

MINUTES Bureau Meeting Brugge, Belgium 1-4 July 2021

Venue: Zeedijkweg 23 A, Zedelgem, West-Vlaanderen 8210, Belgium

Attending: Antoaneta Asenova (AA), Dan-Aria Sucuri (DAS), Marten Porte (MP), Laia Comerma (LC), Marina Sedlo (MS), Ines Holzegger (IH), Ida-Maria Skytte (IS) and Bálint Gyévai (BG)

Meeting starts on Friday 1 July at 9 h 30 CEST.

1) Digital Assembly 2021 - AA/BG/MS

- Last preparations

- We will have around 80 participants;
- Starting at 10 h CEST;
- MS will hotspot for her part on her computer;
- Logistically, 2 computers will be connected - one without camera and the other as Bureau account for speakers;
- We will clarify that the Bureau is in-person but we took the safety measures needed;
- Usual 2 parts: AA with Bureau presentations first and then the second part for the policy renewal with the website launch taking place in-between.

- Policy renewal outcomes and amendments

- Lucasta and IH supported a lot Marina's work as she was focusing on the ALDE Congress;
- Whole Chapter 3 is now reformed - everything was covered;
- Process went well and smooth;
- No amendments from the organisations attending the DA this time;
- We will go through everything and proposals can be put forwarded during the DA;
- Vote will be via the chat for amendments/changes - managed from the office computer;
- One big liberal education resolution that was merged is probably the main achievement;
- One archived on copyright and technology because outdated - MS will propose to delegates to write on the topic for next Congress.

- New website launch

- We can launch it since we are as good as ready;
- Video will be showed with shared screen and sound from office computer;
- We will send the link in the chat for the members;
- IS will explain that we will have both websites in parallel during the summer, no logins sent out yet to members. It will be done somewhere in July for one account for each member organisation. She adds that they should reach out if willing to change contact point for their organisations or logos;

- Main issues to fix that are outstanding are the chat bot and the event registration.

2) Finances - MP/BG

- 2021 budget updates

- We are doing great because of COVID - we have two Bureau meetings that we can afford but will be more expensive than usually;
- There will be more travelling this Summer and in the Autumn but we are ready for that;
- Bit more than half of the website was paid so far already - that's the big unusual expense of the year;
- Our Congress is coming up in the Autumn if the COVID situation allows. We will have to invest in additional COVID measures from our own budget so that will be more expensive;
- Internal Audit is coming up - important to have it in-person finally;
- We are going to spend what we didn't spend on the first half of the year;
- On the ELF side - 3000 EUR from the book project and 4000 EUR from the Communicators meeting are left that we should use wisely in the Autumn.

The Bureau will ask ELF to use leftover budget from Comms event and the Book project linking with the idea of the toolkit and spend it on the YCAs in the Autumn. We will also try to use more money on the YLM.

- Salary raise BG - for decision

The Bureau decided that 220 EUR extra gross on salary will be added to BG's incomes. He will also receive 1 EUR extra/day on meal vouchers (from 7 to 8 EUR). This as a whole adds up around 250 EUR/month extra cost for LYMEC (taxes included).

BG and MP will sign an official document to be annexed to the contract and make the change happen starting July 2021.

- Internal Audit 3-5 September 2021

- We will go through the physical books finally;
- Both auditors are expected to be in-person in Brussels;
- MP plans to take the time to speak about their role and what it means being an IA since we had a lot of changes and one auditor is new;
- We will aim at booking travels and accommodation next week for this.

- 2021 MO fees updates

- No updates since last time, we have still 5 MO fees outstanding for 2021;
- Bureau discusses the follow up points and how to make sure to get the outstanding fees;
- The aim is to get the money by the next Congress in the Autumn.

- MO fee proposal 2022 - for decision

- MP explains that once it should be considered to raise them for inflation reasons, its a usual practice;
- It should be revised every few years in the future but we will keep it as it is now due to the difficult year with the pandemic. We will consider a revision for the coming year and see if it is up to date.

The Bureau agrees with the approach to keep it the same as last year and look into the situation next year.

3) Invitations - ALL

- AA is invited to join online the LiDem Congress on *10 July*;
- DAS is invited for the FNF project on Russia in Prague for an in-person event between *3 to 5 September*;
- LC is going to the summer school in Greece organised by FNF and Young Liberals Greece (*20-25 July*) and then she joins the JNC summer school (*24-25 July*). We need to book the flight to Catalonia for LC;
- We are invited to the Jeunes Radicaux anniversary event in Paris on *9 July*. MS to be sent, we need to book her train tickets asap;
- IH is invited to send a short video for the Congress of JFS in Switzerland on *16 July* (FR/EN/DE);
- JD Congress is taking place soon with MP attending but we have no invitation yet;
- AA will moderate the **post-Covid project presentation** on Monday with MEP Bauza from Renew. The event will be live streamed through the Jovenes Ciudadanos accounts.

4) ELF - BG/DAS/MS/IH

2022 Project proposals

- Each Bureau member makes a small update on the respective proposals;
- All Concept Notes were approved by ELF;
- Deadline for project proposals internally is 15 July;
- LC would help if support is needed for any other Bureau member;
- BG reminds that there is a need to reach out to the proposed partners beforehand - he made a summary available on the drive.

- Location for next year events (see annex 1 Bureau dossier) - for decision

Topic	Responsible BM	Location	Temptative date
Scientifically Illiterate no more	Marina Sedlo and Laia Comerma	Prague, Czech Republic	May
Communicators' Network – Youth edition 2022	Ida-Maria Skytte	Helsinki, Finland	June
Young Changemakers Academy 2022	Ines Holzegger	Firenze, Italy Athens, Greece Brussels, Belgium	March April October
Young Leaders' Meeting 2022	Dan-Aria Sucuri	Copenhagen, Denmark	September
Liberal Hack	Laia Comerma	Vienna, Austria	September

The Bureau discusses the opportunities and relevance of this selection for locations.
The Bureau agrees on the distribution shown in the table above.

- Budgetary considerations and distribution -for decision

- MP will have bilateral talks with each Bureau member to make relevant budget proposals;
- He will deliver a few days before the 15 July to be able to adapt them if needed.

Young Leaders' Meeting 2021

- Registrations and timeline

- The call is now open until mid-July;
- We have around 20 spots for Presidents;
- COVID protocols need to be properly respected following ELF guidelines.

- Programme

- First draft was made and all Bureau members will have a role to play in this event;
- There should be a position paper at the end of the event. IS suggests to make it more interesting and by having the Presidents bring it translated in their countries. They would commit to share it with a call for action and criticise the process if need be;
- **She also proposes to have short clips with our Presidents sharing one of our CoEFoE proposals each. FNF could help with this in terms of logistics and funding.**

- Logistics and planning - format

- Ioana from USR Tineret and Raimar from FNF will help us;
- They will give us accommodation proposals soon;
- They will also help finding Romanian speakers - MPs and MEPs as well;
- They will be proposing side programmes too;
- Intro video should be done for the YLM - including participating MOs logos and some effects. The script will be made by DAS and we need to find a low budget - around 500 EUR.

Skill Camp IMS

- Registrations and timeline

- We will open the call on 12 July and close on the week of 9 August with selection by the end of the week.

- Programme

- The team has a call next week to discuss the first draft;
- Stichting IDI and NOVUM will help as partners- we will reach out next week to check with them;
- Learning journey on the ELF 'My Academy' platform will be set up for the participant - to be taken before and after the event;
- The Steering Committee of the IMS will be involved but Alistair is not available for the event and Eleni is uncertain at this stage.

- Logistics and planning - format

- Look into accommodation options with the local partners;
- Flight options for the team to be booked in August.

Young Changemakers' Academy 2021

- Online e-learning updates

- It's short and informative;
- It is open now and the participants have 2 months to complete it;
- There are 3 blocks dealing with 3 different topics for their project that they are developing further;
- 3 participants already accessed it;
- This would lead to the next event in Andorra in October.

- August networking webinar

- Groups will be made and it will be more a networking/interactive updating event;
- It is mostly for us to see where we are and push to do more until next meeting;
- **The groups are to be sent in advance in order to know who they will talk to and be able to update each other;**
- No content but focus on their projects;
- Name: **"YCA Online Project progress"**
- **1 h 30 event**
- **Date: 1st September - Wednesday at 19 h CEST**

- YCA II

- We should involve Andorra and Toni from JLA;
- Proposal of hotel and restaurant should be done;
- Programme should be looked at first.

5) Autumn Congress - MP/BG

- Registrations and timeline

- The proposal is to have it from 12 August opening until 26 August (8 weeks before Congress);
- OpenSlides has to be prepared based on last time for opening 6 weeks before the Congress;
- We will plan one Q/A training session for end of September - by 20 September we should do it;
- IH and BG will work on zoom recordings on how to do things for the Congress. We will share them in September (Voting, Resolutions, Amendments...);
- Working Groups should be 1 week before the Congress on the Saturday;
- Newbies session will take place on the spot on Friday at 15 h + Fringe with organisers at the same time in the other conference room (maybe on the CoFoE topic?). MS will bring this up with our hosts when visiting them in Paris next weekend;
- The Congress is set to start on Friday afternoon at 17 h and last until Sunday lunch time;
- On Sunday we would continue from 9 to 11 and light lunch at 12 h. We would finish with MO issues/AOB/end of resolutions. Delegations will be able to change HoD for the Sunday if needed, they should communicate that the latest 1 week ahead of Congress;
- The possibility of changing the framework for ordering the resolutions was discussed but the Bureau wouldn't touch that, its well regulated in the Congress Rules;
- Bureau Meeting will be on Friday morning before we start instead of Sunday.

- Deadlines

- 8 weeks deadline - 27 August;
- 4 weeks deadline - 24 September;

- BG will send calendar invitations to the Bureau members for both.

- Bookings and next steps

- The hotel is booked and the Saturday/Sunday meals as well;
- We need offers for Friday evening from Jeunes Radicaux for a walking dinner;
- We will wait before planning a potential party.

- Format

- It is planned to be hybrid for the whole event, we should meet the technical team again mid-August;
- Delegates should reach out one week before to notify about change of HoD for the Sunday morning;
- BG to reach out to the hotel to confirm the agreed deal and make sure everything is according to the plan. MS will also visit next weekend, an appointment will be made at the venue.

-COVID safety

- What rules?
- We have to define a testing system where people would all be rapid tested at the entrance and during the event;
- In-person participation can happen if the delegate is **'Fully vaccinated'** (complete vaccination by EMA recognised vaccines and 2 weeks at least after the last dose) or a **'PCR test'** is shown upon arrival (test happened within 72 hours prior to the event).
- We should ask if they are willing to attend in-person or online.
- How many people?
- 1 (and maybe 2) in-person participants per delegation and they can register up to 5 for full members including possible digital attendees;
- 1 participant only in-person per delegation and up to 3 can register for associates members including possible digital attendees;
- We will assess end of August if we have to change the booking tabling now for 65 people (including all LYMEC team and locals - 60 rooms are booked);
- IMS only delegates in-person but SC and other IMS online.

- Potential new members

- Discussion on the applications that would come up by the end of August deadline.
- One organisation would go for full membership and maybe some for associate members.

- Suspensions and disaffiliation (see annex 2 Bureau dossier)

Civil Forum Youth Belarus suspended at the moment - DAS to reach out to check whether the dialogue is going on.

Organisation	Status proposal
Youth circle of SMC (Slovenia)	Suspension (if no reaction - disaffiliation in Spring)

Mladi Liberal BiH (Bosnia/Herzegovina)	Suspension on own request
Liberal Youth of Moldova	Concerns

We have concerns for the Moldovan organisation but will wait for the end of an investigation led at ALDE level on the alliances made by the party with far-right forces.

- LYMEC Delegation to ALDE to be elected

- We need to hold elections, the call should be opened on time. If ALDE is before or right after our Congress then we would have an extraordinary election earlier;
- Same election process as IMS with 'Electionrunner' can be used and we don't have specific rules on timelines so we can come up with our own process. BG proposes that we have elections at the Congress with the following 1 month process: 2 weeks for a call then election website and debate organised in the 2 weeks before Congress and then finally vote at the Congress;
- The Electoral ALDE Congress will be in the Autumn, we don't know when yet but probably in November.

6) Conference on the Future of Europe - AA/BG/IS

- Online regional events in the Autumn what, where and how - for decision

- AA sent the timeline to the Bureau about the calendar for the conference so that we can keep that in mind;
- We have a seat for AA at the CoFoE pre-summit preparations through Renew Europe, a very relevant opportunity;
- We need to discuss the timeline of our online events for the conference. Knowing the interest from our MOs is important here to assess the level of engagement we can get;
- 1 event per geographical area with the general language is English (7 events):
 - South: Spain/Andorra/Italy/Portugal/Greece (ES, Catalan, Italian, Greek, Portugal) with LC + AA
 - Balkans: All balkans + Bulgaria/Romania (HR, BG, RO) with DAS + AA
 - Central: Germany/Austria/Switzerland + V4 (DE, HUN) with MS + IH + BG + AA
 - Nordics: All nordics (SWE and rest) with IS + DAS + AA
 - North/East: Baltics/Ukraine/Belarus (RU) with DAS + AA
 - Benelux + France (FR + NL) with MP + MS + BG
 - UK + Ireland + North. Ireland with AA + LC
- We want people from the membership, not only the international committees from our MOs so we will use the language skills available in our Bureau if needed;
- At these events, we have to make sure people endorse the proposals but also share their own ideas and we should not be limiting the topics;

The Bureau decides to have them twice a week in October until mid-November on weekday evenings for 1 hour / 1 hour and a half.

7) Autumn Calendar events and meetings

The Bureau goes through the calendar and assigns responsible Bureau members for the events until the end of the year. Discussion on dates and options in light of the pandemic

situation are addressed as well. There is a willingness to get back to in-person events in September with proper COVID protocols.

8) Next Bureau meeting - 27/29 August 2021

- Logistics are set to be discussed between MP and BG in the coming weeks;
- Arrival on Friday and leaving on Sunday is the plan with Saturday being the working day;
- Idea is to make an important political message so instead of Barcelona, we would go to **Krakow, Poland**. We would support Nowoczesna Youth. If Krakow wouldn't work for them then we would go to **Warsaw, Poland**.
- **If Nowoczesna Youth is not available to meet us then we would go to Budapest, Hungary to support TizenX.**

Important topics for the meeting:

- 2022 Budget
- 2022 Calendar
- 45 Anniversary and Alumni launch to happen together with two options:
 - Renew Winter Academy in December
 - ALDE Congress Autumn

9) News from MOs and IMS

- IH had a call with the Slovenian organisation that has MPs and MEPs. They are creating in July their youth organisation. Their future President has a seat in the CoFoE and is willing to bring our proposals forward. He will communicate on it. They want to get closer and are very interested in talking further. IH will stay in touch.
- IS gives updates about the elections in Finland. Both SFP and Keskusta came up a bit in the elections and good results for liberals in general which is great news.

10) AOB

- Report from ALDE Party - Congress, delegation and elections

- MS explains that she received the request from one delegate to create a programme where you can learn languages with other MOs. **The Bureau thinks that the MOs can initiate it themselves.**
- After the DA discussions, we will send out a survey to the **delegation** members because it was a special online event for ALDE and we will gather feedback on what can be improved then bring it forward to the ALDE Party Bureau with AA.

- Policy intern position - timeline and call

- We will open the call by 9 July at the latest. We will use LinkedIn but without the job button so we ensure we have applications via email;
- End of the call will be 23 August. Interviews will be delivered by BG and AA but MS will listen in as well. They will take place that week;
- The person should start mid-September.

- Assistant position

- The Bureau would look into an extension of 3 months with an increase of salary for SvB at the next meeting.

- Libertas responsibilities in the future: Editor-in-chief

- Lucasta could stay for the coming months even if not working with us anymore;
- February 2022 there would be a call with the renewal of the editorial team including the *Editor-in-chief position*.

The Bureau will propose to continue to Lucasta.

- *Libertas magazine dissemination - for decision*

- LC, MP and DAS decided that we will have 25 booklets printed. We will order online and use recycled green paper;
- Dissemination will be done through Facebook posts and Instagram stories;
- Time frame: Congress in October for the launch of the physical versions;
- IS and DAS to reach out to Lucasta for the last corrections;
- MP and LC to find the printing company and initiate the process.

- *Question of the domain*

The question is to stay with Produweb or not for our domains' hosting?

- IH explains that we can just maintain as it is and it stays safe there;
- We should move away with the website but keep the domains there - BG to reach out in August the latest;
- **We should also maybe get .com domain as well and make all of them redirect to *lymec.eu*.**

- *BG reminds the Bureau about the boarding passes for travels to be submitted for the bookkeeping.*

Meeting ends on Sunday 4 July 2021 at 10 h CEST.