

Bureau Meeting Brussels 4-6 February 2022

Present: Antoaneta Asenova-Bihlmayer (AA), Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Ines Holzegger (IH), Marina Sedlo (MS), Marten Porte (MP) Laia Comerma (LC)
Joined later: Ida-Maria Skytte (IS) joined starting Saturday
Joined online: Bălint Gyévai (BG)

Friday 4 February 2022

Meeting starts at 18 h 00

1) Finances - MP/BG - 20 minutes

*Internal and External Audits

- The Internal Audit will take place between 12-13 February 2022;
- There is a willingness to do the auditing on a wider scope, not only on the financial aspects but also on compliance, how to improve as an employer;
- The External Audit was postponed by one week by the external auditors due to logistical issues on their side - it is taking place now on 25 February the whole day.

*2021 end results

- We end the year at almost 25 000 EUR surplus for 2021

*Updated budget 2022

- We have applied for the EC+ Grant for 2022 with a 100 000 EUR target which is double what we did in the past. The amounts increased this time. Fewer organisations will get it because of the reform but bigger amounts. We have enough savings from the past two years to have a normal year even if we don't get this grant. Before we hand in the updated budget to Congress, we will know the outcomes of this.
- We will spend more on the second full-time person we will hire, we have to take that into account.
- We need the final amounts after the audits to draw the final conclusions. We can discuss again beginning of March online again based on that.

*Grants 2022 - EC, ALDE, Renew

- Renew grant is at 52.800 EUR for our Congresses.
- ALDE grant was signed for 100.000 EUR this year.

*MO fees 2022

Issue with some organisations when it comes to the MO survey:

- **UDI Jeunes:** No data was received and we will send the invoice and see what happens. They have a debt from last year already.

- **Young Liberals Greece:** On hold due to the lack of proper contact and the current internal conflict. The Congress will decide about their membership if the situation doesn't improve till then.
- **Mladi Konkretno:** It is on hold due to the need for reapplying after the creation of the new structure.
- **USR Tineret:** Call with Ioana to clarify whether the merger was completed or not (conflicting information was received) and then based on that we send the invoice.
- **Jóvenes Ciudadanos:** We noticed that the membership amount has doubled since 2021. We will therefore ask for a technical clarification on what was considered as membership in an attempt to ensure consistency from data sent to us from one year to another.
- **AKR Kosovo:** No data was received and we will send the invoice and see what happens.
- **Liberal Youth of Moldova:** Suspension if no payment received by the deadline.
- **Istrian Democratic Youth:** By Monday we should have the members data and then invoice them based on that.
- **Belarus Civil forum youth:** We wait for it until June and give them time to discuss membership and future relations.

2) Electoral Spring Congress - ALL – 1 hour

*Venues and bookings

- 5 offers were received in total. We got some very nice proposals. Marriott is off the table because it is too expensive. Holiday Inn has no conference room and would need to be coupled with the Congress centre nearby. Not the most practical solution. Top hotel is very cheap and could be an option but far from the centre.
- The two best proposals are:
Grandium good in price, nice location, great meeting space, double beds (separate)
Botanique good in price, nice location, meeting space is a bit tight

We need to ensure that the hybrid option is feasible. We need to foresee that in the budget and regarding the practicalities.

*Deadlines and timeline (including registrations) - how many delegates?

Regarding registrations: Full members get 3 people in-person + Associate members get 2 people. We need to allow online participation as well. Additional 3 people per organisation can connect online for full members and 2 additional online for associate members.

The timeline is as follows:

- 1 March: Opening of the registrations
- 18 March: Deadline to register
- 25 March: 8 weeks deadline to Congress
- 8 April: 6 weeks deadline to Congress for OpenSlides
- 22 April: 4 weeks deadline to Congress

An Open Slides Q&A session will take place on **19 April 2022** to have it before resolutions handed-in. Reminder for OpenSlides to reach out to Daniel support first to make sure all settings are fine before we open it.

We will also plan the Working Groups ahead of the Congress like last time. Probably the Saturday before on 14 May 2022.

***MO issues and applications**

- Movement for Youth! Latvia applied for full membership.
- Team Future from Italy might apply for associate membership, we need an update on that.
- Young Green Liberals Switzerland voted to apply for full membership at their last Congress so they will also apply.

***Mladi konkretno, Slovenia - change in member organisation?**

Their legal structure ceased to exist as SMC Youth and the merger is within a completely new entity at the mother party level. Therefore, an invitation to reapply should be the way to go. The old organisation is not existing anymore so it has ceased to be a member. As per information, SMC youth ceases to exist as such and a new organisation Mladi konkretno was created.

The Bureau acknowledges the change in the legal entity and would reach out to invite them to apply for LYMEC membership when the situation is clarified.

***Young Liberals, Greece – internal conflict?**

The issue is that the organisation is struggling with a big divide. The organisation is split in two groups basically. The former President tried to keep power in the organisation. The other group called for a general assembly and elections for a new leadership took place. They don't recognise each other. We have now two boards claiming to be Young Liberals Greece. Not our place to define who is the legitimate group. The name wasn't legally registered but the former President kept it officially.

The Bureau decides that we will legally put the disaffiliation on the table to have a discussion on their membership because we don't know who they are anymore. The Congress will have to decide whether to keep them or disaffiliate.

***Elections**

- Openslides will be used for the elections.
- 22 April: 4 weeks deadlines for the candidates to apply
- 6 May: 2 weeks deadline to have them on a website and debate

***Chairs**

Discussion on the potential candidates for the chairing positions.

Saturday 5 February 2022

Meeting starts at 15 h 00

3) Events - ALL - 1 hour

***Digital Assembly 2022 - #1**

- Positive feedback on the management of the event. Good and active attendance. Smooth transition between the different parts of the Assembly.
- Request to increase the amount of delegates at DA's in the future: we will follow the suggestion made during the DA by Alice Schmidt and increase it for the future. We will pass on this information to the next Bureau and the Secretary General will make sure to implement it for the next process.

***YCA 1 and 2 in March and April**

- Selection of participants

It is great to see a lot of applications from organisations that haven't participated yet before. Two main issues came up with the applicants that didn't get in: because some would run at upcoming elections or others because not good quality application with no clear advocacy project. Gender balance is good - 5 male to 5 female at the end.

- Programme YCA 1

We were looking at the flight options especially from Brussels, the connections are better for Bologna. We go there then and we are in touch with the partners to make this happen. We are still looking for trainers together with the local partners.

- Logistics and bookings YCA 1

We will start the bookings next week as we will sign the BcA with ELF. We will book travels for IH, Chiara and BG and also secure venue and accommodation.

- Programme YCA 2

The event will be in Athens. Aret from the Sofia office of FNF instead of Athens office will be supporting our work on the event.

- Logistics and bookings YCA 2

We will look at it when we get there by the end of the month.

***Year of the Youth online event with MEP Dragos Pislaru**

- Programme and format

DAS is in touch with the team. We suggested some dates at the end of March so we wait for feedback. It will be an online event. Social policies will be touched upon with a focus on youth unemployment.

***Young Elected Liberal Leaders Summit in March**

- Programme

It has to be defined together with the Renew Europe CoR. We will hold a 2 hours session for the YELL during the broader summit on 3 March in Marseille. Arrival will be on 2nd and departure on 4th March.

- Logistics

Renew CoR takes charge of most aspects. Flights to be booked next week with a travel agency. We are asking selected participants to confirm in-person attendance. Participants are announced next week.

***Alliance of her - Youth Academy 2022 in March**

- Programme

Laia moderates two sessions - one with Svenja Hahn and the other with Jana Degrott. We met participants online already and we have a nice group. There is a Facebook group and a Whatsapp chat. Travels were booked for all participants with ALDE.

- Logistics

3 to 6 March in Belgium in the Chateau of Ronchinne. Second event in Budapest in June - 16 to 19 June. BG and Adam went to check venues and found a suitable hotel on Margaret Island on the Danube.

4) Campaigns - IH/AA/BG - 20 minutes

***Year of the Youth 2022 updates**

- *Social Media*: we will create some visuals and inform our members but also followers about the EYY.

- *Updates with the EC*: We are part of the co-construction process as a European stakeholder. We are providing inputs on the content + we will be active on the platform where we will submit our [actions](#) (// CoFoE).

- *Discussions with Renew and ALDE:* With Renew meeting with Laia to follow up on the practical cooperation. We will work with MEPs but also on the strategic paper of the Group. We plan on organising several events with MEPs on different focuses as part of the EYY. The first initiative is to organise an online event at the end of March with MEP, **Dragos Pislaru** on the role of the youth, a more general event. We are currently checking the dates before developing further the content side. With ALDE meeting with David from the Communications team- videos at the AoH and YCA events will be recorded and during the events with MEPs.

- **LYMEC brainstorming meeting** (Please find it in the annexe)

*"In the context of the Year of the Youth 2022, LYMEC would like to bring its MOs together as a network. We would like to invite representatives to take part in the LYMEC **Year of the Youth Hub**.*

*The joint brainstorming session on finding common projects, cooperating partners or topics to work on cross-borders will take place on **21 February 2022 at 19 h CET** online on Zoom.*

Please bring your ideas and share with your fellow liberal partners your best proposals in this crucial year for young liberals. You don't need to register, save the date and join the session online! The link will be sent to IOs a few days before the event.

The session will be moderated by LYMEC Bureau members. The expected outcome is to set up pan-European initiatives in our network with meaningful impact as part of the Year of the Youth. Come prepared with some priorities you identified in advance!"

Email will be sent out to the IOs next week. We will emphasise the importance of priority topics, it is not needed to come with a prepared project.

- *PPYO joint actions:* With the Greens (FYEG), we would like to initiate a series of joint events involving as many PPYOs as possible - we would do the first on **youth unemployment** - involving representatives from relevant civil society organisations on the topic. Then outcomes to be consolidated and shared in our respective political families (as voice of the European political youth). We are currently identifying the common priorities we could work on and start gathering support from other PPYO members.

- *Meeting with Sejourné, Renew President:* We were there along with YDE, JAM and the italians. All mentioned priorities and importance of youth participation. We were the most prepared with the ideas of actions we mentioned today as well. There will be an event in May by JAM - we will get an invitation.

Renew would like to do a white paper for the youth: 'One youth, one solution'. Strategic paper on the youth. We would work on a better title reflecting the reality of young people. **We should check ahead what we have in our policy book and see what we want to give them.**

***CoFoE updates**

- Renew Caucus in Strasbourg

DAS was present there and he presented our proposals. We only had 2 minutes so he presented some of our most voted proposals - environment and the single market. It was received quite well. Next Caucus is later in the Spring. The online platform would be closed in March.

When outcomes are out, we should react based on what they want to do with it. Actual implementation is what we want.

- Event with JAM in Paris

BG was in Paris to represent LYMEC at the JAM lead Renew project on the CoFoE. We didn't get a spot during the actual live event but had the chance to present our ideas for the Year of the Youth to the participants. AA addressed this with JAM leadership.

5) Staff structure - BG - 20 minutes

*Youth Liaison trainee' updates

- 140 applications were selected and a two round interview process carried out
- Amy McAuley was selected from Ireland
- She starts on 14 February
- 80% LYMEC/20% ALDE
- DAS and MS will meet with BG next week to give inputs on some of the new tasks she could take on

*New office plan (*Please find it attached*)

No comments - accepted as it is.

*Job description 'Project assistant' (*Please find it attached*)

Comments on the work mandate:

- a. 6 months first to test the person and then we go for 1 year. We will clarify that on the call.
- b. Discussion on the level of knowledge and requirements for an entry level position. Discussion on realities of the labour market in Brussels. We will put a Bachelor level as a basic requirement.

6) Diversity action toolkit CoE - IS - 15 minutes

It is something similar to the Communication toolkit, a booklet to hand out to our members on how they can increase diversity and inclusion in their organisations. It's a follow up for the study session of the Council of Europe we had in Strasbourg at the end of last year. Practical tips and advice will be shared: looking at leadership, self-analysing and looking at policies. Chiara will work on it as a side project next to her key tasks. It should be finished by summer. We will have it disseminated physically and digitally as well. It will also be used on Social media. Distribution at our events.

7) Invitations - All - 10 minutes

DAS and LYMEC to get back to David from ALDE to participate in the Twitter space chat after 15 h on Friday 11 February.

IH received an email from IO of UPI from Slovenia. There is a new contact person. They had a call and we are open for cooperation. An event as part of the CoFoE was proposed but we first need to get to know each other.

Invitation from Cyprus - the youth of the ALDE member party reached out and LC will join an event online next Saturday on 12 February with them.

Invitation from a network in Turkey to LC. Meeting with them to promote liberalism in the country and see where it goes.

We received an Anti-racism contest opportunity. We don't want to participate in that as LYMEC. We could forward to our student member organisations and see if there is interest.

Meeting from YFJ on safeguarding youth civic spaces in Europe - Adam Hotovny is interested in representing LYMEC from the Working Group on Civil and Minority rights. We should probably brief him beforehand. The Bureau agrees to send him.

ELF Idea Accelerator project on 20 April 2022 in Brussels. We could apply for this again. The Bureau decides not to apply this time due to high workload and busy agenda already for that period of time.

The ELF Flexible format open call is there as an opportunity in case we need to organise something.

8) News from MOs and IMS - All - 10 minutes

***MOs**

LHG has a new Board - Benjamin is the President. Johannes Brill is the new IO. We can meet with the new Bureau if we want to discuss future cooperation.

Nasa Stranka has a new President. Tibor Kovacevic is the new President and will be ready to meet at some point soon.

***IMS delegate elections**

Tim, Nicoleta and Felix were elected- they are very motivated.
First joint meeting with the Steering Committee took place.

9) AOB

- Handover to the next Bureau

Each Bureau member prepares a one-pager for the next person in the position. To be sent out to the people elected after the Congress.

- LYMEC 45 years Anniversary

Link it to the Alumni Network slot at the ALDE Congress.

- Alumni Network

Last meeting reopened the idea of a real organisation instead of an informal one. Impossible to get a bank account in the current form. It would be an ASBL just like LYMEC. More engagement is the objective and increased social media activity including LYMEC newsletter. Idea to ask for a slot at the ALDE Congress in Dublin to gather support.

- LYMEC should have a paper/guidelines on how to deal with the suspension of members.

The idea is proposed by IS. MP will think about it. Might be submitted to Congress.

10) Next meeting

- **Online on 7 March at 18 h 30 CET**
- **Online on 4 April at 18 h 30 CET**

End of the meeting on Saturday at 18 h 30