

MINUTES

Bureau Meeting

Online

6 December 2023

Present: Ines Holzegger (IH), Marten Porte (MP), Alexandre Servais (AS), Ellinor Juth (EJ), Tanzer Yuseinov (TY) and Bălint Gyévai (BG). Laia Comerma (LC) joined later. Also invited: Chiara Olga Liguori (CL).

Absent: Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS)

Meeting starts at 18:00 pm CET.

1) Finances

- Closing of the year 2023:

- We had some issues with remaining Renew Europe costs for 2023. BG explains the situation with Renew Europe and that no more money can be received as refund anymore this year after the event. We will make sure in the future to plan for unforeseen expenses in the initial budgets presented to them.
- We will remind the outstanding debtors to pay what is outstanding to LYMEC by the end of the year. We still talk about around 10 invoices.

- Discussion about updated 2024 budget:

- MP explains that there is no big update at the moment. It will be based on how we end the year goes. MP will make a proposal for the first Bureau meeting next year. To be discussed in Rome since the deadline to submit to Congress will be the 4 weeks one.

- Preparations Internal Audit January 2024:

- The audit will be taking place on the first weekend of January between 4-7 January 2024.
- It is not possible to have everything finished and closed because it is too early in the year, auditors are aware of this. The HR side will also be checked, MP and the staff will have bilateral meetings with the auditors. IH will also have a chat with them as an option. BG will explain the improvements of working practices in the office as per Bureau suggestion.

- Corporate engagement and targets:

- BG brings up that we would have the opportunity to cooperate with several corporate partners, especially around our Brussels Spring Congress. MP will deliver on the plan that was adopted in Tallinn, we need to put it up and running when it comes to corporate sponsorship.
- In-person side meetings could be foreseen in Brussels during the Congress time.

- Alumni Network development and next steps:

- MP to remind Danica to see what we do next. Organising a meeting is important and something should be done in Brussels around the ALDE Party Congress and the LYMEC Congress. At least one drink for fundraising should take place. MP has a call planned with Danica.

- Erasmus+ continuous reporting 2023:



- Last inputs for this year's reporting are to be made this week from the Bureau if anyone has inputs.

- Updated refund forms:

- MP explains that the refund forms were a bit updated, MP is asking the Bureau members to take that into account and get the latest versions from the drive in case they submit refunds in 2024.

2) Electoral Spring Congress 2024

- Accommodation booking:

- Thon Hotels EU is in the process of being booked. Renew Europe is going to sign and pay next week when the budget is approved.

- Venue booking:

- In the European Parliament or at the VLD headquarters as it stands now. Both are still under the checking process.

- Booking travels organisers:

- It will be made for those travelling from further away. We will book early January 2024.

- Chair:

- Brainstorm will continue in the coming weeks. One chair from each Belgian organisation would be an option, we will ask them during the meeting next week. EJ stresses the importance of having regional/geographical diversity among the Congress chairs.

- Opening of the call for registrations- discussion around content and participation:

- **Online component** is being discussed. We should try to provide it and check what kind of set up and technical assistance we can get. It's important to keep it even if it's not that good quality, it's important to give the opportunity and an inclusive approach towards our membership. The Congress should be more accessible so paying attention to this is key. Hybrid solution is expected now. We should rely on our Belgian parties to help us with the technical side of things. We still have quite a few registrations for online participation, quite many people are interested and connect even if not the whole time.

- **Participation:**

- One box in the form should be added to be able to register and join without accommodation, also put that option more prominently than usual. MP proposes to add a sentence *'If you live in Brussels, please do not use the provided hotel option so more people can be hosted at our Congress'*.
- 160 people maximum for the venues and 140 for the accommodation this time. We should stick to the current system for now as we have done in the past Congresses. We will also keep it to 2 IMS besides the Steering Committee and the delegates.
- Request from Libertas Editor-in-Chief to have secured spots for him and some members of his team. No costs for accommodation or travel would be on LYMEC. This would come in exchange for their effort in supporting the Manifesto Challenge part of the EU elections campaign. **The Bureau decides that we would suggest him - Adam the Editor-In-Chief and one other Libertas person to apply to Congress as an IMS.**



- **Participation fee:** MP to make a proposal for next week for reduced fee, fee without accommodation and full fee.
- **Registrations** will open early January for 2 weeks and a half so we can confirm participants 2 months before the Congress more or less. That should leave enough time for everyone to make the relevant bookings and travel arrangements.

- Evening programmes and fringe events:

- To be discussed with our Belgian members as well in the call next week. The Bureau would wish to see an event linked to the European elections perhaps with young candidates - debate and speed-dating format. BG stresses the compliance part with European partners and important to have some inputs from our Belgian members on this end. Maybe an ALDE political project could be submitted. MP and BG will look into this.

- Interested organisations:

- The Bureau discussed potential applications from organisations ahead of the Congress. Both associate and full membership requests should be received. Deadline to apply is 8 weeks before Congress.

- Closing Riga Congress: material was shipped back in office now, update of the new IMS fee on the website will be next week, policy book and sunset clause document are getting ready, wrap-up email with all documents will be sent already on Friday, thank you letter to Kristians next week by DAS.

3) European Elections campaign updates

- Manifesto challenge: Libertas actions:

It will be up and running starting at the end of December based on the document already approved. MP will be briefed separately since he joined the Bureau after that discussion took place. EJ, MC and CL prepared the plan with a timeline proposed in the calendar.

- Mythbusting campaign and disinformation workshop:

No updates at this stage. EJ will be coordinating this effort together with CL. AS will also help with this.

- Policy Debates manifesto:

MC and LC will be in charge of this. We need a maximum of one speaker to open up the discussion between members. Important to give the floor to the members, not just have a panel and Q/A.

4) FNF cooperation 2024

- Digital Assembly in February in Rome, Italy:

- Accommodation booking - it was made close to the venue for the DA at the Einaudi Foundation HQ, close to the Vatican.
- Travel booking - all travels were booked for our team.
- Cooperation and contacts on the ground - Azione proposed a person from the party working with inclusion. Yuri, IO of Piu Europa will be joining as well, it's his topic. Meeting with the 'under 30' section of Azione while in Rome will also be planned. Marco Mariani as host is also confirmed as speaker.



- Content session - LGBT rights based on our resolution adopted in Riga on recent backlash in Italy.
- Opening call for registrations - next week it will open until mid-January.

- Approximate dates and locations for Autumn Digital Assembly and Congress:

- It's hard to say but a couple of tentative dates could be proposed. End of August for the DA linked to the Austrian context in Vienna and the beginning of November for the Congress, the next Bureau will decide where.

- FNF training in Gummersbach - latest updates:

- We had a first meeting with the project responsible on the ground. Costs not covered would be the participation fees and travel costs of participants. They cover accommodation, food and trainers related costs. They can also cover the shuttle from Köln. Request to FNF Europe to cover travels will be made. LYMEC can cover the participation fees. 5-8 May in Gummersbach, Germany was decided.

5) ALDE Party Congress 2024

- Work of the delegation:

- LC explains that the first meeting took place. This Congress will not discuss resolutions so there will be a focus on urgency resolutions and the manifesto. Maybe an urgent resolution will be submitted by LYMEC. There will be less work ahead of the first Congress.
- For the second Congress in the Autumn, a resolution on pension reform will be proposed. Next meeting is next week already to have time to get them familiarised with the policy books. The second Congress towards the end of the year will be more work heavy.
- Important to have the Policy officer as an ombudsperson for the delegation to keep consistency and discipline in the group.

- Accommodation and travel bookings:

- Important to have a proper budget on this because we have two ALDE Party Congresses this time, that's quite a consequent financial load. MP and BG will have to look into the numbers and update the 2024 budget accordingly.
- We should already check the accommodation for the delegation or maybe a hostel can be considered for the delegation. They would get a smaller travel refund this time.
- BG asked to know how many people need accommodation for Brussels in March. LC will check this information at the next meeting with the delegation.

6) Invitations and news from members

- We had a misunderstanding with Jeunes Radicaux regarding an event invitation on Artificial Intelligence. We won't be going as ALDE took care already of the international component and it's a discussion between experts in French. It will take place this coming Saturday in Paris. We would be very happy to attend the next statutory meeting we get an invitation to in order to strengthen our relations with this organisation.

7) AOB

- YCA networking event for Spring 2024:

AS explains that the proposal would be to do a networking event as part of our 2024 plans with ELF under an ELF flexible format as a fringe at the ALDE Party Congress. We could combine the Alumni Network with the YCA network. It could work both ways. LC proposes



instead to do an Alumni Network event at the ALDE Congress in order to maximize opportunities for fundraising and the YCA network one at the fringes of the LYMEC Congress. AS clarifies that it's not just a YCA restricted event, it brings together alumni of the YCA - between 40 to 50 people in the network as we speak. We have to mobilise them. It's a great way to advertise one of our more in-depth programmes. CL clarifies that there is a growing mentorship programme we are working on and it's important to get some mentors/trainers in the loop as well.

The Bureau decides that:

- The YCA networking event would be at the fringes of the LYMEC Congress. AS will be in charge.
- The Alumni Network will be kept for the ALDE Party Congress fringe session - fundraising but brief presentation of the YCA network and mentorship programme will also be included. MP will be in charge of this together with the Alumni Network board.

- Updates on the Working Group on the Delegation system:

IH explains that we had a meeting on finances. The content is summarised in the notes on the drive. Digital participation was discussed as well. Accessibility part was mentioned, and it was important. Last session in January will be focused on this as well anyway. We had a very fruitful discussion also on what a Congress should include.

Libertas

- The Bureau policy check and responsibility for content points was brought up. LC makes the point that we shouldn't censor Libertas articles because they are criticising but rather give the opportunity to enable the counter arguments to be exposed.
- Proposal is made by CL to have a disclaimer for each article: 'This article only reflects the opinion of the author and doesn't mean it is endorsed by LYMEC as such'. The proposal is carried by the Bureau. We will take inspiration from existing ELF disclaimers.
- Libertas magazine - Winter 2023-2024 edition: The Bureau thinks it's a very good idea. It will be done in January for download so available online. MP expresses concerns on how much work it is for CL. She clarifies that we have the necessary templates already available from the past 2 editions.

Liberty Con 2024

- We don't know who will be going there. We have to tell that to ELF. Outreach officers should be going from the next Bureau perhaps.
- **The Bureau decided we would send someone from the Secretariat since it is unclear due to the elections who would be in the relevant position to go. We will ask ELF when we have to let them know.**

Meeting ends at 20:40 pm CET

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