

Location Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Date 9th and 10th of September 2011

Present members: Alexander Plahr (AP), Mette Lykke Nielsen(MLN), Vedrana Gujic(VG), Jeroen Diepemaat(JD) and Claudia Benchescu (CB)

Non present members: Matilda Flemming (MF) and Mireia Huerta i Sala(MHS)

Others Present: Slaven Klobucar (SK) and Jelena Jesajana(JJ)

1. Opening and regularia

AP presented the agenda and proposed adding one other point to the agenda; “ELF and LYMEC Seminar on Flexicurity in Croatia”. The Bureau agreed with the change and adopted the agenda. MLN suggested that in the next minutes of bureau meetings list of both present and non-present Bureau members should be added. This was agreed.

2. Current political situation

AP made a short introduction on the current events and processes in the European politics. JD and VG joined the discussion. On the topic of the EU Budget, LYMEC will amend a theme resolution for the ELDR Congress in Palermo, VG and AP in charge. Rebates are becoming more and more interesting and the Danish government is considering applying for it. LYMEC will issue a press release on the issue, JD in charge. MLN and VG proposed that LYMEC should make a campaign/Christmas card for the MEPs on the topic of EU Budget. The Bureau adopted this proposal.

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

MLN presented the list of tasks and pointed out that the New Libertas has been delayed for too long. JD apologized but due to the lack of time he was not able to finish it. MLN therefore takes over the next regular issue of New Libertas, to be published asap. JD sends MLN all materials that are collected so far. AP announced the special Anniversary issue of the New Libertas that will be done by AP, VG and SK. JD is required to deliver MLN all the materials gathered so far and MLN will help with the regular issue. After these two issues, a special editor in chief shall take over responsibility for New Libertas.

4. Finances

AP pointed out that MF has sent all the materials needed for this meeting. LYMEC is in sound financial situation. Some budget lines were overspent but many are still under spent. Due to some savings made this year LYMEC will reduce participation fees for the upcoming events.

MLN asked about the current situation with the ELF Grant and how will the increased number of members influence LYMEC in future. AP said that we can expect to have one project per year, what is less than this year but still quite good. However we need to be cautious about accepting new member organisations while the ELF leadership is interested in including more members. AP suggested that we should consider joining multi-annual projects. SK will follow up on the happenings with the multi-annual projects. AP also reported on current tensions between ELDR and ELF as ELF organised its GA on the same date as the ELDR bureau meeting.

Extraordinary audit will be conducted in October as announced by the auditors. The Budget lines for promotional materials and printed materials are under budget and need to be used by the end of the year. VG proposed producing gifts for our 35th anniversary, for example promotional scarves and T-shirts. VG, JJ and SK will work on the proposals.

SK presented MF's proposals to write off un-claimable debt. NUV's members name change and no-show fee can not be claimed and therefore the debt of 90 Euros has been written off. Vincent Jenssens of LSVS claims that he cancelled his participation on time; however the situation is unclear. The debt has been written off and Vincent put on the black list. Lapo Orlandi as the member of Transnational Radical Party claims that he has cancelled his participation on time. The office and the treasurer disagree but due to the fact that Transnational Radical Party is not a member of LYMEC and is not a legal entity the debt is un-claimable and therefore written off with Lapo Orlandi being black-listed. MF will follow up these decisions in our bookkeeping.

Alliance Youth informed the Bureau about changes in their organisation and the status of their finances. Since Alliance Youth showed interest in resolving the debt, Treasurer MF proposed to write off 75% of the debt and proposes the instalments for the rest of the sum. The Bureau accepted the proposal. MF is in charge of contacting Alliance Youth about the instalment payment.

MLN and SK presented other long term non paying organisations. JDL from Luxembourg has long standing debt however they paid part of the membership fee. LiDem has long standing debt and is not replying on the hails of SK and MF about possible instalments. VG is in charge of contacting them and if the negotiations fail, LYMEC will proceed with the disaffiliation. AP asked that all IMS should be contacted and asked to renew their membership should be sent again. SK is in charge of contacting the IMS. SK presented the request of the ELF to donate time in form of an in-kind contribution and due to legal complications it was agreed that MLN will donate her time instead of SK.

AP said that the Grant applications for ELF, ELDR and NED have been submitted and we have information that one out of two ELF applications has been selected; all three ELDR applications will be accepted but somewhat downsized. NED application has been handed in but we can expect an answer only in January.

5. ELDR and ALDE – Present situation

AP and SK met with Thomas Krings and Wim Vanden Broucke from the ALDE Group secretariat. ALDE will continue to support LYMEC with at least the same amount as this year. ALDE will send a document proving that the contribution is a grant to LYMEC as asked by the auditors. Next year we will continue with joint organisation of the traditional Summer Academy. We proposed the the topic of Civil Liberties, which ALDE agreed to. ALDE Group is content with the interns sent by LYMEC and would like to continue with the same practice. They also have a visitors program welcoming youngsters for a weeklong event. That is also a program on which LYMEC could contribute to. ALDE asked LYMEC's opinion on several different organisations that are trying to get more involved in the work of ELDR and ALDE.

AP said that ELDR Bureau will meet a week after the LYMEC's Bureau meeting in Luxembourg. AP is not expecting big debates on the draft resolution, as this would be an unusual behavior for the ELDR Bureau. The first draft should be sent to our delegates by VG. Proposal on how to solve the situation with the future Steering Committee has to be sent in by MF. LYMEC should have a right to propose a member of the steering committee of the ELDR Party. If this is not accepted prior to the Congress, LYMEC hand in an amendment on the Congress.

VG said that all delegates except one have been confirmed for ELDR Party Congress in Palermo. MLN will not be able to participate so the substitutes will need to be contacted. SK will send the contacts of the substitutes to VG. VG said that accommodation has been arranged and the participants will pay for their travels. VG will send draft resolutions to the delegates. MLN suggests rephrasing the deletion-not-blocking resolution just like it was done with CAP. The proposal was accepted.

6. Preparation for the YLM

VG said that we have only the list of participants and not much more. SK said that we do have some speakers confirmed but that the program is seriously lacking content. VG said that the main complain of the presidents from last year was that there was not enough floor for exchange. MLN proposed leader training as part of the program and we should hire a professional consultant. AP suggested that for the future FNF could help us with this and he is in charge of contacting them. CB is in charge of contacting her potential trainers. The panels should deal with three topics: policies, election strategies and fundraising. VG will make groups of participants for the panels. AP said that Gouda will be a speaker as well. AP asked about cooperation with the local organisers and SK said that it is all going good.

7. ELF and LYMEC Seminar in Croatia

VG said that technically everything is set. Lukas Schweiger is the seminar team leader but as the topic is "non Croatian" in a way it will be hard to develop the program as this topic is not discussed in Croatia. VG will prepare and SK will send out the invitation to speakers. SK said that the IMS will hold a meeting during the event. The Contract has been signed. SK will check in the Policy Book if we have a resolution on the Flexicurity.

8. Preparation for the Congress

AP said that the contract has not been signed yet and we need the contract very soon. He proposes SK should talk to Victor and Mireia and say that we will not be able to confirm the participants before signing the contract. Hotel is apparently booked. SK should add to the minutes of Utrecht Congress that the resolutions that were not discussed will be discussed in Barcelona. MLN listed those resolutions. MLN also asked about Internal deadlines, SK said that they are in the Calendar.

AP said that it might be hard to get speakers because of the elections. Proposal of the Chairs: Srd Kisevic, Alexander Vogel, Stefan Korte, Minna Lindberg, Pietro Paganini, Anne Solsvik. VG should talk to MHS about Catalan chair.

The Office should send out reminders to non paying organisations.

Proposal for disaffiliation: DLS from Denmark, YD from Ireland, New Generation from Hungary, LiDem, from Macedonia, OT AMN from Moldova and Youth Alliance from the UK if no arrangement regarding payment has been reached.

Membership applications – Two membership applications have been postponed from the last congress; Alliance of Young Liberals from Lithuania and European Youth of Ukraine. The Bureau will meet with AYL in Vilnius. A questionnaire will be sent to European Youth of Ukraine about some unclear aspects of the structures of their organisation. AP is in charge of drafting a letter.

We will have Lebanese guests, Vice President of ELDR Graham Watson should be invited, and SK is in charge of drafting the invitation.

VG said that the Gala Dinner venue has been booked. We should produce gifts for all the guests and put extra effort into organisation of the Gala dinner. MLN said that we need to make a clear dress code. VG and SK will work on the Gala Dinner.

MLN presented the Buddy Programme. MLN needs to send the Buddy programme as well as the "LYMEC Alphabet" document to the Bureau once more. These documents will be added to the Congress section of the web site. Deadline for amendments and additions is 1st of October.

8. Possible Election Observer Mission in Bulgaria

AP said that YMRF asked us to help out with the organisation of the Election observer mission in Bulgaria and LYMEC offered its help, however there is not feedback from YMRF if they are actually going to organize it. AP is in charge of contacting them again.

9. Upcoming events

MLN said that VU and RU are asking to sign the contract for the Congress in Denmark already now. MF is in charge of drafting it. AP said that ELDR invited him to speak together with Andrew Duff about transeuropean lists at an ELF event on the fringe of the LI events in London. He will attend. CB said that the ISEEL meeting will be held in October in Belgrade. AP said that JuLis Austria are coming to Brussels in October and he will meet with them. MLN said that the RU Congress will take place soon and at the same time Nordic Youth Council will meet. Either AP or some other Bureau member should attend the event. IFLRY Congress will be held in December, AP said.

10. Press and PR

SK should remind ELDR communication officer to include LYMEC in their newsletter and magazine in future. JD has nothing new to add. The Bureau agreed that a statement regarding 9/11 should be drafted by JD the latest by tomorrow. AP will follow the civil liberties this autumn in order to prepare for 2012.

11. Web site

JD said that a few things still need to be done. SK will give JD a list of pending points and JD will meet with GoalGorilla. VG said that the documents section is missing. SK will put last 2 years online. AP asked to add a new, more visible, link for the policy book, SK in charge. SK is also in charge of making a guide book for the use of the web site. AP complements on the recent activity of the LYMEC Facebook account.

12. New Libertas

Next issue will be assembled by MLN, and JD is in charge of delivering current materials to MLN. Anniversary issue – AP, VG and SK are in charge. The issue needs to be done by the Congress. SK should send a reminder for the call for Chief Editor.

13. Campaigns

Intergenerational web site; AP is in charge of drafting the texts. SK will buy a domain. In Barcelona we should if possible hold a street event on the topic. SK is in charge of asking MHS if that would be possible. The idea is to throw fake money in the air / burn it to protest against the spending frenzy of governments and their accumulation of debts.

The scope of next year's campaign is dependent on the NED grant. AP said that we should do two different campaigns one on digital civil liberties and other on traditional civil liberties.

14. IMS and ELSN

MLN said that nothing new is happening. VG said that there will be a meeting of IMS in Croatia. AP said that one club has been created but nothing much has been done with it by the IMS. IMS should be approached by MHS and give them the deadline on by when they need to deliver the planned leaflet. Otherwise LYMEC Bureau will take it over. Regarding ELSN, nothing is happening there will be elections in spring in Copenhagen. MLN should check if it is statutory-wise possible to call for an earlier election of the ELSN leadership (such as for Barcelona).

14. Date of the next bureau meeting

Vilnius, Lithuania, 24th of September, lunch time. JJ books a restaurant.

15. Any Other Business

CB reported on the Youth conference in Poland where she was a speaker. Next conference will take place in Denmark in April. CB updated about the current political situation in Youth Forum. There will be Elections in COMMEM and the Scandinavians will propose several candidates. LYMEC will support IFLRY in Advisory Council of the Council of Europe. VG will meet with the evaluation commission of the Youth Forum in regards to the application from Croatian youth council.