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ELSN Newsletter August 2009

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To: "Mailing List of the European Liberal Student Network (ELSN)" <members@elsn.eu>

Dear liberal friends, please find below the first issue of the ELSN newsletter: ELSN News of August 2009.

Best regards
Phil

===== ELSN NEWS =====

What happens inside ELSN? Updates on current events and initiatives by the European Liberal Students Network.

. First Newsletter: Not surprisingly, the first entry in the new newsletter will be about the newsletter itself. The ELSN board decided to create a bimonthly newsletter to be sent to all members of the ELSN mailing list and all members of the ELSN facebook page and to be published on the ELSN website. There will be, besides internal news, calls for action that represent an opportunity for the MOs to speak out and contribute to ELSN activities and links to topics of interest to students making higher education policy in Europe.

. Institutionalization of ELSN: The LYMEC Congress in Rome saw a fringe meeting of ELSN organizations to discuss the future of ELSN. In order to improve the level of activity inside the Network, coordinate ELSN events and to ease coordination between ELSN MOs, a board of four members was elected at the meeting: Nicoleta Nicolescu (CSL, Romania), Patrick Krassen (LS, Sweden), Bruno Teirlynck (LVSV, Belgium) and Philipp Karstaedt (LHG, Germany). Philipp Karstaedt was appointed by the board to serve as spokesperson for ELSN. The minutes of the meetings have already been sent via the ELSN mailing list. If you did not receive them, please contact the board. Alternatively, they will soon be posted on the ELSN website.

. Article in New Libertas about ELSN Seminar: The new LYMEC magazine, New Libertas, is out. On page 18 you'll find an article about the recently held ELSN/LYMEC seminar in Brussels about student services and the future of Bologna. For the pdf, visit <http://www.newlibertas.eu/07.pdf>

. Statutes: The statutes for ELSN are in the process of being drafted. A delegation within the board of ELSN has prepared an initial draft, which the board will discuss. Hopefully the draft will be finished and possible to present to the LYMEC Bureau sometime by late summer.

. ELSN on twitter and Facebook: ELSN is now tweeting! ELSN has a twitter account that you can follow: <http://twitter.com/ELSN> On a related note, if you have not already, please join our Facebook group and tell your fellow liberal students to do the same. You'll find it at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=9174322094>

===== CALL FOR ACTION =====

Your action required for ELSN! We need your opinions, suggestions and contributions.

. ELSN Buddy program: The board is currently creating the ELSN buddy program in order to provide a database of liberal students ready to answer the questions of fellow colleagues coming to their country to study abroad. Thus, each ELSN organization should ideally provide contact data of one or more competent individual(s) ready to be contact person(s) for other students and help them to take their first steps in a new country. Many ELSN MOs should already have received an email concerning the ELSN buddy program and if you have received such an email, please get back as soon as possible to the responsible board member, Nicoleta (nicoleta@elsn.eu). A small inquiry for volunteers and a short mail with contact data from your part will create a potentially very important service for all liberal students.

. Next ELSN seminar: We are starting the preliminary preparations for the next (and third!) ELSN seminar, scheduled to be held in the first half of next year. A general discussion on the mailing list about the possible topics of that seminar is very, very welcome. What could be a good topic? Please share your opinions and ideas with the mailing list!

===== HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY NEWS =====

Who talks about higher education in Europe and what do they say?
 Interesting tidbits concerning higher education policy.
 Do you have a link that you think the ELSN members should know about?
 Any suggestions are very welcome at newsletter@elsn.eu

. ``Global student union to be formed``: Student groups from around the world met on the margins of the World Conference on Higher Education with the aim of establishing a global student organisation that could become a powerful lobbying force to advance the student perspective at international education meetings. The student groups included the ESU, the All African Students Union, the Asia Pacific Students and Youth Association, the Canadian Federation of Students, the Organisation of Latin American and Caribbean Students, along with students unions from Australia, New Zealand and the US, plus groupings of Catholic students, medical students and students of law. Find the article at <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090710113737597>

. ``Investing in Higher Education – an EU perspective``: Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, held a speech at the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education "The new dynamics of higher education and research for societal change and development" in Paris, 5 July 2009. Please find the short speech in French and English at <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/09/328&format=PDF&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en>

. ``EUROPE: New ways of financing higher education``: The EUA (European University Association) is launching the EUDIS project to assess the status of income diversification in European universities. According to the article, ``while higher education institutions are still largely state funded, and this should be increased [...], the institutions themselves with improved autonomy should broaden their income base through other streams``. For us students this could be relevant from two perspectives: possibly higher quality teaching and possibly a temptation for universities to see students as ``diversified source of income``. Whatever the opinions of your organization on tuition fees on university level may be, it will pay to stay informed on the results of the survey. Please find the article at <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090618195805839>

and the EUDIS homepage at <http://www.eua.be/eudis>

<http://www.elsn.eu>

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