

## Bureau meeting EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH

Location Gummersbach , Germany,  
Date 4th and 6th March 2011

### 1. Opening

AP opened the meeting. Present Bureau members on the meeting are: AP, JD, VG, MF, MHS and Secretary General SK. Meeting was legally called and there were no changes in the agenda.

### 2. Follow-up of decisions taken at the last Bureau meeting

MLN sent the list of the follow up on decisions from last Bureau meeting. MLN did not follow up the energy efficiency policy as the meeting on energy efficiency did not result in any policies. Cartoon contest has been cancelled as Hungary has announced to change its media law. JD will however continue to monitor the situation, as first reports already indicate the changes currently proposed might not be satisfactory. JD did not gather offers for New Libertas printing and so far there is only one offer from Croatia. JD is asked to gather new offers as soon as possible. Web site is in process of being designed.

### 3. Finances

MF said we are short on the budget for YLM. Budget will need to be updated especially on staff costs, web page and bureau expenses. Some budget lines will be cut as we will not need to use all the budgeted money. The savings account should stay in the same by end of this year, not to be increased. AP said that we should make the events cheaper, in order to not run surpluses as to attract more participants regardless of their financial situation. He also suggested we should increase the budget line for Bureau expenses as that budget line is under estimated. SK agreed and said that at the end of the year we should have the same situation as at the beginning of this year, meaning that we only run a tiny surplus. MF proposed the changes to the Budget which will be send out then members. MHS said that the financial situation in not that good for the Congress in Barcelona, so MF suggested increasing the budget lines for the Congress in Barcelona and Utrecht. MF and JD will amend the contract with JOVD and JD.

AP said we should ask ELDR Steering committee for the increase in funding from next year on. SK will talk to Federica about the possibility for ELDR to buy us a new computer. ALDE has planned 35.000 Euros grant for LYMEC. For the CoE grant MLN should contact Jelena Spasovic and then we need to submit the application. We need to re-apply for this concrete budget. European Commission grant has been approved.

MF reported on the audit that took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. It went very well, some smaller receipts are still missing, but the auditors are quite pleased with the outcome. The suggestion is that in future we should make less profit on the events and make events cheaper for the participants. Auditors suggested invoicing former Treasurer for the faulty bookkeeping however the Bureau decided otherwise as Sibel along with the previous Bureau was in charge of sorting the financial problems created by the previous Treasurer. AP asked if there is a doubt the money was misused for personal gain, SK and MF said that it is not a likely reason to this bookkeeping problem. Auditors also proposed to write off all MO debt before 2009. AP agrees on all but he is of opinion that paying and active members of LYMEC should still pay for their debts, so those members will be asked to pay for the debts. SK needs to send out reminders with CC-ed member organizations to all those persons and organizations on the aged receivables list. The Auditors proposed that cancellation fees and name changes should

be charged on the Member organizations rather than on participants, the Bureau agrees to this proposal.

MF reported that Applicant member organizations were over-invoiced by 10 Euros. SK sent out the apology and new invoices. The Bureau decides that repeatedly non-paying organizations should be disaffiliated so the Bureau went through the following organizations that are in debt to LYMEC;

- Alliance Youth, Northern Ireland - The Bureau asks that JD to contact them and look into their situation
- Armenian National Youth, Armenia - The Bureau asked MF to look into their situation
- Danish Liberal Students, Denmark - The Bureau asks MLN to look into their situation
- Estonian Center Youth, Estonia - The Bureau asks MF to look into their situation.
- Gibraltar Liberal Youth, Gibraltar - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- Young Liberals of Luxembourg, Luxembourg - The Bureau asks JD to look into their situation
- JLC, Lithuania - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- Canary Islands Liberal Youth, Spain - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- National Movement of Simoneon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bulgaria - The Bureau asks MF to look into the situation
- LiDem, Macedonia - The Bureau asks MF to look into the possible installments for payment of their debt
- LRK, Kosovo - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- LSA, Croatia - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- Musavat Youth, Azerbaijan - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- OTMN Moldova - The Bureau asks CB to contact the organisation
- Ukraina Youth Sabor, Ukraine - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- YC Poland, Poland - Organisation will be proposed for disaffiliation, SK will send the letter notifying the organization
- YPD, Ireland - The Bureau asks JD to contact them and see what is their current situation

The proposal of disaffiliation of 8 members/applicant members will be put in the agenda for upcoming Congress.

The Bureau meeting continued with the financial report for 2010 presented by MF. LYMEC ended up with surplus of 30.000 Euros, which is good but should not be increased at the end of this year. We are liquid, and the outcome of the last year is positive. A provision has been created in the balance sheet to cover any unrealizable claims

MF asked about possible donation from Kyril Lapin, however no news yet. AP is in charge of contacting him. MF, SK and MLN are working on the report for 2010 YiA Grant by the European Commission. Most work remains in hands of MLN. The report will be done in time. Regarding the YiA Grant 2011 - 2013, SK will contact Eva Moser from the Agency to ask if we are required to employ our intern or not as in proposed Agreement we are obliged to employ two staff.

#### **4. ELDR and ALDE - present situation**

VG said that Guy Verhofstadt confirmed meeting with the Bureau during the ALDE Summer school. SK will meet with ALDE and EDY on 10<sup>th</sup> of March, VG needs to propose the theme for the summer school and the most likely theme will be “patient’s rights” or “GMO / agriculture”. VG proposed we ask Srd Kisevic about what could we do for the summer school as he has a lot of experience with it. ELDR Council will take place in Dresden, Germany; MLN and AP will attend. MF will attend ELDR Steering Committee in May. Graham Watson is touring Europe gathering support for his candidacy for the President of ELDR.

#### **5. Press and PR**

LYMEC will hold a press conference on Deletion and not Blocking in Strasbourg on March 9<sup>th</sup> together with three MEPs. Several press releases have been sent out from the last Bureau meeting and LYMEC Bureau will continue to do so.

#### **6. Website**

In process of designing, next week we will get first proposals of the layout of the web site. The web site should be done by Congress in Netherlands.

#### **7. New Libertas**

VG Said that Graham Watson will do the interview and she is in contact with him. JD planned out the layout for next issue. In depth layout will be sent to the Bureau. AP asked that press conference in Strasbourg should be included in next issue. He also said he will write an article, possibly on EU budget. Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> of March, we should aim to have it even before Vienna but definitely by Congress in Utrecht.

#### **8. Campaigns**

VG is not pleased with the tempo on the campaigns she would like to see LYMEC more active in this segment. AP pointed out that with the NED team assembled and input from SK with CB’s help our campaigns in 2012 should be much better. For this year we have intergenerational fairness campaign, the design has been done by SK and CB, AP will revise the text afterwards leaflet will be completed. Accompanying the leaflet a campaign web site will be made. VG suggested we make USB sticks “save your data”. SK should look for the offers for pens.

#### **9. Deletion, not blocking**

Press conference in Strasbourg will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Invitations sent by e-mail, by fax on Monday. AP and JD will be present along with MEPs Alexander Alvaro, Sophie in’t Veld and Jens Rohde. The press conference will be held in European Parliament. AP will print out the signatures which will be 80 pages long.

#### **10. Our strategy / role of our representatives**

##### **Youth Forum (YFJ)**

VG asked we send information to our list of contacts. AP said he would be interested in becoming a member of the Expert group on Youth Rights.

##### **IFLRY**

Ivo Thijsen joined the meeting on this point. AP asked him about his experience in IFLRY Bureau and the joint event in Romania. Ivo pointed out that IFLRY is now taking UN and WTO as their platforms for work rather than those in EU. IFLRY Bureau is

working better than at the beginning. IFLRY is making a new web site which should be done by 1<sup>st</sup> May. Financial wise IFLRY is not doing as well as LYMEC.

Congress and seminar are planned to happen in Brazil and Paraguay. OALY elected the new Bureau, President is from South Africa. Situation between two umbrella organizations in Asia remains to be tense and unclear. There will be a fact finding mission in Morocco. As for Northern America, YDA has become less active in IFLRY. AP asked Ivo to send in the report on his trip to China. Chinese definition of youth is up to 45 years of age, their organization is similar to Youth Forum but closer to the Government. They count 300.000.000 members. The event was very well covered by national media. Ivo got in contacts with a German speaking liberal youth organization in Belgium and will provide contact details to the office.

SU Finland sent the official letter to IFLRY complaining about their choice of the candidate for European Youth Forum. AP said that SU asked LYMEC to back up their candidate on the elections what LYMEC did. Belgian MOs communicated with IFLRY that they plan to leave IFLRY, Ivo hopes that Dutch MOs will convince Belgian ones to stay in IFLRY. JD is disappointed with current situation regarding the Belgian MOs and IFLRY. AP shares opinion with JD and is of strong opinion that strong IFLRY is also of LYMEC's interest.

Ivo and MHS asked that CB always puts them in CC for the communication about Romania. IFLRY bureau is slightly concerned about the fact seminar in Romania and Barcelona will deal with the similar topic. VG asked about the possibility of LYMEC workshop on IFLRY seminar in Istanbul. This will be further investigated. Some funding has been secured from the side of D66, suggestion is the last weekend of November. SK will inform IFLRY about the dates of ELDR Congress.

## 11. Events

MHS updates the bureau about the upcoming Austrian event. Hotel has been booked, the program has been updated by Lukas Schweiger, MHS and SK. AP pointed out that invitations for the speakers need to be sent out very fast. Members of the Bureau present will be JD, MHS and MF. SK pointed out that there is enough of participants.

JD updated the Bureau about the Congress and Conference in The Netherlands. The contract has not yet been signed but should be signed next week. Hotel has been reserved. MF said that a key coordinator needs to be appointed. AP pointed out that usually MHS is the key coordinator and she should be in charge of contacting the organizers, but JD should be in charge for this event. SK should send out the call for seminar teams next week. Manon asked for help in fundraising with MEPs. AP will be in contact with Jens Rohde about possibility to finance the Congress. Manon informed the Bureau that they are 2000 Euros short. JD will send an e-mail to the Bureau about possible fundraising. AP continued to talk about Congress, VG and AP will draft the theme resolution and AP and SK will draft the agenda. Bureau meeting will take place before and after the event as well.

VG updated the Bureau about ALDE summer school. AP said that we will be in charge of the program. Connected to this event Bureau will hold its meeting and on June 28<sup>th</sup> LYMEC Bureau will meet with President of ALDE Mr. Verhofstadt.

LYMEC and IFLRY seminar in Romania; CB is in charge, there is not much information on it as yet, the event will be run by IFLRY as they got grant from CoE and financing from the side of TNL. Seminar team of 5 people will be created and AP suggested it should be VG leading it.

CB should be in charge of organization of the event. Seminar team will be gathered by the IFLRY office.

MF updated the Bureau about Young Leaders Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, we have the grant from ELDR of 3.500 Euros which is not sufficient. MHS suggests 23-25 September 2011. The local organizers will be in charge of accommodation, meeting room and meals and delegate 2 persons for the seminar team.

MHS updated about Congress in Barcelona. One proposal of the organizers is to have it outside of Barcelona. There is possibility to hold it in Girona, the seminar should still be held in Barcelona. The final decision (Barcelona or Girona) on the place will be by the local organizers, to be done within the next week. SK said ELDR does not yet have the dates for their Congress and we should move quickly. CIU has the best possibility to win the elections in Barcelona so they will most likely have Mayor in Barcelona and he should be invited. MHS will talk to the Organisers. VG said we need to organize a 35 years anniversary event, we should get material from the Gummersbach archive, possibly have the exhibition connected with the seminar topic migration that was offered by Lorenzo either in congress room or in coffee brake room. MHS thinks the seminar and Congress should be early November.

The event on Flexicurity, only one proposal and that is IDY, Croatia. Realization depended on ELF reserve-list money coming in.

## **12. IMS**

SK said that the elections are in process and will end on 15<sup>th</sup> of March. There are 4 candidates for three positions. Candidates are Igor Caldeira, Tim Huiskes, Allan Siao Ming Witherick and Johan Van Woense.

## **13. Any other business (AOB)**

MHS asked about the statement about the seminar organized by Friedrich Naumann Foundation, JD in charge of drafting it. MEP Manescu said she is interested into getting involved with LYMEC, JD will contact her for New Libertas.

## **14. Closing**

Next Bureau meeting will be in Utrecht in the afternoon.

AP closed the meeting and thanked present Bureau members for coming to Gummersbach.