

Location Brussels, Belgium  
Date 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2012

**Present members:** Alexander Plahr (AP), Mette Lykke Nielsen(MLN), Vedrana Gujic(VG), Jeroen Diepemaat(JD), Claudia Benchescu (CB), and Mireia Huerta i Sala(MHS)

**Absent members:** Matilda Flemming (MF)

**Others Present:** Slaven Klobucar (SK)

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## **1. Opening and regularia**

AP presented the agenda which was adopted unanimously. The meeting is called in due time and quorum has been reached.

## **2. Follow up of the decisions from the last Bureau meeting**

MLN said that all decisions made on the previous Bureau have been fulfilled except for the report of the IMS from the Congress in Barcelona. MHS is asked to contact the IMS delegates do draft one. MLN asked SK to contact German Marshall Fund about the Youth Forum conference.

## **3. Review of the meetings in Commission and Youth Forum**

AP said that the meeting with PPYO was good, as foreseen we agreed with conservatives on the economic issues and on civil liberties with the socialists and greens. SK reported about the working group on Youth in Action. LYMEC will call for operational grants to be added to the new Erasmus for all programme. SK is in charge of contacting ALDE and inquiring about the shadow reporter for the CULT committee.

AP said that the meeting with Cecilia Malmstrom went well. The LYMEC Bureau and her exchanged on data retention, PNR, Schengen and asylum issues. Malmström was unaware of the ELDR's position on data retention and does not share LYMEC's views on it. SK is in charge of drafting a call for the Commissioner to join us on our events in Copenhagen. Commissioner Malmstrom suggested we invite Neelie Kroes as well to the event. SK will draft the call. Commissioner Malmstrom asked LYMEC to help promote the issue of solidarity on asylum issues. MLN agreed with AP and is very pleased with the outcome of the meeting. MLN will be cc on the invitations for the commissioners and will do the follow up with the cabinets in order to help with the organising of their presence in Denmark. The bureau agree to put focus on the solidarity issue and put forward a statement about asylum seekers and the treatment especially in Greece.

## **4. Review of the ELDR Congress in Palermo**

AP reported. This was the last congress of Annemie Neyts. The election went smoothly but with some smaller oddities in the way the Congress was lead by the chairs, which are not elected chairs, but ELDR Bureau members. LYMEC delegation interviewed all the candidates prior to the elections. AP believes that our delegation was very strong and visible at the Congress. AP mentioned that he got feedback that in one working group LYMEC representation was not optimal. VG said that there was a problem of coordination on certain points. MLN said that some delegations thought that AP was the only one voicing out LYMEC's opinion. AP said that our two issues, the rejection of web site blocking and the no to a Tobin tax or financial transaction tax have been passed in form of a resolution on the Congress, thus becoming an official position of ELDR. AP said that a lot has changed in the way the office works since Graham became the president.

## 5. Libertas

The Bureau is generally quite happy how the process of the new issue of Libertas is going. Julian Kirrcher and Paul Pryce are doing quite a good job. In future the Bureau members should be more engaged in the creation of Libertas. The new issue is to be completed before the event in Estonia. SK is in charge of contacting the editors and inquiring about the future plans of Libertas for this year, notably will the Libertas be completed by the Congress in Denmark. This specifically includes the further timetable in light of congresses as well as future issues. Civil liberties might be an option for the next one.

## 6. Finances

SK reported. The bookkeeping for 2011 has been completed and we are ready for the both audits. The office has already claimed the grant from ELDR. At the moment we are liquid, with sound reserves. SK said that we have finished the year with 9000 Euros surplus which was partly put on savings and partly kept for the salaries in January. He said that we should not make this big surplus in future. JD disagreed and it was agreed that SK will check in Belgian law how high can the surplus be without LYMEC running the danger of losing its non-profit status. AP spoke against accumulating reserves, as LYMEC other than national MOs does not need buffers for huge election campaigns and thus rather should lower event / membership fees.

## 7. Member organisation issues

The office has created documents of non paying member organisations and those that have ceased to communicate with LYMEC.

**JLA; Andorra** – The mother party and the youth organisation ceased to exist. New party will be created from the leftovers of the JLA. They are in debt towards LYMEC and they have ceased to attend our events and communicate with LYMEC. MHS will contact them to check one last time through personal contacts.

**MLBiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina** – The organisation does not exist in the same form as before and is reduced to a local branch only. The organisation is in debt to LYMEC and its members do not attend our events. *Bureau proposes disaffiliation.*

**LYA, Bulgaria** – The organisation is very small, once more they ask for reduced membership fee. Due to the doubts that the organisation is functioning, the bureau suggests to reject the request for reduced membership fee as the fee for 2010 has not been paid yet either.

**NMSP, Bulgaria** – SK said that they approached the office and that they will pay the membership fee soon.

**LiDEM, Macedonia** – Their disaffiliation request was denied by Congress in Barcelona. However all the attempts to contact them and establish instalment payments have failed and the organisation is now in debt with over 1000 Euros. *Bureau proposes disaffiliation.*

**Zares, Slovenia** – In quite a high debt towards LYMEC. The organisation suffered huge electoral defeat. They elected the new leadership in December. VG is in charge of contacting them and MF is in charge of seeing what parts of their debt could be written off.

**NLSF, Norway** – MLN is in charge of contacting them as the communication with them is non-existent. However they are not in debt towards LYMEC. Thus no action apart from re-establishing contact.

**JDL, Luxembourg** – They still remain to be in debt towards us. They promised payment of the debts in February. JD is in charge of contacting JDL and invite them to our event in Denmark.

**Youth Alliance, UK** – Even though their debts were mostly written off, they did not pay the remaining debt of the organisation. According to them the organisation is reduced to 8 people. *Bureau proposes disaffiliation.*

## **8. Training in Estonia**

SK reported. Everything is organised and booked. We have a good program and trainers. The deadline for submission of nominations is expiring soon. The event is under control. JD, CB, MLN, SK and Xosé Casas will attend on behalf of LYMEC.

## **9. Congress in Denmark**

AP and MF asked not to sign the contract with the Danish organisers before we get a clear green light from ELF, which according to SK should happen in the coming week. MLN asked that a call for seminar teams is sent out as soon as possible, SK is in charge. SK should also contact Project Polska and MLS Portugal and see if they would be interested in joining the seminar team. AP is in charge of calling the president of VU in the coming week. SK said that due to certain requests by ELF, they will somewhat increase our grant for the event. Proposed chairs: Pietro Paganini (AP in charge of contacting), Ellen Trane Norby (MLN in charge of contacting), Simon Dyhr (MLN in charge of contacting) and Gesine Röder (AP in charge of contacting). As substitutes; Charlotte Linvald, Anne Solsvik, Mae Liz Ortego. MLN asked that Guy Verhofstadt is invited, SK in charge of drafting the invitation.

As the ELDR Council is at the same time as our Congress, we need to send someone external who is not in the Bureau. The Bureau proposes Aloys Rigaut, SK in charge of contacting.

## **10. Civil liberties campaign**

Due to the failure to obtain the NED grant we applied for the first time, CB and SK will redraft the proposal and sent it to MF for the financial review. Afterwards CB and SK will include campaign team members in the process. SK will order USB sticks for the Congress in Copenhagen

## **11. Media planning**

AP asked that more Bureau members are included in drafting the press releases. JD and AP have been following the EU Council and drafted a press release on the fiscal treaty. JD asked that in future the EU events one month in advance are added to the weekly overview sent by the office. JD is in charge of drafting the statement about the weekend events. MLN asked that JEF's press release that we will review is sent over the weekend to the Bureau. SK in charge of contacting JEF.

## **12. ELSN**

The names of the delegates have been gathered. CB is in charge of calling and leading the skype meeting, SK in charge of creating the doodle. The dates to be agreed with AP and CB and should lie within a two-weeks timeframe. The goal is to get ELSN active again before the coming Congress.

## **13. IMS**

SK said that all is set and ready for elections. SK is in charge of talking to Goal Gorilla about the voting booth on the web site.

## **14. Partnership proposal ‘Democracy Crowdsourcing’**

LYMEC has received a request to become a project partner. After discussion and review of the project proposal the Bureau has decided to pass on the offer.

## **15. Press**

CB said that YFJ is planning not to invite the international MOs to the EU Youth Conference in March. She voiced out her disagreement with it to the president of Youth Forum. CB also asked that a call is drafted and sent to our MOs asking for the contacts of the persons who deal with Youth Forum.

AP said that the next bureau meeting will take place in Copenhagen. If needed a skype bureau meeting will be called prior to it. AP will prepare a Doodle for the exact dates.

CB said that the next ISEEL meeting will take place in Croatia in March.