

## MINUTES

### Online Bureau meeting 1 April 2021

Online Bureau meeting on **Thursday, 01 April 2021 at 19 h CEST**, which replaces the Bureau meeting that was supposed to take place in person on the fringes of the ALDE Party Congress on 18 April 2021 in Stockholm, Sweden, which due to the COVID-19 situation will not take place.

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

**Meeting starts at 19 h 05**

#### 1) Upcoming events - COVID situation - for decision

(AA/BG - 20 minutes)

##### A. May YCA 2021 - 1st event in Greece

- The first step of the Young Changemakers Academy is set for 21 to 23 May 2021 with an event in Thessaloniki, Greece;
- A call took place with LC, BG and IH with ELF to kick off the project but also with Kefim, our local partner. IH, LC and BG also had a call to set up the programme;
- LC suggests that we should wait and see what the ELF decision is end of April at their Bureau meeting for international travel in May;
- IH adds that besides ELF, we also depend on the country of origin of the participants and we don't see that clearly yet because the application phase is still ongoing. Hybrid might be the best choice if some travel is allowed, or, instead of hybrid we could take a studio in Brussels and some parts moderated from Greece as well.

##### Comments:

- AA is sceptical about having this done properly in-person or hybrid if most of the participants come from countries with heavy restrictions. We are going towards peaks now lately in most of the EU countries, numbers are going up in Greece as well. Studio from Brussels does make sense if there is a point to it. A second studio maybe in Greece if there are sufficient participants from the region or from the country and can gather.
- BG emphasizes that we need predictability and it seems to be difficult planning with the current situation all over Europe.
- MS suggests at least hybrid but we should see in a few weeks if we go digital like for the Congress.
- DAS doesn't see it possible in a physical format.
- IH adds that the situation can change in 7 weeks and the YCA is different from our Congress, it is only about 10 people, we have more vaccines by then. We don't need a decision now.
- IS adds that a hybrid event format would be nice but not optimistic at this point about the situation. First event could be online and then the 2-3 events hybrid or in-person.
- MP is not optimistic for May, he thinks it won't be possible.

AA, MP, IS and DAS - not possible this time  
MS, IH, LC - possible hybrid

**The Bureau agrees that there is a reasonable scepticism that a hybrid format can still take place. We will see where ELF is going and how the situation evolves. If the situation doesn't improve and half of the participants can't travel then we go for an online format. We will take a final decision at the [Bureau Meeting taking place at the end of the Congress](#).**

If a hybrid event is possible then hybrid Bureau Meeting as well (on the Sunday). We will see closer to the event.

*B. June IMS Skills event in Slovenia*

- We have the same health related concerns in general;
- 11-12 June ALDE Congress now which will be the same time as the IMS.

**The Bureau decides to move the IMS Skill Camp event to 9-11 July 2021 - we will reach out to ELF to make this change happen based on the new ALDE Congress dates.**

*C. June Communications meeting in Denmark*

**The decision about this event will be taken at the [Bureau Meeting taking place in the beginning of May](#), it is too early for now.**

## 2) Finances

(MP - 15 minutes)

*\* Latest updates*

All documents were sent to the Bureau - high surplus from last year and overview of investments for next year would be the summary of the situation.

*\* MO fees 2021 status*

- 11 MO fees to be received still this year;
- 5 reduction requests were submitted to the Congress;
- We need to clarify what the Nasa Stranka Youth money we received will be for - debt reduction or MO fee?
- Bureau goes through the list and relevant Bureau members will remind/take action with their MOs.

*\* CoE application 2022 - updates on the application*

- LC working on it tomorrow and she will send in a draft proposal by the end of the day/over the weekend
- Deadline to submit is 15 April

## 3) Congress

(BG/AA/MS - 50 minutes)

**A. IFLRY cooperation document - for decision**

- Document drafted by the 3 persons in charge (Marina, Michel and Benjamin) - to be approved by both Bureaus (and based on the open call for contributions we made in February);

- Presented at the respective Congresses of LYMEC and IFLRY but not up for discussion or votes;
- IH reminds that we need to deal with this at this Congress to have something in our records;
- MP proposes not to have amendments and just both parties signing.

**The Bureau proposes to present it at the Congress as a common agreement between the two organizations, which should either be endorsed or returned for further work.**

The Bureau can comment until 7 April and then a decision needs to be taken to approve it by noon before it is sent to the IFLRY Bureau for approval.

**B. Agenda questions**

*- IFLRY cooperation document in the agenda*

It will be presented by MS and it will be placed after Amanda's speech. MS will also explain the Bureau proposal to change the agenda of the Congress based on the fact that the document was ready later than the agenda submission deadline.

*- Benjamin, IFLRY representative for the floor*

He will be given the floor after the Bureau reports quickly but also more extensively at the report point at the end of the Congress.

*- Time schedule*

It is about the comprehensive document BG showed, it will be sent to the Bureau when finalised to ensure smooth internal coordination.

*- Chairs*

Our 3 chairs are confirmed: Katharina former Julis International Officer, Slaven former Secretary General of LYMEC, Lena former Treasurer. The first briefing took place and the next one will be next week to look more into details in OpenSlides and simulate the Congress.

*- Entertainment activity*

It will take place on Saturday after the closing. We will proceed with some online games for the interested delegates. Two rooms will be created for two games: 1 with the ELF game - "Cards against liberals" (authorization pending) and the other one with [Skribbel](#).

**C. Working Groups - new method and tool**

- Chairs to actually chair the working groups to get a feeling for the real Congress - Marina and Lena in one group and then Katharina and Laia in the other. Marina and Laia will be taking notes and follow-up on the details;
- IH proposes a new method where every MO has one vote through an MO account on OpenSlides. We have two Working Groups with the elections happening in parallel. 1 person/WG voting for each delegation. Controversial amendments will be voted upon. Question framed positively - not on a negative tone. Accounts will be then deleted after the working groups to avoid confusion for Congress.
- LB and BG to take care of the voting reinitialisation so MS and LC will be taking the protocols. The roles must be respected to ensure smooth delivery of the working groups.

**D. Invitations - latest updates**

All invited guests are now confirmed.

### **E. Roll call strategy**

Two options are possible, we tried already both in the past, the perfect approach doesn't exist but the Bureau prefers to go like at the last Congress, with the voices of the head of delegation and camera/profile appearing on Zoom.

### **F. Nasa Stranka Youth application**

It was already partly discussed earlier during the meeting. A statutory meeting needs to take place before our Congress, Marina will attend. The money received should be counted towards their debt reduction and covering the applied reduction fee. Bureau discusses the recommendation to be given.

### **G. Openslides and Bureau members training**

- BG to propose Bureau members to have proper training to the tool to avoid some misunderstanding that happened in the past weeks;
- LC suggests to have tailored training for Bureau members;
- Tailored training for OpenSlides will be set up for the next Congress, not needed this time anymore.

### **H. Social Media activity ahead of Congress**

- We will look into external help for a pre-Congress video but also a wrap-up one after Congress. DAS will check and come back to the Bureau with a proposal in terms of budget. We are talking about a 300 to 500 EUR task.
- BG to highlight for delegates that the beginning of the Congress will be livestreamed (it is clearly stated on OpenSlides both in the privacy notes and the relevant agenda points).

## **4) New website**

(BG/IH/IS - 15 minutes)

### **\* Domain and hosting question**

The question is the following: leaving the domain on the Produweb server or taking it back and putting it somewhere else?

**The Bureau decides that if it is not possible to do it cheaper, then we could just leave it there. We will look into the prices and decide later.**

### **\* Progress and latest updates**

The new website is currently under production, after we validated the designs, we will probably be able to launch at the end of May. We can showcase some parts at the Congress.

## **5) IMS**

(MS - 10 minutes)

### **\* Updated IMS Internal Rules - for decision**

MS explains that the new rules are clarifying disciplinary procedures for future cases, the actors involved and actions that can be taken. It was needed following a case that came up last year and showed the importance of this exercise.

### **Comments from the Bureau:**

- Two steps approach should be clear- first with ombudsperson and if process/proposal questioned then it can go to Committee of Discipline and Arbitrage;

- Clarify that if the decision/sanction is disaffiliation then it should go to the Congress directly (not to the Bureau).

**The Bureau approves the IMS Internal Rules if the changes proposed are implemented. The IMS Internal Rules can then be published.**

## 6) Recruitment

(BG - 5 minutes)

### \* New Administrative assistant - updates:

- Sara von Bonsdorff is joining us as new administrative assistant
- On-boarding started + briefings were shared with Sara
- First day will be on 8 April
- Working from distance but would relocate as the situation changes/improves in Belgium

### \* Situations where we have the right person fitting another position than the actual open call one:

- The Bureau will think about a proper process in order to avoid doing another call if the right candidate was found for the other position during a recruitment process. This has to be decided on a case by case basis in general. Bureau will take the final decision later and the principle stays as an option. Opening both calls at the same time doesn't look to be a good idea but if it happens we need to be more flexible between the positions.

## 7) MOs

(LC - 5 minutes)

### \* Panks from Greece interested in LYMEC

- We will give incentives for cooperation with Young Liberals Greece;
- They are mostly involved in universities and try to grow;
- LC will help them grow and develop their funding options before talking about membership.

### \* Italian Liberal Youth/Team Futuro interested in LYMEC

- They will try to have a statutory meeting over the summer;
- Apply for LYMEC membership next time since they already attend their second Congress as an observer this time.

## 8) European Youth Forum - YFJ updates

(IH - 5 minutes)

- PPYO meeting will be next week to discuss the candidacies for the AC;
- Greens, socialists, YEPP and us are having candidates. They will all present next week;
- Elections on the 17 April at the COMEM;
- Candidates' hearings took place yesterday.

## 9) Events

(BG/LC/IS - 5 minutes)

### **A. Past events updates**

- Young Liberal Women Summit

- LC explains that it went well and we managed to create a trust environment. AA's speech was very good but also the MEPs and participants were ready to engage and share. It was truly amazing, answering all the questions.
- Evaluation survey: they would have liked more networking but they were happy.
- Number of applications was record high. It is important to have ice-breakers: it was done at the beginning and also the personal stories sharing helped.

- ELF EU Diplomacy book event + essays

LC explains that it took place last weekend - the contributions were good. MS and Antonios from ELF gave personalised feedback to the participants. Sessions were really high level but speakers spoke too much and there wasn't enough interaction. At the end, we managed to have more on the second day.

- WG Racism in the EU - Liberal responses

IS explains that we had one issue on launching the livestream but we managed thanks to DAS, otherwise it went all fine and it was a high quality event. Speakers and WG members were happy. The stream is available on our Facebook page. The good point was the ownership of the working group members over the event and their active and quality moderation.

**B. Upcoming events**

- ELF Ideas Accelerator

Our proposal discussed at the last meeting got accepted. We need a confirmation from the speakers as soon as possible. Anderssen is very interested but he needs to check with his boss for a neutrality point. Moritz Koerner is confirmed for the session. Head of DG Connect digital society from the EC has been contacted as well as the third speaker. The format is a new setting we will try for the first time.

- YCA 2021 - Event 1

Programme is more or less set and we are filling it currently, the rest was already discussed at the first point today. AA to give the opening. YCA 2: Guy Doza should be contacted.

**Upcoming campaign activity – Conference for the future of Europe: strategy, ideas, brainstorming, possible event (AA – 10 min)**

- BG, MS and AA had a meeting with ALDE regarding the Conference;
- We need to come up with a strategy on what we do with our two documents on the Conference;
- Lucasta is working on a proper visual for the presentation of the two documents - similar to the sustainability toolkit;
- Distribution list needs to be defined and we need to brainstorm on what we do to launch the documents and have impact;
- Actions to take: we need to distribute the documents and translate it in all our MOs languages for dissemination;
- ALDE will organise 5 townhalls and we are invited to participate and spread the word but we should do more on this, have our own events;
- We would organise our own discussions with the membership on a regional basis.

**The Bureau decides to launch a task force with MS, AA, IS and DAS.**

BG created a chat and shared the brainstorming documents with the Bureau.

## **Updates on the ALDE Party Congress and LYMEC delegation to it: timeline, participation, resolutions (AA – 10 min)**

- It is planned for a hybrid format around 150 in person in Brussels and 300 online;
- No decrease of the delegations - voting delegates will be present for sure (MS and the delegation);
- New dates are 11-12 June and this won't change anymore;
- Measures on spot: rapid testing and thermometer set up in case of hybrid event;
- **Resolution on Women's Rights** was proposed for us - delegation to be involved and resolution to be drafted for submission on the week of our Congress at the end of April.

**MS to inform the delegation that they will be attending online for sure.**

### **10) AOB**

#### **A. ALDE PACE**

IFLRY has been invited to ALDE PACE Bureau meetings in the past. We would need to reach out to the ALDE PACE Bureau to discuss our presence.

**BG will set up a meeting with the chair for AA. IH to brief AA before that meeting.**

#### **B. Photo bank idea from Lucasta**

The Bureau thinks its a good idea, to be implemented over the summer maybe with restrictions easing.

#### **C. Mental health concerns**

BG proposes 1 to 1 sessions to the staff and the Bureau members as the person responsible for HR. Talking/seeking support/listening is more than ever important with the current situation. The initiative is well appreciated by the Bureau. BG is therefore available to schedule bilateral short calls.

#### **D. Invitation for a podcast by YLG and Momentum TizenX for BG.**

The Bureau agrees with him participating.

**Meeting ends at 22 h 30**