

Bureau minutes

European Liberal Youth
29.01.2011, Online meeting

Present

Alexander Plahr, Mette Lykke Nielsen, Matilda Flemming, Vedrana Gujic, Claudia Beneschau, Jeroen Diepemaat, Mireia Huerta i Sala, Slaven Klobučar

1. Opening, regularia (adoption of the agenda /legality of the meeting)

AP opened the bureau meeting and established that the quorum is reached as all Bureau members are present. AP welcomed present Bureau members. The agenda was adopted unanimously with additional points under AOB; IMS, meeting with ALDE and Belarus appeal.

2. Current political situation

MLN pointed out that early February leaders of the EU will meet and talk about energy efficiency strategy. This is a topic LYMEC should pay close attention to. AP mentioned other big issues at the moment; the economic crisis and reform of the Euro and raise of the riots and rebellions against the acting governments in Northern Africa. MLN proposed that LYMEC makes a statement on the EU patent rights. The proposal was accepted and MLN is in charge of the draft.

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

MF said that the agreement with IFLRY on the 2011 membership fee has been reached but that from 2012 onwards the membership fee must be renegotiated with IFLRY. MF is in charge of negotiations.

CB said that the stickers are done and will be sent to Office with the roll ups. AP proposed that other points from this agenda point are to be discussed under the relevant agenda points.

4. Finances

MF reported on all points except point c)

a) Update on the financial situation

Office got access to the e-banking this week so we are late on some bookkeeping but all should be resolved next week. The plan is to close the books in February. All the bills from Ljubljana have been paid; new computer and printer have been bought. We are short on the cash account at the moment but we are doing well on savings account. We should get a grant from ELDR as early as end of February, other grants later in the year.

SK said that after consultations with other PPYOs and Youth Forum it has been established that we are exempt from the VAT registration, however further investigation on the need or additional registration with Belgian authorities will be done.

b) YiA grant reporting: Status and input

MLN, MF and SK had a meeting and discussed the report. Progress has been made. Kinga Szemere and SK made activity report which should be amended by the Bureau. After the books are closed we will submit the report.

c) NED - introduction into the topic

SK presented the National Endowment for Democracy foundation from USA. LYMEC will draft a project proposal centered around the civil liberty theme of 2012. The core team is AP, SK, VG, CB, MHS.

d) Upcoming deadlines

Deadline for YiA is beginning of March, NED second half of the year.

5. ELDR and ALDE - present situation

a) Report: ELDR Bureau meeting

AP gave a report on the Bureau meeting held in December in Brussels. ELDR launched individual membership. MLN said that we should influence ELDR so they would grant voting rights to the individual members. Next Bureau meeting is in Madrid to support CDL in their campaign

b) ALDE CoR - strategy

We have received negative criticism from ALDE CoR on our press statement asking for abolishment of CoR and EESC. VG and AP did send them a statement explaining our position. They should be pacified but will have to accept we differ in opinions.

c) Recent ALDE press statements

ALDE issued several press statements recently, some of them not in accordance with our policies. Therefore, we should get to know what their general PR agenda is.

6. Press and PR

AP said that the rate of press releases is good but it could always be better. JD brought up the topic of possible cartoon contest on the topic of Hungarian media law. JD will investigate in possible legal repercussions and fines that could come out from this contest. JD will also contact the possible jury (highly positioned politicians) and think of the possible prizes.

7. New Libertas and Website

a) Next issue New Libertas

JD presented the new story board. We will offer Graham Watson three page interview in the next issue. The topic we will propose is "The future of individual participation and democracy in Europe". MLN proposed we contact Ellen Trane Norby and ask her for contribution. It was agreed that we will no longer have one theme issue but will let the authors to contribute with articles on the themes of their choice with the editorial direction of New Libertas board of editors. Offers shall be collected as to find out where printing (and sending) is cheapest. JD in charge. (Fallback plan: Printing in Croatia.). Deadline: Before Congress

b) Website re-launch

We got several offers. The Bureau decided to enter a three year contract with GoalGorilla but JD needs to renegotiate monthly maintenance fee to be smaller. The website needs to be done as soon as possible. JD needs to renegotiate the instalments as well as our cash account is low at this point. He will check with AP and MF before agreeing on anything.

8. Campaigns

a) Sticker

Discussed under 3rd agenda point.

b) Demographic change and justice between generations

CB asked the Bureau to revise the text, which she will send immediately after the Bureau meeting. SK said if he gets text and the photo that we can have the leaflet next week. A complementary web site, poster and a Facebook campaign will be created. Possibly a Youtube video will be created. MOs and IMS will be asked to contribute. JD and CB will make a text for the mailing

c) Civil liberties

The NED team will make a proposal and submit it to the Bureau and NED.

d) ELSN

Leaflet not done yet, MLN contacted Daniel George asking about the distribution plans. Progress must be made before we close the books. MLN will contact Daniel George.

9. Deletion, not blocking

The number of signatures is at stall. SK will contact organizations that deal with child abuse and ask them to post the petition on their web site. Rapporteur for LIBE committee is Roberta Agelli. Alexander Alvaro and Sophie in't Veld are very much supportive of our goal. SK will research possibilities to hold a press conference with AP in Strasbourg on this topic during plenary session. Invited speakers would be Alex Alvaro and Sophie in't Veld; possibly Roberta Agelli and Jens Rhode. The list of signatures would be handed in to Agelli on the press conference.

10. Youth Forum (YFJ) / IFLRY

Ivo and Guoda will be invited to our next Bureau meeting. Guoda did not reply if she will attend the Youth Rights events, so SK will attend it. We should ask IFLRY to get more active on the Belarus issue.

11. Events

a) Planned event: Seminar and Congress in the Netherlands

Conference: 5th May, Congress 6th and 7th May. D66 and VVD should be able to help out financially while LYMEC will contribute with 8.500 Euros. Support from one more MEP is needed. Team leader is Manon.

b) Planned event: Austria

Julis Austria proposed April, MHS will see with them what date and if it's possible to reschedule it to some other month.

c) Potential event: Italy

Organisation dissolving and as they were suppose to secure the finances the event is in danger. MF said that the event is also 3rd on the ELF waiting list with 20.000 Euros. **VG said that a call should be made to see which organisation would be interested in hosting it. MHS will draft the call.**

d) Planned event: Summer academy in Brussels, Belgium

SK will meet with ALDE secretariat and report back. Topic and speakers need to be discussed. Possible theme is the EU legislation process or EU for newbies.

e) Potential event: Romaina

TNL proposed to hold one event this year. This remains a possibility but is on hold until next Bureau meeting.

f) Guide „how to organize and run a LYMEC event“

MHS said it is done but still awaits CB's and JD's comments. After receiving them MHS will implement SK's comments and publish it on web site and mailing.

g) MO events: Reports and upcoming stuff

VG reported that ISEEL will hold its meeting in Sofia in March. VG and CB will attend it. CB reported that TNL will have its congress on 9th April. AP said that Julis Congress will be 15th to 17th April. JD reported that Beneliberales will have a meeting 26th - 27th March in Maastricht.

h) Next Bureau meeting / seminar in Gummersbach

Program has been distributed. MLN will not attend. Guoda and Ivo are invited, Ivo confirmed. As we need 10 persons the Bureau established reserve lists; Kinga Szemere; Igor Calgiera and the auditors.

12. New intern

SK presented the new intern, Lorenzo Marchese. He will start on 1st March 2011

13. Any other business (AOB)

VG asked for the appeal from Belarus to be sent out today. AP questioned the usefulness, since the statement asks MOs to have demonstrations on Monday morning, which would be in roughly 30 hours and thus seems unrealistic. A majority favours sending out the appeal.

Meeting with ALDE has been discussed earlier.

IMS - Call is opened for the nominations, right after the elections will start. This year we elect three delegates.