

## MINUTES BUREAU MEETING 25 SEPTEMBER 2022 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

**Time: 9:00 CEST**

**Place: Copenhagen (link for those not attending in person)**

**Present: Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Ines Holzegger (IH), Tanzer Yuseinov (TY), Ellinor Juth (EJ), Tuuli Helind (TH), Alexandre Servais (AS), Laia Comerma (LC) and Bãlint Gyévai (BG)**

**Invited to join: Chiara Liguori (CL)**

**Connected for specific point: Marten Porte (MP)**

**Meeting starts at 9:20.**

### **1) Programme of Action 2022-2024 (DAS, IH)**

The last version was submitted on Friday by the deadline. It is the final version with all inputs and in the LYMEC template. It is reflecting the current priorities and sets the basis for the work of the Bureau. It will be published at the beginning of next week. It will be submitted to the comments of the members during the Congress.

### **2) EU Elections campaign (IH, LC, EJ)**

#### **- *Manifesto timeline - for decision***

We will cooperate with ALDE and DAS will sit in the ALDE manifesto committee. Our work should be light and to the point. DAS proposes to develop a bit later the manifesto than initially planned to wait and see how things evolve.

**LC proposed two timelines and the Bureau would prefer to go directly to Congress (not through Digital Assembly). There will be a discussion on the manifesto at the BM (Jan-Feb), with the feedback LC will work it through with Amy and then propose the final version to the Spring Congress 2023 in Budapest. Amendments will be possible at the Congress for the membership.**

#### **- *Campaign timeline - for decision***

It will be launched a few months before the elections. We talk about highlighting candidates and myth-busting campaigns mainly. The concept of the actual campaign will be presented at our Autumn Congress 2022 in Bucharest. We should tell our members that they can count on LYMEC support in their campaigns.

#### **- *Next steps***

Calendar invites will be sent, and it will also be explained at the Congress.

### **3) Finances (TH)**

**-Internal Audit updates**

The audit went very well. We had a fruitful discussion with both of our new internal auditors, Elsie and Daniel. They noted mainly the following:

- Regarding our changed MO fees: they agreed our MO fees need to be changed. However, they noted that if we are already raising the MO fees, we should go a bit higher (current proposal says 15 EUR of increase). That's why the Bureau adopted a further increase to 30 EUR through written procedure before the Friday, 8 weeks deadline (prior to the meeting). A 12% increase will have to be communicated to our members. We understand that the economic situation for many of our MOs is difficult, however in the bigger picture, the change is very limited. For reference, the inflation in Belgium rests at 8%. If we compare our current expenses, costs for staff etc and the fact we have not raised our MO fees for over 5 years, the inflation change has even been bigger.
- Regarding our Paypal fees: currently, when a person makes a payment to our Paypal account, the total amount that reaches our account has already been taken off the transaction fee. Their recommendation was to look into whether it would be possible to instead make the person transferring the funds responsible for the transaction fees. For example, this year we have already lost 138 euros due to Paypal fees. BG is looking into this.

#### **-Draft budget 2023 - for decision**

Our current situation means that we would have to adopt a negative budget of almost **25 000** euros, keeping in mind we might not get the EC grant this time as well. We have approximately 85 000 euros in our savings at this point. It goes without saying that if we do not get the grant next year as well, we have to make some tough decisions, also changes to our organisational structure. However, let's keep a positive mindset and work hard towards reaching our goal.

TH would also like to mention that our lobbying efforts towards changing the financing scheme has been noted. I was contacted by the APA of Fabienne Keller, the Renew Coordinator in CULT and a CULT advisor, where they both offered their help towards the completion of the application and asked for general feedback for the application process. In my opinion this is a good sign.

**The Bureau approves the draft budget, there are no further comments.**

#### **-Financial protocol - telecom expenses - for decision**

The Auditors recommended us to take a further look into the telecom related refunds offered to Bureau members. The practice of refunds is likely from a period before the EU abolished roaming charges. Therefore, it is unreasonable to still continue refunds for all Bureau members in all cases. Specific cases might include travel outside of the EU and with the approval of the Treasurer.

**The Bureau approves this measure, and it takes immediate effect.**

### **4) Congress (AS, BG)**

#### **- EYY event and support gathering**

We reached out to many MEPs to ask for support in funding. We need to scale down the event because of the lack of funding we are given. We have enough money now to do the one day (Friday) without accommodation. However, we are confident to secure funding for Thursday night. We will probably have to scale down the number of participants to 60 instead of 100. We have 3 MEPs secured for the moment - Monica Semedo, Vlad Botos and Svenja Hahn.

**The Bureau decided to open a call on Monday to register for the European Year of the Youth event taking place before Congress. We have spots available, we scaled down since we don't have the secured funding yet. People need to motivate their application. The deadline to register is in 2 weeks. They will know by then in 2 weeks and a half if they are selected. We don't say anything on accommodation. Event starts at 9 h 00 on Friday.**

**- Registrations - for decision (including VISA application Vesna + attendance some #4 delegates)**

- It is important to balance representation at our statutory events for bigger organisations to have more delegates. The Bureau is looking into this topic. We will look into a revision of the Congress rules for the next Congress. IH will be taking the lead with BG.

**The Bureau agrees on the registrations' list by accepting 5 number 4 delegates on top of the already in-person delegates.**

- Russian situation: Vesna youth applied on time, and they are full members. They asked for support with VISA.  
DAS explains that we need to support our organisation there and they tried to step up against the war. The issue is the tourist VISA matter that we wanted to be banned.

**The Bureau decided not to support them in the VISA application (statement for tourist visa ban) but would be happy to have them if they manage (as an MO) to attend. DAS will send the email.**

**- Programme and logistical updates**

Bookings are made at the Hilton for Friday and Saturday.  
Saturday night will be at the 'PUB' sponsored by FNF and USR Tineret.

**- Travels booking**

Everyone excepts DAS, Elsie, Kasper and Lucasta were booked.  
DAS will arrive on Thursday night and his travels can be booked in the coming days.

**- 8 weeks deadline outcomes (MO issues, MO fee increase ... )**

**°2 applications for membership were received:**

- Associate membership from Andorra - Accio Jovenes.
- Full membership from Poland - Nowoczesna Youth. IH was at two of their Congresses over the past years. They are very active in our organisation.

**°Suspension submitted**

Liberal Youth of Moldova - The Bureau approved it through written procedure.

**°MO fee increase submitted**

The Bureau approved it through written procedure.

**- Invitations guests - for decision**

Less guests will be invited this time to focus rather on our delegates.  
**The list: ALDE, ELF, Renew Europe, FNF, USR President, IFLRY.**

**- Freedom Fund - for decision**

We raised our participation fee so we can allocate more requests. We had 4 requests.

Organisation	Amount	Delegates	Total amount
Estonian Centre Party Youth - Kesknooded	100	3	300
LDLU	150	3	450
Nowoczesna Youth	150	2	300
Joves Liberals Andorra	100	1	100

**The Bureau accepts the proposal.**

**- Reduced participation fees - for decision**

**The Bureau accepts the recommendations from the Treasurer and Secretary General.**

ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	DECISION
ZeMolodizhka	Ukraine	YES
Liberale Hochschulgruppen (LHG)	Germany	NO
Estonian Reform Party Youth	Estonia	YES BUT only 1
European Youth of Ukraine	Ukraine	YES
Estonian Center Party Youth - Kesknooded	Estonia	YES BUT only 1
Momentum TizenX	Hungary	YES
Joves Liberals d'Andorra	Andorra	YES
Jong VLD	Belgium	NO
Lithuanian Liberal Youth	Lithuania	YES
Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine	LDLU	YES
Nowoczesna Youth	Poland	YES
Alliance Youth	Northern Ireland	YES
IMS	KK	YES
IMS	LB	NO
IMS	RC	YES

**- Chairs confirmation**

Lucasta Bath, Ioana Abaseaca and Kasper Langelund Jakobsen were appointed.  
 First briefing and request for meeting was sent.

**- ALDE delegation elections**

We have one application so far and the deadline is 4 weeks before the Congress to be published on the election page and invited for the debate ahead of the Congress.

**5) ELF events (CL, IH, LC)**

**- YLM (Young Leaders' meeting 2022)**

Feedback was overall very good. There was a lack of Danish engagement but very good speaker selection. We will follow up on the outcomes of the discussions and we have the notes to be put in a very clear document making calls for the future of youth work. It will be

around one page, one page and a half. DAS will do the short report. CL will send him the template.

### **- YCA (Young Changemakers' Academy 2022)**

We have everything set. Restaurants and speakers are all confirmed. Session online with 4 former Alumni of YCA will take place. MEP session was a bit of an issue - Samira Rafaela will be in the office and Dlabajova will be sending a video.

E-learning updates: We completed the e-learning path with an online meeting with the participants.

### **- Liberal Hack**

Preparations and bookings: Restaurants are confirmed and the venue too. We miss only one speaker for the second day and the ELF representative(s). We also need some more inputs from Neos Lab on the Hackathon and jury parts.

Registrations: We have the participants confirmed and one cancelled, so we take one from the waiting list. Goal is to have 4 participants in 4 groups.

### **- Bureau member involvement practices for the future on ELF event programmes**

Speakers should fall on the Bureau members as it's a more political side - MEPs, politicians so the contact should be initiated by Bureau members. Definition of the sessions should also be more a Bureau responsibility. Trainers should be more on the Secretariat side as they have more experience, knowledge on that usually.

### **6) Call for Communications Working Group (EJ)**

The call will go out tomorrow on social media and we will also send out an email to the IOs. EJ will send the visual and Amy sending it out to the IOs.

### **7) Libertas and Editor in Chief (LC)**

Discussion takes place on the work between the Editor in Chief and the Bureau.

### **8) Working Groups leadership**

It is now a priority for all the working groups to have a first meeting to launch the activities. We have the call open in the newsletter to reach out to the heads of the WG's to get the members active and have them join. Calendar invites need to be sent to schedule meetings and events for the WGs to avoid having meetings at the same time.

### **9) Chiara contract extension validation**

The Bureau approved through written procedure and the document was signed.

### **10) School of political literacy**

It is a proposal from a civil organisation to cooperate on an Academy. It could be done online and maybe with MEP cooperation. It would be maybe for 2023. We need more information. TY will have a call.

### **11) Invitations**

- DAS is going to Riga at the Attistibai Youth Congress, it will be on last weekend of October on the Saturday in the evening.

- LC has an invitation to the Congress of NEON, a new Greek organisation. They are interested in getting closer to us. It's their foundational Congress. She will get to know more about them and report back to us. October 2nd in the afternoon, 4 pm Greek time.
- Invitation from the Brussels team of FNF for a dinner with representatives from Tibet - TH will go.
- There will be a meeting with Monica Semedo on technical level on traineeships - DAS and LC will join online. We will try to get a date set soon.

## 12) News from IMS and MOs

**Andorra Acció Joves** - New organisation coming from a split with the Liberals from Andorra. They claim that the Liberal party of Andorra took a right-wing turn after a leadership contest, which is being investigated. We will monitor the situation and welcome the new organisation to apply for associate membership. JLA had no non-Liberal positioning so far.

## 13) Next Bureau meeting

- **October 12 at 18 h - 19 h 30 CET, Online**

## 14) AOB

- **Report from IFLRY representative (Marten Porte)**

They are preparing for the elections of the new Bureau. There will be more meetings before the GA to define the processes ahead of the elections. There will be a meeting with the candidates also. Proposal of an advisory committee at the next GA to be put in place. He proposes a meeting between the two Bureaus after the elections.

- **Political discussion with the membership - #1 edition**

How to deal with citizens from authoritarian regimes as liberals would be the topic. 1h 30 meeting led by LC and Amy. No outcomes expected, just floor open for discussion and have a productive exchange. End of October it will be the first. Date to be proposed by LC and Amy soon - no registrations just link sent out one week ahead to the IOs.

-AS has a request to tag the Bureau members when something is shared in a story on social media. EJ agrees, it will be implemented.

**Meeting ends at 11:50.**