for LC - **for decision**

The Bureau decides that we will reevaluate travel possibilities later regarding the situation and if it makes sense. It's too early to call at this stage. If travel isn't allowed then she would attend online. She can therefore confirm attendance.

- Renew Europe session during the digital European Parliament Open Days

We have the opportunity to ask some questions to decision-makers. AA was invited to contribute and ask a question. It would be in the late afternoon on **5 May from 17h30 to 18h30**.

- AA to speak with HvB on the **Conference on the FoE launch of ALDE** on **4 May at 14 h** in an online event
- **IFLRY Congress** address from AA next weekend at 16 h on the 1st of May. DAS is ready to be the back-up and give the address if AA can't. She might not be able to attend on such short notice.
- The **IFLRY representative** received an invitation to attend the **IFLRY Bureau Meeting** in Skopje before their GA. LYMEC is only financing the travel of the IFLRY representative for the GA to ensure we are properly represented at the decision-making body of the organisation. Further, the Bureau sticks to its decision of not sending anyone to events before the end of May as we moved our May events online in line with this.
- AA was invited to the **LHG Congress** on 5-6 June - she will attend the meeting.

8) IMS news and updates - 5 minutes (MS)

- A meeting is planned next week with the SC and delegates to discuss on the next steps;
- Once a year IMS assembly will be planned soon before the summer.

9) News from MOs - 5 minutes

- IS explains that SU will have their Congress in two weeks with new Board elections - IS will attend/send a video;
- IS adds that an Invitation from Ogra Fianna Fail to present LYMEC - online talk with the members was sent and she will connect;
- IH explains that she is Involved in planning a female summit in JUNOS and invitation will come for mid-July to us;
- LC explains that the first mediation meeting between the two Greek organisations took place and they are discussing cooperation - we can be very positive about this.

10) AOB

- European Youth Foundation Application at the CoE was submitted for the 2022 study session process. We will get feedback by June probably on the selection.

- MS to propose that we promote the Eurovision event of LHG. They will have to send an official proposal/invitation and then we can do it.
- MS to launch the next WG renewal process of the policy book for Chapter 3 with the help of LC and IH. The ELSN Working Group will also be mobilised to help on this. Timeline should be as follows:
 - MS to send out the call week of 3rd May
 - Call ends 17 May
 - Work needs to be delivered by 7 June
 - Call for Digital Assembly from 11 June to 21 June
 - Outcomes published on 21 June the latest - **week before if possible**
 - Open for amendments until 25 June
 - Amendments sent/published on 29 June
 - Digital Assembly on 3 July
- Communication from Ioana about USR Tineret and Plus Youth is coming soon about their merger.
- Next Bureau Meeting on **17 May 2021 at 19 h CEST.**