

MINUTES

Bureau meeting - Online

12 June at 19 h 30 pm CEST

The meeting starts at 19 h 32 pm CEST.

Present: Ines Holzegger (IH), Alexandre Servais (AS), Marten Porte (MP), Sean Bennett (SB), Willemijn Krans (WK), Sorcha Ni Chonghaile (SNC) and Balint Gyevai (BG).

Also invited Chiara Liguori (CL).

Not present: Dimitra Papadopoulou (DP), excused.

1) New website planning (ODOO):

- CL presents the different points, and she explains that the website is moved from NationBuilder to ODOO. We are planning on moving forward with ALDE. We need to have the new website ready by the end of the year. The contract ends in December. We should have a first draft ready by October.
- ODOO is more user-friendly so that's a good start. We will also have some training opportunities organised towards the end of June by ALDE.
- We have a **wish list** of what we want to see and some aspects to change. The Bureau has received it and should make comments soon so we can start the work.
- We should discuss the content as well: which type of content to be transferred and until when in the past do we go back for example when it comes to news.
- Regarding the **taskforce**: SB volunteers to be the back-up to work with CL closely. AS will also join. DP will complete the team to check the outline and visual aspects eventually.
- The **timeline** becomes: we will move everything to ODOO before October for a first show. The work has to be then done over the summer. The taskforce will meet soon and get into the specifics.

2) Code of conduct and inclusion taskforce launch

The roadmap prepared by MP was shared in advance with the Bureau. It's a concept note for a revamp of LYMEC internal rules of procedures.

MP explains the process forward: Throughout the years, multiple different documents with rules and regulations have been adopted in LYMEC. These documents are not always well attuned to each other. They lack coherence and they don't all have a clear statutory position. To create an integral set of rules he proposes to start a working group that starts working on a complete revamp of the following documents into one set of 'internal rules of procedure':

1. The Congress rules
2. The Financial protocol
3. The equality and diversity plan
4. The Code of Conduct
5. IMS internal rules (to be checked with the IMS Steering Committee first)

MP continues by explaining how it will be delivered: The working group, composed of 2-3 Bureau members, a representative from the office, a representative from the internal auditors and a representative from the Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage would start drafting proposals in multiple stages. The different stages would be as follows:

1. Announcement at the Digital Assembly in August that the working group will start its work.
2. Bring a general outline of the updated internal rules of procedure to the Bureau for feedback.
3. Bring a general outline of the updated internal rules of procedure to the IA's and the CDA for feedback.
4. Draft proposal for the internal rules of procedure to be discussed at least 3 months before the Spring Congress, the digital assembly seems to be a good opportunity for that.



5. Actual proposal to be tabled at the Spring Congress in 2025, including amendments where possible with different options on controversial topics.

BG acknowledges a feasible and realistic timeline. MP stresses the importance of recommendations at the Digital Assembly a few months before the actual presentation to Congress.

The Bureau decides that the taskforce would be composed of: MP, SNC, AS from the Bureau, the office and on top of that one of the internal auditors as well as someone from the CODA.

3) Upcoming events and actions

*LCN youth edition - Lille - 28 to 30 June 2024 (WRITTEN INPUT)

DP explains that with the LCN approaching in two weeks, we are almost at the finish line of planning. The speakers joining us will be Tamas Toplak from ELF and Jacques Foul, Digital Communications Trainer and Consultant. Our program this year is tied to the current trend wave of AI in political communication. Participants will have to deliver on the Umbrella Challenge like everytime. Logistically speaking everything is set but one of the dinners still needs to be confirmed.

*Post-elections online Policy Debate - 3 July 2024 (WRITTEN INPUT)

The post election debate is planned for the 3rd of July with 3 confirmed speakers (Svenja Hahn, Ramona Goga and Elsie Gisslegard). There is one additional speaker we are waiting on confirmation from. The purpose of the discussion is to offer reflection and safe analysis space for members after the elections. The first part will be a discussion with candidates specifically, and then the second part is a discursive opportunity for members. Key guiding questions are part of the programme. Please make yourself available, as this is an important opportunity for all of us to share our successes, challenges and insights.

*FNF Digital Assembly - Vienna - 22 to 25 August 2024

- SNC explains that the Digital Assembly is in process. We had two concepts and we settled on one very relevant on combating the far-right and far-left raise. Importance of liberal organisations promoting values in this context. A call was prepared by CL and SNC presented a concept. We have a meeting with FNF planned for next week to move forward. Accommodation and travel bookings have been made. We will also foresee some team-building part to the weekend.
- WK makes a point on having members to decide on something, that is a real output. SNC explains that we will go into breakout rooms to make it more engaging with a plenary at the end. She reminds that there is nothing due for archival and it can't replace an actual statutory meeting.
- IH explains that FNF was very happy with the topic. She is in contact with NEOS to use their venues also for the Bureau meeting parts. We will also have local speakers joining the event.

*Young Leaders' Meeting - Ljubljana - 20 to 22 September 2024 (WRITTEN INPUT)

- AS shares a few information and updates, the whole Bureau is expected to attend this event.
- The agenda has been drafted and is currently reviewed by ELF and local hosts in order to open the call for participants soon.
- Different bureau members will be in charge of sessions and AS will come back to the bureau members on the specifics.
- We have already secured and booked a venue and accommodation following recommendations from our local hosts, a package has been booked for the weekend.
- We will have an activity for one or 2 evening sessions as a way to complete our requirements for the regional project for 2024 for the EC grant to save budget costs while presenting the deliverable. We will cooperate with our hosting partners on this.

4) 2024-2026 Programme of Action

*Preparations, divisions and timeline:

- IH explains that all the Bureau members will have their own section in this document based on their areas of responsibilities in the Bureau. Everyone will be asked to deliver **by the end of**



July their parts so we can put together and finalise the document at the in-person meeting in Vienna.

- AS stresses that it's a big document, Bureau members need to make sure to comment on the document on time, well ahead of the Bureau meeting.
- It's an important document that members will check and measure. We will open a joint google doc for Bureau members to add their inputs.

5) European Elections results

- Impact and consequences

IH explains what the results mean for LYMEC. We have had some loss but overall we aren't doing that bad. Renew seems to remain the third group and that is important. BG reminds that we have to see how the final setting will be and the consequences of that on us politically and financially. There might be shifts on the right wing of the Hemicycle still, we will have to see how all this settles. IH reminds the Bureau that there are ALDE Bureau and Council meetings next week as well. The Bureau will be kept updated.

- Onboarding MEPs and cooperation with ALDE/ELF

IH explains that she was in Brussels for the PPYO debate and had some side conversations with many stakeholders. She explains that we have placed a LYMEC letter in the dossier of the new ALDE Head of Delegations on Tuesday at their first meeting. IH explains she might be able to go to Strasbourg for the first EP plenary in July.

- Meeting with young liberal MEPs - Brussels - 10 July 2024

- We will have an event with young MEPs in Brussels on 10 July 2024. ALDE is organising this with us. We have already 4 confirmations out of the 15 elected. IH sent out the congratulations letter with an invitation on Monday already as soon as we had the results. We hope to get a good start by being proactive.
- WK stresses the importance of having direct contact to the MEPs and checking what committees they would be in. We should update our advocacy database with all the contact details accordingly.

6) Draft Call for Secretary General (for information)

- It is open for comments to the Bureau until 21st June.
- The call has been drafted and this is a first attempt. Timeline will be defined later. Bureau is asked for discretion and privacy on the matter for now. Bureau members need to request access to be able to comment with their LYMEC emails only.

7) Update on Corporate Sponsorship (WRITTEN INPUT)

- MP explains that meetings took place with:
 - The Association of European pharmaceuticals: they signalled interest in organising some events together.
 - Apple: They signalled interest in organising some events together.
- We also have contact information to Vodafone and Microsoft. MP's idea is to make a concept note for an event connected to our Congress or the ALDE Congress to see who would be interested to fund that for us. He will keep the Bureau up to date.

8) ELF 2025 project cycle (WRITTEN INPUT - to be discussed in Vienna)

- Approach and timeline

- Regarding ELF projects, the suggestion is that members of this Bureau will draw up concept notes between now and the in-person meeting in Vienna.
- CL and SB will work with Bureau members in the intervening time on those notes, and once all parties are happy with them, they can be presented in Vienna to the whole Bureau for final feedback and validation.

9) Invitations

- **LUF Congress - Sweden - August 2024**



It is proposed to check with DP and SNC if one of them can attend. SB might be busy then. WK would be happy to go otherwise if no one else can. We still need to wait for the venue to be confirmed, no location yet.

- **ZeMolodizhka youth event - Ukraine - July 2024**

AS explains that he was supposed to go but he can't make it anymore. He has to stay in Belgium. He explains that it is expected to travel on the 4th of July, event on 5 till 7 and then travel back from 7 to 8. WK volunteers to go as a replacement to represent us. If not, IH will participate digitally and send a video message.

10) AOB

- **Reminder on travel and refund practices:** documents are available on the drive. BG reminds Bureau members to reach out if something is unclear. Refund forms, boarding passes and tickets are important administrative components at all times.
- **SB proposes YCA and LYMEC to be certified by a CPD provider to enhance the educational aspect of our events starting 2025.** It is possible and it is expensive so far so SB is making some comparisons to find a potential good option. To be discussed with more information in Vienna.
- **IFLRY cooperation and Brussels disinformation event between 20-23 June.** The discussion with the leadership on the calendar ahead for 2024 and events in Europe just took place. SNC would be asked to attend the event. Otherwise perhaps someone from the office will jump in.
- AS explains that he didn't have the occasion to follow up on the monthly Bureau members bilateral meetings, only had one with SB so far. He will also provide a google form for these exchanges to be completed.

11) Date and time next meeting (TBD on Signal)

Date and time options will be proposed by IH very soon on Signal.

Meeting ends at 21 h 00 pm CEST.

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