

Bureau minutes

28.11.2010. Ljubljana, Slovenia
Offices of MLD

Present: Alexander Plahr(AP), Mette Lykke Nielsen(MLN), Matilda Flemming(MF), Vedrana Gujic(VG), Claudia Beneschau(CB), Jeroen Diepemaat(JD), Slaven Klobučar(SK)

Not Present (excused): Mireia Huerta i Sala(MHS)

1. Opening & adoption of agenda

AP opened the bureau meeting and established that the meeting was called in due time and the quorum is reached. AP welcomed present Bureau members. The agenda was adopted unanimously without changes.

2. Political situation

AP reflected on the economic crisis that is still going on, Ireland will receive bailout from the EU, possibly the same might happen with Portugal. Other than that nothing significantly happened since the last Bureau meeting. Some of the resolutions adopted at the Congress are quite current and we need to follow them up.

3. Follow-up on the decisions made on the last Bureau meeting

MLN asked if the minutes from the last BM have been sent out which was confirmed by SK and AP. VG said that the date for the summer academy has been approved by ALDE and the Bureau. AP asked that MHS to send follow up of the Budapest YLM to the participants.

AP reminded JD and CB to give feedback to MHS regarding to event guide.

4. Preparation of upcoming congress & review of the Congress

* This point was discussed on two different occasions, before Congress on the preparation part, and Congress has been reviewed on the Bureau meeting on 28th November.

Before the Congress Bureau has discussed the technical details of the organisation of Congress, what has been done and what still needs to be done. The Bureau also discussed membership applications and decided to give positive recommendation to for the full membership of Zares Aktivni from Slovenia and applicant membership of Youth LDP from Serbia. The Bureau gave neutral recommendation for the full membership application of Liberal Party Youth Organization from Moldova, and neutral recommendation for the applicant membership applications of L2 from Belgium, MNDSV from Bulgaria, and Alliance of Young Liberals from Lithuania. The Bureau gave negative recommendation on the applicant membership application of EYU from Ukraine.

All Bureau members have agreed that Congress went very well both organisationally and politically, congratulations to VG and MLD for the organisation. MF suggested that on the next Congress we need to motivate people to be more actively involved,

on which everyone agreed with the suggestion from AP to possibly have the resolutions agenda point earlier in the Congress agenda as it sparks the discussions. VG pointed out that the chairs also need to play role in this and encourage delegates to speak. JD said that the change from one Congress and one EC to two Congresses per year was a wise decision as now we have two forums where we can discuss our policies and debate on the current issues more frequently thus making LYMEC more dynamic. SK agreed that the Congress was well organized and one of the more interesting ones he has attended. MLN is also happy with the outcome of both Congress and Seminar. Participants gave many positive comments on both events.

On the negative side the Bureau agreed that Bureau members need to be more involved in the Congress as it was mostly AP and MLN taking the floor, this is something that needs to be changed. VG suggested that based on the territorial division of responsibilities, Bureau members in charge of the membership applications coming out from their region should present the membership applications, however agreement on this point has not been reached as AP believes it should be done by one person. One possibility is to make division of the duties on Congress possibly in the way that we have one person in charge of resolution, other membership issues, program of action, etc. AP says chairs were very good but in future we need to instruct the chairs in more detailed manner to make everything run even more smoothly, especially regarding the division between first and second reading of resolutions. Bureau agreed that the minutes of the meeting were the biggest problem of the congress and that in future stagieres and minute takers need to be instructed much more in detail in advance. One more issue that needs to be improved is the resolutions and membership applications. We have to announce clearly that resolutions can be submitted since the day of Congress announcement. As for membership issues we need to ask applicants to submit their applications a number of months before the congress so that Bureau would have more time to prepare and investigate these applicants. Otherwise AP said that MLD is very happy with the outcome as well as with VG's work.

Secretary General

Secretary General has been officially approved by the Congress, the work permit is in procedure and SK will start working in Brussels office as of 1.12.2010. Apartment stays until June which will be occupied by Srd Kisevic after that LYMEC will not prolong the lease, Srd Kisevic is paying for the apartment himself. LYMEC needs to publish the change of Secretary General in Belgian official publication Moniteur Belge.

Finances

December 11th MF, SK and Srd Kisevic will meet in Brussels to finalize the transition from old to new Secretary General. MF said that the Auditors report is quite detailed, some issues with Sibel still exist and if we don't manage to sort it out soon, the questionable invoices will go on her debt to LYMEC. Clarifying on a point raised by the auditors, the Bureau notes that for interns LYMEC normally indeed pays flights as standard practice (also mentioned on the intern form), without the Bureau green-lighting every case. SK will be reduced 30 Euros from his future claims due to the error in refund for his job interview. MF asked that SK prepares new contract for stagier defining free days and salary. MF suggested SK to consult with IFLRY for the learning possibilities of stagiers. AP said that in current budget we have planned budget for campaigns and it should be spent in this year. MF said that LYMEC needs to spend surplus, reserves should not be too big. VG suggested that LYMEC could have self financed events. MF suggested that participation fees can be lower, and AP added that the participation fees should indeed be lower for some events. Regarding VAT registration MF talked to Tomas Leys, he said youth organisations do not need to register, but SK with talk with ELF and ELDR to see what are the options. MF said

that the budget is stable and LYMEC does not have problems with liquidity. LYMEC IMS shall get funding for a leaflet to be produced this year still.

ELDR, ALDE, ELF

AP is attending ELDR's Bureau meeting in December. It is the first meeting of the new Bureau including Graham Watson. ELDR Bureau wants to have coffee or lunch with leaders. LYMEC got reimbursed by ELDR for previous events. ELF approved as usual less events than what we've applied for, we got 2 events + 1 event on the reserve list.

Press and PR

JD will make press release about the Congress – Jeroen will make it, focusing on resolutions. LYMEC got in Slovenian press agency with its press conference in Ljubljana. AP asked SK to try and find it and put it in the press clipping in the office. Seasonal greetings should be sent out, JD proposed we should gather dates with "European days" and send press releases on those days dealing with the theme of that day. Add in Google Calendar

E-mail list should be updated, but JD and SK suggested to wait for the new system to be implemented as this system is quite archaic and difficult to handle. VG asked if the list of MPs in Europe is done, but it has not been done yet by stagier. E-mail addresses from newsletter database need to be saved before the website is changed to another system, JD to follow up.

New Libertas and Web site

AP said that the new issue is out but that in general our magazine needs to be improved. JD said that this issue is like this, from now on new design and change the concept will be implemented. VG said it is not a very good issue, we should outsource the chief executive officer. JD will make a concept for next issue. SK suggested making a database of authors. AP said that many MOs have magazines themselves, we should ask them to translate some of the articles so they would be published in New Libertas. MLN suggested review of other magazines from our countries. Prices for design and printing should be followed up by JD.

JD updated on the progress of the new web site, we have 1 offer, 2 upcoming. More should be in before we make a decision.

Campaigns

VG said that petition on the campaign web site for our campaign "Deletion and not blocking" is filling up too slow and she suggested putting it on Facebook

CB said that the stickers were not done in time and the company will print it out for free and it will be sent to Brussels this week. CB also said that the leaflet is done, text needs to be proof read, on the next Congress we should have the campaign launch. AP said we need to make the web site for the campaign. We should also add "dept clock" for each country and make street actions around Europe. AP asked CB to send out the leaflet around for comments and MF suggested that layout should be better.

ELSN campaign was discussed with Daniel and Leo, nothing happening at the moment. They are having meeting during the Congress and by the end of the year we should get the proposal. AP said we should give clear directions to ELSN on what budget they have for their campaign.

Youth forum

MF said that the election congress was an interesting event. Intense lobbying, Jelena Spasovic did a great job, interesting cooperation with politicals, our candidate

Gouda got elected, AP said that politically the event went very well, YFJ thanks to us and the conservatives now is not anymore so left as it once was, and as we know Gouda is the only one that ever ran under the „liberal brand“.

IFLRY – LYMEC Relations

New IFLRY leadership has good understanding of our situation, however they are mostly from Europe, therefore we have to wait and see if IFLRY honours our memorandum of understanding. We need to have a good representative in the bureau of IFLRY, we can not have one week between statutory events of IFLRY and LYMEC. Cooperation should be improved. AP was approached by two persons on the congress asking to be the new IFLRY Board members on behalf of LYMEC. Allen Witheric approached AP, he is long time member and activist in LYMEC, Ivo Thijsen approached AP as well, he is also a very good candidate. No one from the Bureau is interested in filling the spot. The Bureau voted on the two persons and appointed Ivo Thijsen. MF says that for future this procedure should be more transparent, open call should be send and congress should decide. AP points out that due to the statutes it is the Bureau deciding, but that an open call indeed would be good. It was not done in this case since the original plan was to appoint somebody from within the Bureau itself.

AP said that the agreement was reached on the membership fee 2011 to 2500 Euros. We might have to apply to GA for reduced membership fee, this is to be clarified by MF. We need to renegotiate our membership fee from 2012 on.

Events

Events Guide JD and CB need to provide MHS with their input.

Congress in the Netherlands – Manon is running the organisation team. 8500 Euros budget for it. All together we have 19.000 for three events Barcelona, Netherlands and YLM. JD said that we will need 8000 Euros for the Congress. Date is 6 may – 8 may, there are 4 options for the venue: Utrecht, Harlem, Leiden and Rotterdam. Minister of foreign affairs will come as a speaker. The place will be known before Christmas. VG says that we will select the seminar team.

AP said that the event in Austria is going good, talked with President of Julis Austria, Flexicurity event in Rome – Francesco did not show up on this event because of problems within their organisation. VG said that there are problems within FdGLI, they might cancel the event so we should have a back up option.

Ukrainians want to hold a congress in Ukraine autumn. We have to decline. RU and VU maybe would organize something it will be also during the EU presidency of Denmark.

AP was on JuLis Congress, MLN was on NUV congress, VG said that ISEEL will gather in January/February in Bulgaria self funded by YMRF. SK said that there is additional finances available from LIBSEEN and NDI. JD was on JOVD congress, Benelux liberals meeting will be in February in Maastricht, on International policy, next week going JD is going to Turkey for training. MF was on NMID in Hague. VG is going to Belarus observer mission, she accepted the invitation however the funding is not yet secured. AP might be going to Berling LHG event. He also received an invitation by JNC.

Next physical Bureau meeting: Gumersbach 4-6 March 2011, check with Ivo and Gouda if they will come as well. Next online Bureau meeting is set for 29th January.

AOB

VG reminded SK that there will be a Chinese delegation visiting LYMEC.

VG also pointed out that next year is 35 years of LYMEC, so we should publish the book, she will do research, she already talked to Graham Watson, MF suggested a gala dinner. AP makes the Bureau aware that old LYMEC documents are stored in FNFs liberal archive in Gummersbach, maybe we can have a look when we are there in March.