

MINUTES
Bureau meeting
Rome, Italy
2 February 2024

The meeting starts at 9:00 am CET on 2 February 2024.

Present: Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Ines Holzegger (IH), Laia Comerma (LC), Marten Porte (MP), Alexandre Servais (AS), Ellinor Juth (EJ) and Balint Gyevai (BG).

Partially present online: Tanzer Yuseinov (TY).

Also invited: Chiara Liguori (CL).

1) Electoral Congress Brussels Spring 2024

- Updated programme

- BG presents the programme and gathers comments from the Bureau.
- The Bureau proposes to extend the Congress time on Friday until 19 h.
- Speaking time at the opening will be limited and we will target 3-4 minutes per speaker, not more.

- Update on the logistics and preparations

- The hybrid aspect is the last outstanding bigger arrangement. Secretariat and local hosts organised a scouting event at VLD headquarters. Second one will follow by focusing on the hybrid parts.
- Help will be needed for moving chairs at the venue between different programme parts and Congress days.
- Bookings are being made - only the lunches still need to be fixed but we know what the concept will be - Friday sandwiches and Saturday libanese food.
- Friday evening fries were already booked.

- Organisation of the fringe events

- FNF Disinformation workshop: EJ gives an update on the 'Disinformation workshop' - one speaker is confirmed from the EEAS already. One more speaker will be needed on how the media tackles disinformation. Potentially, we will have a Politico speaker from the media world. The opening will be done by FNF and EJ.
- Changemakers' network: The goal is gathering the Alumni of the YCA but also feature different experiences to the broader membership. ELF will open the event and there will be a prominent alumni engaging in a discussion. Emma Wiesner would be a good pick for this. The forms to register for these events were sent out already.

- Guests to invite

- The Bureau discussed the outline and invitations to be sent out. The Bureau also discussed the representatives' speeches. Invitations will be sent out early next week to all.
- Speeches will be split between the two days. Some will be at the opening on Saturday morning - it will be the case for the youth representatives. FNF will get the floor to open their respective side and fringe events.



- Observer, invited and applicant organisations

- Full membership applicants are NEODEPA from Cyprus and Mladi Gibanje Svoboda from Slovenia.
- Associate membership applicants are the 3H Movement from Turkey and Défi Jeunes from Belgium.

- CDA elections: nomination of members

The Bureau discussed potential nominees for the new mandate.

- Congress Merch package

The rest of the merch is there in the office, but the hoodies need to be ordered. TY explains that we need 3 weeks to 1 month to place the orders for that. Proposed packages will be set with 2 options in total: Hoodie alone for 50 EUR and Merch package for 65 EUR. MP, CL, EJ and TY will create a taskforce to progress on this. We can reuse the same form we had last time to gather the applications. It will open on the 7th of February with a reminder on 13th of February and we will be closing on 1st of March and then place the orders.

- Inclusion measures and form system

A form will be created and a QR out of it to be scanned easily. Form will be only going to the two ombudspersons. It will be added in a practical guide and displayed in some places at the venue. Both QR code and a link will be displayed. This tool will help report any cases that would require our attention and action to make sure people feel more comfortable and included at our Congress.

- Trustees to select

From the meeting of the working group on inclusion and creating safe spaces, the reform of the code of conduct was mentioned. Trustees' system was appreciated but some questions on the selection came up. Clearer framework was requested for the trustees, positive feedback otherwise on this system.

For this Congress, we will be having the following team: **Izidé Marcinkute, Stefania Reynisdottir, Maarten Tollenaar.**

Furthermore, during the newbie's session, we will be encouraging new delegates to take the floor and engage in the event.

- Participation fee reduction decision

Organisation	Country	Bureau decision
For Youth!	Latvia	YES partial - 2 get
ZeMolodizhka	Ukraine	YES partial - 2 get
LLJ	Lithuania	YES partial - 2 get
EYU	Ukraine	YES
Centerstudenter	Sweden	NO
ECPY	Estonia	YES partial - 1 gets
Alliance Youth	NI	YES



JNC	Catalonia	NO
IDY	Croatia	YES partial - 1 gets
Nasa Stranka	Bosnia	YES
CUB Junior	Moldova	YES
PSG Youth	Serbia	YES

- Freedom Fund decision

Organisation	Country	Total amount as per Bureau decision (EUR)
For Youth!	Latvia	300
Center Party Youth	Estonia	260
Istrian Democratic Youth	Croatia	350
Nasa Stranka Youth	Bosnia	550

We are waiting on ECPY to confirm their delegates. Invoice will be sent for their participation then. We will propose additional number 4 delegates in the coming days.

- Chairs special setting and roles distribution

We will propose teams of two to them to keep it 3 chairs per day at Congress. Nima, Joy, Laurenz and Antoaneta are the chairs for this Congress. CL sent first communication to them, and the first meeting will take place on February 15 at 16:30 in the office in Brussels in-person. The timetable will be updated and presented to them.

- Communication about Bureau elections

- No reposting of candidates even if they tag us, only likes will be done.
- CL will set up the elections page.

Finally, we have also asked both Jeunes MR and FEL to provide 2 people to help with taking pictures.

2) Finances

- Budget 2024 updates

MP explains the main updates on the budget. The staff costs will be more so that was increased, corporate funding will not be that much so provisions there were decreased.

a. ALDE Congress - financial impact of having 2 Congresses

For the March Congress in Brussels, cheaper accommodation solutions were found with one shared accommodation for the delegation and another one for the Bureau. However, we can only provide a 100 EUR travel refund for the delegates this time.

b. Project fund - to be taken out

The ALDE political project perhaps could be used instead for this action. We need to do something for the EC grant and 3000 EUR were kept for that to the discretion of the next Bureau. We will check after the EC grant application gets accepted.

c. Next intern salary increase



This was proposed by the internal auditors to match inflation and increasing cost of living. The Bureau decides to keep it at what it is for the moment. An extension of the intern's contract would potentially increase the received compensation based on how LYMEC is performing.

d. Phone for the office - concept, budget and amount

This was also suggested by the internal auditors in order to provide a tool that is often used to work and turned off when the staff is not working. It would cost 1000 EUR per year per phone. We would start with a trial for the Secretary General. The staff gives positive feedback on separating work and life on two different phones. This phone is a LYMEC asset used by the person working for the organisation. The Bureau decides to have 1 phone for trial.

e. Nationbuilder issue - ALDE changing website provider end of 2024

They will phase out NationBuilder so we will need to set up all our processes again when it comes to the website. It will have a cost; it was added in the budget for 2024. We will need to be ready for 2025.

The budget is approved including the decisions taken on the different topics.

- Internal Audit outcomes

- Institutional knowledge retention and risk of losing the Secretary General - medium-term risk. BG is already bringing CL up to speed on many processes in case of replacement to ensure institutional memory.
- Consequences of the 2024 elections - medium-term risk. The issue of political support and the potential bad results need to be taken into account for 2025 funding.
- Overworked staff issue - short-term risk. The recuperation of working hours in a more consistent way was implemented. Recuperation of worked days is also going to be better implemented with 'out of office' notes and business continuity foreseen within the Secretariat. Office phone is a trial also to set boundaries with our members.

- Cap on food expenses on LYMEC related activities:

The Bureau decides the following limits:

- Travel meal - limit to 1 meal per day up to 20 EUR.
- Project/representation meal at events (when not provided) - limit at 40 EUR per day.

- CL increase of salary - March 2024:

The Bureau approves the new salary package and increase for CL.

- Update on 2024 MO fee payments

Payments have started to come in, all invoices were sent out.

3) Handover to the next Bureau

- Roles and responsibilities

All Bureau members will write down a document as handover for the next person in their position in the new Bureau. IH will coordinate the bigger efforts around this. Google doc open to all for comments will be compiled as a working document.

- Timeline and deadline

15 March, Friday will be the internal deadline for Bureau members to deliver so it can be compiled and then sent to the next Bureau at the handover Bureau meeting on March 24.



4) EU Elections campaign updates

- Libertas Manifesto challenge

- We got a total of 8 articles. 5 of those will be directly published on Libertas. It's part of a competition so it won't have that many back and forth in terms of editing. LC will still perform a policy check. It will also help in the flow and ensure we have one publication a week in the coming weeks-months.
- Libertas related expectations and representation at upcoming events were discussed. They can apply for the EU elections training and their candidacies will be assessed based on the usual processes. We will consider their hard work and commitment for LYMEC especially as part of the Libertas Manifesto challenge. We are in favour of a fair competition for our selection processes and that's not changing this time.

- Flip the script campaign

We had some interest but only very few replied so far from young politicians we would feature. One person per month will be released and talk about the importance of youth in politics with a more personal experience.

- Mythbusting campaign

DAS will coordinate with EJ to use some of the content we had last time in 2019. EJ, MC and CL had a meeting to plan this part. The disinformation workshop in March will be part of it but there is a broader campaign around it.

- Online meeting with young candidates on the EP lists

This would happen towards the end of April. Open call for participants with a form, we will stress regional representation. Disclaimer - we reserve the room for us to limit participation based on regional diversity. Important to be confirmed on the list for the European Elections at the time of registration. From 18 to 35 years old. Which spot on the list should be specified through the form. After the Congress, we will open the call.

5) Upcoming events

- Manifesto policy debate online February 2024

The debate is taking place on the 27 February around the manifesto. One MEP still to be confirmed, invitations were sent out. Topic is climate justice and focusing on that part of the manifesto. Karin Karlsbro was contacted now.

- ALDE Congress Brussels March 2024

LC explains that the work is going very well with the delegation, and a positive and constructive dynamic is in place. Amendments will be tabled to the Electoral manifesto, urgency resolution will be submitted as well and lobbying for LYMEC proposals through the event. An internal taskforce in the delegation is working on an urgency resolution on the increase of the far-right in Europe, a call for Liberals to respond.

- ELF YCA 1 Dublin April 2024

a. **Draft programme**

Our local partners from Ogra were very helpful in their support on the ground suggesting the logistical aspects. We are signing the BcA so that we can start the bookings next week. In terms of programme, we have one external speaker from D66 and the second will be a local one from Fianna Fail.

b. **Selection of participants**



Closing of the form is on the 23rd of February so that's the deadline, selection will be made the week after. Important to remind about the commitment to the whole Academy and the concreteness of the advocacy projects. Commitment fee will be invoiced to the selected participants. Not running in elections and also not being a paid staff in parties for the campaign are important requirements.

c. Bureau presence to be discussed

AS to be sent to the first YCA event in Dublin, no matter what the Bureau Election results are giving. He will support CL on the ground.

- FNF EU elections training Gummersbach May 2024

We have confirmed great trainers so far with Kiki, Ian and Vineeti. Participants will have to cover the participation fee, but the rest is covered with travel refunds of 200 EUR for participants by FNF-Europe. Up to 20 spots will be available. Next Bureau representative attending this event will be decided after the elections.

6) Open call for 2024 Autumn Congress

The Bureau revised the proposal and made comments. The call was updated, and the timeline defined. Call will open in mid-February and close at the end of March. Then, the new Bureau will decide by the end of April. Two weekends' dates to host it were proposed for November 2024.

7) News from MOs and IMS

- LC explains about her member responsibilities. Italy is important to have something and build up organisations there. Also, in Portugal we need to strengthen our presence. Andorra is an issue as well.
- AS explains that Gertjan is leaving JVLD and will be replaced in the coming weeks. Brent is ensuring the interim in the meantime.
- YMRF Congress in Sofia, MP will be going there. He will deliver a short speech.
- for our members in Belarus as requested by them at this coming Congress.
- The IMS steering committee elections will take place after the Bureau elections. CL explains the timeline - 8 April call opens - 22 April it closes. Elections will be 3-6 May 2024. AS will steer the handover to the next steering committee with the Bureau elections taking place in March.

8) Invitations

- CUF: EU elections kick-off session - EJ to go and will check the specific in terms of costs covered. The dates are 16-17 March 2024.
- Gibanje Svoboda Mladi: IH will participate digitally, it's a hybrid Congress, we need to be there for their application for full membership. The dates are 1-3 March 2024.
- YMRF: MP will join the electoral Congress next weekend. The dates are 10-11 February 2024.
- Invitation from the German Insurer organisation on inputs from us for an event. AS will ask for a follow-up.
- Apple is organising an event on climate change and sustainability on the 21 February 2024 with LC representing us since she will be in Brussels.

AOB



a. Libertas editorial team applications + separate IG page request

- The Bureau underlines the great job from the current Editor-in-Chief. Elections will be open soon in February for Libertas and the editorial team to be renewed. They will be confirmed on the 1st of March. Applications will be received and assessed.
- Instagram page for Libertas request from the current team. The Bureau doesn't approve this. We don't create additional accounts, not even for articles.

b. MO survey feedback

- The Bureau is considering all the comments made in the survey. An EU elections corner/piece in the 'Briefing to MOs' with statistics, figures and updates will be added as per feedback. Politico just created an election playbook with a lot of information - digest of that could be included there.
- If members want to get closer to the LYMEC team, they should reach out to the responsible BM with special needs they might have.

c. Date and time next meeting

- 26 February 2024 at 18 h pm CET

d. Amendment to the Code of Conduct

- The Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage has been looking into the statutes and the code of conduct in order to improve our current practices. There is a draft submitted for Bureau approval now and with the request to table an update to the code of conduct at this next Congress by the 4 weeks deadline.
- The Bureau discusses the relevance of having two different documents between Code of Conduct and Equality and Diversity plan. Some items are overlapping which should be fixed.
- The Bureau decides that we wouldn't take a stance on the proposal this time, we will wait for the next Bureau to be elected and suggest creating a taskforce to fix the overall situation. One big reform through a taskforce with the statutes, the equality and diversity plan and the code of conduct needs to be carried out. We need to make sure that all our official documents work together in the long-term. The suggestions of changes by the CDA will be taken into account as a basis for further work on the matter.

The meeting ends at 18:00 pm CET on 2 February 2024.

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